



SUPREME COURT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P U B L I C A T I O N S

***Researching the Supreme Court of the  
United States:***

AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR COMMONLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

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### ***Abstract***

This article reveals an annotated list of resources pertaining to the Supreme Court of the United States (“Supreme Court”). Specifically, this article attempts to compile a list of readily available or unique resources that one may find particularly useful when looking for commonly asked questions about the Supreme Court’s members, work, and history. The authors divide the resources into the following broad categories: (a) the Supreme Court Justices, (b) the Supreme Court and Its Procedures, (c) Supreme Court Opinions, and (d) Supreme Court Architecture and History. The annotations include books, periodicals, indexes, online databases, and other publications that one may find especially helpful when answering questions relating to the Supreme Court. In compiling the resources for this article, the authors made a special effort to draw attention to readily accessible or unique materials for answering commonly asked questions about the Supreme Court. While several of the annotated entries contain reference to online resources, the authors sought to include only official or otherwise well-established Internet sites and databases.

### ***Introduction***

While many resources detail the places one can look to find information about the Supreme Court, fewer resources draw particular attention to readily accessible resources providing answers to frequently asked questions about the Supreme Court. This paper does not attempt to replace the comprehensive works already existing on researching the Supreme Court. Rather, the goal of this article is to offer a list of accessible resources that individuals may find especially useful for answering commonly asked questions about the Supreme Court, its work, members, and history.

By “available” resources, we mean resources such as the Harvard Law Review or the United States Reports that are commonly available in medium to large sized law libraries. We defined the phrase “commonly asked questions” by speaking with law librarians at various law libraries and by examining Supreme Court questions posted to the law-lib discussion list available through the University of California at Davis archive. [1]

This article identifies a selected list of books, periodicals, indexes, online databases, and other publications that may be particularly helpful when looking for information about the Supreme Court. The resources are broadly grouped by category and short descriptions are provided for each resource. The categories include: (a) the Supreme Court Justices, (b) the Supreme Court and its Procedures, (c) Supreme Court Opinions, and (d) Supreme Court Architecture and History. The resources range from the places where one can find a particular Justice’s manuscripts, to resources for finding a Supreme Court brief, to a Web site that provides a “virtual tour” of the Supreme Court building.

### ***The Supreme Court Justices***

Although they are public figures, the Supreme Court Justices are relatively unfamiliar to the public in comparison to other federal officials. In this section, we list resources that provide information about, and references to, the lives of the Justices.

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### *Collective Biographies of the Justices*

Clare Cushman, *The Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789-1995* (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1995) (1993).

Leon Friedman and Fred L. Israel, *The Justices of the United States Supreme Court: Their Lives and Major Opinions* (Chelsea House Publishers 1997).

Melvin I. Urofsky, *The Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary* (Garland Publishing 1994).

Clare Cushman's book, *The Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789-1995*, contains about five pages per Justice and includes multiple pictures, portraits, and other illustrations. The information appears in an easy-to-read format and summarizes the life of each Justice from the first Supreme Court Justice to the most recent addition to the Supreme Court, Justice Stephen Breyer. For quick reference, the book includes a table at the back which contains statistical information about each Justice, such as: (a) the state appointed from, (b) the appointing President, (c) whose seat the Justice took, (d) the date the Justice was nominated, (e) the date the Senate confirmed the nomination, (f) the date the judicial oath was taken, (g) the date the Justice's service terminated, and (h) the span of years that the Justice served on the Supreme Court. [2]

In their books, *The Justices of the United States Supreme Court: Their Lives and Major Opinions*, Friedman and Israel spend between fifteen and thirty pages on each Justice. This five-volume set includes a picture at the beginning of each Justice's section, but the remainder of each entry has no illustrations. Like Cushman's book, Friedman and Israel trace the life of each Supreme Court Justice in order of appointment and conclude with Justice Breyer. Unlike Cushman, Friedman and Israel offer excerpts from the Justices' opinions in their entries, as well as biographical information.

