



West Virginia University
George R. Farmer, Jr. Law Library

Appellate Advocacy
Electronic Resources Presentation

Electronic Resources Available Through the Library and On the Internet

Law Library TWEN Site, located at www.lawschool.westlaw.com/twen – Be sure to check this out!!! ;-)
This site contains lots of information, including remote access passwords, FAQ, and various handouts.

On the Law Library website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, there is a link, entitled *Legal Links*, divided into the following categories:

- ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
- ▶ Legal Directories
- ▶ West Virginia Links
- ▶ Federal Links
- ▶ International Links
- ▶ General Reference
- ▶ People Finders
- ▶ Business/Company
- ▶ News/Journals
- ▶ E-mail Services
- ▶ Search Engines

Under the *Catalog/Databases* link, you will find:

MountainLynx

The WVU Libraries' Online Catalog is available anywhere you have Internet access. MountainLynx allows you to search by variables, such as Title, Keyword, Subject, Author, Publisher, etc. If you would like to limit your results to materials held by the Law Library, click on the *Set Limits* button at the bottom right of the search screen *before* entering search terms or *Limit Results* after you retrieve your search results.

To access MountainLynx, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ MountainLynx Library Catalog

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

If there is a book that you cannot locate in the WVU University Libraries' system, simply fill out an ILL card at the Circulation Desk, and the Circulation staff will assist you in locating the book you need from another library.

E-Z Borrow

You can link to E-Z Borrow through MountainLynx. Click on the E-Z Borrow link at the top of the page. The User ID you need to use is your Mountaineer Card number. If, for some reason, this does not work, ask a member of the Circulation Staff to assist you. Using E-Z Borrow, you can locate books at other libraries at request that a book or books be sent to WVU University Libraries for your use.

BNA ALL

BNA All is a database providing access to electronic news and information, reporting on developments in health care, business, labor relations, law, economics, taxation, environmental protection, safety, and other public policy and regulatory issues.

To access BNA ALL, go to the Law Library's website,

<http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ CCH Internet Research Network

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

Casemaker

Searchable, full-text database providing access to cases, statutes, the State Constitution, court rules, and other research materials to the members of the West Virginia State Bar. Casemaker includes Federal information and State information from its thirty-three member states. As a WVU College of Law Student, you should have received LOGIN and PIN information. If you do not have this information, you can send your *full name* to staff@wvbar.org, tell them you are a WVU law student and that you have misplaced/forgot your login and PIN.

CCH Internet Research Network

CCH Internet Research Network provides access to the following products: Securities; Exchanges and SROs; Corporate Governance; Mergers and Aquisitions; International Business; Banking; Antitrust and Trade Regulation; Products Liability and Safety; Government Contracts; Intellectual Property, Computer and Internet Law; Federal Energy Guidelines; and Transportation Law.

To access CCH Internet Research Network, go to the Law Library's website,

<http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ CCH Internet Research Network

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

Hein Online

Hein Online is a database that provides access to all back issues of indexed legal journals (pre-1980 through present) in an electronic format. All images in Hein Online represent the exact page image of the original materials, and multiple searching capabilities greatly enhance your research capabilities. You may locate journal articles by volume and page numbers or through a search mechanism. Hein Online also has access to Federal Register (1936-1984), U.S. Supreme Court Library (1754-2003), a Treaties & Agreements Library, and a U.S. Attorney General Opinions.

To access Hein Online, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ Hein Online

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

Index to Legal Periodicals (ILP)

ILP is a bibliographic database that cites articles from legal periodicals (1976-current) and indexes law books (1993-current). Periodical coverage includes law reviews, bar association journals, university publications, yearbooks, institutes, and government publications. If you identify articles you would like to view, you may check in MountainLynx for the publication or check Hein Online for the publication and article.

To access Index to Legal Periodicals, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ Index to Legal Periodicals

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

IndexMaster

IndexMaster is a compilation of indices and tables of contents from thousands of legal books. IndexMaster allows you to search by Title, Keywords, Publisher, or Author. The search results allow you to look at the Table of Contents and/or the Index for each book you retrieve. After you have searched IndexMaster and determined a book or books you would like to check out, you can search MountainLynx to find out if the book is in our collection. If a book you need is not in our collection, many times it may be located and borrowed through Interlibrary Loan (ILL) or E-Z Borrow.

