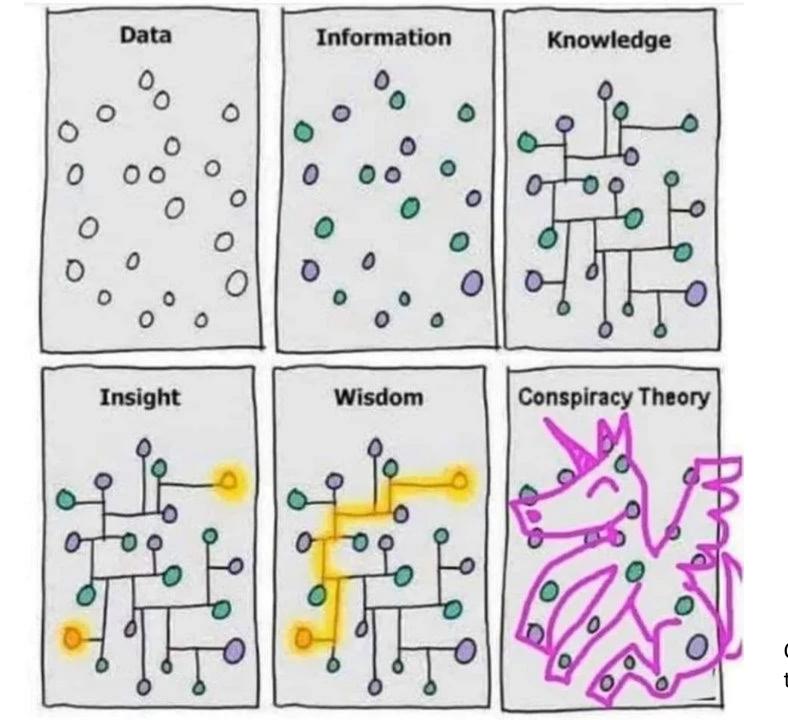
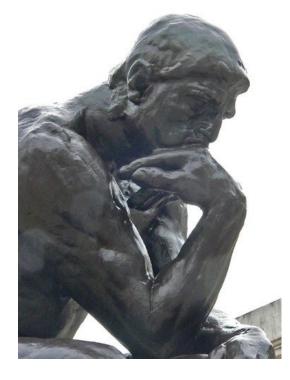
# Effective Research Tips, Trick, and More for Busy Defenders

Rob Mead, JD, MLS – State Law Librarian Washington Supreme Court rob.mead@courts.wa.gov 360-357-2156



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## How Do We Get Wiser About Legal Research?

- Neurology build knowledge for the long term
- Efficiency build on existing resources
- Efficacy build on success for good client outcomes

n

### Neurology — Learning Theory

"When lawyers learn about an area of law and focus on specific facts for a specific research problem, they construct a matrix in their minds of resources where the facts are similar or not, the law is similar or not, and the outliers. For experts, that matrix persists, and new facts or new rules and norms can be put into that matrix easily, for a quick analysis of the state of the law on a particular topic."

Susan Nevelow Mart, Adam Litzler, and David Gunderman, *Hunting and Gathering on the Legal Information Savannah*, 114 Law Library Journal 5, 15 (2022).

### How do we build a criminal law mental matrix?

Paul Callister – Law Professor & Library Directory at UMKC Law School – The Metacognitive Imperative (available on SSRN)

Metacognition – "the underlying thought process of experts that enables them to learn from experience and ultimately to act on intuition" or "thinking about thinking"

**Cognitive apprenticeship** – making the expert's tacit process for solving problems explicit so that novices may observe and learn

**Self-reflection and self-correction** – "Why did my approach to the problem fail?" "Does my schema work for this problem?" "Do I need to modify it?" "Do I know I know it?"

Daniel T. Willingham, Psych Prof at UVA in NYT Opinion 4/20/2023 — Outsmart Your Brain: Why Learning Is Hard and How You Can Make It Easy.

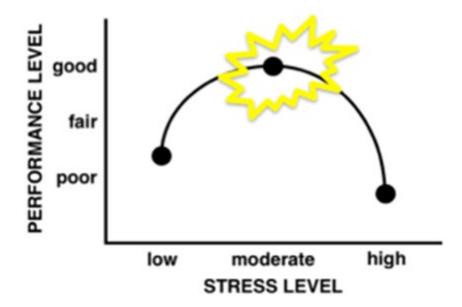
"Students get studying wrong because they don't assess whether a method works in the long run. Instead, they pay attention to whether the method is easy to do and feels like it's working while they're doing it...Rereading is easy because the mind can skitter along the surface of the material without closely considering its meaning, but that's exactly why it's a poor way to learn. If you want to learn the meaning — as most tests require you to — then you must think about meaning when you study. Yet, insidiously, rereading feels effective. Rereading a textbook makes the content feel familiar. But judging that content is familiar and knowing what it means — being able to describe it, being able to use that knowledge when you think — are supported by different processes in the brain."



CC BY 2.0 Thomas Haynie

- Knowledge dilemma there's too much, it's changing rapidly, and some is of little use
- A
- Learning happens when the brain changes in response to stimuli (neuroplasticity) and is able to produce new neurons (neurogenesis). Moderate stress is good for learning. High or low stress impede it. Your brain needs adequate sleep, nutrition, and exercise for robust learning.

#### Classic inverted-U curve



Berkeley Graduate Division – Teaching and Resource Center – Neuroscience and How Students Learn https://gsi.berkeley.edu/gsi-guidecontents/learning-theoryresearch/neuroscience/

- Active learning happens when there is cross-talk between different parts of the brain including: creating, analyzing, evaluating, and applying in the cortex; memory in the hippocampus; and emotions in the amygdala.
- Moderate stress for one person is cortisol overload for another.



### STATE of MIND

### The Relentless Mental Toll of Public Defense

And what could make it better.

BY BEATRICE FERGUSON



Photo illustration by Slate. Photo by Getty Images Plus.

# 1. The word "void" in statutes, is often construed to mean "voidable" only, especially when relating to judicial acts. 2. Inth. 674. pl. 12. 5. 6. 119. a.b. Andrews. 02. 2. A party cannot spigm any thing for error which is for his own advantage. Inth 21. 5. cholicid mellow the party. 3. Where a witness is produced who is related to one of the parties, or interested in the cause, he may be admed ted to give his ovidence if the other party will consent to it; for every person may renowned her, or any law you so introduced. Anarows. 06.

A. A challenge to the array by the deft because the sheriff was one of their body and night be prejude in their favor and alledged that it was to prevent delay; because the shortfulf oright in a writ of error, a fright this for error. The court were of opinion that if the matter which is the ground of the challenge can be assigned by the pol. for error. The challenge by the deft is good, to prevent circuity; but if whether it could or not they differed. however they granted a rule to quash the array the they were your doubtful on Andrews 85.102. Cro. Jac. 551. Byen 319.2. 2. They m. 1362. Ialh. 152. Cal. 150.2. Reb. 720. 19. H.S. 10t. 6. C. 1. 157.2.

5. Ospection to a bry law that capes might happen wherein a brine h thereof would be unavoidable, and hucas 330 cited appear in all laws such cases are impried, and necessity is a good caruse for the breach thereof. Andrews . go.

6. The word and, rooperly a conjunctive is often construed or, andrews 285, post 69. Wester. w. Thelips, . Lean. 7a. Baldwin Cos. How. 286, en. 21. 282. Jain v. Mallory, s. Pag. 505. Helliand v. Jannings.

To Error, and culy new affermed. Instion by def for easily, argued for pl. that vines the cases in tall, the construction of the set of H.T. hath been, that where the pl. below is not entitled to cost or damages, he also

## Strategy #1 - Commonplacing

 Putting ideas in a "commonplace"

 Jefferson's legal commonplace book

 Old School – use blank hardcover notebooks

 Modern improvements – note software that stores in the cloud, allows web clipping, keyword searching, and even mind-mapping

 Try Evernote, Microsoft OneNote, Roam, or Obsidian

# Heidi Alexander – Using Evernote in Your Law Practice: Five Ways to Start Evernote Evernote

### 3. Creating a Legal Research Repository

"Many attorneys who use Evernote use the web clipper to save and organize their legal research. You can organize your research into topical notebooks, such as Employment Discrimination, Landlord-Tenant, Search and Seizure and so on. Then, when you save individual research files, such as case law, you can assign each one to the proper topical notebook and tag it with identifiers such as the matter(s) it references, its case proposition and disposition, fact pattern, and jurisdiction. The next time you need a SCOTUS case on sex discrimination, you can use Evernote search terms to retrieve it. No more wasting time searching through stacks of printed case law for that one case proposition you need, or reinventing the wheel by doing sophisticated searches in Westlaw or Lexis to locate something you've previously found."

### Washington Reports 2022 CUMULATIVE SUBJECT INDEX MOLEMBA. Altonioo -- Covenants Covering Cases Historical I World Wie App. & Win App. 3d

## Strategy #2 — Subject Indexing - Lexis

- Lexis is the official published of Washington Reports (Wn.2d and now Wn.3d!!) and Washington Appellate Reports (Wn. App. and Wn. App. 2d)
- Lexis has Washington attorneyeditors organize cases using a complete subject index matched with corresponding headnotes.
- Best of all It's \$33.00.

## HEADNOTE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM USED BY OFFICE OF REPORTER OF DECISIONS

Headnotes in the Washington Reports and Washington Appellate Reports are classified under the following major subject headings:

Abortion	Bills and Notes	Courts
Accord and Satisfaction	Bonds	Courts of Limited
Accountants	Boundaries	Jurisdiction
Accounting	Bribery	Covenants
Acknowledgment	Brokers	Credit
Action	Building Regulations	Criminal Law
Adjoining Landowners	Burglary	Criminal Mistreatment
Administrative Law		Criminal Solicitation
Admiralty	Carriers	Crops
Adoption	Cemeteries	
Adverse Possession	Certiorari	Damages
Agriculture	Charities	Death
Alienation of Affections	Civil Procedure	Declaratory Judgment

### SELECTED CROSS-REFERENCES

**Abandonment: See Property** 

Abuse of Process: See Process

Accomplice Liability: See Criminal Law—Parties to Offenses

Account Stated: See Credit

Admiralty: See Admiralty; Ferries; Waters

Admission to Practice of Law: See Attorney and Client

Affidavit of Prejudice: See Judges—Disqualification

Affirmative Action: See Civil Rights

Age Discrimination: See Civil Rights

Agencies (Governmental): See Administrative Law

Agency: See Principal and Agent

Airports: See Municipal Corporations; Port Districts

Alcohol: See Intoxicating Liquors

Alford Plea: See Criminal Law—Plea of Guilty—Factual Basis—Nonadmission of Guilt

### **Criminal Law**

Criminal Law—Cont'd		
Diminished Capacity—Cont'd		
Waiver of Rights—Cont'd		
Self-Incrimination—(Subject of Action) so: 111/872		
(Subject of Action) CA: 83/350		
What Constitutes		
Discovery		
See also <b>Discovery</b>		
Access to Prosecution Witness—Prosecutor's Presence		
Harmless Error ca: 75/390		
Validity ca: 75/390		
Additional Information—Analysis of Evidence Previously Disclosed ca. 43/67		
"Colorable Basis"—Test		
Computer Database		
Hard Drive—Mirror Image Copy—Forensic Analysis sc: 169/47		
Underlying Data—Discretion of Court sc: 125/24		
Constitutional Rights—Right To Discover sc: 110/738		
Court Rule		
Applicability—Postconviction Proceedings CA: 17/697		
Applicable Court Rules sc: 122/258; 115/457; 110/738		
Construction		
In General ca: 89/492; 65/728		
Liberal Construction—Purposesca: 157/50		
Primary Purpose CA: 18/139		
Purposes sc: 160/424; 130/313 ca: 18/139; 14/143; 194/234; 156/314; 115/91		
Reciprocal Duties		



🥳 Opinion 'We Are G... 🞹 Gender Equality in... 🏦 Author Spotlight J... 🎡 Vance Creek Railrid... 🔻 Washington Eugenics 📘 Getting Explicit Abo..





### Welcome to the Washington State Judicial Opinions Public Access Web site

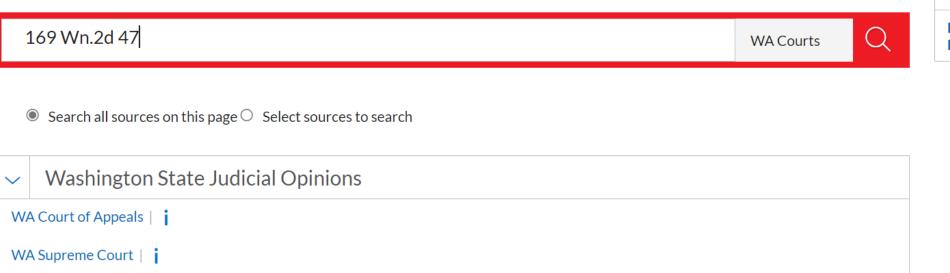
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### **Washington Reports**

**Document:** State v. Grenning



#### State v. Grenning

**Copy Citation** 

Supreme Court of Washington

September 15, 2009, Argued; June 17, 2010, Filed

No. 81449-0

#### Reporter

169 Wn.2d 47 | 234 P.3d 169 | 2010 Wash. LEXIS 531

#### Summary

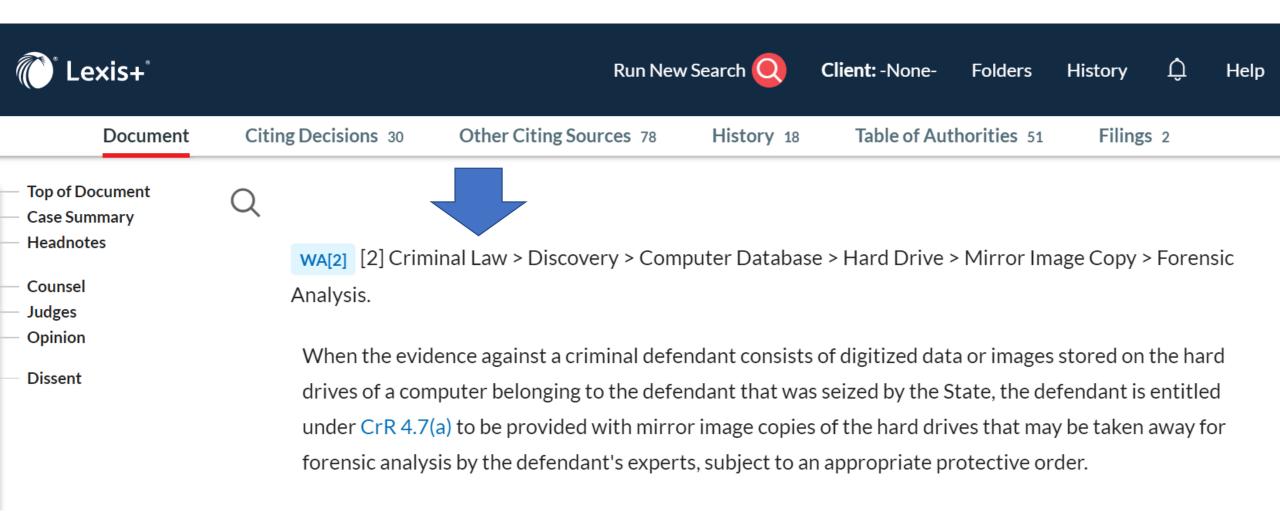
WASHINGTON OFFICIAL REPORTS SUMMARY

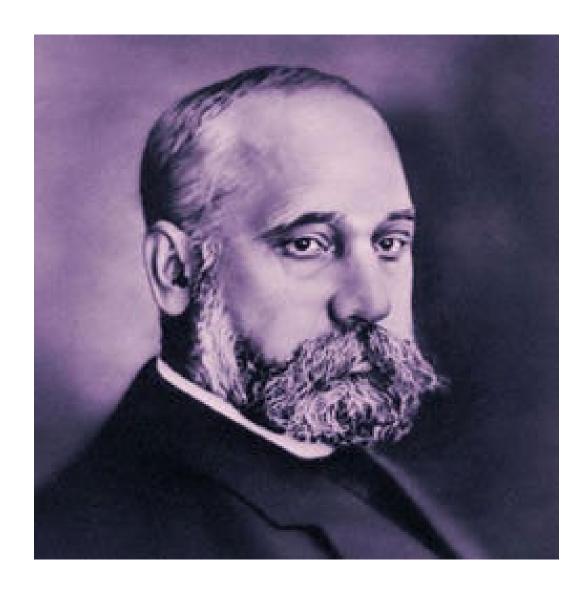
**Nature of Action:** Prosecution for 17 counts of first degree rape of a child, 2 counts of attempted first degree rape of a child, 6 counts of first degree child molestation, 26 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, 1 count of second degree assault of a child, and 20 counts of possession of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with sexual motivation.

