Introduction to Fastcase 7

Meet the Presenter

Ken Strickland is the Partner Success Manager and Enterprise Reference Attorney for Fastcase. Ken hails from the Outer Banks of North Carolina, but currently resides as a digital nomad temporarily camped out between Asheville, NC and Medellin, Colombia. When Ken is not passionately advocating for every human to love legal research, he is reading about the law, talking about the law, watching reruns of Scandal, listening to obscure podcasts, finding his next writing project, and hunting for the perfect sushi.

Learning Goals

- Learn major types of searching and best practices for creating an effective search.
- Learn how to narrow or filter a search by jurisdiction(s) and/or source(s) in order to better tailor one’s search to applicable (and relevant) content.
- Learn how to sort, arrange, organize, and compile results by date, title, frequency of use, and suggested terminology.
- Learn how to share, save, and access legal research via public links, offline downloading, native printing, export queues, permalinks, history, and bookmarks.
- Learn how to stay current on the status of good law related to legal research using statutory annotations, alerts, and a case citator.
- Learn how to navigate to legal content using indexing and browsing.
Streamlined Login

Subscription/retail users (you pay a monthly or annual fee to access) login directly.
Bar association users click on the bottom link and follow the instructions for your bar.

What's in the Fastcase Database?

Primary Law:
- Cases
- Statutes
- Regulations
- Court Rules
- Constitutions

Secondary:
- CLE Books
- Treatises
- HeinOnline Partnership
- Legal Blogs

Not sure? Check out Scope of Coverage page:
https://www.fastcase.com/coverage

LexBlog Integration

"The LexBlog network is a platform for some of the nation’s leading experts in law to report and synthesize legal news and developments. And the collection of every day's LexBlog posts reads like the most compelling legal newspaper in America."

Ed Walters, CEO of Fastcase
Fastcase Blog

Stay Up-To-Date on all Things Fastcase, Docket Alarm, Next Chapter, Law Street Media, and more. Find the blog below the search bar.

Help and Support Materials

Find written user guides, training videos, tutorial webinars and more…

Click the "question mark inside of a circle" icon in the top right.
History

See your recent search history and your recent documents all in one place with no expiration date for said history.

Bookmarks

- Adding a document to bookmarks allows you to easily find it later

Caselaw Alerts
Type-ahead

- Suggested documents appear as you type in any search box.
- Great for quickly pulling up a case.

Natural Language Searching

- Phrased as if you were speaking to another person
- No specific relationship between the words indicated by the searcher
- Leads to very large numbers of responses that are tangentially related - good for overview.

Boolean search

- User specifies the relationship
- User specifies the connectors directly
- Most precise of the search options
Your search results are automatically sorted in order of relevance. Search results are “bottomless” with no need to click “next page.” Note that your search terms are at the top of the page, so you can modify it at will.

Filtering One’s Search

• Focus your search with ease.
• Use the filters pane on the left side of your results page, to add suggested search terms, or narrow your search by jurisdiction, document type, or court level.
• Note: As mentioned earlier, you can also modify your search query using the search bar at the top of the search results page.

Suggested Terms

• On the bottom left of your results screen is a list of suggested terms, which allows you to see words and phrases that appear frequently within your current search results.
• Click on a phrase or keyword to refine your search further.
Interactive Timeline

- Appears on the left of the results page.
- Allows you to see which cases in your search have been cited the most and gauge the relevance of each case immediately.
- Note: any case with a negative interpretation will be in red.

Navigating your results/documents

- Easily navigate to other cases in your results list by displaying the list of all cases.
- Use the “find in document” search box to search the doc for terms.
- Use the document management icons noted below to expand document view, highlight search terms, save, email, export, and download results.

Exporting Documents in FC7

- Download and print an unlimited number of primary law documents.
- Export in 1 or 2 columns in DOCX or PDF format.
Export Queue

Add a document to your export queue to download later as a large batch. Especially convenient for downloading entire sections or chapters of statutes or regulations. Can also see past download jobs and redownload on demand.

Email a colleague

Click to email a colleague or third-party. Just add an email address and hit send. No subscription to FC is needed for email recipient as text of emailed document is placed in the body of the email along with a public link for all email primary law materials.

Public Links

Share Primary Law documents with anyone, even if they do not have access to Fastcase, by creating a public link (web address/URL) to the document of your choice.
Search Options

Adjust whether you have historic editions, purchasable content and other materials in your results.

Relevance Customization

"Customize Relevance" box is on the Advanced Search tab for options. It allows you to tweak the weights of various document attributes in the calculation of relevance.

Sorting results

• Sort results by relevance, times cited, alphabetically, or date of decision by clicking sort by in the top right of your search results page.
Outline

Click browse (results page) or browse libraries (main application page) to get to the outline of sources like legislative compilations or treatises.

Navigating the Outline
Accessing Annotations

Customer Support

8am – 9pm EST Monday – Friday, except holidays

Phone: 1-866-773-2782
Email: support@fastcase.com
Chat: Bottom Right of the Application. Look for the “chat” tab.