

# Fastcase: next-gen legal research

Free Access  for DC bar members, login at [dcbar.org](http://dcbar.org)



# what is Fastcase?

## Founded in 1999

- (A tech company that survived!)
- The mission was simple – create an alternative to Westlaw and Lexis for conducting research on primary law.
- This is not just a cheaper version of the big two, but something entirely different.
- We are now partners with 29 state bar associations and have over 800,000 subscribers.
- According to the ABA, lawyers use the Fastcase mobile app more than any other legal mobile application.



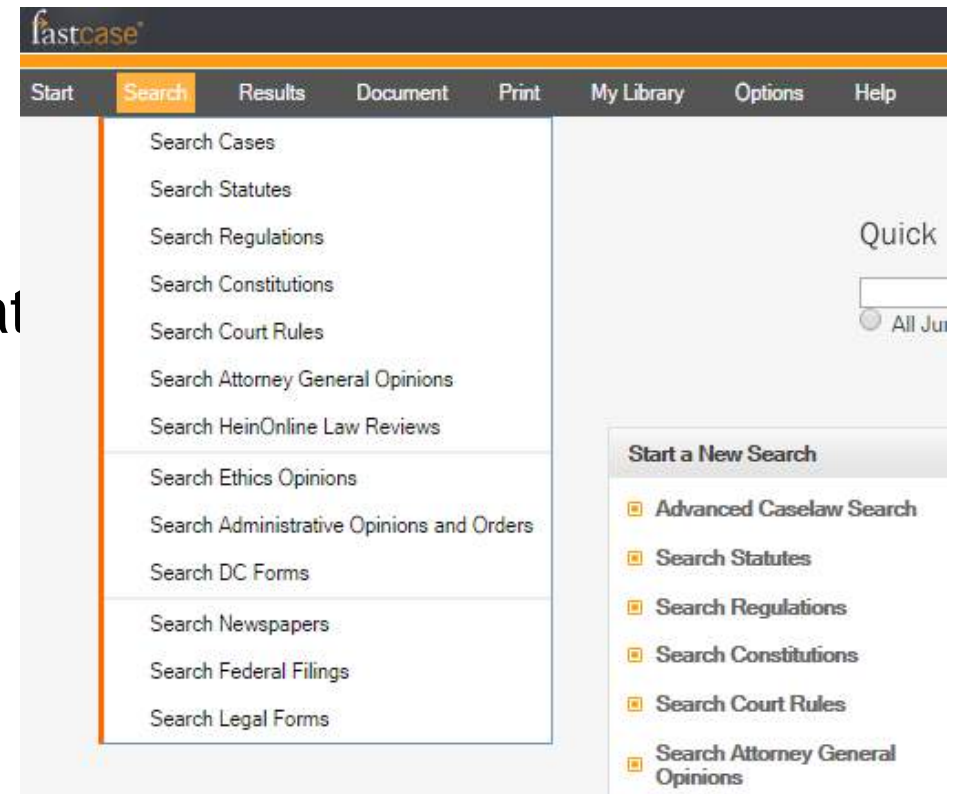
# why should you try it?

- More automation, less leg work.
- Easy to use, easy to learn
- Fastcase eliminates the “luck” element of haphazardly finding an important case
- Fastcase has smart tools that you cannot find anywhere else

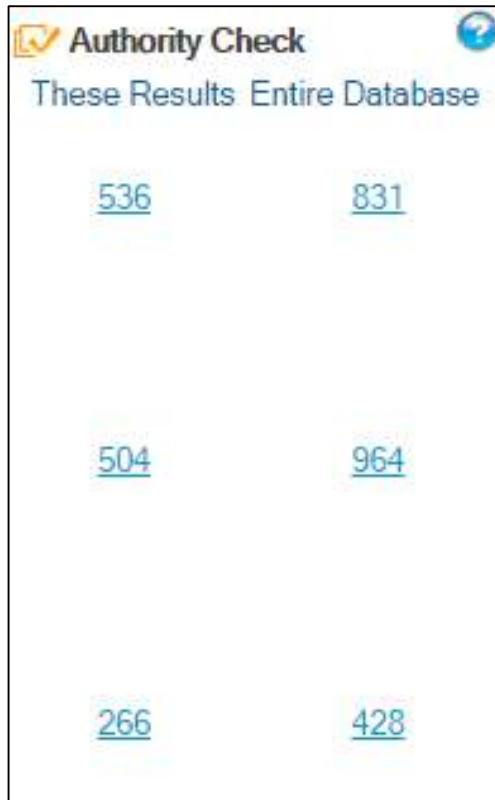


# what Fastcase has

- All federal courts, including districts
- All state appeals and Supreme courts
- Unpublished opinions from ~2010
- All state and federal statutes and regulations
- All LexBlog content (Fastcase 7 only)
- DC Bar exclusive content – ethics opinions, AG opinions, disciplinary rulings



