

KEY POINTS

U.S. Supreme Court Opens 2008–09 Term

What Sort of Animal Is It?

“The Court is the creature of
the litigation the lawyers bring
to it.”

Former Chief Justice Earl Warren

God save the United States for the Court is now sitting.

The U.S. Supreme Court began its latest Term on the first Monday in October, hearing cases on matters from television broadcasters’ challenge to Federal Communications Commission’s policy on “fleeting expletives” to the effect of the U.S. Navy’s use of sonar on marine mammals.

But how best to keep up with the Court’s latest changes to the architecture of constitutional law? Westlaw® puts all the doings at the Court—from the Court’s grant or denial of certiorari to the final opinions—at your fingertips.

Will the Court Review?

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 *Fox Television Stations, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, 489 F.3d 444 (2d Cir. 2007), access Westlaw and type the citation **489f3d444** in the *KeyCite this citation* text box, which is found on most tabbed pages.

KeyCite offers an easy-to-read graphical view of the direct history of a case. While viewing the KeyCite result for *Fox* in text view, click **Direct History (Graphical View)** on the Links tab.

Editor’s note: As a case moves upward from one court to the next, the title of the case may change. Check KeyCite for the correct title at each step of the appeals process.

Is the Docket Number Useful?

Newspaper articles discussing cases before the Court often include the docket number of a particular case. West adds U.S. Supreme Court docket numbers, e.g., 07-582, to KeyCite. Note the docket number in the KeyCite result and retain it to use as a search term. You can then retrieve U.S. Supreme Court documents using the docket number. Access Find and type **dn** followed by the docket number and court abbreviation, e.g., **dn 07-582(sct)**.

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1-800-REF-ATTY (1-800-733-2889)

How to Stay Up to Date with the Court Automatically

On Westlaw you can stay up to date with the U.S. Supreme Court automatically. You won't miss an important development because you got busy with other matters.

Two handy alert services can keep watch on the Court for you while you concentrate on day-to-day duties: WestClip® and KeyCite Alert.

Use WestClip to Track Cases Now Before the Court

Suppose you are following a case from the Ninth Circuit involving the impact of the Navy's use of sonar on marine mammals, which is now before the Court in *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* Use the WestClip clipping service to stay abreast of actions and to retrieve the Court's opinion as soon as it becomes available.

To access WestClip, click **Alert Center** at the top of any page. At the Alert Center Directory page, click **Create** in the *WestClip* section. The WestClip: Create Entry page is displayed.

To create a WestClip entry, complete these steps:

1. If you choose to name your WestClip entry, type a name in the *Name of clip* text box. This is optional.
2. Specify the databases you want to monitor by typing up to 10 database identifiers separated by commas in the *Database(s)* text box, e.g., sct.
3. Type a Terms and Connectors search in the *Query* text box. Remember you can use a docket number as your search term, e.g., 07-1239.
4. Review the delivery settings on the right side of the page. To change the settings, such as the delivery destination and the result format, click **Edit** next to *Delivery Settings*. The WestClip: Edit Delivery Settings page is displayed. When you have finished making changes, click **Save** to save the delivery settings and return to the WestClip: Create Entry page.

Editor's note: If you select default settings at the Alerts Preferences page, you don't have to select them for each WestClip entry you create. Click **Preferences** at the top of any page, then click *Alerts* in the left frame to display the Alerts Preference page. Under *WestClip Defaults* in the right frame, make your selections. For example, select **Enhanced Cite List** from the *Format* drop-down list to have each document listed in the WestClip result include your search terms and surrounding document text. Click **Save Changes**. Experiment.

5. Save your WestClip entry by clicking **Save** at the WestClip: Create Entry page.

To view all your saved WestClip entries, click **Alert Center** at the top of any page and click **View All** in the *WestClip* section. To edit an entry, click its name or number. To run an entry at any time, click **Run**. To remove an entry, select its check box and click **Delete**.*

Use KeyCite Alert to Determine Whether the Court Has Granted Certiorari

KeyCite Alert automatically monitors the status of cases, statutes, and administrative materials and sends you updates when their KeyCite information changes.

When you create a KeyCite Alert entry, you specify how frequently your citation should be checked. KeyCite Alert can deliver results to several destinations, including an e-mail address.

Click **Alert Center** at the top of any page. At the Alert Center Directory page, click **Create** in the *KeyCite Alert* section. The KeyCite Alert: Create KeyCite Alert Entry page is displayed.

To create a KeyCite Alert entry, complete these steps:

1. Type the citation of the document you want to monitor in the *Citation* text box and click **Go**.
2. At the KeyCite Alert: Create Entry page, specify your KeyCite Alert settings under *Entry Details* on the left side of the page. To change the delivery settings listed on the right side of the page, click **Edit** to display the KeyCite Alert: Edit Delivery Settings page.
3. When you have finished setting up your entry, click **Save** to save it in the KeyCite Alert Directory.

To view all your saved KeyCite Alert entries, click **Alert Center** at the top of any page and click **View All** in the *KeyCite Alert* section. To edit an entry, click its name or number. To remove an entry, select its check box and click **Delete**.*

* Expired entries remain in the directory until you delete them.

ADVANCED SEARCH TIP

About Those Pinpoint Citations ...

For some work product you may want pinpoint citations, i.e., a citation to the print page on which the cited material appears. 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 through 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.**

Editor's note: You can retrieve cases using a pinpoint citation. Access Find and type the citation. Find will display the case beginning at the point of the pinpoint citation, e.g., 127 sct 2178.

* *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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