Overview

- Introduction to Research
- Registering for Bloomberg Law, Lexis, and Westlaw
- TWEN walk-thru
- Finding a case online
- West Online Study Aids & CALI
Research in LRWA I

Research weeks: **lecture** + **research breakout session** with librarians

- Dates are 9/20 & 10/18
- Mandatory research assignments completed in-class during the breakout sessions
Must bring laptop for research weeks!

For research weeks in LRWA I you will need to bring a laptop to class.

◦ Tablets, pads, and phones will not work
◦ If you cannot complete a research assignment because your device is not capable, you will not receive credit for the assignment.
◦ If you need an exception for unusual circumstances, please contact your instructor.
U.S. Legal System and Sources of Law
The U.S. Constitution establishes the United States, separates powers between the states and the federal government, and defines the scope of authority for each of the three federal branches. Each branch of the federal government makes law.
U.S. Federal Government Structure

- U.S. Constitution
  - Legislature
  - Executive
  - Judiciary
  - Administrative Agencies
Sources of Law from each Branch

- **Legislature**
  - Statutes ("laws")
  - Administrative Agencies

- **Executive**
  - Regulations
  - Presidential Orders and Proclamations

- **Judiciary**
  - Judicial decisions/opinions ("case law")

- **U.S. Constitution**
Courts write opinions (or “case law”).

§ Case opinions are published in reporters and also online, but using a case citation to the print reporter

§ You will read selected, edited opinions in your case books for class

§ We will learn today how to find judicial opinions online, in case you need to do so
Federal court structure

**Supreme Court**
- Highest court in the federal system
- Nine Justices, meeting in Washington, D.C.
- Appeals jurisdiction through certiorari process
- Limited original jurisdiction over some cases

**Courts of Appeal**
- Intermediate level in the federal system
- 12 regional “circuit” courts, including D.C. Circuit
- No original jurisdiction; strictly appellate

**District Courts**
- Lowest level in the federal system
- 94 judicial districts in 50 states & territories
- No appellate jurisdiction
- Original jurisdiction over most cases
State court structure

The exact hierarchy and court names vary by jurisdiction, but they generally follow this pyramid structure, with the highest court at the top, an intermediate court in the middle, and the trial courts at the bottom.

For specific information on a particular state’s court structure you can go to courtstatistics.org.
Secondary Authority

You will also find secondary authority – information about the law – in the library and online.

Secondary authority appears in books, online services, and in articles in law journals (or law reviews).
# Legal Sources & Their Weight of Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mandatory Authority</th>
<th>Persuasive Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Primary Sources</strong></td>
<td>Within the jurisdiction; from a higher court</td>
<td>Outside the jurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(constitutions, statutes, court decisions, regulations)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Sources</strong></td>
<td>Never</td>
<td>Yes, but persuasiveness varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(anything that is not primary authority, usually commentary)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Register for Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg Law

- Follow the instructions on the cards in your orientation packets.
- Use these graduation dates:
  - 1D: 2022
  - 1E: 2021
  - Transfer, LLM, and JM students: please use an accurate date
- You can’t add courses on TWEN until you register your Westlaw password.
- You will use these three research services in LRWA
  - Librarians will teach and support you as you work with these services in LRWA.
  - Representatives from these companies will offer training.
Accessing TWEN

Use the Quick Links menu on every law school webpage to get to Westlaw/TWEN directly.
Adding courses

(after signing in at www.lawschool.westlaw.com)

- Click on TWEN
Add courses

(after signing in at www.lawschool.westlaw.com)

- Add your courses
Search or browse for your course by name or professor (e.g., LRWA or FitzGerald)

Add LRWA I: Introduction to Legal Research, Writing, and Analysis (Main Page)

AND don’t forget to add your Adjunct page for LRWA!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Admin</th>
<th>Course Password</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Mason University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Constitution Society</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td>Karim, Hunt, Shirani, Ezeh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antitrust Economics - Law 237</td>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Yun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appellate Advocacy Competitions (Moot Court Board)</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td>Bosilovic, Buckner, Glover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td>Peterson, Kim, Lao, Oh, Zhou</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar Support Summer 2019</td>
<td>Summer 2019</td>
<td>Compton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Law Students Association (GMU)</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td>Hart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Law Society</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Legal Society</td>
<td>Multi-Year</td>
<td>Hall, Meek, Woodfin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 1L Professors Using TWEN (Fall 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Economics for Lawyers</th>
<th>LRWA</th>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Torts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boardman</td>
<td>Garoupa</td>
<td>FitzGerald</td>
<td>Claeys</td>
<td>NOT Cecot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT Buckley</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>+ Adjunct</td>
<td>Mossoff</td>
<td>(Blackboard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neyland</td>
<td>Stevenson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Somin</td>
<td>NOT Davies</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NOT Leider</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Blackboard)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chiang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Finding a case online

• Use the “case citation,” e.g.,
  ◦ 693 N.Y.S.2d 897
  ◦ 485 U.S. 759

• **Enter the case citation into the main search box** on Lexis Advance or Westlaw Edge

• If more than one citation is given, use any **one** of them, e.g.,
  • 55 U.S. 393, 127 S.Ct. 2618
  • 241 Va. 23, 400 S.E.2d 160

• You can omit punctuation and capitalization in the search bar, e.g.,
  • 693 nys2d 897
  • 485 us 759
Login and go to the research page
Enter the citation in the main search bar
Michael COSTANZA, Plaintiff,

Jerry SEINFELD et al., Defendants.

June 23, 2009.

Synopsis

Individuals who claimed fictional character in television program was based upon them brought action against program's executive producers, studio network, and production company, seeking relief for violation of Civil Rights Law, being cast in false light, invasion of privacy, and defamation. On defendants' motion to dismiss, the Supreme Court, New York County, New York, denied. Held that (1) New York law does not recognize inverse invasion of privacy claims for invasion of privacy or being placed in a false light. (2) television program's fictional comedic presentation did not fall within scope of "trade" or "advertising" prohibited under statute requiring prior written consent for use of living person's name, portrait or picture for advertising or trade purposes; (3) complaint alleged that plaintiff made "highly glib statements" which violated an equal and, thus, did not give rise to defamation claim; (4) principle law was warranted imposing sanctions of $5,000 each against plaintiff and his attorney.
West Online Study Aids Subscription

Find it in the Quick Links menu.

Direct access on subsequent visits: https://subscription.westacademic.com/
West Online Study Aids

1. Create an account
2. MUST use your gmu.edu email address
3. You may use the same password you use for both Westlaw and Lexis.
4. You can also use it as an app (you will see this option after you create an account and sign in).

Bookmark: https://subscription.westacademic.com/
West Study Aids Subscription

- can browse
- or keyword search
This is an excerpt from Torts in a Nutshell.

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You pay for printing.
CALI Lessons

CALI Lessons at [www.cali.org](http://www.cali.org) → Lessons → First Year → Legal Research

Our CALI code is case sensitive: GEOGMAstu79
Reference Librarians Are Available to Help You!

Contact:

• In-person at the Law Library, First Floor (M-Th 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

• By phone at (703) 993-8076.

• Also available by email at lawref@gmu.edu