



Free and Fee-Based Appellate Court Briefs Online

Supplemental Content to the article
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This updated and expanded guide (originally published as Appendix B, “Appellate Court Briefs on the Web: Electronic Dynamos or Legal Quagmire?,” *Law Library Journal*, Summer 2005, Vol. 97, No. 3, p. 467) provides researchers with the ability to quickly find appellate court briefs online. Parts one and two list sites where free copies can be obtained of federal and state appellate court briefs; part three lists sites where briefs can be obtained for a fee. If you need to find briefs that are not available online or are too old to be online, refer to the following publication for a listing of archives and libraries that have holdings of appellate court briefs. *A Union List of Appellate Court Records and Briefs: Federal and State*, Peter Scott Campbell & Michael Whiteman, Littleton, Colo.: F.B. Rothman, 1999.

If you know of other sites (free or otherwise) that provide appellate court briefs online, please email me (whiteman@nku.edu) so that I can do periodic updates to this guide, which was last appended in June 2013.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT

American Bar Association

www.americanbar.org/publications/preview_home.html

The American Bar Association now offers access to briefs from America’s highest court. The site archives briefs dating back to the 2003–2004 term, and you can find them by case name or date argued. All briefs are in PDF.

FindLaw

http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/briefs/index.html

Contains briefs from decided cases and those cases awaiting oral argument. Covers from the 1999/2000 term to 2007.

FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURTS (PRACTICALLY FREE)

No set dates are available for coverage in each of the circuit courts and there is a charge for retrieving these briefs. All the circuit courts use the PACER system.



First Circuit
www.ca1.uscourts.gov

Third Circuit
www.ca3.uscourts.gov

Fifth Circuit
www.ca5.uscourts.gov

Seventh Circuit
www.ca7.uscourts.gov

Ninth Circuit
www.ca9.uscourts.gov

11th Circuit
www.ca11.uscourts.gov

Second Circuit
www.ca2.uscourts.gov

Fourth Circuit
www.ca4.uscourts.gov

Sixth Circuit
www.ca6.uscourts.gov

Eighth Circuit
www.ca8.uscourts.gov

10th Circuit
www.ca10.uscourts.gov

D.C. Circuit
www.cadc.uscourts.gov

STATE APPELLATE COURTS

Arizona
<http://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/asuross>

The Arizona Briefs Collection consists of appellate briefs submitted to the State of Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One, and the Arizona Supreme Court from the latter half of the 20th century to the present. Materials are drawn from the Arizona Briefs Collection maintained by the Ross-Blakley Law Library, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, at the Arizona State University.

California
www.courts.ca.gov/supremecourt.htm

The California Courts website now provides access to California Supreme Court briefs set for argument. It isn't searchable (see L.A. Law Library's brief file below), but if you know the date it was argued (between 2010 to present), then you can locate all of the briefs for the cases on the list for oral argument. For example, in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger, Brown*, here is the file: www.courts.ca.gov/15084.htm. To find the argument date, you can search for case information (<http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search.cfm?dist=0>), by case number (either trial or appellate or Supreme Court number), party, attorney, or case caption. Then when you find the case information, locate the docket to get the date of argument and get to the briefs.

California
www.lalawlibrary.org

Briefs are available from the L.A. Law Library. To access the briefs, click on Reference, then the CA appellate briefs link on the left side of the screen. Access is available via docket number. The docket numbers of California Supreme Court and the published cases in California Appellate Reports are easy to locate if you have the opinion in

front of you. The L.A. Law Library is one of four law libraries where hard copies of all briefs of California appellate and Supreme Court cases can be found. Currently access to electronic briefs is from 2008 to present with a retrospective project underway.

Connecticut
<http://blog.ctbriefsonline.com>

Briefs from the Connecticut Supreme Court. Beginning with May 2007, spotty access to briefs prior to 2009. You can search for cases by name or the docket number of the case.

