This Library Research Guide provides information resources and searching skills related to the legal cases.

**Resources**

There are many ways to locate the cases. These include:

*Findlaw* ([http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html)), a free Internet Website providing full-text Supreme Court case reports and summaries of federal court cases.

*Westlaw Campus Research* ([http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/graphic/articles.htm](http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/graphic/articles.htm)): a library subscribed electronic database providing full-text Supreme Court, federal, and state case reports. Case outline (with Synopsis, Headnote(s), Opinion(s), Concurring Opinion, Dissenting Opinion) and case history (with graphical view) are provided for easy tracing. Full-text law reviews and journal articles are also available. This source is strongly recommended since its broad coverage of the legal materials. Your student ID number and your last name are required to log-in for off-campus use.

**Print Case Reports** (All the print case reports can be found via Westlaw Campus research Database Electronically): Selected cases are available on 10th Floor, Houston Cole Library JSU, the titles and the call numbers are listed as following:

a) *United States Reports* (U.S.) (Call Number: KF101.U5, 10th Floor, Reference Section, Library Has: Vol. 259- Present): Official Supreme Court reports. Covering cases and decisions from the year 1790 to present.

b) *United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyer's Edition* (L.Ed.), (Call Number: KF101.U52, 10th Floor, Reference Section, Library Has: Vol. 1- Vol. 67): Commercial Supreme Court reports. Covers all Supreme Court decisions since the court's inception in 1790. Compiled chronologically.

c) *United States Supreme Court Reporter* (S.Ct.) (Call Number: KF 101.S9, 10th Floor, Reference Section, Library Has: Vol.52-Vol.110A): Commercial Supreme Court reports. Covers Supreme Court cases since 1882. Compiled chronologically.


How to Locate Your Case(s) Using Westlaw Campus Research Database

1) Locating your case by Case Citation:

Understanding case citation: Cases are published in volumes called "case reports", "report(s)" or "reporter(s)". Every reported (published) case has a unique citation. As long as you have the citation, you can find any case published in a standard case reporter. A case citation usually contains the case name, the name of the reporter(s) where the case is published, the volume number(s) of the reporter(s), the page number, and the year the case was decided. The following is an example of a case citation:

Miranda v. Arizona         384
U.S.                                                  436                                              (1966)

Case name                    Vol. No.        Abbreviated name of reporter                    Page No.                  Year of the decision

Type your case citation (eg. 373 F.3D 589) in the box under Find document, then click on “Go” button next to it (see the shorter arrow in Illustration I). Westlaw Campus Research can be accessed from the Houston Cole Library’s Home page -> Databases/Electronic Resources-> Database by Title-> Westlaw Campus Research (http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/graphic/articles.htm):

Illustration I:

The search result looks like the following (Illustration II) with the full-text of the case on the right and the case history and the outline on the left:

Illustration II:
2) Cases can be searched by subject when using Westlaw Campus Research Database by clicking “Go” button under KeySearch (see the longer arrow in illustration I), you will see the following screen, and then you can select any subject you like:

Illustration III:

For more information about the library resources, contact: Hanrong Wang, Law/Technology Librarian, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL 36265, Tel: 256-782-5250, Fax: 256-782-5872, Email: hwang@jsu.edu

For distance education library support, please contact: Ms. Jodi Poe, Distance Education/Electronic Resources Manager, Houston Cole Library, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, AL 36265, Telephone: 1-800-231-5291 (JAX1) or (256) 782-8103, FAX: (256) 782-5872 Email: delib@jsu.edu Or visit: http://www.jsu.edu/depart/library/graphic/distance.htm

Updated May, 2006