Legal Research on Lexis Advance®

LexisNexis®

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This is an in depth guide, including exercises on how to start your Legal Research assignments on Lexis Advance®.

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Legal Research on Lexis Advance®

Using the LexisNexis® Law School Homepage (www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool)
To get to the Law School Homepage, either do to the website OR click on the 3x3 grid from your Lexis Advance research home page and select the ice for LexisNexis® for Law Schools

One there, two important areas are the Resources link and the Legal Dictionary quick search.

The Resources link brings you to a list of resources such as outlines, guides on how to start your first legal writing assignment, and links to “how to” videos on our YouTube channel.

The Legal Dictionary search link quickly retrieves the definition or elements of new legal terms you encounter.
Preparing for your legal research assignment with Confidence

Legal research is an important skill that you will use throughout your time in school and throughout your career. The earlier you start, the more confident you will be when given an assignment.

Organize Before You Start Your Research

Organization is key to being a success – both in the classroom as well as in your career. Lexis Advance® makes it easy to organization your legal research assignments from beginning to the final written product.

The Client dropdown allows you to select or create a new client identifier. This tracks the number of searches and documents that were viewed for a particular client or project. When you start working, many firms use this information to determine how much to bill back or charge clients for legal research done on their behalf. It is good to get into the habit now. You can track the amount of research you completed for a particular project using the History link.

Folders allow you create an online folder where you can save searches, search results, and even documents you create. While your History only shows results for the last 90 days, the information you save in your folders remains indefinitely. You can even share your folders and the content within them with others on your team.

Also under the More dropdown is a link to Lexis Advance® HELP database and Live Support. Live support is a feature that allows you to “chat” with a legal researcher who will help you navigate Lexis Advance® and construct searches. Live support is available from 8am to 1am ET, M to F. Telephonic support is available 24x7.

Start Your Research Here: Quickly Find What You Need with the Red Search Box

Now that you have some organization tips, getting started with your legal research assignment is pretty easy. All you need to do is type in a case name, citation, or legal term in the search box; then click the magnifying glass to run the search. Lexis Advance® suggests documents, legal phrases, and questions to help guide your research.

In the screen shot, you can see how typing in the phrase personal jurisdiction quickly gives me documents that discuss personal jurisdiction like secondary sources and statutes; suggested legal phrases that cover the topic of personal jurisdiction; and even suggested questions regarding personal jurisdiction that quickly gets you started on your research project.
If you need assistance with a citation format, click More Options and then Get a Doc Assistance which walks you through different formats for different publications.

**Suggested Exercise #1**: Use the Get a Doc Assistance tool to determine the citation format for University of Dayton Law Review. The University of Dayton is located in Ohio.

Retrieve the following case by typing in the citation or the name into the search box and then clicking the magnifying glass: *Garratt v. Dailey, 46 Wn.2d 197 (1955)*. Don’t worry – punctuation and spacing in the citation will not matter.

One of the first things you should notice is that this case has three different citations. Cases tend to be published in both a state report as well as a regional reporter and every case on Lexis Advance® will have a unique Lexis Citation. You need to refer to your citation manual to determine what citation is the official citation in your jurisdiction.

You probably also noticed that each citation has a different numbers of asterisks. This is called star pagination and helps you identify the page number assigned by the specific reporter as you read through the case.

**Understand cases with Case Summaries and Headnotes**

The next thing you might notice is the Case Summary. Nearly every case on Lexis Advance® has a case summary. The Case Summary gives you a brief overview of the case, including: the procedural posture (where was the case originally
filed and what was the original ruling); overview (the parties, the facts that lead to the case, and the issues the court is being asked to address); and the outcome (how did the instant court rule on the issues before it). You can think of the case summary as a mini brief of the case. This helps you quickly understand the main points of the case.

LexisNexis Headnotes are mini outlines of the important Points of Law or Legal Holdings, pulled directly from statements in the court’s opinion. Each Headnote contains a topic heading to show you what is discussed.

