

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 at <http://www.msbar.org/admin/spotimages/943.pdf>

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. 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 as an "allowed" site.