**Superior Court:** The Superior Court for Pierce County, No. 02-1-01106-5, James R. Orlando, J., on October 22, 2004, entered a judgment on a verdict finding the defendant guilty of 16 counts of first degree rape of a child, 26 counts of sexual exploitation of a minor, 6 counts of first degree child molestation, 1 count of second degree assault of a child, 20 counts of possession of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with sexual motivation, and 2 counts of attempted first degree rape of a child.

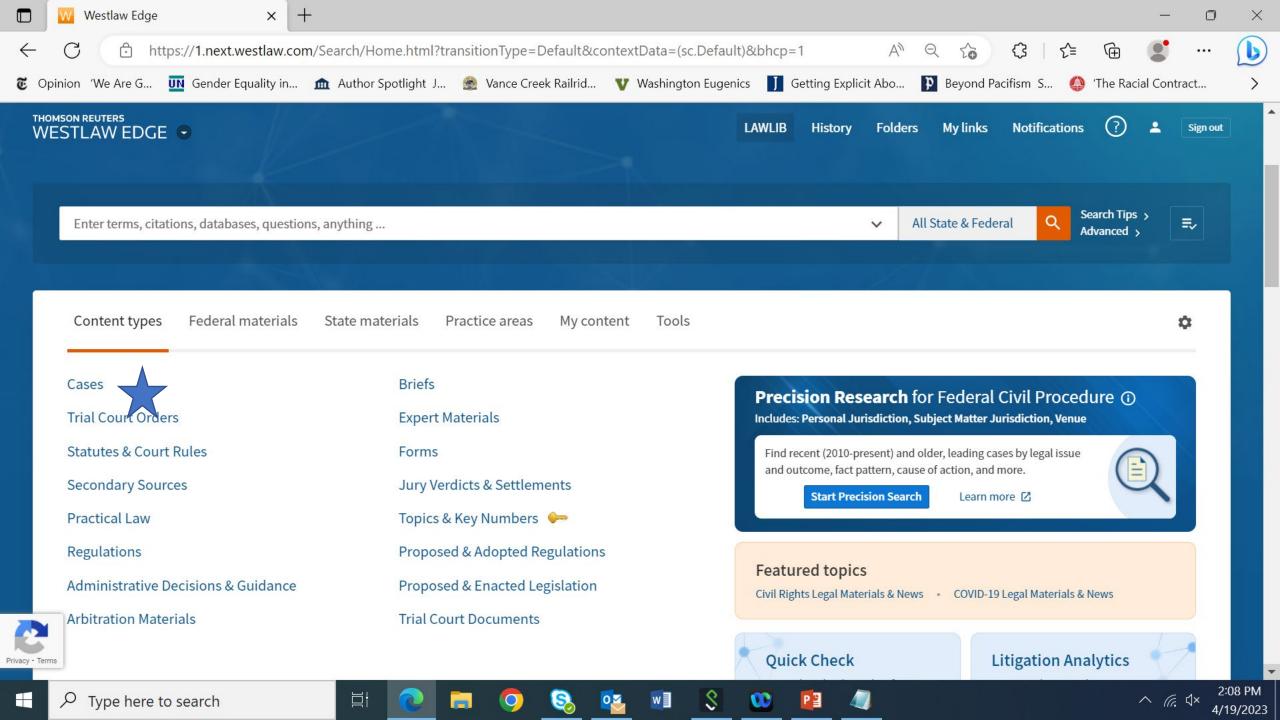
Court of Appeals: The court affirmed in part and reversed in part the judgment and remanded the case for further proceedings at 142 Wn. App. 518 (2008), holding that the trial court erroneously restricted the defendant's access to computer hard drive evidence in relation to the child pornography possession charges but that other error claimed by the defendant was either unsupported by the record or did not prejudice the defendant.

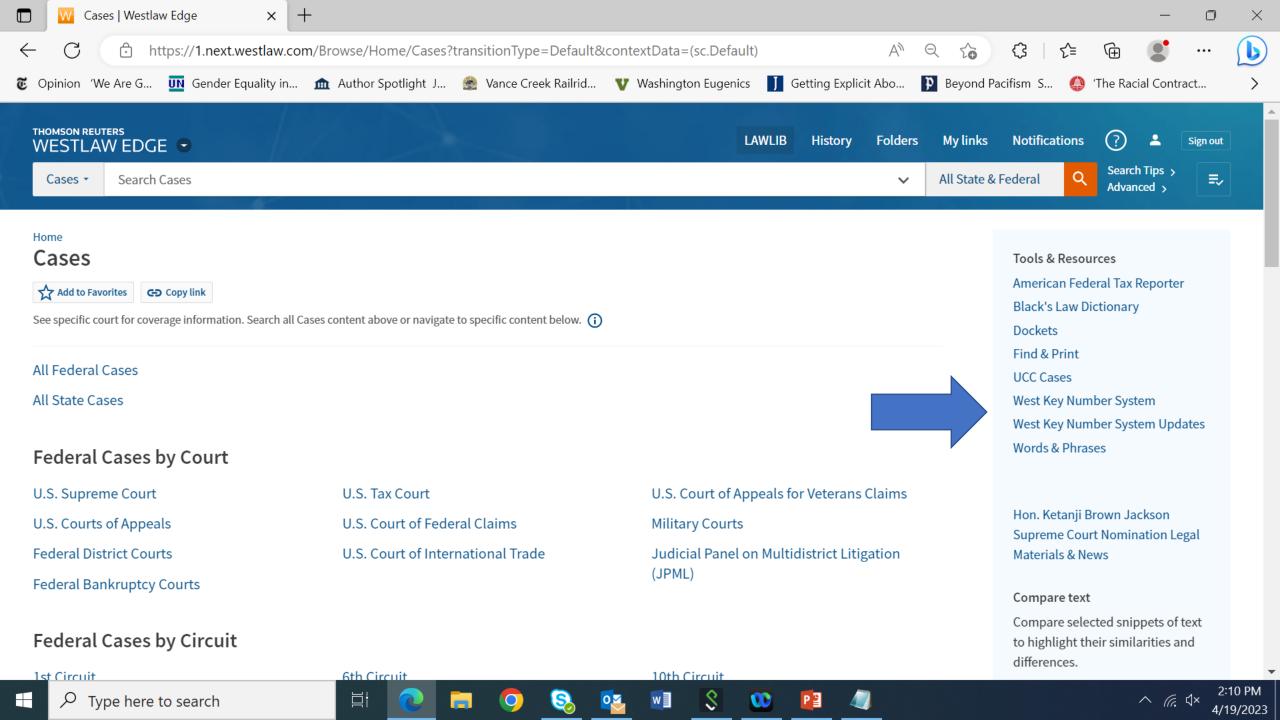
**Supreme Court:** Holding that the defendant is entitled to mirror image copies of the hard drives of the computers seized by law enforcement officers for forensic analysis by the defendant's own experts at an appropriately secured laboratory, that the trial court's erroneous rulings on the defendant's requests for copies of the computer hard drives were not harmless, and that the defendant is entitled to a new trial on the 20 counts of possession of depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct with sexual motivation, the court affirms the decision of the Court of Appeals and *remands* the case to the trial court for further proceedings.

