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Lexis Advance Search Term Maps Speeds Up Case Law Relevance Assessment

By Neil J. Squillante September 28, 2016

he initial stage of case law research involves trying to divine the relevance of the cases in your search results as quickly as possible. Lawyers complain so much about this time-consuming process that LexisNexis decided to take action.

Lexis Advance Search Term Maps ... in One Sentence

Launched this month, Lexis Advance Search Term Maps uses color mapping to help you process case law search results more efficiently.

The Killer Feature

Search Term Maps stems from scientific studies showing that our brain processes visual information up to 60,000 times faster than text.

When you enter a Boolean or natural language search with up to five terms. Lexis Advance displays the new Graphical View with a Search Term Location Bar above each case in the search results. Using a different color for each search term, this bar shows a summary view of where your search terms reside in the case (searches with six or more terms use one color). You'll also know whether search terms reside in the summary, headnotes, opinion, dissent, etc. A legend above the Search Term Location Bar lists each search term in its designated color.

The density of colors in the Search Term Location Bar indicates the overall relevance of the case. An asterisk directs you to the location in the case likely to be the most important. Clicking on a colored area in the Search Term Location Bar displays the corresponding document snippet with your search terms highlighted in their respective color. You can turn off less important search terms to focus on those with grea-

ter importance. This updates the search terms shown in the Search Term Location Bar.

Other Notable Features

When you're ready to read a case, you'll find a similar Search Term Location Bar in the full document view, except this bar displays every hit in the case. You can visually see the density and location of your search terms. Additionally, the Search Term Location Bar has an interactive slider that enables you to scroll through the case faster than using a vertical scroll bar.

Hovering over a color marker displays the corresponding search terms. Click to jump to that location. For more data, the Navigate All Terms menu lists each keyword and the number of hits. From this menu, you can select just one search term to display in the Search Term Location Bar and in the case.

"Our customers' response to Search Term Maps has been very positive," said Sean Fitzpatrick, Managing Director of North American Research Solutions at LexisNexis Legal & Professional. "They immediately understand the power of data visualization and the resulting professional productivity

Summary Headnotes	Opinion	Footnotes
II. Discussion	Opinion	
HN17 Section 523(a)(8) states that student loan debts an	e nondisc Chapter 13	will impose an undue
hardship on the debtor and the debtor's dependents. 104	This pro	unless the debtor
"undue hardship" determination under § 523(a)(8), the d	ebtor mu student loan	it loan debt, and prove
"undue hardship" by a preponderance of the evidence.	discharging	
While these procedures for obtaining a § 523(a)(8) "hardsh	ip discharge are well-established, 13 & son	ne Chapter 13 debtors (such as the
debtor in this case, the debtors in the Related Debtors Cases	, and numerous others) 14± have attempted	d to circumvent them by obtaining
confirmation of plans containing provisions discharging stu	dent loans at confirmation or completion. Th	ese debtors contend that such plan
provisions are supported and advised by Andersen v. UNIPAC	-NEBHELP (In re Andersen). 15 & In Anderse	n, the Court of Appeals for the Tenth
Circuit applied principles of res judicata and policies favoring	inality of confirmation orders to uphold an une	contested plan provision discharging a
student loan debt as an "undue hardship," even though	the Chapter 13 debtor never established "un	due hardship" in an adversary
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	tudent leans from collatorally [E40] attack	ing certain confirmed plane improperly

gains. The ability to quickly spot term hit density as well as the location and co-occurrence of terms within their search results allows users to easily identify patterns, judge the relevance of their search results and navigate individual documents with unprecedented speed."

What Else Should You Know?

In both the search results and document views, a search within your original search displays the new search terms in the color teal to distinguish them from your original search terms. Also, vou can use only one color for the Search Term Location Bar if you prefer. At anytime, you can switch from the Graphical View with Search Term Maps to traditional Lexis Advance views and back again. You can also choose which view to make the default. Search Term Maps is available for all case law in Lexis Advance.



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