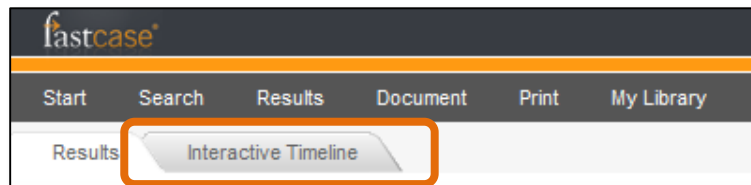


## 8 | USING THE INTERACTIVE TIMELINE

The **Interactive Timeline** is a powerful data visualization tool unique to Fastcase. By allowing you to view up to four different attributes of each case at a time, your search results jump off the page.

### Reading the Timeline

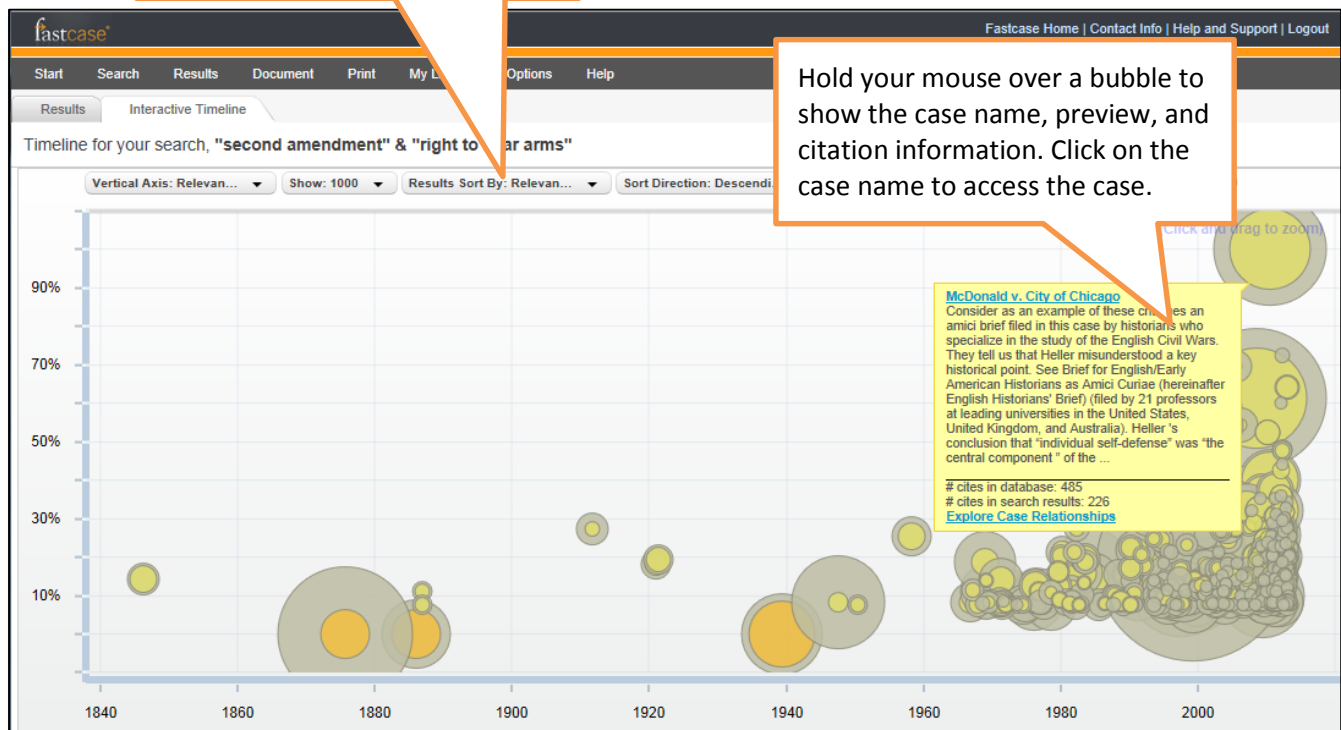
- To access the **Interactive Timeline**, start by running a search and viewing your list of search results. On the results page click the **Interactive Timeline** tab at the top of the screen. The timeline will open on your screen. By default, your timeline will open in **Relevance View**.



