



## *Federal Case Resources*

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### **CASE REPORTERS:**

Researchers will find three levels of courts in the federal judicial system: the United States District Courts (the trial courts), the United States Courts of Appeals (the intermediate appellate courts), and the United States Supreme Court (the court of last resort). Judges issue written decisions (opinions), which are published chronologically in bound volumes called reporters. Reporters are located on **Level 3**. Newer cases are in paperbound advance sheets next to the bound volumes of each reporter.

Official reporters are those published under government authority. Reporters published by commercial publishers are called unofficial reporters. Be aware that the same opinion can appear in more than one reporter. See Rule 10 in The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation, 18<sup>th</sup> ed., for citation guidance at **Level 3 KF 245 .U55 2005; Level 3 Ref. Desk KF 245 .U55 2005; Level 2 RESERVE LAWYERING PROCESS KF 245 .U55 2005.**

### **\*U.S. SUPREME COURT CITATION:**

Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins, 490 U.S. 228 (1989).

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| Vol. | Reptr. | Page | Date |

### **\*U.S. COURTS OF APPEALS CITATION:**

Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse, 825 F.2d 458 (D.C. Cir. 1987).

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|       |        |  |      |       |      |
| Vol.. |        |  | Page | Court | Date |
|       | Reptr. |  |      |       |      |
|       | Series |  |      |       |      |

### **\*U.S. DISTRICT COURTS CITATION:**

Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse, 618 F.Supp. 1109 (D.D.C.1985).

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|      |        |      |       |      |
| Vol. | Reptr. | Page | Court | Date |

\* (See Rule 10 The Bluebook for guidance.)

## DIGESTS:

All West digests are case reporter indexes organized by over 400 topics which are then subdivided into narrower key numbers. (Example: **Contracts** 355.) Each decision in a West reporter lists headnotes in numeric order. These headnotes are not a part of the court decision, but represent issues in the case. Each headnote has a corresponding topic and key number.

- **Descriptive Word Indexes:**  
Start here to find the topic and key number you need under keywords or terms. Each entry is assigned a topic and key number. Next, check the appropriate volume of the digest under the topic and key number you find and look for case citations to reporters.
- **Pocket Parts or Cumulative Pamphlet Updates and Quarterly Interim Cumulative Pamphlets:**  
Examine annual pocket parts or cumulative pamphlet updates in the back of each volume for new case information. Check the shelf for quarterly interim cumulative pamphlets which update the pocket parts.
- **Table of Cases:**  
If you have the names of the parties in a case, check these volumes for a reporter citation and a list of topics and key numbers in a case.
- **Words and Phrases:**  
Check the alphabetical terms in these volumes and locate citations to defining cases along with a list of appropriate topics and key numbers.

## AMERICAN DIGEST SYSTEM:

Use West's topics and key number in the comprehensive American Digest System for researching **federal and state** jurisdictions. See Century Edition (1658 to 1896) for older cases at **Level 3 KF139 1658**. The First Decennial Digest began in 1897 and continues today with the most current Decennial Digest. **Level 3 KF 141**.

Check West's General Digest for newer case citations (**Level 3 KF 141**). Determine the topic and key number you need, go to each tenth volume, and use the Table of Key Numbers to see which General Digest volume has the topic and key number you need. Check Table of Cases for case citations with topics and key numbers for each case. Note: our library's subscription to West's General Digest was cancelled in 2006.