The Urofsky book follows a different organizational approach from the other two books by arranging the Justices in alphabetical order. Because the book was published in 1994, it is current only through Justice Ginsburg's appointment. Urofsky devotes two to ten pages per Justice and includes a portrait with each entry. Each section begins with the date of the Justice's birth, nomination to the Supreme Court, oath of office, resignation, and death (if applicable). The Urofsky book also provides information about the nominating President in the brief capsule summary. [3]

All three resources are very useful for locating general biographical information on the Justices in a convenient format. For ready reference questions on the Justices, these books offer brief summaries of the Justices' lives and refer readers to additional works written about the Justices in their bibliographical sections.

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### *Papers of the Justices*

Adrienne deVergie and Mary Kate Kell, *Location Guide to the Manuscripts of Supreme Court Justices* (Tarlton Law Library Legal Bibliography Series Number 24, Revised Ed. June, 1981).

Alexandra K. Wigdor, *The Personal Papers of the Supreme Court Justices: A Descriptive Guide* (Garland Publishing 1986).

Lee Epstein et al., *The Supreme Court Compendium: Data Decisions & Developments*, 353-375 (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1996) (1994) (Tables 5-11 and 5-12).

Individual Schools and Universities.

*The Location Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Supreme Court Justices* ("Location Guide") represents a particularly useful resource for finding information about a Justice's papers. The *Location Guide* not only indicates where one can find a particular Justice's papers, but it also identifies other collections of personal papers that hold correspondence from that Justice. For example, the *Location Guide* indicates that one can find Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes' papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. However, the *Location Guide* also reveals that one can find correspondence from the Chief Justice at the Yale University Library in the papers of lawyer and diplomat John William Davis.

*The Location Guide* includes information about a Justice's papers and manuscripts, "including correspondence, business papers and official records." [14] Each entry in the guide lists the repository holding the particular collection and provides the inclusive dates of the materials. [15] The authors of the *Location Guide* compiled the information using the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections*. [16] The authors also provide a brief analytical note when a collection houses papers of a special nature. [17]

The most comprehensive source of information about the papers of the Supreme Court Justices is Alexandra K. Wigdor's *The Personal Papers of the Supreme Court Justices: A Descriptive Guide* ("The Personal Papers"). The *Personal Papers* was originally prepared for the National Study Commission on Records and Documents of Federal Officials, also known as the Public Documents Commission. [18] Wigdor divides *The Personal Papers* into three parts. [19] The third part, the guide to Supreme Court collections, lists the Justices' names alphabetically and provides information about the collections. [20] Each entry in the guide identifies the location, size, access policy, and description of the Justice's manuscript collection. [21] The collection descriptions may be particularly helpful for determining the quality of the information found in each collection, while the collection size information may be useful for estimating where to start one's research.

A third source of information about the Supreme Court Justices' papers is *The Supreme Court Compendium*. Table 5-11, "Location of Justices' Personal Papers," lists the Justices in alphabetical order, followed by the Justice's appointment number, [22] the size of the collection, [23] and the location of the collection. [24] *The Supreme Court Compendium* is a valuable source for gaining basic information about a particular Justice's papers.

In addition to the resources mentioned, individual schools and universities may also provide information about the collections that they house. For example, the University of Louisville has a collection of Justice Louis Brandeis' papers, and the University provides a searchable guide to this collection on the University of Louisville Web site. [25]

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### *Nomination Hearings of the Justices*

Roy M. Mersky and J. Myron Jacobstein, *The Supreme Court of the United States: Hearings and Reports on Successful and Unsuccessful Nominations of Supreme Court Justices by the Senate Judiciary Committee, 1916- present* (W.S. Hein 1975 - present).

CIS Annual (Congressional Information Service 1971 - present); Congressional Masterfile CD-ROM; or Congressional Universe (to locate the official hearings and reports published by the United States Government Printing Office).

"No public documents on Senate review of nominees to the Supreme Court were available until 1916, when the Judiciary Committee held public hearings and published a report on the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis." Starting with Brandeis, [26] Mersky and Jacobstein have compiled all the Supreme Court nomination hearings and reports into a multi-volume set. The volumes are a compilation of the official documents issued by the United States Government Printing Office. [27]

Beginning in 1976, the set was revised to include *Congressional Record* excerpts. [28] The volumes were again revised with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's nomination and subsequent appointment. [29] The most recent volumes now include: (a) Presidential statements from the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, (b) selected reprinted articles by and about the nominee, (c) tables of cases decided by the nominee, and (d) fairly lengthy selected bibliographies, in addition to the hearings, reports, and *Congressional Record* excerpts. [30] Mersky and Jacobstein also include the hearings and reports of the unsuccessful nominations to the Supreme Court since 1925, such as: John J. Parker, Homer Thornberry, Clement F. Haynsworth, George H. Carswell, Douglas H. Ginsberg, and Robert H. Bork. [31]

