Use Bloomberg Law Dockets™ to perform real-world litigation research.

As an academic user of Bloomberg Law®, you have full access to federal dockets — including both the docket sheet and underlying filings — along with dockets filed in states with electronic document retrieval, at no cost to you.

LEARN THE BASICS

What Is a Docket?
A docket is a schedule of proceedings used by courts to track a case. It outlines the chronological lifespan of that case and lists the parties, participating attorneys, and all filings and events, such as complaints, answers, motions, briefs, orders, letters, hearings, schedules, and transcripts.

How Is a Docket Filed?
In nearly all federal courts (with the exception of the United States Supreme Court), documents are filed electronically, and the information is then collected in the federal dockets system called PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records).

In state, county, and local courts, documents are filed either electronically through state-administered online filing systems, or through paper filing systems.

Why are Dockets Useful?
Use dockets to understand the litigation process, prepare for interviews, and find example documents.
MAXIMIZE YOUR RESEARCH

Perform Comprehensive and Intuitive Searches

With Bloomberg Law Dockets, you can search specific criteria to retrieve the best results. Search for dockets in a particular jurisdiction or over all courts, as well as by Docket Number, Party, Attorney or Firm, and Date Range.

You can even search through both the docket sheet and filings that have been uploaded to Bloomberg Law by keyword, allowing you to find the best examples for your specific research.

HELPFUL HINT>>>>

When searching for dockets from one or more federal district courts, you can also retrieve dockets by Cause of Action and Nature of Suit.

Understand Case Law and Legal Arguments

Find relevant case law and legal arguments by pulling complaints, briefs, motions, orders, and other relevant filings in your jurisdiction that deal with comparable issues.

Quickly access documents by clicking VIEW to retrieve a filing that has already been uploaded to Bloomberg Law. Click REQUEST to be the first to retrieve the filing.

You will be notified by email and through a pop-up notification on the lower right hand corner once the document becomes available.

HELPFUL HINT>>>>

Save time by requesting multiple documents within a Docket at the same time. While in a Docket, select up to twelve filings by clicking on the box to the left of the document description. Then, click Request Entries to retrieve all the documents at once.
PREPARE FOR YOUR CAREER

Identify Employers

Use Bloomberg Law Dockets to quickly find law firms that litigate the types of cases you are interested in practicing.

Research for Interviews

Set yourself apart in an interview by discussing dockets currently in front of the judge or filed by the attorney with whom you are meeting.

HELPFUL HINT>>>>
Pull up recent orders granted by judges you hope to clerk for and find relevant topics to discuss in an interview.

EXCEL ON THE JOB

Efficient Drafting

Rather than wasting time sifting through outdated brief banks or forms files, use dockets to find current examples of real filings in your jurisdiction that can be used as templates.

Competitive Intelligence

Prepare yourself by learning how your adversaries litigate — such as the tactics they use and the kinds of arguments they make — before you hit a roadblock.

Internal Intelligence

Save yourself the time and hassle of learning the hard way by pulling dockets for your firm to see how your supervising attorney has drafted documents in the past.

Judicial Preferences

Prior to appearing before a judge or to learn about a judge you work for, pull dockets from cases previously assigned to that judge to discover how the judge has ruled in similar cases. Use this information to determine how the judge wants filings to be submitted, and to get an understanding of how to proceed with an argument.
EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Docket Coverage
See every court available in your state — and internationally — by clicking Docket Coverage on the Litigation & Dockets menu. Then click on an individual state or country to see the full breakdown.

Breaking Complaints
Easily access the latest complaints from many jurisdictions, collected by our in-court researchers at the point of filing. Be among the first to read these new complaints by setting an alert to receive an email every time a case is filed by or against particular parties — including your firm’s clients.

Docket Tracking
Use Track Docket to learn when new activity occurs in cases pending in federal court, and in many jurisdictions, state court. To do this, click the Track Docket link at the top of the Docket sheet to set a customized alert.

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