

Justice Through Data

Access to Justice Requires Access to Law



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Access to Justice is a Crisis

“Data to Justice Pipeline”



The Reality



New legal self-help station helps residents help themselves

LOCAL NEWS

NOV 14, 2022

JULIE RIDDLE

News Staff Writer
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News Photo by Julie Riddle Kelly Altman, youth librarian at the Presque Isle District Library's Rogers City branch, last week explains a new computer station designated to help residents access legal self-help resources.



Tools
Skills
System expertise



The Data



Legal Data's problematic facts:

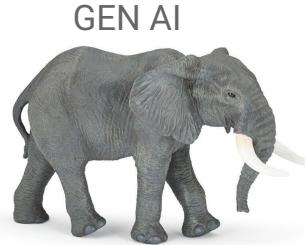
- Legal information is big business.
- Primary law is a pillar of democracy.
 - o Primary law is federal, is state, is local, is case law, is statutes, is regulations, is tribal laws, is town rules...
- How do we un-silo primary “laws” to make them accessible to our citizenry?

The Ideal



EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW

Legal Research Innovations Need Open Data



Intelligence Revolution
Retrieval
Augmented
Generation

Who owns primary law?
Does it matter?

Legal Research Innovations Need Open Data

Value of free online primary law in the age of RAG models:

- Novel approaches to analyzing and parsing legal data.
- Provides the quality date to end AI hallucinations.
- Free market innovations.
- Open affordable legal research tools.
- Public scrutiny of the data



Legal Research Innovations Need Primary Law Data+

Primary Law Authors, creating primary laws, by the numbers:

- 847 Article III judges*
- 28,906 state court judges**
- 51 Legislative state and federal bodies
- ?? Regulatory agencies, Tribal bodies, municipalities

Free Lists of Primary Law are not enough to level the playing field.

*Pulled from www.uscourts.gov judicial vacancies; **Most recent Bureau of Justice Statistics State Court Operations Report, 2011.

What is Possible with Access to Data?



What is Free Law Project?

- 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- Founded in 2010
- We leverage technology, data, and advocacy to make legal information accessible to all, breaking down barriers that have traditionally kept the law out of reach for many.
- Provide a range of innovative services, including CourtListener, the RECAP Suite, and Bots.law.
- Host open-source tools to crawl court websites, extract legal citations, find bad redactions, and extract text from documents.

Daily Awareness Tools

The initial problem we set out to solve was to build an “alert” tool for the courts so that one could follow legal developments about a topic or case as they happened.

Existing services were expensive and over-inclusive... (I don’t want to skim over every opinion from the 9th Circuit today.)

...or under-inclusive: detailed human-written summaries were just guessing what *most* people might be interested in, not catering to *my* niche interests.

Search Alerts & Docket Alerts

Case Name:

Judge:

Precedential Status
 Published (36)
 Unpublished (7)
 Errata (0)
 Separate (0)
 In-chambers (0)
 Relating-to (0)
 Unknown (16)

Filed After: Filed Before:

Citation:
Look up a specific citation

Neutral Citation:

Docket Number:
Cited by 7 opinions
... 541 F.3d 982 (2008) OMEGA S.A., Plaintiff-Appellant, v. COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, Defendant-Appellee ...

Min Cities: Max Cities:

Costco Wholesale Corp. v. Omega, S.A. (2010)

Date Filed: October 4th, 2010 Status: Published
Citations: 178 L. Ed. 2d 14, 2010 U.S. LEXIS 6607, 131 S. Ct. 378, 562 U.S. 820, 79 U.S.L.W. 3195
Docket Number: No. 08-1423

Lead Opinion

Motion of the Acting Solicitor General for leave to participate in oral argument as amicus curiae and for divided argument granted. Justice Kagan took no part in the consideration or decision of this motion. ...

Omega S.A. v. Costco Wholesale Corporation (9th Cir. 2015)

Date Filed: January 20th, 2015 Status: Published
Citations: 776 F.3d 692, 113 U.S.P.O. 2d (BNA) 1434, 2015 WL 235479, 2015 U.S. App. LEXIS 830
Docket Number: 11-57137, 12-56342
Nature of Suit: Civil

Lead Opinion

...commercial players: **Costco** Wholesale Corporation ("Costco"), a discount warehouse, and **Omega** S.A. ("Omega") ...