- Each case in your search results is represented on the **Interactive Timeline** by a gray circle.
- The **Interactive Timeline** tells you at least four things about each case:
  - The date of each decision (x-axis).
  - The **Relevance Score** of each decision (y-axis).
  - The number of times each case was cited overall (diameter of gray circles)
  - The number of times each case was cited for your search terms (diameter of gold circles).

Select how many cases you'd like to view at once, and how you'd like them sorted.

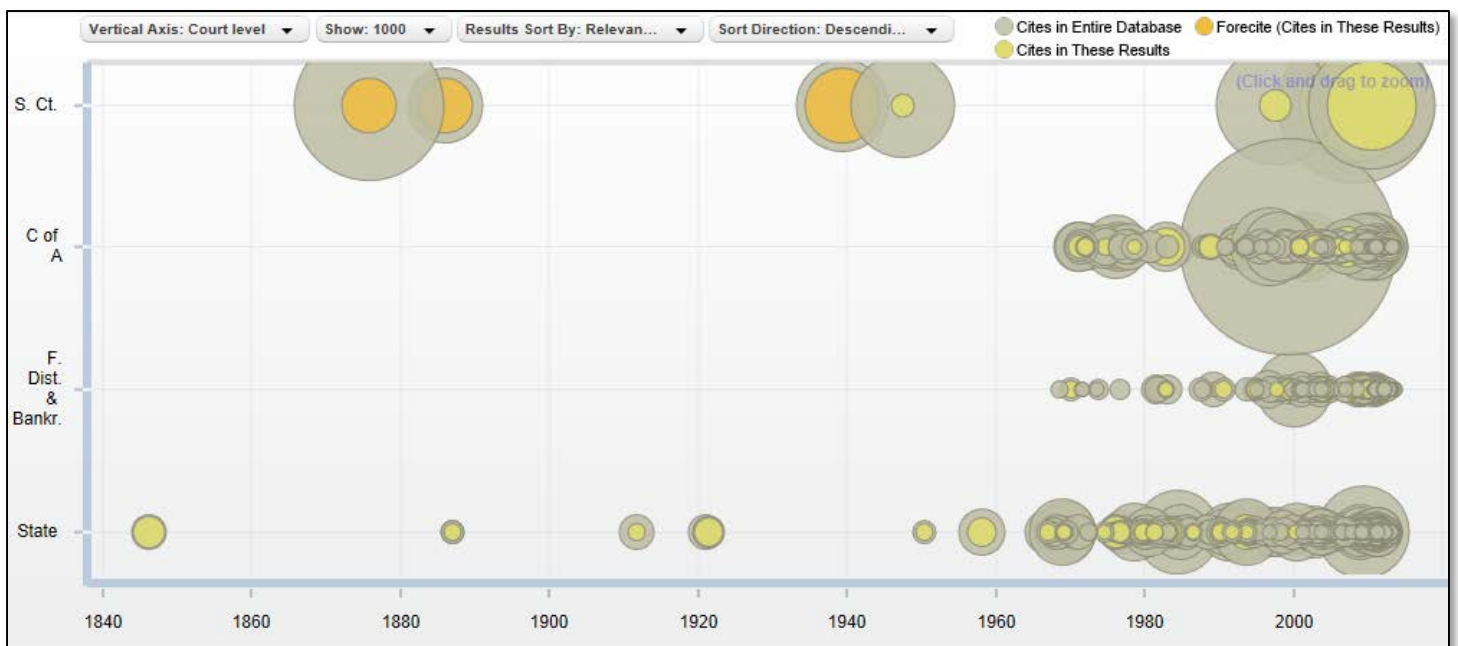
Hold your mouse over a bubble to show the case name, preview, and citation information. Click on the case name to access the case.



- You can switch to **Court Level View** by selecting **Court Level** from the **Vertical Axis** filter.



