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Legal Research on a Deadline

Alan Pannell

Head of Reference

Wise Law Library, University of Colorado

BRAG: Bridge the Research and Analysis Gap June 7, 2011

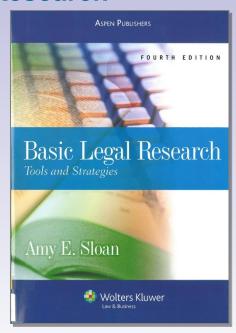
disclaimer

Always research fully if time allows

research tip

Use a research checklist

Example: Amy Sloan, Basic Legal Research



CHAPTER 11: DEVELOPING A RESEARCH PLAN 2. MASTER CHECKLIST OF RESEARCH SOURCES The following is an abbreviated collection of the research checklists that appear at the end of the preceding chapters in this book. This master checklist may help you develop your research plan. It may also be useful to you while you are conducting research. Secondary Source Research 1. LEGAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS Use for very general background information and limited citations to primary authority, but not for in-depth analysis of a topic. Locate information in print by using the subject index or table of contents, locating relevant sections in the main volumes, and updating with the pocket part. ☐ Use word or table of contents searches in LexisNexis and Westlaw to access Am. Jur. 2d.; use Westlaw to access C.J.S. Use for an in-depth discussion and some analysis of an area of law and for citations to primary authority. Locate treatises in print through the online catalog; locate information within a treatise by using the subject index or table of contents, locating material in the main volumes, and updating with the pocket part. Use word or table of contents searches in LexisNexis and Westlaw to access selected treatises. 3. LEGAL PERIODICALS Use for background information, citations to primary authority, in-depth analysis of a narrow topic, or information on a conflict in the law or an undeveloped area of the law. Use the LegalTrac and ILP electronic indices to locate citations to periodical articles and full text of selected articles. Use LexisNexis and Westlaw to access periodical articles. Use HeinOnline to locate the full text of legal periodicals in .pdf format. Selected periodicals may be available on the Internet. Use A.L.R.3d, A.L.R.4th, A.L.R.5th, A.L.R.6th, A.L.R. Fed., or A.L.R. Fed. 2d for an overview of an area of law and citations to primary authority.

why this topic?

You will often be under severe time constraints

Tendency to forget the basics under deadline pressure

Process is important!

when does this apply?

New client with upcoming hearing

Opposing counsel motion during trial

Last minute memo assignment

general rule

Start with what you have

Opposing counsel complaint/answer/brief

Case name

next step

Expand your research

(to the extent time permits)

final step

Shepardize or KeyCite all citations

starting from scratch

Example

Your supervising attorney asks you to find a case holding that judges should not legislate from the bench.

analysis

Analysis comes into play from the start

Create a research plan:

Jurisdiction

Time frame

Possible research resources

Keywords

etc.

keywords

Create list of searchable terms

TAPP (Things/Actions/People/Places)

Thought process:

"legislating from the bench"

Too informal?

"separation of powers"

Too broad?

Terms of art

Legal jargon

Okay to use for clues

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courts legislating from the bench

Advanced search Language tools

Google Search

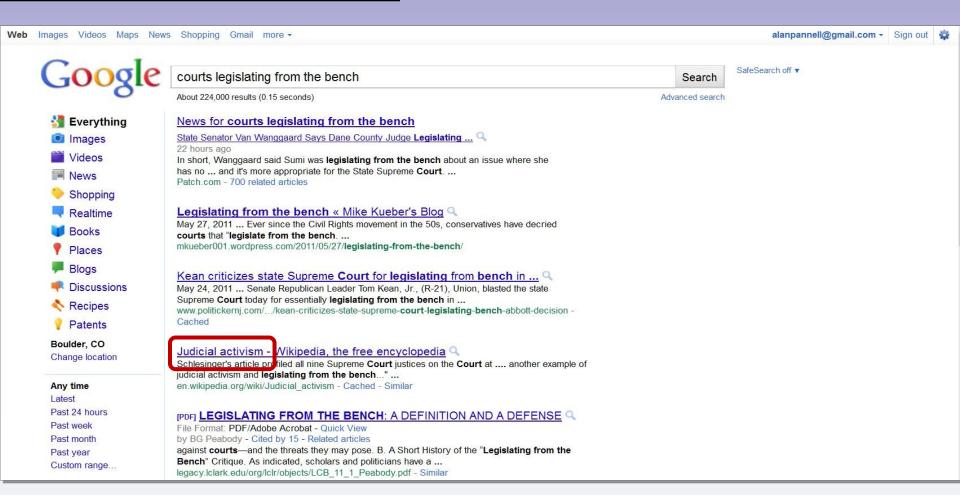
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Generally NOT for citation purposes!