Concurrence Opinion

...summary judgment and awarded attorney's fees to **Costco** based on the defense of copyright misuse. The majority ...

Combined Opinion

...COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT **OMEGA** S.A., No. 11-57137 ...

Omega S.A. v. Costco Wholesale Corp. (9th Cir. 2008)

Date Filed: September 3rd, 2008 Status: Published
Citations: 541 F.3d 982, 88 U.S.P.O. 2d (BNA) 1102, 31 I.T.R.D. (BNA) 2367, 2008 U.S. App. LEXIS 18800, 2008 WL 4058640
Docket Number: 07-55368, 07-56206
Cited by 7 opinions

... 541 F.3d 982 (2008) OMEGA S.A., Plaintiff-Appellant, v. COSTCO WHOLESALE CORPORATION, Defendant-Appellee ...

Omega S.A. v. Costco Wholesale Corp. (2015)

Date Filed: November 6th, 2015 Status: Published
Citations: 136 S. Ct. 445, 193 L. Ed. 2d 345, 2015 U.S. LEXIS 7040 Docket Number: No. 15-232 (R46-003).

Lead Opinion

*446The petition for writ of certiorari was dismissed today pursuant to Rule 46.1 of the Rules of this Court. ...

Costco Wholesale Corp. v. Omega, S. A. (2010)

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Case Law RECAP Archive Oral Arguments Judges Financial Disclosures

City and County of San Francisco v. City of Oakland (3:24-cv-02311)
District Court, N.D. California

Last Updated: Oct. 9, 2024, 11:42 a.m.
Assigned To: Thomas S. Hixson
Citation: City and County of San Francisco v. City of Oakland, 3:24-cv-02311, (N.D. Cal.)
Date Filed: Oct. 9, 2024
Date of Last Known Filing: Oct. 8, 2024
Cause: 15-1125 Trademark Infringement (Lanham Act)
Nature of Suit: 8:0 Trademark
Jury Demand: Both
Jurisdiction Type: Federal Question

DOCKET ENTRIES PARTIES AND ATTORNEYS AUTHORITIES

Search this docket Filed MM/DD/YYYY to MM/DD/YYYY Documents to Export CSV

Document Number	Date Filed	Description
1	Apr 18, 2024	COMPLAINT (with jury demand) for Trademark Infringement against City Of Oakland (Filing fee \$ 405, receipt number BCANDC-19331696) Filed by City and County of San Francisco. (Attachments: # 1 Civil Cover Sheet)(Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/18/2024) Modified on 4/19/2024 (krm2, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 04/18/2024)

