Introducing Shepard’s® Table of Authorities

Shepard’s Table of Authorities is a validation tool that retrieves a report with a list of cited references and analyses of the authorities that your case or law review article used as the basis for its opinion.

When you use Shepard's Table of Authorities, you are able to evaluate quickly the authorities your case relied on. If validity is in doubt, your case may also be questionable even though it has never been cited in a negative way. For example, the case Juncker v. Tinney, 549 F. Supp. 574, indicates positive treatment and appears to be good law.

But is it good law?

Shepard’s Table of Authorities provides:
- An at-a-glance analysis of a case’s foundation, uncovering hidden weaknesses in cases that have no obvious negative treatment
- In-depth information on the legal authorities cited within a case
- A table of authorities for the law reviews available through the LexisNexis research system

You can initiate a Table of Authorities report in three ways:
1. Click on the link at the top right side while viewing a case.
2. Click on the TOA link at the top of a Shepard’s report.
3. Click on the Table of Authorities tab within the Check a Citation option.

The Shepard’s Table of Authorities report displays the list of cases in the following order:
- Federal Courts
- Supreme Court
- Circuit Courts in numeric order
- District Courts in alphabetical order
- Specialty Courts
- State Courts (alphabetically, highest court to lowest court)

Within the jurisdiction, the cases are arranged in the order that they are found in the decision and then by the volume number of the reporter if both appear on the same page.

Shepard’s Table of Authorities features

Hide/Show Parallel Cites
Primary citations will be the only citations displayed when you view a table of authorities report. Hiding parallel cites is the default, but you can display all parallel citations by clicking on the link at the top of the report. The citations will continue to display until you click on the link to hide the citations.

Case Name
You can view the full text of a cited reference by selecting the case name of that reference. To return to the Table of Authorities, click on the link at the top of the page.

First Reference Links
You can jump from the Table of Authorities of the citing reference to the location where the cited reference is first cited. This “First Reference” link is determined by pinpoint page information, using the pagination of the left-most reporter citation (typically the official reporter) in the Table of Authorities display.

See other side, Interpreting Shepard’s Table of Authority Results, for a closer look.
Interpreting Shepard’s Table of Authorities Results

Juncker v. Tinney relied on a case that received negative treatment as indicated by the Shepard’s Signal™. However, a closer look at the table of authorities shows that one of the cases that Juncker relied upon, Parrat, was overruled. This single case may reveal that Juncker is “bad law” since it relied on Parrat. Let’s take a closer look:

Printing Shepard’s Table of Authorities reports
You can download, print, fax, or e-mail your results just as you would with other lexis.com® research results.

Ready to check another citation?
Type the citation here and click Check.

The Shepard’s Signals are:

- **Warning**—Strong negative history or treatment indicated; e.g., overruled or reversed
- **Caution**—Possible negative history or treatment indicated that may have a significant negative impact; e.g., limited or criticized by
- **Positive**—Positive treatment indicated; e.g., affirmed or followed by
- **Cited and neutral**—Cited and neutral analysis indicated that is neither negative nor positive
- **Citation information**—Citation information available in the Shepard’s Citations Service for your case, but the references do not have history or treatment analysis; e.g., references are law reviews

As a viewing assist, when you place your cursor over the signal at topline and midline levels, a definition for the signal appears in the bubble.

A. View the full text of a cited reference by selecting the case name of that reference.

B. See cited references organized by jurisdiction.

C. Use the FOCUS™ feature to narrow the table of authorities by searching for terms, specific facts, or points of law within the full text of the cited references.

D. Hide/show all parallel citations. (Default is Hide.)

E. The Shepard’s Signal Indicator previews the treatment and history of a cited reference. This signal is a link to initiate Shepard’s Citations Service for the citing reference.

F. Jump to the first location in Juncker where Parrat is cited; use the First Reference Link.

G. The full range of editorial analyses tells you exactly how Juncker treated each case. The full range of editorial analyses in a Shepard’s Table of Authorities report tells you how a case was treated; how the citing case treated the case listed, then the signal tells you how other cases treated it.

Search tip: For secondary source research, you can use Table of Authorities to retrieve a list of all the cases cited in a law review article and an at-a-glance indication of their subsequent history and treatment.