

Finding Cases When you have a Case Citation

Note: Lexis Advance and Westlaw legal research services are illustrated below.

Overview

In New York state, a case starts in a trial court. If one of the parties is dissatisfied, the case is appealed to an appellate court. If a party dislikes the appellate court's decisions, the case will be appealed to the highest court, the Court of Appeals. New York State has an official publisher, the Law Reporting Bureau, charged with the responsibility to:

report every cause determined in the court of appeals and every cause determined in the appellate divisions of the supreme court, unless otherwise directed by the court deciding the cause; and, in addition, any cause determined in any other court which the state reporter, with the approval of the court of appeals, considers worthy of being reported because of its usefulness as a precedent or its importance as a matter of public interest.

Judiciary Law § 431

The Law Reporting Bureau publishes these three levels of court opinions in the following reporters:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Recently Issued Opinions | New York Slip Opinion Service |
| • Selected trial court and appellate term | Miscellaneous Reports |
| • Appellate Divisions | Appellate Division Reports |
| • Court of Appeals | New York Reports |

West Publishing compiles all three levels of court opinions in the New York Supplement. The New York Law Journal, the legal newspaper for the First Department, selectively publishes trial court decisions of interest, appellate decisions of the First and Second Departments, and Court of Appeals decisions..

Since so many cases are published, reporters are issued in volumes. Usually, once 999 volumes have been issued for a reporter, a new series for that reporter is started. Reporters' titles are also abbreviated; see the chart below.

Reporter	Abbreviation
New York Slip Opinion	NY Slip Op
Miscellaneous Reports 1 st Series	Misc
Miscellaneous Reports 2d Series	Misc 2d
Miscellaneous Reports 3d Series	Misc 3d
New York Law Journal	NYLJ (Westlaw and Lexis do not recognize this citation)
Appellate Division Reports 1 st Series	App Div or AD
Appellate Division 2d Series	AD2d
Appellate Division Reports 3d Series	AD3d
New York Reports 1 st Series	NY
New York Reports 2d Series	NY2d
New York Reports 3d Series	NY3d
New York Supplement	NYS

Reporter	Abbreviation
New York Supplement, 2d Series	NYS2d
New York Supplement, 3d Series	NYS3d
For a full list of New York State and federal reporters and their abbreviations, see the appendices in the New York Law Reports Style Manual.	

Once a case is published in a reporter, it is assigned a citation. A citation is a legal abbreviation format that assists accurate research reporting; it starts with the volume number of the reporter, the abbreviation for the reporter, and the opening page number of the case.



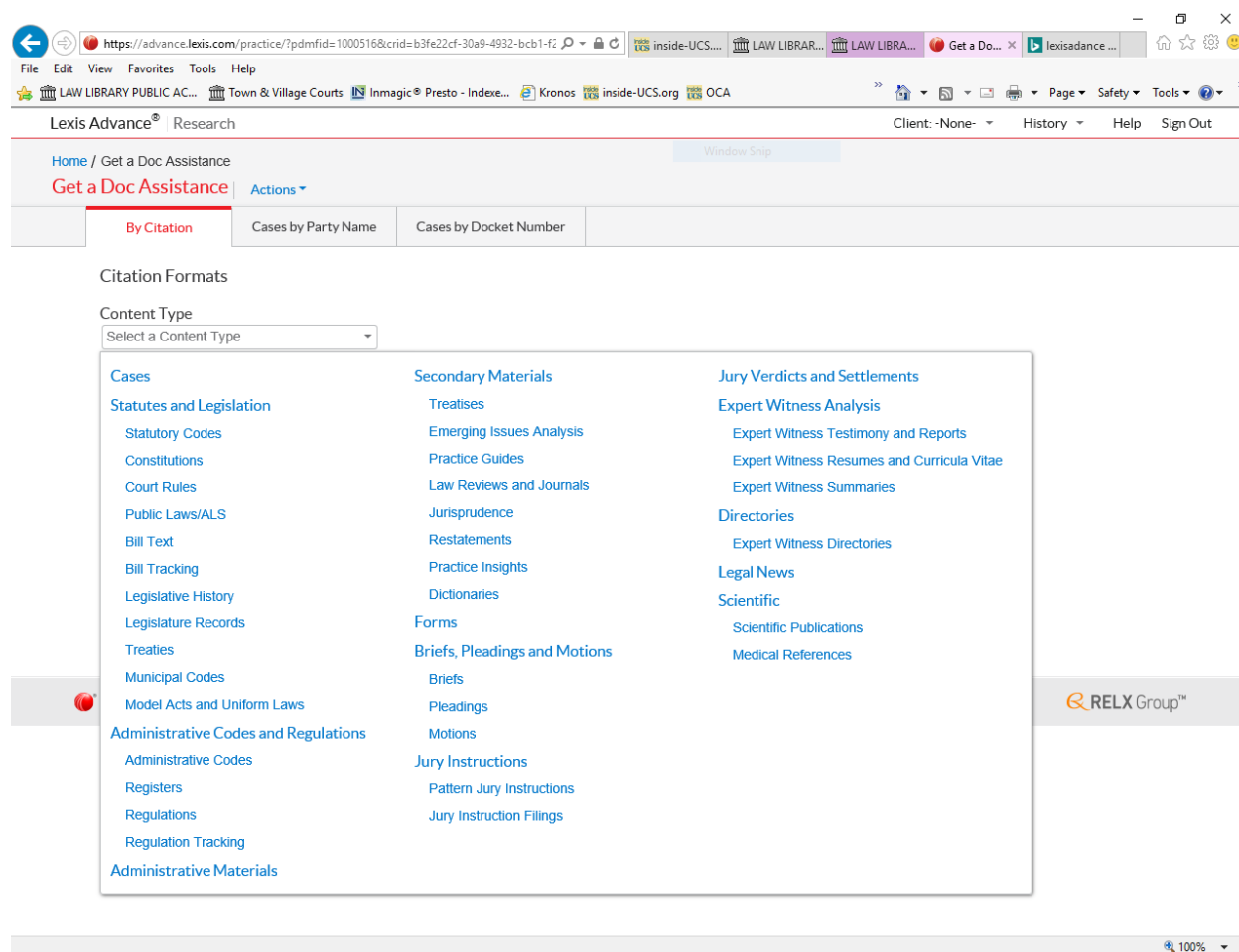
If you have a case name or citation, you can pull it up from the home page of either LexisAdvance or Westlaw.