Florida
www.law.fsu.edu/library/flsupct/index.html

Contains briefs from 1984 forward, with some retrospective work ongoing. You need the docket number of the case you are interested in.

Idaho
www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/LawBriefs/

Beginning with January 2010, Idaho appellate briefs are available in a digitized form. You may search using keyword, docket number, litigant name, Idaho reports citation, or Pacific Reports citation.

Iowa
www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/collections/law-library/ia-ac-briefs

An online index is available to Iowa appellate court briefs. Coverage is from 1870 to 2008, and the print copies of the briefs are available at the State Library of Iowa.

Kentucky
http://chaselaw.nku.edu/new/library/electronic_resources/briefs_search.php

Contains those briefs submitted to the Kentucky Supreme Court in cases decided since January 1999 and Kentucky Court of Appeals in cases decided since October 2005. You may search by term or date.

Massachusetts
www.ma-appellatecourts.org

Beginning with its September 2007 sitting, briefs filed in most cases scheduled to be argued before the Supreme Judicial Court will be available on this website shortly before the sitting. Hyperlinks to the briefs may be found on the Case Docket pages.

Michigan
<http://courts.mi.gov/courts/michigansupremecourt/clerks/oral-arguments/pages/default.aspx>

Contains briefs from 2011 to the present via the Oral Arguments page. You must look for the case scheduled for oral argument and the briefs will be part of the synopsis of the case scheduled to be argued.

Minnesota

<http://mn.gov/lawlib/briefs.html>

Beginning with 2002, issue statements from the briefs submitted to the court can be viewed. Beginning with 2005, select full-text briefs can be viewed.

Mississippi

<http://judicial.mc.edu/vidbriefs.php>

Briefs from 2007 to the present are available. You may search by party name, docket number, or by topic.

Missouri

www.courts.mo.gov/page.jsp?id=1944

The briefs are located with the docket sheet for the court. You need to know on what day your case was scheduled to be argued before the court.

Montana

<http://searchcourts.mt.gov>

Contains briefs from 2000 forward. To view the briefs, you must first select the case you want to view. The briefs will be accessible along with the opinion of the court.

New Hampshire

www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/ebriefs/index.htm

Selected briefs from 2007 to 2011. The briefs are arranged by docket number.

New York

Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division:
Second Judicial Department

<http://decisions.courts.state.ny.us/ad2/search/queryad2/briefs3.asp>

Briefs are available for appeals calendared between January 2004 and approximately 6 months prior to the present date. (Note that Heinonline has a collection of New York appellate briefs available for subscription. You should contact Hein to get pricing and coverage information.)

North Carolina

www.ncappellatecourts.org

Contains Briefs from 1999 forward. You may search by attorney name, party name, or docket number.

North Dakota

www.ndcourts.gov/Court/Index.htm

Contains briefs from 1999 forward under the heading "Briefs-Supreme Court." You can search by topic, docket, party name, and attorney name.

Ohio

www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Clerk/ecms

Contains briefs submitted to the Ohio Supreme Court. Coverage is spotty and begins in late 2006. You can search by party name or docket number. The briefs are listed with the case information.

Oregon

<http://digitallawlibrary.oregon.gov>

There is a search box on the left that allows you to search appellate court briefs. The search allows for full-text searching of the briefs. There is no indication of the dates of coverage, but some sample searches revealed briefs dating back as far as 2011.

Oregon

www.co.washington.or.us/lawlibrary/index.cfm

The Washington County Law Library maintains a bank of digital Oregon appellate court briefs listed below. To find out if the briefs you seek are available in digital format, please email the Law Library at lawlibrary@co.washington.or.us, with your name and contact information and the case name, docket, or case number/citation. If possible, please specify which party's briefs you need:

- 138 Or App to present: selected briefs
- 179 Or App and 201–204 Or App: complete volumes
- 315 Or to present: selected briefs
- 332 and 337, 338 Or: complete volumes

Texas

www.co.washington.or.us/lawlibrary/index.cfm

supreme.courts.state.tx.us/ebriefs/ebriefs.asp

Contains briefs dating back to 1999, although only a limited number of briefs are available from 1999 and 2000.