Tip: Together, Case Summary and Headnotes give you a de facto case brief and will be very helpful as you read a case and try to understand why a particular case is important.

A single headnote might cover many different legal topics. To see the headnote in the case, simply click the arrow next to the number. To return to the headnotes, click on the up arrow.

One major difference between LexisNexis and other case publishers is how Headnotes are written. LexisNexis Headnotes are Rules and Statements taken directly from the Court’s opinion and categorized. Other case editors summarize the law.
Suggested Exercise #2: Type the party name “Palsgraf” into the Lexis Advance search box and click on the link for *Palsgraf v. Long Island R. Co.*, 248 N.Y. 339. This is the famous negligence case.

**Question 1:** What was the Outcome of this case? __________________________

**Question 2:** According to Headnote #1, negligence is the absence of __________________________?  

Suggested Exercise #3: Let’s try another case. Enter the citation 169 A.D.2d 254 in the search box (don’t worry about spacing or periods).

**Question 1:** Why did the new owner of the house seek to have the contract rescinded?

**Question 2:** According to the Outcome, who was responsible for creating the reputation at issue in this case?
Using Legal Topic Summaries to expand your research

- Topic Summaries are a quick way to jump start your research in a new or unfamiliar area of law by providing you with a concise summary of a legal topic along with supporting resources such as seminal cases, secondary sources and applicable statutes.

- Click on the orange document icon within the Headnotes of a case to pull the topic summary report for that legal issue.

- Select View topic summary report to retrieve the full report. Change jurisdictions on the right side of the screen.

You can also use the source Legal Topic Summaries and search for topic
Secondary sources are resources that help you gain an understanding of the law. They are not binding legal authority, like a case or a statute, but do provide you with helpful analysis on how a legal issue is applied by the courts.

Some of the common secondary sources you may encounter and find helpful during your 1L year are treatises, such as Corbin on Contracts, American Jurisprudence (AmJur), American Law Reports (ALR) and Restatements.

□ Lexis Advance allows you to electronically search these sources and link directly to helpful descriptions of the law, which is great for class prep.

Get a Summary of the Law with Secondary Materials

Type in the issue being discussed in your class in the Search Box – foreseeability

• Lexis Advance will search for the term “foreseeability” and find all relevant documents that match your search terms. It automatically searches all of the content available on Lexis Advance.

• Reviewing results, you’ll see different types of content on the left side of the screen, e.g. cases, statutes, etc.

• Click the Secondary Materials link to view relevant secondary materials like AmJur, ALR, Law Review articles and Restatements. Also included in Secondary Materials are thousands of area-of-law and subject-specific Matthew Bender® Treatises that are exclusively found on Lexis Advance. These are excellent resources to get an in-depth review of a specific legal question.

• Results are automatically sorted with the Most Relevant Documents, toward the top of the results list. Most relevant meaning your terms are found near each other in the document, appear often in the document, etc.
Find a the Source You Want Using Filters

- The search filters, such as **Category**, **Jurisdiction** and **Source**, allow you to easily narrow down a set of results to match your research needs.
- Click on **Restatements** under the Category filter, then scroll down to **Source** to view the specific publications where the results appear.

- Click on **Restatement of the Law 2d, Torts** from the Source filter to review results from this source.
- You will see many relevant sections of the Restatement related to foreseeability.
- Click to open **Restat 2d of Torts §435** and review that section to gain a deeper understanding of foreseeability. Read the comments and illustrations to see how the issue is being applied by the courts to specific facts.
Don’t Miss Important Items with the Table of Contents View

☐ Whenever you find a helpful secondary source, it’s important to view the Table of Contents for the source to ensure your research is complete.

☐ Click the Table of Contents arrow on the left to see where you are in the secondary source and other related sections around your location. This is similar to looking at the book version of the secondary source.