Use Google Scholar or Google Uncle Sam for locating *specific* documents

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usurp the constitutional function of the legislature.2

Also, an assessment of the wisdom of an administrative agency's policy choices is a matter generally outside the nurview of the

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Impermissible judicial legislation

c. Limitations as Respects Legislative Branch

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Research References

West's Key Number Digest, Constitutional Law €=2470

The separation of powers doctrine requires the judiciary to refrain from interfering with the legislative process. The judiciary must not

tional Law \$\iinspec 2470, 2471, 2473 to 2476

rt's role to interpret the laws as they ly statutes as enacted.² It is not for ds or sentences to a statute to make to supply that which is not there.³ in language of a statute, they risk anction to decide what the law should

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523 F.2d 554 (2d Cir. 1975).

Courts must give special deference to congressional and executive branch policy choices pertaining to immigration. State of Tex. v. U.S., 106 F.3d 661 (5th

Cir. 1997).

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(E.D. Va. 2000)
Cir. 2001).

A court tibility and rewereviewing an athe constitution

be. Thus, under the doctrine of separation of powers, courts may not, under the guise of interpretation, legislate, rewrite, or extend legislation. In interpreting statutes, it is the duty of the court to give

[Section 274]

¹League of Arizona Cities and Towns v. Brewer, 213 Ariz. 557, 146 P.3d 58 (2006).

The right of a legislative body to exercise its legislative powers will not be invaded by the judicial branch of government. Brown v. Owen, 165 Wash. 2d 706, 206 P.3d 310 (2009).

App. 4th 207, 90 Cal. Rptr. 3d 789, 242 Ed. Law Rep. 285 (1st Dist. 2009), review denied, (June 10, 2009).

As a general rule, when the terms of a statute are clear, its language is conclusive and courts are not free to replace that clear language with an unenacted legislative intent. U.S. V. Hatcher, 560 F.3d 222 (4th Cir. 2009).

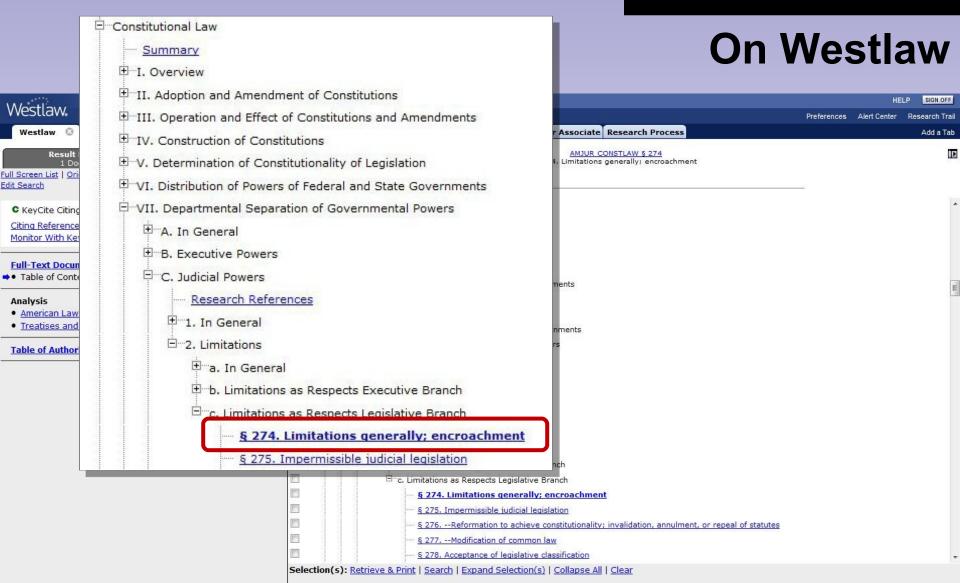
Laws passed by Congress and duly signed by the President are presumed constitutional; it is only in the rare instance when the dictates of a statute ⁵Kasserman and Bowman, PLLC v. Cline, 223 W. Va. 414, 675 S.E.2d 890 (2009).

