PRACTICE TIPS: USE FASTCASE 7

New Version Offers LSBA Members Easier Navigation and More Legal Research Options



Smarter legal research.



Fastcase's new home screen.

ouisiana State Bar Association (LSBA) members now have access to Fastcase 7, the allnew version that offers a more fluid and easy-to-navigate online legal research library. Fastcase is offered free to all LSBA members in good standing.

The new version has all of the familiar features and tools, plus an enhanced Forecite, Tag Cloud, Authority Check and Bad Law Bot, more advanced search options, new results screen options, larger fonts and selections to make documents easier to read on computer screens, and new dual-column printing options.

Members have the option to use Fastcase 7 or the classic service via a slider at the top right corner of the Fastcase webpage.

This LSBA member benefit is unlimited — with no restrictions on time or number of transactions, unlimited printing, unlimited reference assistance and unlimited customer service included for free, as well as a newspaper archive, legal forms and a one-stop PACER search of federal filings. Training webinars and tutorials, industry-leading mobile apps, and live customer support are available from members of the Fastcase team.

Here's an overview of the new Fastcase 7 features.

▶ New Home Screen. Fastcase 7 greets users with a guided visual tour that automatically loads the first time the program is accessed. Several resources, tools and updates are prominently displayed, including help resources, live chat with a Fastcase reference attorney, new results on alerts set for particular searches, and quick access to a more detailed version of the search history.

► More Advanced Search. Users can search across different types of materials at the same time, including cases, state constitutions and attorney general opinions. Choose to search everything or filter results down to a select category. Or, choose to search across all materials associated with a particular state jurisdiction simultaneously.

► Results Screen. Main results are accompanied by several tools, all on the same page. These panels can be hidden or expanded without any load time. Move panels and customize the research experience, and control the results that are displayed with the filter pane.

► Tag Cloud. This first-of-its-kind feature allows users to ascertain which terms are being used to discuss a legal issue. Users can click any term to see only results that use that term.

► Interactive Timeline. The Interactive Timeline is displayed directly below the search results. Users do not have to go to another page to view the timeline, but can see results and the data visualization of those results simultaneously. Suggested Results are displayed alongside the main results for every search. This right-hand column is no longer just for HeinOnline materials, but Forecite Results, Journals and other resources. There are no pages of cases to click through on Fastcase 7. When users scroll to the bottom of the initial results, more results will load automatically.

► Document Page. Fastcase 7 makes reading cases on a screen easier by using large fonts. Users can make the reading experience even cleaner by activating full-screen mode using the diagonal arrows on the top right of the opinion text. The results list is now displayed alongside the opinion text in larger format.

▶ New Authority Check. Users can view Authority Check alongside the opinion. All citing cases, the case-level Interactive Timeline and Bad Law Bot can be viewed without opening a new tab or window. Statistical information about which jurisdictions are citing the case is now clearer so users can spot trends in the law on the fly. Users can view the Authority Check report right next to the case, or expand it for the full dashboard view.

▶ New Dual-Column Printing. Users can download up to 500 documents at a time in a zip file, with each document in a separate file. Each file has an intelligent name, so users can identify them in a snap.

LSBA members are encouraged to access Fastcase 7 and review the new features. To access Fastcase, LSBA members should log into their LSBA Member Account and select the "Go directly to Fastcase" option.