• This is also a great way to get an overview on the legal topic and make sure you are viewing all relevant sections related to the topic on which you are working.
Exercise #3

You just learned from the *Palsgraf* case that there are special types of relationships in a negligence action. Your professor went over it very quickly in class, but mentioned that American Jurisprudence (AmJur) has a great description of the different relationships, in case you need more help.

Question 1: If you search *special relationship negligence*, how many AmJur sections appear in the results?

Question 2: Narrow to AmJur articles and click on the first result. Name at least one type of special relationship.

Question 3: Click on the Table of Contents arrow. Is there another section that may be helpful that discusses a potential special relationship?

NOTES
Start Your Research Assignment

Instead of being given a case or statute from your professor to start with, an open research assignment requires you to uncover the best cases and supporting legal documents for yourself. At some point during your 1L year, you’ll be asked to perform research for an open assignment, typically drafting an open memo, summary judgment motion or appellate brief. You’ll be given a legal issue, terms of art and a set of facts about the situation for which you’re researching. This lesson will prepare you with the tools and steps necessary to perform the proper research.

Legal Research Problem

Jessie Pinkman is a methamphetamine dealer in New Mexico. His business has been doing quite well ever since he teamed up with his old chemistry teacher from high school. Jesse had a problem, though: what to do with all of the money he was making. Fortunately for Jessie, he had an unethical lawyer, Saul Goodman, who was very good (or so he said) at laundering money.

Saul’s plan was to... Well let’s just let Saul tell us what the plan was. [https://youtu.be/SFKDmCbM5s4](https://youtu.be/SFKDmCbM5s4)

Sometime after the purchase of the nail salon, one of the salon employees was arrested for drunk driving. While in custody, the employee told police about Jessie and his money laundering scheme. The police investigated and eventually arrested Jessie for money laundering under federal law.

Saul is confident that the federal prosecutors do not have sufficient evidence to convict, and has advised Jessie that he is sure he can get him off.

Saul has asked you, as his summer law clerk, to research this issue and get back to him by the end of the day with any information that you find in a memo.
Overview: Steps for Completing Your Research Assignment

Step 1  **Organize** and stay ahead of the mess. Create a folder in Lexis Advance to keep track of all of your research. Brainstorm and identify search terms to begin your research and create an outline. A good outline will structure your paper and give you a checklist as you research.

Step 2  Begin with a **Secondary Source**, like a Jurisprudence article or section of a treatise. These materials will give you a concise overview of the law and lead you to primary sources, like cases and statutes, which you will need to analyze your issue.

Step 3  Research **Primary Sources** like cases and statutes and save time by using the added tools in each to find additional supporting authority. Use exclusive tools like Topic Summaries and the Legal Issue Trail when viewing cases to expand and complete your research quickly.

Step 4  **Shepardize** every case or statute that you cite in your work to ensure that it is “good” law (covered in part three). “Shepardizing” or validating your authority, is the last step once you find a good case and statute.

**When is your research complete?**

- **You will not necessarily find something exactly on point.** 1L writing assignments are purposely created to present 1Ls the opportunity to argue by analogy, extension of the law, etc. However, when the “usual suspects” appear over and over again, these are your best research results.

**Exercise #1**

Before you begin to research for Saul Goodman, it is best to brainstorm and think of search terms within your legal research problem to use. What terms would you include in your search?

Stay Organized with Folders

Set up a **Folder** to save your research as you work. You can create folders as you research or from the homepage.

- As you research, click the **Folder** icon at the top of the document and either click on the name of an existing folder to select **Choose a Folder** to create a new folder.

- From the homepage, click the **More** link, then **Folder**, then click **Create New Folder** to create a folder before you begin your research project.
Starting with Secondary Sources

Get a Summary of the Law: Generally it’s best to begin any research assignment in Secondary Sources. These materials are written by legal experts and provide a comprehensive analysis of the legal topics at issue. It’s also a quick, efficient and comprehensive approach to identifying primary sources, such as cases and statutes.

