

POLITICAL SCIENCE 115--CASE LAW RESOURCES

DAVIDSON LIBRARY

1. Read your Supreme Court Decision.

The citation for volume and page number of your case in either the US Reports(US) or Lawyers Edition (Led2d) is on your handout **CASES FOR DEPTH STUDY PAPER**.

Lexis Nexis Academic <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>
File: *Legal/Federal & State Cases/*
Pull down menu: *U.S. Supreme Court Cases*

OR

US **United States Reports** REF JK 1561 U5 Main Ref

OR

Decisions of the US Supreme Court <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>
<http://findlaw.com/cascode/supreme.html>
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

2. Read counsel briefs, oral arguments, and amicus briefs for the Supreme Court case.

Lexis Nexis Academic <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>
File: *Legal/Federal & State Cases/*
Pull down menu: *U.S. Supreme Court Briefs*

Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the United States Supreme Court.
KF 4549 S9 [Volume # for your case is listed on your class list of decisions]—6th floor of the Library

OyezProject <http://www.oyez.org/> (Listen to Oral arguments on RealAudio **selected cases only**)

3. Read your case history in the lower courts. **SHEPARDIZE** to find citations for lower court decisions

Lexis Nexis Academic: File: *Legal/Shepards Citations*
Follow instructions on the attached handout entitled “*Shepardizing on Lexis Nexi Academics*”.

LOWER FEDERAL COURTS--If your case came from lower federal courts, citations to decisions will appear in ONE or BOTH of the following reporters.

FS **Federal Supplement** Ref KF 127 F434 Main Reference
FSupp (US District Courts)

F3d **Federal Reporter** Ref KF 127 F4 Main Reference
F2d (US Courts of Appeal)
F

Lexis Nexis Academic File: *Federal & State Cases* <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

ALL STATE COURTS (including California)

Lexis Nexis Academic File: *Federal & State Cases* <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

CALIFORNIA STATE COURT CASES ALSO AVAILABLE:

CalRptr **California Reporter** Ref JK 8781 A5 C38 Main Reference

4. Find later cases using your case as precedent. **SHEPARDIZE** to find citations for impact cases

Refer to the attached handout “*Shepardizing*”. Use *LexisNexis Academic/Legal/Shepards Citations* to find cases. Please note that UCSB Library also has the print court reporters for **US, F2d, F3d, FSupp, and CalRptr**.

5. Research the “major” case precedent used in the decision

Locate cases using the citations for each case *within* the text of your Supreme Court opinion. Please note that UCSB has the court reporters listed in #2 and #3 above. All other cases will be available only online. Use *Lexis Nexis Academic: Legal/Federal & State Cases* to find specific court decisions.

6. Find law review articles.

Lexis Nexis Academic File: *Legal/Law Reviews* <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

Current Law Index, 1980 + K33 C87 Main Reference Index Area

7. Review other sources for journal articles about your case, as well as legislative/executive impact and implementation.

Expanded Academic ASAP <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service)
<http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

8. Review background and analysis of a Supreme Court Justice.

Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789-1993 Reference KF8744 S86 1993

Biographical encyclopedia of the Supreme Court: the lives and legal philosophies of the justices. Reference KF8744 B56 2006

Biography Resource Center <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

Lexis Nexis Academic /Legal Research/Law Reviews <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/eresources/databases/.html>

OTHER LEGAL RESOURCES FOR BACKGROUND

Law.com Legal Dictionary <http://dictionary.law.com>

Black’s Law Dictionary KF 156 B53 1999 Reference Desk

Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court. 1997. KF 8742 W567 1997 Main Reference

Encyclopedia of the American Constitution. 2000. KF 4548 E53 2000. Main Reference

OTHER RELATED WEB SITES

InfoSurf: Information Resources in Law <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/subj/law.html>

LEGAL CITATION FORMAT

Introduction to Basic Legal Citation (2000-2001 ed.) <http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

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