Utah

<http://lawlib.byu.edu>

The Howard Hunter Law Library at BYU Law School has appellate court briefs from 1988 to 2008 with more coverage planned for the future. Full-text searching is available. To access the collection, click on the link for "Local Digital Collections" from the main page.

Virginia

<http://law2.richmond.edu/librarytech/varb>

Beginning in 2009, the full text of the briefs are available online. You must select the opinion by reporter citation to access the briefs. Researchers may also view Virginia Supreme Court cases from before 2009; amongst the information listed is a listing of any briefs associated with the case held by the law library.

(Note that Heinonline has a collection of Virginia appellate briefs available for subscription. You should contact Hein to get pricing and coverage information.)

Washington

www.courts.wa.gov/appellate_trial_courts/coaBriefs/index.cfm

Supreme Court Briefs are available since June 2006; Court of Appeals Division I Briefs since June 2009; Court of Appeals Division II Briefs since June 2006; and Court of Appeals Division III Briefs since August 2010. The briefs are searchable by docket number, hearing date, or via full text searching.

West Virginia
www.co.washington.or.us/lawlibrary/index.cfm
courts.wv.gov

Supreme Court of Appeals

Briefs are available from January 2005 to the present. To find a brief, click on the “argument docket” for the day your case was argued; the briefs are attached to the docket.

Wisconsin
<http://library.law.wisc.edu/eresources/wibriefs>

Briefs from 173 Wis.2d (November 1992) through July 1, 2009, are accessible via the UW Law Library website. Briefs filed on or after July 1, 2009, are available on the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Case Access website (WSCCA): www.wscca.wicourts.gov/index.xml.

Wyoming
<http://efiling.courts.state.wy.us/public/caseSearch.do>

Beginning with 2008, you can look up the case by docket number in the free case management system. Briefs will be included with the docket sheet. The date of coverage is not exact, but it covers 2008 forward. You can search by docket number or case title.

FREE APPELLATE COURT BRIEFS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NGOS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

Note that there are many more government agencies and nonprofits that post briefs online. This is just a sampling of what is available online.

American Bar Association Standing Committee on Amicus Curiae Briefs
www.americanbar.org/groups/committees/amicus.html

The Brief Bank contains amicus briefs filed by the ABA since 1998. Various sections and committees of the ABA place briefs on their individual websites.

American Civil Liberties Union
www.aclu.org/courts

Contains amicus briefs from 1996 forward. You must click on the case you want. The briefs will be listed with other information about the case.

American Intellectual Property Law Association
www.aipla.org/advocacy/judicial/Pages/default.aspx
Contains amicus briefs filed since 2005.

American Psychological Association
www.apa.org/about/offices/ogc/amicus/index.aspx

Contains summaries of amicus briefs filed since 1962; full text of the briefs is available for some of the older briefs and for all the briefs from 2001 forward.

Anti-Defamation League
www.adl.org/civil-rights/adl-in-the-courts
Contains the full text of amicus briefs filed since 1948.

Appellate.net
www.appellate.net/briefs
Contains more than 200 Merits briefs, amicus briefs, and Petitions for a Writ of Certiorari filed by the law firm of Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP in the Supreme Court, circuit courts, and various state courts.

Atlantic Legal Foundation
www.atlanticlegal.org/casearchive.php
Contains amicus briefs, various dates. The mission of the ALF (a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public interest law firm) is to advance the rule of law in courts and before administrative agencies by advocating limited and efficient government, free enterprise, individual liberty, school choice, and sound science.

BriefBank
www.law.berkeley.edu/4441.htm
BriefBank is a free, community-supported resource that collects and redistributes briefs in the area of law, technology, and public policy. Currently, there are briefs from 2001 to the present. BriefBank is housed at the School of Information Management and Systems and administered by the Samuelson Law, Technology, and Public Policy Clinic at Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley.