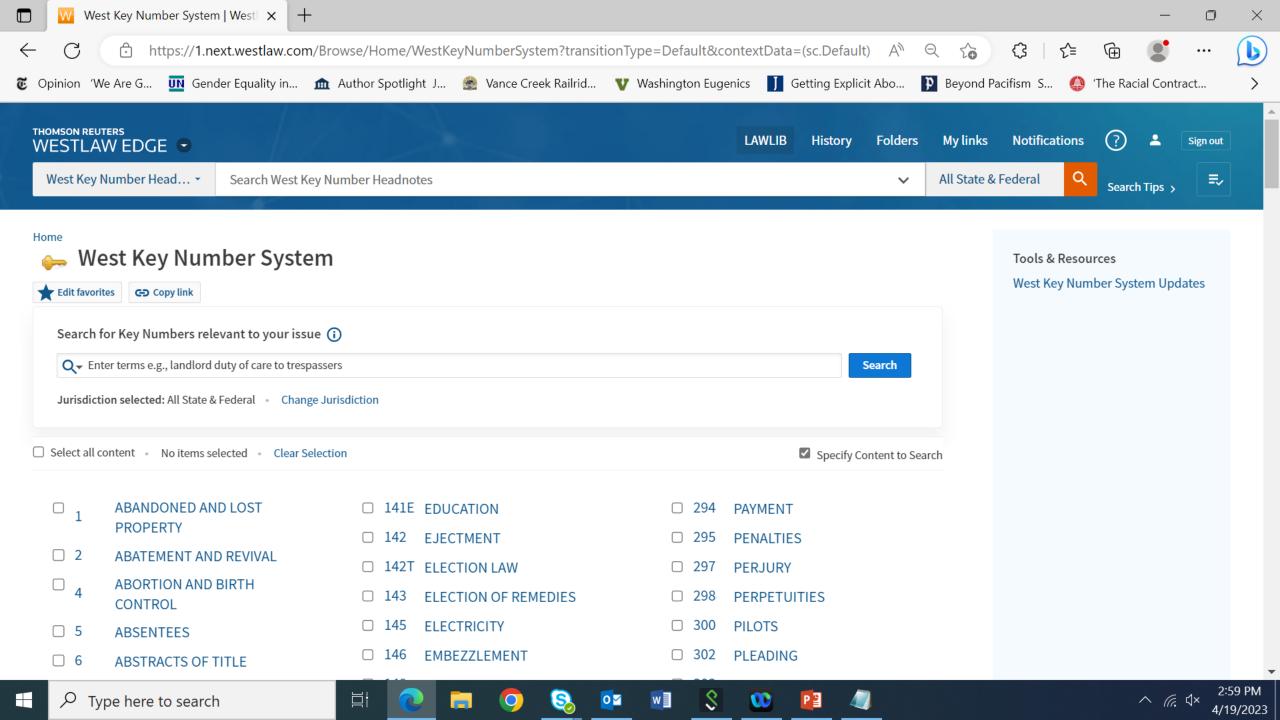


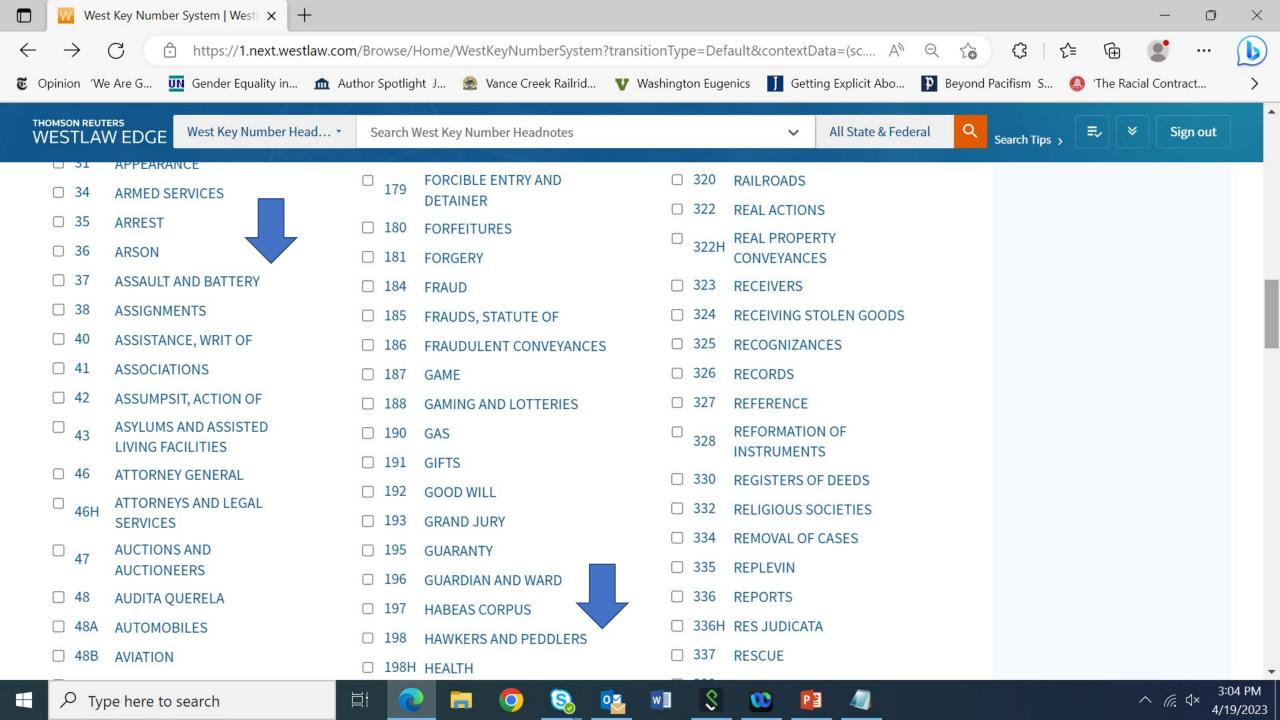


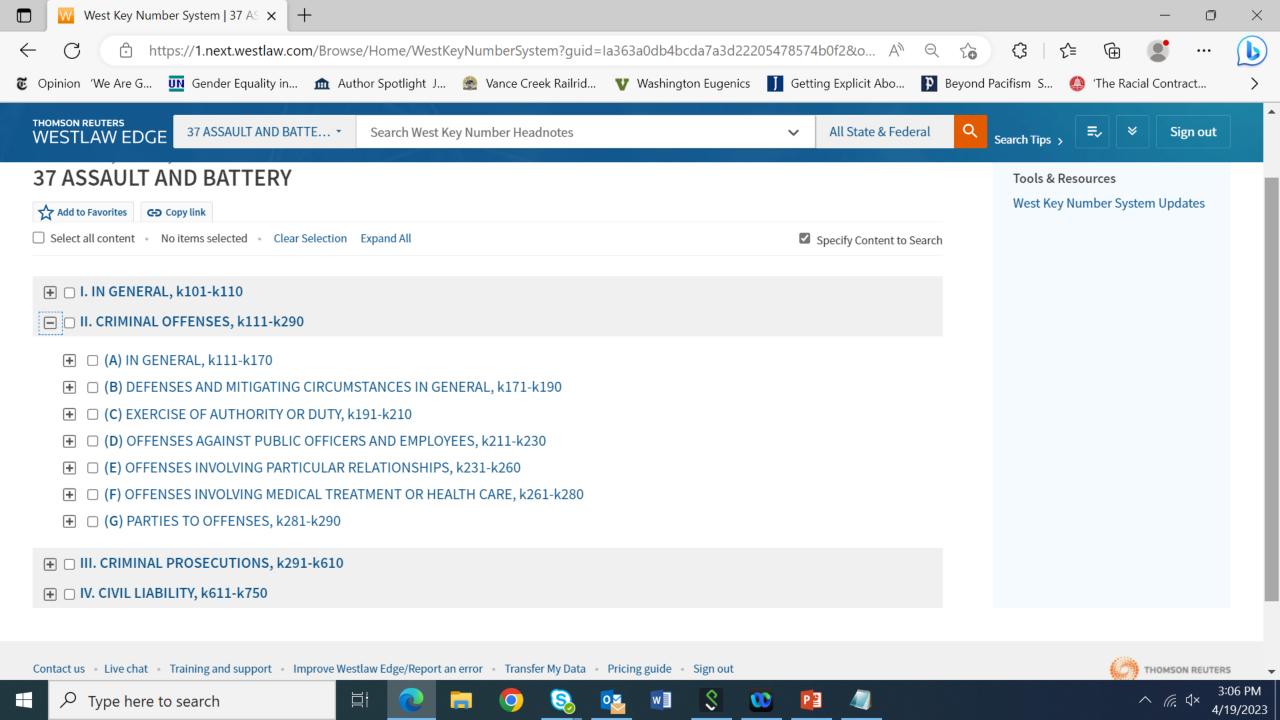
Subject Indexing Westlaw Topics & Key Numbers - Bob Berring "The Universe of Thinkable Thoughts"