The official versions of the nomination hearings and reports are available from the United States Government Printing Office as individual documents. Most law libraries shelve the documents in the government documents section or have the information in microformat. One can find a particular Justice's nomination report(s) and hearing(s) by looking up the Justice's name in the *CIS Annual / Index* volume for the year(s) in which the Justice was nominated and confirmed. The citation listed will cross-reference to the *CIS Annual / Abstracts*. The *CIS Annual / Abstracts* volume provides a full description of the government document, complete with the Superintendent of Documents number, which can then be used to locate the document(s).

Congressional Masterfile is the CD-ROM version of the *CIS Annual* and is available at some law libraries. To search for the nomination hearings and reports on Congressional Masterfile, simply enter the name of the Justice in the search box. The display will pull up the same information that could be obtained through the *CIS Annual* volumes and it searches a large span of years at once. Congressional Masterfile contains Congressional material for 1789 - 1969, while Congressional Masterfile 2 covers Congressional material from 1970 - present.

In addition to the print and CD-ROM versions of this service, some libraries pay for a fee-based Internet version called Congressional Universe. Congressional Universe contains congressional publications from 1968 through the present. To retrieve the citations for hearings and reports for Justices appointed during this time period, simply perform a search for the Justice's last name and the term "nomination" under "search by publication." At this time, only the hearings for Justice Stephen Breyer's nomination appear in full-text. However, entries for other Supreme Court nominees since 1968 contain valuable index information for finding the hearings and reports. These documents can then be located in print or microformat copies.

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### ***Appointment and Retirement Letters***

United States Reports (United States Government Printing Office 1754 - present).

In addition to providing the text of the Supreme Court opinions, *the United States Reports (U.S. Reports)* provide information about extra-judicial proceedings before the Supreme Court. The preliminary pages of the *U.S. Reports*, for example, contain the Justices' retirement letters and provide the text of a Justice's reception of appointment to the Supreme Court.

Finding a Justice's retirement letter or appointment record involves a two step process: (1) finding the year of the Term that the Justice retired or was appointed, and (2) locating the first volume of the *U.S. Reports* covering that Term. Often a retirement letter will follow a letter from the Supreme Court acknowledging the absence of the newly retired Justice. Retirement letters can be a useful resource for gaining insight into the collegiality among the Justices and for obtaining a sense of the personality of the retired Justice. In a similar manner, the text of remarks given at a Justice's appointment reception can provide information about the start of a Justice's tenure with the Supreme Court.

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### *Succession of the Justices*

Lee Epstein et al., *The Supreme Court Compendium: Data Decisions & Developments*, 305-312 (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1996) (1994) (Tables 4-11 and 4-12).

Stephen P. Elliott, *A Reference Guide to the United States Supreme Court*, 384-396 (Facts on File Publications 1986).

The *Supreme Court Compendium* provides an array of information about the Supreme Court including topics such as the Supreme Court's workload, the Justices' backgrounds, and the Justices' post-confirmation activities. [32] The *Supreme Court Compendium* also provides the Supreme Court Justices' appointment and succession records. [33] The appointment and succession records indicate when a Justice was appointed, who appointed him or her, what the Justice was doing before the appointment nomination, and who the Justice replaced on the Supreme Court. [34]

Table 4-11, entitled "Supreme Court Nominees," lists the nominating President, the year the Justice was nominated, the Justice's position at the time of the nomination, and the Justice's age and home state. [35] Similarly, Table 4-12, entitled "Supreme Court Nominees and Vacancies to be Filled," provides the name of the nominating President, the Justice's home state, the Justice's party at the time of appointment, and the Justice's previous political party affiliation. [36] Table 4-12, also reveals the name, state, and political party of the Justice who was replaced. [37]

Like *The Supreme Court Compendium*, *A Reference Guide to the United States Supreme Court* ("A Reference Guide") provides information about a Justice's appointment to the Supreme Court in a chart entitled "Sitting Courts." [38] The chart shows the periods of time during which a group of Justices sat together on the Supreme Court. [39] For each of these "Courts," the chart lists the Chief Justice first, followed by the Associate Justices listed in descending order of seniority. [40] Often more than one "Court" is listed in a single year, reflecting the gap of time between the resignation or death of one Justice and the confirmation of his or her replacement. [41] The "Sitting Courts" chart in *A Reference Guide* provides another method of learning when a particular Justice joined or left the Supreme Court, and who a particular Justice replaced.

## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### *Tribute to the Justices*

United States Reports (United States Government Printing Office 1754 — present).

Supreme Court Reporter (West Group 1882 - present).

Roger F. Jacobs, *Memorials of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States* (F.B. Rothman 1981).

Individual Law Reviews.

After a Justice passes away, the Supreme Court Justices pay a tribute to their colleague in the *U.S. Reports*. The format is very similar to that outlined earlier for the appointment and retirement letters. For example, volume 510 of the *U.S. Reports* documents the proceedings in memory of Justice Marshall and marks the information with the notation "In Memoriam Justice Thurgood Marshall." [42] The disadvantage with the *U.S. Reports* is that the series is published approximately four years after the Term concludes. Thus, memorials for the recent deaths of former Justices William J. Brennan, Jr., Lewis F. Powell, Jr., and Harry A. Blackmun, will not appear for several years. The *Supreme Court Reporter* has also included tributes to the Justices for about the past twenty years, although the *Supreme Court Reporter* is not an official reporter like the *U.S. Reports*. [43]

Roger F. Jacobs, former Librarian of the Supreme Court, has compiled thirty-five memorials into a multi-volume set entitled *Memorials of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States*. The set is alphabetically arranged and also contains memorial proceedings that are not printed in the *United States Reports*. [44] In preparation of this set, Jacobs drew upon individual booklets of memorial proceedings housed at the Supreme Court, as well as Roy M. Mersky and Christy B. McCrary's, *Supreme Court Memorial Proceedings and Related Items: An Index*. [45]

In addition to the works mentioned above and any available news coverage about a Justice's death, individual law reviews often memorialize Justices. For example, several law reviews published significant tributes to former Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. after his death in 1997. [46]



## THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES ||

### ***Biographies on the Justices***

Clare Cushman, *The Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789-1995* (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1995) (1993).

Leon Friedman and Fred L. Israel, *The Justices of the United States Supreme Court: Their Lives and Major Opinions* (Chelsea House Publishers 1997).

Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert, *How to Research the Supreme Court* (Congressional Quarterly 1992).

Fenton S. Martin and Robert U. Goehlert, *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Bibliography* (Congressional Quarterly 1990).

Melvin I. Urofsky, *The Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary* (Garland Publishing 1994).

The Cushman, Friedman and Israel, and Urofsky texts mentioned in the preceding section are primarily for biographical research on the Justices. However, these works also contain bibliographies that the Supreme Court researcher may find useful. A review of the more comprehensive bibliographical works of Martin and Goehlert, follows the discussion of these biographical texts.

Cushman's *The Supreme Court Justices: Illustrated Biographies, 1789-1995* contains an alphabetically arranged bibliography at the end of the book. The headings are: (a) general sources on the Supreme Court and the Justices, (b) sources on individual Justices, and (c) books about Supreme Court Justices for young readers. [4] The bibliography cites both popular works, such as books and periodicals, and more difficult-to-locate materials, such as theses and dissertations. [5]

Friedman and Israel include short bibliographical sections after each biographical entry in *The Justices of the United States Supreme Court: Their Lives and Major Opinions*. These "selected bibliography" sections include brief descriptions of what the reader can hope to find in each cited source. [6]

Urofsky takes a similar organizational approach in *The Supreme Court Justices: A Biographical Dictionary*, and places his bibliographical references at the conclusion of each biographical entry. [7] Like Friedman and Israel, Urofsky also makes notations in the bibliographical sections that help the researcher to determine what would be most useful. For instance, in the John Catron bibliography, Urofsky notes "the scarcity of, and conflict among, secondary sources about even elementary facts of Catron's life." [8]

Unlike the previous three resources, which impart information about the Justices, the Martin and Goehlert texts are designed to function as guides to resources on the Justices and the Supreme Court. *How to Research the Supreme Court* guides the researcher through secondary and primary sources useful in Supreme Court research and concludes with a selected bibliography on the Supreme Court and its Justices. [9] The book is easy to follow and clearly explains the general purpose of each research tool before listing the titles to consult. For example, Martin and Goehlert define the term "database" before actually citing to Lexis or Westlaw. [10] *How to Research the Supreme Court* places the explanations at the beginning of each new section and the explanations are short enough to provide basic information, without belaboring the point.

