

# FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY

## BASIC LEGAL RESEARCH SERIES Primary Legal Authority on the Internet

### FEDERAL CASES

#### U.S. Supreme Court Opinions

- PRINT:** *U.S. Reports* (official reporter) KF101.U5  
*Supreme Court Reporter* (unofficial reporter) KF 101.S9  
*Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition* (unofficial reporter) KF101.U52  
*United States Law Week* KF 101.U53, current issues on Reserve
- INTERNET:** U.S. Supreme Court <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/opinions.html>
- Official site
  - Bound Volumes from 1991 to 2001 in PDF
  - Slip opinions since 2002 in PDF
- Findlaw <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>
- 1893 to present, from volume 150 of *U.S. Reports*
  - in HTML format; page markers used
  - Hyperlinks added within cases, linking cases to previous decisions
  - Searchable by U.S. Report volume number, citation, title and full text.
- LexisOne [www.lexisone.com](http://www.lexisone.com)
- 1790 to present in HTML format
  - free registration is required
- SUBSCRIPTION:** Hein Online
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - U.S. Reports, 1754-2002 in PDF
  - U.S. Reports Preliminary Prints, 2002-2004 in PDF
  - U.S. Reports Slip Opinions, 2002 to date in PDF
- U.S. Law Week (BNA)
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - searchable by case name, date, and topic
  - 1997 to present in html
- LexisNexis Academic
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - decisions from January 1790 to present, searchable by majority opinion, minority opinion, concurring opinion, counsel, or headnotes
- LEXIS:** Lib GENFED; file USPLUS  
Lib GENFED; file USLED (U.S. Sup.Ct. Lawyers' Ed., from 1790)
- WESTLAW:** SCT database, 1945+; SCT-OLD database, 1790 - 1944

#### U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs

- FICHE:** *United States Supreme Court Records & Briefs* Microform, Mif 30
- Coverage includes 1832 - 1994

INTERNET: Findlaw [http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme\\_court/briefs/](http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/)

- 1999 to present in multiple formats
- searchable by year, then by case name

LEXIS: File name BRIEFS, Library CONLAW, GENFED

WESTLAW: SCT-BRIEF database, 1990+ ; SCT-BRIEF-EXT, 1976-1990, selective coverage

## U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments

INTERNET: Supreme Court [http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts.html](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts.html)

- Transcript available 15 days after oral arguments.
- Coverage begins with 2000

Oyez Project (audio) <http://www.oyez.org/oyez/frontpage>

- Over 500 selected cases available
- Cases sorted by subject

LEXIS: File name USTRAN, Library GENFED

- Transcript available 15 days after oral arguments.
- Coverage begins with October term, 1979.

WESTLAW: SCT-ORALARG database

- Transcript available 15 days after oral arguments.
- Coverage begins in 1990.

## Circuit Courts of Appeal and District Courts

PRINT: *Federal Reporters*, KF105.F42  
*Federal Supplement*, KF105.F43

INTERNET: Findlaw <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/>

- Scroll down to "Case Law"
- Coverage begins with 1996
- Provides list of individual District courts linking to online opinions
- Searchable by Circuit and across all Circuits; searchable by party name, docket number and full-text search

LexisOne <http://www.lexisone.com>

- Coverage includes last five years
- Searchable across federal cases and by individual courts
- U.S. District courts not covered
- free registration is required

National Law Journal <http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/utility/courttopinions.jsp>

- Comprehensive directory of individual courts linking to online opinions

Cornell Legal Institute <http://www.law.cornell.edu/federal/opinions.html>

- Searchable by Circuit and across all Circuits; searchable by keyword
- List of individual District and Bankruptcy courts browsable by circuit and by state.

U.S. Courts <http://www.uscourts.gov>

- Provides links to individual federal courts on the Web
- Provides a link to PACER, electronic access to federal court records

SUBSCRIPTION: LexisNexis Academic

- Accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- Decisions from all federal courts, including District Court decisions from 1789 to present
- Must search different court levels separately
- Available in HTML format; no PDF formats.

