

Trial Court Filings on Westlaw

Pleadings, Motions, Memoranda, and Other Filings

Westlaw provides easy access to selected state and federal civil trial court filings, including complaints, answers, motions, memoranda, and trial court briefs. Use trial court filings to

- study filings made in similar cases
- learn how a judge's prior decisions reflect the facts, claims, and arguments made in pleadings, motions, and other trial court filings
- study trial court filings in key precedents so you can effectively analogize or distinguish a subsequent case
- examine documents filed by the opposing counsel in other cases

Selected motions, memoranda, pleadings, and other documents are available from selected state trial courts in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and from most U.S. district and bankruptcy courts.

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

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

Accessing Trial Pleadings, Motions, and Filings

Multiple access points make it easy to obtain trial court filings whether you are just beginning your research or have already obtained relevant documents. You can

- display trial court filings via links in related pleadings, motions, and memoranda
- search trial court filing databases
- retrieve the profile of a judge or an attorney and obtain a list of Westlaw Profiler® references that includes trial court filings

VIEWING LINKED DOCUMENTS

Trial documents are linked to other trial documents from the same case. While viewing a trial court document, click **Motions, Pleadings and Filings** at the top of the document to view a list of related trial filings (Figure 1). To view the full text of a listed document, click its citation or click the link to an original image of the document in PDF. Similarly, when an opinion in a related case is available on Westlaw, click the case citation at the top of a trial filing to view the text of the opinion.

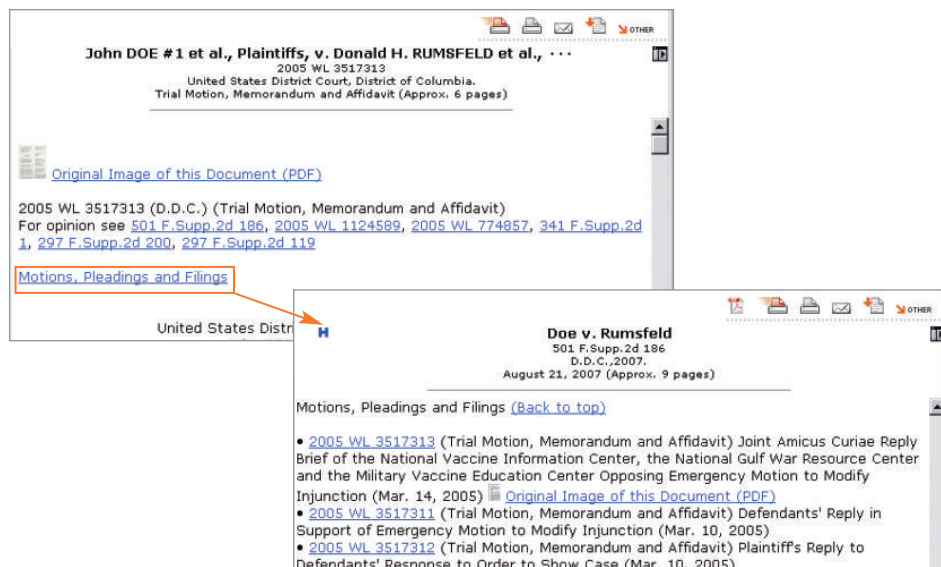


Figure 1. Accessing filings from a court document

SEARCHING TRIAL COURT FILINGS DATABASES

Filings are compiled in a variety of jurisdictional and topical databases. Key filings databases are listed below. For a complete list of filings databases, see the Westlaw Directory.

To search a database you can

- type a database identifier in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame of most tabbed pages and click **Go**.
- click **Court Docs** at the top of any page. At the displayed Court Documents page, click the appropriate link under *Pleadings, Motions, and Memoranda* in the left frame. At the next page, type your search terms in the text boxes in the right frame (Figure 2). Then click **Search Westlaw**.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw search interface. On the left, under 'Select Database(s)', there is a dropdown menu for 'Enter a Database' and a list of 'Court Docs Databases'. The 'Pleading, Motions, and Memoranda' section is highlighted with a red box, containing links for 'All Trial Filings (FILING-ALL)', 'CA State and Federal Trial Court Filings (CA-FILING-ALL)', and 'CA Trial Court Filings (CA-FILING)'. The main 'Search' area shows 'Selected Databases' as 'State and Federal Civil Trial Court Filings (FILING-ALL)'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Terms and Connectors', 'Natural Language', and 'Template'. The 'Template' tab is active, showing a 'Choose a Template' dropdown set to 'Search All', a search input field, and a 'Search Westlaw' button. There are also fields for 'Additional Restrictions' for 'Parties' and 'Attorney'.

Figure 2. Trial court filings search template

Key Filings Databases

- **State Civil Trial Court Filings**
Selected filings from state civil trial courts in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are available in the State Civil Trial Court Filings database (STATE-FILING-ALL). Filings from individual states are found in databases with the identifier XX-FILING, where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation.
- **Federal Civil Trial Court Filings**
Selected filings from U.S. district and bankruptcy courts are available in the Federal Civil Trial Filings database (FED-FILING-ALL). Filings from individual states are found in databases with the identifier FED-FILING-XX, where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation. State-specific databases are available for 46 states (all except Alaska, Montana, New Mexico, and North Dakota) and the District of Columbia.
- **Combined State and Federal Civil Trial Court Filings**
Selected filings from state trial courts and U.S. district and bankruptcy courts are combined in the State and Federal Civil Trial Court Filings database (FILING-ALL). State-specific filings for all 50 states and the District of Columbia are found in databases with the identifier XX-FILING-ALL, where XX is a state's two-letter postal abbreviation. In addition, trial pleadings, complaints, and answers from state and federal courts are available in the Trial Pleadings database (PLEADINGS) and motions and memoranda filed in state and federal courts are available in the Trial Motions database (MOTIONS).
- **Topical Databases**
Practice area-specific trial court filing databases, including Business and Commercial Civil Trial Filings (BUS-FILING), Labor and Employment Civil Trial Filings (LB-FILING), Patent Trial Filings (PT-FILING), Personal Injury Trial Filings (PI-FILING), and United States Bankruptcy Court Trial Filings (BKR-FILING-ALL), are currently available for more than 20 practice areas.