



College of Law

Finding Cases in Ohio

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Ohio Case Law

How do I find a case in Ohio?

If you are looking for cases pertaining specifically to Ohio, there are **three** basic search strategies.

I. You have a legal citation. If not, go to section II.

If you have a legal citation, you will need to correctly identify each component to determine which reporter published your case. Each citation is typically broken down into three basic components: the volume number, the reporter series, and the page number.

For example:

89 Ohio St. 93

↑ ↑ ↑

Volume # Reporter Page #

89 → Volume # 89

Ohio St. → Ohio State Reports

93 → Page # 93

Another example:

52 Ohio App.2d 348

↑ ↑ ↑

Volume # Reporter Page #

52 → Volume # 52

Ohio App.2d → Ohio Appellate Reports, 2nd series

348 → Page # 348

**For a list of common abbreviations for Ohio reporters, see-
Ohio Abbreviations Guide @ www.law.uc.edu/library.**

Once you have deciphered the citation, enter the title of the reporter on [UCLID](#) to retrieve the call number. The call number will direct you to its specific location within the Law Library. Please note that all Ohio reporters are located in the Ohio Alcove room, which is located on the 3rd floor of the library.

II. You have a case name, but no citation. If not, go to section III.

If you have a case name (names of parties involved), there are several sources available that will enable you to locate a citation to a reporter. West's Ohio Digest and Ohio Jurisprudence both provide a TABLE OF CASES section at the end of each set. The TABLE OF CASES lists alphabetically the title of each case, by both Plaintiff and Defendant's names and the volume and page of the reporter in which each is published. Another source available to UC students is [Lexis Academic Universe](#).

III. You are looking for a case(s) on a particular subject.

If you are looking for a case on a particular subject, begin your research with West's Ohio Digests. This digest provides a comprehensive indexing for Ohio reported cases. The scope or content of each volume begins with very broad terminology and then breaks the subject down to very specific terms. It is imperative that you narrow your search to a specific area or your search will become unmanageable. For example, if you are searching for cases that pertain to property, you will need to redefine your search with a more narrow focus (i.e., easements). You may also want to consult Ohio Jurisprudence. This legal encyclopedia contains more than 400 separate titles on a broad range of legal topics which, taken together, systematically describe the entire field of Ohio legal doctrine. Documents available for each title may include a summary, an outline, each individual section of text, and a Table of Parallel References.

Another source that is very helpful for finding Ohio cases is Anderson's Ohio Case Locator. Although not as comprehensive as West's Ohio digest, this resource uses very common terminology to provide the researcher with quick access to Ohio cases. Another useful feature is the ability to find cases by Ohio Revised Statute section and by rules governing the courts of Ohio.