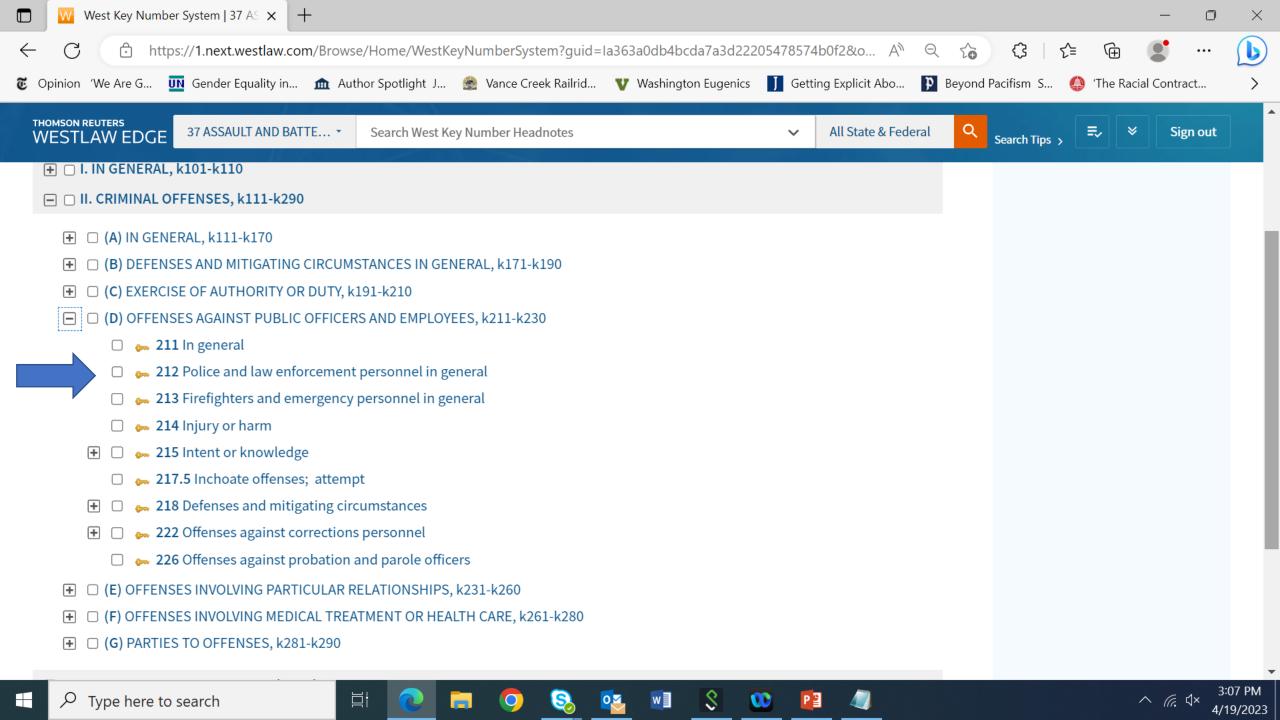


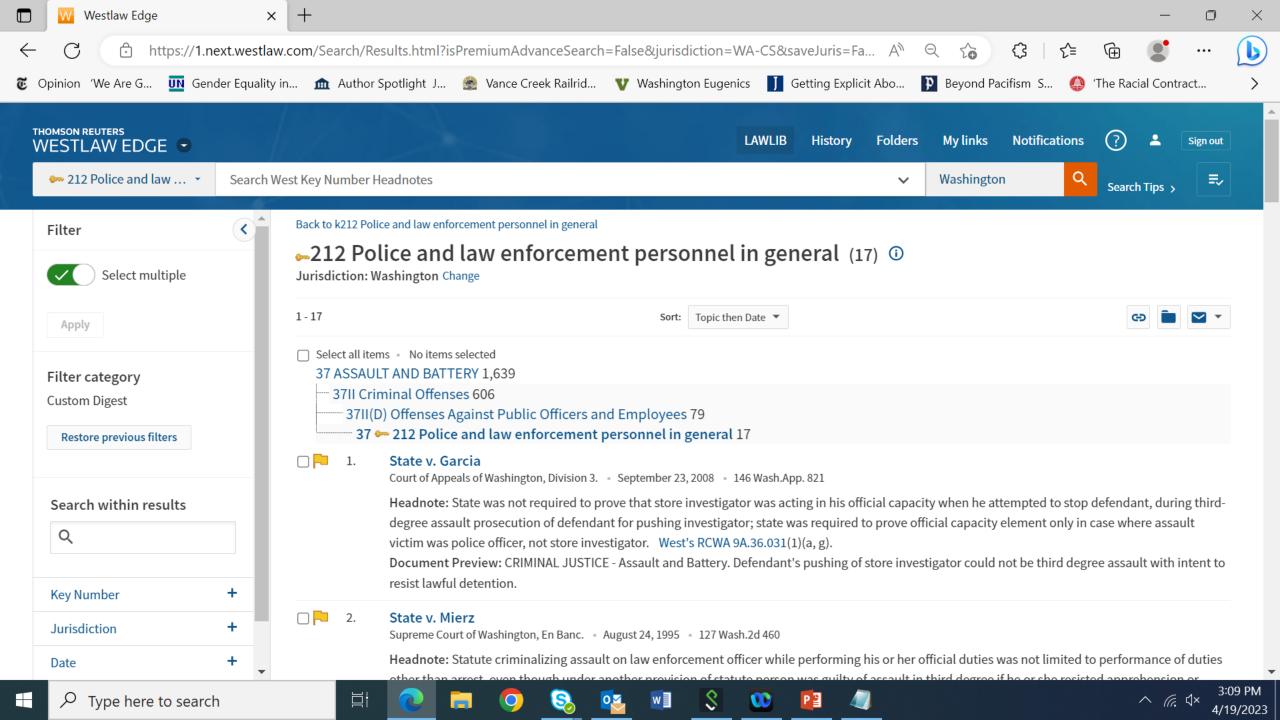


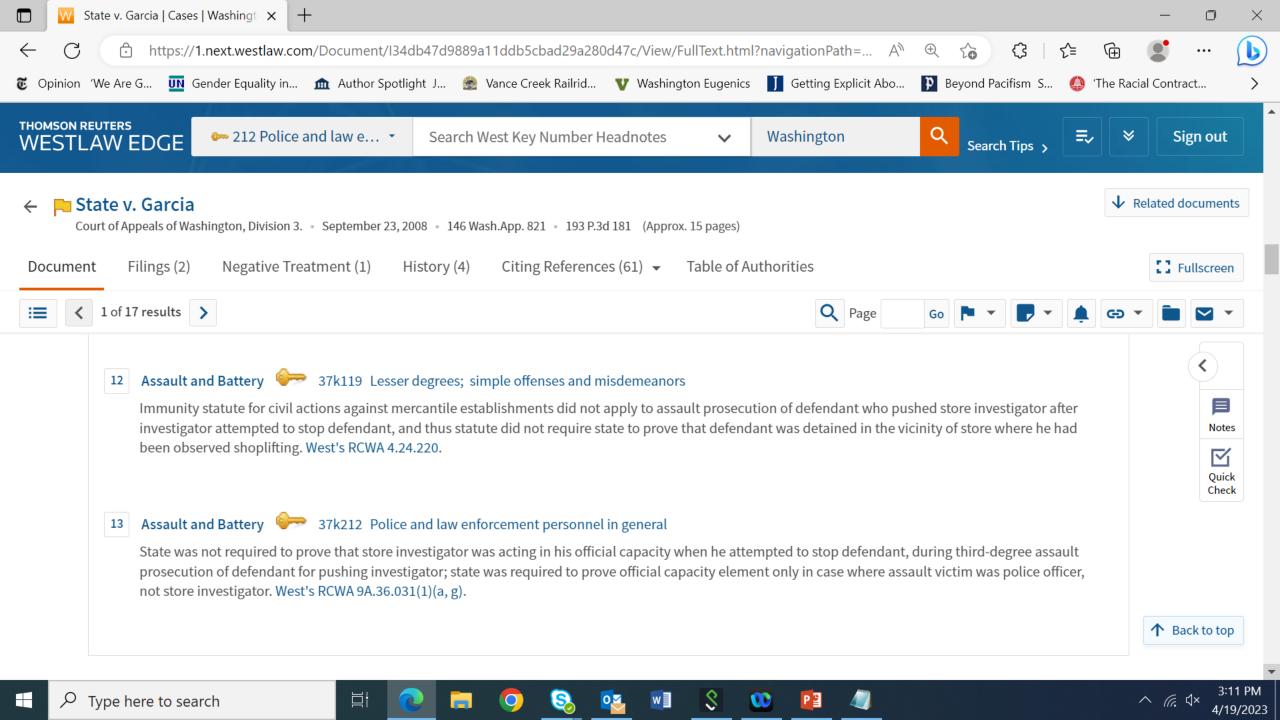


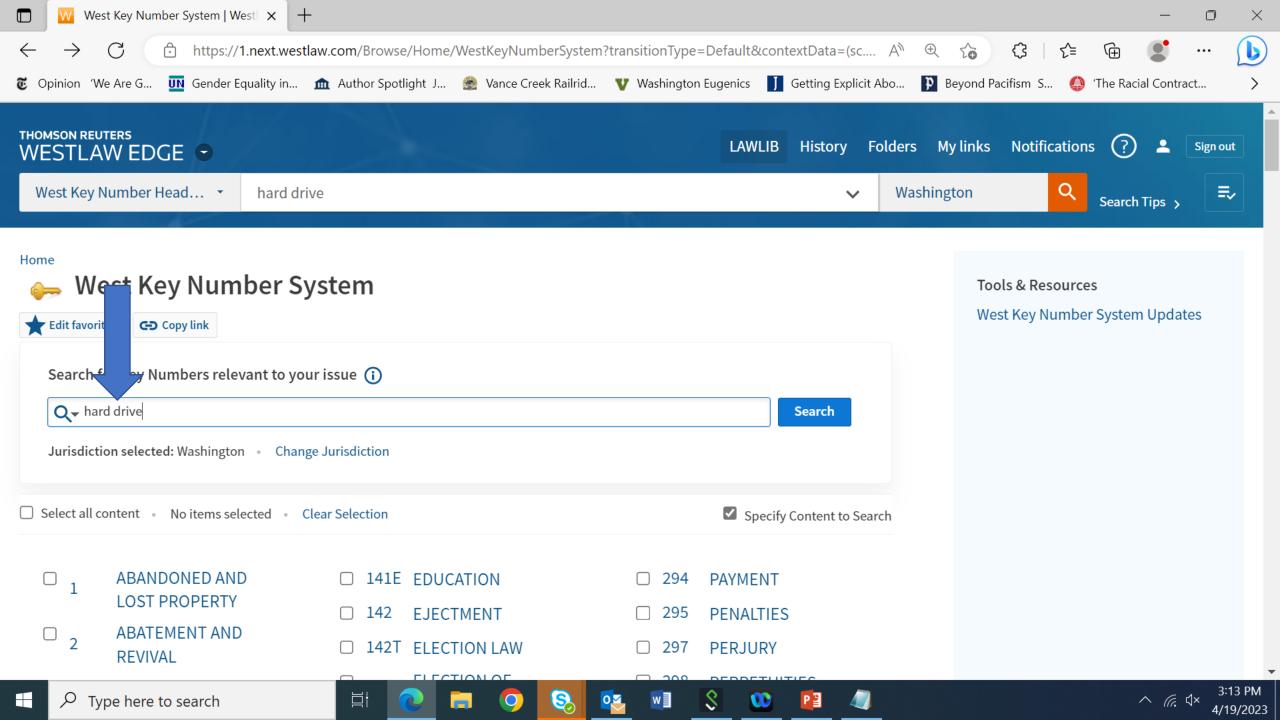


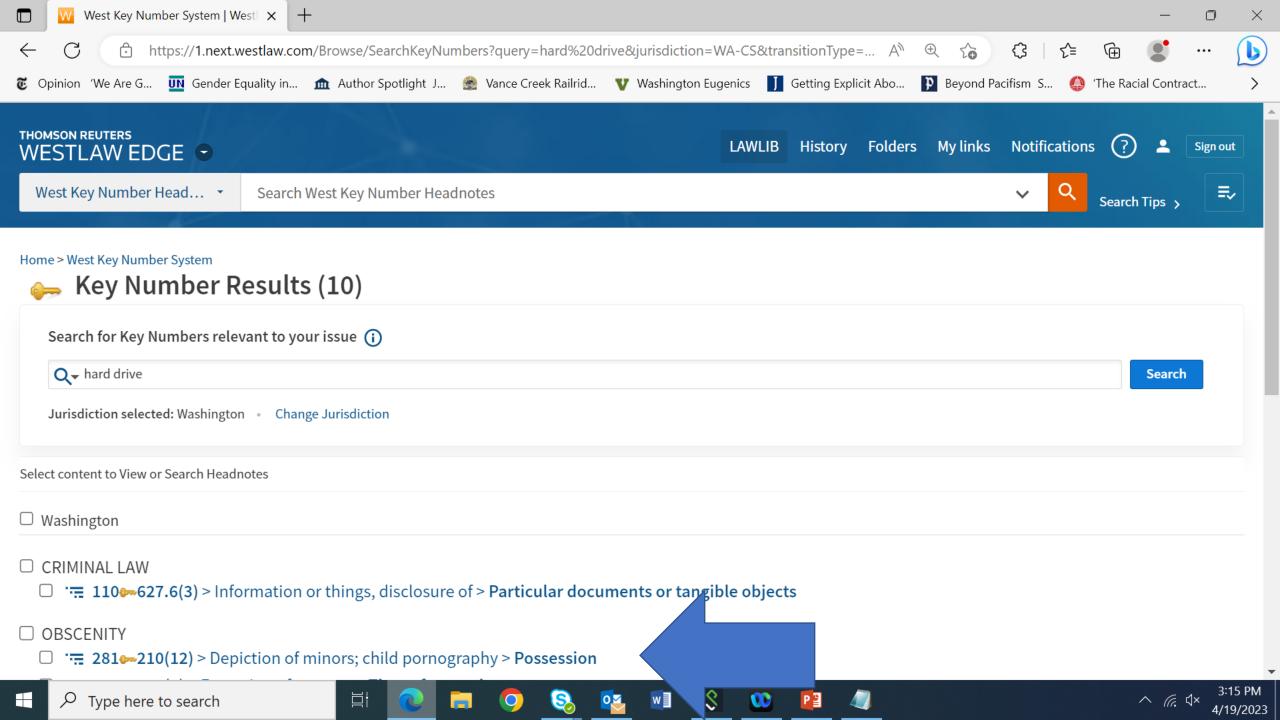












### Keyword Searching v. Subject Indexes

# Kesults May Vary

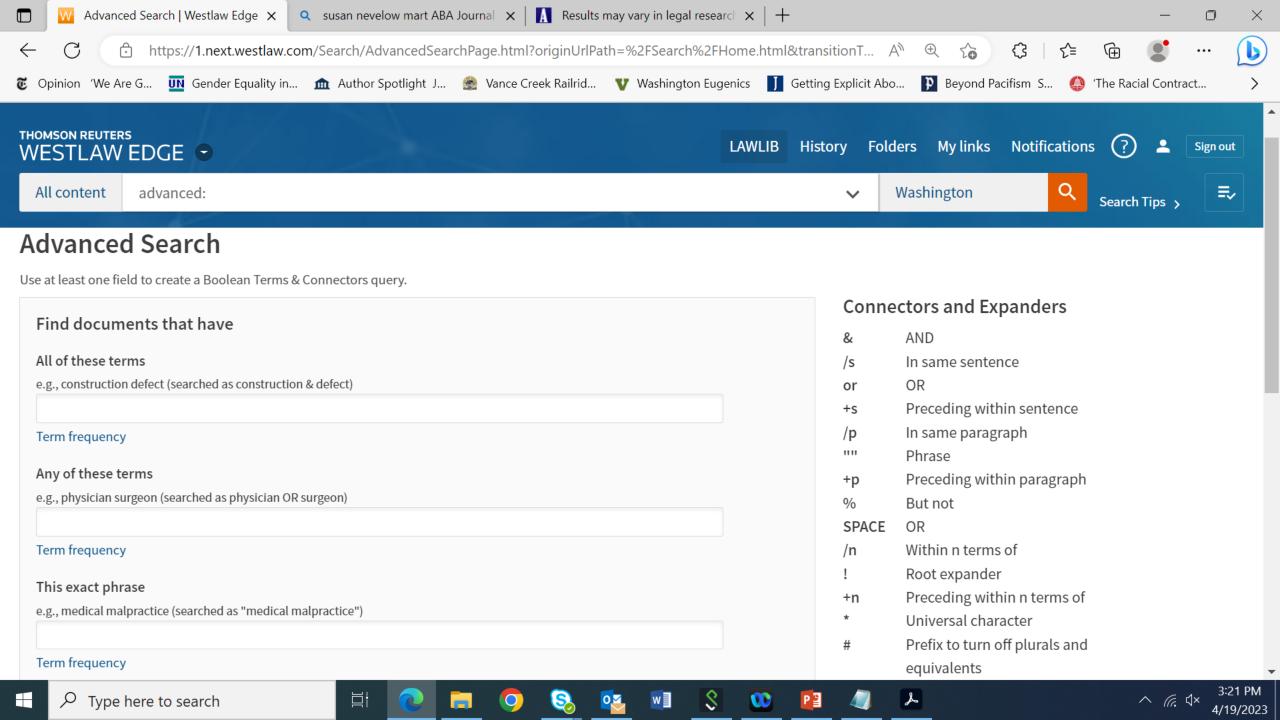
Which database a researcher uses makes a difference

BY SUSAN NEVELOW MART

### Susan Nevelow Mart –

"At first glance, the various legal research databases seem similar. For instance, they all promote their natural language searching, so when the keywords go into the search box, researchers expect relevant results. The lawyer would also expect the results to be somewhat similar no matter which legal database a lawyer uses. After all, the algorithms are all trying to solve the same problem: translating a specific query into relevant results."

"The **reality is much different**. In a comparison of six legal databases—Casetext, Fastcase, Google Scholar, Lexis Advance, Ravel and Westlaw when researchers entered the identical search in the