



West Publishing Turns 150

Commemorating 150 Years of Customer-
Driven Innovation

August 2022

Letter from Paul Fischer



Friends and colleagues,

Please join us in a celebration of 150 years of partnership and innovation.

As we look back, there are a handful of dates that we could have defensibly pointed to as the moment when it all began for us.

For example, West Publishing was incorporated in 1882. And a few years before that, in 1876, John B. West took on a partner, his brother, Horatio, and later that year they introduced *The Syllabi*, a weekly publication containing excerpts of opinions from the Minnesota courts. The Syllabi was a critical early step on the path that led to the National Reporter System and, a century later, to Westlaw.

But there's an earlier date that really marks the beginning of John B. West's impact on the U.S. legal system, and legal systems around the world, and forms the earliest case study into his passion for listening to and learning from his customers – making their problems his problems: 1872. That was the year he founded John B. West Publisher and Book Seller in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is from this date that we mark our sesquicentennial, and we celebrate his legacy of customer-driven innovation that has remained the hallmark of the Legal Professionals business ever since.

Personally, and on behalf of the thousands of Thomson Reuters Legal Professionals employees, including those who build, sell, and support Westlaw – a product that still carries his name – we thank our customers today and through the years who have shared their legal research- and business of law-related problems with us and have allowed us to innovate at their side. We work for you.

All the best,

Paul Fischer
President, Thomson Reuters Legal Professionals

Celebrating 150 Years of Customer Partnership & Innovation

The United States was a country in transition 150 years ago. In 1872, the second industrial revolution had begun, and people were moving from farms to cities to find work in factories. It had been just seven years since the Civil War ended, and its winning general, Ulysses S. Grant, was president. There were only 37 states in the union, but westward expansion was well under way; there would be eight more states by the turn of the century.

The U.S. legal system at the time was a collage of laws and case law. Then, just as now, equal justice under the law was predicated on a clear understanding of how courts have treated citizens in criminal and civil matters, and that required fair access and consistent interpretation of the nation's laws. Yet, in Minnesota – a 14-year-old state in 1872 – published court decisions took months or years to find their way from courts in the east to the state's law offices and court rooms.

But that was about to change.

A regional book and office supply seller, John B. West, began catering to the needs of lawyers. His frequent visits with lawyers helped him to understand and anticipate their needs – particularly for information. In 1872, West founded John B. West Publisher and Book Seller, the predecessor to West Publishing, and began a legacy of innovation built upon close collaboration with customers.

West's spirit of innovation and his legacy of customer partnership continue to this day. Many of his early innovations – creating a system to quickly get judicial decisions into the hands of legal professionals, organizing them into a living taxonomy of the law, and hiring attorneys to analyze and annotate each decision – were powerful tools to speed the important and arduous task of legal research in the early days of West Publishing. Today, 150 years later, they provide unique content and metadata to train and power AI and machine-learning technologies that allow legal researchers to work much faster and with more accuracy and confidence.

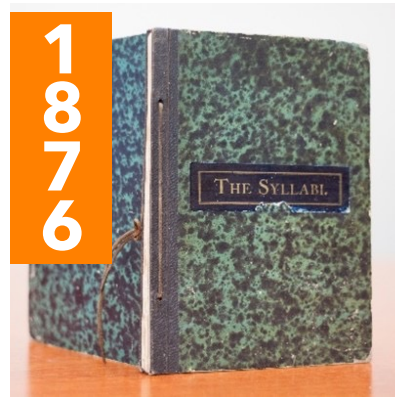
West's Legacy and Timeline

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation



John B. West Publisher and Book Seller is founded

John B. West establishes John B. West Publisher and Book Seller in St. Paul, Minn., and begins a legacy of innovation built upon close collaboration with customers to help them research more efficiently.



The Syllabi is introduced

The Syllabi was a weekly publication containing excerpts of opinions from the Minnesota courts. A yearly subscription was \$3.



Reporter system is established

In response to attorney requests, West began publishing the *North Western Reporter*, with editorial enhancements and court decisions from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Dakota territories. The West National Reporter System quickly became the most trusted source of information for legal practitioners.



