



KEY POINTS

A LEGAL RESEARCH NEWSLETTER FOR STATE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM WEST

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Why stop at nine?

*"I didn't know we had that many people on
our court."*

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, after a case generated
multiple concurrences and dissents.

ONE GOOD CASE LEADS TO OTHERS

In the old days of Westlaw® case research, you started by creating a Terms and Connectors query. Then you fine-tuned the query until you found every last relevant case.

Now the process is much shorter, thanks to the West Key Number Digest (also called the Custom Digest).

The West Key Number Digest enables you to instantly retrieve headnotes from cases discussing a particular point of law in the case you are viewing—without having to write a new query. Click the West topic or key number preceding the headnote in which a relevant point of law is summarized. The Custom Digest search page is displayed. Select one or more jurisdictions, specify one or more terms that you want to appear in the headnotes (if desired), and click **Search**.

You retrieve a list of headnotes classified under the same topic or key number, with links to the cases. The list even features KeyCite® status flags, where applicable.

The West Key Number Digest is based on the West Key Number System®, which indexes every legal issue in American jurisprudence. Every legal issue in a case is identified and summarized in a headnote. Every headnote is classified under one or more topic and key numbers under which similar headnotes are classified. By using the topic and key numbers assigned to a relevant headnote in a good case, you can retrieve all other cases with headnotes similarly classified—from any state or federal jurisdiction.

But don't bother typing those key numbers into a new query. The West Key Number Digest will take care of it for you.

[8]  [KeyCite Citing References for this Headnote](#)

↳ [237](#) Libel and Slander

↳ [237I](#) Words and Acts Actionable, and Liability Therefor

↳ [237k9](#) Words Tending to Injure in Profession or Business

↳ [237k9\(2\)](#) k. Physicians and Dentists. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Attorney's statement during televised interview, repeating another attorney's opinion, that psychiatrist who testified as expert witness at highly publicized murder trial was a "terrible witness disliked by the jury" was a statement of personal viewpoint, rather than assertion of objective fact, and thus could not serve as basis for psychiatrist's defamation claim. [U.S.C.A. Const. Amend. 1](#).

West headnote (with links to West Key Number Digest)



WHAT WILL TOMORROW'S LEGISLATION LOOK LIKE?

It's important to know how the law stands today, of course. But in many situations, you will need to know how the law will look a week, month, or year from now. Without expending much time or effort, you can use Westlaw to ensure that no development in a particular legal area catches you off guard.

Problem 1: You want to know whether proposed federal legislation might affect the sale of prescription drugs on the Internet.

Solution: Congressional Bills (CONG-BILLTXT)

To determine whether there's a federal bill in the works on a particular topic, run a Terms and Connectors or Natural Language search in the Congressional Bills database (CONG-BILLTXT). For example, to retrieve federal bills related to the sale of prescription drugs on the Internet, access CONG-BILLTXT and type a query in the *Bill Text* text box, e.g., type "prescription drug" /s internet web!

Search Pending Bills and Regulations - Expert Search

Selected Databases [Change Database\(s\)](#) | [Tips](#)

Congressional Bills (CONG-BILLTXT) i

Terms and Connectors | **Natural Language** | **Template**

[Search Westlaw](#)

Bill Name or Number

Bill Name: You may enter either a bill name or a bill number
Example: "clean water act" /p waste /p discharge!

Bill Number:
Example: 1481

Text or Sponsor

Bill Text: Example: "cell phone" /p operation

Sponsor:
Example: Coleman

Additional Identifying Information

Chamber: v

Bill Type: v

Bill Version: v

Congressional Session: v

Date label: No date restriction Specific date After

CONG-BILLTXT search template



Problem 2: You want to know what proposed bills may affect section 220 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C.A. § 220).

Solution: KeyCite proposed legislation

KeyCite statute history lists proposed federal and state legislation. If you retrieve a statute in which a KeyCite status flag appears, click the flag or click **History** on the Links tab. If the KeyCite statute history lists proposed legislation, you can display that legislation in the Link Viewer by clicking the citation's hypertext link.

KeyCite

26 U.S.C.A. § 220
I.R.C. § 220
Effective: December 20, 2006

26 U.S.C.A. § 220
I.R.C. § 220

To view the full text of this section, click on the following citation: [26 USCA § 220](#)

Proposed Legislation

- 1 2009 CONG US HR 1321, 111th CONGRESS, 1st Session (Mar 05, 2009), Introduced in House, PROPOSED ACTION: Amended.
- 2 2009 CONG US S 391, 111th CONGRESS, 1st Session (Feb 05, 2009), Introduced in Senate, PROPOSED ACTION: Amended.
- 3 2009 CONG US HR 779, 111th CONGRESS, 1st Session (Jan 28, 2009), Introduced in House, PROPOSED ACTION: Technical or conforming amendment.
- 4 2009 CONG US S 296, 111th CONGRESS, 1st Session (Jan 22, 2009), Introduced in Senate, PROPOSED ACTION: Repealed.

KeyCite links to proposed legislation

Problem 3: You want to be notified whenever any pending legislation or citing references affecting 26 U.S.C.A. § 220 are added to Westlaw.

Solution: KeyCite Alert

KeyCite Alert automatically monitors the status of cases, statutes, or administrative materials and sends you updates when their KeyCite information changes. For example, you can access the KeyCite Alert wizard (click **Monitor with KeyCite Alert** on the Links tab) and follow the step-by-step instructions, indicating you wish to monitor full history and citing references. KeyCite Alert will notify you when there are any changes to the statute's KeyCite history and citing references.

Result List
1 Doc

Links for
26 USCA § 220

Full Screen List
Locate in Result

Find citation: Go

Proposed Legislation

History
Citing References
Monitor With KeyCite Alert

Monitor With KeyCite Alert link on Links tab



ADVANCED SEARCH TIP

KeyCite for statutes: Citing references avalanche?

Thanks to KeyCite, it takes only a few seconds to identify a list of materials (e.g., cases, agency materials, regulations, and law review articles) citing a statute you find.

But what if there are 1,200 documents on Westlaw that cited that statute? How will you ever get through that list?

Here's how: Limit your KeyCite citing references to the most essential ones—the only ones you want to bother with—and save yourself hours of wasted effort.

For a statute, you can limit your KeyCite citing references by

- document type
- notes of decisions
- Locate terms (any terms and connectors you specify)
- jurisdiction
- date

To limit your KeyCite citing references result, click **Limit KeyCite Display** at the bottom of the page. A KeyCite Limits page is displayed. To apply one of the restrictions available, click the appropriate arrow in the left frame and modify as desired. Click additional arrows to apply other restrictions, if desired. Click **Apply** to display the list of citing references with the restrictions you specified.

To cancel your restrictions and display all citing references, click **Cancel Limits** at the bottom of the KeyCite citing references result.

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