

Jury Instructions on Westlaw

Retrieving Pattern Jury Instructions and Jury Instruction Filings

Use pattern jury instructions and jury instruction filings on Westlaw to create effective instructions for your case and to learn about instructions opposing counsel may submit.

Accessing Pattern Jury Instructions

Pattern jury instructions include pattern and standard instructions issued or recommended by a court and authored materials published in texts and treatises. Westlaw currently includes pattern instructions for civil and criminal cases in the federal courts and for courts in more than 30 states.

You can quickly access pattern jury instructions databases using the Westlaw Directory. To use the Westlaw Directory, complete these steps:

1. Click **Directory** at the top of any page to display the Westlaw Directory.
2. At the main directory page, click **Litigation**.
3. At the Litigation page, click **Jury Instructions**.
4. Click **Pattern Jury Instructions** to view a list of pattern, standard, or model jury instruction databases (Figure 1).
5. Click a database name to access a listed database.

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

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



Figure 1. Westlaw Directory—list of pattern jury instructions databases

In the alternative, type a database name or identifier in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame of most tabbed pages and click **Go**.

USING THE TABLE OF CONTENTS SERVICE

Many pattern jury instruction databases offer the Table of Contents service. To access the table of contents, click **Table of Contents** at the top of a database Search page. Browse the table of contents by clicking the plus (+) and minus (–) symbols. To retrieve a specific section, click its link.

Accessing Jury Instruction Filings

Jury instruction filings are filed court documents that are proposed by counsel and read to the jury by the court. Westlaw currently includes jury instruction filings for civil and criminal cases in the federal courts and for courts in 29 states and the District of Columbia. Jury instruction filings are found in databases with the identifier XX-JIF-CIV, where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation.

You can use the Westlaw Directory to quickly access jury instruction filings databases. To use the Westlaw Directory, complete these steps:

1. Click **Directory** at the top of any page to display the Westlaw Directory.
2. At the main directory page, click **Litigation**.
3. At the Litigation page, click **Jury Instructions**.
4. Click **Jury Instruction Filings** to view a list of jury instruction filing databases (Figure 2).
5. Click a database name to access a listed database.



Figure 2. Westlaw Directory—list of jury instruction filings databases

In the alternative, type a database name or identifier in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame of most tabbed pages and click **Go**.

RETRIEVING JURY INSTRUCTION FILINGS BY ATTORNEY OR JUDGE NAME

Attorney and judge names are available in select jury instruction filings databases. To search by an attorney's or judge's name, access a jury instructions filings database. At the Search page, click **Terms and Connectors** and restrict your search to the attorney field (at) or judge field (ju). For example, complete the following steps to retrieve jury instructions filed in cases in which Judge Stephen J. Culliton of the Circuit Court of Illinois, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, DuPage County, presided:

1. Access the Illinois Civil Jury Instructions Filings database (IL-JIF-CIV).
2. Type **ju(culliton)** in the *Search* text box.
3. Click **Search Westlaw**.