

# Court Orders on Westlaw

## State Civil Trial Court Orders

Westlaw provides easy access to selected state civil trial court orders, including rulings on motions and final decisions. Use trial court orders to

- learn about a judge's rulings and the authority cited in cases similar to yours
- study how trial courts in a selected jurisdiction have analyzed and ruled on the issues
- evaluate the strength of claims and arguments made in pleadings and motions in light of subsequent rulings
- better understand the trial court background of key appellate decisions

### Types of Orders Available

Orders relating to the following types of motions are available:

- alter judgment
- class certification
- consolidate
- directed verdict
- discovery motions
- dismissal
- in limine
- judgment notwithstanding the verdict
- judgment on the pleadings
- new trial
- partial summary judgment
- summary judgment
- set aside verdict
- vacate judgment

### Jurisdictions Covered

Westlaw includes selected state civil trial court orders from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. A limited selection of orders from other jurisdictions is also available.

### Accessing Trial Court Orders

Multiple access points make it easy to obtain trial court orders whether you are just beginning your research or have already obtained relevant documents. You can

- search trial court order databases
- display orders via links in related pleadings, motions, and memoranda
- use KeyCite® to check a citation and obtain a list of citing references that includes trial court orders
- retrieve the profile of a judge or an attorney and obtain a list of Westlaw Profiler® references that includes trial court orders

For assistance using Westlaw, call **1-800-WESTLAW** (1-800-937-8529).

For free reference materials, visit [west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides](http://west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides).

## SEARCHING TRIAL COURT ORDERS DATABASES

The State Civil Trial Court Orders database (TRIALORDERS-ALL) contains trial court orders from all available states. Trial court orders from individual states are found in the Individual State–State Civil Trial Court Orders database (XX-TRIALORDERS), where XX is a state’s two-letter postal abbreviation.

To search a database you can

- type a database identifier in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame of most tabbed pages and click **Go**.
- click **Court Docs** at the top of any page. At the displayed Court Documents page, click the appropriate link under *Trial Court Orders* in the left frame. At the next page, type your search terms in the text boxes in the right frame (Figure 1). Then click **Search Westlaw**.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links like 'FIND & PRINT', 'KEYCITE', 'DIRECTORY', 'KEY NUMBERS', 'COURT DOCS', 'FORMFINDER', 'SITE MAP', 'HELP', and 'SIGN OFF'. Below this, there is a 'Westlaw' logo and a 'Select Database(s)' section. The 'Selected Databases' section shows 'State Civil Trial Court Orders (TRIALORDERS-ALL)' with a 'Remove' button. The main search area is titled 'Search' and has three tabs: 'Terms and Connectors', 'Natural Language', and 'Template'. The 'Template' tab is active. It contains a 'Search:' text box with a 'Search Westlaw' button. Below the search box, there is a prompt: 'Enter terms and connectors to help refine your search.' and a link to 'Connectors/Expanders'. The 'Additional Restrictions' section has several text boxes: 'Parties:', 'Judge:', 'Docket Number:', and 'State:'. The 'State:' dropdown menu is open, showing 'All', 'Alabama', and 'Alaska'. A 'Search Westlaw' button is at the bottom of the search area. On the left side, there is a 'Court Docs Databases' section with various links, including 'Trial Court Orders' which is highlighted with a red box.

Figure 1. Trial court orders search template

### Search Examples

#### By Judge and Date

To retrieve orders issued after June 30, 2007, by Judge Ronald Quidachay of the Superior Court of California, San Francisco County, access CA-TRIALORDERS and add a date restriction (da) to your search. Type **quidachay** in the *Judge* text box and **da(aft 6/30/2007)** in the *Search* text box, then click **Search Westlaw**.

#### By Key Terms and Date

To retrieve orders issued after 2006 by New York state trial courts that include the phrase *substantial factor* in the same sentence as variations of the term *cause*, access NY-TRIALORDERS and add a date restriction to your search. Type **“substantial factor” /s caus! & da(aft 2006)** in the *Search* text box, then click **Search Westlaw**.

