

Casemaker: The Free First Stop for Your Legal Research



Figure 1

Learn more!

Webinars are being offered for both novice and expert Casemaker users to learn about the Version 2.2 enhancements. Novice webinars are offered every Wednesday at noon Pacific time, and expert webinars are offered every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Pacific time. Register by choosing a date from the Washington Library page and providing your information. Support is also available from the WSBA at 206-733-5914, 800-945-9722, ext. 5914, or juliesa@wsba.org.

For the past five years, the WSBA has been pleased to offer Casemaker, a powerful online research library provided at no additional charge to WSBA members. The WSBA recently signed a contract to continue Casemaker for another year, and we thought this would be a good time to make sure members are aware of Casemaker, and ask you to let us know what you think (there's a survey on the login page, which we encourage you to complete). Casemaker provides free access to case law, statutes, and other materials from all 50 states. Plus, it has a large federal data set that includes Supreme Court Opinions and District Court Opinions. The welcome screen, which appears after you log in, is pictured in Figure 1.

A Few Helpful Hints

Before a search, we recommend that you check the currency of the database designated by the arrow in Figure 1.

Try using the detailed search tips form. Located below each search box is a listing of the available search functions. These search functions include examples to help you easily learn how to run relevant, high-level searches. With Version 2.2, introduced several months ago, you can now perform multi-book searches, enabling you to search all the data sets in the Washington library at one time, all the data sets in the federal library at one time, or search case law from multiple states with one search query. Version 2.2 also added an "All Jurisdiction" tab, so you can take your search to another venue without having to re-enter the search query information.

You can e-mail a case; print the case in two-column format or as a PDF; or convert it to a Word or WordPerfect document or HTML. Casemaker offers dual citation and pagination for state and regional reports. Linked footnotes are found within case law.

Your last search is always saved for easy review if you need to revisit that last search for information. "Breadcrumb navigation" (showing a trail of links) provides search history with return navigation.

The CaseCheck tool provides you with the cases that cite to the original case by later courts. Access to all cases that have cited a case being viewed is illustrated in Figure 2. Although Casemaker does not have Shepard's or Key Cite, later this year it will introduce CaseCheck+, a way of checking whether your case remains "good law."

The CaseCheck results appearing in a pop-up window ensure that you will never navigate away from the case that you are viewing. Casecheck is now operational within the MultiBook Search in each individual state library and in the federal Library.

Although Casemaker is free to WSBA members, CaseCheck+ requires an additional fee (\$4.95 for 24 hours of unlimited use, \$19.95 for monthly unlimited use, or \$240 for annual unlimited use).

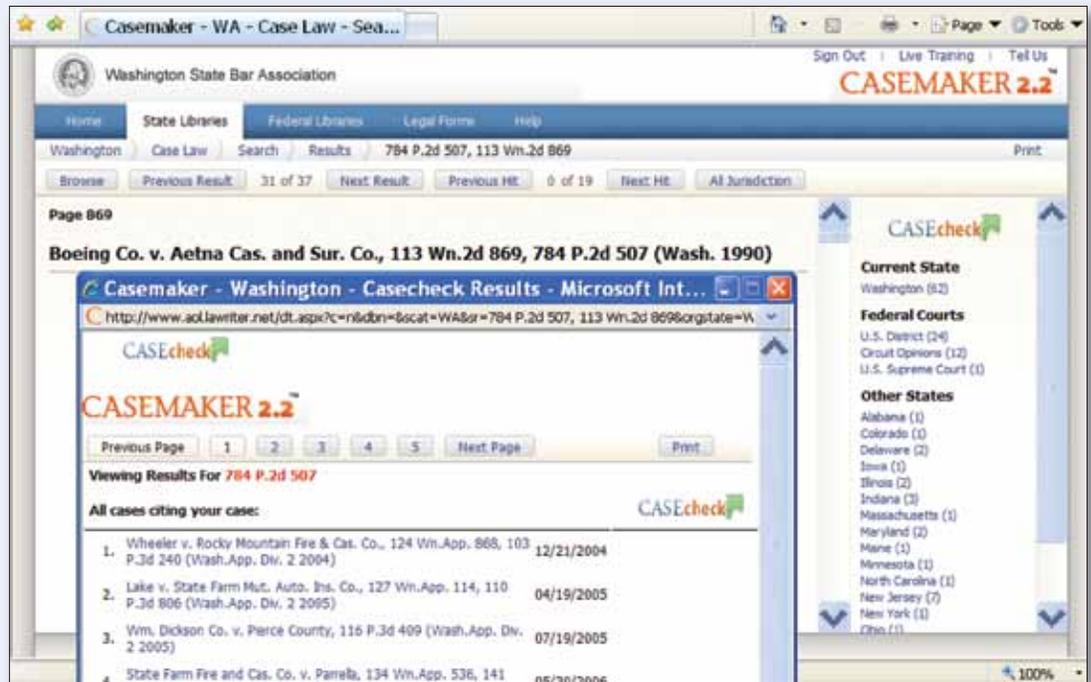


Figure 2

Additional new features include a “Session Laws” data set for each state library. Statutes are now continuously updated (see Figure 3).

CaseKnowledge provides downloadable secondary publications for your case law searches. To utilize CaseKnowledge, first run a search. Once your results are displayed, you will see, on the right side of your screen, CaseKnowledge. The publications are listed by “Current State,” “Third Party,” and “Additional Sources” (such as other state publications). All of the publications are available for purchase. Once purchased, the document is downloaded and stored to your computer.



Figure 3

Along with the availability of CaseCheck+, you can soon use CasemakerDigest. This free new product will provide summaries of appellate court decisions and federal 9th Circuit decisions, which can be sorted by practice and topic area, available within 48 hours, and linked to full text cases.

We hope you'll try Casemaker as your first line of research. LexisNexis and Westlaw may offer more features, but you may find that your immediate research needs are met by Casemaker.