



THE MISSISSIPPI BAR
CASEMAKER

Online Library

**READY TO
LAUNCH**



MISSISSIPPI

Changing the Online Legal Research Landscape

There's a movement afoot in state bar associations across the country that is changing the way lawyers look at their bar associations, and The Mississippi Bar is a part of it. State bar associations across the country are joining the Casemaker Consortium – providing online legal research to their members – as part of their bar association membership.

“It does not matter if you are a lawyer in a large, medium or small firm, if you work for the government, or practice on your own, Casemaker can make a big difference in the way you practice law,” said Mississippi Bar Executive Director Larry Houchins. “In this age of technology, lawyers need easy, cost effective access to legal research. Casemaker provides both.”

Launched by the Ohio State Bar Association in 1998, Casemaker is a unique online legal research tool with a powerful search engine providing access to a combination of state and federal materials. Casemaker includes historic to current cases, statutes, and regulations. *In Mississippi* the Casemaker library will include Mississippi Supreme Court from 1919; Mississippi Court of Appeals Decisions (published and unpublished) from 1995; Mississippi Constitution; Mississippi Code of 1972; Mississippi Session Laws, as enacted; Mississippi Code Conversion Table; Mississippi Rules of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; Mississippi Lawyer Magazine Articles and Mississippi Ethics Opinions Pre-2005.

The Casemaker Consortium represents nearly 375,000 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, Vermont and Washington. A host of 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 other 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% of lawyers' research needs 90% of the time. In my opinion, no association – bar or otherwise - has provided members with a better benefit than Casemaker.”

One of the reason state bar associations exist is to provide members with practice tools and other services to support members' practice of law. “I cannot think of a better practice tool than free online legal research – as part of bar association membership – available to every attorney in our state,” said Mississippi Bar President Charlie Swayze. “When it comes to meeting our members' needs – and when it comes to supporting what clients need from their lawyers in a cost-effective way, Casemaker is right up there at the top of the list.”

The Casemaker online library will be available to all Mississippi Bar members free of charge in May 2005. For more information on the Casemaker program go to the Bar's website at www.msbar.org. ■

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Casemaker?

A. Casemaker is a Web-based 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.

Q. When will Casemaker be available?

A. If everything goes as planned, Casemaker will be available by the end of May 2005.

Q. How will I know?

A. In addition to notices in Bar Briefs and *The Mississippi Lawyer*, we'll be sending a letter to all active members.

Q. Will it cost anything to use Casemaker?

A. No! The use of the Casemaker Web Library is free to all members of The Mississippi Bar. It's a benefit of membership.

Q. What will the Casemaker library contain?

A. The Mississippi Code and Constitution, Mississippi state cases, federal cases for Mississippi and the 5th Circuit, court and bar rules, administrative rules and regulations, articles from *The Mississippi Lawyer*, plus similar materials from all the other states which participate in the Casemaker Consortium. For a complete listing of the databases that will be available to you, see the Bar's web-site www.msbar.org.

Q. Should I cancel my current legal research service subscription?

A. This is an individual choice that depends on the needs of your practice. Casemaker will provide a comprehensive online legal research library, but needs of firms may vary, so everyone is encouraged to carefully evaluate their needs and options.

Q. Where will I find Casemaker?

A. You'll access Casemaker by going to the Bar's Web site at www.msbar.org and logging into the members' password protected area to be set up shortly. More information will be forthcoming on how to log onto Casemaker.

Q. What if I don't currently have an e-mail address on file with the Bar?

A. Then you need to provide us with one *in writing*. You can do so by regular mail (Theresa Robinson, P.O. Box 2168, Jackson, MS 39225), fax (601) 355-8635), or by sending an e-mail to trobinson@msbar.org.

For more information on the contents of Casemaker library and what it will do, check The Mississippi Bar's Web site at www.msbar.org.

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 (Available June 2005)
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
Mississippi Lawyer Magazine Articles
Mississippi Ethics Opinions Pre-2005

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July 11-16, 2005 • Sandestin, FL

Go to www.msbar.org to register.