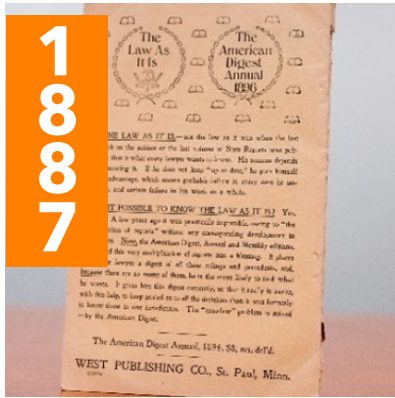
West Publishing is incorporated

West saw successful, rapid growth and an increased need for capital. Two additional investors joined John B. West and his brother, Horatio West, to incorporate the West Publishing Company. The business eventually grew out of its space and, in 1887, moved into a new building and began to further expand.

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation

It includes 55,000+ terms, a 1,000+ source bibliography, and 6,000+ quotations. Bryan A. Garner became editor in chief in 1995.

The West Key Number System now includes 363 topics and 110,000+ subtopics.



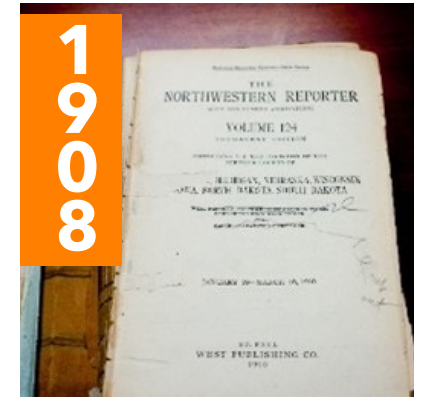
1887



1891



1901



1880

American Digest System is introduced

“The necessity of index or digest is apparent. ‘The reporters must have an index’ was the initial announcement of the American Digest, and from it resulted the concrete paragraph, ...the one point one place idea, and the fixed classification.” – John B West (Multiplicity of Reports)

Black’s Law Dictionary is published

The first edition of what would later become the most widely cited law book in the world is published by West Publishing. Founded by Henry Campbell Black, A Dictionary of Law: Containing Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of American and English Jurisprudence, Ancient and Modern, widely known as *Black’s Law Dictionary*, now has 11 editions.

Printing “law books by the million”

West Publishing issues a pamphlet, including the essay, *Law Books by the Million: An Account of the Largest Law-Book House in the World, the Home Establishment of the National Reporter System and The American Digest System*, where it describes printing millions of books and boasts 500 employees at its St. Paul facility.

West Key Number System is introduced

West Publishing adds attorney-created editorial enhancements and introduces the West Key Number System, a topic and key number taxonomy and powerful tool to help attorneys quickly find relevant cases on a particular issue. (Above is an early title showing the West Key Number System.)

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation

He's best known as the person who "green-lighted" the development of Westlaw – making the business one of the first online research and information companies and continuing its legacy of content and technology innovation.

With the launch of Westlaw, West's editorial enhancements and Key Number System became even more powerful.



United States Code Annotated is introduced

The U.S. government commissioned two companies, West Publishing and Edward Thompson Co., to create an "authentic & accurate compilation of the general and permanent laws of the United States." United States Code Annotated® (USCA) would go on to become the most authoritative classification system of U.S. law and is still in use today.



Dwight Opperman leads West Publishing

Dwight Opperman began his career in 1951 as an attorney-editor writing headnotes and synopses. He moved up the ranks to become president in 1968. He served as CEO until the sale of West Publishing Company to The Thomson Corporation in 1996.



Westlaw launches

West Publishing launches its first computerized database – Westlaw. Applying electronic technologies to the information contained in Westlaw allowed users to 1) access information without a physical document, 2) search for information by conducting keyword searches, and 3) conduct searches at incredible speed.



State-of-the-art book production facility opens

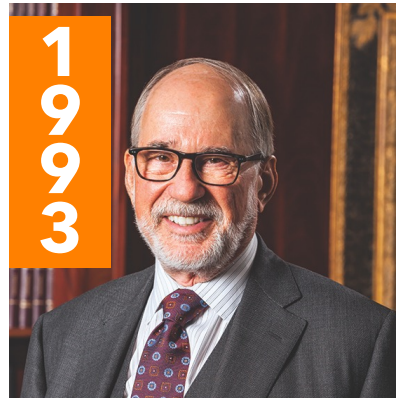
The company's Eagan campus began with its book manufacturing facility. The main office opened in 1992, and the employee migration to Eagan ended with the last employee leaving the downtown St. Paul office in the summer of 1992.

