

Research Assistant Training: Case Law Research

Melissa Abernathy

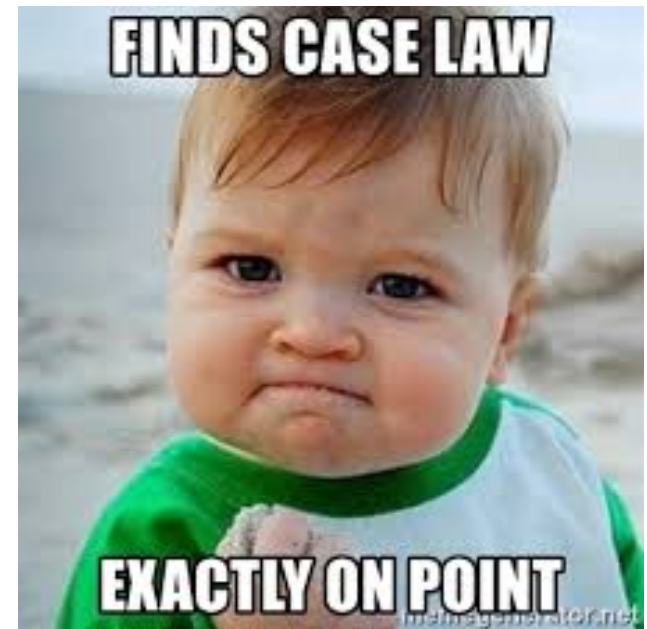
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What we will cover

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

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- Do you want all published cases or unpublished as well?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



Advanced

Home

Cases

Add to Favorites

Copy link

See specific court for coverage information. Search all Cases content above or navigate to specific content below.

All Federal Cases

All State Cases

Federal Cases by Court

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Courts of Appeals

Federal District Courts

Federal Bankruptcy Courts

U.S. Tax Court

U.S. Court of Federal Claims

U.S. Court of International
Trade

U.S. Court of Appeals for
Veterans Claims

Military Courts

Judicial Panel on
Multidistrict Litigation
(JPML)

Tools & Resources

American Federal Tax Reporter

American Maritime Cases (AMC)

Black's Law Dictionary

Daubert Citorator

Dockets

Find & Print

UCC Cases

West Key Number System

Words & Phrases

Cases

advanced:

All State & Federal



Advanced

Home > Cases

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



Enter a source name, a citation, terms or shep: [citation] to Shepardize[®].

Cases



Cases

[All Federal](#) | [i](#)

[All States](#) | [i](#)

[All Trial Courts Orders](#) | [i](#)

[All Tribal](#) | [i](#)

[All Reported Federal](#) | [i](#)

[All Reported States](#) | [i](#)

Federal Cases by Court

[U.S. Supreme Court Cases, Lawyers' Edition](#) | [i](#)

[U.S. Court Military Commission Review](#) | [i](#)

[United States Courts of Appeals](#) | [i](#)

[Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation Cases](#) | [i](#)

[United States Bankruptcy Courts](#) | [i](#)

[American Maritime Cases](#) | [i](#)

[Federal District Courts](#) | [i](#)

[US Court of Federal Claims, Claims Court & Court of Claims Cases](#) | [i](#)

[US Tax Court Cases](#) | [i](#)

[US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims](#) | [i](#)

[US Court of International Trade Cases](#) | [i](#)

Federal Cases by Circuit

[First Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Fifth Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Eighth Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Eleventh Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Second Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Sixth Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[Ninth Circuit](#) | [i](#)

[D.C. Circuit](#) | [i](#)

▼ Terms

All of these terms

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

Add ↑

Any of these terms

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

Add ↑

This exact phrase

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

Add ↑

Exclude these terms

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

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 complex legal document search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "State v. Meredith" and a date filter "170 Wn.2d 180". Below this, there are several sections:

- Case Summary:** A section titled "State v. Meredith, Reported in Case Files, Westlaw, Proton" with a "History" link. It includes a "Case Summary" and a "Summary" section.
- Case Summary:** A section titled "State v. Meredith, Reported in Case Files, Westlaw, Proton" with a "History" link. It includes a "Case Summary" and a "Summary" section.
- Case Summary:** A section titled "State v. Meredith, Reported in Case Files, Westlaw, Proton" with a "History" link. It includes a "Case Summary" and a "Summary" section.

The interface is highly interactive, with numerous links and buttons for navigating through the document's metadata and content.