same jurisdictional database of reported cases, there was hardly any overlap in the top 10 cases returned in the results. Only 7 percent of the cases were in all six databases, and 40 percent of the cases each database returned in the results set were unique to that database. It turns out that when you give six groups of humans the same problem to solve, the results are a testament to the variability of human problem-solving. If your starting point for research is a keyword search, the divergent results in each of these six databases will frame the rest of your research in a very different way."



Home > Cases > Advanced Search

Advanced Search: Cases @

Enter a source name, a citation, terms or shep: [citation] to Shepardize® Q Cases

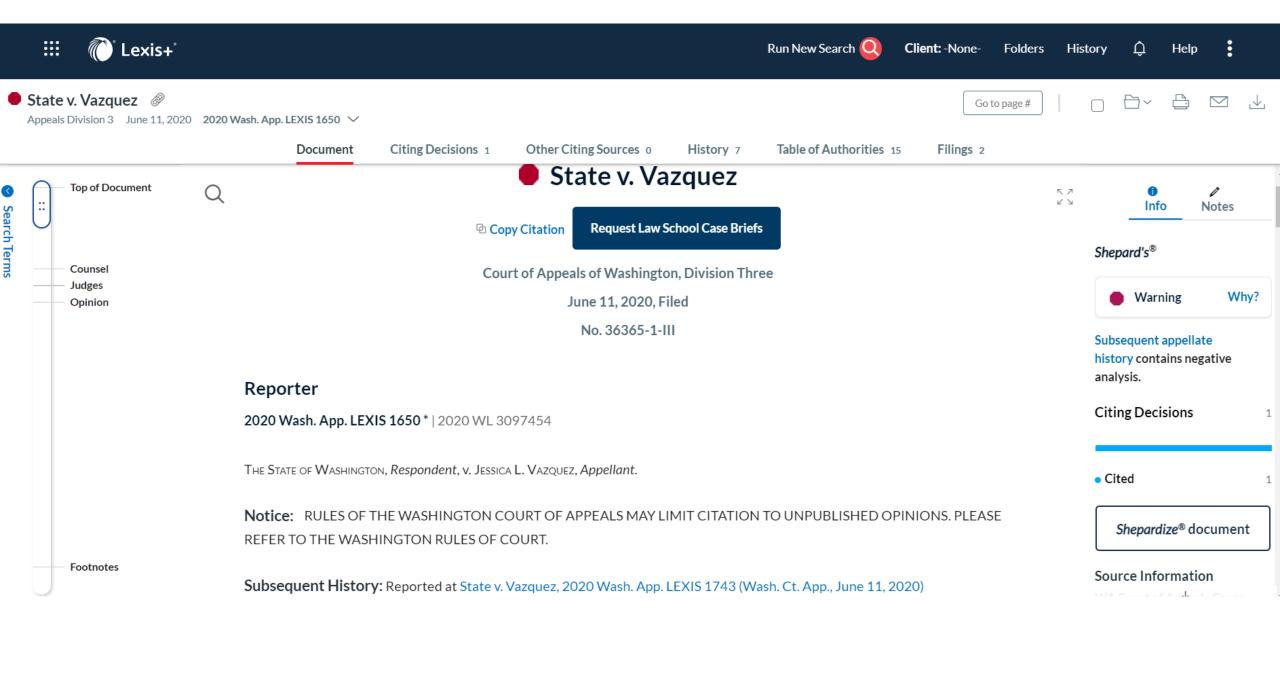
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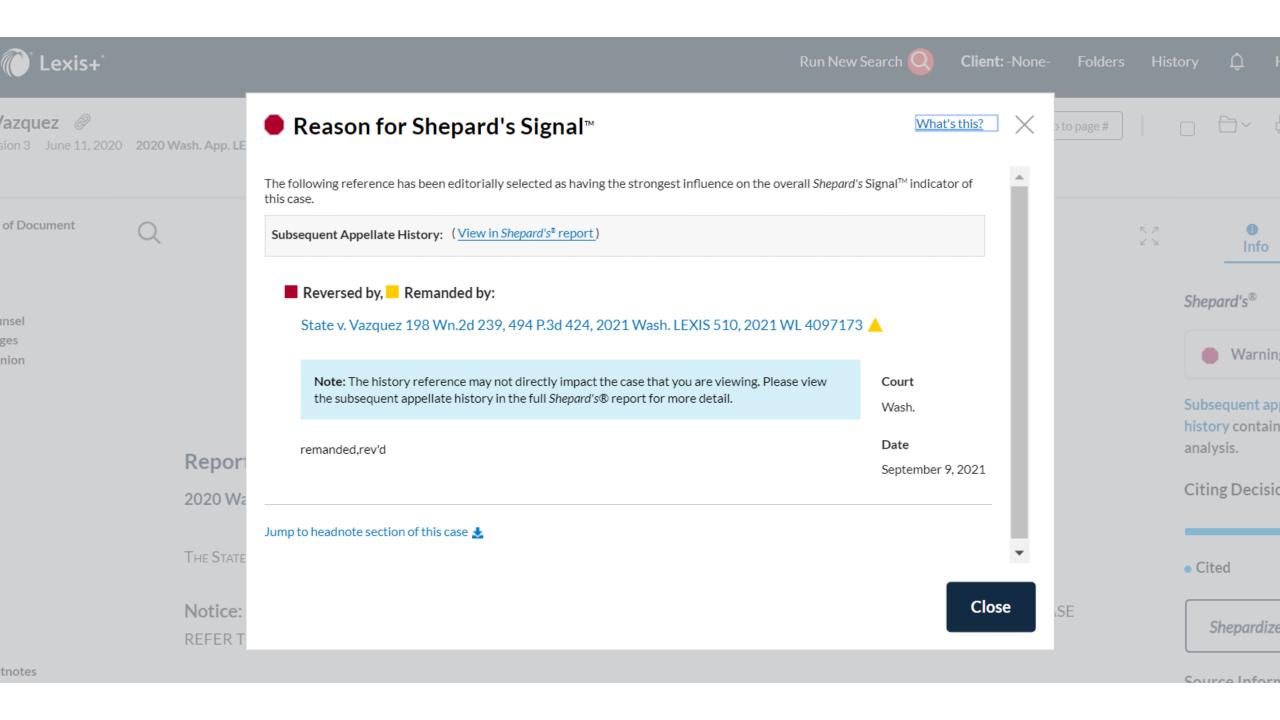
#### PACIFIC REPORTER, 2d SERIES

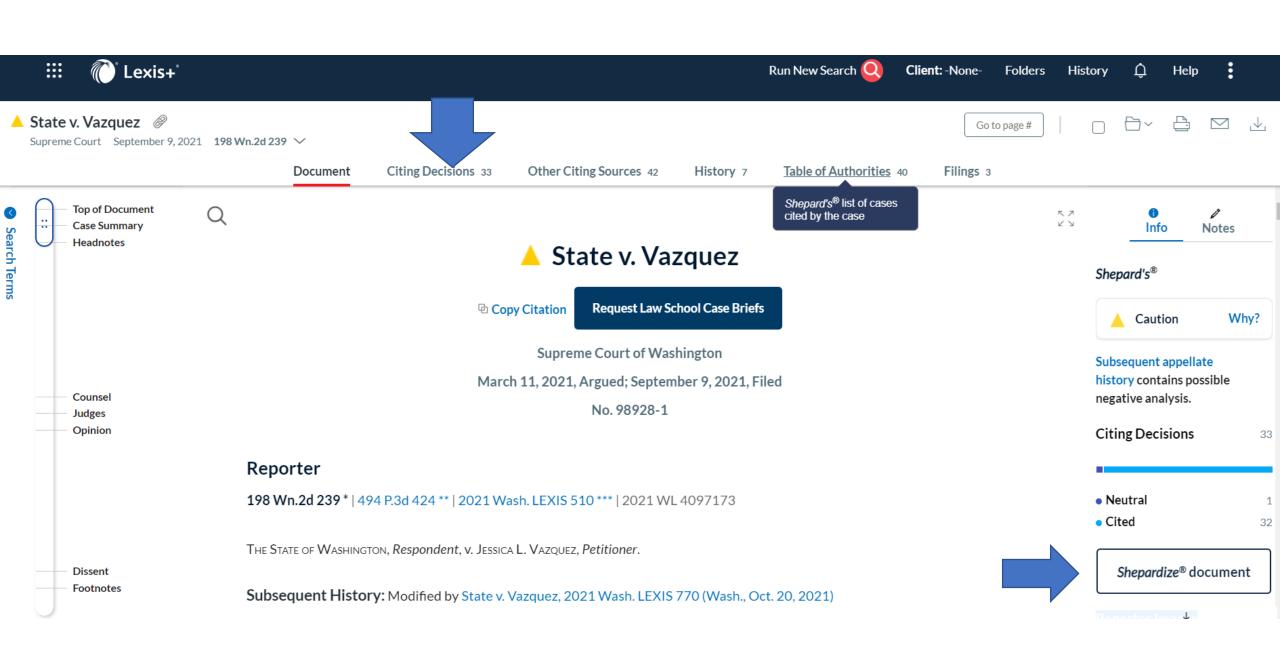
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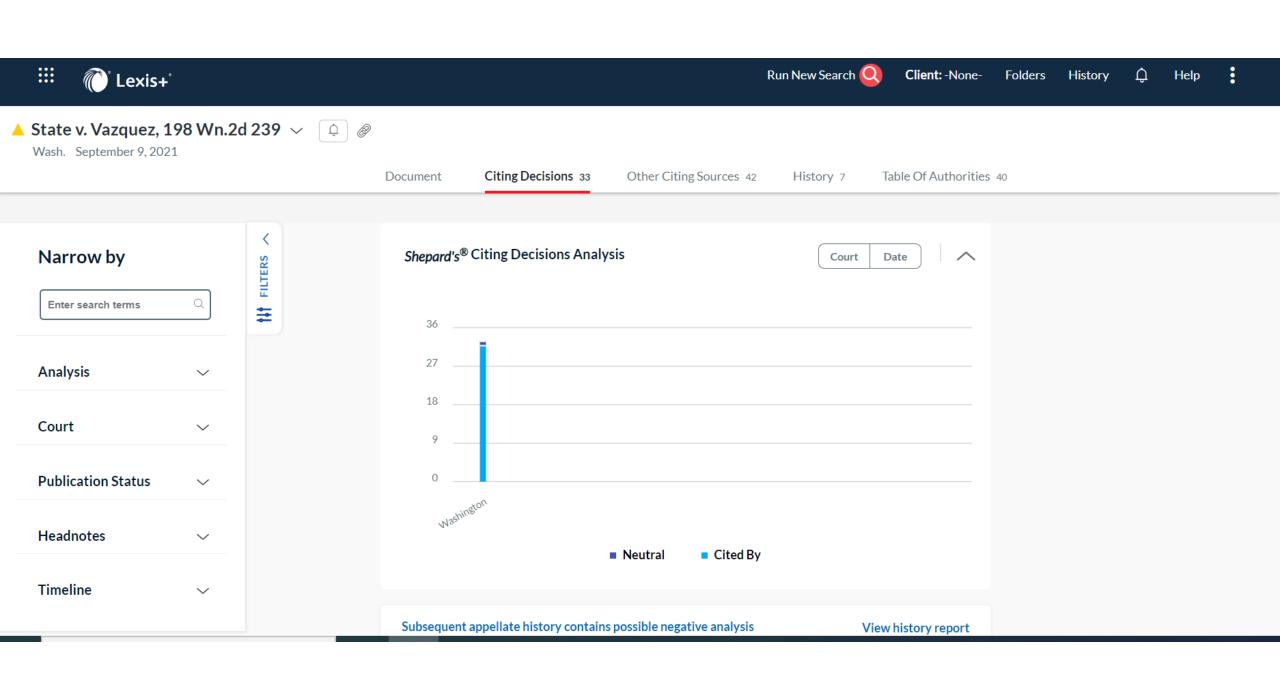
## Strategy #3 - Citators

