

Note Topic Selection on the LexisNexis® services



Selecting a Note Topic—LexisNexis has many ways to assist you in the process of selecting your note topic. Below are some of the tools and sources you can use to find a timely and unique note topic.

Browsing through Potential Topics

You can browse potential legal topics on the LexisNexis services without running a search. After selecting a topic, LexisNexis provides you with a list of the most prominent sources related to that topic.

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
- Click **by Topic or Headnote** in the red bar underneath.
- Select your Topic using:

Option 1: Find a Legal Topic

Find a Topic through a terms search (e.g., type **minimum contacts** and click the red **Find** button to get all the topics related to minimum contacts).

Option 2: Explore Legal Topics

Find a Topic by drilling down through all the categories (e.g., Civil Procedure > Jurisdiction > Personal Jurisdiction & In Rem Actions > In Personam Actions > Minimum Contacts).

- Select your **Topic** then your **Jurisdiction** in the search form.
 - The **Most Prominent Sources** are displayed under Sources.
-  After selecting a relevant source or sources you can simply click the **Search** button to get the most relevant materials on your topic.

Searching Current Awareness Sources

The best way to find timely issues to write your note on is through current awareness sources. Below is a partial list of the current awareness sources available on the LexisNexis services.

Mealey's™ Litigation Reports

Get a look at current litigation across many popular areas of law.

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
- Click **by Source** in the red bar underneath.
- Click the following source path: **Secondary Legal > Mealeys Reports & Conferences > Reports by Practice Area**.

 After selecting your **Practice Area**, you will get a list of top current awareness sources for that practice area.

Legal News

LexisNexis has a source dedicated to Legal News Publications only. Use this source to search through popular legal news publications.

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
 - Click **by Source** in the red bar underneath.
 - Click the **News & Business** tab.
 - Click **Legal News Publications** under Combined Sources.
-  Use the **HLEAD** segment to search the Headline and Lead Paragraph only to find the most relevant legal news articles.

All News

You can search all the news sources on the LexisNexis services, including legal news, with one comprehensive source.

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
 - Click **by Source** in the red bar underneath.
 - Click the **News & Business** tab.
 - Click **Legal News Publications** under the Combined Sources link.
-  Use the **HEADLINE** segment to search the Headline only to find the most relevant legal news articles.

Get an Attorney's Perspective on an Issue

You can find fully annotated narrative descriptions of every major practice area authored by top experts in their respective legal fields through Matthew Bender® Treatises.

Accessing Matthew Bender Treatises

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System
 - Click **by Source** in the red bar underneath.
 - Click **Labor & Employment** under the blue Area of Law – By Topic link.
 - Click **Labor and Employment Law** under the blue Search Analysis, Law Reviews & Journals link.
-  LexisNexis surfaces the most authoritative **Matthew Bender Treatise** for each area of law under the Search Analysis, Law Reviews & Journals link.

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Searching Matthew Bender Treatises

- Under the Search tab click the blue **Area of Law – By Topic** link.
 - Click **Bankruptcy** or your own area of law.
 - Click **Collier on Bankruptcy® 15th Edition Revised** under the blue Search Analysis, Law Reviews & Journals link.
 - Type **Chapter 11 Reorganization** or your own terms.
 - Bullet **Table of Contents** and click the red **Search** button.
-  Bulleting **Table of Contents** allows you search in the table of contents headings only rather than the text and annotations of each section.

Researching Specific Areas of Law

If you want to write about a particular area of law, it is advantageous to use the LexisNexis Research Tasks Tab. Research Tasks Tabs organize all the primary and secondary authority for a particular area of law in one easy-to-use form.

News & Legal Developments

Research Tasks pages present the top current awareness sources for each area of law in easy-to-use search forms.

- Click the **Research Tasks** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
 - Click **Communications** or your own area of law.
 - Use the **Legal News** or **News & Legal Developments** forms.
-  The **Research Tasks** page for each area of law will vary depending upon the current awareness sources available.

Finding Circuit Splits

Identifying splits in authority among the Federal Circuit Courts is a great way to find a note topic.

Searching for Circuit Splits

- Click the **Search** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
 - Click **by Source** in the red bar underneath.
 - Click **Federal Court Cases, Combined** or your jurisdiction.
 - Type **circuit w/2 split! and labor** as your search.
-  You can substitute **labor** with your own terms to find Circuit Splits on issues that interest you.

Using *Shepard's*® to find Circuit Splits

- Click the **Shepard's** tab at the top of the LexisNexis Research System.
 - Type **22 F.3d 736** or your own citation and click **Check**.
 - Click the blue **FOCUS™-Restrict By** link at the top of the report.
 - Select the **7th Circuit** as your jurisdiction and click **Apply**.
-  There are cases in the 7th Circuit **Overruling & Following** this case, identifying a potential split of authority within the 7th Circuit.

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