To access IndexMaster, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ IndexMaster
 - ▶ Search Tab

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

LegalTrac

LegalTrac comprehensively indexes legal publications, legal newspapers, and speciality law and bar association journals. LegalTrac also includes law-related articles published in more than 1,000 business and general interest titles. If you identify articles in LegalTrac that you would like to view, you may check in MountainLynx for the publication or check Hein Online for the publication and article.

To access LegalTrac, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ LegalTrac

For an off-campus access password, visit the Law Library TWEN page or contact a Reference Librarian.

LexisNexis Congressional

This is a LexisNexis service that provides comprehensive access to U.S. legislative information, including House and Senate reports and documents, hearings, committee prints, bills, laws, legislative histories, and more. Access to this database is limited to College of Law computers in the Law Center.

To access LexisNexis Congressional, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ Congressional Universe

Law Campus Access Only

Loislaw

Loislaw, a competitor of Westlaw and LexisNexis, is designed to guide you easily through the research process. If you ever need help, there are several options available, including: screen overview, common questions, screen help, and help text. Loislaw also provides a tutorial to familiarize you with its product. Loislaw searches are done only in boolean language searches, using the following connectors: AND (&), OR (|), NOT (%), NEAR (/), NEARX (/X), and usage of quotes ("X X X") to find two or more words as a phrase. Services include GlobalCite and LawWatch.

To access Loislaw, go to the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select

- ▶ Legal Links
 - ▶ Online Catalogs & Databases
 - ▶ Loislaw
 - ▶ REGISTER (to create a new account) or ENTER (to access an existing account)

To set up your own Loislaw account, you will need to use the Special Access Code. Please contact a Reference Librarian to obtain this Special Access Code.

Loislaw General Help and Tips

Connectors

Connector	Shortcut Symbol	Effect	Examples	
AND	&	Returns document containing both search terms	employer and harassment	employer & harassment
OR	 	Returns document containing either term	automobile or vehicle	automobile vehicle
NOT	%	Returns document containing the initial term, but no term following "NOT"	pistol not rifle	pistol % rifle
NEAR	/	Returns document containing both terms within 20 words of each other	modification near contract	modification / contract
NEARX	/X	Returns document containing both terms within X number of words of each other	estate near5 decedent	estate /5 decedent
"x x"	" "	Returns document containing an exact phrase	"plea of confession and avoidance" Note: connectors enclosed in quotation marks are directly searchable, and cease to be regarded as special operators by the search engine.	

GlobalCite is a powerful search tool available whenever users retrieve the full text of a case, statute, or regulation. GlobalCite lists all of Loislaw's indexed documents that cite the current or 'active' document; its range is comprehensive, and each GlobalCite search spans Loislaw's entire collection of databases. Click the GlobalCite button near the bottom of any View Document screen to begin the search.

LawWatch is a special search feature that notifies users by email whenever Loislaw indexes new documents satisfying certain predetermined (and user-configured) search criteria. LawWatch may be activated from any results list page or from a document-level screen. To access the save dialog and configure LawWatch, click Save Search/Activate LawWatch from a results list page, or Save Search from a document page.

The save search dialog allows users to retain search criteria that led to an active document or results list. The criteria will be saved between sessions, and kept until deleted by the user. Users may recall saved searches by clicking My Saved Searches on the main tool bar near the top of the browser window.

My Saved Searches lists the names of searches saved during visits to Loislaw. The save dialog is available at all times in the main browser window. My Saved Searches also records a user's LawWatch status for each saved search.

If a search is listed as "inactive," LawWatch has not been turned on for that particular search. If the search is "active," users will receive email whenever Loislaw indexes new data satisfying the search criteria.

Legal Research Available on the Internet

From the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select the *Legal Directories* link, you will find:

American Law Sources Online

A comprehensive, uniform compilation of links to all online sources of American law, including uniform laws, law schools, law reviews and periodicals, and law-related listservs. Canadian and Mexican laws are also included.

Link: <http://www.lawsorce.com/also/>

FindLaw for Legal Professionals

A good starting point to find law-related information. Links at this site point to a Legal Subject Index, Law Schools and Law Reviews, Professional Development, Legal Associations and Organizations, Law Firms and Lawyers, Consultants and Experts, Laws: Cases and Codes, U.S. Federal Government Resources, State Law Resources, Foreign & International Resources, News and Reference Material, and Legal Practice Information & Materials.