Tip: Students will often skip researching Secondary Sources in an attempt to save time, but instead, end up running inefficient searches without an adequate understanding of their topic. Even if you believe you know the topic, spend time on Secondary Sources to save time and increase accuracy in your search results.

When you type in a search on Lexis Advance, the results will contain documents that have all of the words that you searched for. So these secondary sources that appear have all of our terms somewhere in the document.

Search: money laundering, then click the content link for Secondary Materials on the left. As you type in the terms stop at money laundering and allow the word wheel to suggest terms.

Results in each content area will be ranked in order of relevancy, the most relevant documents appearing toward the top of the results list.
Review the different types of Secondary Sources under Category on the left. The two most popular types of Secondary Sources for research are Treatises and Jurisprudences.

Important Secondary Sources

- **American Jurisprudence (AmJur) and A.L.R.** – jurisprudence materials with plain English text of the law and links to primary authority.
- **Restatements** – common law rule statements with illustrations and case links.
- **Treatises** – Lexis Advance contains thousands of area-of-law and jurisdiction-specific treatises that provide expert analysis of the law on that topic.
- **Law Reviews & Journals** – in depth review of current awareness issues in the law written by law school faculty and students.

Post-Search Filters

Narrow the results with post-search filters to control and refine search results for additional precision.

- **Category Type**: Narrow your results to a specific type of Secondary Source. Beneath Category, select **Jurisprudence**
- **Source**: Narrow to a particular publication. Select **American Jurisprudence (AmJur)**
- **Jurisdiction**: When working on a specific state law, this is a great filter to use.

Select: 53A Am Jur 2d Money §60 to retrieve it. Review the section to gain a brief overview of the case law related to money laundering. Use the links in the footnotes to access the cases directly on point with your issue.

Remember to save your research as you go. You will want to access this document later, so save it to your folder. Click the Folder icon at the top of the page and choose a folder.
Tip: Remember that the Table of Contents gives you the ability to quickly access sections in the document. Click on the Table of Contents arrow to the left to expand the Table of Contents.

Case Law Research

Now that we have an overview of the law we can move on and look for additional case law on point. Click on the Cases link to start reviewing relevant case law on your search. We can review the results or immediately begin narrowing our results to find the best documents for this research using the post-search filters on the left.

Easily Spot Your Search Terms with Search Term Maps

Search Term Maps give you the ability to quickly find your search terms within a case and will also show you exactly where your terms appear in the document. Look for the star for the highest concentration of your search terms in the document.

Visualization tools are becoming more important (and desired) in legal research based on their ability to guide users to results more quickly.
Find Specific Facts with Search Within Results
Search Within Results is a quick way to narrow your results using additional search terms. This will allow you to find cases that contain additional terms that may be helpful for your research.

In Search Within Results, type “insufficient evidence.”

This will find cases within this cite list that contain the phrase “insufficient evidence,” and add the phrase to your Narrow By list. You can add additional terms (methamphetamine) or you can use other post-search filters to narrow to the results, e.g. Court: U.S. Federal, etc.

Search within results for “methamphetamine” to narrow it down again and show how to remove a filter.

Speed up the Review Process with Case Law Tools
Let’s take a closer look at how to spot a “good case” and use it to find additional authority. Click the link to retrieve United States v. Beddow, 957 F.2d 1330

Spot the Important Issues with Headnotes
Headnotes are a mini outline of the legal topics discussed in a case. These are great to review to determine whether a case is on point and worth reading more in depth. They are also a great tool when you find a headnote that discusses your topic.

The Headnotes (points of law) that have come from this case, are listed below the Case Summary and are categorized by topic. Headnotes give you a quick indication whether a case may be on point and worth reading further. You can quickly link to the discussion of the headnote within the opinion by clicking on the down arrow.
Properly Cite Your Authority

Lexis Advance has a copy feature that will display the proper format for your case or statute using a number of formats, including the newest edition of The Bluebook.

Most legal research assignments will require you to show where you found a particular argument, i.e. cite your authority. There are multiple citation formats but the most common forms used in law school are Bluebook & ALWD.