Martin and Goehlert's other text, *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Bibliography*, also offers explanatory notes in its thirty page introduction, but the text does not have the same step-by-step approach as *How to Research the Supreme Court*. *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Bibliography* is much more comprehensive, however, and contains 9,434 citations to works about the Supreme Court and its Justices. [11] To compile this authoritative bibliography, Martin and Goehlert consulted fifty-six indexes, abstracts, and catalogs, as well as a selection of bibliographies. [12] *The U.S. Supreme Court: A Bibliography* does not focus solely on law sources, instead it brings together "a variety of fields, including business, economics, political science, law, history, public administration, and the general social sciences and humanities." [13]

## **THE SUPREME COURT AND ITS PROCEDURES** ||

In this section, we cover the Supreme Court's procedures both inside and outside the Court Room. We discuss where to find a copy of the Supreme Court Rules, which detail the procedures to be used in the Court Room. Next, we explain where to find the Chief Justice's Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary, which reviews the procedures of the federal judiciary throughout the year.

## THE SUPREME COURT AND ITS PROCEDURES ||

### ***Supreme Court Rules***

Cornell University Legal Information Institute, Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States (visited Dec. 1, 1999) [www.law.cornell.edu/rules/supct/overview.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/supct/overview.html)

The New York Law Publishing Company, Law Journal Extra! (visited Dec. 1, 1999) [www.ljextra.com/courthouse/rules/suprules.html](http://www.ljextra.com/courthouse/rules/suprules.html)

United States Reports (United States Government Printing Office 1754 - present)

Both the Legal Information Institute ("LII") and *Law Journal Extra!* provide the full text of the current Rules of the Supreme Court ("the Supreme Court Rules.") The Supreme Court Rules provide practical information for individuals with business before the Supreme Court. For example, the Supreme Court Rules provide information ranging from the time restrictions at oral argument, to the requirements of a Supreme Court brief, to information about the filing and service of documents. [47] The Supreme Court adopted the most recent set of Supreme Court Rules on January 11, 1999, and these Rules became effective on May 3, 1999. [48]

The Legal Information Institute ("LII") provides a searchable set of the Supreme Court Rules at a Web site hosted by Cornell University. The Supreme Court Rules are currently divided into the following parts: (a) the Supreme Court, (b) attorneys and counselors, (c) jurisdiction on writ of certiorari, (d) other jurisdiction, (e) motions and applications, (f) briefs on the merits and oral argument, (g) practice and procedure, (h) disposition of cases, and (i) definitions and effective date. [49] The LII Web site lists the Rules by part and provides a link to the text of each Rule. [50]

Like the LII, *Law Journal Extra!* also provides the Supreme Court Rules online. [51] The *Law Journal Extra!* Web site divides the Rules numerically and provides a hypertext link to the text of each Rule. [52] While LII has a search engine at its Web site, *Law Journal Extra!* provides the Clerk's Comments to the Supreme Court Rules. [53]

The Clerk's Comments to the Supreme Court Rules often indicate how a new Rule differs from its predecessor. [54] Furthermore, the Clerk's Comments often provide information about the intent or purpose behind a Supreme Court Rule. [55] Unlike the Federal Rules of Evidence or Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for example, few documents provide commentary on the Supreme Court Rules. Thus, the *Law Journal Extra!* Web site may represent a particularly useful source of information because the Web site provides the Clerk's Comments to the Supreme Court Rules.

