

Government Documents Center Help Guides

Series M - Locating Michigan Materials

Part 2 - Case Law

Case law includes judicial opinions on legal questions that arise when parties bring a case before that court. Decisions of administrative agencies are also reported in some instances.

The lowest level of courts are the district and circuit courts that try cases; these cases are usually not reported. The Court of Appeals, hears the initial level of appeals and the Supreme Court is the final state authority on questions of law. Federal courts sitting in Michigan as well as those reviewed by the 6th Circuit Court may also be of interest to those doing Michigan research.

There are several online resources for Michigan Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases. In some cases, unreported opinions that may not be included in paper resources are provided online:

Source	Web address	Coverage	Dates
LexisNexis Academic (Accessible from the Gov. Docs Page)	http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Legal Research • Select State Case Law • Select Michigan 	~ Supreme Court ~ Court of Appeals ~ 6 th Circuit ~ Current Court Rules	1843- 1/65- 1789-
Michigan State Bar	http://www.michbar.org/opinions/	~ Supreme Court ~ Court of Appeals ~ 6 th Circuit ~ Current Court Rules	1998- 1998- 1999-
Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE)	http://www.icle.org/michlaw/	~ Supreme Court ~ Court of Appeals (published) ~ Court of Appeals (unpublished) ~ Current Court Rules	10/95- 8/96- 7/96-
Michigan Courts	http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/index.htm	~ Supreme Court ~ Court of Appeals (published) ~ Court of Appeals (unpublished)	1/01- 1/01- 7/96-

You may find 6th Circuit opinions by accessing FindLaw, <http://www.findlaw.com/>. From the section labeled *Legal Professionals*, choose *Federal* beneath *U.S. Laws: Cases and Codes*, then select *6th* beneath *US Courts of Appeals - Opinions & Web Sites*.

The official Michigan Courts site also provides other information including summaries of the courts' processes, court forms and filing instructions, a directory of court personnel and useful links.

Practice Questions

1. What famous Michigander is discussed in the case at 248 Mich. App. 373?
2. Find a case discussing a widow's dower rights under M.C.L. §§ 558.1 - 558.29.

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<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/training/micase.pdf>