Cato Institute
www.cato.org/publications/archives/public-filings/legal-briefs
Contains amicus briefs from 1999 to present. The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization—a think tank—dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace. Its scholars and analysts conduct independent, nonpartisan research on a range of policy issues.

Constitutional Accountability Center
<http://theconstitution.org>
To access amicus briefs submitted by the CAC in both state and federal appellate courts, click on the link for “Cases,” and then select the case you are interested in. Briefs are available from 2009 to the present. The Constitutional Accountability Center (CAC) is a think tank, law firm, and action center dedicated to fulfilling the progressive promise of the Constitution’s text and history. The CAC works in courts, through the government, and with legal scholars to preserve the rights and freedoms of all Americans and to protect the judiciary from politics and special interests.

Department of Justice-Antitrust Division-Appellate Section
www.justice.gov/atr/public/appellate/#page=page-1
Briefs filed in the Appellate Section available from 1994 forward.

*Department of Justice-Civil Rights Division-
Appellate Section*
justice.gov/crt/about/app/briefs.php

This page provides access to all merits briefs filed in the courts of appeals by the Appellate Section since Sept. 1, 1999, as well as selected briefs filed before that date. Copies of briefs filed in the Supreme Court are available from the Office of the Solicitor General.

Department of Justice-Office of the Solicitor General
www.justice.gov/osgb/briefs

This site seeks to provide convenient access to all briefs (other than responses in IFP cases) filed by the Solicitor General. Briefs are grouped by the Supreme Court term during which they are filed. The means available for locating briefs varies by Term:

- July 1998 to present: All briefs (other than IFP responses) are searchable and listed by type or subject.
- 1982–1996: Selected briefs are searchable. There are also lists of briefs for some, but not all, of these Terms.

Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor
www.dol.gov/sol/media/briefs/main.htm

Briefs from 2001, listed by division within the Department of Labor.

Electronic Privacy Information Center
<http://epic.org/privacy/litigation>

Contains amicus briefs and other legal documents, various dates. EPIC is a public interest research center in Washington, D.C., established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging civil liberties issues and to protect privacy, the First Amendment, and constitutional values.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
www1.eeoc.gov/eeoc/litigation/briefs.cfm

The EEOC's briefs collection contains briefs filed by the EEOC in the United States Courts of Appeals in cases in which the EEOC is a party. In addition, the collection also includes EEOC amicus briefs filed in the U.S. Courts of Appeals, district courts, and state courts. This database includes most briefs filed in 2000 onward, and some briefs prior to that date. Briefs filed after May 2012 are not currently available on the website. Briefs filed in the Supreme Court are available from the Office of the Solicitor General at the Department of Justice.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
www.ferc.gov/legal/court-cases/appellate-briefs.asp

Briefs are available from 2004 to present and are listed in chronological order.

Federal Labor Relations Authority
www.flra.gov/briefs

Contains briefs prepared and filed by the Office of the Solicitor in litigation involving the FLRA from 1997 forward.

Federal Trade Commission-Office of the General Counsel
www.ftc.gov/ogc/briefs.shtm

Selected amicus briefs in federal and state appellate courts from 1998 to present.

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs

Contains briefs (amicus and party originated) from 1995 forward.

National Labor Relations Board
www.nlr.gov/cases-decisions/appellate-court-briefs-and-motions

The briefs and occasional motions filed by the General Counsel in support of the NLR's orders are listed chronologically by filing date from 1999 to present.

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws
www.norml.org/legal/brief-bank

All briefs submitted by NORML Legal Committee attorneys. Briefs are cross-referenced under applicable subject headings. No indication of dates of coverage.

Public Citizen: Litigation Group
www.citizen.org/litigation/briefs

Contains briefs filed by the Litigation Group, a public interest law firm begun by Ralph Nader. Briefs are included on topics including federal health and safety regulation, consumer litigation, open government, union democracy, separation of powers, and the First Amendment. Briefs date back into the 1990s.