⁶Lewis Family Farm, Inc. v. Adirondack Park Agency, 22 Misc. 3d 568, 868 N.Y.S.2d 481 (Sup 2008), aff'd, 64 A.D.3d 1009, 882 N.Y.S.2d 762 (3d Dep't 2009).

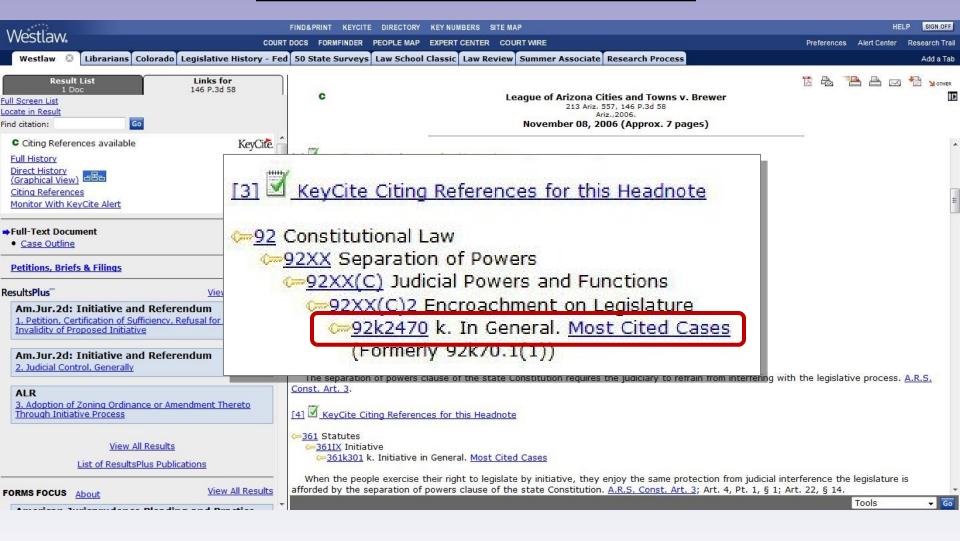
Courts are not free to disregard the plain language of a statute and, instead, conjure up legislative purposes and intent out of thin air. Ruiz v. Bally Total Fitness Holding Corp., 496 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2007).