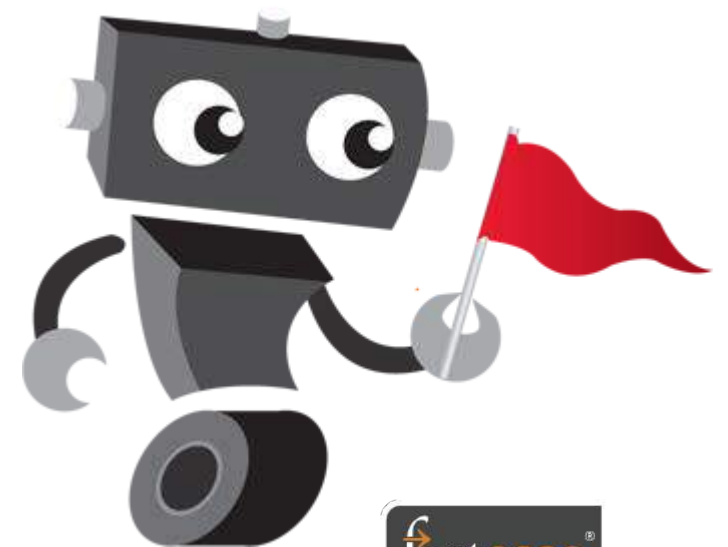
# sort by what's important



- Sort the most cited cases to the top of your results list in one click.
- Also sort by those cases that were cited the most by other cases that satisfy your search terms. These will often be the most relevant.
- Finally, sort by date to get the latest search results.

# authority check

- You can click on the numbers displayed next to a case name to see every case that cited back to it on the Authority Check Page.
- A case that has been cited with negative citation signals per the Bluebook rules will be flagged by “Bad Law Bot” on multiple pages. More detail is available on the Authority Check page.
- Various statistical information about citations and data visualization.



# forecite

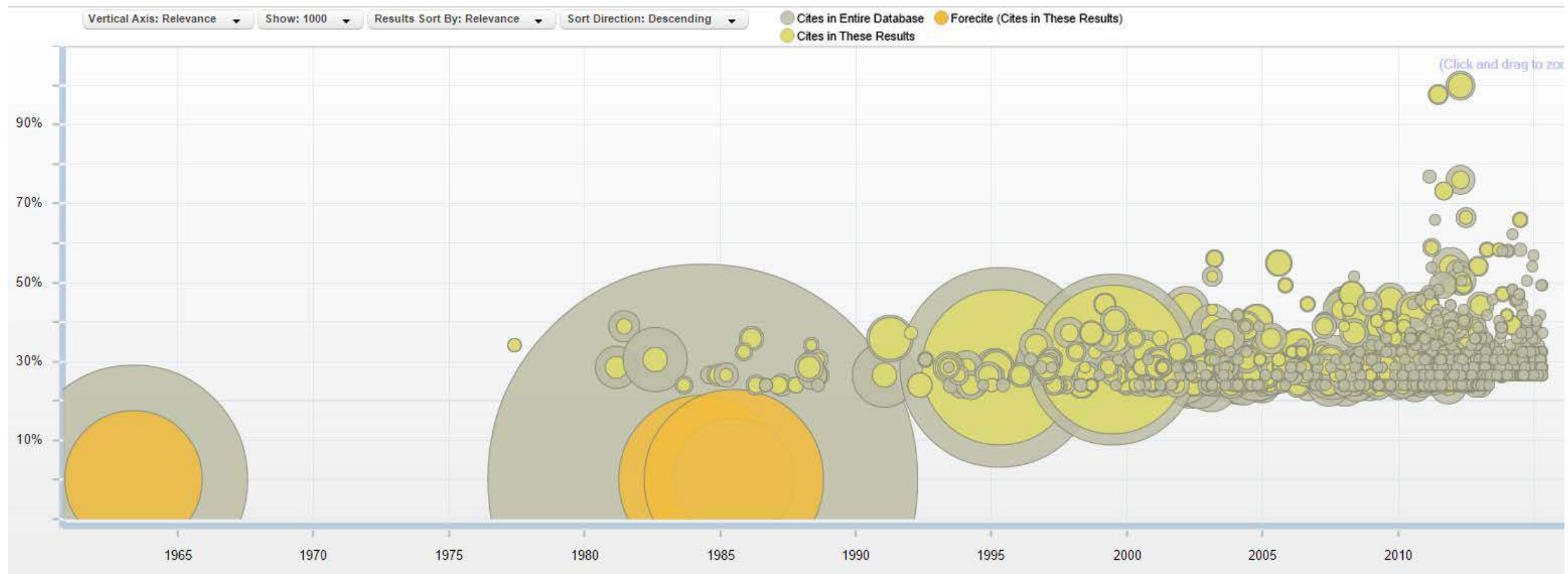
- Alerts you to important cases you may have overlooked.
- Sometimes the most important cases will not match your terms.