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation



WIN launches

WIN (Westlaw is Natural) was the first commercially available search engine to deploy probabilistic rank retrieval, a form of machine learning, in its ranking functions. WIN allowed researchers to use plain language search queries instead of supporting only Boolean terms and connectors.



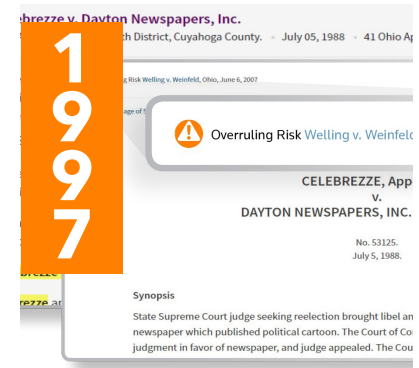
Vance Opperman is named president of West Publishing

Vance Opperman was named president of West Publishing Company in 1993. Following the sale to The Thomson Corporation in 1996, Vance would serve on the board of directors for The Thomson Corporation and Thomson Reuters for a combined 26 years.



Thomson acquires West Publishing

When the deal closed in 1997, West Publishing and Thomson Legal Publishing merged to form West Group, a division of The Thomson Corporation.

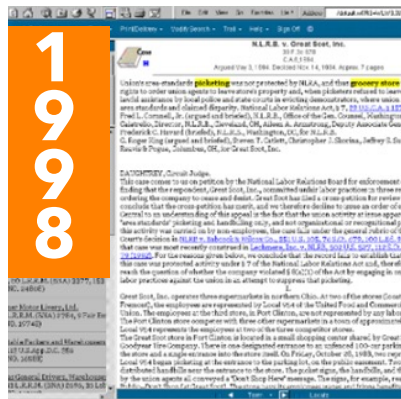


KeyCite launches

KeyCite launched on Westlaw at the American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting in 1997, revolutionizing citator research. Today, KeyCite is the industry's most complete, accurate, and current citator to verify whether a case, statute, regulation, or administrative decision is still good law, determine if a patent or trademark is still valid, and find citing references to support a particular legal argument.

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation

Today, localized versions of Westlaw are available in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, France, India, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, Uruguay, and other countries. And Westlaw International, Westlaw Asia and Westlaw Middle East are in markets without a fully localized Westlaw service.



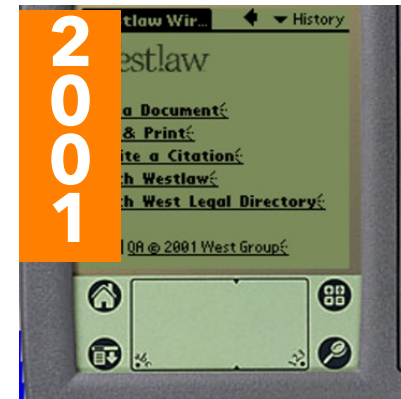
Westlaw.com is released

The first web-based version of Westlaw is accessible from an internet browser instead of requiring installed software. The mission was to mimic the experience a user had with the books – a spread-out, tactile experience with side-by-side comparisons, swift movement from source to source, and recognition of where the researcher is at all times.



Westlaw UK launch marks globalization of Westlaw

Westlaw UK leveraged the technology of U.S. Westlaw and the content of Sweet & Maxwell, the UK's leading legal publisher. In 2020, Thomson Reuters launched Westlaw Edge UK, the most sophisticated legal research service in the country.



Wireless Westlaw is introduced

West introduces a version of Westlaw that is compatible with Blackberry devices, Palm and Windows Pocket PC.



Westlaw for Canadian practitioners launches

The launch of WestlawCARSWELL, later Westlaw Canada, provided the Canadian legal industry with state-of-the-art search tools and an integrated online platform that delivered new levels of power, flexibility and depth. In 2021, Thomson Reuters launched Westlaw Edge Canada.

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation



Westlaw adds AI-based recommender engine

Westlaw introduced ResultsPlus, a content- and behavior-based recommender system for legal researchers.



PeopleMap is introduced on Westlaw

PeopleMap delivered a web-scale concordance engine that created one of the largest person-centric knowledge graphs anywhere, connecting all public records that pertain to an individual. Westlaw was one of the earliest in the information industry – not just legal – to introduce full and machine-assisted automation at scale for text mining and content enhancement technologies.



