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.

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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.

![Diagram showing Court Level View](image)

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

![Diagram showing Court Level View](image)

• 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 harassment" 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 harassment cases – stand out.