### *Florida Law Weekly, Federal*

- Accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- *FLW, Federal* reports decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts in Florida, and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit from 2001 to present
- Keyword searching, subject index available

PACER Public Access to Court Electronic Records [www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov](http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov)

- See reference librarian for access
- Service provides access to opinions, docket information, and filed documents in District, Bankruptcy, and Appellate cases

LEXIS: Lib GENFED, File COURTS (federal courts combined)  
Lib GENFED, File OLDER (federal courts combined from 1792-1945)  
Lib GENFED, File DIST (District courts from 1789)  
Lib GENFED, File USAPP (Circuit Courts of Appeal from 1789)

WESTLAW: CTA database (Circuit Courts of Appeal from 1945); CTA-OLD (1891-1944)  
DCT (District courts from 1945); DCT-OLD (1789-1944)

## Florida Cases

### Florida Supreme Court

INTERNET: Florida Supreme Court <http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/>

- Official site; cases from 1999
- Opinions are released by the Clerk's Office each Thursday at 11 a.m. They are posted on the website after release. The opinions are made available in Acrobat (PDF) format and for download in ZIP and Self Extracting (EXE) formats.
- Listed in reverse chronological order by year

Findlaw's Opinions from the Supreme Court of Florida  
<http://www.findlaw.com/11stategov/fl/flca.html>

- Available from different sources; links provided
- 1995+

Lexisone [www.lexisone.com](http://www.lexisone.com)

- free registration is required
- last five years of state appellate cases only

SUBSCRIPTION: LexisNexis Academic

- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- only Florida Supreme and appellate decisions
- in HTML format
- free registration required

Florida Law Weekly (FLW)

- Accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- FLW reports District and Supreme Court opinions from 1995 to present
- Keyword searching, subject index available

LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLA (opinions from 1846)

WESTLAW: FL-CS database (Supreme Court and DCA's, from 1957)

### Florida Supreme Court – Records and Briefs

FICHE: Records and briefs of the Florida Supreme Court, Mif32

- Coverage includes 1967-1998

INTERNET: Florida Supreme Court Records and Briefs  
[http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub\\_info/summaries/archives.shtml](http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/pub_info/summaries/archives.shtml)

- available from 1998
- browsable by date and case name

Florida Supreme Court Briefs and Opinions (from FSU Law Library) <http://www.law.fsu.edu/library/flsupct/index.html>

- Unofficial site; cases and briefs from 1989 and some earlier years
- Listed by docket number and searchable by keywords

LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLBRFS, 2004 to date

WESTLAW: FL-SCT-BRIEF database, from 1991

## Florida Supreme Court – Oral Arguments

INTERNET: Gavel to Gavel <http://wfsu.org/gavel2gavel/>

- Available from 1997
- Audio files and transcripts browsable by date and by case name

VIDEO: *Oral arguments before the Florida Supreme Court*

- Coverage begins with January 1985.
- Ask librarian for assistance.

## Florida District and Circuit Courts

PRINT: *Southern Reporter*, KFF45.F56  
*Florida Law Weekly*, KFF60.F56  
*Florida Law Weekly, Supplement*, KFF60.F561

INTERNET: Florida State Courts <http://www.flcourts.org/#>

- links to individual District and Circuit Court sites
- can search all Districts by docket number

Florida Law Online <http://www.floridalawonline.net/>

- Search capabilities vary

LexisOne [www.lexisone.com](http://www.lexisone.com)

- Free registration is required
- Last five years of state appellate cases available

SUBSCRIPTION: Florida Law Weekly (FLW) and FLW, Supplement

- Accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library) (Go to Research Links, Florida, then select FLW)
- FLW reports District and Supreme Court opinions from 1995 to present
- FLW Supplement reports Florida Circuit and County Court decisions since October 1992
- Keyword searching, subject index available

LexisNexis Academic – State Case Law – Florida

- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- only Florida Supreme and appellate decisions

LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLCTS (Florida Supreme Court, 1846+ and DCA's 1957+ combined)  
Lib FLA, file APP (Florida Appellate courts, 1957+)

WESTLAW: FL-CS database (Florida Supreme Court, 1846+ and DCA's 1957 combined)