Main Document Complaint
Attachment 1 Civil Cover Sheet

courtlistener.com's RECAP Archive

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
04/18/2024	1 ▾	COMPLAINT (with jury demand) for Trademark Infringement against City Of Oakland (Filing fee \$ 405, receipt number BCANDC-19331696.) Filed by City and County of San Francisco. (Attachments: # 1 ▾ Civil Cover Sheet)(Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/18/2024) Modified on 4/19/2024 (kmm2, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 04/18/2024)
04/18/2024	2 ▾	REPORT on the filing or determination of an action regarding <i>trademark infringement</i> (cc: form mailed to register). (Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/18/2024) (Entered: 04/18/2024)
04/18/2024	3 ▾	Proposed Summons. (Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/18/2024) (Entered: 04/18/2024)
04/18/2024	4 ▾	NOTICE of Appearance by Igor Shoiket (Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/18/2024) (Entered: 04/18/2024)
04/18/2024	5 ▾	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael E. Dergosits (Dergosits, Michael) (Filed on 4/18/2024) (Entered: 04/18/2024)
04/18/2024	6	<p>Case assigned to Magistrate Judge Thomas S. Hixson.</p> <p>Counsel for plaintiff or the removing party is responsible for serving the Complaint or Notice of Removal, Summons and the assigned judge's standing orders and all other new case documents upon the opposing parties. For information, visit <i>E-Filing A New Civil Case</i> at http://cand.uscourts.gov/ecf/caseopening.</p> <p>Standing orders can be downloaded from the court's web page at www.cand.uscourts.gov/judges. Upon receipt, the summons will be issued and returned electronically. A scheduling order will be sent by Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) within two business days. Consent/Declination due by 5/2/2024. (wsm, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/18/2024) (Entered: 04/18/2024)</p>
04/19/2024	7 ▾	Summons Issued as to City of Oakland. (kmm2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/19/2024) (Entered: 04/19/2024)
04/19/2024	8 ▾	Initial Case Management Scheduling Order with ADR Deadlines: Case Management Statement due by 7/11/2024. Initial Case Management Conference set for 7/18/2024, 10:00 AM in San Francisco, Courtroom E, 15th Floor. (kmm2, COURT STAFF) (Filed on 4/19/2024) (Entered: 04/19/2024)
04/24/2024	9 ▾	NOTICE of Appearance by Yvonne Rosil Mere for Plaintiff (Mere, Yvonne) (Filed on 4/24/2024) Modified on 4/25/2024 (kmm2, COURT STAFF). (Entered: 04/24/2024)
04/25/2024	10 ▾	SUMMONS Returned Executed by City and County of San Francisco. City of Oakland served on 4/22/2024, answer due 5/13/2024. (Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/25/2024) (Entered: 04/25/2024)
04/30/2024	11 ▾	CONSENT/DECLINATION to Proceed Before a US Magistrate Judge by City and County of San Francisco.. (Shoiket, Igor) (Filed on 4/30/2024) (Entered: 04/30/2024)
05/01/2024	12 ▾	WITNESS AFFIDAVIT FOR PLAINTIFF (Mere, Yvonne) (Filed on 5/1/2024) (Entered: 05/01/2024)

ABOUTPROJECTS ▾TOOLS ▾DATA ▾BLOG ▾Heart Donate

RECAP Suite — Turning PACER Around Since 2009

The RECAP Suite is a collection of tools for working with PACER, the data access system for American federal courts.

If you use PACER, consider installing the RECAP extension in your browser. If you are a researcher, you can search millions of federal filings in the RECAP Archive. Journalists and court watchers will find docket alerts invaluable. If you get notifications from PACER, check out our NEF notification handler.

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Search Results Order:

Most Cited First

About 8,200,000 Opinions

3,589ms

Case Name:

Judge:

Precedential Status

Published (8,294,166)

Unpublished (826,030)

Errata (931)

Separate (560)

In-chambers (15)

Relating-to (444)

Unknown (547,180)

Filed After:

Filed Before:

Citation:

Strickland v. Washington (1984)

Date Filed: June 25th, 1984

Status: Published

Citations: 80 L. Ed. 2d 674, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 466 U.S. 668, 1984 U.S. LEXIS 79

Docket Number: 82-1554

Cited by 104,995 opinions

Combined Opinion

466 U.S. 668 104 S.Ct. 2052 80 L.Ed.2d 674 Charles E. STRICKLAND, Superintendent, Florida State Prison, et al., Petitionersv.David Leroy WASHINGTON. No. 82-1554. Supreme Court of the United States Argued Jan. 10, 1984. Decided May 14, 1984. Rehearing Denied June 25, 1984. Syllabus Respondent pleaded guilty in a Florida trial court to an indictment that included three capital murder charges. In the plea colloquy, respondent told the trial ...

In Part Opinion

Justice Brennan, concurring in part and dissenting in part. I join the Court's opinion but dissent from its judgment. Adhering to my view that the death penalty is in all circumstances cruel and unusual punishment forbidden by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, see Gregg v. Georgia, 428 U. S. 153, 227 (1976) (BRENNAN, J., dissenting), I would vacate respondent's death sentence and remand the case for further proceedings.¹ *702 I ease and United States v. Cronic, ante, p. 648, present our first ...

Lead Opinion

*671Justice O'Connor delivered the opinion of the Court. This ease requires us to consider the proper standards for judging a criminal defendant's contention that the Constitution requires a conviction or death sentence to be set aside because counsel's assistance at the trial or sentencing was ineffective. I A During a 10-day period in September 1976, respondent planned and committed three groups of crimes, which in-*672eluded three brutal stabbing murders, torture, kidnapping, severe assaults, ...