- This time, your timeline will look something like the image below:



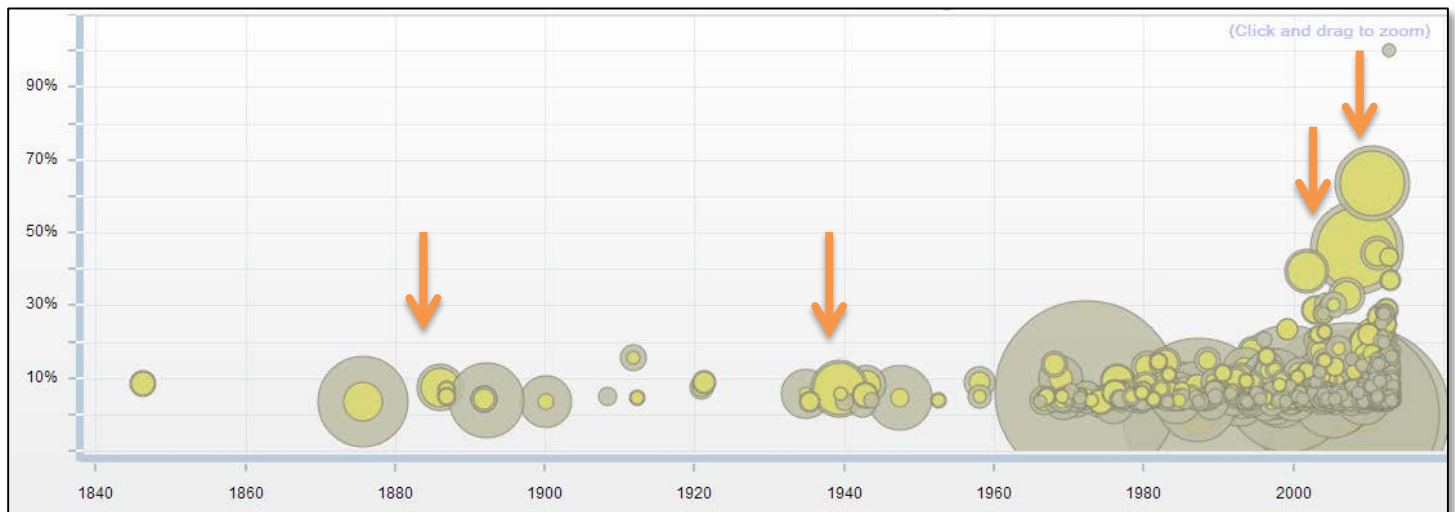
- Now you can see the court level of each decision (y-axis).

### Identifying Authoritative Cases

By illustrating how relevant each case is based on your search terms, how many times each case has been cited by subsequent cases, the **Interactive Timeline** quickly identifies seminal and authoritative cases.

- For the best results, first make sure that you are in **Relevance View**.
- Then look for cases with large diameters that appear towards to the top of the page since frequently cited cases with high **Relevance Scores** are the most likely to be authoritative.

- Here is an illustrative example: if you perform a keyword search for “[second amendment](#)” & [arms](#), and open the [Interactive Timeline](#) in **Relevance View**, you will see something that looks like this:



- It is easy to spot authoritative cases on the timeline – look for circles with large gold and gray diameters as well as circles that appear higher up than other contemporaneous cases.
- On the timeline pictured above, these four cases – all key Second Amendment decisions – stand out.

From left to right:

- 1) [Presser v. Illinois](#), 116 U.S. 252 (1886).
- 2) [United States v. Miller](#), 307 U.S. 174 (1939).
- 3) [District of Columbia v. Heller](#), 554 U.S. 290 (2008).
- 4) [McDonald v. City of Chicago](#), 130 S. Ct. 3020 (2010).

- The timeline also illustrates the nearly seventy-year gap in Second Amendment cases presented to the Supreme Court as well as the surge of Second Amendment lawsuits in the last forty years.

**Fastcase Tip:** Access the [Interactive Timeline](#) from [Authority Check](#), too. When viewing an [Authority Check Report](#), the [Interactive Timeline](#) is minimized so it takes up less room. Click the arrow in the top-right corner to maximize and view the timeline.