

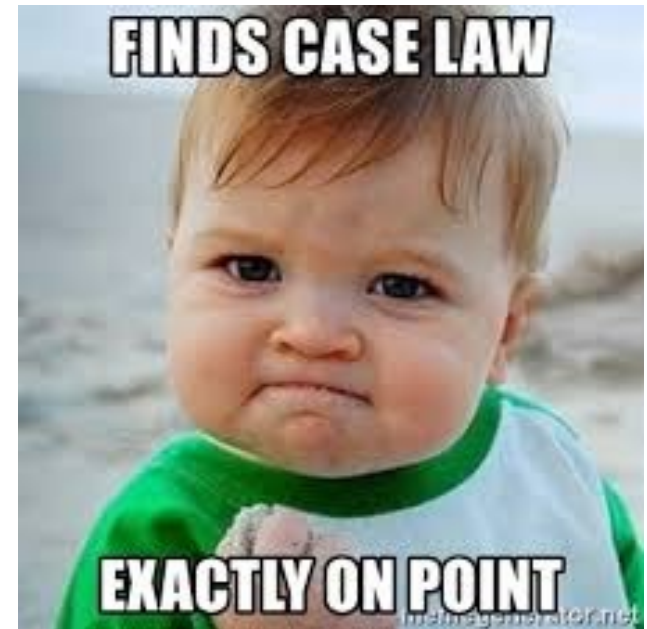
Research Assistant Training: Case Law Research

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What we will cover

Case Law: How to search for case law quickly and effectively using Westlaw and Lexis+

Cases: Case-tracking & finding court documents

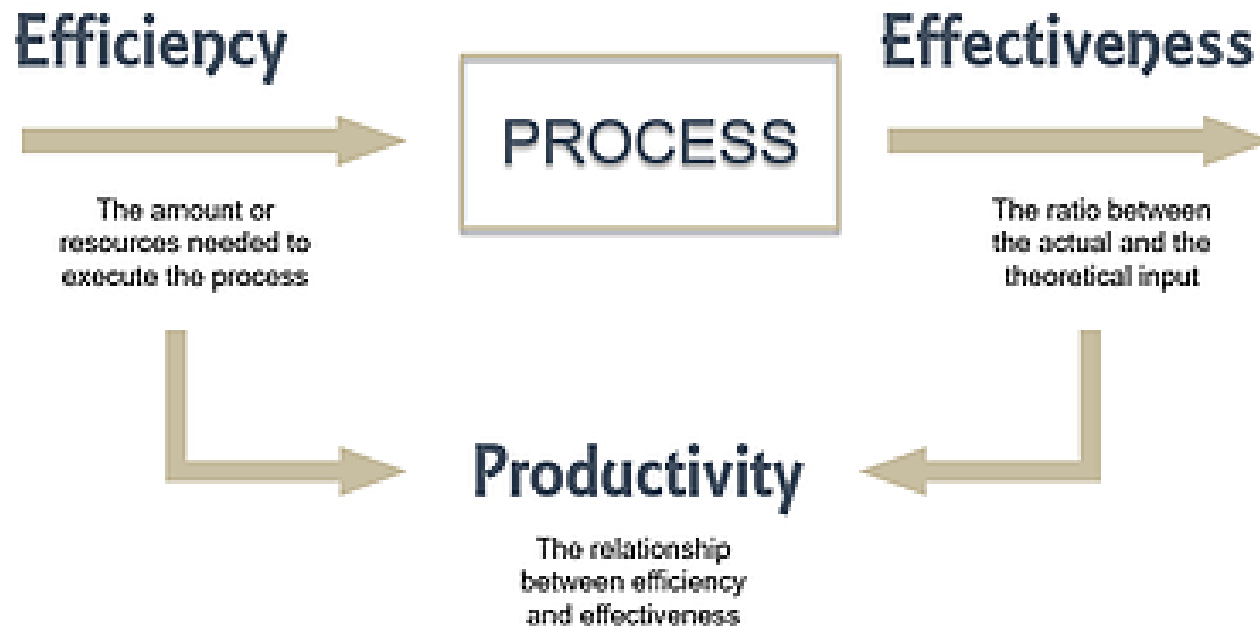


Questions to ask before you start

- Which jurisdictions do you want me to focus on?
- Do you want all published cases or unpublished as well?
- Do you want a hit list or do you want the actual cases? What format?

How can I make my searches more effective?

