

DocketBird MCP

Installation Guide for Claude

Connect federal court document search directly to your Claude workspace using the Model Context Protocol (MCP).

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This guide walks you through connecting the DocketBird MCP server to your Claude account so you can search and download federal court documents directly from Claude.

1. Prerequisites

Before you begin, make sure you have:

	Requirement	Details
✓	DocketBird Account	Sign up at docketbird.com with an API key
✓	Claude Account	Claude.ai (web) or Claude Desktop app

2. Create Your MCP Server Account

Before Claude can connect, you need to register your DocketBird API key with the MCP server.

1. Go to <https://docketbird-mcp.com/signup>
2. Fill in the three fields:

Field	Description
DocketBird Email	The email you use to log into DocketBird
MCP Server Password	Create a new password (8+ characters). This is separate from your DocketBird password.
DocketBird API Key	Your API key from DocketBird account settings

3. Click **Create Account**

Tip: You should see a green confirmation message: "Account created. You can now connect DocketBird in Claude."

[Screenshot: Signup page will be inserted here]

3. Add the MCP Server in Claude

Claude.ai (Web)

1. Open **claude.ai**
2. Click the **Settings** icon (gear icon at the bottom-left)
3. Go to **Integrations** (or **Connected MCP Servers**)
4. Click **Add Integration** (or **Add MCP Server**)
5. Enter the server URL:

`https://docketbird-mcp.com/mcp`

6. Click **Connect** (or **Add**)

Claude Desktop

1. Open Claude Desktop
2. Open **Settings > Developer > MCP Servers**
3. Click **Add Remote MCP Server**
4. Enter a name (e.g., "DocketBird") and the URL: `https://docketbird-mcp.com/mcp`
5. Click **Add**

4. Authenticate via OAuth

After adding the server, Claude will prompt you to log in. Here's what happens behind the scenes:

1. **Discovery** — Claude fetches the OAuth configuration from the server to discover endpoints
2. **Client Registration** — Claude registers itself as an OAuth client (one-time, using Dynamic Client Registration)
3. **Login Redirect** — Claude opens a browser window to the DocketBird MCP login page

When the login page appears:

1. Enter your **DocketBird Email** and **MCP Server Password** (the password you created in Step 2, **not** your DocketBird password)
2. Click **Log In**

[Screenshot: Login page will be inserted here]

After login, the server generates an authorization code and redirects back to Claude. Claude exchanges this code for an access token. You're now connected!

Important: Your API key never leaves the server. Claude only receives an OAuth token. The server maps that token to your API key on each request.

5. Start Using the Tools

Once connected, you can ask Claude to work with court documents. Try these prompts:

- "List my tracked cases"
- "Get details for case txnd-3:2007-cv-01697"
- "Search for motions to dismiss in that case"
- "Download the complaint filing"
- "What courts are available?"

Available Tools

Tool	What It Does
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<code>get_case_details</code>	Get case info, parties, and documents
<code>search_documents</code>	Search documents within a case by keyword
<code>list_cases</code>	List your tracked cases
<code>list_courts</code>	Look up court codes and case types
<code>download_document</code>	Download a single document
<code>download_files</code>	Download all documents for a case

6. How Authentication Works

The DocketBird MCP server uses **OAuth 2.0 with PKCE** to securely connect your DocketBird API key to Claude without exposing it.

Authentication Flow

Step	From	To	Action
1	You	Claude	Add server URL
2	Claude	MCP Server	Discover OAuth endpoints
3	Claude	MCP Server	Register as OAuth client
4	MCP Server	You	Show login page
5	You	MCP Server	Enter email + password
6	MCP Server	Claude	Return access token
7	Claude	MCP Server	Tool call with token
8	MCP Server	DocketBird API	API call with your key
9	DocketBird API	Claude	Return results to you

Security Details

- **Your API key never leaves the server.** Claude only receives an OAuth token. The server maps that token to your API key on each request.
- **Tokens expire.** Access tokens last 1 hour. Claude automatically refreshes them using a refresh token (valid for 30 days).
- **Your password is hashed.** Stored with bcrypt, never in plain text.
- **Each user has their own key.** There is no shared API key on the server.

7. Troubleshooting

"Invalid email or password" on login

You need to use the password you created during signup (Step 2), **not** your DocketBird account password. These are separate credentials.

"Auth session expired"

The OAuth session timed out (10-minute window). Go back to Claude and re-initiate the connection. Claude will redirect you to a fresh login page.

"Rate limit exceeded"

The server limits requests to 30 per minute per IP. Wait a minute and try again.

Token expired / "Not authenticated"

Access tokens expire after 1 hour. Claude should refresh them automatically. If you're stuck, disconnect and reconnect the MCP server in Claude settings.

Connection issues

Check that the server is healthy: visit <https://docketbird-mcp.com/health>. You should see a JSON response with status "ok".

Need help? Contact support at support@docketbird-mcp.com