

WESTLAW: EXPRESS TIPS FOR RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS

#it'sthatimeagain



You attended the lectures & seminars, now it's time to prove what you know. Research doesn't need to be time consuming and frustrating; we have gathered a few short cuts to help you get the answers you need in the most efficient manner possible.

START YOUR RESEARCH USING ANY OF THESE OPTIONS

This is a discursive topic, I have to explore the law from different angles

Start with Insight:

Insight is the Westlaw online encyclopedia of clearly dated legal articles. They are written by experts and practitioners and are highly authoritative. A good starting point for research, they link to key case law, legislation and journal commentary. Look at Analysis links on the right to have an idea of controversial points of law you can include in your research.

I have to advise a fictional client on a scenario or find cases in relation to this scenario

Natural Language

This will bring up the top 100 documents for a free text search. Westlaw UK simply searches for the documents with the best references to the *key* words typed in. This can be quite handy when your search terms are quite vague.

Search: What is Google and the right to be forgotten?

This is a comparative type essay; I'm not sure what some of the terms in the question mean.



This is useful when coming across a legal term for the first time and need a simple explanation.

It contains definitions of legal words and phrases, including Latin phrases. It searches across not just legal dictionaries, but cases, legislation and iournals too.

REFINE YOUR SEARCH TERMS

If you keep getting a wide range of results from your search terms, use the techniques below to narrow it down to the resources you need.

Advanced Searching on the Home page

Quotations Use quotation marks around the words in a phrase to ensure they are searched

for together e.g. "human rights".

/p Find words and phrases where they all appear together in the same paragraph,

e.g. "human rights" /p liberty.

/s Finds words where they appear together in the same sentence, e.g. freedom /s

expression.

/n Finds words occurring within a specified word number range, e.g. **freedom /3**

expression finds freedom where it appears within 3 words of expression. Use

any number you wish. 3, 5, 10, 20 and 50 work well.

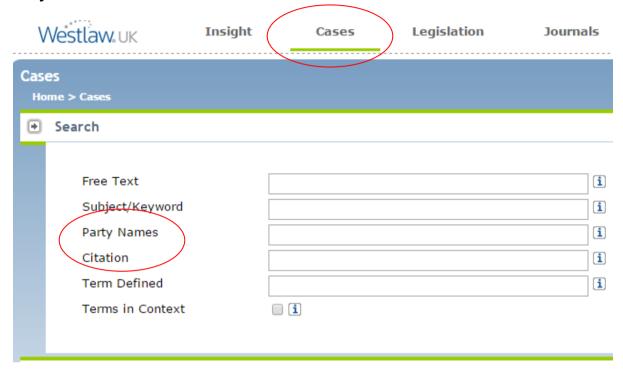
Exclamation mark The ! captures different word endings. Free! will find free, freed, freeing and

freedom.

Asterisk The * allows for an unknown character, **All*n** will find both Allan and Allen

FIND THE RIGHT CASES TO PROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The cases tab on Westlaw will take you directly to the content you need, you can search by party name or citation. If you only have a partial citation, type in words that describe the case in the Free text box, add the part of the citation you have in the citation box and Westlaw will find it for you.



EARN EXTRA MARKS - EXPLORE WIDER REASONING BEHIND THE LAW WITH ADDITIONAL TOOLS

The case analysis tool gathers all the information you need to understand the judicial reasoning behind a case including journal articles that link to the point of law in question.



STATUS ICONS WILL INDICATE IF A CASE IS STILL A LEADING AUTHORITY TO HELP YOU PRIORITISE WHICH CASE TO REFERENCE

13. v Secretary of State for Transport Ex p. Factortame Ltd (No.1) House of Subject: Conflict of laws; European Union Keywords: Crown immunity; EC law; Interim relief; Jurisdiction Where Reported: [1990] 2 A.C. 85; [1989] 2 W.L.R. 997; [1989] 2 All E.R. 6 C.O.D. 531; (1989) 139 N.L.J. 715; Times, May 19, 1989; Independent, May 2 1989; Guardian, May 25, 1989; Daily Telegraph, June 5, 1989 Documents: Case Analysis [1990] 2 A.C. 85 [1989] 2 W.L.R. 997 [1989] 3 R. v Secretary of State for Transport Ex p. Factortame Ltd (No.1) Court **14.** 1989 Subject: Conflict of laws Keywords: Conflict of laws; EC law; Fishing; Interim relief; Licensing Where Reported: [1989] 2 C.M.L.R. 353; (1989) 139 N.L.J. 540; (1989) 133 Independent, March 24, 1989; Financial Times, April 5, 1989; Guardian, April Documents: Case Analysis [1989] 2 C.M.L.R. 353

USING LEGISLATION: APPLY THE LAW CORRECTLY

Check the version with the versioning tool, use the analysis tool to find out more about the provision (when did it come in force? are there any exceptions to its scope?)

Extra tip - Refer to annotations to demonstrate you understand the purpose of the provision and parliament's aims in drafting it (show off your statutory interpretation skills!)



FIND SECONDARY SOURCES WHICH SUPPORT YOUR REASONING

Westlaw has a wide range of press cuttings, journals and books at your disposal

Journals

Westlaw has around 1000 journals abstracted from the Legal Journals index plus 100 titles in full text.

1) To find journal articles on Tort by a specific author:

Subject/Keyword: Torts

Author: James Goudkamp

2) **Browsing** - This function is found below the search area in Journals.

Click on **Full Text Articles** and choose **Cambridge Law Review**, then **2015**, and click on the links for different issues to open and view the articles.

Current Awareness

This contains abstracts on cases, legislation, and legal developments taken from official press releases and legal news. Run a search or browse through the options under the most recent 90 days or use the archive to look for older items. Look at the different types of documents.

Search: **Brexit** through the *Archive* option – further news items should be published up to and even after June 2016.

Browse: Most Recently added > Last 4 days. Also browse by Subject and by Document.

Books

A general search of the Home page will not search the text books. The search found within the books section must be used. There are over 250 text books giving instant access to authoritive commentary by Sweet and Maxwell depending on the subscription level.

Browse through individual volumes, to chapter level. There are easy to access tables of contents, tables of cases and tables of legislation. E.g. click into *Clerk & Lindsell on Torts*. Click on the *Table of Contents* link to reach chapter level and select these as required.

Support

24 hour customer support: 0800 028 2200 or +44 203 684 0749. customer.service@westlaw.co.uk

GOOD LUCK AND....

