Research in three steps

Make sure your research is thorough and results are relevant by following these three steps.

The Lexis Advance® search box points you to the most relevant supporting authority for your research using facts and legal terms as easy as 1—2—3 or **Search—Category—Filter**. It's no harder than shopping on Amazon.com®.

**SEARCH—CATEGORY—FILTER**

If you've searched Amazon.com for merchandise, you already know how to conduct legal research with Lexis Advance. You use the same process in legal research: search, category, filter. This easy, three-step process will help you quickly find the most relevant supporting authority.

1. **Search Broadly**

   Start with a broad search of all Lexis Advance content so you will have a complete set of result including cases, statutes, secondary materials and other important sources for your research assignment. Create your initial search using these three major components: **party**, **cause of action** and **situation**.

   Take your research to the next level. Below the Red Search Box select **Advanced Search** or **Tips** to find terms and connectors for better and faster results. Lexis Advance detects whether you are using a natural language search or a Boolean (terms & connectors) search to make research even easier.

   **SEARCH**
   
   **CATEGORY**
   
   **FILTER**

   **PARTY** (FACT)
   
   **CAUSE OF ACTION** (TERM OF ART)
   
   **SITUATION** (FACT)

   Search for
   
   parent negligent entrustment car accident
   
   starting in
   
   within
   
   All Categories
   
   All Jurisdictions/courts

   **Search Term Maps** show which documents are most relevant and where your search terms are clustered using color-coded data visualization.

   **Ravel View** shows a visual of how case results are related in 4 ways—how often cited, chronology, jurisdiction and relevance.
2. Select a Category

Select a source category by clicking the drop down on the left of your results page. Start your research with Secondary Materials to gain a broad understanding of the cause of action and its requirements, which will help you focus on what you’re looking for when you switch to the case-law category.

A. Case-law coverage dates back to the 1700s.

B. Fully annotated statutes show the law, plus important decisions interpreting it. Full-text bill tracking reports and the Congressional Record make it easy to research complex legislative histories.

C. Secondary Materials are different types of persuasive authority used by the legal community to gain a broad understanding of an issue:

- Treatises are practitioners’ handbooks. Get up-to-date analysis and practical advice from leading experts that courts and practitioners rely on. Treatises contain many citations to relevant primary and secondary authority—a great place to begin your research.
- Law Reviews & Journals contain peer reviewed articles with extensive research and analysis on the legal issues they cover. Find them in more than 928 law reviews and journals on Lexis Advance.
- American Law Reports (ALR®) articles provide detailed discussions on narrow legal issues.
- Restatements are concise statements of the law that help you better understand the legal concepts.

D. Briefs, Pleadings and Motions are searchable on Lexis Advance to provide you with sample documents to support your drafting. See what other attorneys drafted on a similar issue.

E. Dockets: Quickly search millions of dockets with fulldocket coverage from 113 federal and state courts.

3. Filter for Accuracy

Narrow down your results using Lexis Advance filters to meet your criteria. Filters vary by source and appear on the left side of your search screen below content categories. (Case filters are shown.)

Combine a few filters to quickly find the best, relevant authority for your research.

To pre-filter results, by jurisdiction or topic, for instance, click Search: Everything in the Red Search Box and select your options before you run your search.

Always Shepardize®

Use the same three steps to ensure you aren’t missing any relevant authority. Remember: Shepardize—Category—Filter.

Shepardize: Click the Shepard’s Signal™ indicator at the top of every case to find more authority.

Category: Click Citing Decisions to the left of the screen for a list of citing cases, or Other Citing Sources to find citing statutes or secondary sources.

Filter: Use the Analysis filters to find more supporting or distinguishing cases and the Headnotes filter to find more cases with similar law.

Get help with legal research:

24/7 RESEARCH SUPPORT: 800-45-LEXIS
YOUTUBE.COM/LEXISNEXISLAWSCHOOLS

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