Link: <http://lp.findlaw.com/>

Legal Information Institute

Hosted by Cornell Law School offers a collection of recent and historic Supreme Court decisions, hypertext versions of the full U.S. Code, U.S. Constitution, Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Rules of Evidence and Civil Procedure, and the ability to search all Circuit Courts of Appeal in one search.

Link: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/>

LegalEngine.com

Promotes itself as a comprehensive directory of federal and state links to government, courts, opinions, legal news and more

Link: <http://www.legalengine.com/>

From the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select the *West Virginia Links* link, you will find:

West Virginia Code of State Rules

Free access to the CSR. Access to the West Virginia Register is also available at this site. This site works best with the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser.

Link: <http://www.wvsos.com/csr/>

WV Court Information

Provided by the West Virginia State Bar. Includes information on County Magistrate Courts, Circuit Courts, the Supreme Court of Appeals, and WV federal courts.

Link: <http://www.wvbar.org/barinfo/courts/index.htm>

WV Court Rules

Maintained by the West Virginia Supreme Court. Links to the Rules of Appellate Procedure, West Virginia Trial Court Rules, Rules of Practice and Procedure for Family Law, Rules for Professional Conduct, and more.

Link: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/rules/rulesindex.htm>

WV Legislature

Access to a variety of State information, including the WV Code and the WV Court of Claims.

Link: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

WV State Law Library

This site is maintained by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, and includes a variety of West Virginia legal information

Link: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/library/menu.htm>

WV Supreme Court of Appeals

Includes Opinions, Calendar & Docket, Board of Law Examiners, Topical Index, Court Info & History, Staff Directory, Law Library, and more.

Link: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/>

From the Law Library's website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~law/library/index.htm>, and then from the left navigation bar, select the *Federal Links* link, you will find:

Circuit Court Opinions

Search all federal circuit court decisions, or search individual circuits, DC, Federal, or supreme courts. Click here to go directly to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, the Northern District of West Virginia, or the Southern District of West Virginia.

Link: <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/index.html>

Link to 4th Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals: <http://www.ca4.uscourts.gov/>

Link to the Northern District of West Virginia: <http://www.wvnd.uscourts.gov/>

Link to the Southern District of West Virginia: <http://www.wvnsd.uscourts.gov/>

Federal Courts Finder

Contains a U.S. map of circuit regions and the full text of opinions from all federal courts. Click here to go directly to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, the Northern District of West Virginia, or the Southern District of West Virginia.

Link: <http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDCTS/>

Fourth Circuit

Maintained by the Emory University School of Law in cooperation with the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Opinions are arranged by month.

Link: <http://www.law.emory.edu/4circuit/index.html>

GPO Access

Includes links to the Federal Register, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Congressional Record, the Budget, and many other items of interest.

Link: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/index.html>

Supreme Court Decisions (1990-current)

Search by date, topic, or party names. A collection of over 300 of the most important historical decisions of the Court is also available.

Link: <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/index.html>

Supreme Court Decisions (1937-1975)

Through FedWorld) U.S. Supreme Court Decisions from 1937 to 1975. These include decisions from volumes 300 through 422 of the U.S. Reports.

Link: <http://www.fedworld.gov/>

Supreme Court Home Page

Find information about the Supreme Court, links to the Supreme Court calendar and schedules, court rules, opinions, and more.

Link: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

Thomas

Federal legislative information with a searchable database for the full text of bills.

Link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas2.html>

U.S. Code

Maintained by the U.S. House of Representatives Office of the Law Revision Counsel. The current version is available and searchable by title and section or by keywords.

Link: <http://uscode.house.gov/>

Sometimes as a starting point and sometimes when all else fails, I turn to:

Google Link: <http://www.google.com/> or some other search engine of choice.

How to Evaluate Internet Resources

Authority

- A. Who created the page?
 - ▶ Look for a purpose statement or an “about this page” statement
- B. Does the site include any advertisements that may indicate favoritism or bias?
- C. Is there a webmaster listed as a contact for any questions?

Content

- A. Where is the information coming from?
- B. How often is the information updated?

If you need assistance using these catalogs or databases, please contact a member of the Law Library Staff.