Lexis Advance allows you to highlight text and choose a citation format to insert into your work. Select **Copy (Quick or Advanced)** once the text is highlighted, then choose your desired format. This will allow you to copy and paste the segment of text, along with the citation in the proper format, including the pinpoint page. “Standard” is the most recent edition of the Bluebook.

Select **Copy & Close** to copy the contents of this box before closing the window. Then paste into a Microsoft Word, or other, document. Want to read more of this case in the future? The hyperlinked citation you paste in Word takes you right back to the quote in the full case document in Lexis Advance.
Find Additional Supporting Authority with the Legal Issue Trail
Once you find an on-point case, the Legal Issue Trail is a great tool to find additional cases that cite to a specific part of your case. To utilize the Legal Issue Trail, click Activate Passages in the right hand panel of the case.
This will segment the case into the various legal issues, outlining them with Purple Boxes. Select a specific passage or issue from the case and track that issue through time.
Once you have found a case which you find helpful, there are a number of tools on Lexis to help you find additional cases to support your proposition.
The first tool is the legal issue trail. Scroll to the top of the page, and highlight the About this Document section
To use the legal issue trail, click on the activate passages button. Click the passages button and scroll to the section related to Rule
The Legal Issue Trail lists cases that **cite to** the case you are viewing as well as the authority **cited by** your case for that legal issue. Clicking on a case from the list will automatically direct you to the discussion of your case so you can see exactly what was said.
Exercise #2

Let’s go back to our results list and review the case tools. Click on the United States v. Keck, 643 F.3d 789 case.

1. Which Headnote discusses the Right to Confrontation?

2. At which page number will you find the Right to Confrontation discussion in the opinion?

3. Using the Legal Issue Trail, find a case that United States v. Keck used for the issue in the headnote.

Make Sure your Case is “Good Law” with Shepard’s® (More detail coming in the Shepard’s lesson)

When you find a useful case you must Shepardize® it in order to determine whether it’s still a valid/good case. Shepard’s is also used to find additional related case law and other authority. Click on Shepardize this document in the Shepard’s Summary to the right of the case to retrieve the Shepard’s Report.

Shepard’s provides a report on seven types of analysis, five of which apply to the case below. The symbol by the case name provides an overall impression of how carefully you’ll need to scrutinize this case.

Statutory Research

Often at this point in the research process, you will have found the applicable law on point through either a Secondary Source or from the case law. If not, you can quickly view related statutory materials by going to the results page.
To view statutes (codes) on this topic, click on the Statutes & Legislation link. This will provide the statutes, codes and related legislative materials for our search.

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Get More Organized with Highlighting

**Annotating** and **Highlighting** allow you to make notes right in a document, helping you remember important thoughts, ideas or reasons for saving an item.

- Highlight text with your mouse and choose to either highlight the text or annotate right in the document.
- When you print a document, any notes attached to a document will also print.

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You now have a solid foundation to tackle any research assignment in law school or employment. Use this basic method to start any research assignment.
Have Confidence in Your Citations with *Shepard’s*

*Shepard’s Citation Service Helps You Know What to Rely On*

The law is constantly evolving and changing. When you look at cases and statutes, you need to know if the legal principles you are relying on from those cases and statutes are still good law.

*Shepard’s* is an online “citator” that shows you what has happened to your case or statute, so that you can determine whether you are using valid (good) law. *Shepard’s* is only available on Lexis Advance® and only *Shepard’s* helps you easily identify cases with strong supporting value.

**Use the *Shepard’s* Report to Validate What You Cite**

*Shepard’s* gives you a report of all other legal authorities that have cited to the law that you want to use. When conducting legal research, you need to answer TWO main questions:

1. **Do You Have Good Law?**
   You can feel confident you have good law with *Shepard’s*. The law changes, so you have to make sure the law you’re relying on is valid — that it hasn’t been overruled, deemed unconstitutional, or treated negatively (criticized, distinguished, questioned). Any of these could weaken your argument.