Public Justice
www.publicjustice.net

A large collection of briefs divided into six broad topics: Access to Justice, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Consumers' Rights, Environmental Protection, Toxic Torts, and Workers' Rights. To find briefs, select the topic you want, then click on the link for Case Index on the right-hand side of the screen. The briefs will be listed with each case.

Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner & Sauber LLP
www.robbsrussell.com/appellate-briefs

A collection of hundreds of briefs before the federal appellate and U.S. Supreme Court filed by the firm. Dating from the 1990s to the present. The cases are arranged in alphabetical order by plaintiff's name.

Securities and Exchange Commission
www.sec.gov/litigation/briefs.shtm

Selected briefs in federal appellate courts from 1996 forward.

Securities Class Action Clearinghouse
www.securities.stanford.edu/index.html

The Securities Class Action Clearinghouse is based at Stanford Law School. The Clearinghouse provides detailed

information relating to the prosecution, defense, and settlement of federal class-action securities fraud litigation. The Clearinghouse maintains an Index of Filings of issuers that have been named in federal class-action securities fraud lawsuits since passage of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The Clearinghouse also contains copies of more than 6,000 complaints, briefs, filings, and other litigation-related materials filed in these cases.

FEE-BASED APPELLATE COURT BRIEFS ONLINE

Even if your jurisdiction does not offer free access to appellate briefs online, some commercial vendors provide briefs online for a fee.

Bloomberg Law
www.bloomberglaw.com

United States Supreme Court Briefs

Coverage begins in 1936.

U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Coverage begins in 1934.

State-Level

There is no specific database for state-level briefs. However, some states have searchable dockets with links to briefs in the docket record of the specific case. Bloomberg also has a “court runner” option that allows a user to request a brief, and a runner will be sent to the appropriate courthouse to retrieve a copy. The following states have searchable dockets. Dates will vary by jurisdiction:

Arkansas	Arizona
California	Colorado
Connecticut	Delaware
District of Columbia	Florida
Georgia	Illinois
Maryland	Massachusetts
Michigan	Missouri
Nevada	New Jersey
New York	Ohio
Oklahoma	Oregon
Pennsylvania	South Carolina
Texas	Virginia
Washington	Wisconsin

BriefMine
www.briefmine.com

BriefMine’s site claims to provide access to 150,000 briefs searchable through a natural language search engine. BriefMine provides access to briefs from the following state courts: Connecticut, California, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, Washing-

ton, West Virginia. The following federal courts are also represented: District Courts—Tennessee, all 9th Circuit District Courts, 9th Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Coverage is selective with no indication of exactly what date ranges are covered. The cost is a flat fee of \$34 per month for full access to the site.

The Daubert Tracker BriefBank
www.dauberttracker.com/product/briefbank.cfm

The Daubert Tracker has amassed a collection of more than 10,000 briefs and other supporting documents from both appellate and trial courts relating to “gatekeeping” challenges to expert witness testimony. The documents are all in searchable PDF format and date back to 1993, with the collection of documents aggressively updated daily. You may search the Brief Bank for free and view the first 10% of the document for which you may have an interest in purchasing. If you find a document you’d like to purchase, the cost per document is \$15 for nonsubscribers and \$7.50 for subscribers.

Legal Solutions
<http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/westlawnext/litigator/briefs>

This service by Thomson Reuters offers the same coverage as Westlaw Next. The user can pay for subscriptions for individual state and federal briefs, rather than the comprehensive coverage offered by Westlaw Next.

LexisAdvance
www.lexisnexis.com

Note: At the time this list was being updated, LexisAdvance did not have individual coverage information for its briefs. The information listed below is taken from the former Lexis.com product with the belief that the LexisAdvance product would, at a minimum, cover the same material as the former product.