- Choose the right database
- Craft a smart search (on the first try)



Crafting a Smart Search

- **You control the search!**
- How to increase the breadth of your search terms
 - Include **synonyms**
 - Use tobacco and cigar in addition to cigarette
 - Use Westlaw's Thesaurus or Lexis' "Suggest terms"
 - Use truncators to capture all forms of a word
 - Root expander = !
 - Litigat! = litigate, litigator, litigation
 - Use the wild card (*) to find a word you're not sure how to spell
 - Marb*ry = Marbury, Marbary, Marbery
 - Wom*n = woman, women

Crafting a Smart Search

- **Narrow** your search by choosing less inclusive terms
 - Instead of “bird”, use “parrot” or “macaw”
- Take advantage of connectors, limiters, & expanders to narrow your search
 - To search for ERA and not era:
 - allcaps (era)
 - To search for “damage” and not “damages”:
 - Westlaw: #damage
 - Lexis: singular (damage)
 - and, or, /p, /s, /5, “”, date restrictors

Crafting a Smart Search

Take advantage of field/segment searching

- Each document is divided into sections
- Idea: increases relevant documents retrieved by limiting where your searches are performed

Cases

Advanced Search Fields

125 S.Ct. 2655 ← Citation
Supreme Court of the United States

Susette KELO, et al., Petitioners, ← Party Name
v.
CITY OF NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT, et al. ← Party Name

Docket Number → No. 04-108. Argued Feb. 22, 2005. Decided June 23, 2005. Rehearing Denied Aug. 22, 2005. See 545 U.S. 1158, 126 S.Ct. 24.

Synopsis

Synopsis

Background: Owners of condemned property challenged city's exercise of eminent domain power on ground takings were not for public use. The Superior Court, Judicial District of New London, Corradino, J., granted partial relief for owners, and cross-appeals were taken. The Supreme Court, Norcott, J., 268 Conn. 1, 843 A.2d 500, upheld takings. Certiorari was granted.

Background

Holding: The Supreme Court, Justice Stevens, held that city's exercise of eminent domain power in furtherance of economic development plan satisfied constitutional "public use" requirement.

Holding

Affirmed.

Justice Kennedy concurred and filed opinion.

Justice O'Connor dissented and filed opinion in which Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justices Scalia and Thomas joined.

Cases

Search Cases

All State & Federal



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Cases

advanced:

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Advanced Search: Cases

Use at least one field to create a Boolean Terms & Connectors query.

Find documents that have

All of these terms

e.g., construction defect (searched as construction & defect)

Term frequency

Any of these terms

e.g., physician surgeon (searched as physician OR surgeon)

Term frequency

This exact phrase

e.g., medical malpractice (searched as "medical malpractice")

Term frequency



Connectors and Expanders

& AND

/s In same sentence

Synopsis/Digest

Judge

Attorney

Court Name/Prelim

Docket Number

Background

Concurring

Court Abbreviation

Dissenting

Home > Cases

Cases   [Advanced Search](#) | [Tips](#)

Cases



Cases

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Terms

All of these terms

Enter just keywords to run as Natural Language. To run as Terms & Connectors, choose a cor

Add ↑

Any of these terms

Enter just keywords to run as Natural Language. To run as Terms & Connectors, choose a cor

Add ↑

This exact phrase

Enter just keywords to run as Natural Language. To run as Terms & Connectors, choose a cor

Add ↑

Exclude these terms

Enter just keywords to run as Natural Language. To run as Terms & Connectors, choose a cor

Add ↑

Document Segments/Fields

While these segments apply to the majority of documents, they may not apply to all documents.

Party Name

Court

Date

All available dates

Enter a date in Mmm dd, yyyy format or any of the supported [date formats](#)

Number

Citation

History

- " " Exact phrase
- and 2 or more words anywhere in the document (alternative: &)
- or Include one or more words
- and not Exclude documents containing the word or phrase; should be the last connector, or may produce unexpected results
- /n First word within "n" words of the second (alternative: w/n or near/n)
- ! Word variations using this as the root word (alternative: *)

[View all connectors and commands](#)

Segment Examples

The screenshot displays a legal research interface with a sidebar on the left containing navigation links like 'Party Name', 'Court', 'Date', 'Number', 'Citation', and 'History'. The main content area shows a document titled 'State v. Meredith' with a date of '179 Wn.2d 188'. Below the title, there's a section for 'Document Segments/Fields' which lists various segments and their corresponding values. The segments are categorized into 'Party Name', 'Court', 'Date', 'Number', 'Citation', and 'History'. The 'Party Name' segment is highlighted, showing the name 'State v. Meredith' and the date '179 Wn.2d 188'. The 'Court' segment is highlighted, showing the court 'Supreme Court of Washington'. The 'Date' segment is highlighted, showing the date '1979 Wn.2d 188'. The 'Number' segment is highlighted, showing the number '179 Wn.2d 188'. The 'Citation' segment is highlighted, showing the citation '179 Wn.2d 188'. The 'History' segment is highlighted, showing the history of the document.

Case-Tracking and Dockets

- Court filings: briefs & petitions, complaint, answer, motions, etc.
- Status of the case: check the docket
- Places to look: Bloomberg Law, Westlaw & Lexis, court websites

The LRC reference team will provide remote reference services Monday-Friday (9am-5pm) via chat (chat widget on library [homepage](#)) and email (lrcrefer@san Diego.edu). For more details about remote services and resources please check our [guide](#). We'll be updating it regularly.