2. **Is Your Research Complete?**
   It’s important to feel confident that your research is complete. The most efficient way to expand your research, and make sure you’re not missing important relevant law, is with *Shepard’s*. You can build more effective arguments and find more supporting authority to easily improve the depth and quality of your research.

*How important is citation checking?* - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFOY0Glg0gU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFOY0Glg0gU)

*Shepard’s* Signal® Indicators are Shortcuts, Not Answers

Think of the *Shepard’s* Signal indicator as the cover of a book. The Signal will give you an idea of what the book is about, but you cannot intelligently discuss the book without reading further.

Your first step when *Shepardizing* is to look at the Signal associated with the authority you are viewing. This will give you a quick indication of how to proceed with the case. The Signal will tell you what your next step should be.
Shepard’s Signals In Depth

**Warning: Negative treatment is indicated**
The red Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references in the Shepard’s® Citations Service contain **strong negative history or treatment of your case** (for example, overruled by or reversed).

**Warning: Negative treatment is indicated for statute**
The red exclamation point Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references in the Shepard’s® Citations Service contain **strong negative treatment of the Shepardized™ section** (for example, the section may have been found to be unconstitutional or void).

**Questioned: Validity questioned by citing refs.**
The orange Shepard’s Signal indicates that the citing references in the Shepard’s® Citations Service contain treatment that questions the continuing validity or precedential value of your case because of intervening circumstances, including judicial or legislative overruling.

**Caution: Possible negative treatment indicated**
The yellow Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references in the Shepard’s Citations Service contain **history or treatment that may have a significant negative impact on your case** (for example, distinguished or criticized).

**Positive treatment indicated – Only Lexis Advance will show you cases that follow your case.**
The green Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references in the Shepard’s Citations Service contain **history or treatment that has a positive impact on your case** (for example, affirmed or followed by).

**Citing references with analysis available**
The blue "A" Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references in the Shepard’s Citations Service contain **treatment of your case that is neither positive nor negative** (for example, explained).

**Citation information available**
The blue "I" Shepard’s Signal indicates that citing references are available in the Shepard’s Citations Service for your case, but the references do not have history or treatment analysis (for example, the references are law review citations).
Shepardizing™ 101

Step 1 – Shepardize: look at the Signal, then pull the report

You can pull the Shepard’s report for a case or statute by clicking on the signal in the document or by clicking the Shepardize link in the Shepard’s Summary on the right. The Shepard’s Summary gives you a view of the Citing Decisions—what other cases have said about this case.

Step 2 – Analyze: View the Analysis Section for a Summary

The Narrow By section provides you with a summary of the entire Shepard’s report.

The Analysis section displays only existing analysis, and tells you how many times your case has been given a particular treatment. For example, if you don’t see Overruled as an option, the case has never been overruled. Similarly, if you see a “63” next to Followed by, it has been followed sixty three times.
Step 3 – Filter: Narrow the Report to What You Need

Customize your report based upon a given Analysis, Court or Headnote to take a closer look at the information most relevant to your research.

You also have the ability to search through the citing references in a Shepard’s Report. This enables you to find something specific, like a fact that is important to you or an issue that must appear. The narrowing filters can be cleared to allow you to customize the report.
**Shepardizing a Case**

Let’s take a look at a case you have already reviewed – *United States v. Beddow*, 957 F.2d 1330 and follow the 3-step process. Click **History** at the top of Lexis Advance to quickly navigate back to the case.

**Shepardize** – Click on the Shepard’s signal or Shepardize this document to pull the report.

**Analyze** – Notice how many times *Beddow* has received Negative, Positive, and Neutral treatment from subsequent courts.

**Filter** – Now, you can narrow for what you need. Click the link for **10th Circuit** to see only the subsequent cases from this court. You will save time by starting with the cases from your binding/mandatory jurisdiction.

Notice the changes in the Analysis section. Are there any cases in the 10th Circuit with the “Questioned” treatment?

