

# Finding Legal information in Lexis Nexis

## *Look up a case by citation*

33 n.w.2d 67

Three parts to the citation:

1. Volume (333)
2. Reporter (n.w. 2d)
3. Page (67)

Legal Citation Formats - Wiki.lexisnexus.com - Mozilla Firefox

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article discussion edit history

## Legal Citation Formats

If you are searching for a legal citation you must use the precise format shown below, including exact punctuation. For other types of references such as newspaper and magazine articles, see the article on **Citing References**.

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[edit] **Getting a Document by Legal Citation in LexisNexis**

If you are looking for a specific law, legal decision, or law review article and have the citation in hand you can retrieve it immediately on the appropriate legal search form(s) or the Power Search form. If you are not sure which type of material your citation refers to, compare it to the

## *Case Law*

Case law coverage varies state by state and court by court. Not every state refers to the highest court as the Supreme Court.

## Look up a case by party name

Can use just one party name ie., jones v. clinton

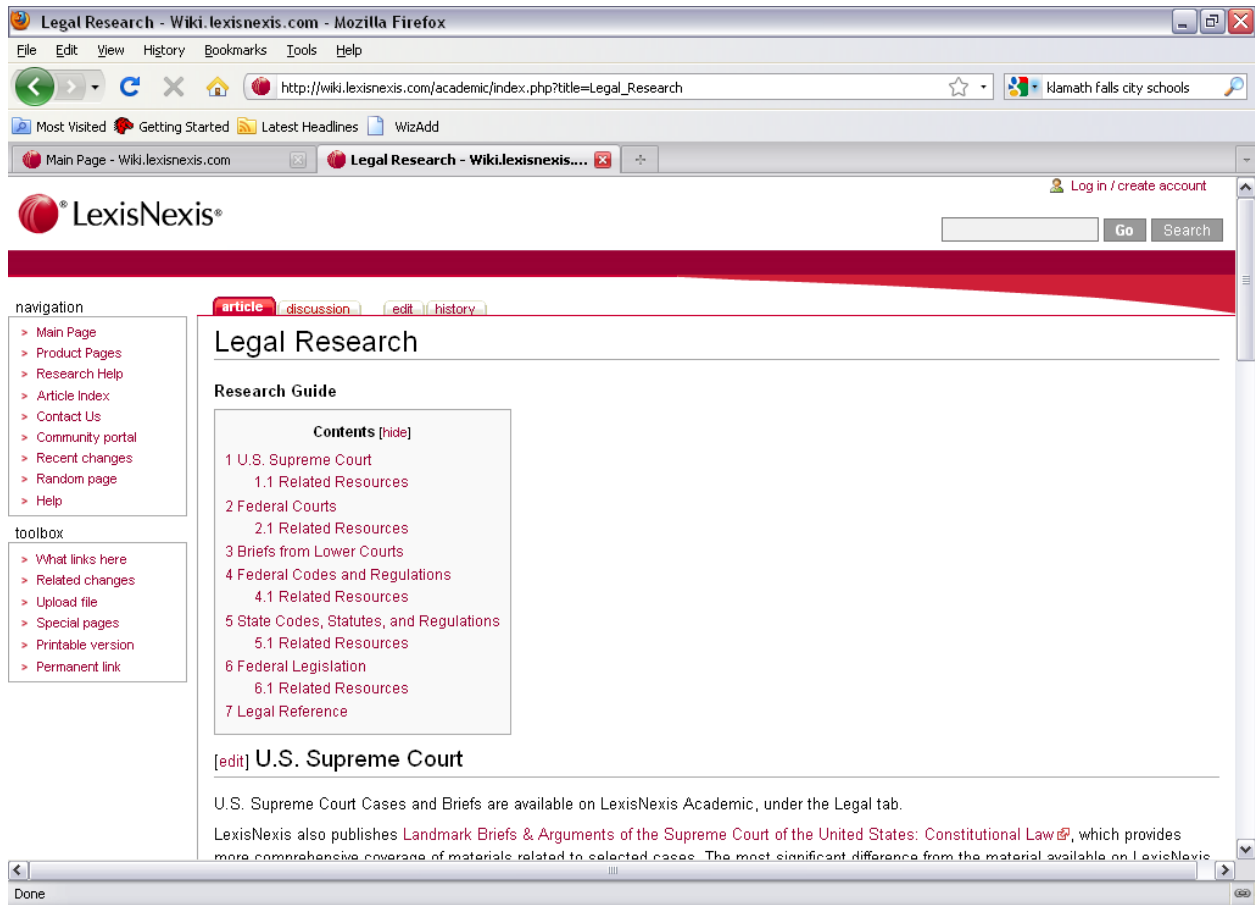
Sometimes short names won't show names entered in the search box. When the case is opened you will see many plaintiffs and defendants. Uses the first name listed on both names as the short name. The search engine searches all parties.

If you search Roe v. Wade lots of cases show us. Now under US Legal is Landmark Supreme Court Cases. This doesn't contain all Supreme Court Cases, just the most significant.

## Look up a case by topic

Searches headnotes. A case often has many legal issues associated with it. Headnotes show different legal issues addressed in the case. Use the navigational arrows to go to the part of the case where the issue is addressed.

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the LexisNexis website. The address bar shows the URL: [http://wiki.lexisnexis.com/academic/index.php?title=Legal\\_Topics\\_Search](http://wiki.lexisnexis.com/academic/index.php?title=Legal_Topics_Search). The page title is "Legal Topics Search - Wiki.lexisnexis.com". The main content area features a search bar with "Go" and "Search" buttons. Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu with links: "Main Page", "Product Pages", "Research Help", "Article Index", "Contact Us", "Community portal", "Recent changes", "Random page", and "Help". A "toolbox" section includes links for "What links here", "Related changes", "Upload file", "Special pages", "Printable version", and "Permanent link". The main heading is "Legal Topics Search", with sub-headings for "article", "discussion", "edit", and "history". The text explains that the best way to search for cases related to a legal topic is to use Headnotes and Core Terms. It states: "The best ways to search for cases related to a legal topic is to use Headnotes and Core Terms that LexisNexis adds to legal cases. Headnotes summarize the points of law involved in a legal case using the same language employed by the judge in writing the decision. Core Terms are simply LexisNexis special index terms for legal concepts. When you select a 'Legal Topics' search in the Easy Search form or the Federal & State Cases search form, you are searching both Headnotes and Core Terms. If you want to search them individually, use the Power Search form." Below this text is a box labeled "Category: Academic Help". At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with navigation links: "Legal", "Academic", "Corporate & Professional", "Risk & Information Analytics", and "Government". The footer also includes "Terms & Conditions", "Privacy & Security", "Products Index", "Site Map", and "Contact Us". The copyright notice reads: "Copyright © 2007 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved."



Sample Searches:

Federal and State Cases Form: divorce /5 alimony – Oregon – atl 5

### *Shepard's*

Check validity of a case. Cite to good precedent. *Plessy v Ferguson* - illustrates bad law overturned (overruled) or reversal.

### *Statutes and Codes*

Basically the same thing. Codified is Statutes organized by topic.