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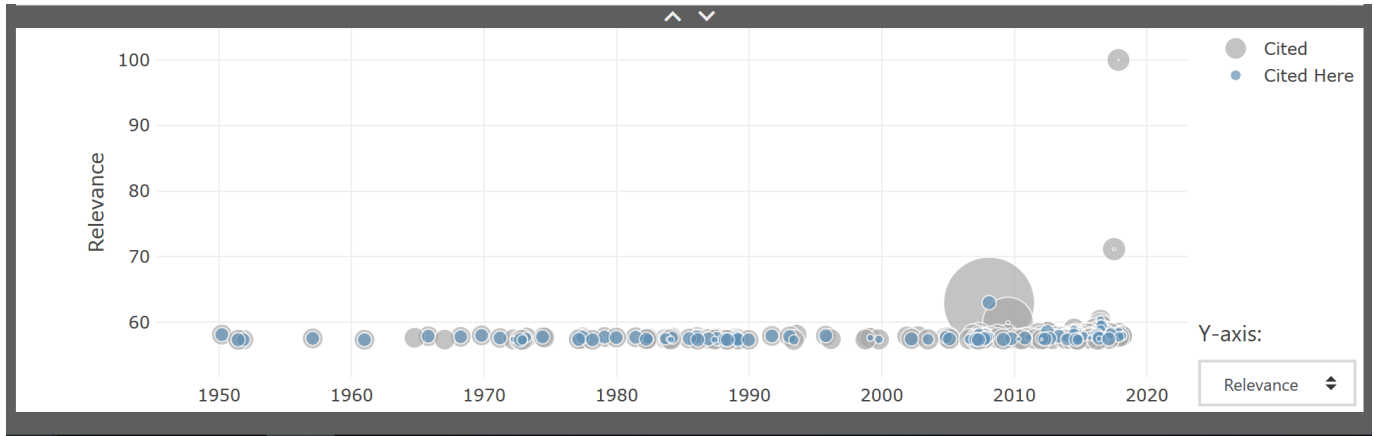
The **Interactive Timeline** is a powerful data visualization tool unique to Fastcase. By allowing you to view up to four different attributes of each case at a time, your search results jump off the page.
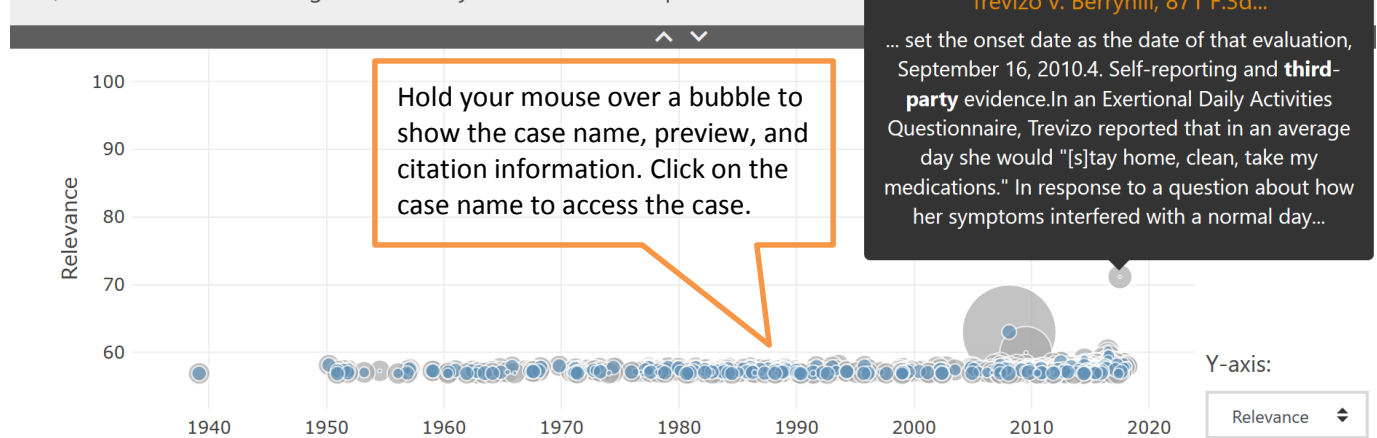
Reading the Timeline

- To access the **Interactive Timeline**, start by running a search and viewing your search results. On the bottom of the results page you will see the **Interactive Timeline.** By default, your timeline will be in **Relevance View**.
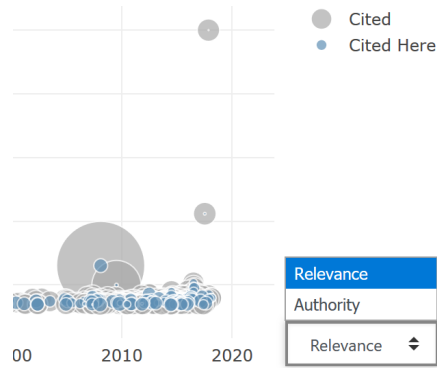

- Each case in your search results is represented on the **Interactive Timeline** by a gray circle.

