



# Constitution Annotated for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

February 2016

# Goals



- Make CONAN the premier online constitutional law research tool
- Increase access for Congress and experts
- Increase public access
- Increase public understanding of the Constitution
- Encourage public dialogue

# Information in CONAN



- Historical notes
- Commentary for each Constitutional provision
- Table of Cases
- Acts of Congress Held Unconstitutional
- State and Local Provisions Held Unconstitutional
- Supreme Court Decisions Overruled by Subsequent Decision
- Index of subjects

# Current Access

- Print document, > 2000 pages
- Complete PDF online
- PDF in parts online

Missing any meaningful navigation, search or access to CONAN data.

# Modernization Opportunities



## **Improve Navigation**

- Tree navigation of Table of Contents
- Web list of Table of Cases
- View and sort Cases, Acts of Congress and State provisions held unconstitutional

## **Improve Search**

- Search whole document
- Search cases (can include case text)
- Filter by date, by subject, by public law

# Approach: Data



## **Standardize Data Input:**

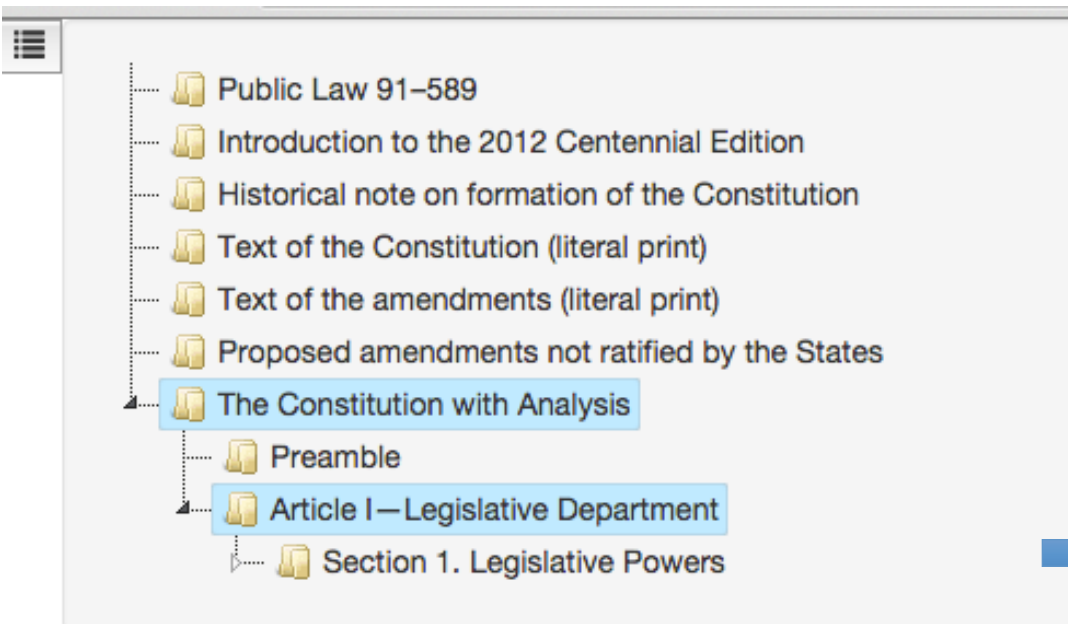
- Automate conversion of existing document into data
- Provide input tools to allow future information (e.g. Table of Cases) to be input as data