Dissent

How to build a case law citator?

Recognize citations: e.g.: *People v. Wende*, 600 P.2d 1071 (Cal. 1979).

People v. Wende, 600 P.2d
Case name, vol # reporter
 abbrev

1071 (Cal.)
 page # (court abbrev) 1979.
 year).

[freelawproject / reporters-db](#) Public[Sponsor](#)[Notifications](#)[Fork 34](#)[Star 92](#)[Code](#)[Issues 20](#)[Pull requests 5](#)[Actions](#)[Projects](#)[Security](#)[Insights](#)[Files](#)[main](#) Go to file> [.github](#)▼ [reporters_db](#)└ [data](#)[case_name_abbreviations.json](#)[journals.json](#)[laws.json](#)[regexes.json](#)[reporters.csv](#)[reporters.json](#)[state_abbreviations.json](#)[__init__.py](#)[reporters-db / reporters_db / data /](#) [copy icon]flooie feat(reporters): Add Neutral Citation (NH) [diff icon] [green checkmark]6352bf2 · 2 months ago [History]

Name	Last commit message	Last commit date
..		
case_name_abbreviations.json	fix(case name abbrevs): Updates from latest Indigo book.	6 years ago
journals.json	Update journals variations that should be lists	3 years ago
laws.json	fix(usc): Improve regex for section	6 months ago
regexes.json	fix(usc): Improve regex for section	6 months ago
reporters.csv	fix(reporters.csv): Update csv and move back to data directory	2 years ago
reporters.json	feat(reporters): Add Neutral Citation (NH)	2 months ago
state_abbreviations.json	refactored data files into new package directory. tests added to setu...	8 years ago

reporters-db

Defines the canonical abbreviations and dates of coverage:

- “P.” cases from 1883-1931
- “P.2d” cases from 1931-2000
- “P.3d” cases from 2000-present

Indicates the type of series:

- “state_region”

Lists the jurisdictions of coverage:

- the appellate and supreme courts of 15 states (plus a few other things)

Pairs all the variations on these abbreviations with its canonical counterpart. Examples:

- “P” with no period,
- “P. 2d” (with a space after the period)
- “Pac. Rep.”

We have this sort of data for around 1,253 case law reporters in a file that's over 28,000 lines long.

What can you do with a citation network?

Look back

- For a given opinion, list all the cases that it cites to. This is a Table of Authorities.

Look forward

- Once an opinion has been published long enough to be cited itself, look at all those subsequent citations.
- Ask questions about how those subsequent citations treat the opinion they're citing. (Positive treatment? Negative treatment? Depth of treatment?)



Case Law ▾ RECAP Archive ▾ Oral Arguments ▾ Judges ▾ Financial Disclosures ▾

[Back to Opinion](#)

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau *v.* Community Financial Services Assn. of America, Ltd., 601 U.S. 416

This opinion cites 19 opinions.

2 references to *Clinton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417

Supreme Court of the United States • June 25, 1998 • Also cited by 399 opinions

2 references to *National Cable Television Assn., Inc. v. United States*, 415 U.S. 336

Supreme Court of the United States • March 4, 1974 • Also cited by 247 opinions

2 references to *The Pocket Veto Case*, 279 U.S. 655

Supreme Court of the United States • May 27, 1929 • Also cited by 145 opinions

2 references to *Cincinnati Soap Co. v. United States*, 301 U.S. 308

Supreme Court of the United States • May 3, 1937 • Also cited by 86 opinions

2 references to *Emergency Fleet Corp. v. Western Union Telegraph Co.*, 275 U.S. 415

Supreme Court of the United States • Jan. 3, 1928 • Also cited by 46 opinions

2 references to *Reeside v. Walker*, 52 U.S. 272

Supreme Court of the United States • Feb. 25, 1851 • Also cited by 39 opinions

1 reference to *M'culloch v. State of Maryland*, 17 U.S. 316

Supreme Court of the United States • March 18, 1819 • Also cited by 2730 opinions