**Forecite:** Fastcase has identified 3 additional decisions that may be relevant to your research topic, but do not contain one or more of your search terms.

- + [Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483, 74 S.Ct. 686, 98 L.Ed. 873, 38 ALR2d 1180 \(U.S. 1954\)](#)
- + [Brown v. Board of Education, 349 U.S. 294, 75 S.Ct. 753, 99 L.Ed. 1083 \(U.S. 1955\)](#)
- + [Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation, 429 U.S. 252, 97 S.Ct. 555, 50 L.Ed.2d 450 \(U.S. 1977\)](#)

[Expand all results](#) [What's Forecite?](#)

# interactive timeline





# search HeinOnline articles on Fastcase

- Fastcase specializes in primary law, but we partner with other companies that are great at what they specialize in.
- HeinOnline and Clio, leaders in secondary sources and practice management, respectively.
- Only pay for law review articles when you find something useful instead of perpetually financing other people's research.

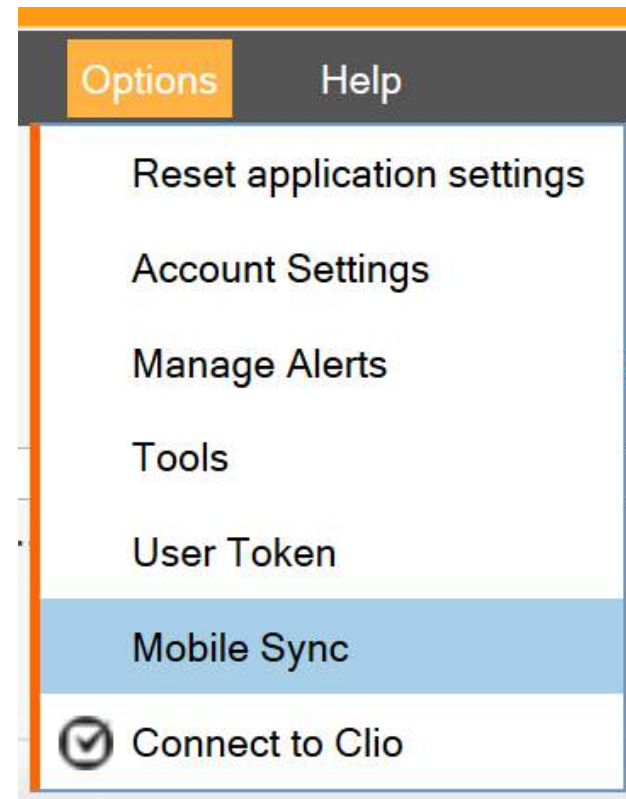
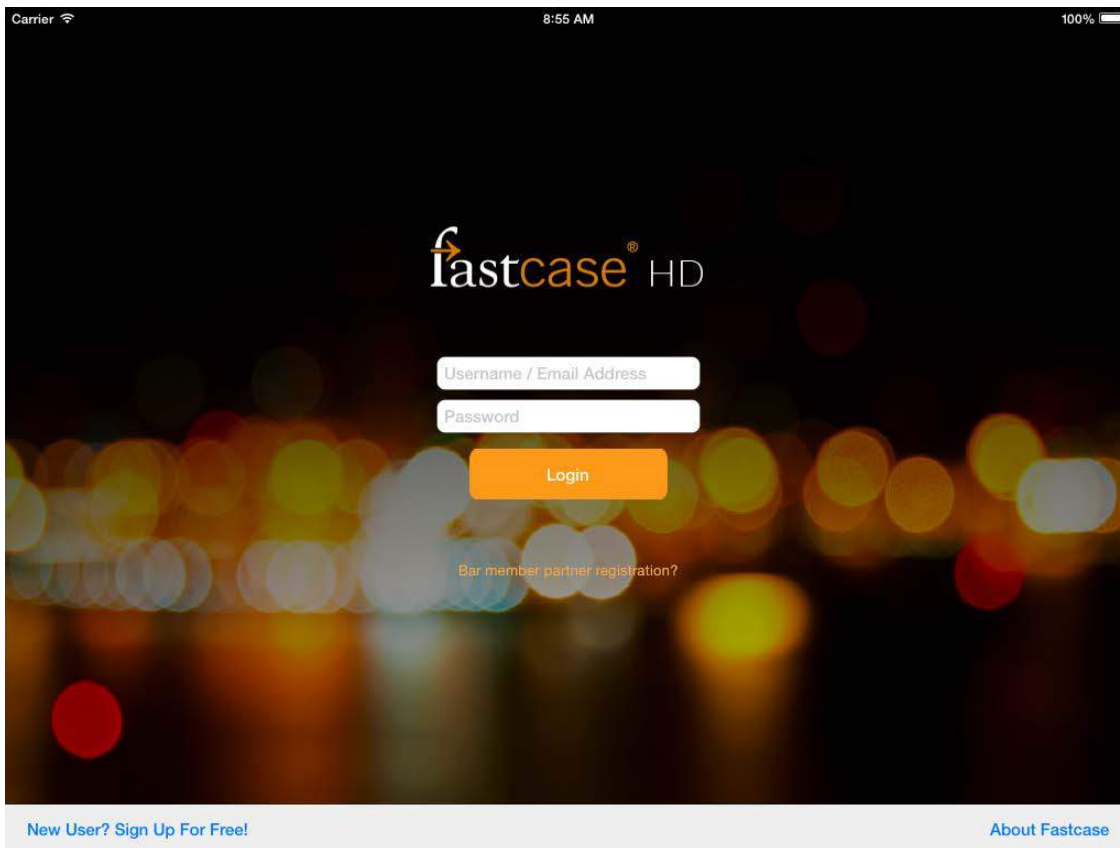
[Hide](#) →

