



## HOW TO FIND BOOKS & ARTICLES ABOUT A SPECIFIC COURT CASE

Generally speaking, only very important court cases have entire books devoted to them. Although entire articles on individual court cases are a little more likely, these still may cover only more important cases.

### FINDING BOOKS

Search the [library catalog](#) for

1. the name of the case
2. the subject the case deals with – books dealing with the legal aspects of the subject involved may discuss specific relevant cases. Many Supreme Court cases are discussed in books on the Supreme Court or in constitutional law books. Other subject examples include business law, commercial law, educational law, environmental law, corporation law, criminal law, etc.

Also:

United States Supreme Court Decisions: An Index to Excerpts, Reprints, and Discussions.  
1983. Gov't & Law Reference KF 101.6 .G83 1983

Indexes selected constitutional law books and journals prior to 1983 for discussions of Supreme Court cases. Listed in chronological order by case. Discussions were not found for all cases. Look up source abbreviations in the front of the book, obtain the full author/title information, then look the source up in the library catalog to see if we have it. We may have different editions of some of the constitutional law books. The case may still be mentioned, but the page number would be different.

### FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Search journal article indexes. From the library's web page, select [Research by Subject](#), then Law for law journal indexes. Consider other journal article databases in such subject areas as General Periodical, Newspaper, History, Political Science or any subject that may be relevant to the subject the decision deals with.

Law Reviews (law journals):

[LexisNexis Legal](#)

In Federal & State Cases:

Use the case name box to find the actual case. Some cases have headnotes and links to other materials. Across the top of the case is a link to Shepard's. Shepard's lists and links to places the case has been cited, including articles and treatises when applicable.

In Law Reviews

Search by case name in the following format using the terms and connectors search: roe w/10 wade. You will get any articles that cite the case. There may be many insignificant

mentions, but if there is an article that discusses the case in any depth it will be among the results.

Additional suggestions that may get more relevant articles:

Use the ATLEAST connector to specify that the case name is mentioned more than once (choose a number) – that increases the likelihood that the article has a good discussion of the case. Use the terms and connectors search. Example: `atleast3(roe) w/10 atleast3(wade)`

Search by case name in the "Title of the Article" box. If an entire article is devoted to the case, the case name might be in the article title. Also try just the first party of the case name in the title to get such titles as "The Thornhill Decision."

### [Hein Online](#)

Select Law Journal Library or a smaller sub-set such as Core U.S./Most Cited. Click on Search tab at top left. Type case name in the search box in the following format: `thornhill v alabama`. Click on phrase search. Press enter key or click on magnifying glass.

Additional suggestions to reduce results if necessary:

Choose field search. Type case name in the search box in the following format: `thornhill v alabama`. Click on phrase search. Change box following the search term to "Text." Specify a date range and/or eliminate some of the section types to search (right side of screen).

Can also change the field from text to title to see if there are any articles with the case name in the title. Also try just the first party of the case name in the title to get such titles as "The Thornhill Decision."

### **NOTE:**

Searching Other Databases

Consider that case name phrasing may vary. A case may be referred to as "Thornhill v. Alabama" or "Thornhill vs. Alabama" or "the Thornhill decision." Some databases allow a search statement such as `"thornhill w/3 alabama"` or `"thornhill w3 alabama"` (within 3 words). Using "and" is less precise but also an option: `thornhill and alabama`.