



United States District Court for the District of Alaska

Accessing Court Rulings via CourtWeb and the Watch List Service

Information Technology Department
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Accessing Court Rulings via CourtWeb and the Watch List Service

CourtWeb provides information to the public on selected recent rulings of the U.S. District Court, District of Alaska via the Internet. There is no cost associated with accessing the rulings. Members of the public are advised that not all rulings, even by participating judges, are necessarily posted to CourtWeb. Moreover, the order or other paper filed with the Clerk of the Court is the official court document. In the event of any discrepancy between a report of a ruling on CourtWeb and the official court document, the official court document controls. Interested persons therefore are cautioned to rely only on the official court documents.

Here are the instructions for accessing CourtWeb from the District of Alaska web site (<http://www.akd.uscourts.gov>):

- 1 Select the **Reference...Court Rulings** choice from the menu, or the **Reference** link in the main body of the web page.





U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska

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This is the official Internet site of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.

Please select from the menu above. If your browser system will not allow JavaScript, you may click on the menu above).

Court Info General information about contacts, frequently asked questions, special announcements, employment, and holidays

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2 Click on the **CourtWeb Online Rulings** link



U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska

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Court rulings for the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska are provided through the **CourtWeb Online Rulings Information System**

CourtWeb Online Rulings

CourtWeb provides information to the public on selected rulings of those judges who have elected to make information available in this form. **Participating judges** are listed on the judges' selection menu of the rulings report. **Participating courts** are listed on the entry screen.

CourtWeb Watch List Information

Watch List is an *additional* service that allows a law firm or practitioner to enter a private list of cases pending in the District of Alaska, or in other participating federal courts. A Watch List account includes all the features of CourtWeb, *plus* e-mail notification and additional report options for cases on your Watch List.

3. Use the drop-down arrow on the **Welcome to CourtWeb** page to select the District of Alaska. Click on the **Proceed to CourtWeb** button.

Welcome to CourtWeb

On-Line Rulings Information System

Please select a district:

CourtWeb provides information on selected recent rulings of those judges of the above-selected United States District Court who elect to make information available in this form.

[Proceed to CourtWeb](#) [Instructions](#)

Note: Members of the public are advised that not all rulings, even by participating judges, are necessarily posted to this page. Moreover, the order or other paper filed with the Clerk of the Court is the official court document. In the event of any discrepancy between a report of a ruling on this page and the official court document, the official court document controls. Interested persons therefore are cautioned to rely only on the official court documents.

CourtWeb developed by Richard Seidel, Washington, DC

Searching for a Ruling

Alaska District Court

Rulings Report - Pick the judge or case number or partial case number and click on the "Run Report" button. If you want all cases for all judges or a particular judge, just leave the case number blank. You can list all cases for a year by selecting only the year. To search for a particular word or phrase in the caption or descriptions of a ruling, enter it in respective "search" field.

When the response appears, you may print the report by clicking the **print** button on your browser.

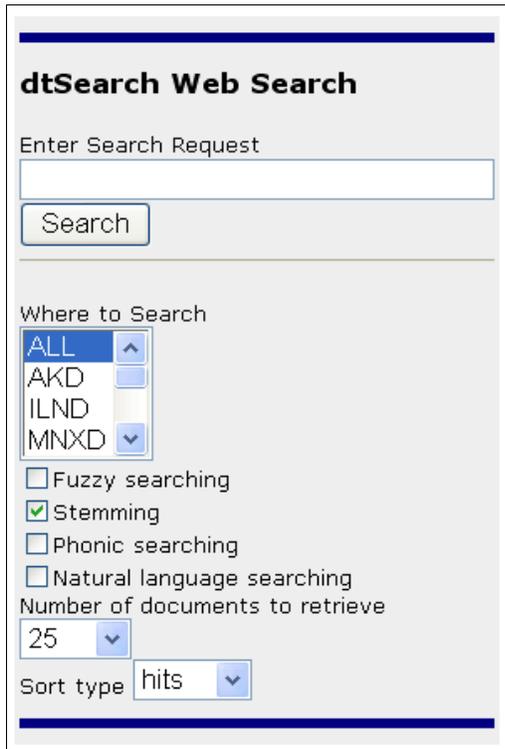
| | |
|---|---|
| Judge = | -- All Judges -- |
| Case # = | Office Year Number Type |
| | v v v v |
| Caption search = | <input type="text"/> |
| Description search = | <input type="text"/> |
| | or |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch Report |
| From: 03/21/04 | to: 03/22/04 Output: Screen |
| <input type="button" value="Run Report"/> <input type="button" value="Exit"/> | |

or click here to access the full text search options...

