

Using Smart Tools®

Get more of what you need, less of what you don't

Smart Tools on Westlaw, a suite of automatic search enhancements, helps to make sure you don't miss something important with your Westlaw search. With Smart Tools, you get great results without having to construct the perfect query.

Smart Tools include the following:

- Did You Mean
- Add Related Terms
- Expand Search

Did You Mean

The Did You Mean Smart Tool uses the vast database of legal terms and acronyms on Westlaw to help you find relevant documents quickly. The Did You Mean Smart Tool is much smarter than a simple spell checker; it is a legal search enhancement that you can trust.

The types of errors the Did You Mean Smart Tool identifies include:

- misspellings of common terms, e.g., licence instead of license
- misspellings of legal terms, e.g., habeus corpus instead of habeas corpus
- misspellings of legal acronyms, e.g., HIPPA instead of HIPAA
- terms that are spelled correctly but are used incorrectly in a legal context, as in Figure 1:

For assistance using Westlaw, call
1-800-WESTLAW
(1-800-937-8529).

For free reference materials, visit
west.thomson.com
/westlaw/guides.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Business & News', 'Westlaw', 'General News', and 'Family Law Practitioner'. The search bar contains the query 'parole /2 evidence /s exclusion' and the database is set to 'sct'. Below the search bar, a 'Did You Mean' section is highlighted with a red box, showing the suggestion 'parol /2 evidence /s exclusion'. The search results section displays a document titled '1. Pennsylvania Bd. of Probation and Parole v. Scott' with a snippet of text: '...not prevent parole officers from ever violating Fourth Amendment rights of their parolees, it does mean that harsh deterrent of exclusion of evidence in parole revocation proceedings is unwarranted, given other deterrents such as departmental training and discipline and threat of damages actions. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend.....'. To the right of the search results, there are sections for 'ResultsPlus™' and 'Corpus Juris Secundum: Aliens', which includes a list of related terms and cases.

The original search in the Edit Search text box shows the incorrect spelling of parole. Westlaw detects the error because parole is used with the term evidence. Click the **Did You Mean** link to run a new search with the corrected term *parol*. If you are using transactional pricing, you will be charged for an additional search.

Figure 1. Did You Mean search example

Add Related Terms

The Add Related Terms Smart Tool makes your research more thorough by automatically suggesting legal synonyms for your query. More than a legal thesaurus, the Add Related Terms Smart Tool was developed by attorneys for attorneys. Synonyms for thousands of legal terms and phrases are included in Westlaw, and you can add any or all of the suggested terms to a new search.

For example, if you included the phrase *impossibility of performance* in a query, Westlaw might also suggest *impracticability of performance*, *frustration of purpose*, and *commercial frustration*. You are given the option to add any or all alternative terms to strengthen your query.

Your initial search "impossibility of performance" /p permit retrieves just two documents, but *Add Related Terms* suggests alternative terms to add to your search. Click **Select All** to add all the related terms to your query.

Select "frustration of purpose" in the *Add Related Terms* text box to run a new search. You retrieve additional documents, including the seminal case on the issue in Minnesota, *City of Savage v. Formanek*.

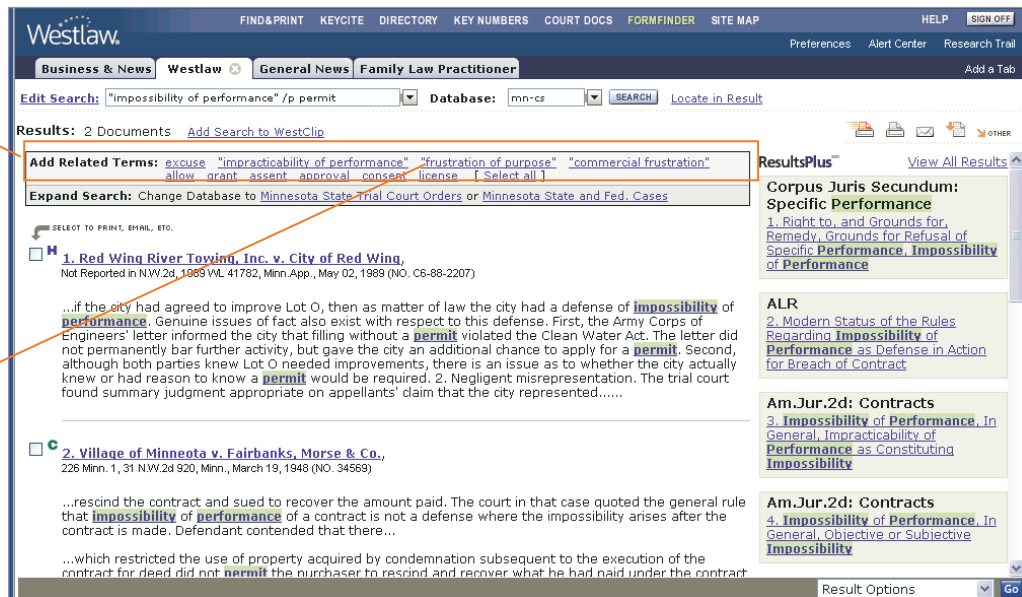


Figure 2. Add Related Terms search example

Expand Search

The Expand Search Smart Tool offers timely tips to make your Westlaw searches more productive. If your query generates fewer than five results, Westlaw suggests larger databases that logically extend your current choices.

Other Ways Westlaw Helps Improve Your Research

In addition to Smart Tools, Westlaw continues to offer the following features to ensure that you receive the best search results possible:

- automatic searching of plurals and possessives
- automatic searching of irregular plurals, e.g., *child* also retrieves *children*
- automatic searching of compound words, e.g., *whistle-blower* also retrieves *whistleblower*
- automatic equivalents for common misspellings, e.g., *judgement* also retrieves *judgment*
- automatic searching of all variations of acronyms, e.g., *H.I.V.* also retrieves *HIV*, *H. I. V.*
- automatic retrieval of a database when you enter part of a database name or database description