**Suggested Results**  
[Search HeinOnline materials](#)  
What are suggested results?

[Issue 2 - \(2004\): First Amendment and the Free Flow of Information: Towards a Realistic Right to Gather Information in the Information Age. The 65 Ohio St. L.J. 249 \(2004\) \(Ohio State Law Journal\)](#)

...case, the **First Amendment** issues as "fuliginous". 21 Compare A. Michael Froomkin, The Death of Privacy, 52 STAN. L. REV. 1461, 1508 (2000) (asserting that "both the Supreme Court and appellate courts have interpreted the **First Amendment** to encompass a right to gather information"), with Eugene Cerruti, "Dancing in the Courthouse": The **First Amendment** Right of Access Opens a New Round, 29 U. RICH. L. REV. 237, 246 (1995) (stating that whenever a "**First Amendment** right to gather information., was squarely...

# mobile app



# Fastcase 7

- Fastcase 7 is the new revision of the Fastcase interface, available in beta testing now for members.
- DC Bar members are able to toggle between 6 and 7 at will using the toggle switch at the top right of the screen.
- Fastcase 7 has a slew of new features - endless scroll, the ability to search across multiple content types, a streamlined look and feel



# single page app

The screenshot displays the Fastcase search interface for the query "probable cause" and "automobile". The search results are sorted by relevance, showing six entries. The interface includes a search bar, navigation tabs (Favorites, History, Print Queue, Help), and a user profile (Ed Walters). A sidebar on the left provides filters for document type, court level, and jurisdiction. A right sidebar shows suggested results and Hein Online Law Reviews. At the bottom, there is an interactive timeline visualization showing the distribution of cases over time from 1920 to 2010.

**RESULTS: 1064**

Search Within: [ ]

Applied Filters: None

**- Document Type**

- Case Law (766)
- Hein Online Law Reviews (296)
- Statutes (2)

**- Court Level**

- State (766)

**- Jurisdiction**

- MA (1064)