- Judge**
(optional) Click on the drop-down arrow to restrict your search to a particular judge's rulings. If you do not have a preference, select the default, "**All Judges**".
- Case #**
(optional) Use the drop-down arrows and the text box next to Case Number to select a particular case number. If you know the exact case number, this option will be the most efficient.
- Caption Search**
(optional) As each opinion is posted to CourtWeb, a caption is created to list the case name. If you know the case name, type this information into the caption field.
- Description Search**
(optional) A short description is added for each case in CourtWeb. Enter text that might be used to describe the case in the description field.
- Date Range**
(optional) A date range can be selected to restrict the search results. The date range field refers to the date the rulings were issued by the judge.

After entering your case criteria, click on the **Run Report** button and the search results will appear on the screen. The maximum number of rulings that can be displayed for each query is 500. If more than 500 rulings are found, an error message will appear asking you to narrow your search.

Full Text Searches



dtSearch Web Search

Enter Search Request

Search

Where to Search

ALL
AKD
ILND
MNXD

Fuzzy searching
 Stemming
 Phonic searching
 Natural language searching

Number of documents to retrieve

25

Sort type hits

Enter Search Request

CourtWeb also includes a Full-Text Search option. The “dtSearch” tool allows users to create Natural Language or Boolean search requests.

Examples of both types of searches are provided in the online help screens associated with this feature.

Location (optional)

Choose which court you wish to search. Selecting the District of Alaska (AKD) will narrow your search to Alaska rulings.

Fuzzy Searching (optional)

Clicking on the **Fuzzy Searching** will find a word even if it is misspelled. Fuzzy searching can be useful when you are searching text that may contain typographical errors, or for text that has been scanned using optical character recognition (OCR). You can either have the entire search criteria search for similar words or you can type the “%” symbol next to the word(s) that might require similar word matches.

Stemming Searching
(optional)

Stemming extends a search to cover grammatical variations of a word. For example, a search for *fish* would also find *fishing*. A search for *applied* would also find *applying*, *applies*, and *apply*.

Phonic Searching
(optional)

If you are unsure how to spell a word, but can spell it out phonetically, click on the Phonetic Spelling option to find a match.

Natural Language Searching
(optional)

A natural language search request is any combination of words, phrases, or sentences. After a natural language search, dtSearch sorts retrieved documents by their relevance to your search request. Weighting of retrieved documents takes into account: the number of documents each word in your search request appears in (the more documents a word appears in, the less useful it is in distinguishing relevant from irrelevant documents); the number of times each word in the request appears in the documents; and the density of hits in each document.

You can broaden or narrow the number of rulings that appear in your results by entering information in the **Number of Documents to Retrieve** field. The allowable range is between **25** and **1000**. The higher the number, the longer the search will take to finish.

You can also choose the way the query results are sorted. They can be sorted by **hits** (the rulings with more matches will appear first), **date** (the newer rulings will appear first), **name** (alphabetical order) or **size** (the larger files will appear first).

18. When finished, click on the **Search** button.

Sample of Query Matches

CourtWeb

CourtWeb PDF Full-Text Search

New Search Prev Doc Next Doc [Help](#)

Search Results
Request: alaska and motion
56 document(s) retrieved

| Hits | Document |
|------|--|
| 153 | 03-06584.PDF Date:8/6/03 Size:235704 Title:03-06584.PDF Subject: Author: Case #: |
| 111 | 04-00465.PDF Date:1/20/04 Size:142655 Title:04-00465.PDF Subject: Author: Case #: |
| 100 | 03-09435.PDF Date:11/21/03 Size:157180 Title:03-09435.PDF Subject: Author: Case #: |
| 77 | 03-02833.PDF Date:3/26/03 Size:295065 Title:03-02833.PDF Subject: Author: Case #: |
| 69 | 04-00639.PDF |

dtSearch Search Requests

Overview

dtSearch supports two types of search requests. A [natural language search](#) is any sequence of text, like a sentence or a question. After a natural language search, dtSearch sorts retrieved documents by their relevance to your search request.

