



RESEARCH FUNDAMENTALS

Using Westlaw WebPlus

Westlaw WebPlus is a Web search engine designed to search information on the Internet. It differs from other search engines, such as Google or Yahoo, because West has combined its proprietary search technology with its editorial expertise to target and prioritize the search results, which focus on legally relevant information. Westlaw WebPlus filters its search results so that those government, nonprofit, educational, and commercial legal information Web sites that complement the information on Westlaw are listed first.

This means two things for the legal researcher:

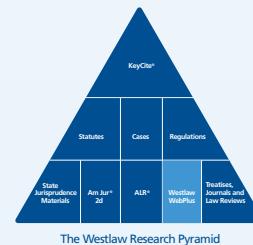
1. If you don't know where to begin your research on Westlaw, you can start with Westlaw WebPlus. If you are unfamiliar with a topic, information on the Web can reveal major concepts, commonly used terms, and references to significant case law and statutory authority. You can then use this information to search Westlaw more efficiently.
2. Westlaw WebPlus can point you to information that may not be available on Westlaw, including
 - local rules and regulations
 - government agency information related to a particular transaction or issue
 - informal commentary on a recent legal issue
 - corporate information issued by the company itself
 - information on a person that may supplement public records on Westlaw

lawschool.westlaw.com

Category:

Research Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378) or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

**Using the Westlaw Research Pyramid**

Start your research with secondary sources to build a good foundation.

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PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

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Searching with Westlaw WebPlus

Complete these steps to search with Westlaw WebPlus:

1. Go to lawschool.westlaw.com. The lawschool.westlaw.com home page is displayed.
2. Type your Westlaw password in the *Westlaw Password* text box in the *Sign On* section or type your personalized username and password in the *Please enter your username* and *Password* text boxes.
3. Click **Sign On**. The lawschool.westlaw.com Legal Research Center is displayed.
4. Type your search terms (e.g., youtube "copyright infringement") in the *Enter keyword(s)* text box in the *Search the Web* section of the page. You can search Westlaw WebPlus using plain English, just as you would with most other Web search engines.

You can focus your search by selecting a category (e.g., **Legal Issue**) from the *Search for* drop-down list in the *Search The Web* section of the page. Westlaw WebPlus defaults to searches based on legal issues, but you can also search for information focused on a person, company, government entity, or other organization, or you can search for news or general information.

5. Click **go**. Your Westlaw WebPlus search result is displayed in a new browser window.
6. To edit your search or to run a new search, type your search terms in the text box at the top of any Westlaw WebPlus search result page and click **Search**.

Browse your search result as you would results from other search engines.

Filtering your search results

You can narrow your search result by applying a filter. Filters allow you to quickly see a subset of the result on a specific subject, from a particular domain type (e.g., .com or .edu), in a specific file format (HTML or PDF), or from a particular location (e.g., a state such as California).

To filter your search result, click **Subject**, **Domain**, **File Format**, or **Location** in the *Filter Results by* section.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw WebPlus search results for "youtube 'copyright infringement'". The 'Filter Results by' section is highlighted with a red oval. It includes buttons for 'Subject', 'Domain', 'File Format', and 'Location'. Below the filters, there are links for 'All Results (249)', 'News Results (72)', and 'Blog Results (114)'. The main search results list includes items like '1.65 billion Apple Airtel Broadcast Buys Computing Connect Copyright Lawsuit Deeplinks Blogs' and 'Viacom Sues YouTube for "brazen" copyright infringement'. A red arrow points from the 'Subject' button in the filter section to the 'Viacom' link in the search results.

Filter Results by section

The screenshot shows the filtered search results for 'Viacom' on Westlaw WebPlus. The 'Filter Results by' section is highlighted with a red oval and has 'Subject' selected. The search results list includes items like '1. Viacom sues YouTube for "brazen" copyright infringement', '2. Google Watch - YouTube - 18 Reasons why Google and YouTube are Guilty ...', and '3. Google Watch - YouTube - Viacom Sues Google and YouTube'. A red arrow points from the 'Subject' button in the filter section to the 'Viacom' link in the search results.

Filtered search result