United States Supreme Court

Earliest brief dated Aug. 12, 1936, through current. Includes merit briefs for cases granted certiorari and special masters, amicus curiae briefs, and joint appendices beginning in January 1979, with selected coverage from 1936. All briefs are available for cases granted certiorari beginning after the 1993–1994 term; also includes briefs petitioning for certiorari in civil cases (other than habeas cases) from the 1999–2000 term through current. For civil cases where cert. is denied, briefs are provided for cases on the paid docket but are not provided for cases on the In Forma Pauperis docket. No cert-stage briefs are provided for habeas cases or for criminal cases that are summarily decided or where cert. is denied.

United States Courts of Appeals Briefs

Coverage begins in 2000. There is no individual breakdown by circuit.

State Appellate Court Briefs

Coverage begins in 2000. There is no individual breakdown by state beyond this statement.

Virtual Docket

www.virtualdocket.com

VirtualDocket.com is not the official docket, and users should not rely exclusively on the information as if it were official.

Delaware Chancery Court

Coverage begins in October 1998.

Delaware Supreme Court

Coverage begins in 2000.

WestlawNext

<http://info.legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/westlawnext/default.aspx>

United States Supreme Court Briefs

For briefs, coverage begins with 1930; for petitions, coverage begins with 1985. Selected earlier documents may be included.

United States Court of Appeals Briefs

- First Circuit beginning in 1976
- Second Circuit beginning in 1981
- Third Circuit beginning in 1982
- Fourth Circuit beginning in 1976
- Fifth Circuit beginning in 1972
- Sixth Circuit beginning in 1995
- Seventh Circuit beginning in 1987
- Eighth Circuit beginning in 1980
- Ninth Circuit beginning in 1973
- 10th Circuit beginning in 2000
- 11th Circuit beginning in 1980
- District of Columbia Circuit beginning in 1976
- Federal Circuit beginning in 1983
- US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces beginning in 1998
- U.S. Tax Court coverage beginning in 1999

State Court Briefs

Alabama

Coverage begins in 2001.

Arizona

Coverage begins in 1999.

California

Coverage begins in 1998.

Connecticut

Coverage begins in 2002.

District of Columbia

Coverage begins in 2004.

Alaska

Coverage begins in 2002.

Arkansas

Coverage begins in 2001.

Colorado

Coverage begins in 2000.

Delaware

Coverage begins in 2004.

Florida

Coverage begins in 1993.

Georgia

Coverage begins in 2007.

Idaho

Coverage begins in 1990.

Indiana

Coverage begins in 1992.

Kansas

Coverage begins in 1994.

Louisiana

Coverage begins in 2000.

Maryland

Coverage begins in 1997.

Michigan

Coverage begins in 1995.

Mississippi

Coverage begins in 2000.

Montana

Coverage begins in 2004.

New Hampshire

Coverage begins in 2003.

New Mexico

Coverage begins in 2003.

North Carolina

Coverage begins in 1998.

Ohio

Coverage begins in 1990.

Pennsylvania

Coverage begins in 1994.

South Carolina

Coverage begins in 2007.

Tennessee

Coverage begins in 2003.

Utah

Coverage begins in 2005.

Virginia

Coverage begins in 1990.

West Virginia

Coverage begins in 2004.

Wyoming

Coverage begins in 2004.

Hawaii

Coverage begins in 1998.

Illinois

Coverage begins in 1990.

Iowa

Coverage begins in 1994.

Kentucky

Coverage begins in 1999.

Maine

Coverage begins in 1997.

Massachusetts

Coverage begins in 1999.

Minnesota

Coverage begins in 2001.

Missouri

Coverage begins in 2003.

Nebraska

Coverage begins in 2003.

New Jersey

Coverage begins in 1999.

New York

Coverage begins in 1992.

North Dakota

Coverage begins in 2003.

Oklahoma

Coverage begins in 2007

Rhode Island

Coverage begins in 1995.

South Dakota

Coverage begins in 1999.

Texas

Coverage begins in 1997.

Vermont

Coverage begins in 2004.

Washington

Coverage begins with 2002.

Wisconsin

Coverage begins in 1991.

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