

## Legal Research Free and Fast!

U.S. Federal Sources

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Case Law – Federal

- Supreme Court decisions
  - Accessible through several websites
  - Some sites also include briefs, dockets, & oral argument transcripts.
- Lower Federal Court decisions
  - Only consistent thing is their inconsistency
  - Pacer

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Findlaw for Legal Professionals

- <http://lp.findlaw.com/>
- Highlights:
  - Supreme Court Decisions
    - 1893 - present
    - Opinions, links to lower court decisions, dockets, oral argument transcripts, briefs
  - Federal Court of Appeals Decisions
    - From 1995 – present
    - Blogs
    - Party name search & keyword search
  - Federal District Court Decisions
    - Links to district court websites by state

---

---

---

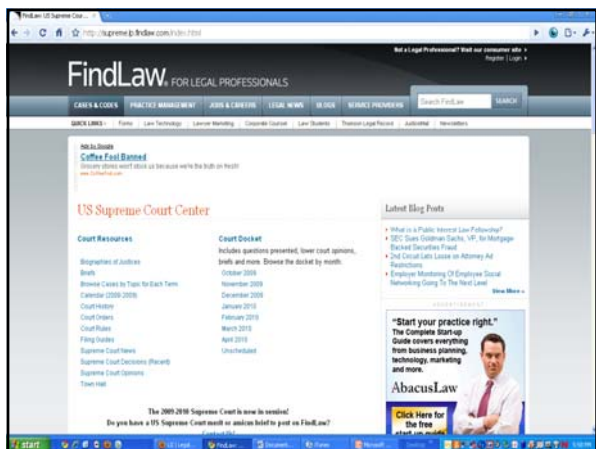
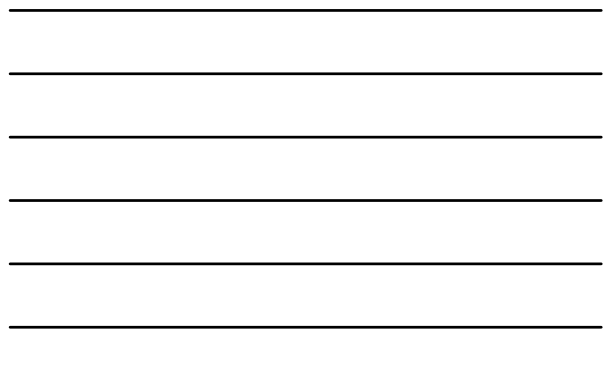
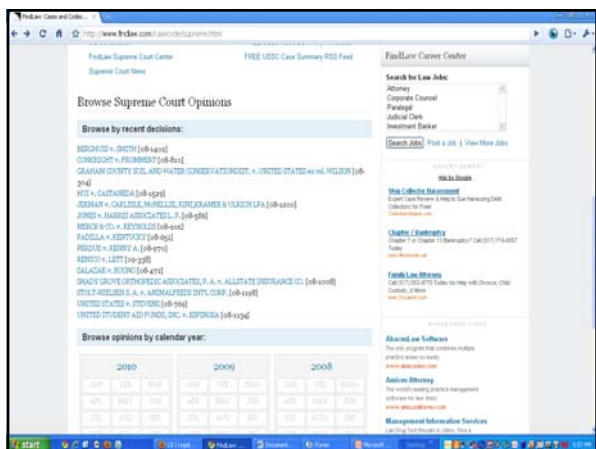
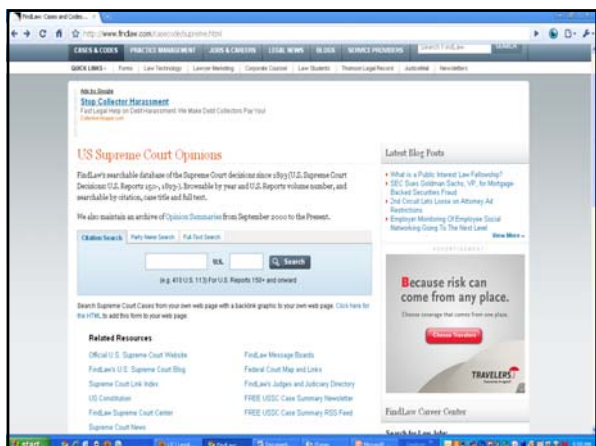
---