#### By Order Type and Key Terms

To retrieve orders on summary judgment motions issued by Texas state trial courts that include a reference to negligent misrepresentation, access TX-TRIALORDERS. Type **“summary judgment” & negligin! /3 misrepresent!** in the *Search* text box, then click **Search Westlaw**.

## VIEWING LINKED DOCUMENTS

State trial court orders and other trial court filings (including pleadings, motions, memoranda, and trial briefs) are linked to other trial documents from the same case. For example, while viewing a motion for summary judgment (Figure 2), click a citation listed next to *For opinion see* to display a subsequent trial court order (Figure 3). Then click **Motions, Pleadings, and Filings** to display a list of links to the full text of related court filings (Figure 4). While viewing a list of related filings, click a Westlaw citation to display the full-text document.

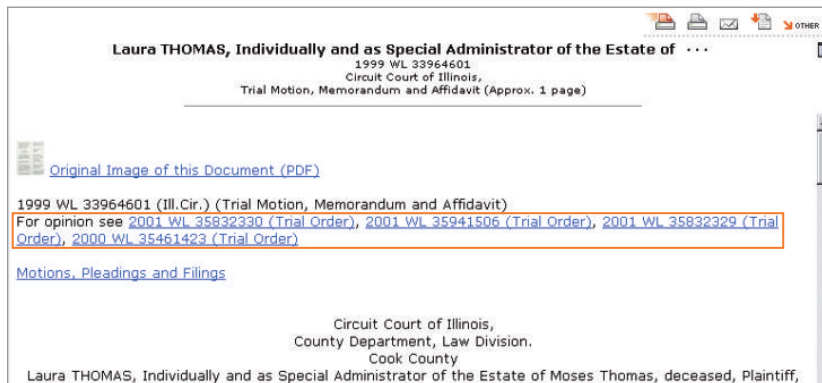


Figure 2. Motion for summary judgment

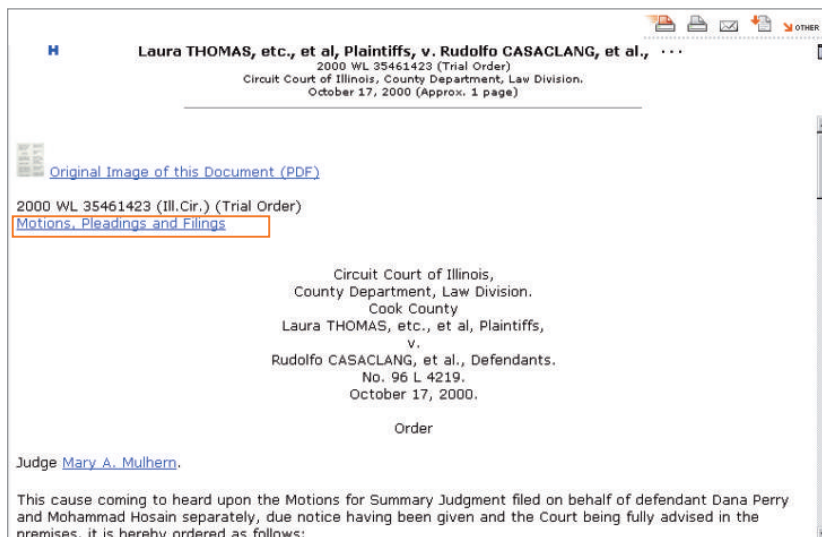


Figure 3. Summary judgment order

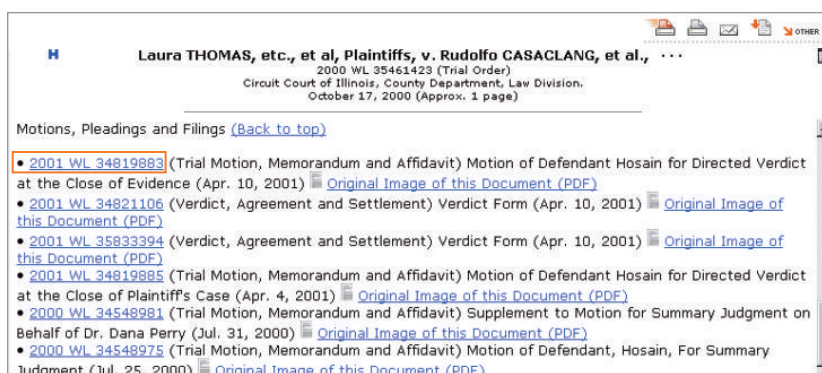


Figure 4. Links in a summary judgment order

## USING KEYCITE

State trial court orders are fully integrated with KeyCite, West's citation research service. When an order is displayed in the right frame, KeyCite links are displayed in the left frame. Using KeyCite, you can check order history and citing references and obtain related trial court filings. In addition, when you check a case, statute, administrative decision, or regulation in KeyCite, court orders are included in the list of citing references. Look for the phrase *Trial Order* in parentheses to identify trial court orders among the other citing case law documents. Also, if an order is titled, the title in the citation is bold.

For example, to identify state trial court orders that cite *Yanowitz v. L'Oreal USA, Inc.*, 32 Cal. Rptr. 3d 436 (Cal. 2005), click **KeyCite** at the top of any page. Type **32 calrptr3d 436** in the *KeyCite this citation* text box, then click **Go**. Click **Citing References** in the left frame to display a list of citing references that includes state trial court orders (Figure 5).