WestlawNext launches

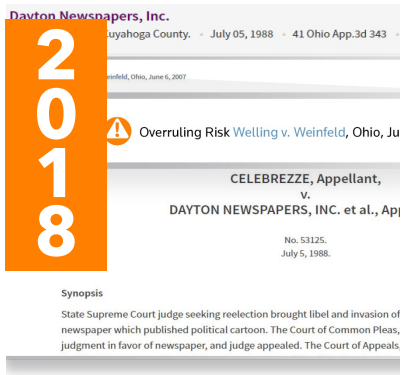
WestlawNext combined search and editorial intelligence with the latest technological innovations. With the power of WestSearch, a suite of learning-to-rank algorithms trained on legal content, meta-data and user behavior, a single search scoured multiple databases and tools allowed users to filter, tag, and folder information.



Westlaw platform launches in Australia

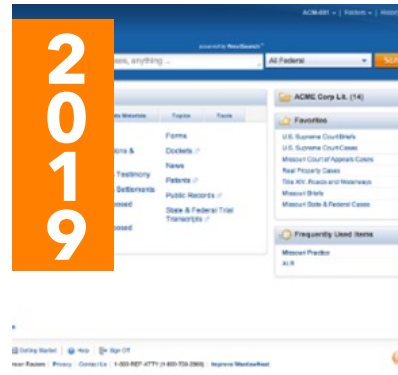
Developed specifically for Australian legal professionals, Westlaw AU offers content from case law and journals, legislation and commentary to precedents, encyclopedia and news, as well as legal and tax information.

150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation



Westlaw Edge is released

Powered by AI technology, Westlaw Edge gave users the advantages of proprietary editorial enhancements, the latest technology, and new time-saving tools, such as WestSearch Plus – a legal search engine that helps users find recommended answers for thousands of legal topics faster than ever before – and KeyCite Overruling Risk.



Quick Check on Westlaw Edge is introduced

The intelligent document analysis tool enables users to save valuable time finding and verifying authority. Quick Check analyzes a brief with recommendations for additional relevant authority, so legal professionals can feel confident that they've found the strongest authority for their case.



Practical Law Dynamic Tool Set launches

Thomson Reuters applied AI functionality to a new proprietary editorial content set from Practical Law, including an AI-driven question-answering feature that leverages the legal expertise of the business's attorney editors to provide answers to legal research questions, along with links to relevant Practical Law content.



Ongoing innovation and customer collaboration

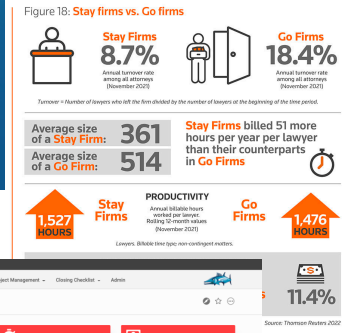
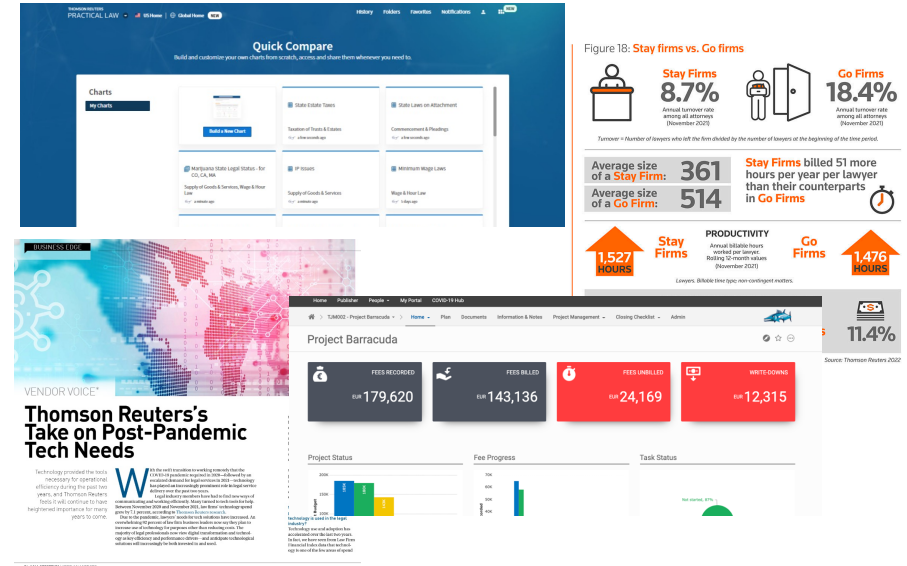