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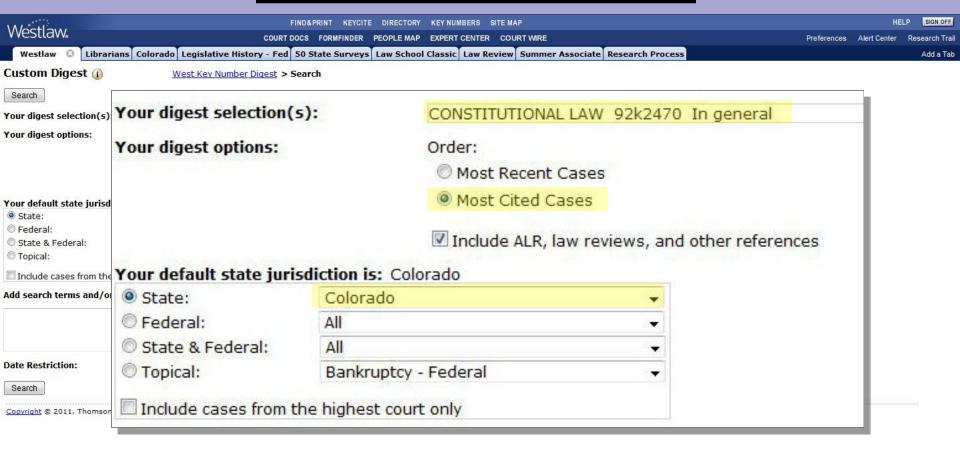
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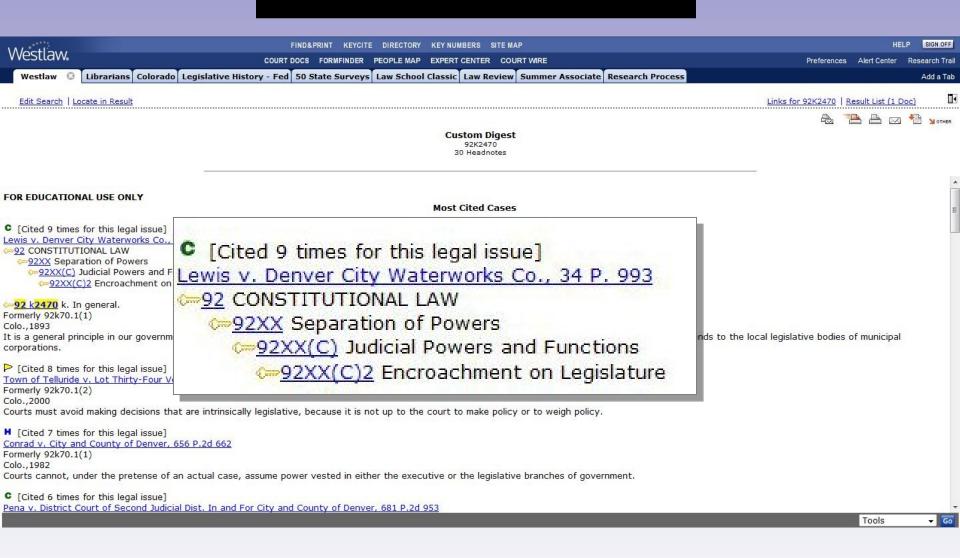




