

GUIDE SERIES 2 – CALIFORNIA RESEARCH



GUIDE 2C - CASE LAW: FINDING RECENT DECISIONS

There are several sources for locating recent California court decisions before they are published in the advanced services of the various reporters, and eventually printed in the bound reporter volumes. With the proliferation of online sources, case decisions are more widely available than ever before. However, remember to check the printed version against the web version to assure that no transcription errors occurred during the transition to a web page. The following research sources should help you find recent California cases; a description of these sources is below.

If you are looking for a California Supreme Court or a California Court of Appeal case you can consult:

- The Internet
- Lexis and Westlaw
- California Daily Opinion Service (CDOS)
- Daily Appellate Reports (DAR)
- Slip Opinions

If you are looking for an Appellate Department, Superior Court case you can consult:

- Lexis & Westlaw

If you are looking for a State Bar Court case you can consult:

- Lexis & Westlaw
- Daily Appellate Reports (DAR)

INDIVIDUAL SOURCES

The official site for the California court system - <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov> - offers slip opinions of the California Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal issued within the last sixty days and available in full-text. Supreme Court opinions are posted immediately upon filing. Courts of Appeal opinions appear within hours of filing. This listing now includes unpublished opinions.

LEXIS and WESTLAW both cover all California courts. Both services usually have opinions on line within a week, sometimes within days. Delays occur when the court involved is slow in supplying the opinion. All fields are searchable, for example case name, docket number, judge, date, subject, etc. Refer to the user guides to each service for details.

California Daily Opinion Service (CDOS) (OPEN RESERVE) Publication is usually within a week of the decision for California cases. The CDOS covers the California Supreme Court, California Courts of Appeal, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Courts, all California districts. A Table of Cases and Subject Index are issued monthly. The Law Library keeps the CDOS for 6 months.

Daily Appellate Report (DAR) (PLAZA, West wall directly following California Reports.) For California cases publication is usually within a week of the decision. The DAR covers the California Supreme Court, California Courts of Appeal, State Bar Court, U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. There is a monthly subject index to help locate decisions. The law library keeps the DAR for 6 months.

For Further Information Consult a Librarian

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