

Content on Loislaw

Loislaw's Federal District Court Collection and Bankruptcy Court Collection

What is included

You may have seen this from our Currency Tab explaining the scope of this database.

U.S. Federal District Court

F. Supp.* 1919-1997
1-999
F. Supp. 2d* 1997-present
1-present

* Select opinions only

Because of the difficult nature of obtaining Fed Dist Ct case law and keeping up with the citations Loislaw will contain some cases that have an F. Supp citation and many that do not. Cases that do and cases that do not have an F. supp citation on Westlaw may be contained in the Loislaw Fed Dist Ct databases. Whether a case has an F. Supp citation or not does not control whether we publish it. The best method to retrieve a particular Fed Dist Ct case on Loislaw is by case name, not by using Find a Case.

It should be noted that the term "selected" is not meant to imply some sort of editorialized procedure for determining which cases we include or omit. The content of this particular database is largely determined by the availability of these cases through official sources. We do not have editors vetting the process of which cases are chosen and we publish anything with precedential value.

- a. precedential value may vary widely from one jurisdiction to the next; Loislaw sets general guidelines about what types of documents hold such value in order to optimize acquisition of substantive court documents and minimize inclusion of administrative or procedural materials
- b. slip opinions are sometimes backdated and posted to PACER by the courts, and in these instances, the slip opinion is not available to Loislaw's initial acquisition process targeting current opinions; Loislaw periodically undertakes retroactive sweeps to acquire backdated opinions, and also compares court websites to PACER periodically in order to close gaps between PACER and other sources
- c. all cited *Federal Supplement* opinions are added with pagination after receipt of advance sheets
- d. any federal district court opinion can be added upon request by customers, typically within about a day, depending upon availability of documents and responsiveness of the trial court

How it is obtained

Loislaw obtains the case law and orders we include in our Federal District Court database from Pacer, the official government website for Federal Case Law. We publish everything that appears to have precedential value. This information is added to our site within 2-3 days of being released on Pacer. Loislaw began using this method January 1, 2007 when all Federal District Courts were ordered to publish their cases on Pacer.

Prior to that date: Loislaw published Fed Dist Ct Case Law from the following sources: 1) Cases sent to us from the courts, 2) Cases that were referenced in other cases, 3) cases requested to be added by customers.

- e. Loislaw's federal district court collection was initially offered in 2000 and included opinions cited in Loislaw's existing collections; the documents offered in the initial release included citation and pagination
- f. from 2000 forward, Loislaw's federal district court collection includes opinions acquired directly from the courts and after 2005, from PACER
- g. the federal district court collection also includes cases released at any time and requested by customers
- h. from 2007 forward, citation and pagination are added after advance sheets become available
- i. for cases released prior to 2007, Loislaw is adding pagination and citation retroactively through cases published in 2005
- j. prior to 2005, citations and pagination are added to specific documents by customer request
- k. documents not available on PACER may be acquired directly from court websites, requested via fax, email, or conventional mail

Citations

Presently we are in the process of adding F. Supp citations to these cases going back to 2005. Prior to that some of the Federal Dist Ct cases will contain these cites and many will not. Customers may request citations be added to any Fed Dist Ct case or request a particular case be added to this database at no charge.

In addition, due to the fact that we have one database for all federal district court cases, if a federal district court case has an FRD citation, that document would be found in our US District Court Cases database. We also add FRD citations.

Other Courts

How they are obtained

Except for the Federal District Courts and the trial level bankruptcy courts discussed above, Loislaw obtains our case law from the officially court issued slip opinions. Cases and orders are published by us, those that are certified for publication and those that are not. Not all state cases are initially labeled (to be published or not to be published). If subsequently a case is designated unpublished Loislaw places that opinion in the unpublished database for that court, if we have one. See Fed Circuit Courts and Texas state courts as examples of having separate unpublished databases. If the case is thereafter unpublished and we do not have an unpublished database for that court, it is then removed.

Official pagination and citation are added to state case law after receipt of advance sheets.

Citations

The timing for the addition of citations varies by jurisdiction. Generally 2-3 weeks for Federal Circuit Courts and up to several months for state case law depending on when this information is officially released.

Loislaw receives the slip opinions from all other courts (state & federal) and publishes these slip opinions 2-3 days after we receive them. The official citation sheets are then released to us containing the official citations and finally a short time later we receive the official advanced sheets containing the case numbers.

Federal Circuit Courts generally release this information in a couple of weeks while state cases release in a couple of months.

National reporter system citations are available by agreement.

Find a Case

If you do not find a case using the Find A case, it may be because you were putting F.Supp citations into Find a Case. Again the best way to retrieve these cases is by name, using the case name blank on the detailed fill in the blank search form for each court.

For National Reporter Citations

Except for very recent cases, those without an official citation released for it yet or the Fed Dist Ct's and trial level bankruptcy cases discussed above, cases may be retrieved by placing either the official citation or the parallel citation into the Find A Case box. State and federal cases on Loislaw will contain these citations and can be retrieved by either.

Example: MOYER v. AMADOR VALLEY J. UNION HIGH SCH.DIST., 225 Cal.App.3d 720 (1990)275 Cal.Rptr. 494. This case can be retrieved using Find A Case by either the Cal App cite or the Cal.Rptr cite. .

Loislaw's cases contain the National Reporter citations (excepting Fed Dist Ct) and may be retrieved by those citations.

Loislaw's cases contain the page numbering that corresponds to the official citations and does not contain page numbering to the National Reporter or West Law Citations with one exception. A few states do not have official or state supplied citations and the only citation is the West citation. In those situations Loislaw's page numbering will correspond to the West citation which in effect becomes the official citation by default.

Unpublished State Case Law

Loislaw has unpublished state case law databases for those states that allow unpublished cases to be cited. Example: Texas

Most states do not allow unpublished cases to be cited. For those states Loislaw does not have unpublished case law databases.