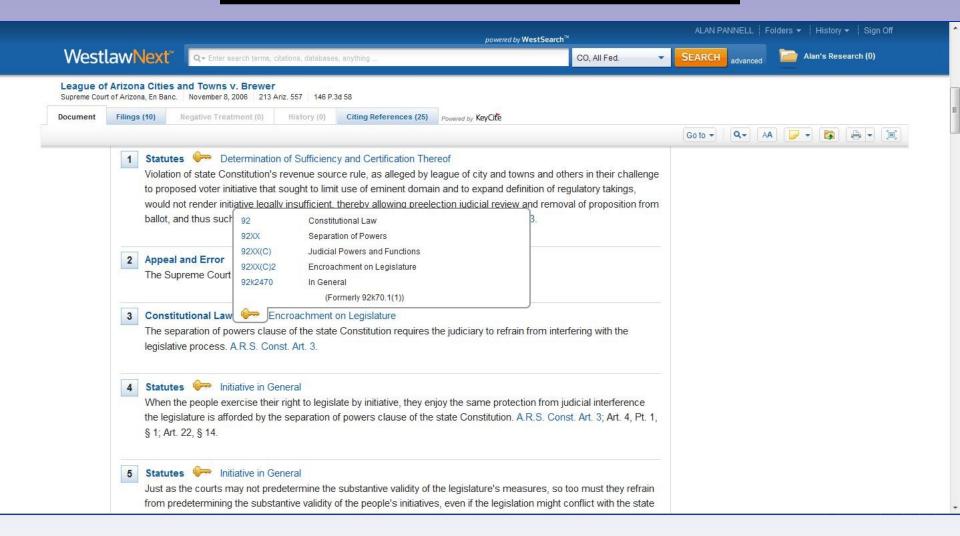




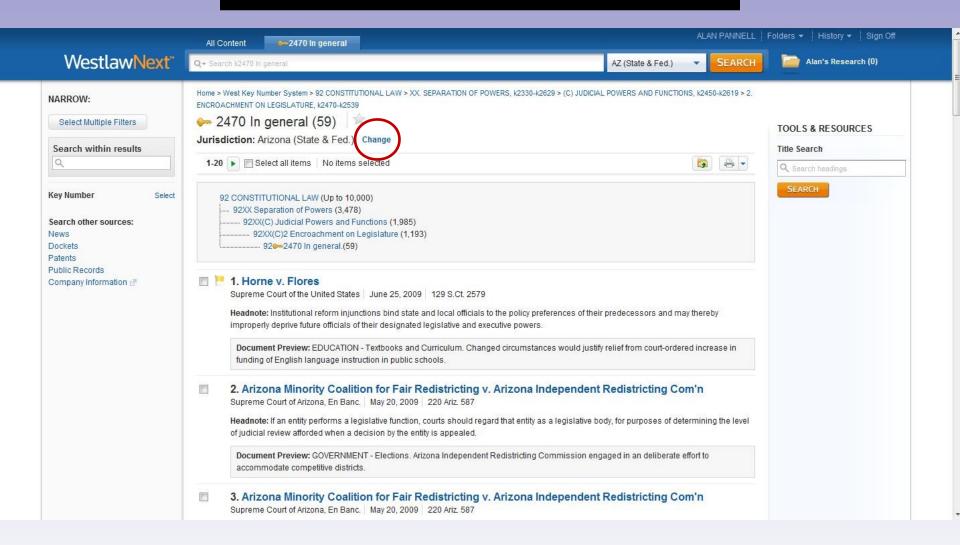
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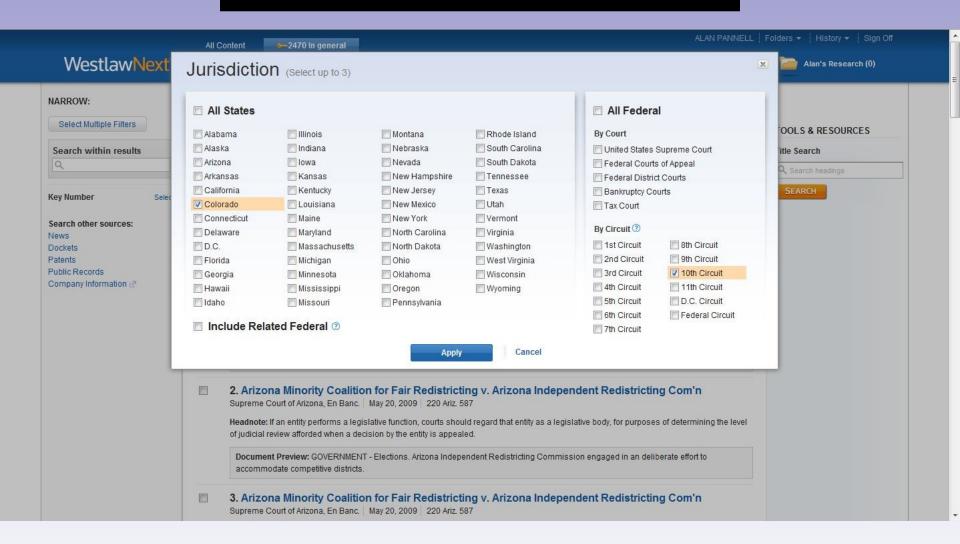
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Governmen	ts > Courts > Autho	HLL					E
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O bran	**Courts are reluctant to intrude on the prerogative of the people or the legislature to proffer legislation. The Separation of Powers Clause of the Arizona Constitution expressly prohibits one branch of government from intruding into or exercising the powers properly belonging to another branch. Ariz. Const. art. III. The supreme court has consistently interpreted this clause to require the judiciary to refrain from interfering with the legislative process. More Like This Headnote						
Governmen Governmen	Governments > Legislation > Initiative & Referendum						
	Governments > State & Territorial Governments > Elections						
Governmen	Governments > State & Territorial Governments > Legislatures						
peop	HN6 A fundamental component of the legislative process in Arizona is the right of the people to offer legislation through the initiative. Ariz. Const. art. IV, pt. 1, • 1. This legislative power of the people is as great as that of the legislature. When the people exercise their right to legislate by initiative, they therefore enjoy the same protection from judicial interference the legislature is afforded. More Like This Headnote						
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time permitting...

Use checklist to expand research

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final step

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