

# CCSU Elihu Burritt Library

<http://library.ccsu.edu>

## Quick Guide to: Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe LEGAL RESEARCH

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Lexis-Nexis Legal Research includes legal news and law reviews, case law, codes, statutes and regulations, tax law, patents, international legal information, and legal career information. Also includes *Shepard's*® citations of U.S. Supreme Court cases.

From the Library's Homepage <http://library.ccsu.edu>, click **Articles (via databases)** and **Databases A-Z/Database Finder**. Click the letter "L" and click **Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe**. After connecting to Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe choose the "Legal Research" option and select the type of material you wish to search.

### Finding a Case

#### Case Law

Click **Get a Case**. Search here by party name or citation (number) to find Federal & State legal cases. *Example: Roe v. Wade OR 93 S. Ct. 705*

#### Finding a Case by Party Name

Enter the name(s) of the parties involved in the case. If you are not sure of the correct spelling, you can enter variations separated with ORs. *Example: Roe OR Row*

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Sources, How Do I?, Site Map, What's New, and Help. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with various search options: Academic Search Forms, Quick Info, News, Business, Legal Research, Legal News, Law Reviews, Get a Case (highlighted), Shepard's® for U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Case Law, State Case Law, Area of Law by Topic, Federal Code, Federal Regulations, State Code, and Tax Law. The main content area is titled "Get a Case" and includes a "Tips" link. Below the title, there is a text box with the instruction: "Retrieve a case by cite or party names. Only cases that match all the criteria you entered will be found." There are two input fields: "Party name:" with a radio button selected for "Party One" and a text box containing "Roe", and "Party Two" with a text box containing "Wade". Below this is a "Citation:" input field with a radio button and a text box containing "e.g. 407 U.S. 258". There are three buttons: "Search", "Clear Form", and "Source List". At the bottom, there is a "Tips" section with the text: "This form searches federal and state case law by party name or citation. Please review the Finding Information section of the Help page to learn how to build a successful search. You will find information about federal and state case reporters, how to..."

#### Finding a Case by Citation

Enter the citation to the case. *Example: 407 U.S. 258*

Click **View Citation Formats** for selecting citations to find legal documents.

Click **Source List** to view a list of sources by case. *Example: CT Circuit Court Cases, 1961-1974, MA Court of Appeals Cases from 1972, etc.*

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Sources, How Do I?, Site Map, What's New, and Help. On the left side, there is a vertical menu under 'Academic Search Forms' with sub-links: Quick Info, News, Business, Legal Research, Legal News, Law Reviews, Get a Case (highlighted), Shepard's® for U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Case Law, State Case Law, Area of Law by Topic, Federal Code, Federal Regulations, State Code, and Tax Law. The main content area is titled 'Get a Case' and includes a 'Tips' link. Below the title, there is a brief instruction: 'Retrieve a case by cite or party names. Only cases that match all the criteria you entered will be found.' The form contains two input fields for 'Party name' labeled 'Party One' and 'Party Two', separated by 'v.'. Below these is a 'Citation' field containing '93 S. Ct. 705' and a link to 'View Citation Formats'. At the bottom of the form are three buttons: 'Search', 'Clear Form', and 'Source List'. A 'Tips' section at the bottom explains that the form searches federal and state case law by party name or citation and provides a link to 'Finding Information' in the Help page.

## Locating Articles

Select **Legal News** for Articles from legal newspapers, magazines, and newsletters.

Required Steps:

- 1) Select a **News Category** from the drop down list. *Example:* Legal News, World News or Today's News
- 2) Select a **News Source** by clicking **Source List**. Select up to five sources from the list and click "**Paste To Search,**" or click "**Return To Search Form.**"
- 3) Enter search terms and select where to search for these terms from the drop down list. *Example:* Headline, Full Text, Caption or Author.

Optional Steps:

- 4) Narrow a search by selecting a specific date range from the drop down list or by entering a date range.
- 5) Can also fill in a specific journal name under **Search This Publication Title** if desired.

Select **Search** and click on title to view articles or select **Clear Form** to start over.

Select **Law Reviews** for articles from law reviews

Keyword and Additional Terms search the full text of articles from law reviews. Only law reviews that match all the criteria entered will be found. Narrow a search by selecting a specific date range from the drop down list or by entering in a date range. Select a specific journal name under **Source List**. *Example:* American Journal of Criminal Law, Supreme Court Review, etc.

## Other Case Searches

### Federal Case Law

Decisions from all federal court levels

- 1) Search by keyword for decisions from all federal court level cases.  
*Example: Speech or Expression.*

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis website's search interface for Federal Case Law. The page has a navigation bar at the top with links for Home, Sources, How Do I?, Site Map, What's New, and Help. Below the navigation bar, there are two tabs: 'Basic' (selected) and 'Guided Search'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with various search categories: Academic Search Forms, Quick Info, News, Business, Legal Research, Legal News, Law Reviews, Get a Case, Shepard's® for U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Case Law (selected), State Case Law, Area of Law by Topic, Federal Code, Federal Regulations, State Code, and Tax Law. The main search area is titled 'Federal Case Law' and includes a 'Tips' link. Below the title, there is a brief instruction: 'Keyword and Additional Terms search the full text of cases. Only cases that match all the criteria you enter will be found.' The search form contains several fields: 'Keyword' with the value 'Free Speech' and a note 'Entry Required' and 'e.g. speech OR expression'; 'Narrow search with additional terms' with the value 'Internet' and a note 'e.g. picketing OR demonstration'; 'Court' with a dropdown menu set to 'Supreme Court Cases' and a 'Source List' link; and 'Date' with a dropdown menu set to 'Previous six months' and radio buttons for 'From:' and 'To:' with 'Examples' link.

- 2) Narrow search with additional terms. *Example: Picketing or Demonstration*
- 3) Select the type of court from the drop down list. *Example: Supreme Court Cases, Supreme Court Briefs, Court of Appeals, Tax Courts.*
- 4) View the **Source List** after selecting a type of court. There may only be one source.
- 5) Narrow a search by selecting a specific date range from the drop down list or by entering a date range

Select **Search** and click on title to view articles or select **Clear Form** to start over.

### State Case Law

Search by state high court and appellate court decisions by choosing a particular state in which to search. (Follow the above for search terms, narrowing search terms, selecting court from source list, and entering dates)

### Area of Law by Topic

Search by keyword in a particular field or topic of law such as Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, Environmental Law, Labor Law, Immigration Law, International Law, etc. (Follow the above for keyword, narrowing search terms, selecting topic from drop down list and entering dates)