FDLP users: You may access many online FDLP resources by searching the [library catalog](#). Many federal materials are online at <https://www.govinfo.gov/>. The LRC will provide full access again as soon as possible. Other federal depositories may be located here: [Federal Depository Library Directory](#).

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U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California Dockets	1989 to Current	Records of proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California from 1989 to present.	
State			
California Supreme Court Dockets	1987 to Current	Records of proceedings for the Supreme Court of California. *Select coverage prior to 1987	
California Courts of Appeal Dockets	1983 to Current	Records of proceedings for the California Courts of Appeal. *Select coverage prior to 1983 **Includes First through Sixth Appellate Districts	
Alameda County	1990 to Current	Civil records of proceedings for the California Superior Court, Alameda County. *Select coverage prior to 1990. Breaking Complaints only.	
Amador County	01/2002 to 11/2017	Civil records of proceedings for the California Superior Court, Amador County. *Select coverage prior to 2002	
Butte County	2007 to Current	Civil records of proceedings from the California Superior Court, Butte County. * Select coverage prior to 2007	
Colusa County	1990 to Current	Civil records of proceedings for the California Superior Court, Colusa County. * Select coverage prior to 1990	
Contra Costa County	1994 to Current	Civil records of proceedings for the California Superior Court, Contra Costa County. Includes Concord Civil, Martinez Civil, Pittsburg Civil, Richmond Civil, and Walnut Creek Civil Courts.	

Bloomberg docket coverage map



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Court Dockets



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Crista Ramos, et al v. Chad Wolf, et al, Docket No. 18-16981 (9th Cir. Oct 12, 2018), Court Docket

[Update Docket](#) [Track Docket](#) United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
Docket for Case #: 18-16981

Crista Ramos, et al v. Chad Wolf, et al

DOCKET INFORMATION

Minimize ^

DATE FILED	Oct 12, 2018
STATUS	Closed
NATURE OF SUIT	2440 Other Civil Rights

GENERAL INFO ×

Current As Of
Apr. 20, 2021
9:46 PM EDT[Update Docket](#)[What Does This Mean?](#)Docket Number
18-16981

GENERAL INFO



ATTORNEY ANALYTICS



COMPANY ANALYTICS



DOCKET REQUESTS

Apr 13, 2018 08:30:00 Department WEM Advanced to this date & Vacated OSC-Failure to File Dism. or Judg. (RE SETTLEMENT;EXHIBITS IN LOCKER-PLEASE RETURN/DISMISSAL FILED) Mitchell L. Beckloff, Presiding

Docket Currency

Last Updated on Bloomberg Law
Apr. 16, 2018 7:11 PM EDT
Update Docket

What does this mean?

Date Filed
Aug. 21, 2014

Status
CLOSED

General Information

Docket Number
BC555411

Status
CLOSED

Court
CA Superior Court - Los Angeles
County

Docket Entries

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Keywords

Entry Date

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Entry #	Filing Date	PDF	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BL-1	Aug 21, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-2	Aug 21, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-3	Aug 28, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-4	Oct 29, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-5	Oct 29, 2014	View	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-6	Oct 29, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-7	Oct 29, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-8	Oct 29, 2014	Requ	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-9	Jan 20, 2015	Request	Notice of Change of Address Filed by Attorney for Defendant/Respondent.
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-10	Feb 20, 2015	Request	Substitution of Attorney Filed by Attorney for Defendant/Respondent.
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-11	Mar 2, 2015	Request	Miscellaneous-Other (SEPARATE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL FURTHER RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES TO DEFENDANT IN VITROTECH LABS, INC.) Filed by Attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-12	Mar 2, 2015	Request	Motion to Compel (FURTHER RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF SPECAIL INTERROGA- TORIES TO DEFENDANTS PAYMAN SADAAT MD, INC. AHND IN VITROTECH LABS, INC.) Filed by Attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-13	Mar 2, 2015	Request	Miscellaneous-Other (SEPARATE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL FURTHER RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES TO DEFENDANT PEYMAN SAADAT, M.D. INC.) Filed by Attorney for Plaintiff/Petitioner.
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-14	Mar 12, 2015	Request	Notice, Association of Counsel Filed by Attorney for Defendant/Respondent.
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-15	Mar 12, 2015	Request	Opposition Document (TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL

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<input type="checkbox"/> Crista Ramos, et al v. Kirstjen Nielsen, et al, Docket No. 18-16981 (9th Cir. Oct 12, 2018), Court Docket	0.3 MB	Completed	3/26/2019 2:09 PM

< 1 >

Per Page 5 ▾

IN THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

CRISTA RAMOS, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

KIRSTJEN NIELSEN, *et al.*,
Defendants-Appellants.

ON APPEAL FROM THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
HONORABLE EDWARD M. CHEN, DISTRICT JUDGE
CASE No. 3:18-cv-01554-EMC

APPELLEES' ANSWERING BRIEF

Other Sources for Court Tracking

- Court websites
- Contact Court Clerk's office
- Contact counsel



Questions?