## SELECTED FEDERAL CASE REPORTERS AND DIGESTS

| REPORTER  | CITE*  | COVERAGE  | DIGEST  |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>FEDERAL—Supreme Court:</b></p> <p>U.S. Reports. <b>1780-date.</b><br/>(G.P.O.—official)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.A212.</b></p> <p>United States Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers Edition. <b>1790-date.</b> (LEXIS).<br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.A313 (1<sup>st</sup> ed.).</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.A3132 (2d ed.).</b></p> <p>United States Supreme Court Reporter. <b>1882-date.</b> (West).<br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.A322.</b></p> | <p>U.S.</p> <p>L.Ed. &amp; L.Ed.2d</p> <p>S. Ct.</p>       | <p>U.S. Supreme Court</p> <p>U.S. Supreme Court</p> <p>U.S. Supreme Court</p> | <p>United States Supreme Court Digest, Lawyers Edition. <b>1754-date.</b> (LEXIS).<br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.1 .L34.</b></p> <p>United States Supreme Court Digest, <b>1754-date</b> (West).<br/><b>Level 3 KF 101.1.W45.</b></p> <p>See West’s federal digests listed below, <b>1754-date.</b></p>   |
| <p><b>FEDERAL—lower appellate courts:</b></p> <p>West’s Federal Reporter. <b>1880-date.</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 105.F43 (1<sup>st</sup> ed.).</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 105.F432 (2d ed.).</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 105.F433 (3d ed.).</b></p> <p>West’s Federal Supplement. <b>1933-date.</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 120.F42 (1<sup>st</sup> ed.).</b><br/><b>Level 3 KF 120.F422 (2d ed.).</b></p>  | <p>F., F.2d, &amp; F.3d</p> <p>F. Supp.<br/>F. Supp.2d</p> | <p>U.S. Courts of Appeals</p> <p>U.S. District Courts</p>                     | <p>Fed. Digest, <b>1754-1938</b> (West)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 127 .F42;</b><br/>Modern Fed. Practice Digest, <b>1939-1961</b> (West)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 127.F422;</b><br/>Fed. Practice Digest, 2d, <b>1961-1975</b> (West)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 127.F422;</b><br/>Fed. Practice Digest, 3d, <b>1975-mid-1980’s</b> (West);<br/><b>Level 3 KF 127.F423;</b><br/>Fed. Practice Digest, 4<sup>th</sup>, mid-<b>1980’s-date</b> (West)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 127.F424.</b></p> |
| <p><b>ALL PUBLISHED CASES:</b><br/>State and Federal.</p>   | <p>Cite to each reporter found in the Decennials.</p>      | <p>All state and federal cases.</p>   | <p>American Digest System (Decennials); General Digest. (Discontinued <b>2006.</b>)<br/><b>Level 3 KF 141.</b></p>  |

\* (See Rule 10 of The Bluebook for full citation format.)

## ELECTRONIC SOURCES:

- **Cornell Law School. Legal Information Institute:** <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/>. See “Archive of Decisions” to review current and historic U.S. Supreme Court decisions by topic, author, and parties.
- **FindLaw:** <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/>. Search cases from U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals, U.S. District Courts, U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, U. S. Court of International Trade, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, U.S. Tax Court, Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Court of Veterans Appeals, and federal administrative agencies and boards.
- **LexisNexis (fee-based):**  
<http://www.law.du.edu/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/> > enter password > click Research System tab > Legal tab > Cases, U.S. > Federal Court Cases, Combined. (Click “i” link after categories for file content and coverage.) Call toll-free Customer Service for assistance: 1-800-543-6862.
- **LexisONE.com:**  
<http://www.law.du.edu/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.lexisone.com/>. Alumni and public patrons may use public access computers on Levels 1 and 3 to register online for selected free cases. Click “Find Cases for FREE” for file content and coverage.
- **Loislawschool.com:** <http://www.law.du.edu/library/content.cfm?pg=loislaw>. Access is limited to University of Denver Sturm College of Law students, faculty, and staff. Use access computers on Levels 1 and 3 to research cases. At main menu under “Primary Law – Type of Law,” click Case Law. At next screen, select a court jurisdiction and click CONTINUE.
- **Westminster Law Library Webpage:** <http://www.law.du.edu/library/> > Web Research Links > Federal Resources > Federal Courts for selected federal cases.
- **Westminster Law Library Webpage:** <http://www.law.du.edu/library/> > Tutorials > Case Finding Using Reporters and Digests.
- **WESTLAW (fee-based):**  
<http://www.law.du.edu/library/count2.cfm?LinkURL=http://www.lawschool.westlaw.com> > enter password & click GO > Research now on Westlaw > Continue to Westlaw > Directory > U.S. Federal Materials > Federal Cases & Judicial Materials. (Click “i” link after categories for file content and coverage.)