Apply Filters Clear Filters

Relevance	Document	Date	Authority Check Results	Database
100%	1. <b>Com. v. Garden</b> , 883 N.E.2d 905, 451 Mass. 43 (MA, 4/1/2008) ed by <b>probable cause</b> because the officer detected the odor of burnt marijuana after a valid stop of the car. While we agree that in appropriate circumstances [883 N.E.2d 908] the smell of marijuana can provide <b>probable cause</b> to search all parts of a vehicle, in the circumstances of this case, <b>probable cause</b> to search did not extend to the trunk. Accordingly, we affirm. 1. Background. We recite the facts as they appear	Apr 1, 2008	19	35
88%	2. <b>Com. v. Cast</b> , 556 N.E.2d 69, 407 Mass. 891 (MA, 7/11/1990) ented <b>automobile</b> . 1 We transferred the case here on our own motion and now affirm. The following facts are drawn from the findings of the motion judge. Several days before the defendant's arrest, Herbert Lemon, an agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), met with an informant at a Brockton restaurant. Lemon had never seen the informant before, nor had this informant provided him with any "tips" in the	Jul 11, 1990	69	116
81%	3. <b>Com. v. Upton</b> , 476 N.E.2d 548, 394 Mass. 363 (MA, 4/1/1985) rated <b>probable cause</b> to issue the search warrant. Commonwealth v. Upton, 390 Mass. 562, 563, 458 N.E.2d 717 (1983). In a per curiam opinion, the Supreme Court of the United States reversed our judgment, concluding that there was a proper showing of <b>probable cause</b> under the "totality of the circumstances" test articulated in Illinois v. Gates, 462 U.S. 213, 103 S.Ct. 2317, 76 L.Ed.2d 527 (1983). Massachusetts v. Upton, 466 U.S. 727, 104 S.Ct. 2085, 80 L.Ed.2d 721 (1984). The Supreme Court re	Apr 1, 1985	91	294
81%	4. <b>Com. v. Skea</b> , 470 N.E.2d 385, 18 Mass.App.Ct. 685 (MA, 10/26/1984) amaro <b>automobile</b> in front of a liquor store. From prior official contacts the police recognized one Thurston sitting in the front passenger [18 Mass.App.Ct. 686] seat. No one else was in the <b>automobile</b> . The police knew Thurston was not of drinking age. Through the window one of the officers saw a handrolled cigarette with twisted ends on the console between the front seats. The officer had prior experience and training in narcotics investigation. He recognized the cigarette as likely to be	Oct 26, 1984	30	57
78%	5. <b>Com. v. Eggleston</b> , 903 N.E.2d 1087, 453 Mass. 554 (MA, 4/10/2009) en an <b>automobile</b> is stopped in a public place with <b>probable cause</b> , no more exigent circumstances are required by art. 14 [of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights] beyond the inherent mobility of an <b>automobile</b> itself to justify a warrantless search of the vehicle." Commonwealth v. Motta, 424 Mass. 117, 124, 676 N.E.2d 795 (1997). In this case, we conclude that this principle applies even when the police had ample opportunity to obtain a search warrant, provided that there has been n	Apr 10, 2009	9	12
76%	6. <b>Com. v. Alvarado</b> , 651 N.E.2d 824, 420 Mass. 542 (MA, 6/14/1995) one's automobile. The Commonwealth and the defendants each filed an application for interdictory appeal, which were allowed by a single justice of this court	Jun 14, 1995	31	68

Interactive Timeline

Vertical Axis: Relevance Page Size: 1000 Sort: Relevance Sort Order: Descending Forecite

Legend: Cites in Entire Database (grey), Forecite (Cites in These Results) (orange), Cites in These Results (yellow)

Search Without Warrant, search and seizure, 4th amendment, insufficient, weapon, motor vehicle, passenger, police officer, motion to suppress, inference, consideration, arrest, constitutionality, possession, justification, warrantless, suppression of evidence

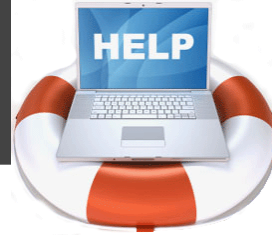
11 Suffolk U. L. Rev. 429 (1976-1977) The United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit 1975-1976 Term Criminal Law and Procedure (Suffolk University Law Review) Click here to show preview text

21 B.C. L. Rev. 851 (1979-1980) Freezing the Status Quo in Criminal Investigations: The Melting of Probable Cause and Warrant Requirements (Boston College Law Review) Click here to show preview text

19 Ann. Surv. Mass. L. 3 (1971-1972) Chapter 1 Search and Seizure (Annual Survey of Massachusetts Law) Click here to show preview text

41 B.C. L. Rev. Send feedback

# customer support



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(excluding holidays)

CALL

1-866-773-2782

EMAIL

[support@fastcase.com](mailto:support@fastcase.com)

LIVE CHAT

Help → Live Help

(AKA Free Legal Research Help – Don't Stay Frustrated!)

# free webinars

Intro to Fastcase	Advanced Course	Boolean Searching
First Thursday of the month, 1pm	Second Thursday, 1pm	Third Thursday, 1pm

Intro to Fastcase 7 webinars – every other Monday at 1pm

Sign up at [www.fastcase.com/webinars](http://www.fastcase.com/webinars)