The *United States Reports* also provide the full text of the Supreme Court Rules. [56] The Supreme Court Rules appear in the back of the bound volumes, and the U.S Reports include a table of contents to the Supreme Court Rules. [57]

The Supreme Court Rules do not appear in every bound volume of the *U.S. Reports*. Rather, the *U.S. Reports* publish the Rules in the volume that corresponds to the Term in which the Supreme Court adopted and enacted the Rules. [58] As previously mentioned in the Tributes to the Justices section, the disadvantage with the *U.S. Reports* is that the series is published approximately four years after the Term concludes. Thus, the *U.S. Reports* may not be the best resource for finding current Supreme Court Rules. However, the *U.S. Reports* may be particularly helpful to an individual who is looking for the text of an older Supreme Court Rule. The *U.S. Reports* may also be useful to an individual who is looking for the text of a Supreme Court Rule that was repealed. [59]

***Chief Justice's Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary***

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, The Federal Judiciary Homepage (visited Dec. 1, 1999)  
<http://www.uscourts.gov>

The Third Branch (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts 1968 - present) (monthly newsletter).

Former Chief Justice Warren E. Burger issued the first formal report on the federal judiciary in 1970. [60] Since his appointment to the office of Chief Justice in 1986, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has carried on the tradition. The report itself has had many names since its inception in 1970, but the content remains the same. [61] Generally speaking, the report offers a synopsis of the events of the federal judiciary over the course of the year. For example, the most recent report summarizes the work of the Supreme Court, the Federal Judicial Center, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and the United States Sentencing Commission over the past year. Finally, the report highlights the past year's legislative developments pertaining to the federal judiciary and provides the annual federal court caseload statistics. [62]

Beginning in 1990, *The Third Branch* began publishing the full-text of the Chief Justice's report. Before that time, *The Third Branch* summarized the major points of each report. Several legal journals have sporadically published full-text transcripts of the report, among them: the *American Bar Association Journal*, the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, and the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*. [63] Not one of these journals, however, offers a complete full-text series of these reports. [64] For instance, the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy* has the full-text of the reports from 1978-1979 and 1992-1995. [65] Thus, the best print resource to consult is *The Third Branch*, which is an official publication of the *Administrative Office of the United States Courts*. *The Third Branch* advises researchers to consult the *Federal Judicial Center's Information Services Office* for copies of reports not published in full-text in *The Third Branch*. [66]

Recently, the Federal Judicial Center began placing the *Chief Justice's Year-End Report on the Judiciary* online. The full-text of the 1995-1998 reports can be found at *The Federal Judiciary Homepage*. [67] Unfortunately, these reports are not contained on their own individual page; instead, a search must be performed. By entering the keywords in the title into the search query box, a researcher can obtain these reports. For instance, to retrieve the 1995-1998 reports, a search for the words "chief justice year end report federal judiciary" pulled up twenty-six matches. One can then scan these results for the year in question.

One can also find the reports through the link for *The Third Branch Archive* that *The Federal Judiciary Homepage* maintains. One can find an archive of the newsletters dating back to 1995, by clicking on "publications and directories" and then "*The Third Branch*." [68] The annual reports are usually released in January of the following year. Thus, one can also search the archives for the January issues to locate the report on the Web site. For a convenient way to locate the most recent report, check *The Federal Judiciary Homepage* and click on "newsroom." The Web site lists the reports under the "news releases" heading and provides the most recent report in both HTML and PDF format. [69]

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

In the past two sections, we discussed the Justices and the Supreme Court generally. In this section, we turn to the product of the Supreme Court itself: its opinions. With the use of *United States Law Week*, *Westlaw*, *Lexis*, the Internet, and the three printed reporter series, the opinions themselves are easy to find. However, the supporting documents of cases may be trickier to locate. In this section, we highlight resources that one can use to find these supporting documents.

We arranged the topics in this section as if one was following a case through the Supreme Court. First, we start with where to find previews of the Term's cases. Next, we discuss the supporting documentation that accompanies a case, such as briefs and transcripts. Finally, we conclude with voting patterns and other statistics involving the Court's decisions.

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### ***Preview & Review of the Supreme Court's Term***

Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Supreme Court Collection* (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/> (summaries available through "LIIBulletin").

Harvard Law Review (Harvard Law Review Association 1887 - present) (November issues).

Legal Times (Legal Times 1982 - present)(continues Legal Times of Washington, 1978-1982) (July and October issues).

National Law Journal (New York Law Publishing Co. 1978 - present) (July and October issues).

Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases (Association of American Law Schools and the Joint Committee on Continuing Legal Education of the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association 1973 — present)(publication is irregular; currently issued eight times per year).

