

# Mississippi Casemaker

---

## **An Overview on What Mississippi Lawyers Can Expect**

Casemaker will be available free of charge to all members of The Mississippi Bar in May 2005.

Casemaker is a unique online legal research tool with a powerful search engine providing access to a combination of state and federal materials, which was launched by the Ohio State Bar Association in 1998. Casemaker includes historic to current cases, statutes, and regulations. (*You may view the contents list for the Mississippi Library on page 4 of this document*).

The Casemaker Consortium represents nearly 350,000 lawyers who are state bar association members in 20 states: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Vermont. Other states are currently considering membership in the Casemaker Consortium.

According to Denny Ramey, executive director of the Ohio State Bar Association, founding member of the Casemaker Consortium, “The Consortium is a win-win concept, because each member bar shares its library with all the other member bars. It levels the playing field for the 60 to 70 percent of lawyers who are sole practitioners or who practice in firms of five or fewer lawyers – many of whom cannot afford to subscribe to the online legal research services. Large firms also benefit, realizing a cost savings when they ask their lawyers to use Casemaker before turning to more expensive tools. The goal of Casemaker is to take care of 90 percent of lawyers’ research needs 90 percent of the time. In my opinion, no association – bar or otherwise – has provided members with a better benefit than Casemaker.”

*View **Frequently Asked Questions (Casemaker FAQ)** below on pages 2-3. View the **Mississippi Library** on page 4.*

# Casemaker FAQ

---

## **What Does It Do?**

Casemaker is a web-based legal research library and search engine that allows you to search and browse a variety of legal information such as codes, rules and case law through the Internet. It is an easily searchable, continually updated database of case law, statutes and regulations.

## **Does It Cost Anything To Access Casemaker Online?**

Use of the Casemaker Web Library is free to all members of The Mississippi Bar.

## **What Will The Casemaker Library Contain?**

View the list of Mississippi Casemaker's library contents below on page 4.

## **Will Casemaker Replace the Commercial Vendor I Use For Online Legal Research?**

This is an individual choice that depends on the needs of your legal practice. Casemaker will provide a comprehensive, online legal research library. There will be no monthly, hourly or per-minute charges.

## **How Do I Gain Access To Casemaker?**

Once Casemaker is available online, each Mississippi Bar member will login to Casemaker by going to the Bar's website at [www.msbar.org](http://www.msbar.org). All MS Bar members will be assigned a username and password.

## **Can I Create My Own Annotations?**

By entering the case or statute, all the cases or statutes requested will be pulled up. You want to first check in the Supreme Court Library to see if it is mentioned and modified in any way. If it has been, you do not have to look further because the decision is binding in all lower courts. Regardless, you can read the decision yourself to find out if it would be pertinent to your case. Casemaker includes a citatory feature, CaseCheck. By entering the case name or citation, all the cases that reference that case or citation will be pulled up for your review. In addition, CaseCheck allows you to find out where your case has been cited. CaseCheck automatically locates all cases that cite the case you are viewing and allows you to link directly to those cases. CaseCheck results are displayed to the right of the case you are viewing.

## **How Can I Create My Own Annotations?**

With the full text searching capability of the Casemaker Web Library you no longer have to rely on annotations to find out which cases are cited because, when you insert a statute into the basic search screen and hit search, you will retrieve the full text of all cases that discuss the code in question. Then you can make your own decision of relevance.

### **What Is The Minimum Number of Characters That Can Be Entered As A Search Term?**

You must enter at least two characters for every search term. The search engine will return an error if you enter one character by itself.

### **How Does The Search Engine Decide The Rank Of A Document?**

The ranking algorithm (formula) takes into consideration relative word ordering, word proximity, database frequency, document frequency, and position in text.

### **How Can I Narrow Down My Search?**

If you are getting too many results, try:

- Adding some more words to your query.
- Using the exclusion operator (-) to ensure documents returned don't include unwanted terms.
- If you are searching for a phrase enter it as such (i.e. "bill of sale").
- Changing the Word Forms control to Exact.
- Decreasing the range of the Proximity control (i.e. within 500 characters)

### **I'm Having Trouble Getting Too Few Results From My Searches.**

If you are getting too few results, try:

- Reducing the number of words in your query.
- Checking your spelling.
- Increasing the scope of the proximity control.
- Making sure that you are searching the correct book.

### **I Would Like to Read Other Cases That Cite My Original Search.**

The right hand margin will display these cases for you in CaseCheck.

### **I'm An Attorney in Another State. How Do I Get Access To The Mississippi Bar's Casemaker program?**

You must be a member of The Mississippi Bar in good standing to access Casemaker.

### **May I Purchase A CD To Access Casemaker?**

No, Casemaker is accessible only through The Mississippi Bar's website.

### **What Are The System Requirements?**

1. We highly suggest running the most recent browser version of your choice. The minimums would be at least:
  - Windows: Internet Explorer 6.0 (IE), Any Mozilla/Firefox version, AOL 7.0
  - MAC: Any browser that can run in OS X is acceptable.
2. Personal firewall, cookie blockers, pop-up blockers programs can cause the authentication or certain features of the service to be blocked if the settings are such that they do not allow third-party cookies or new windows to be opened. If this is the case, specify [www.lawriter.net](http://www.lawriter.net) as an "allowed" site.

# Mississippi Library

---

Mississippi Supreme Court from 1919

Mississippi Court of Appeals Decisions (published and unpublished) from 1995

Mississippi Constitution

Mississippi Code of 1972

Mississippi Session Laws, as enacted

Mississippi Code Conversion Table

Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure

Mississippi Rules of Evidence

Mississippi Appellate Rules

Mississippi State Administrative Regulations

Mississippi Attorney General Opinions from 1979

Mississippi Workers' Compensation Opinions from 2005

Mississippi Public Services Opinions from 2005

Mississippi Ethics Opinions from 2005

Mississippi Local Court Rules

Federal Supplement from 2005 (Mississippi cases only)

Local Federal Bankruptcy Rules for all Districts in Mississippi

Federal Bankruptcy Decisions (Mississippi cases only) from 2001

Federal Bankruptcy Rules Decisions (Mississippi cases only from 2005)

Mississippi Code (versions prior to 1972)

Mississippi Bar CLE Materials

UMC Law Journal

MC Law Journal

Mississippi Lawyer Magazine Articles

Choctaw Tribal Court Opinions

Mississippi Ethics Opinions Pre-2005