How to find cases and other legal information in the Library Legal: A Step-by-Step Guide

WestLaw database provides a collection of legal information including: case opinions, statutes, legal encyclopedias, and law journals and reviews. All JSU enrolled students, faculty and staff members are eligible to use this database.

Step 1: Accessing Westlaw:

WestlawNext database can be accessed via either of the following paths:

Path 1: go to the webpage http://libguides.jsu.edu/law, click on Westlaw listed under Library Subscribed Database for Law (ID Required) Tab.

Path 2: go to the webpage http://libguides.jsu.edu/az.php?a=w, click on Westlaw listed under ”W”.

Step 2: Retrieving documents:

From the Westlaw search platform, the search box at the top of the page can be used to find a document by citation or name or keywords (including a sentence). Contents can be browsed by selecting the links in the “Browse Section”.

- To find a document by citation, type the citation in the search box at the top of the page and click “Search” button. For example, type: 410 us 113 or al st 13a-5-11 or 65 Ala L. Rev 567
- To find multiple cases by citation, type the citations, separated by semicolons, in the search box, and click “Search”. For example, type: 385 us 78; 130sct2162
- To find a case by party name, type one or more parties’ names or the case title in the search box, change the jurisdiction if necessary, and click “Search”. For example, type: bush v. gore
- To find documents by key term(s) (search by using a sentence is allowed), type terms describing your issue in the search box at the top of the page, and click “Search” button. For example, type: can an unmarried couple adopt a child or Americans with Disability Act

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Step 3: Viewing Search Result

The result page is displayed similar to the following (by default, results are ranked by relevance):

The left column lists the core content categories, available filters and Search within Result function.

The center column lists documents in your search result. Click “View all” to view more results for that content category.

Step 4: Delivering Documents

Your needed documents can be printed, emailed, or downloaded by clicking the Print, Email, Download or Kindle icon on the toolbar.

Click here to choose from delivering options.

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