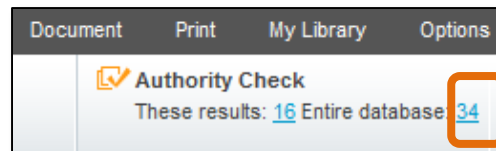# 7 | USING AUTHORITY CHECK

Overview

Authority Check is Fastcase's integrated citation analysis tool. You can use **Authority Check** in many ways, including:

• To generate a list of later citing cases to find related authority on your topic.

• To prioritize your research by identifying the most frequently cited cases within your list of results.

> **Authority Check (featuring Bad Law Bot) is not a citator like Shepard's or Keycite; it does NOT include editorial information telling you whether a case is still good law. Authority Check information is computer generated and dependent upon later citing cases using accurate official reporter citations.**

Generate a List of Later Citing Cases

- Start by pulling up the case you are interested in. Make sure you are on the page with the full text of the case.

- The hyperlinked **Entire database** number under the **Authority Check** heading (top left side) corresponds to the number of times the case has been cited in the Fastcase database.

- Click on the hyperlinked **Entire database** number to generate the **Authority Check Report** with a list of later citing cases. The report will load in a new tab or window within your browser.

Identify Frequently Cited Cases

- On the results page, the number to the right of each case under the **Authority Check** heading corresponds to the number of times the case has been subsequently cited in other cases.
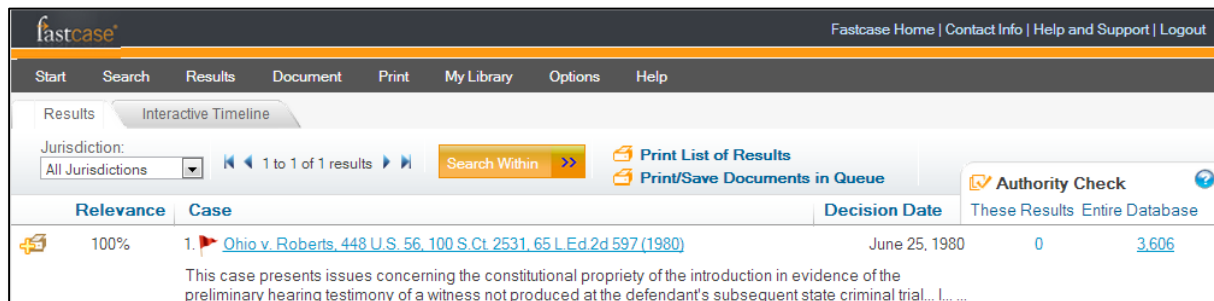

- Sort the most frequently cited cases overall to the top of the list by clicking on the heading, **Entire Database**.

- Sort the cases most frequently cited by other cases in your search results to the top of the list by clicking on the heading, **These Results**.

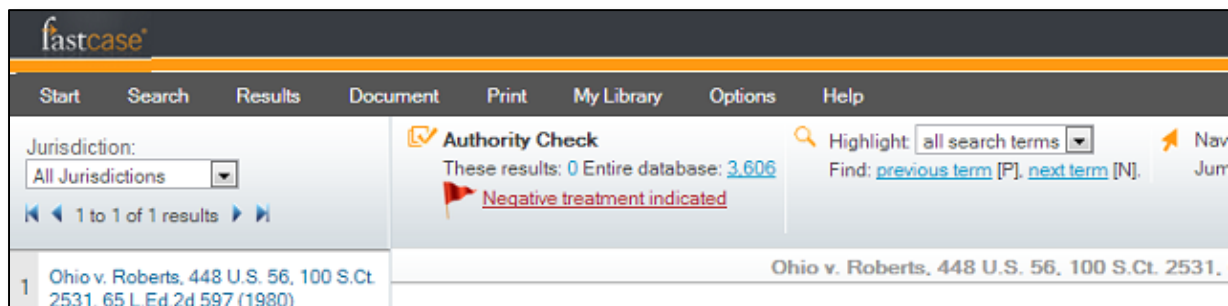**Identify Negative Citation History**

The *Bluebook* requires that courts indicate negative history of cases cited within opinions. The Fastcase **Bad Law Bot** takes advantage of this data by using algorithms to find these negative citation histories, then flags those cases and provides links to those cases.

Here, we looked up *Ohio v. Roberts*, 448 U.S. 56. Note the red flag next to the case name, indicating negative citation history for the case.

Once you click through to *Roberts*, you'll also notice that there's a red flag in the **Authority Check** area.

To see the cases that indicate negative citation history for *Roberts*, simply click on the Negative Treatment Indicated link and the **Authority Check Report** will open in a new tab.

Here's what the **Authority Check Report** looks like for *Roberts*:

Bad Law Bot finds negative citation history by taking all the cases that have cited *Roberts* and examining how they've cited to *Roberts*. If a court has negatively cited to *Roberts*, **Bad Law Bot** will link you to that case. Keep in mind that **Bad Law Bot** determines negative case history by using algorithms, and that it is not intended to be a complete replacement for a full editorial citator or for reading all later-citing cases. A red flag means that there's likely negative treatment, since a court has said as much by their use of a negative citation, but no red flag does not necessarily mean that a case is still good law. If a case has been overturned but no court opinion has cited to it yet, **Bad Law Bot** won't be able to find any citation signal information.