

KEY POINTS

U.S. Supreme Court Oyez! Oyez! A New Term Begins

On the first Monday in October, the Supreme Court of the United States begins the 2007–2008 Term. The Court will issue approximately 80 opinions before it adjourns. These opinions will set new standards in federal procedure and law. And Westlaw® will put all the doings of the Court—from granting certiorari to issuing the final opinions—at your fingertips.

Writ of Certiorari

KeyCite®, West's citation research service, is your best source for quickly and accurately determining whether the Court has granted review. Information on grant or denial of writs of certiorari is added to KeyCite within one to four hours of the receipt of the information at West.

To learn whether review has been granted in *Parker v. District of Columbia*, 478 F.3d 370 (D.C. Cir. 2007), which overturned the District's 30-year-old gun ban, access KeyCite and type the citation 478f3d370 in the KeyCite *this citation* text box. Remember as a case moves through the appeals process, the case title may change. Check KeyCite for the correct case title at each step.

Editor's note: While viewing the court of appeals decision, click **Direct History (Graphical View)** on the Links tab to see an easy-to-interpret graphical depiction of its appellate history. See inside for more on Graphical KeyCite®.

Docket Numbers

Newspaper articles discussing cases often designate the cases using their docket numbers. West adds U.S. Supreme Court docket numbers, e.g., 07-290, to KeyCite.

You can retrieve a U.S. Supreme Court document using the docket number. Access Find and type **dn** followed by the docket number and court abbreviation, e.g., **dn 05-1120(sct)**.

Briefs

Briefs are a valuable source of authority on a particular legal issue. Access the U.S. Supreme Court Briefs database (SCT-BRIEFS). A handy fill-in-the-blank template is displayed.

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A picture is worth a thousand words

KeyCite Offers a Graphical View of Direct History

KeyCite offers an easy-to-read graphical view of the direct history of a case, which shows its path through the appeals process. When you are checking the procedural posture of a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, this simplified view can be a great time-saver because you can easily visualize just how the case got to the Court. See the direct history for *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School Dist. No. 1*, 127 S. Ct. 2738 (2007) in Illustration 2 on page 3.

How to Display the Graphical View

Use Find to retrieve *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School Dist. No. 1*. While viewing the case, click **Direct History (Graphical View)** on the Links tab. See Illustration 1 on page 3.

Or while viewing the KeyCite result in text view, click **Direct History (Graphical View)** on the Links tab.

The prior and subsequent history of the case is displayed, with each court decision referenced in a box at the appropriate trial or appellate level.

How to Read the Graphical View

The case you are checking in KeyCite is clearly marked, and arrows clarify the route of the case through the courts.

Decisions on the merits are referenced in the larger case boxes, while court orders or rulings on petitions and motions, such as the granting of certiorari or the denial of a rehearing, are referenced in the smaller procedural boxes.

The boxes provide links to the full text of the decisions, orders, and rulings on Westlaw, as well as to related court documents, such as briefs. Click a case name to view the full text of the case.

To enlarge a procedural box so that the case title and citation are displayed, move your pointer over the box.

How to Interpret State Appellate Information

To learn more about a state's court system including the appellate structure, click **State Court Org Charts** at the top of the graphical display. Then click the link for a specific state, e.g., Texas, to see a diagram of that state's court system. Note, for example, that Texas has two high courts—the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals.

How to Retrieve Additional Citing References

To check for additional citing references to expand your research, click **Citing References** on the Links tab. Citing references include cases, administrative decisions, secondary sources (such as *American Jurisprudence 2d*, Wright and Miller's *Federal Practice and Procedure*[®], *Couch on Insurance*, *Mertens' Law of Federal Income Taxation*, and *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice 2d*), and briefs and other court documents.