The screenshot displays the KeyCite interface for the case *Yanowitz v. L'Oreal USA, Inc.*, 36 Cal.4th 1028, 116 P.3d 1123 (Cal., 2005). The left sidebar contains navigation options: 'Full Screen List', 'KeyCite citation' search box, 'Some negative history but not overruled', 'Full History', 'Direct History (Graphical View)', 'Citing References' (highlighted with a red box), 'Monitor With KeyCite Alert', 'Full-Text Document', 'Case Outline', 'Petitions, Briefs & Filings', and 'ResultsPlus' with a 'View All Results' link. Below 'ResultsPlus', there are links for 'Am.Jur. Proof of Facts' and 'ALR'. The main right pane shows a list of citing references, including: 'Mendoza v. Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power, 2007 WL 5231399, \*5231399+ (Trial Order) (Cal.Superior Oct 23, 2007) Order on Submitted Matter (NO. BC364456) HN: 4,9 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', 'Hammond v. County of Los Angeles, 2005 WL 6133771, \*6133771+ (Trial Order) (Cal.Superior Nov 10, 2005) Order Granting Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (NO. BC320089) HN: 15 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', 'Mills v. Lynwood Unified School Dist., 2009 WL 2460789, \*3+ (C.D.Cal. Aug 06, 2009) (NO. CV 07-05055DDP(CTX)) \*\*', 'McKinney v. American Airlines, Inc., 2009 WL 2447392, \*8+ (C.D.Cal. Jul 27, 2009) (NO. CV0802096ABCAJWX) \*\* HN: 4,5,9 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', 'Garcia-Barajas v. Nestle Purina Petcare Co., 2009 WL 2151850, \*2+ (E.D.Cal. Jul 16, 2009) (NO. 109CV00025 OWWDLB) HN: 15 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', 'Harris v. City of Fresno, --- F.Supp.2d ----+ (E.D.Cal. May 26, 2009) (NO. 1:07-CV-01210-OWWSMS) \*\* HN: 13 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', 'Liu v. Sterigenics Int'l, 2008 WL 4657778, \*7+ (C.D.Cal. Oct 16, 2008) (NO. CV 07-5976PSG(CWX)) \*\* HN: 8,9 (Cal.Rptr.3d)', and 'Lockett v. Bayer Healthcare, 2008 WL 624847, \*7+ (N.D.Cal. Mar 03, 2008) (NO. C 05-03978 CRB) \*\* HN: 7,8,9 (Cal.Rptr.3d)'. A 'Limit KeyCite Display' button is at the bottom right of the list.

Figure 5. KeyCite citing references