## **Improve Public Access:**

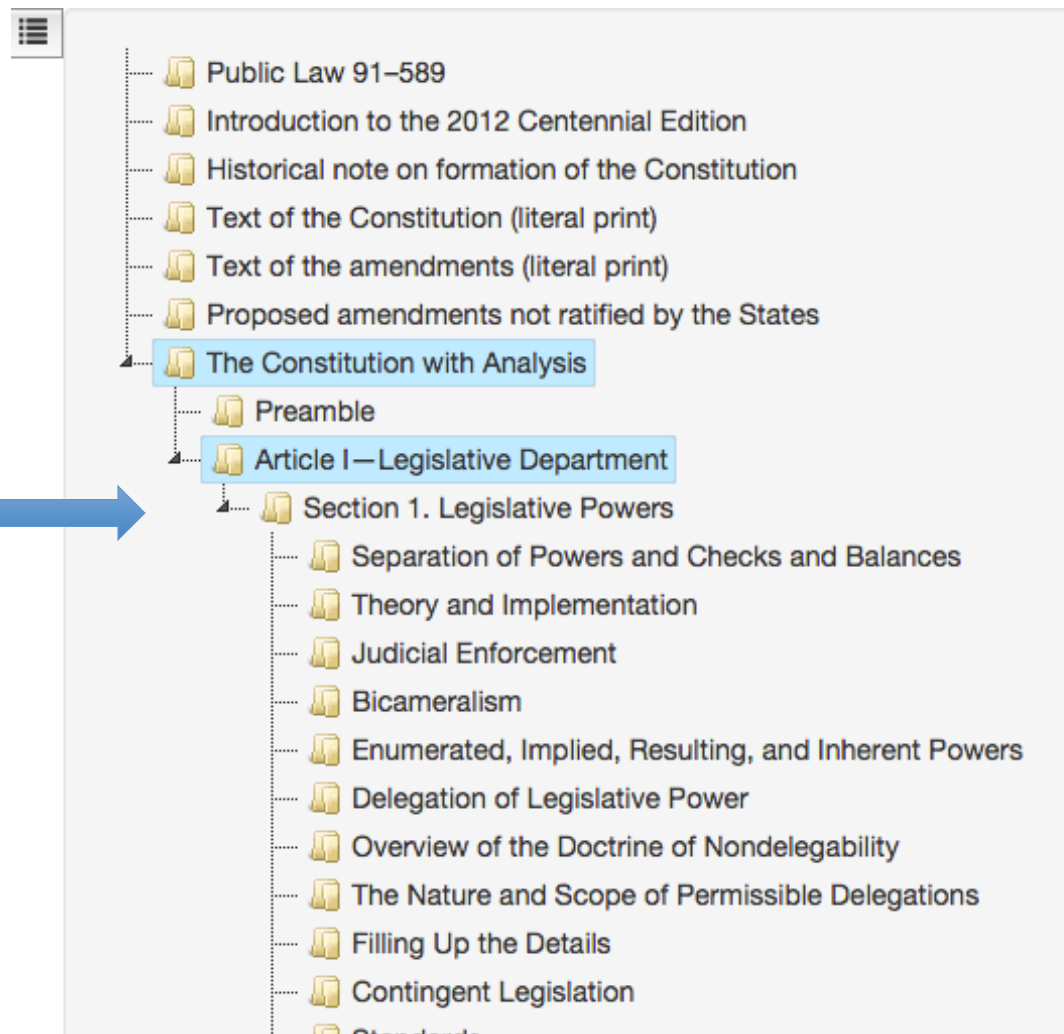
Provide web-based tools to access data

May support expert commentary and other dynamic content

# Navigation – Table of Contents

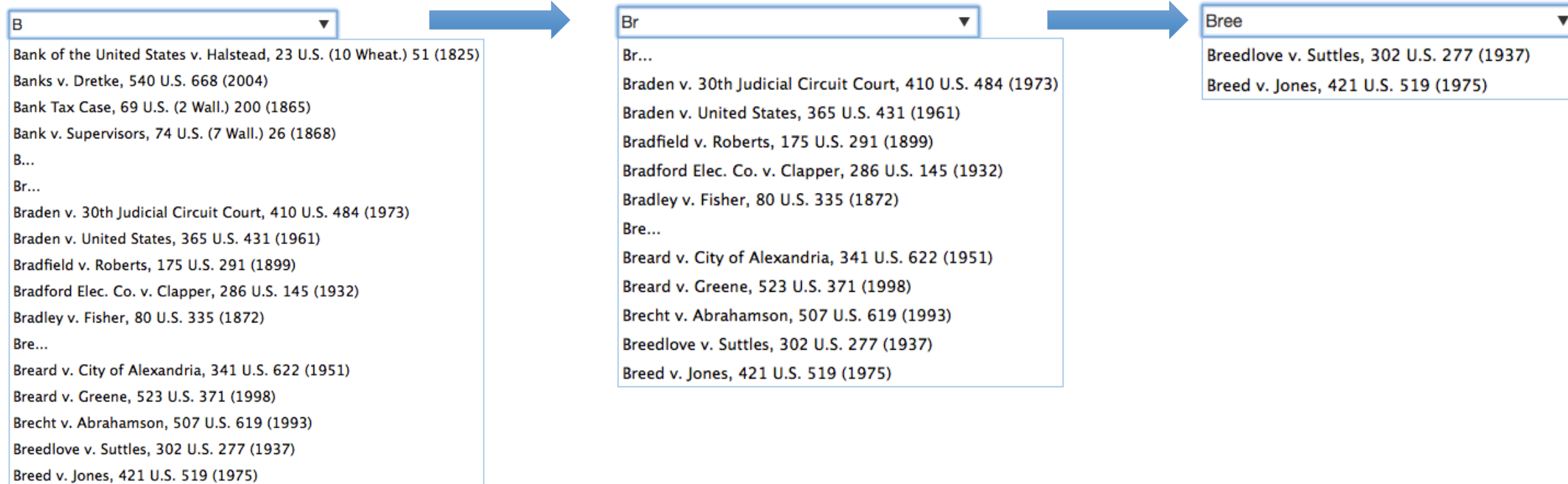


- Public Law 91–589
- Introduction to the 2012 Centennial Edition
- Historical note on formation of the Constitution
- Text of the Constitution (literal print)
- Text of the amendments (literal print)
- Proposed amendments not ratified by the States
- The Constitution with Analysis**
  - Preamble
  - Article I—Legislative Department**
    - Section 1. Legislative Powers



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      - Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances
      - Theory and Implementation
      - Judicial Enforcement
      - Bicameralism
      - Enumerated, Implied, Resulting, and Inherent Powers
      - Delegation of Legislative Power
      - Overview of the Doctrine of Nondelegability
      - The Nature and Scope of Permissible Delegations
      - Filling Up the Details
      - Contingent Legislation
      - Standards

# Navigation – Table of Cases



Sort and filter by: date, provision, subject, Public Law affected



# Search— CONAN, Cases, Statutes



Full-text search, with fuzzy match, Boolean operators and other modern search tools.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Xcential demo search interface. The browser address bar shows 'demos.linkedlegislation.com/#/query'. The page title is 'Constitution Annotated (demo)'. A search bar contains the query '"right to confrontation"~5' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, the 'Results' section shows 'Total hits "8"'. A table lists search results with columns for 'Location' and 'Text'. The first result is at 'p.2799' and the second is at 'p.1645'. The 'Keywords' section lists terms like 'face-to-face confrontation' with relevance scores. A 'Preview (pdf)' section shows a snippet from 'AMENDMENT 6—RIGHTS OF ACCUSED' at page 1645, discussing the right to face-to-face confrontation.