1 reference to *County of Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833

Supreme Court of the United States • May 26, 1998 • Also cited by 2700 opinions

1 reference to *Morissette v. United States*, 342 U.S. 246

Supreme Court of the United States • Jan. 7, 1952 • Also cited by 2037 opinions

1 reference to *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570

Supreme Court of the United States • June 26, 2008 • Also cited by 1694 opinions

1 reference to *Nebbia v. New York*, 291 U.S. 502

Supreme Court of the United States • March 5, 1934 • Also cited by 1409 opinions

1 reference to *Raines v. Byrd*, 521 U.S. 811

Supreme Court of the United States • June 26, 1997 • Also cited by 686 opinions

17 Opinions *cite* Consumer Financial Protection Bureau *v.* Community Financial Services Assn. of America, Ltd., 601 U.S. 416

1ms

[SEC v. Jarkesy \(2024\)](#)

2 REFERENCES TO THIS CASE

Date Filed: June 27th, 2024

Status: Published

Docket Number: 22-859

(Slip Opinion) OCTOBER TERM, 2023 1 Syllabus NOTE: Where it is feasible, a syllabus (headnote) will be released, as is being done in connection with this case, at the time the opinion is issued. The syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader. See *United States v. Detroit Timber* ...

[In Re: Chamber of Commerce \(5th Cir. 2024\)](#)

1 REFERENCE TO THIS CASE

Date Filed: June 18th, 2024

Status: Published

Docket Number: 24-10463

Nature of Suit: Original Proceedings

Case: 24-10463 Document: 42-1 Page: 1 Date Filed: 06/18/2024 United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit _____ FILED June 18, 2024 ...

[Vidal v. Elster \(2024\)](#)

2 REFERENCES TO THIS CASE

Date Filed: June 13th, 2024

Status: Published

Docket Number: 22-704

(Slip Opinion) OCTOBER TERM, 2023 1 Syllabus NOTE: Where it is feasible, a syllabus (headnote) will be released, as is being done in connection with this case, at the time the opinion is issued. The syllabus constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court but has been prepared by the Reporter of Decisions for the convenience of the reader. See *United States v. Detroit Timber* ...

[NRSC v. FEC \(6th Cir. 2024\)](#)

1 REFERENCE TO THIS CASE

Date Filed: September 5th, 2024

Status: Published

Docket Number: 24-3051

RECOMMENDED FOR PUBLICATION Pursuant to Sixth Circuit I.O.P. 32.1(b) File Name: 24a0212p.06 UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT - NATIONAL REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL COMMITTEE; | NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL ...

[Consumers' Research v. FCC \(5th Cir. 2024\)](#)

1 REFERENCE TO THIS CASE

Date Filed: July 24th, 2024

Status: Published

Docket Number: 22-60008

Nature of Suit: Agency

An Open Citator?

Why build an Open Citator with sentiment analysis?

- Being able to validate if a case is still good law is an essential component of legal research.
- An open citator by Free Law Project will enable competition and accessibility.
- If a citator is easy to use and affordable, it may help to bridge the access to justice gap.
- Why should high-quality legal research tools only be available to those who can afford to pay?

What can you do?



First, Procurement

“...an agency can hire an agile software contractor with a solicitation that’s only a dozen pages, written in an afternoon, using our agile contract format.”

“It can be done under existing procurement regulations and within contracting officers’ existing authority. The savings, in time and money, can be enormous.”

– 18F Agile Software Development

Solicitation Guide



Procurement References

- State Software Budgeting Handbook
 - <https://guides.18f.gov/derisking/state-field-guide/>
- De-risking Government Technology
 - <https://guides.18f.gov/derisking/>
- Agile Software Development Solicitation Guide
 - <https://18f.gsa.gov/2019/08/20/an-agile-software-development-solicitation-guide/>
- Prerequisites for modular contracting
 - <https://18f.gsa.gov/2019/02/28/prerequisites-for-modular-contracting/>

Budget for Public Access

For PACER

- Long term: Make it free.
- Short term:
 - Liberally mark filings as free opinions.
 - Enable the RSS feeds
 - Provide broad fee waivers

For Other Systems

- Do not charge to access data.
- Pay for essential systems out of your budget.
- Provide APIs for machine-readable access.
 - Or at least make your sites easy to scrape.
- Allow easy subscription to publication mailing lists.