Supreme Court Debates (Congressional Digest Corporation 1998 - present)(issued monthly).

*Supreme Court Opinions*, October 19\_\_ Term, Congressional Research Service Reports (issued annually).

Supreme Court Review (Bureau of National Affairs 1981 - present)(issued annually).

The Supreme Court Yearbook (Congressional Quarterly, Inc. 1991 - present) (issued annually).

United States Law Week (Bureau of National Affairs 1933 - present) (continues United States Weekly Law Journal) (fifty looseleaf updates per year).

The Washington Post, The Supreme Court (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/supcourt/supcourt.htm>

Many popular and scholarly resources summarize the Supreme Court's Terms. Although this list is far from comprehensive, each of the resources below regularly offers good overviews and reviews of the Supreme Court's Terms.

The Legal Information Institute ("LII") of Cornell University has been providing a free current awareness service via e-mail since 1993. [70] This service distributes a synopsis or syllabi of Supreme Court decisions in bulletin format within hours after the information's release. [71] One can find membership to this e-mail service, a service known as the "LIIBulletin," at the LII site hosted by Cornell University. [72] The advantage of using this service is that it distributes summaries of the opinions to one's desktop, thus eliminating the process of having to seek out the summaries.

Writers at the *Harvard Law Review* annually summarize what they consider to be the Term's leading cases. [73] These summaries appear in the *Harvard Law Review's* November issues. [74] The summaries are often complex and they frequently address the Supreme Court's rationale for its holdings. Thus, these overviews may be most appropriate for a legal scholar seeking to gain perspective on a recent case.

Both the *Legal Times* and the *National Law Journal* offer previews and reviews of the Supreme Court's Term. These Preview and Review pull-out sections are featured in their October and July issues, respectively. The *Legal Times* "Supreme Court Review" sections typically include one to two page articles on Supreme Court Term's major cases. In comparison, the *National Law Journal* "Supreme Court Review" sections contain similar analytical articles, but these sections also include short summaries of all the cases the Supreme Court decided in the preceding Term. [75]

The American Bar Association Division of Public Education produces *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases*, which analyzes the cases coming before the Supreme Court in a given Term. [76] *The Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases* ("the Preview") also summarizes the Supreme Court opinions as the Supreme Court delivers the opinions throughout the Term. [77] *The Preview* publishes these "case at a glance" summaries in a brief format, and these summaries set out the issues, the facts, the case analysis, and the significance of the case. [78] The synopsis also lists the names and telephone numbers of the attorneys arguing the case and the parties submitting amicus briefs for each side. [79] *The Preview* is available on Lexis and Westlaw. Using the Lexis software, one can find issues of *the Preview* from January 1991 to the present in the GENFED library, PRE-VU file. Using the Internet version of Lexis, one can find *the Preview* in the "PRE-VU" source. On Westlaw, the SCT-PREVIEW database contains issues of *the Preview* from December 1989 to the present.

Congressional Digest's *Supreme Court Debates* began publication in April of 1998. The *Supreme Court Debates* highlights various cases before the Supreme Court. Each issue outlines a current Supreme Court case by giving excerpts of: the lower court ruling, the briefs on the merits, the amicus briefs, and the oral argument transcripts. The *Supreme Court Debates* also includes a question-and-answer segment with a review of past Supreme Court cases on the issue. Aside from its detailed coverage of selected cases, the *Supreme Court Debates* provides monthly summaries of "the status of important cases before the highest tribunal." [80]

Congressional Research Service offers reports summarizing all the Supreme Court cases heard during the Term. [81] The Congressional Research Service publishes the reports in a capsulized format, and the reports usually summarize the Supreme Court's holding in a paragraph. [82] Copies of the reports beginning with the 1988 Term are available in microformat. [83] Although the Congressional Research Service reports are not currently available online, they are migrating to the Web. At the present time, one can find about ten percent of these reports online. [84] Unfortunately, the Supreme Court reports are not yet among those available. To order copies of the 1996 Term and 1997 Term summaries, see the Pennyhill Press Web site. [85]

*Supreme Court Review* annually summarizes the preceding Supreme Court Terms in a small booklet published by the editors of *United States Law Week*. *Supreme Court Review* is arranged by subject and includes a table of cases for quick reference. [86] This publication would be particularly useful to someone who is researching how a Supreme Court Term affected a particular area of law. [87]