- Shepard's and Keycite
- Critical Tools
- New Tactical Uses
- Reasons to Worry



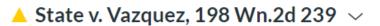








Wash. September 9, 2021









Document Citing Decisions 33 Other Citing Sources 42 History 7 Table Of Authorities 40 must show both that defense counsel's performance ...

State v. Ferguson 524 P.3d 1080 4 Show more

Wash. Ct. App. February 28, 2023

Cited by

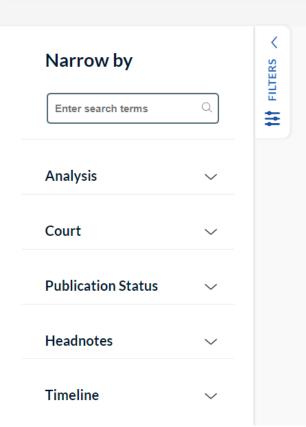
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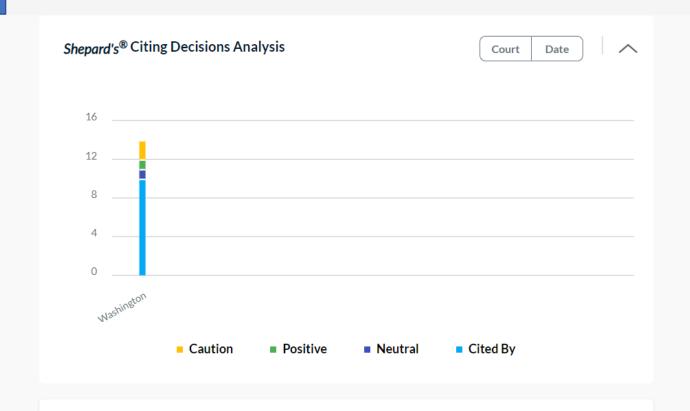
... cert. denied, 574 U.S. 860 (2014). Generally, to show that trial counsel was deficient, "the defendant must show in the record the absence of legitimate strategic or tactical reasons supporting the challenged conduct by counsel." State v. Vazquez, 198 Wn.2d 239, 248, 494 P.3d 424(2021) (quoting State v. McFarland, 127 Wn.2d 322, 336, 899 P.2d 1251 (1995)). We engage in a strong presumption that counsel's performance was reasonable. Grier, 171 Wn.2d at 33. To show prejudice, ...

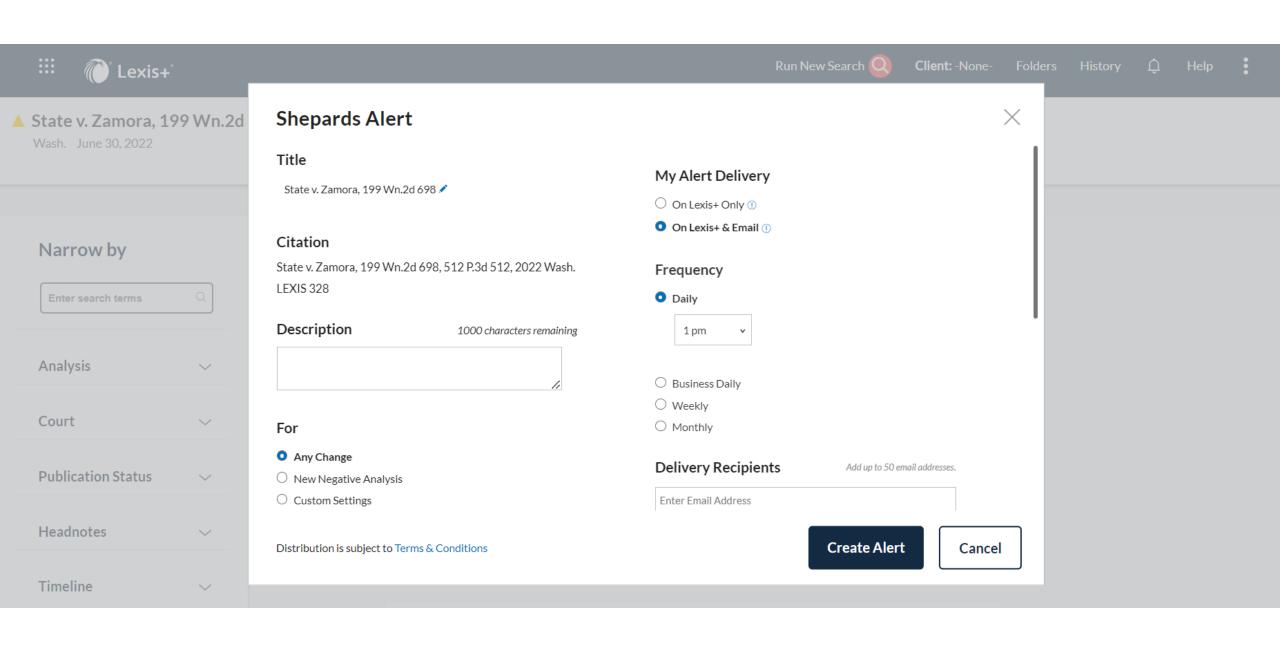


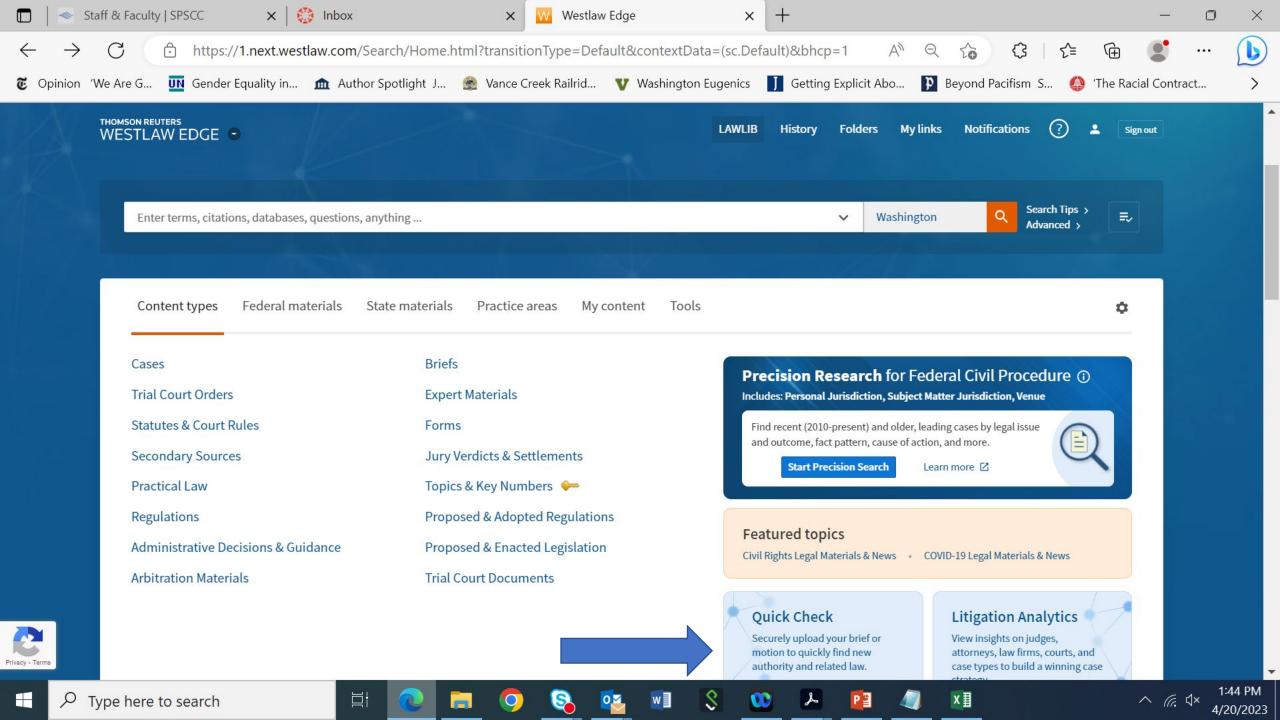
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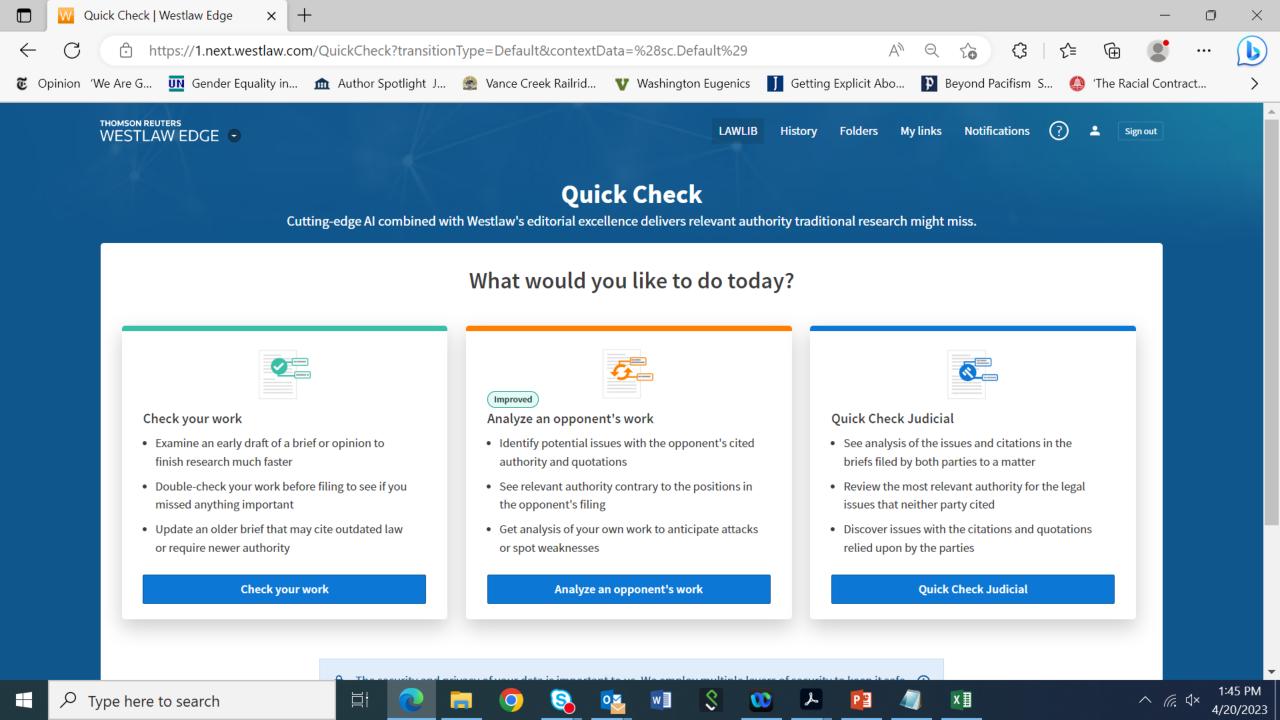
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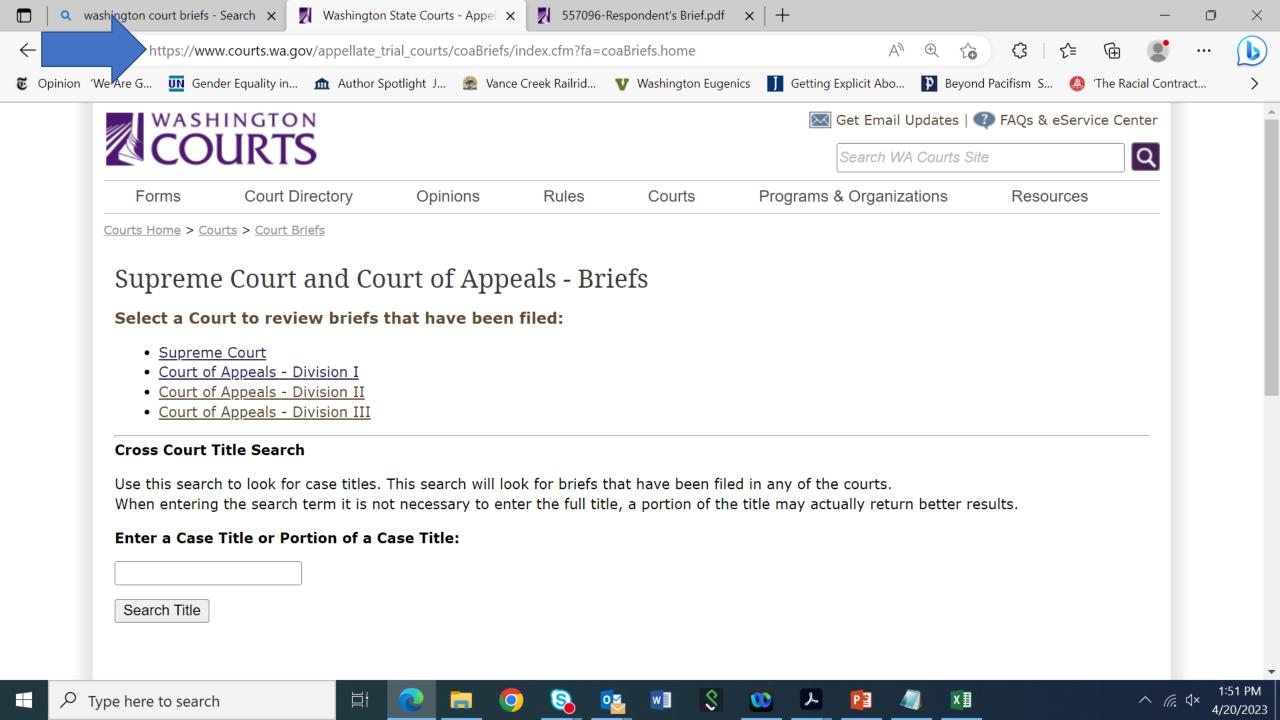