And Until PACER is Free, Use RECAP

- RECAP is a browser extension that saves you money whenever you use PACER.
- Everything you purchase gets added to our public archive and gets a permalink.
- Everything anybody else purchased you get for free.
- Use RECAP to save money and contribute to a public archive.
- Over 28k users.



👉 <https://free.law/recap/> 👈

Neutral Citations: Simple, Reliable, Overdue

What?

- A simple citation for each decision.
- Created *by the court* at time of publication.
- Paragraph numbers for pin-cites.

Why?

- **Trustworthy:** Endorsed by American Association of Law Librarians and American Bar Association.
- **Reliable:** In use since 1990's.
- **Tested:** Over a dozen states use these citations already.
- **Ownership:** They're your decisions. You control how they're cited.

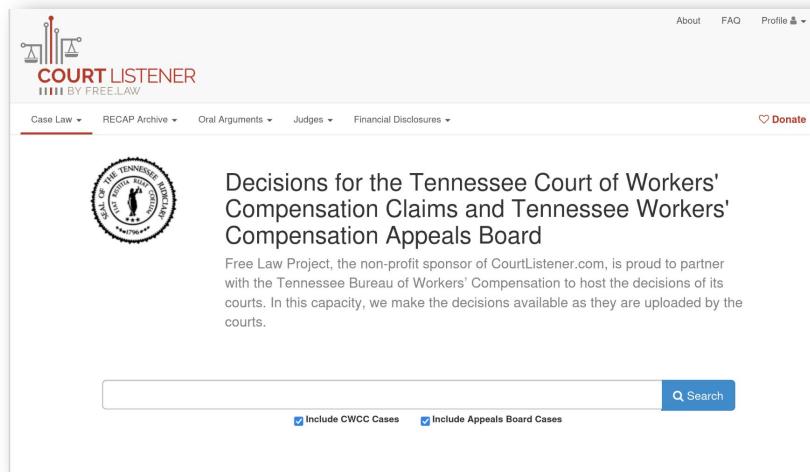
An Example:

- *Kautzman v. Kautzman*, 2003 ND 140
- That's decision #140 from the North Dakota Supreme Court in 2003.

How?

- Change local rules to allow or encourage neutral citations.
- Create process for numbering each new decision.
- Use paragraph numbering.
- Publish citations on your site.
- Create a table for all old decisions.

Use Our Upload Portals



The screenshot shows the CourtListener.com homepage. At the top left is the "COURT LISTENER" logo with a stylized scales icon. The main title "Decisions for the Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Claims and Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board" is centered above a paragraph about the partnership with the Tennessee Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Below the paragraph is a search bar with a "Search" button and two checkboxes: "Include CWCC Cases" and "Include Appeals Board Cases". The navigation bar at the top includes links for Case Law, RECAP Archive, Oral Arguments, Judges, Financial Disclosures, About, FAQ, Profile, and a "Donate" button.



The screenshot shows the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Upload Portal. It features the official seal of the Tennessee Court of Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. The title "Tennessee Workers' Compensation Appeals Board Upload Portal" is displayed prominently. Below the title is a placeholder text: "Upload court decisions using the form below." The form consists of several input fields: "Case Title *" with the value "Apple v. Google", "Docket Number *", "Publication Date *", "Lead Author", "Second Panelist", "Third Panelist", "Neutral Citation" (set to "2024"), "TN WC App." (a dropdown menu), and an "Opinion PDF *". There is also a "Browse..." button, a file selection field showing "No file selected.", and an "Upload" button.

FLP's Open Source eFiling and CM System

Free Law Project is researching the creation of an open source eFiling and case management system.

We expect it to have better tools for filers, a modern and sophisticated interface for court staff, and better access for the public.

We're looking for court partners to join us in this initiative.

Wrapping Up

- Data leads to justice.
- Free Law Project is building open tools to fix what we can.
- We need courts to understand and join us.
- Your support of our organization helps.

Thank You!



<https://free.law>