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 search results. On the bottom of the results page you will see the Interactive Timeline. By default, your timeline will be 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 blue circles).
- The red circle indicates that a case has negative interpretation and is no longer considered good case law.

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

Select to display how cases are sorted
• You can switch to Court Level View by selecting Authority 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 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 "sexual harrassment" 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 blue and gray diameters as well as circles that appear higher up than other contemporaneous cases.

On the timeline pictured above, these three cases – all key sexual harrassment cases – stand out.