Lexis Advance

After signing into Lexis Advance, type a citation in the query box. If you do not know the abbreviation for the reporter, click on Get A Doc Assistance



Since you want a citation abbreviation, you will select cases from the Get a Doc Assistance By Citation drop-down menu.



After selecting Cases, you select New York as your jurisdiction. A list of New York Reporters appears. Click on the blue abbreviation for a template to enter the volume and page numbers.

Lexis Advance® | Research Client: -None- History Help Sign Out

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Get a Doc Assistance | [Actions](#)

By Citation | Cases by Party Name | Cases by Docket Number

Citation Formats

Content Type

Jurisdiction
 [Clear Jurisdiction](#)

Sources	Citation Formats
Abbott's Court of Appeals Decisions [NY]	Abb. Dec.
Abbott's New Cases [NY]	Abb. N. Cas.
Abbott's Practice Reports (n.s.) [NY]	Abb. Pr. (n.s.)
Abbott's Practice Reports [NY]	Abb. Pr.
Anthon's Nisi Prius Cases [NY]	Ant. N.P. Cas.
Barbour's Chancery Reports [NY]	Barb. Ch.
Barbour's Supreme Court Reports [NY]	Barb.
Comstock's Reports [NY]	Comst.

Westlaw

Type the citation in the text box. Notice that since more than one case is printed on page 987 of 27 AD2d, Westlaw lists all the cases in a drop-down menu.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw interface with a search query of '27 AD2d 987'. The search results are displayed in a drop-down menu under the heading 'Cases'. The results list several cases with their respective citations and court information:

Case Name	Citation 1	Citation 2	Date	Court
Schacht V. City Of New York	281 N.Y.S.2d 973	27 A.D.2d 987	4/4/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.
Tabone V. Beame	27 A.D.2d 987	282 N.Y.S.2d 154	4/20/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.
People V. Rodriguez	281 N.Y.S.2d 976	27 A.D.2d 987	4/18/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.
People V. Turpin	279 N.Y.S.2d 702	27 A.D.2d 987	4/24/1967	N.Y.A.D. 2 Dept.
People V. Thomas	27 A.D.2d 987	281 N.Y.S.2d 727	4/13/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.
Stahl V. Thayer	27 A.D.2d 987	282 N.Y.S.2d 196	4/24/1967	N.Y.A.D. 2 Dept.
People V. Price	281 N.Y.S.2d 987	27 A.D.2d 987	4/17/1967	N.Y.A.D. 2 Dept.
People V. Molina	27 A.D.2d 987	282 N.Y.S.2d 191	4/24/1967	N.Y.A.D. 2 Dept.
Fein V. State Liquor Authority	27 A.D.2d 987	281 N.Y.S.2d 718	4/4/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.
Dames V. U.S. Liab. Ins. Co.	27 A.D.2d 987	281 N.Y.S.2d 730	4/13/1967	N.Y.A.D. 1 Dept.

The interface also shows a 'Browse' sidebar on the left, a search bar at the top right with 'NY (State & Fed.)' selected, and a news section at the bottom titled 'Court upholds attorneys' fee award for Dow in patent fight with Bayer'.

Westlaw does not have a case abbreviation template, but it does have the New York Law Reports Style Manual available. Retrieve the style manual by typing New York Law Reports in the query box. Official citation formats for New York Reporters are listed in the New York Law Reports Style Manual, Appendix 2.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw interface with a search query of 'New York Law Reports'. The search results are displayed in a drop-down menu under the heading 'Looking for this?'. The results list several items:

- New York Law Reports Style Manual
- Secondary Sources
 - Labor American Totalisator... Totalisator Company, Inc. And The New York Racing Association, Inc., 243 Nlrp No. 46, 1972 Cch Labor Law Reports, Para. 15,955 2 NO. 3 Ent. L. Rep. 7 | 3/31/1997
 - New York Common Law Protects Jazz Recordings Made Prior To 1972, When Federal Copyright Law Was Amended To Protect Recordings Tono, A. G. V. Recordcraft... 3 NO. 3 Ent. L. Rep. 5 | 4/1/1997
 - Home Box Office Obtains... Tv Of Greater New York, Inc., Cch Copyright... 1 NO. 11 Ent. L. Rep. 6 | 3/28/1997

The interface also shows a 'Browse' sidebar on the left, a search bar at the top right with 'New York' selected, and a news section at the bottom titled 'Trump budget would defund Legal Services Corporation'.