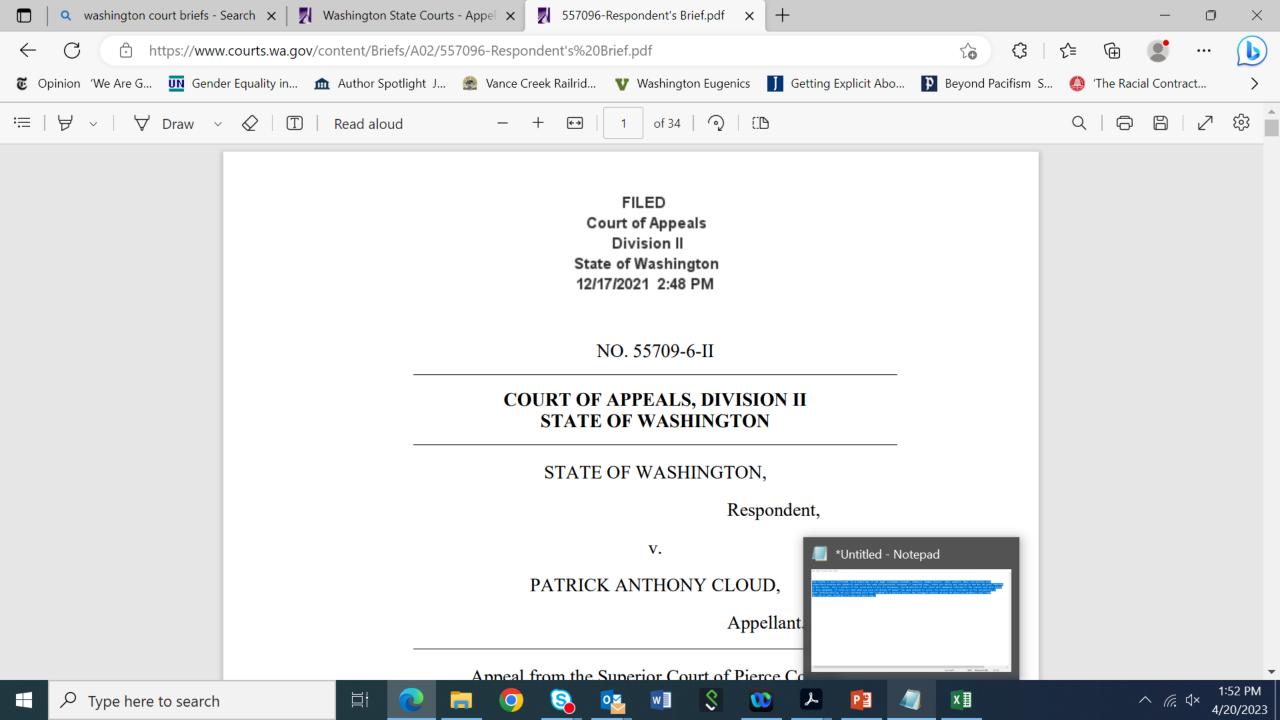


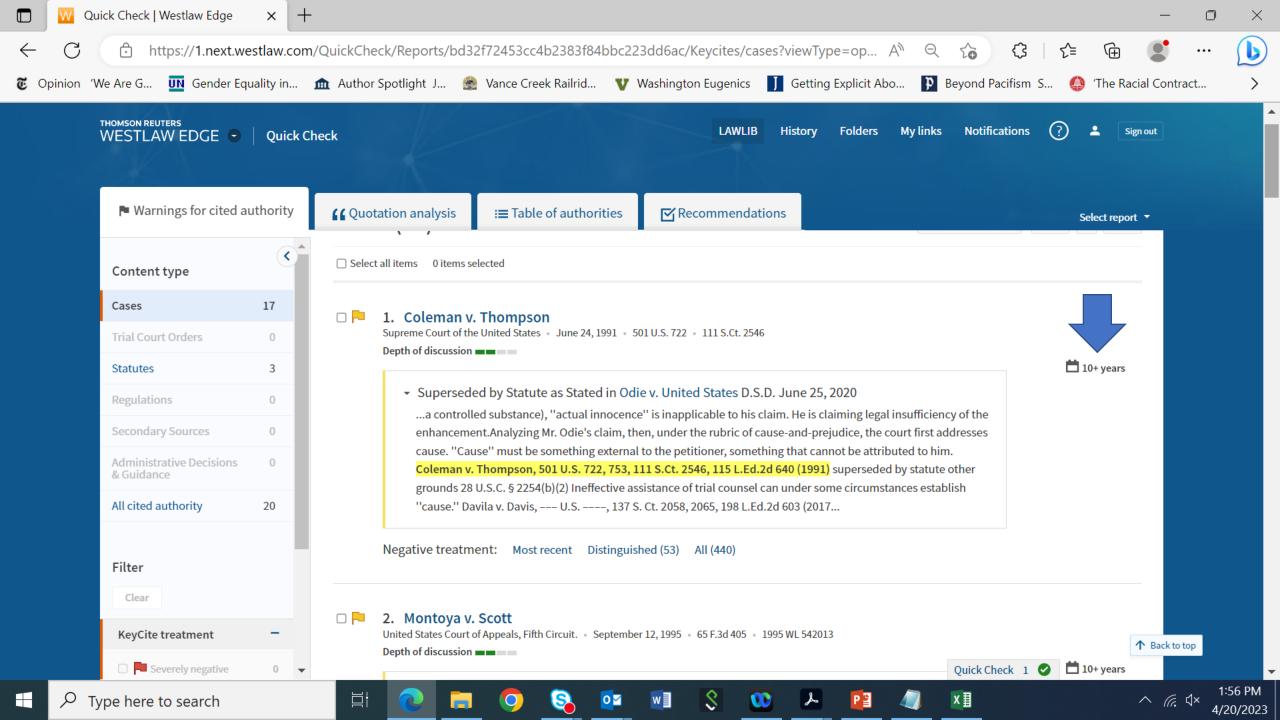


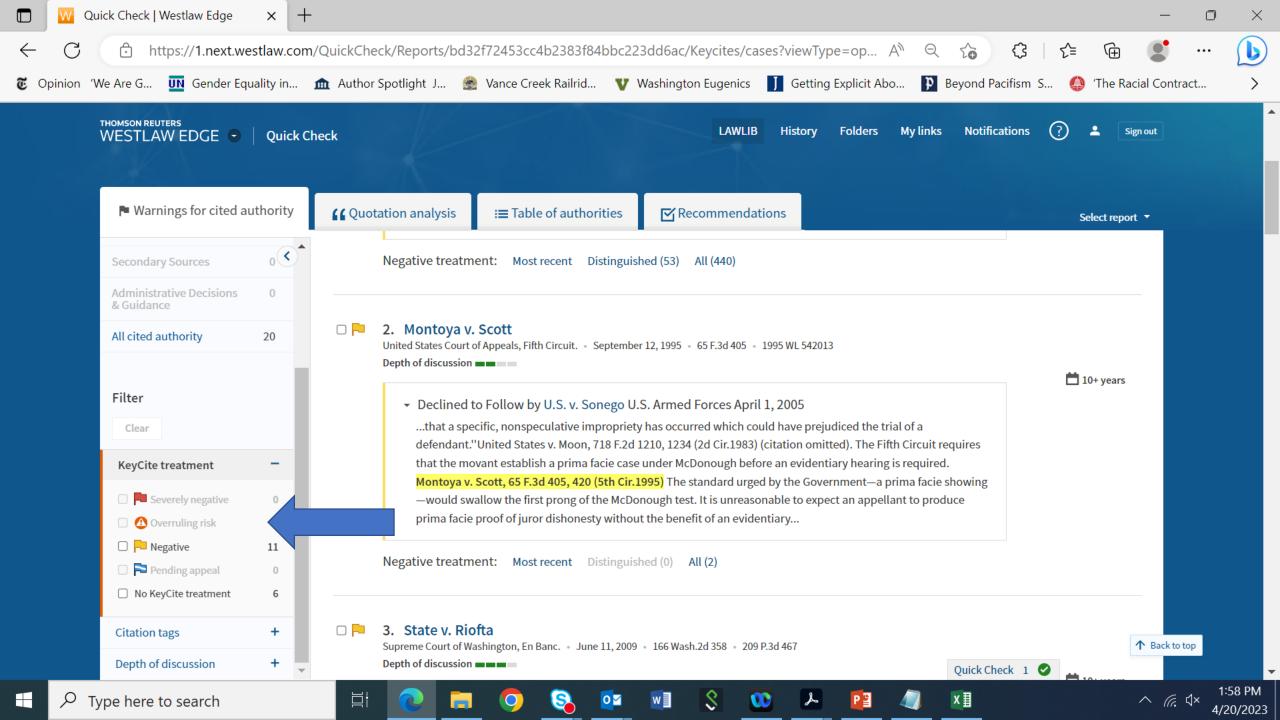


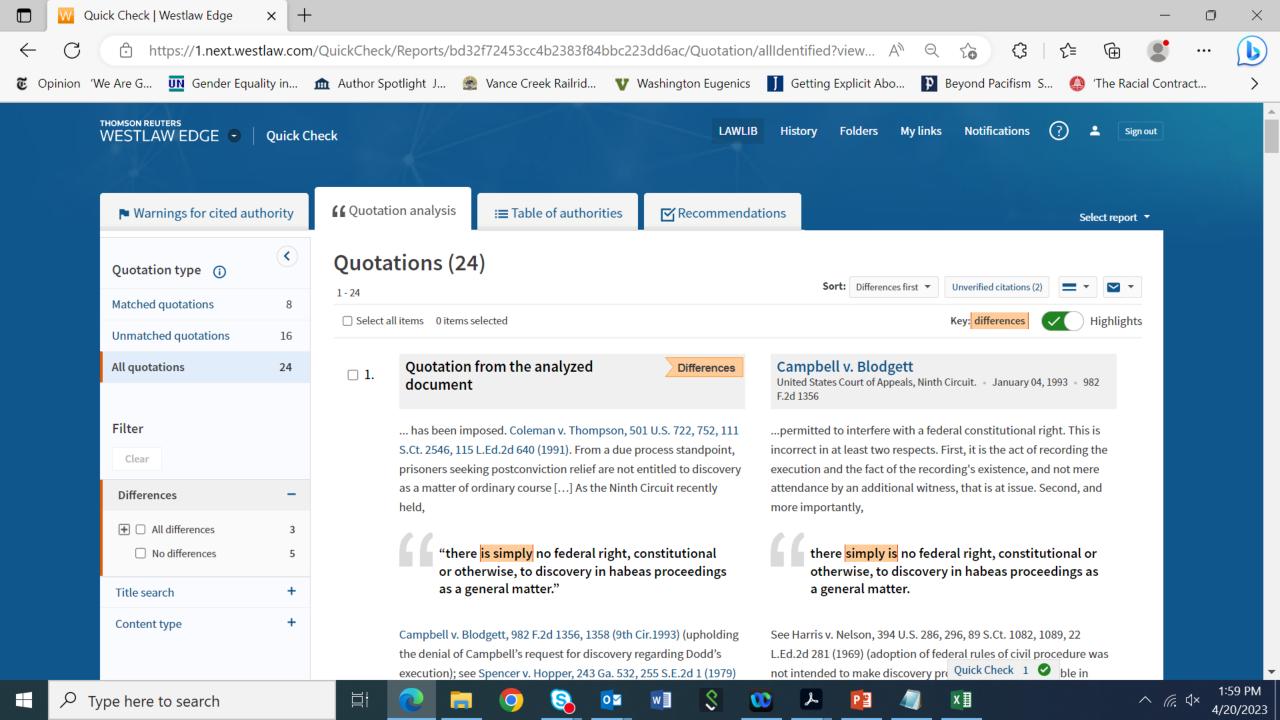


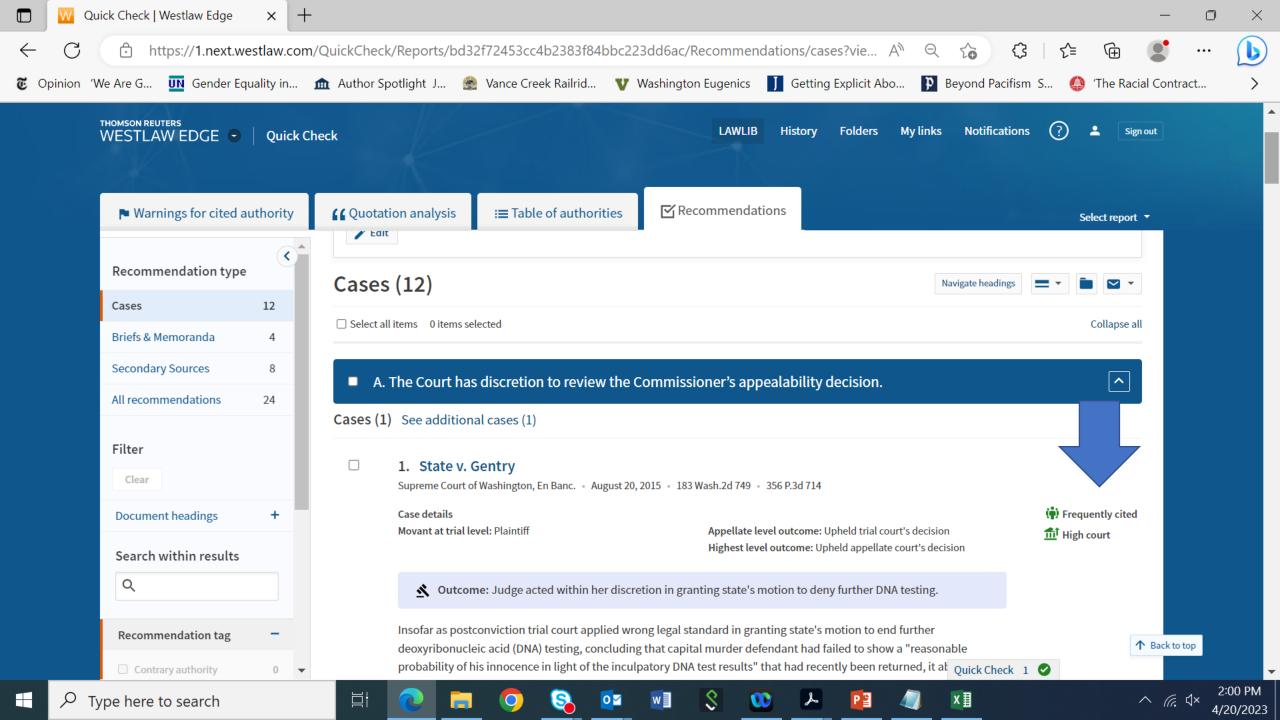


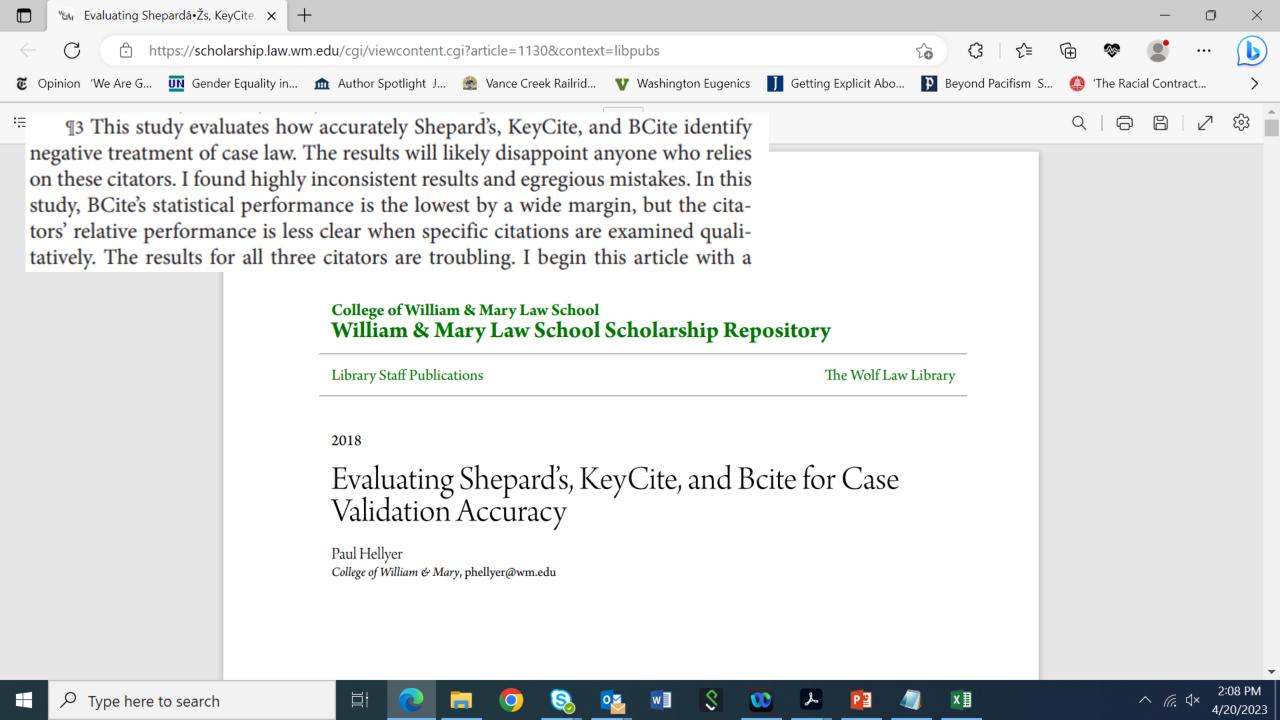










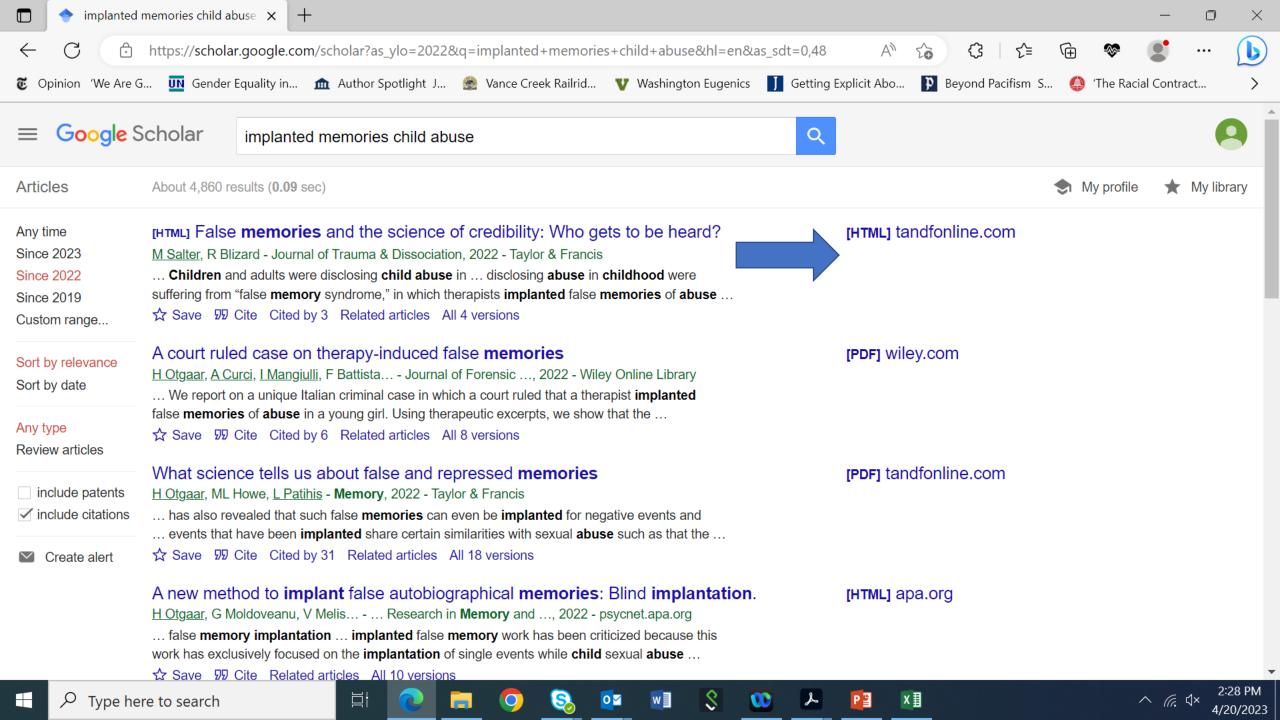


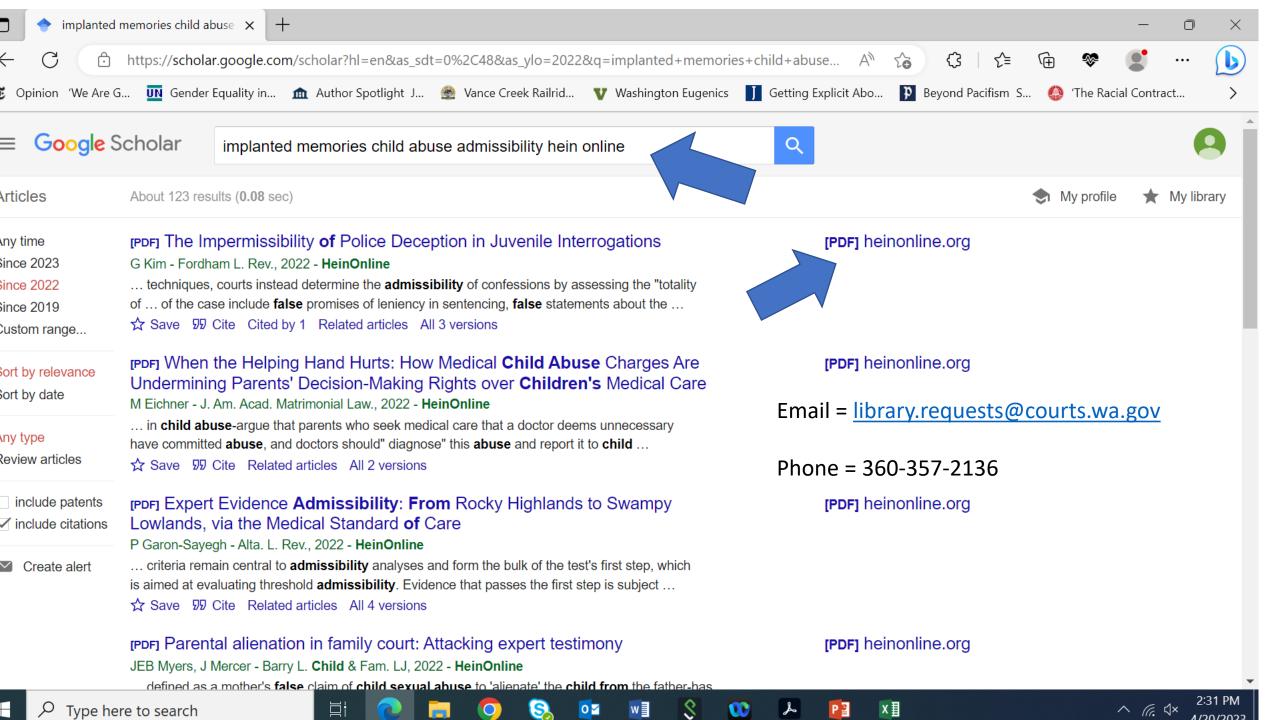


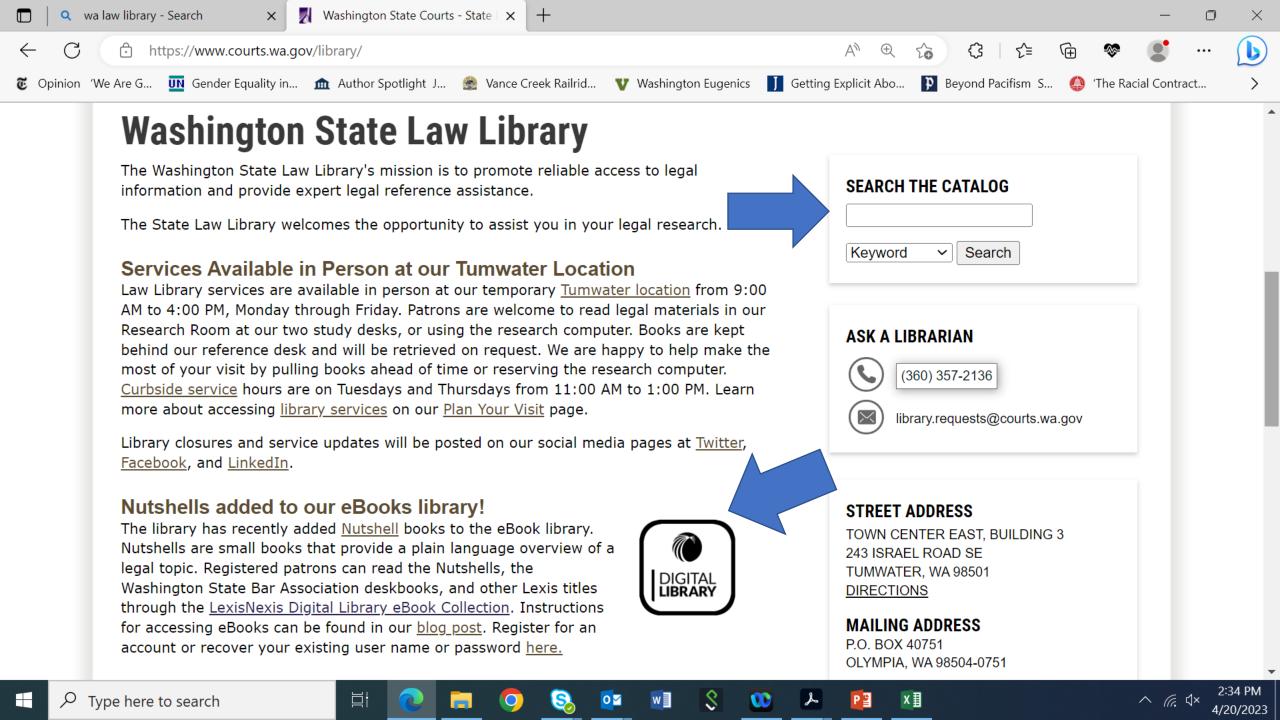
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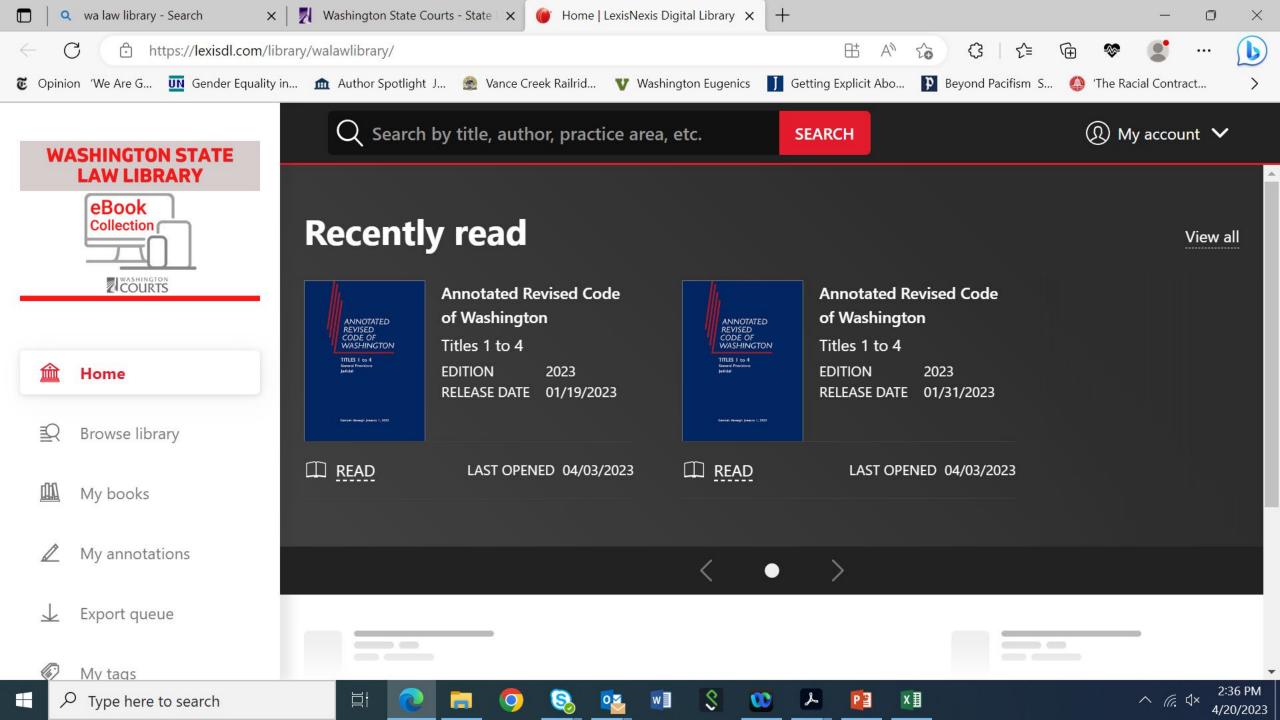
# Strategy #4 – Treatises and Articles

