

## How to Find: United States Supreme Court Cases

The purpose of this pathfinder is to help retrieve a copy of a court decision when all you have is a case name.

The text of a case can be found in a reporter, a volume of reported court decisions. There are three reporters for the United States Supreme Court:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Abbreviation Key</u>
United States Reports	U.S.
Supreme Court Reporter	S.Ct.
United States Supreme Court Reports	L.E. and L.E.2d

You need a citation (the volume and page number of the reporter in which the case is published) in order to find a case (e.g. 309 U.S. 634). Legal citations are almost always in the following format:

volume	reporter abbreviation	page number
309	U.S.	634
84	L.Ed.	991
60	S.Ct.	724

When all you have is the name of a Supreme Court, whether plaintiff or defendant, and need to find the citation, look in:

### **U.S. Supreme Court Digest, Lawyers' Edition**, Table of Cases (volumes 15-15D)

Law Library location: KF101.1 D5 (2d floor, aisle 2). If you have the plaintiff's name, the citation will be given:

Example: People's Gas Light & Coke Co. v Hart, 309 U.S. 634; 60 S. Ct. 724; 84 L. Ed. 991

If you have the defendant's name, the entry will appear inverted without a citation, as in:

Example: Hart, People's Gas Light & Coke Co. v

Users are then expected

### **United States Supreme Court Digest**, Table of Cases (volumes 14 and 14A)

Law Library location: KF101.1 U5 (2d floor, aisle 2). This set has merged plaintiff and defendant names in one entry list.

Example:

1. People's Gas Light & Coke Co. v Hart, 309 U.S. 634; 60 S. Ct. 724; 84 L. Ed. 991

OR

2. Hart; People's Gas Light & Coke Co. v., 309 U.S. 634; 60 S. Ct. 724; 84 L. Ed. 991

**Academic Universe** (for electronic access to Supreme Court decisions). Start at the Law Library's homepage at <http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/>. Click **Research Links**. Then click down arrow in the **Legal Research** drop-down box. Select **Academic Universe**. Scroll down to the box labeled "**Get a Case**" and type in plaintiff or defendant's name in the "**party name**" entry box. Click **Search** button.