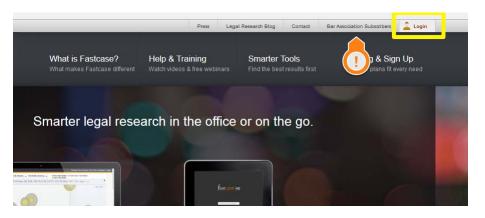
## Advanced Tips for Legal Research on Fastcase

2016

## Getting started — Logging in



## 1. Develop a research strategy

On what issue or issues am I seeking answers?

What legal principles are involved?

Are there add'l search terms that may be useful?

How do judges talk about these concepts?

## Hypothetical—McFadden v. U.S.

Issue: Whether, to convict a defendant of distribution of a controlled substance analogue – a substance with a chemical structure that is "substantially similar" to a schedule I or II drug and has a "substantially similar" effect on the user (or is believed or represented by the defendant to have such a similar effect) – the government must prove that the defendant knew that the substance constituted a controlled substance analogue, as held by the Second, Seventh, and Eighth Circuits, but rejected by the Fourth and Fifth Circuits.

### Generate search terms

#### Question:

• Must the state prove defendant knew a substance is a controlled substance analogue to obtain a conviction for selling it?

#### **Legal Principles:**

- Scienter / Mens rea
- Controlled substance laws
- Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986

#### Additional search terms:

• Drug dealing; synthetic drugs

## 2. Expand your search

#### Use synonyms:

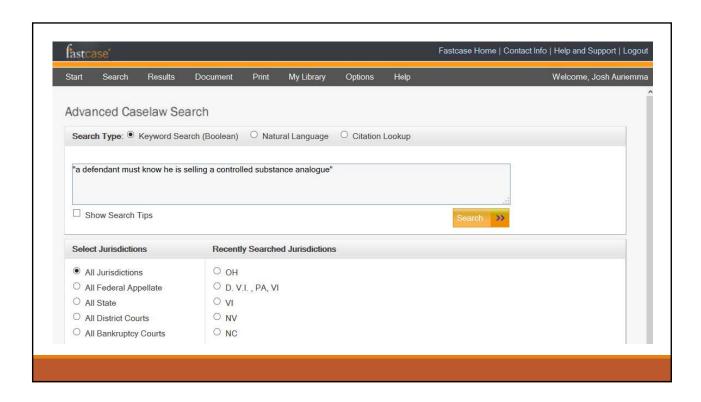
- Drugs or marijuana or controlled substance
- Sell or sale

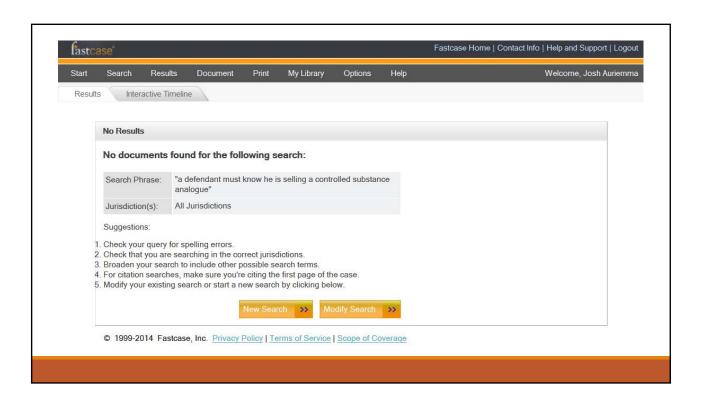
#### Use wildcards:

- Mari?uana Marijuana; Marihuana
- Sell\* Selling; sell; sells.

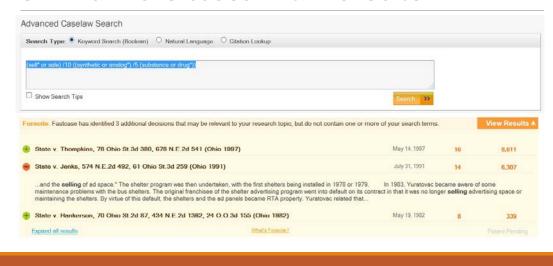
#### Use proximity searches, not exact phrases:

• (sell\* or sale) /10 ((synthetic or analog\*) /5 (substance or drug\*))





