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KeyCite is the powerful citation research service available exclusively on Westlaw. You can use KeyCite to view the history of a case, statute, administrative decision, or regulation to help determine whether it is good law and to retrieve citing references.

KeyCite is comprehensive, covering every case in West's National Reporter System®, as well as more than 1 million unpublished cases; selected federal and state administrative decisions; federal statutes and regulations; state statutes from all 50 states and regulations from selected states; U.S. patents; *American Law Reports* (ALR®); more than 700 law reviews; and thousands of briefs. In addition, KeyCite provides citing references from numerous texts and treatises.

KeyCite is also current, accurate, and easy to use. Direct history of a case is added to KeyCite within one to four hours of receipt of the opinion at West, and citing cases are added to KeyCite as soon as they are added to Westlaw. All information added to KeyCite undergoes West's rigorous editorial analysis. Unique graphical elements such as status flags, depth of treatment stars, and quotation marks enable you to quickly identify and evaluate KeyCite information.

KeyCite Status Flags



A red flag warns that the case or administrative decision is no longer good law for at least one of the points of law it contains or that the statute or regulation has been amended by a recent session law or rule, repealed, superseded, or held unconstitutional or preempted in whole or in part.



A yellow flag warns that the case or administrative decision has some negative history but has not been reversed or overruled; that the statute has been renumbered or transferred by a recent session law; that an uncodified session law or pending legislation affecting the statute is available (statutes merely referenced, i.e., mentioned, are not marked with a yellow flag); that the regulation has been reinstated, corrected, or confirmed; that the statute or regulation was limited on constitutional or preemption grounds or its validity was otherwise called into doubt; or that a prior version of the statute or regulation received negative judicial treatment.



A blue H indicates that the case or administrative decision has some history.



A green C indicates that the case or administrative decision has citing references but no direct or negative indirect history or that the statute or regulation has citing references.

KeyCite Depth of Treatment Stars



Examined—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains an extended discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually more than a printed page of text.



Discussed—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains a substantial discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually more than a paragraph but less than a printed page.



Cited—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains some discussion of the cited case or administrative decision, usually less than a paragraph.



Mentioned—The citing case, administrative decision, or brief contains a brief reference to the cited case or administrative decision, usually in a string citation.

KeyCite Quotation Marks

Quotation marks (") indicate that the citing case, administrative decision, or brief directly quotes the cited case or administrative decision.

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Accessing KeyCite

Access KeyCite using one of the following methods:

- Type a citation in the *KeyCite this citation* text box in the left frame of a tabbed page and click **GO**.
- Click **KeyCite** on the toolbar to display the KeyCite page. Then type a citation in the *Enter citation* text box and click **GO**.
- Click the KeyCite status flag in a document header or next to a document's citation.
- Click **History** or **Citing References** on the Links tab in the left frame while viewing a document.

Viewing a KeyCite Result

When you access KeyCite, the history of the document is displayed in the right frame. (If you access KeyCite by clicking the green C or the **Citing References** link, a list of citing references is displayed in the right frame.)

Click **Show Negative History Only** to display only negative history for the case. Click **Show Full History** to return to the full history.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw KeyCite interface for the case *Fellers v. U.S.* (124 S.Ct. 1013). The left sidebar contains navigation options like 'Full Text Document', 'Petitions, Briefs & Filings', and 'Table of Authorities'. The main content area displays the 'History' section, which includes a list of documents that have cited the case. The list includes entries such as 'U.S. v. Fellers, 285 F.3d 721 (9th Cir.(Neb.) Apr 08, 2002)' and 'Fellers v. U.S., 539 U.S. 905, 123 S.Ct. 1480, 155 L.Ed.2d 224, 71 USLW 3571, 71 USLW 3576 (U.S. Mar 10, 2003)'. There are also sections for 'Negative Indirect History (U.S.A.)' and 'Appellate Court Documents (U.S.A.)'. A 'Show Negative History Only' link is visible at the bottom of the history list.

KeyCite history for a case

Click **Limit KeyCite Display** to restrict the list of citing references for the statute by notes of decisions, jurisdiction, date, or document type or to documents that contain certain terms.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw KeyCite interface for the statute 42 U.S.C.A. § 14132a. The left sidebar contains navigation options like 'Full Text Document', 'Cases', 'Analysis', 'Legislative History', and 'Statutes'. The main content area displays the 'Citing References' section, which includes a list of documents that have cited the statute. The list includes entries such as 'U.S. v. Miles, 228 F.Supp.2d 1130, 1131+, 187 A.L.R. Fed. 723, 723+ (E.D.Cal. Oct 31, 2002)' and 'U.S. v. Kimler, 335 F.3d 1132, 1133+, 61 Fed. R. Evid. Serv. 1024, 1024+ (10th Cir.(Kan.) Jul 07, 2003)'. There are also sections for 'Held Unconstitutional by', 'Unconstitutional as Applied by', and 'Citations From U.S.C.A. (U.S.A.)'. A 'Limit KeyCite Display' link is visible at the bottom of the citing references list.

KeyCite citing references for a statute