**Positive “Followed by” treatment uncovers the strongest authority**

Support your arguments quickly. Shepard’s highlights cases that have followed your case for at least one point of law analyzed in the case. This is important because it will help strengthen your argument by leading you to additional cases with the same type of analysis.

It is also helpful to quickly identify splits of authority, e.g. the 9th Circuit is following a particular case’s analysis while the 7th Circuit has overruled the same case. This happens often and Shepard’s makes it easy to spot.

**TIP:** Even if you do not see the Positive Signal by the name of the case, the Shepard’s Summary may show cases that have followed it.

Look back at the report for *Beddow*, do you see any positive treatment?

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**Exercise #1**

Find *United States v. Lee*, 22 F.3d 736. It has two principle holdings:

Holding 1: Theft from a person is **NOT** a violent felony.
Holding 2: Classification of a crime must be based on the elements of the offense as revealed in the charging papers.

Can we cite to US v. Lee in the federal courts for either of these holdings?

**Shepardize** – Begin by typing the citation into the Search Box – 22 F.3d 736. What is the Shepard’s symbol for this case? _________________. Click on the Shepard’s signal to pull the report.

**Analyze** – Take a look at the Analysis section for the summary of the treatment.

**Filter** – Now, we can narrow for what we need. Click the link for Federal Courts to see only the subsequent cases from Federal courts.

- Since we still have a strong negative (Warning) signal, we should click that link to view those cases first.

- Notice that the second case – United States v. Howze – has both “overruled in part” and “followed by” analysis.

- We can click directly to the page where the court gives these analyses, by clicking the blue hyperlink in the report to go to page 924.

- Scroll down to the last paragraph on that page to find the answer to our questions.

  a. Which holding remains good law?

  b. Would we have known this if we did not have the “followed by” analysis?

**NOTES**
Appendix

Hierarchy of United States Courts

Hierarchy of U.S. Courts

- Supreme Court of the United States
  - Writ of Certiorari
  - United States Supreme Court
    - State Supreme Courts
    - United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
      - United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
  - United States Court of Appeals for International Trade
    - United States Court of Federal Claims
      - United States Court of Veteran Appeals
      - Intermediate Appellate Courts
    - United States Tax Court
      - 94 District Courts
    - United States Bankruptcy Courts
      - United States Courts of Appeals
        - 11 Circuits & Federal Circuit
          - United States Tax Courts
          - United States Bankruptcy Courts

Map of U.S. Federal Judicial Circuits

13 Federal Judicial Circuits

+ Puerto Rico
+ Virgin Islands
+ Alaska
+ Hawaii

D.C. Circuit
Washington, DC

Federal Circuit
Washington, DC
**Additional Resources**

Bookmark these URLs to get ready for your career

- **Lexis CLEs** provide free CLE training with concrete examples on how to use features and sources.
- **Lexis Advance Training** webinars provide both a basic overview as well as training “beyond the basics” to help you become familiar with how to use Lexis Advance effectively.
- **Student Paralegal Certificate Modules** is a Five-Part on-demand series of trainings with exam and certificate.
- **Lexis for Microsoft Office** webinars show you efficient ways to integration research into your legal writing tasks to ensure that you are always comprehensive in your research.
- **Lexis Advance Webinars for Librarians** (anyone would benefit, not just librarians) provided semi-regular updates on new features and functions of Lexis Advance.
- **Lexis for Students You Tube Channel** quick, efficient, task orientated training videos
- **LexisNexis Webinar Center** has a number of pre-recorded webinars by industry experts and research specialists.
- **The LexisNexis Law School** Twitter feed, where you can stay up-to-date on relevant support for studies.
- **The LexisNexis Paralegal Program** Twitter feed where you can read fun articles and
- **The LexisNexis Linkedln page**, where students graduates can find career news, insights and resources.
- **LexTalk** has content on careers, life balance, and a little bit of everything else that the legal profession needs to know.