

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Litigation is the process of bringing a dispute before a court of law. This quick reference guide highlights the litigation resources on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Litigation

Litigation typically involves tasks such as evaluating the claim and parties; investigating conflicts of interest and witnesses; developing strategies; determining the proper forum; assessing a settlement value; preparing depositions and discovery; analyzing opposing counsel; drafting pleadings and motions; selecting a jury; and writing jury instructions.

Litigation Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of litigation materials, including state and federal primary law, secondary sources, dockets, jury verdict and settlement summaries, jury instructions, briefs, and forms. Litigation resources can be accessed at the tabbed Litigation page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **ji-all** for the Jury Instructions Combined database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you know the citation is to use the Find service. Type your citation in the *Find by citation* text box in the left frame of a tabbed page and click **Go**.

STATE COURT RULES

State court rules are contained in the Individual State Court Rules databases (XX-RULES), where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation, e.g., CA-RULES.

CASE VALUATION

Westlaw includes a large collection of jury verdict and settlement summaries containing information that can be used for case valuation and to learn about the background and experience of case participants. You can obtain information from these materials via a Case Evaluator Report or by formulating and running searches in databases.

Case Evaluator

A Case Evaluator Report analyzes jury verdict and settlement summaries from across the nation. To create a Case Evaluator Report, click **Create Report** under *Case Evaluator* in the left frame of the Litigation page.

Category:

Practice Area Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378) or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

Verdict and Settlement Summaries Databases

In addition to using Case Evaluator, you can search jury verdict and settlement summaries databases. To access these databases, click **Dockets, Trial Filings, and Jury Verdicts** at the top of the page, then click a link, e.g., **National Jury Verdicts**, in the *Jury Verdicts* section.

COURT DOCUMENTS

Court document databases include state and federal pleadings, motions, and memoranda; appellate briefs; and expert witness documents. To retrieve court documents, click **Dockets, Trial Filings, and Jury Verdicts** at the top of the page, then click a link, e.g., **State and Federal Trial Filings**, in the *Filings, Motions, and Transcripts* section.

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Jury instructions are available from more than 35 jurisdictions on Westlaw. The JI-ALL database includes all state and federal published, pattern, standard, and model civil and criminal jury instructions. To access this database, click **Dockets, Trial Filings, and Jury Verdicts** at the top of the page, then click **Jury Instructions Combined** in the *Jury Instructions* section.

FORMS AND CHECKLISTS

The National Pleading and Practice Forms database (FORMS-PP) includes national and state-specific pleading and practice court forms used in civil litigation. To access forms databases, click **Practice Guides and Forms** at the top of the page, then click a link, e.g., **National Pleading and Practice Forms**, in the *Forms and Checklists* section.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw website interface for the Litigation section. The top navigation bar includes links for FIND & PRINT, KEYCITE, DIRECTORY, KEY NUMBERS, COURT DOCS, FORMFINDER, and SITE MAP. Below this, there are tabs for Law School, Westlaw, Law Review, Moot Court, Ohio, and Litigation. The Litigation tab is active, showing a sidebar with 'Shortcuts' and 'Find by citation:' fields. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Legal Research' (with sub-sections for Dockets, Trial Filings & Jury Verdicts, Directories & Public Records, Practice Guides & Forms, and Litigation News), 'Case Law' (with links to All State and Federal Cases, All Federal Cases, U.S. Supreme Court Cases, U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases, U.S. District Courts Cases, All State Cases, State Trial Court Orders, and Search Entire Collection...), 'Statutes, Regulations & Legislative History' (with links to U.S. Code | Table of Contents | Statutes Index, U.S. Public Laws - Current, All State Statutes - Annotated, and Code of Federal Regulations-), 'Workflow Toolkit' (with links to Order a Document, West_CiteAdvisor, Case Evaluator, LiveNote, Medical Litigator, Westlaw Legal Calendaring, and Expert Challenge Reports), and 'Briefs' (with links to Briefs Multibase - All Briefs, All Federal Briefs, U.S. Supreme Court Briefs, U.S. Supreme Court - Petitions for Certiorari, U.S. Court of Appeals Briefs, and All State Briefs).

Figure 1. Litigation page

For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).
For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.