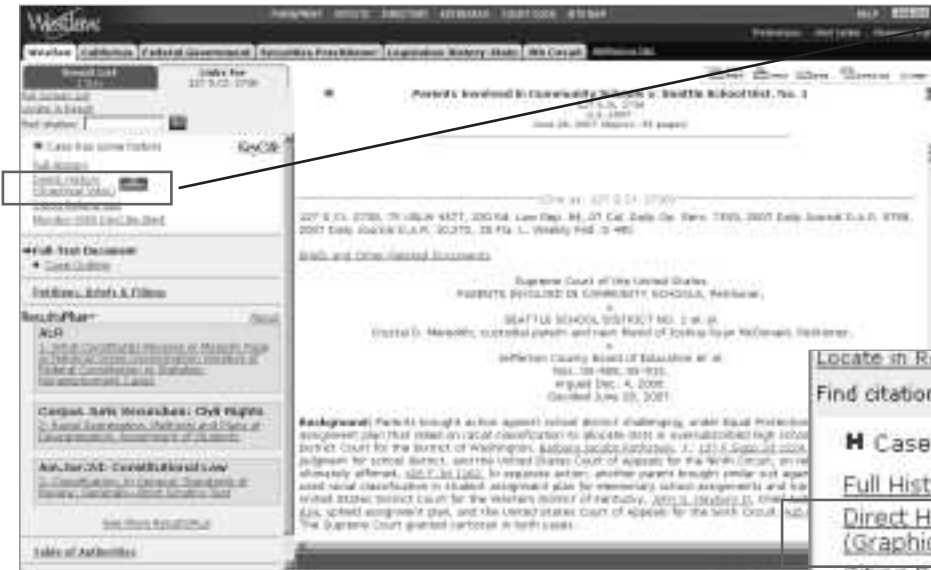


Illustration 1

Click Direct History (Graphical View) on the Links tab.

127 S. Ct. 2738

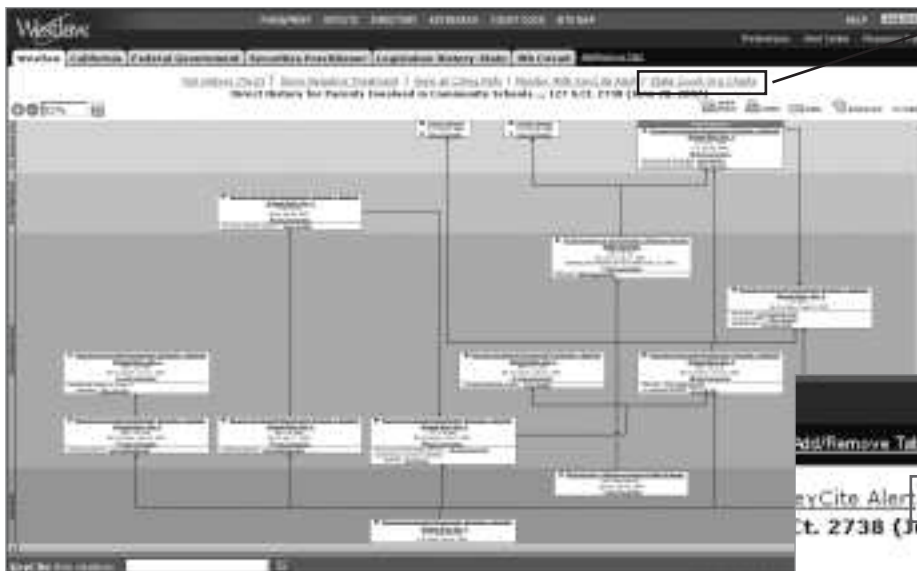
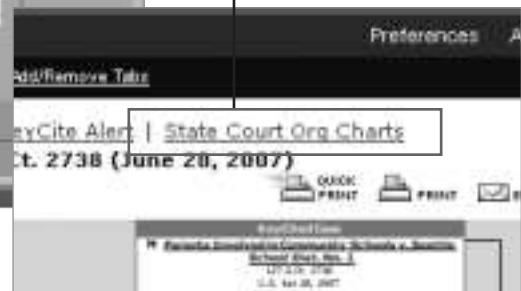


Illustration 2

Graphical KeyCite result for 127 S. Ct. 2738



ADVANCED SEARCH TIP

What If I Need to Use Pinpoint Citations?

For some work product you may want pinpoint citations, i.e., citations to the print pages on which the cited materials appear. Star Paging is a Westlaw feature that automatically displays the page numbers of cases appearing in print publications. Star Paging for *United States Reports* in the All U.S. Supreme Court Cases database (SCT) is current as of the most recent advance sheets received at West.* At present, *United States Reports* advance sheets, published by the Government Printing Office (GPO), are several years behind the date of decision.**

* *United States Reports* page numbers are marked with one asterisk (*615) while *Supreme Court Reporter*[®] page numbers have two asterisks (**2594).

** West receives lists of the starting pages of the *United States Reports* from the U.S. Supreme Court. West adds parallel citations to *United States Reports* from these lists to documents in SCT.

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