## Federal Statutes

### Public Laws

PRINT: United States Statutes-at-Large, KF50.U5, 1789-2002

FICHE: United States Statutes-at-Large, Mif 1, 1789-2002

- INTERNET: Library of Congress American Memory, Statutes-at-Large  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwsl.html>
- Eighteen volumes presented in this online collection cover the laws of the first forty-three Congresses, 1789-1875
  - Browsable by volume; searchable by Congress, session, chamber, or full-text.
- GPOAccess <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plaws/index.html>
- Contains the official text of public and private laws enacted from the 104th Congress (1995) to the present.
  - Slip laws are presented exactly as they appear in the official printed version; documents are available as ASCII text and Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files.
  - Database for the current session of Congress is updated when the publication of a slip law is authorized by Office of the Federal Register.
- Thomas [thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov)
- Laws are listed both by law number order and in bill number sequence (House Joint Resolutions, House Bills, Senate Joint Resolutions, Senate Bills).
  - Contains Bill Summary & Status records for each bill that became public law.
  - Includes the text of all versions of House and Senate bills
  - Coverage includes summaries from 93<sup>rd</sup> (1973), full text from 1989 in PDF format.
- SUBSCRIPTION: LexisNexis Academic
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - Statutes At Large from 1789 to 1997
  - Full text in PDF format.
  - Updated annually
- LEXIS: Lib GENFED, file PUBLAW, 1988+
- WESTLAW: US-PL database, current session; US-PL-OLD, 1973-2000

## U.S. Code

- INTERNET: GPOAccess <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html>
- Browsable and searchable by title and chapter number
  - Available from 1994 in ASCII text files
- Findlaw
- Searchable by title and keyword; browsable by title, popular name
  - To check if there have been any recent amendments to the section you are looking at, you will need to check the U.S. House server's [list of amendments](#).
- U.S. House of Representatives <http://uscode.house.gov/>
- Searchable by title and keyword
  - Prior editions of the U.S. Code available are 1988, 1994, and 2000
  - Includes Classification Tables showing where recently enacted public laws will appear in the United States Code
  - Good description of positive law and prima facie evidence
- SUBSCRIPTION: LexisNexis Academic, Congressional
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - Current Code searchable by keyword or citation
- LEXIS: Lib GENFED, file USCS (current U.S. Code Service)  
Lib GENFED, file USCODE (current U.S. Code)  
Lib GENFED, file USNAME (Popular Name Table)
- WESTLAW: USC database (current U.S. code); USCA (current edition); USCA-POP (Popular Name Table), US-CAXX (XX=individual year from 1990 – 2003)

## Florida Statutes

### Public Laws

- PRINT: *Laws of Florida*, KFF25.A3, 1822 to date
- FICHE: *Laws of Florida*, Mif 5, 1822 to date
- INTERNET: General Laws website [http://election.dos.state.fl.us/laws/laws\\_proced.shtml](http://election.dos.state.fl.us/laws/laws_proced.shtml)
- Browsable by public law number
  - in PDF format
  - Available from 1999 to present
  - Bill number to public law number table; short title to public law number table
- LEXIS: Lib FLA, FLALS (1987+)
- WESTLAW: FL-LEGIS database, current year; FL-LEGIS\_OLD (1987-2005)

### Statutes

- PRINT: *Florida Statutes* (official code), KFF30.A27  
*Florida Statutes Annotated* (unofficial code), KFF 30 1943 A4  
*LexisNexis Florida Annotated Statutes* (unofficial code), KFF 30 2002
- INTERNET: Online Sunshine: The Official Internet Site of the Florida Legislature [www.leg.state.fl.us](http://www.leg.state.fl.us)
- Searchable by keyword; browsable by Title
  - Statutes in PDF format
- SUBSCRIPTION: LexisNexis Academic
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
  - Current state statutes searchable by keyword or citation
- LEXIS: Lib FLA, CODE (current); FLA;FLARCH (from 1991)
- WESTLAW: FL-ST (unannotated current year); FL-ST-ANN (annotated current year)  
FL-ST-ANNxx (xx=individual year from 1987-2003)

