



# KEY POINTS

A LEGAL RESEARCH NEWSLETTER FOR  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM WEST

Volume 27, Number 8  
September 2009

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## Could You Be More Specific?

*"[The legislature] cannot indulge itself in using large, round, sonorous words and then complain that courts do not treat them as precise, definite, and unreverberant."*

— legal scholar Max Radin (1930)

## SEARCHING THE NEWS? START AT THE TOP.

**When searching for news documents relating to a particular issue, restrict your search to the titles and lead paragraphs.**

Q: Why would you ever search news sources in the course of your job?

A: Because for a wide range of matters there is simply no substitute.

News sources are essential when you are monitoring developments such as

- industry trends
- the activities of a specific company or individual
- government or public reaction to a policy or issue
- proposed legislative or regulatory actions

But how do you search quickly for news articles that relate to a topic? After all, news articles don't come equipped with West topic and key numbers, headnotes, tables of contents, or other West enhancements that help you search for cases, statutes, and regulations.

Westlaw offers a solution: Restrict your search to titles and lead paragraphs.

### Here's why it works:

Important terms tend to be concentrated toward the beginning of articles, thanks to the "inverted pyramid" style of newspaper reporting. By restricting your search to the title and the first two paragraphs of a news article, you increase the likelihood that your terms will be more central to the story. (You don't want to retrieve thousands of articles that mention your terms only in passing.)

*continued on page 3*

**NewsRoom**

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2/27/09 US Fed. News (Pg. Unavail. Online)  
2009 WLNR 3825119

US Federal News  
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February 27, 2009

FTC TESTIFIES ON EFFORTS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 -- The Federal Trade Commission issued the following press release:

The **Federal Trade Commission** testified today before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation about the agency's increased focus on protecting consumers in financial distress. The testimony described the **FTC's** stepped-up law enforcement and consumer education efforts addressing mortgage foreclosure rescue scams, bogus debt relief and **credit repair** services, and unlawful debt collection. The **FTC** also recommended legislative and other remedies to enhance the agency's effectiveness.

Headline and lead paragraph search result



## UNDER THE USCCAN SUN

**You can find a range of legislative history resources in a single publication—*U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News*<sup>®</sup>.**

Why should you use congressional committee reports to research the intent of Congress? The U.S. Supreme Court said so!\*

And where do you get committee reports? You can retrieve committee reports for a particular federal act—as well as public laws, presidential messages and signing statements, proclamations, committee membership changes, executive orders, and session highlights—by searching the appropriate U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN)

database on Westlaw. Here’s a closer look at USCCAN databases:

### Which USCCAN databases are available?

For a list of the USCCAN databases on Westlaw and links to their Search pages, go to the Westlaw Directory and click **U.S. Federal Materials** in the right frame. Then click **U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News**. In the alternative, you can access the USCCAN databases related to a particular step of the legislative process by clicking a number in the diagram at the tabbed U.S. Senate Legislative History or Legislative History–Federal page.

Available USCCAN databases include (but are not limited to) the following:

Database	Description
U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News–Legislative History Reports (USCCAN-REP)	All congressional committee reports, including reports on bills that did not become law, beginning with 1990. Also sets out the legislative history of public laws as reprinted in <i>U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News</i> from 1948 through 1989, as well as the legislative history of securities laws beginning with 1933.
U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News–Presidential Messages and Signing Statements (USCCAN-MSG)	Documents released for publication in the <i>Federal Register</i> by the Executive Office of the President of the United States as reprinted in <i>U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News</i> . Coverage begins with 1986.
U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News–Executive Orders (USCCAN-EO)	Executive orders and related documents released by the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Coverage begins with 1936.
U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News–Session Highlights (USCCAN-SESS)	Highlights of congressional sessions as published in update supplements to <i>U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News</i> . Coverage begins with the 106th Congress (2000).

### Can I search more than one database at a time?

To search all USCCAN content simultaneously, access the U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News multibase (USCCAN). You can search using the Terms and Connectors or Natural Language search method. For example, to retrieve the public law, remarks by the

president and other government officials, congressional reports, and other documents related to the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, access USCCAN and type a query such as

**“children health insurance program” /s reauthoriz! & da(2009)**

\* *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 106 S. Ct. 2752, 2763 n. 7 (1986) (“We have repeatedly recognized that the authoritative source for legislative intent lies in the Committee Reports on the bill.”)



2009 WL 254084 (White House)

The White House  
Office of Communications

\* 1

(Cite as: 2009 WL 254084, \*1 (White House))

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM  
BILL SIGNING

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2009  
Remarks by President Barack Obama on Children's Health Insurance Program Bill Signing  
Washington, DC

Today, with one of the first bills I sign -- **reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program** -- we fulfill one of the highest responsibilities we have: to ensure the health and well-being of our nation's children.

