**Dockets – Prof. Ray’s Civil Procedure Class 4/4/2012**

What are dockets?

* Dockets list the documents filed in the case, from complaint to final judgment and beyond.
* Many courts have dockets on the Internet. Some have full text of the filings available.

Why are they important?

* for a case you are working on. Sometimes can file documents electronically via these systems.
* to get sample documents for drafting pleadings and motions
* to find information about people or companies

Library Research Guide – Court Dockets, Rules and Briefs https://www.law.csuohio.edu/lawlibrary/web/dockets

**PACER**

Docket for all federal district courts, bankruptcy courts and appellate courts.

**Costs** 10 cents a page to pull up dockets and filings (It went up on April 1, 2012 and used to be 8 cents a page). No charge for opinions. You will not be billed if you spend less than $15.00 per quarter. Charges limited to 30 pages for each document – so maximum for any one document is $3.00 regardless of length. However, transcripts and a few other exceptions DO charge for pages beyond 30 pages.

**Getting an account** – Register online with a credit card number. You receive your password by mail in about a week.

**Free Training Site** – <http://www.pacer.gov/announcements/general/train.html> - Search New York Western District Court filed between 1/1/2007 and 7/1/2007.

**How far back does it go?** It depends on the jurisdiction. Click on Court Information link at the top of the PACER case locator <https://pcl.uscourts.gov/search> to find out.

**Will every full text filing be available?** No. Full text filings generally available for cases late nineties to present, but that date varies by jurisdiction. Some filings may be sealed and unavailable for privacy reasons.

**Searchable** by party name, attorney name, type of case and case number. Can restrict to filings between a certain date.

Mobile Phone App available.

Some MP3 files of hearings are on PACER, as well as some transcripts.

Examples:

Western District of NY Cases

**6:07-cv-06283-MWP** Rupert v. City of Rochester, Department of Environmental Services – note that there is no charge for viewing the opinion

**6:07-cv-06325** Glenwright et al v. Xerox Corporation – notice sealed document,

Say want a **sample complaint** for Trademark Infringement under the Lanham Act. In the test database, need not limit by time frame/jurisdiction, but should do so when working in real PACER.

PACER does not search full text of filings or opinions. But, if you want to hone in on a very specific type of document, run a search in a case law database first and find a case that has that document.

Example: Find a response to a motion for summary judgment in an employment discrimination case, filed in the Western District of New York, which argues the deviation theory of pretext.

Search Google Scholar, WDNY, employment discrimination "deviation theory" "summary judgment"

Find all cases where **Matthew Brown was an attorney**. (including middle name or initial may help).

Criminal Docket on PACER:

Jimmy Ortiz

**Ways to save PACER costs:**

* [Recap](https://www.recapthelaw.org/) - A Firefox extension that will indicate which documents are in Recap’s free archive, when you pull up the docket on Pacer, and allow you to access the free documents. When you pull a document off Pacer, it saves it to the Recap archive. Searchable archive available.
* [Justia Federal District Court Dockets](http://dockets.justia.com/) – Free, but limited information. Searchable by party name, lawsuit type and date filed. District Court cases only
* Courtport’s [FreeCourtDockets.com](http://courtport.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a7e27017660c4982267df2a23&id=50c59660f5&e=1155625563). – Docket is free, but you must go on PACER to get the documents filed in the case. Directly links to PACER to purchase filings. Searchable only by case number, but one can run a party name search on Justia Dockets. You must [request an invitation code](http://freecourtdockets.com/Request_FreeCourtDocket_InviteCode.aspx) to access FreeCourtDockets

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**U.S. Supreme Court Docket**

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/docket/docket.aspx>

Does NOT have full text of the filings.

**State Court Dockets, generally**

[LLRX- Court Rules, Forms and Dockets](http://www.llrx.com/courtrules/) – Find dockets for state courts.

**Ohio Supreme Court Docket**

Search by party name, docket number, case type, attorney name.

Docket goes back to 1985, but full text only from November 2006.

**Ohio Common Pleas Court Dockets**

Cuyahoga County docket does not have full text filings.

A good place to go for sample documents is the [Summit County docket](http://www.cpclerk.co.summit.oh.us/Disclaimer.asp?toPage=SelectDivision.asp) which allows you to search by document type (eg. complaint, notice of bankruptcy, writ of habeas corpus, etc.) and case type, as well as party name and case number.

Example: Find a Complaint for an appeal of a worker’s comp administrative decision. Hint: pick month as April 2010.

**Dockets on Lexis and Westlaw**

Lexis “docket” is not an actual docket, just some basic information about the case. The Westlaw dockets in the law school plan do not have full text access to all of the filings.