A boolean search request consists of a group of [words](#) or [phrases](#) linked by connectors such as [and](#) and [or](#) that indicate the relationship between them.

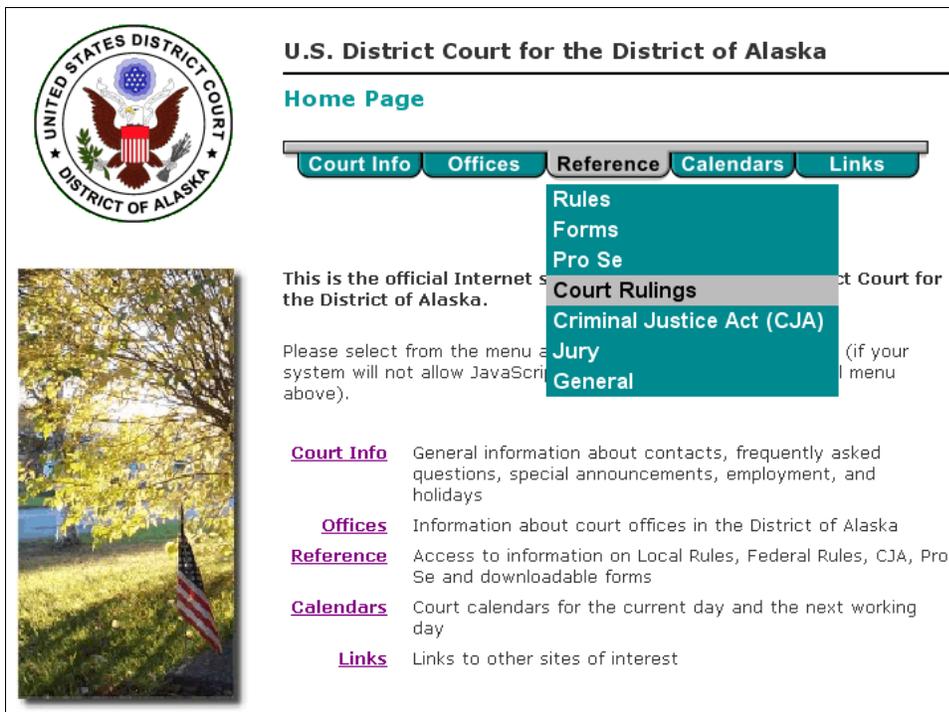
Examples:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| apple and pear | Both words must be present |
| apple or pear | Either word can be present |
| apple w/5 pear | <i>Apple</i> must occur within 5 words of <i>pear</i> |
| apple not w/5 pear | <i>Apple</i> must not occur within 5 words of <i>pear</i> |
| apple and not pear | Only <i>apple</i> must be present |
| name contains smith | The field <i>name</i> must contain <i>smith</i> |

CourtWeb Watch List

If you are interested in e-mail notification when a particular ruling is posted for a particular case to CourtWeb, you are encouraged to sign-up for the CourtWeb Watch List service. There is no cost associated with setting up a Watch List account or using the Watch List service. In order to establish a Watch List account, you must first register.

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- 2 Click on the **CourtWeb Watch List Information** link
3. Read the information about Watch List and click the **Request a CourtWeb Watch List Account** link at the bottom of the page.
4. Enter your information on the form and click the **Register Now** button

Your request will be submitted to the District of Alaska for review. After your request is approved, a login, password and instructions will be sent to you via e-mail within 5 business days of your submission.

Once you have signed-up and have entered the case numbers you wish to track, you will receive e-mail messages whenever a ruling has been posted to CourtWeb for the cases on your Watch List.