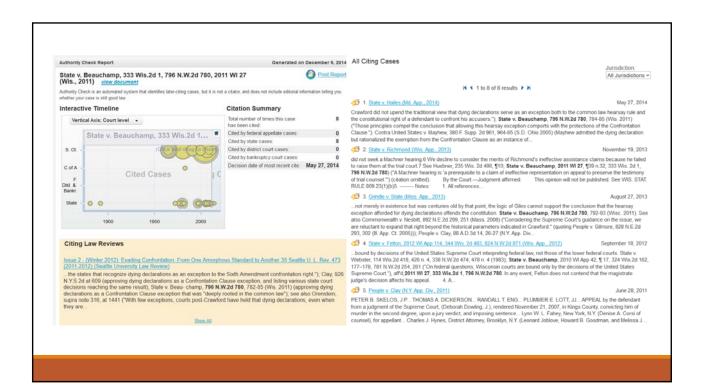
## 3. Find more cases with Forecite



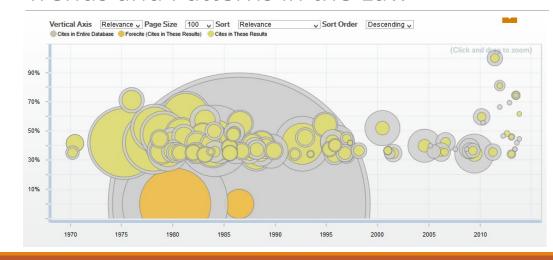
## 4. Remember to look at Authority Check

- Authority Check alerts you to negative citation signals associated with your case, but it also contains a list of all citing cases.
- This is a good feature to access when you find your first helpful case.



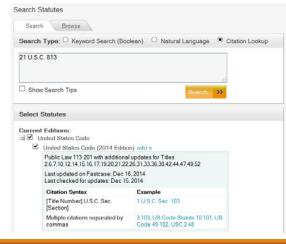


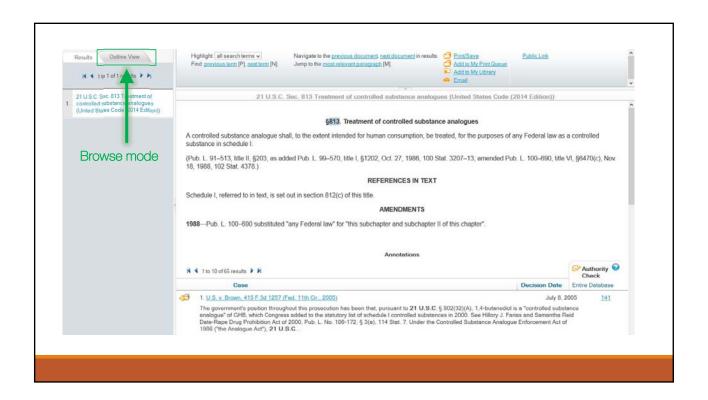
# 5. Use the Interactive Timeline to Spot Trends and Patterns in the Law

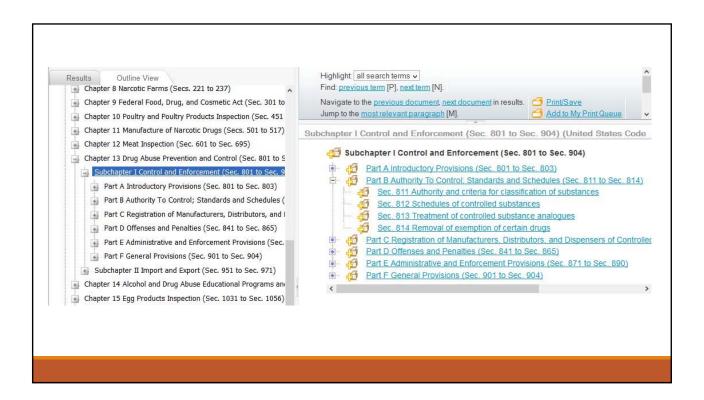


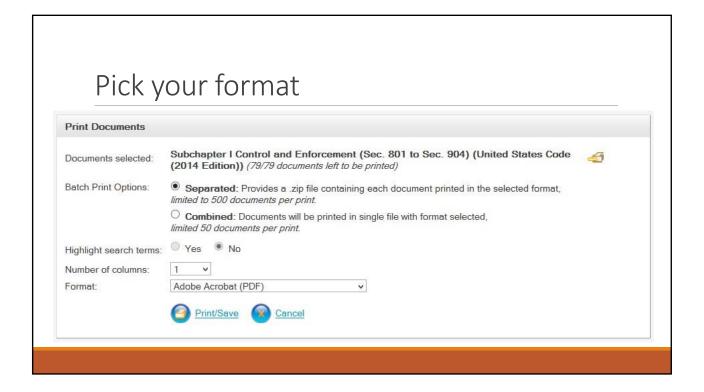
# 6. Print or Save the Materials you need.