It is a responsibility that has only grown more urgent as our economic crisis has deepened, health care costs have exploded, and millions of working families are unable to afford health insurance. Today in America, eight million children are still uninsured -- more than 45 million Americans altogether. It's hard to overstate the toll this takes on our families: the sleepless nights worrying that someone's going to get hurt, or praying that a sick child gets better on her own. The decisions that no parent should ever have to make -- how long to put off that doctor's appointment, whether to fill that

Presidential signing statement

**How can I see a USCCAN legislative history table?**

In the back of the *U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News*, there is a table (Table 4) of legislative history citations, dates, and other details. To view Table 4 for a particular year, access U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News--Legislative History Table database (USCCAN-TABLE) and use the template to search for a particular year, Congress (e.g., 110th), or congressional session.

**Is there a way to get a list of the major federal legislative activity during a particular period?**

To retrieve highlights of a particular Congress, congressional session, or year, access the USCCAN-SESS database and use the template to search for a particular year, Congress, or congressional session.

**Search**

**Selected Databases**

U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News - Session Highlights (USCCAN-SESS) ⓘ

**Terms and Connectors**   **Natural Language**   **Template**

**Search Westlaw**

Your database is: **USCCAN-SESS** (U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News - Session Highlights)

Coverage begins in 2000.

Enter information on one line below.

Year:

(Example: Year 2000)

Congress:  Congress  Session

(Example: 106th Congress - 2nd Session)

**Search Westlaw**

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USCCAN-SESS search template

**TABLE 4—LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

Public Law No.	Date App.	Stat. Page	Bill No.	Report No. 110-		Comm. Reporting		Cong. Rec. Vol.(2008) Dates of Passage	
				House	Senate	House	Senate	House	Senate
248	June 26	2316	(HR 4220)	none	none	none	none	Dec. 17	June 10
249	June 26	2317	HR 3179	494	344	OGR	HS, GA	Dec. 17	June 06
250	June 26	2318	HR 3918	618	843	TI	FR	Jan. 28	June 06
251	June 26	2319	S 1245	none	none	none	HS, GA	June 09	Dec. 12
252	June 26	2319	S 2316	none	none	none	none	June 09	Mar. 11
253	June 30	2323	(HR 5384)	429	none	J	none	Nov. 06	Nov. 06
254	June 30	2323	HR 2642	186	none	App	none	June 16	Sep. 06
255	June 30	2323	(S 1645)	none	85	none	App	June 16	Sep. 06
256	June 30	2323	(S 2368)	none	none	none	none	June 24	June 26
257	June 30	2417	HR 6327	none	none	none	none	June 17	Sep. 12
258	June 30	2419	S 1698	none	none	none	none	June 12	Feb. 29
259	June 30	2423	S 2146	none	266	none	EPW	June 12	Feb. 29
260	June 30	2425	(HR 3764)	705	none	EC	none	June 25	June 23
261	July 01	2428	S 2180	none	none	none	none	May 06	June 28
262	July 01	2428	HR 5590	629	none	J	none	June 17	Feb. 15
263	July 01	2428	(S 2979)	none	none	none	none	June 17	Feb. 15
264	July 01	2428	S 188	none	none	none	none	June 17	Feb. 15

USCCAN legislative history table (Table 4)

continued from page 1

To restrict your search to titles and lead paragraphs, access the appropriate news database, e.g., All News Plus Wires (ALLNEWSPLUS), and select the **Search only the headlines and lead paragraphs** check box at the Search page after typing your search in the Search text box. (In the alternative, you can choose Hlead – HLD() from the Fields drop-down list and then type some or all of your search terms within the parentheses in the Search text box.)

For example, to retrieve news articles on Federal Trade Commission (FTC) enforcement activity against credit repair operations, access ALLNEWSPLUS. In the Search text box, type a query such as the following: **"federal trade commission" f.t.c. /p credit-repair**. Select the **Search only the headlines and lead paragraphs** check box, then click Search Westlaw.



## Advanced SEARCH TIP

### Which of the Many Cases Citing My Case Are Worth Reading?

An influential court opinion may have been cited in hundreds—even thousands—of other cases. (For example, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Chevron, U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.*, 104 S. Ct. 2778 (1984), has been cited in 10,645 federal and state cases as of August 21, 2009.) It simply is not cost-effective—or humanly possible—to read them all.

The good news is that KeyCite® citing references start with the important cases—cases that negatively affect the cited case's validity. The remaining citing cases are grouped according to the depth of treatment they give the cited case, starting with the citing cases that discuss it in depth. Depth of treatment categories are marked with stars, as follows:

- ★★★★ Examined: The citing case contains an extended discussion of the cited cases, usually more than a printed page of text.
- ★★★ Discussed: The citing case contains a substantial discussion of the cited case, usually more than a paragraph but less than a printed page.
- ★★ Cited: The citing case contains some discussion of the cited case, usually less than a paragraph.
- ★ Mentioned: The citing case contains a brief reference to the cited case, usually in a string citation.

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