150 Years of Customer-Driven Innovation

2022

“Many of the earliest innovations of John West’s business, such as bringing in a large team of attorneys to annotate the law, creating digests, and developing the West Key Number System taxonomy to organize the law, revolutionized legal research for generations and remain critical to our business today. Our exclusive attorney-authored content and our living taxonomy of the law provide the deep data needed by artificial intelligence technology to drive our next-generation legal research products. We owe so much of our success to our customers, today and through the years, who have shared their legal research- and business of law-related problems with us and have allowed us to innovate at their side. It’s appropriate that our most sophisticated and important product, Westlaw, with versions for legal professionals in the United States, UK, Canada, Australia and more, deeply relies on West’s innovations and continues to carry West’s name.”

- Paul Fischer, President, Legal Professionals

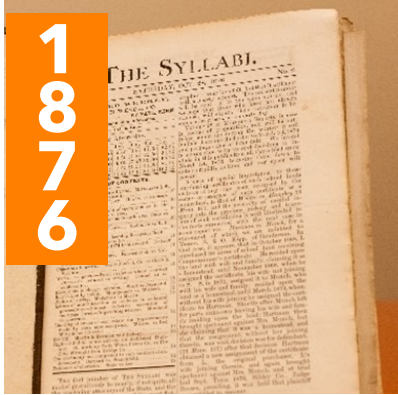


150 YEARS OF INNOVATION FOR LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

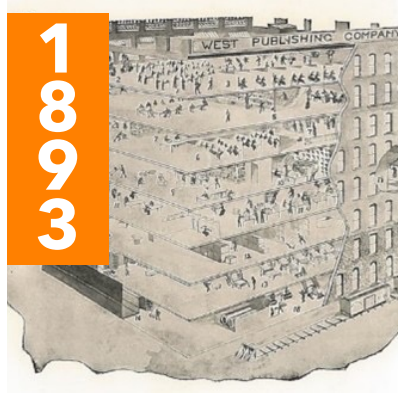
Ongoing innovation and customer collaboration

West’s spirit of innovation and his legacy of customer partnership continue today. Many of John B. West’s innovations – creating a system to quickly get judicial decisions into the hands of legal professionals, organizing them into a living taxonomy of the law, and hiring attorneys to analyze and annotate each decision – were powerful tools to speed the important and arduous task of legal research. Now, 150 years later, they provide unique content and metadata to train and power AI and machine-learning technologies that allow legal researchers to work much faster and with more accuracy and confidence. Thomson Reuters is honored to continue building on this foundation and to carry on West’s legacy as the legal marketplace evolves.

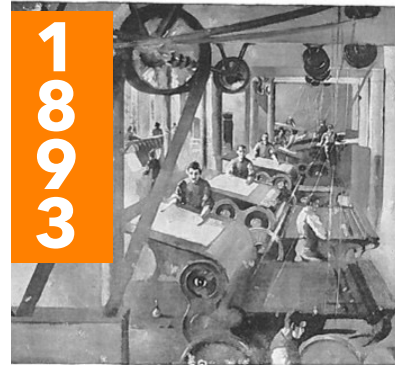
Addendum: Additional Historical Images



1876
Inside The Syllabi



1893
Office in St. Paul



1893
Inside St. Paul building



1910
Office in St. Paul



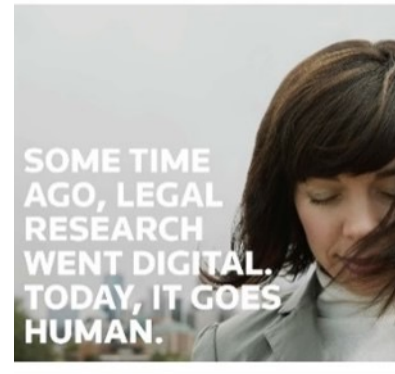
1960
Office in St. Paul



1992
Eagan Campus



2010
WestlawNext launch in Times Square



WestlawNext launch ad



2018
Westlaw Edge launch