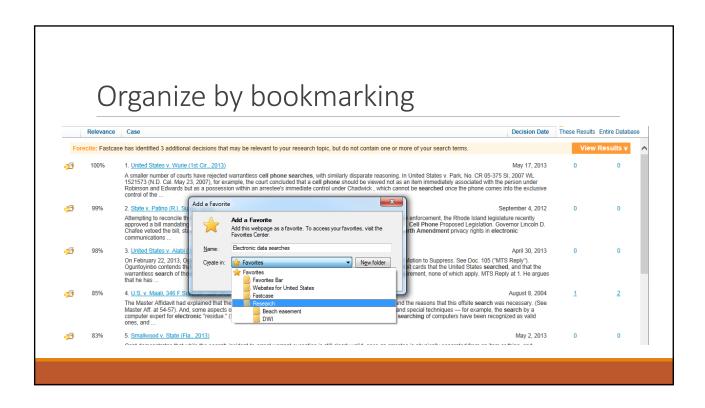
- Fastcase printing is free and unlimited.
- You can batch download as many primary law documents as you need.
- As an example, let's try printing the relevant statute sections for this issue.

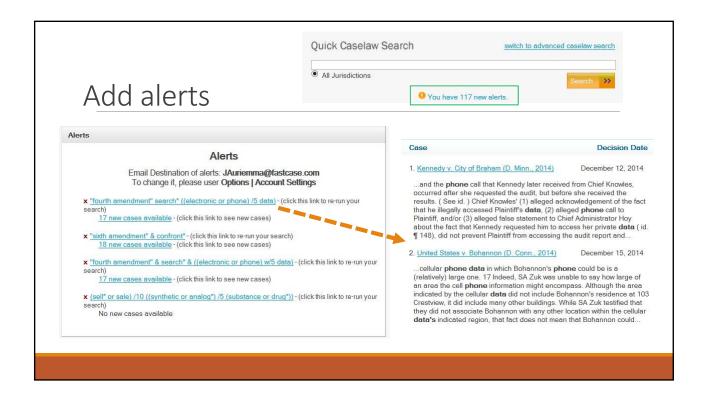


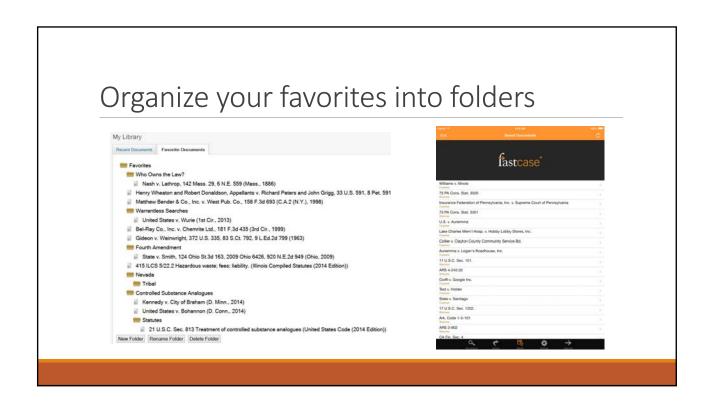


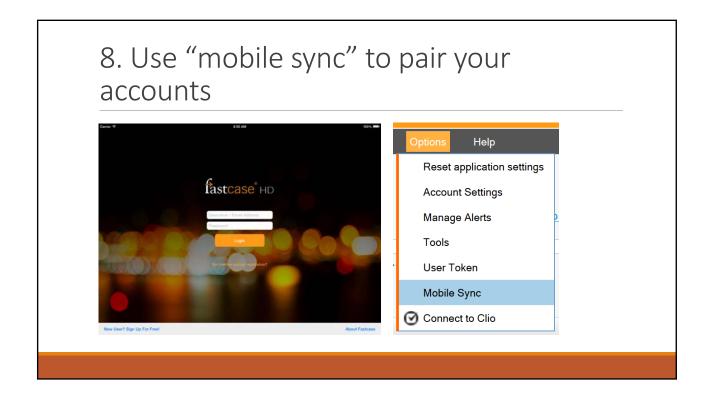












## Ohio Attorneys...







Available 8 am - 8 pm Eastern, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

CALL

1-866-773-2782

EMAIL support@fastcase.com

LIVE CHAT

Help → Live Help

CLE: 4 weeks. No need to email.

www.fastcase.com

**Help & Training** 

Documentation &