

Legal Due Diligence Reports on Westlaw

Investigating and Evaluating Companies

Use the Legal Due Diligence Reports databases to help in performing due diligence. You can obtain due diligence information from the following databases:

- Legal Due Diligence Reports (GSI-DDR), which contains reports on all publicly traded U.S. companies
- Private Company Legal Due Diligence Reports (GSI-DDR-PRIV), which contains reports on the top U.S. private companies based on total sales
- Legal Due Diligence Reports: Public and Private Companies (GSI-DDR-ALL), which includes reports for both publicly traded U.S. companies and the top U.S. private companies based on total sales

The reports are professionally formatted, complete with charts and tables, and they contain the most current information available.

Report Content

A typical Legal Due Diligence Report contains information such as the following:

- company overview, including a full business description and a list of subsidiaries
- financial overview, including reported financials and audit committee report
- information on executive officers and directors, such as board compensation and insider trading
- commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions
- compliance, including Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) staff reviews and no-action letters
- risk factors, such as potential company litigation and unresolved issues with the SEC

Accessing the Databases

You can access the databases in the following ways:

- Type `gsi-ddr`, `gsi-ddr-priv`, or `gsi-ddr-all` in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame of most tabbed pages.
- Click **Legal Due Diligence Reports–Public Cos.** or **Legal Due Diligence Reports–Public and Private Cos.** under *EDGAR Filings and Company Information* in the right frame of the Securities Practitioner page (Figure 1).

To select the Securities Practitioner page for your current research session, click **Add a Tab** at the top of any page. At the next page, click **Add Westlaw Tabs** to display a list of available tabbed pages, then click **Securities Practitioner** under *Topical*.



Figure 1. Tabbed Securities Practitioner page

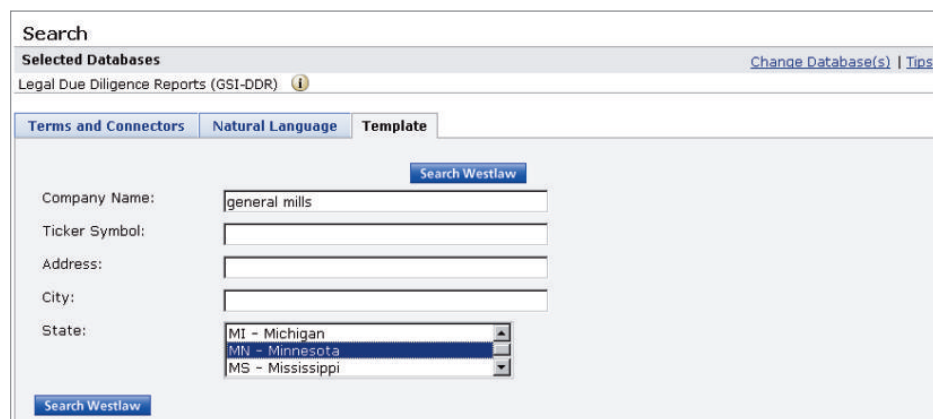
For assistance using Westlaw, call **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

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

Running a Search

Follow these steps to retrieve a Legal Due Diligence Report:

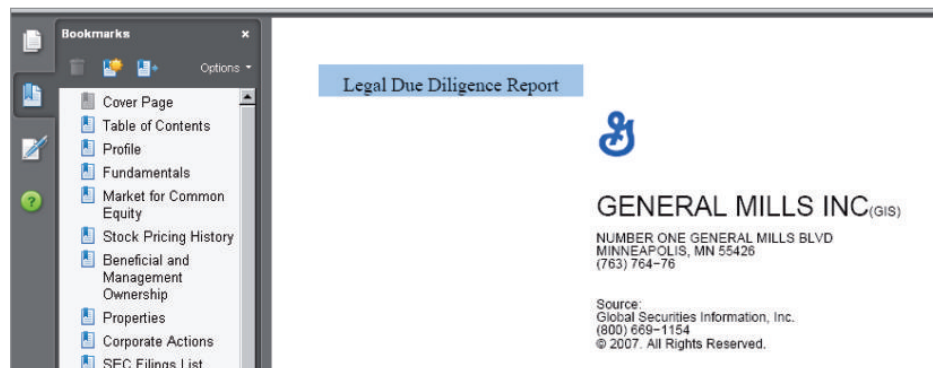
1. Access the GSI-DDR, GSI-DDR-PRIV, or GSI-DDR-ALL database. At the Search page, click **Template** if it is not already selected (Figure 2).



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Search". At the top, it says "Selected Databases" with "Legal Due Diligence Reports (GSI-DDR)" selected and a "Change Database(s) | Tips" link. Below this are three tabs: "Terms and Connectors", "Natural Language", and "Template", with "Template" being the active tab. A "Search Westlaw" button is positioned above the input fields. The input fields include: "Company Name:" with "general mills" entered; "Ticker Symbol:"; "Address:"; "City:"; and "State:" with a dropdown menu showing "MI - Michigan", "MN - Minnesota", and "MS - Mississippi". A second "Search Westlaw" button is located at the bottom left of the form area.

Figure 2. GSI-DDR search template

2. Type a company name or ticker symbol and any other pertinent information in the text boxes. You also have the option of choosing a state from the *State* box list.
3. Click **Search Westlaw**.
4. In the result list, click the number next to the document you want. While viewing the document, click **Generate** in the right frame to view the report. A dialog box is displayed, informing you that you will incur an additional charge to view the report.
5. Click **OK** to generate the report and view it in PDF (Figure 3).



The screenshot displays a "Legal Due Diligence Report" for General Mills Inc. On the left is a "Bookmarks" sidebar with a list of report sections: Cover Page, Table of Contents, Profile, Fundamentals, Market for Common Equity, Stock Pricing History, Beneficial and Management Ownership, Properties, Corporate Actions, and SEC Filings List. The main content area features the title "Legal Due Diligence Report" in a blue box, the General Mills logo, and the company name "GENERAL MILLS INC_(GIS)". Below the name is the address: "NUMBER ONE GENERAL MILLS BLVD, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55426, (763) 764-76". At the bottom, it lists the source as "Global Securities Information, Inc. (800) 669-1154" and includes a copyright notice: "© 2007. All Rights Reserved."

Figure 3. Legal Due Diligence Report