### Municipal Codes

- PRINT: *Code of General Ordinances of the City of Tallahassee*, KFF431.5, on reserve  
*Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida*, 1992, KFF432.A3, on reserve
- INTERNET: Online Municipal Codes
- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library); scroll down Legal Research links and select Municipal Codes
  - municipal codes from many municipalities nationwide

## Federal Administrative Law

### Federal Register

- PRINT: *Federal Register*, KF70.A2, current year only
- FICHE: *Federal Register*, Mif 256, 1936-date
- INTERNET: Federal Register Online (GPO Access)  
1994 to present  
PDF and text formats available

Regulations.gov (Internet)

- Implemented in 2003
- User-friendliness is designed to encourage citizens to comment on proposed regulations

SUBSCRIPTION: Hein Online

- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- Available from 1936 to the present in PDF format
- Indexes available from 1939 to 1995
- Compilation of Sections Affected from 1949 to 2000

LEXIS: Lib GENFED, file FEDREG, 1980 to date

WESTLAW: FR database, 1980 to date

## Code of Federal Regulations

PRINT: *Code of Federal Regulations*, KF 70.A3

INTERNET: GPO Access (official text) <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/>

- From 1996 to present
- Browsable by year and title; searchable by keyword or citation
- Available as ASCII text and PDF files
- The *List of Sections Affected* (LSA) provides a cumulative list of CFR sections that have been changed at any time since each CFR title was last updated. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/lsa/about.html>

E-CFR (most up-to-date) <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/>

- Beta test site; updated version of the CFR

LEXIS: Lib GENFED, file CFR, current CFR  
Lib GENFED, file CFRxx, xx= year going back to 1987

WESTLAW: CFR database, CFRxx, xx= year going back to 1987

## United States Attorney General Opinions

PRINT: *Official Opinions of the Attorneys General of the United States*, KF 5406.A6

- 1791-1982
- Opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the United States Department of Justice*,
- call number KF 5406.A615
  - 1977-1996

FICHE: *Official Opinions of the Attorneys General of the United States*

- Mif 366, 1980-95, 1999, 2001
- Mif 367, 1961-1982

INTERNET: Office of Legal Counsel, Memoranda and Opinions  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/olc/opinions.htm>

- 1992 to date
- Browsable by year

SUBSCRIPTION: Hein Online

- accessible from Law Library web site [www.law.fsu.edu/library](http://www.law.fsu.edu/library)
- *Official Opinions of the Attorneys General*, 1791-1982
- *Opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel*, 1977-1996
- Searchable by keyword or citation
- Browsable by year or volume

LEXIS: Lib GENFED, file USAG, 1791 to date

WESTLAW: USAG database, 1791 to date

## Florida Administrative Law

### Florida Administrative Weekly

- PRINT: *Florida Administrative Weekly (FAW)* KFF 36 F55
- INTERNET: Florida Department of State FAW <http://faw.dos.state.fl.us>
- Files in PDF format
  - Available since 1999
- LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLRGST, from 1996
- WESTLAW: none

### Florida Administrative Code

- PRINT: Florida Administrative Code KFF
- INTERNET: Florida Dept. of State, FAC <http://fac.dos.state.fl.us>
- Available in PDF format  
Browsable by chapter
- LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLADMIN, current code  
Lib FLA, file FLREGS, both FAW and FAC
- WESTLAW: FL-ADC database, current FAC

### Florida Attorney General Opinions

- PRINT: *Biennial Report of the Attorney General of Florida*, KFF 440.5.A8
- INTERNET: Attorney General's Legal Advisory Opinions  
<http://myfloridalegal.com/ago.nsf/Opinions>  
Coverage includes 1972 to date  
Keyword basic and advanced searching possible  
Opinions browsable by year
- LEXIS: Lib FLA, file FLAG, from 1977 to date
- WESTLAW: FL-AG database, from 1977 to date

### Other State Information

American Law Sources Online (ALSO) <http://www.lawsources.com/also/>

- User-friendly presentation of all states
- Comprehensive listing

Findlaw <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/index.html#statelaw>

Hieros Gamos <http://www.hg.org/usstates.html>

Law Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/usstates.html>