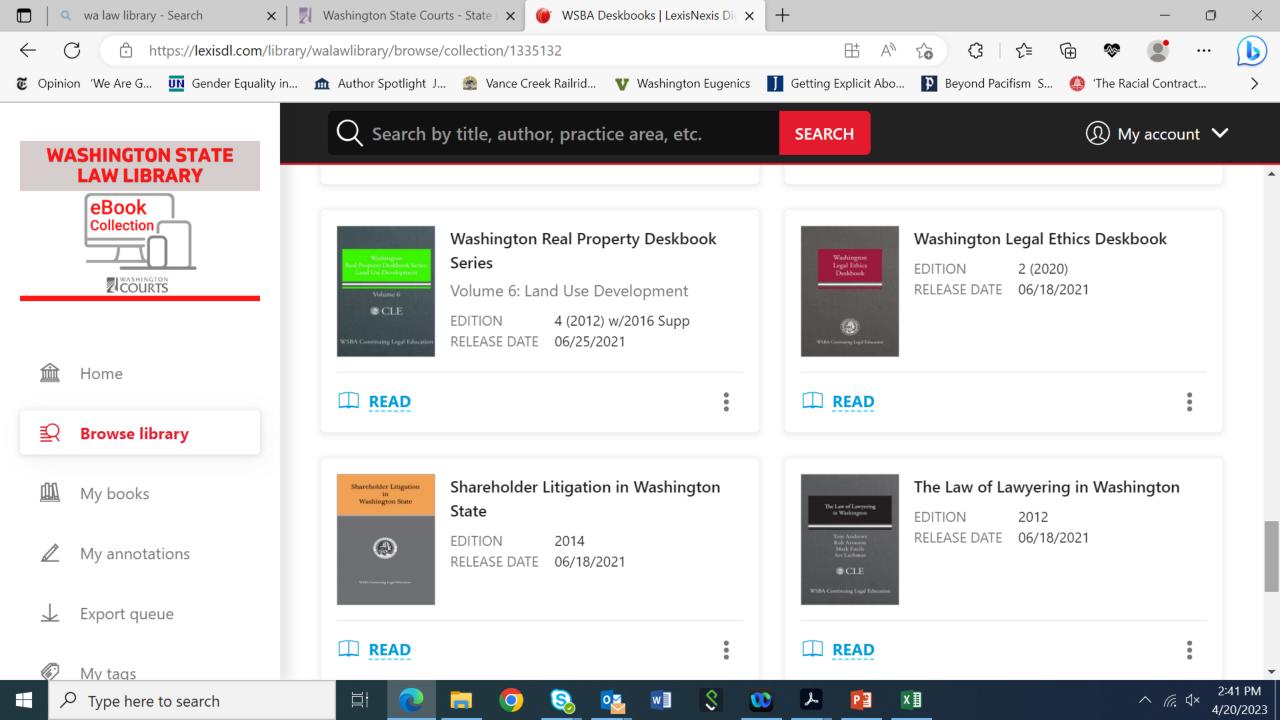
- Efficient and Effective
- New Ways to Get Access
- Tactical Uses

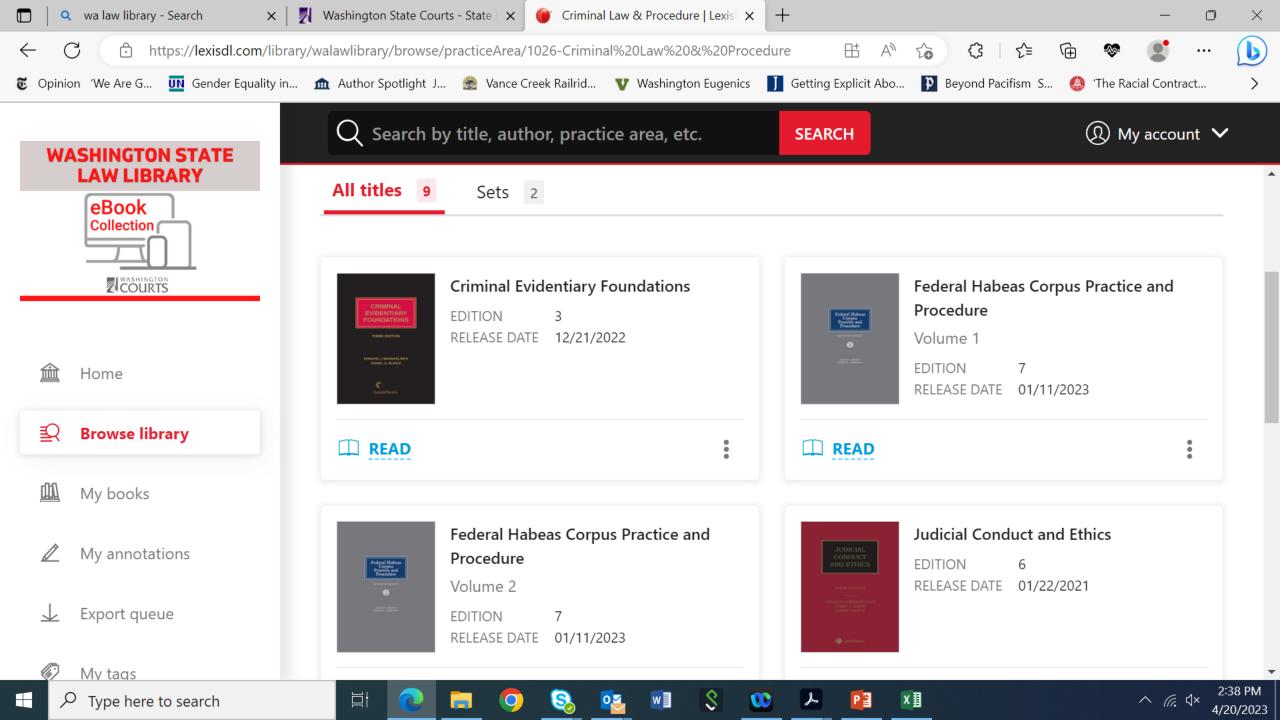


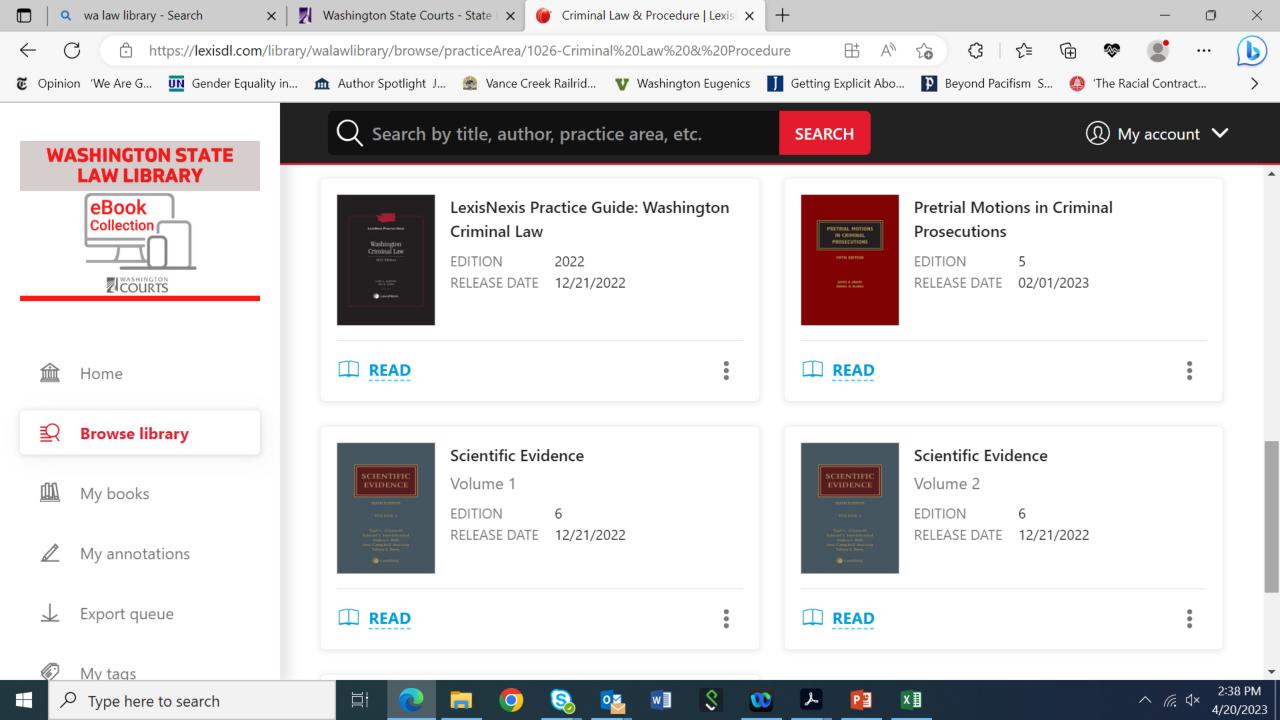


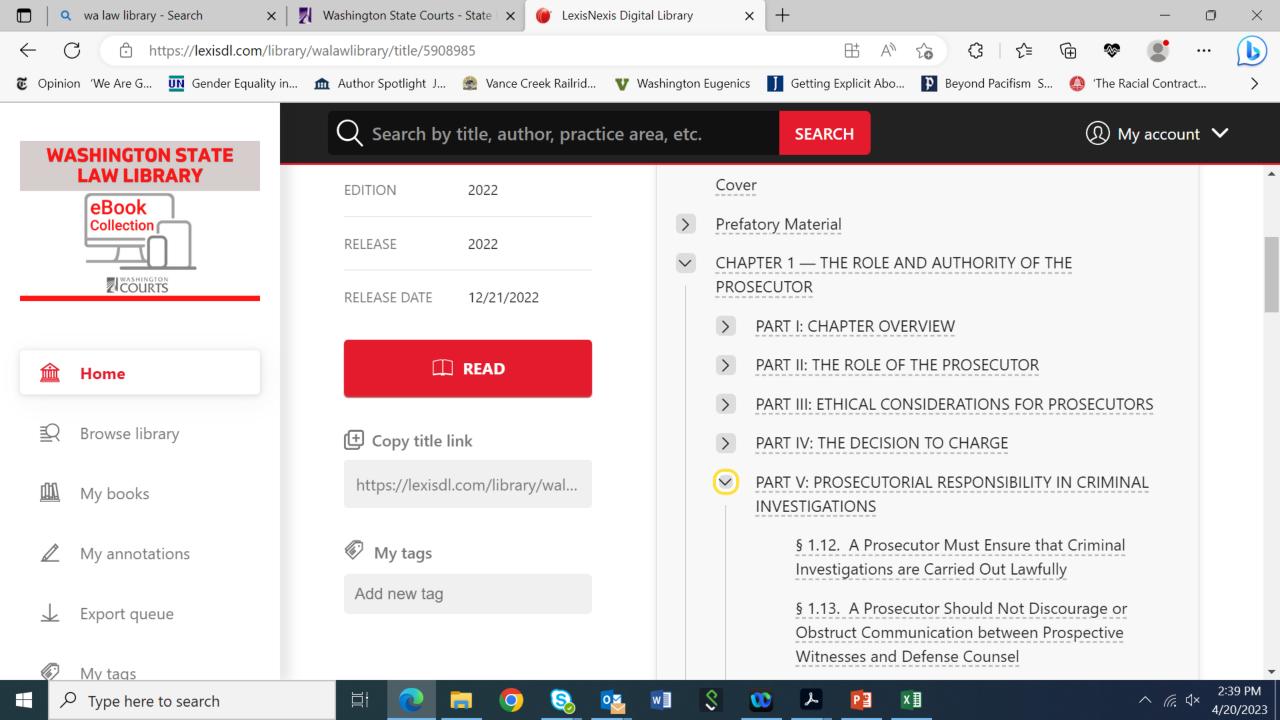


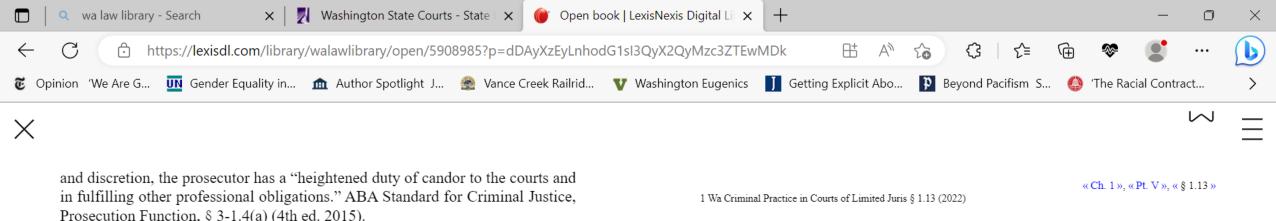










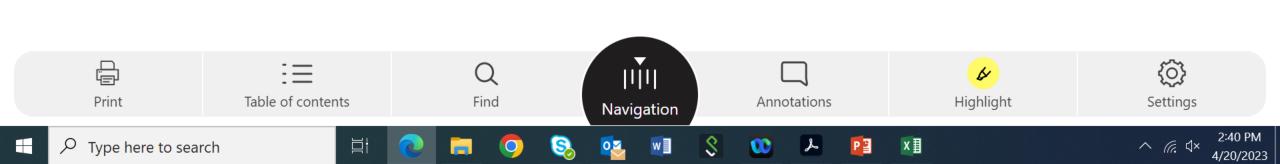


Prosecution Function, § 3-1.4(a) (4th ed. 2015).

§ 1.13. A Prosecutor Should Not Discourage or

### **Obstruct Communication between Prospective** Witnesses and Defense Counsel

Generally, a witness belongs neither to the government nor the defense. Both sides have the right to interview witnesses before trial. It is improper for the prosecutor to discourage or obstruct communications between prospective witnesses and defense counsel. CrR 4.7(h); RPC 3.4. See State v. Hofstetter, 75 Wn. App. 390, 398, 878 P.2d 474, review denied, 125 Wn.2d 1012 (1994). A prosecutor must exercise caution and "maintain a posture of strict neutrality when advising witnesses of their duties and rights." U.S. v. Rich, 580 F.2d 929, 934 (9th Cir. 1978). For example, a prosecutor may properly advise a witness that the prosecutor will be present if the witness so requests; however, it is misconduct for a prosecutor to discourage a witness from talking with the defense or advising a witness not to speak with defense counsel unless the prosecutor is present. State v. Hofstetter, 75 Wn. App. 390, 878 P.2d 474, review



### Lexis Titles to Add?

**Defense of Narcotic Cases** 

Mental Disability Law-Civil and Criminal

**Forensic Sciences** 

Domestic Violence: Law, Policy, and Practice

Ninth Circuit Criminal Handbook

Prosecutorial Misconduct: Law, Procedure and Forms

Relentless Criminal Cross-Examination

Representing the Child Client

**Crimmigration Law** 

Criminal Trial Error and Misconduct

**Courtroom Criminal Evidence** 

Art of Advocacy – Documentary Evidence

**Criminal Constitutional Law**