- 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).

Hold your mouse over a bubble to show the case name, preview, and citation information. Click on the case name to access the case.
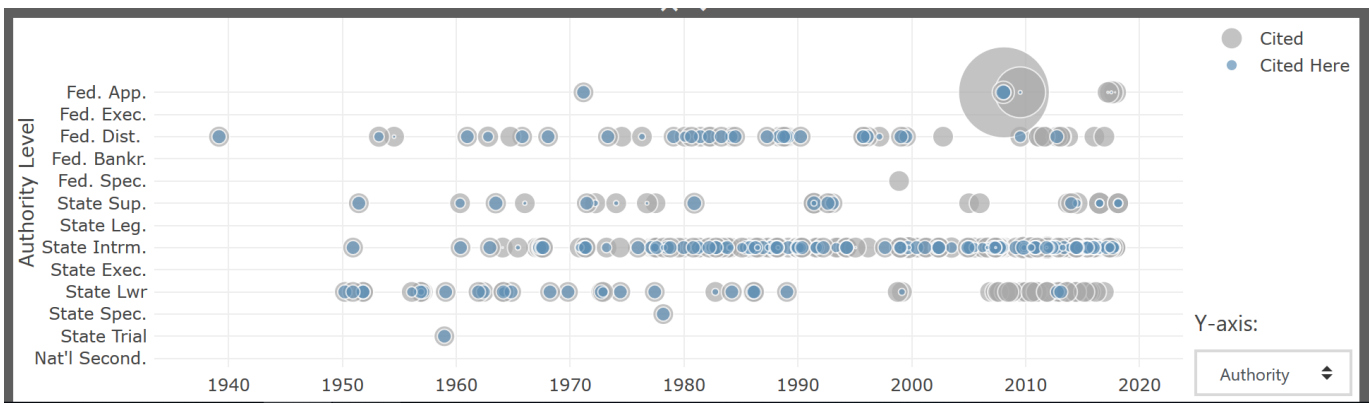
Select to display how cases are sorted

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

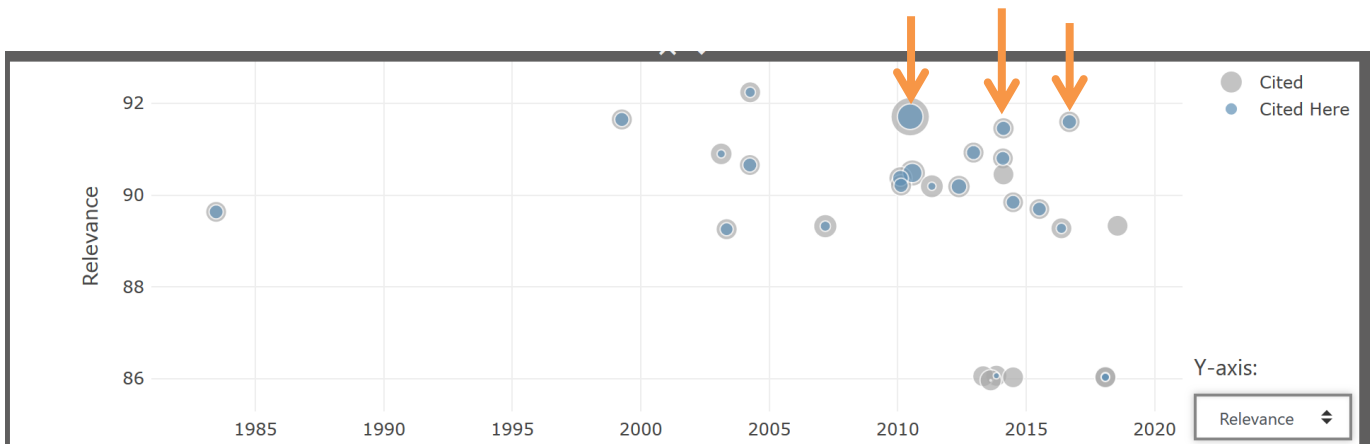- This time, your timeline will look something like the image below:

- 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 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 <u>"second amendment"</u> & 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 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 Second Amendment decisions – stand out.

From left to right:

1)   <u>McDonald v. City of Chicago</u>, 130 S. Ct. 3020 (2010)
2)   <u>Peruta v. Cnty. of San Diego</u>, 742 F.3d 1144 (9th Cir., 2014)
3)   <u>Binderup v. Attorney Gen.</u> U.S., 836 F.3d 336 (3rd Cir., 2016)

- 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 at the bottom of the report.