**Westlaw**

*Westlaw* contains legal information from federal and state case law, the United States Code Annotated (USCA), the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), the Federal Register (July, 1980-present), state statutes and administrative codes, law review journals, and other secondary sources, including Black’s Law Dictionary. Updated daily.

**STARTING & SEARCHING WESTLAW**

From the library’s World Wide Web homepage (https://www.uhcl.edu/library), click on **Databases** and then **W** to find the **Westlaw** hyperlink.

- Search by keyword or by citation, or choose a tab to see options for browsing **Federal Materials**, **State Materials**, **Practice Areas** (environmental law, family law, etc.). Choose the **Tools** tab to browse or search by **West Key Number System**.

- **Westlaw** searches federal statutes, cases, and regulations by default. Click on **All Federal** to change the jurisdiction to one or more states, courts, or circuits (select up to 3).

- Search for a **West Key Number System** keyword in documents or in the key number system headings themselves.

- Or click a desired heading to see its subtopics and then browse relevant documents.
VIEWING & NAVIGATING DOCUMENTS

Narrow results to a specific category in order to access relevant filters, such as jurisdiction, and to search within results.

Sample document view:

Explore the history of a case through status flag and related links.

KEYCITE STATUS FLAGS

A red flag warns that a case or administrative decision “is no longer good law for at least one of the points of law it contains” or that a statute or regulation “has been amended by a recent session law [or rule], repealed, superseded, or held unconstitutional or preempted in whole or in part.”

A yellow flag warns that:

- a case or administrative decision has some negative history but has not been reversed or overruled
- a statute has been renumbered or transferred by a recent session law
- an uncodified session law or proposed legislation affecting the statute is available (statutes merely mentioned as a reference are not marked with a yellow flag)
- a proposed rule affecting a regulation is available or that a regulation has been reinstated, corrected, or confirmed
- a statute or regulation was limited on constitutional or preemption grounds, its validity was otherwise called into doubt, or that a prior version of the statute or regulation received negative treatment by a court

For more information, refer to online Westlaw training and support resources, or consult a research librarian (see Ask a Librarian on the library homepage).