Case-Tracking and Dockets

- Opinions or orders for new or unpublished cases
- 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@sandiego.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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CEB Pro provides access to CEB's California practice guides, primary law, case law citator, and continuing legal education [more...](#)

[Congressional Publications \(ProQuest\)](#)  

Publications generated by the U.S. Congress and accessed via ProQuest, including: CIS Legislative Histories, 1969-present; House & Senate Reports, 1817-present; House & Senate Hearings, 1824-present; Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports, 1916-present; House & Senate Documents, 1817-present, and Committee Prints & Miscellaneous Publications, 1830-present; Executive Reports, 1843-present, & Executive Documents, 1825-1980; Serial Set, 1789-present. [more...](#)

[HeinOnline](#)  

HeinOnline is a premier online database containing more than 178 million pages and 270,000 titles of historical and government documents in a

All **A** **B** C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z #

6 Databases found for B

B

[BePress Legal Repository](#) 

The BePress Legal Repository offers working papers and pre-prints from scholars and professionals. All law related papers posted to Selected Works are automatically included in the BePress Legal Repository, which means searching in this database saves you time.

*Note: student papers are sometimes included in an institution's Legal Repository. The database is free and open to the web. You do not need to login to search the database. You can also use Google Scholar to search this database

[Berkeley Housing and Urban Policy Publications](#) 

Includes working papers, books, conference papers, dissertations, government reports and more. [more...](#)

[Biological Anthropology](#) 

A directory of resources from Yahoo.

[Blackwell Dictionary of Sociology](#) 

Defines often amorphous and fuzzy sociological concepts in a lively and sensible way, and provides an introduction to what it means to think sociologically.

[Bloomberg Law](#)  

Bloomberg legal content, integrated into an already powerful system of primary and secondary legal content, company and market information and news.

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KEYWORDS ?

Enter your keywords

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Add Search to Dashboard

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Search

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Dockets	1989 to Current	Records of proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California from 1989 to present.	
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California Dockets	1989 to Current	Records of proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California from 1989 to present.	
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California Dockets	1989 to Current	Records of proceedings for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California from 1989 to present.	
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

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
Docket for Case #: 18-16981

Crista Ramos, et al v. Kirstjen Nielsen, et al

Date Filed: Oct 12, 2018
 Status: Open
 Nature of suit: 2440 Other Civil Rights
 Original Cases: 3:18-cv-01554-EMC on Mar 12, 2018, U.S. District Court for Northern California, San Francisco
 District: 0971
 NOA Date: Oct 11, 2018

Parties and Attorneys

Show Section Expand All

Docket Entries

Hide Section Reverse Entries

Keywords

Entry Date

Clear All

Entry #	Filing Date	PDF	Description
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-1	Oct 12, 2018	Request	DOCKETED CAUSE AND ENTERED APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL. SEND MQ: Yes. The schedule is set as follows:to be set. Preliminary Injunction Appeal. C.R. 3-3. [11045509] (RT)
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-2	Oct 12, 2018	Request	Filed clerk order (Deputy Clerk: ME): The appeal filed October 11, 2018 is a preliminary injunction appeal. Accordingly, Ninth Circuit Rule 3-3 shall apply. The mediation questionnaire is due three days after the date of this order. If they have not already done so, within 7 calendar days after the filing date of this order, the parties shall make arrangements to obtain from the court reporter an official transcript of proceedings in the district court that will be included in the record on appeal. The briefing schedule shall proceed as follows: the opening brief and ...

General Info

Notepad

Docket Currency

Last Updated on Bloomberg Law
Mar. 25, 2019 1:30 PM EDT
[Update Docket](#)

What does this mean?

Date Filed
 Oct. 12, 2018

Status
 OPEN

General Info

Docket Number
 18-16981

Status
 OPEN

Court
 United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

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

Hide Section Reverse Entries

Keywords

Entry Date

Clear All Filter Entries

Entry #	Filing Date	PDF	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BL-1	Aug 21, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-2	Aug 21, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-3	Aug 28, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-4	Oct 29, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-5	Oct 29, 2014	View	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-6	Oct 29, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-7	Oct 29, 2014	Request	
<input type="checkbox"/> BL-8	Oct 29, 2014	Request	
<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 SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES 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

Document Request

Request Quantity: 1

Potential Fee - Waived:

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Status

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<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE NAME	FORMAT/SIZE	STATUS	DATE/TI...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crista Ramos, et al v. Kirstjen Nielsen, et al, Docket No. 18-16981 (9th Cir. Oct 12, 2018), Court Docket	PDF 0.6 MB	Completed	3/26/2019 2:10 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Crista Ramos, et al v. Kirstjen Nielsen, et al, Docket No. 18-16981 (9th Cir. Oct 12, 2018), Court Docket	PDF 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?