Constitution Annotated (demo)

"right to confrontation"~5 Search

**Results**  
Total hits "8"

Location	Text
p.2799	..... 1015 Rape: child witness and defendant's right to confrontation ..... 1644
p.1645	state interest sufficiently important to outweigh a defendant's right to face-to-face confrontation. Reliability of the... another case involving child sex crime victims, the Court held that there is no right of face-to-face confrontation at an in

**Keywords** face-to-face confrontation (0.98) wit (0.95) child witness (0.65) state interest (0.65) prior sexual history (0.54) rape shield law (0.54) academic literature document (0.54) rigorous adversarial testing (0.54) sex crime victims (0.54) serious emotional distress (0.54)

**Preview (pdf)**

AMENDMENT 6—RIGHTS OF ACCUSED 1645

for face-to-face confrontation.”<sup>249</sup> This preference can be overcome “only where denial of such confrontation is necessary to further an important public policy and only where the reliability of the testimony is otherwise assured.”<sup>250</sup> Relying on the traditional and “transcendent” state interest in protecting the welfare of children, on the significant number of state laws designed to protect child witnesses, and on “the growing body of academic literature document-  
... 251

Demo of the full-text document search. Try it out at [demos.linkedlegislation.com](https://demos.linkedlegislation.com)

Structured data will permit even more powerful search, for:

Acts held Unconstitutional,

State and Local Provisions held Unconstitutional, and

Supreme Court Cases Overruled