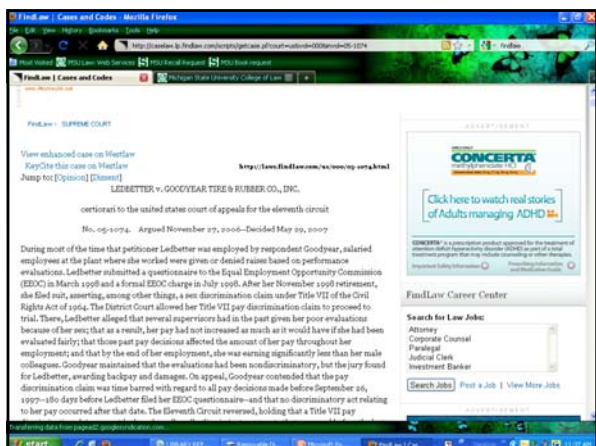
---

---

---

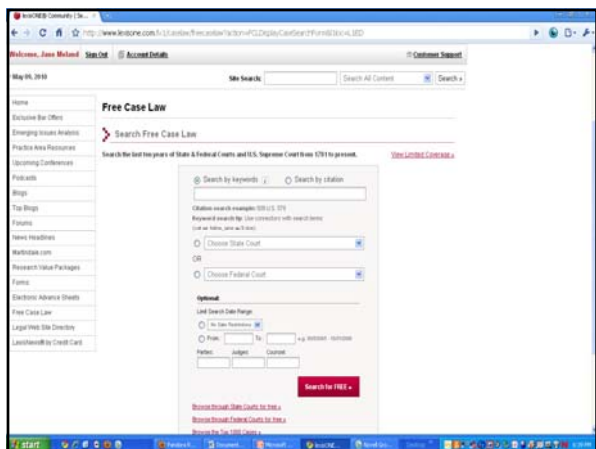
---





lexisOne

- <http://law.lexisnexis.com/webcenters/lexisone/>
- Supreme Court
  - Opinions from 1781 – present
- Other federal courts & state courts for the last 10 years (there are some limitations – see the “View Limited Coverage” page for details)
- Proximity searching & citation search








---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pacer**

- <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>
- “Allows users to obtain case and docket information from Federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts..”
- Must have an account, charges .08/page
- Coverage varies by court, but for the most part cases filed in the last 5 – 7 years are available through Pacer
- No keyword searching, but party, docket and topical searching are available

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---






---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Legislation - Federal**

- Several excellent sources that provide up to date full text access to legislation
- United States Code represents current law
  - Statutes at Large serve as historic record of laws passed during a session of congress
- There is no annotated code available for free online

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Cornell Legal Information Institute – United States Code**

- <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>
- Searchable by keyword and browsable by topic and popular name
- “How Current is This?” provides information about updates and changes that have not been codified yet

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





## Thomas – Library of Congress – Legislative Information

- <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Includes bills, legislative history documents (reports, debate, etc), and public laws
- This is the website to use to monitor progress of a bill through congress. It will include all versions of the bill and provide status updates

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

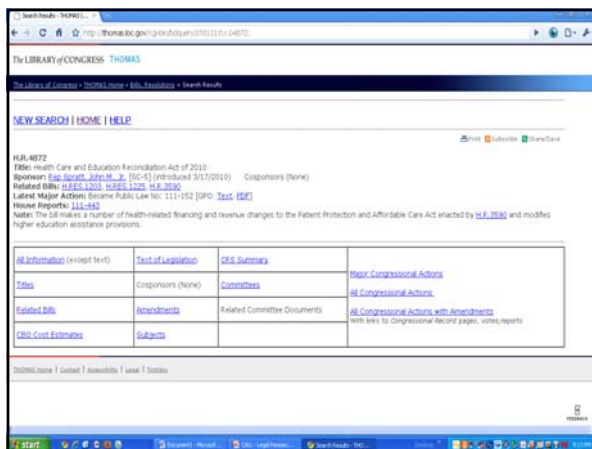
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

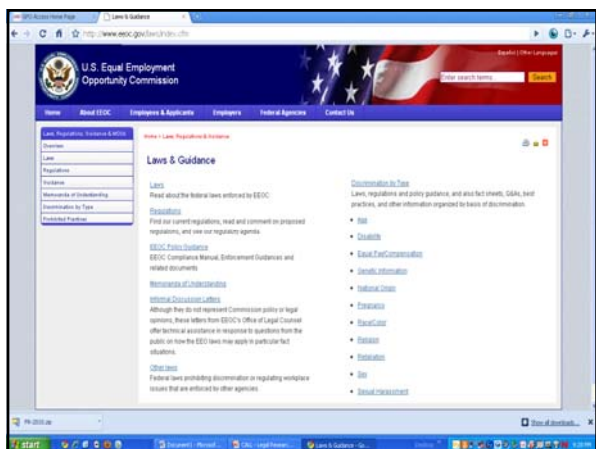
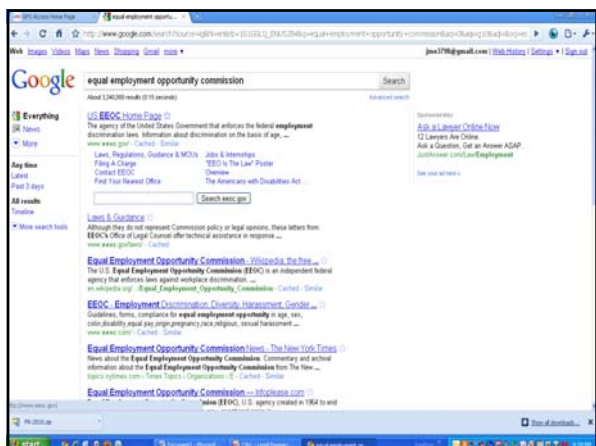
---

---

---







These Are Just a Few Examples

- Need further assistance?
- Please feel free to contact MSU College of Law Library Reference Desk
  - 517-432-6870
  - [reference@law.msu.edu](mailto:reference@law.msu.edu)
  - Website: <http://www.law.msu.edu/library/>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---