*The Supreme Court Yearbook* ("Yearbook") is an excellent resource for both a preview of the upcoming Term as well as a review of the Term that has just concluded. Published by Congressional Quarterly, Inc., this annual series gives an overview of the Term. Not only does it summarize the workings of the Supreme Court over the past year, but the *Yearbook* also provides statistical information on the Justices' voting patterns. For instance, the 1997/1998 *Yearbook* includes tables that provide information about Justices in alignment and Justices in dissent. [88]

*United States Law Week* ("Law Week") is a weekly looseleaf service available from BNA. Throughout the Term, the service provides summaries of recent Supreme Court filings and decisions. Generally, the opinions in *Law Week* appear approximately a week after the Supreme Court decides the case, making *Law Week* the fastest print resource for full-text opinions.



The Washington Post Company maintains a Supreme Court Web site that is available from the *Washington Post* Web page. This site is an excellent resource for current information about the Supreme Court. The site includes The Washington Post's news coverage of the Supreme Court, the current oral argument calendar, and reviews of the past two Terms. [89] The review sections analyze the past two Terms' major cases and provide "the full text of each key decision, the [J]ustices' votes and background from The Post's archives." [90]

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### *Attorneys who argued Supreme Court Cases*

Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases (Association of American Law Schools and the Joint Committee on Continuing Legal Education of the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association 1973 — present)(publication is irregular; currently issued eight times per year).

Lexis and Westlaw.

If one is looking for the name of an attorney arguing an upcoming Supreme Court case, one may want to check the *Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases* ("*Preview*"), which lists the names of the attorneys on each side, as well as their telephone numbers. [91] *The Preview* also contains the names and telephone numbers of the parties submitting amicus briefs.

In order to find the name of an attorney who has previously argued a case before the Supreme Court, the best resources to consult would be the Lexis or Westlaw databases. Attorneys who argue before the Supreme Court are on record in both of these services. In Lexis, the segment name is "counsel" and in Westlaw, the field restrictor is "at" for attorney.

The search for "counsel (Ruth w/2 Ginsburg)" in the Lexis GENFED library, USLED file, yielded twenty-three matches. The same search in the "U.S. Supreme Court Lawyers' Edition Cases" source on the Internet version of Lexis leads to the same number of cases: twenty-three. [92] These results included amicus briefs that Ginsburg had filed with the Supreme Court on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Using Westlaw, on the other hand, leads to a different result. A search for "at (Ruth /2 Ginsburg)" in the "SCT" database yielded six matches, only the cases which Ginsburg actually litigated. The search process remains exactly the same on the Internet version of Westlaw and yields the same results. [93] Thus, both services allow you to search for attorneys who argued before the Supreme Court, although they do so in slightly different fashions.

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### ***Correspondence to the Supreme Court by the parties***

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Occasionally, the Supreme Court receives correspondence regarding pending cases. Even if the Supreme Court initially keeps the correspondence, it will eventually send the information to the National Archives. For instance, the Supreme Court sends all handwritten *in forma pauperis* petitions to the National Archives. Locating such correspondence can be difficult, however, as some of it does get lost along the way. [94] The most reliable records for the proceedings of the case are the records and briefs that individuals submit before the parties argue the case.

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### *Supreme Court Records and Briefs*

United States Supreme Court Records and Briefs (microform and paper copies available)

Lexis and Westlaw

Some Internet Sites (very selective coverage)

Selected Compilations

Many libraries have the Supreme Court records in microform. A smaller number of libraries are Supreme Court brief depositories which means these libraries maintain paper copies of the briefs. These paper copies are archival in nature, as the libraries only receive the briefs in one annual shipment after the conclusion of the Supreme Court's Term.

Both Lexis and Westlaw have Supreme Court briefs databases that provide the most current access to the briefs. Lexis currently contains Supreme Court briefs from 1979 to the present. From the 1993-1994 Term forward, the Special Masters reports are also included on Lexis. The briefs are available on Lexis software through the GENFED library, BRIEFS file, or through the "BRIEFS" source on the Internet version of Lexis.

Westlaw's SCT-BRIEF database covers merits briefs from the 1990-1991 Term to the present. SCT-BRIEF also includes amicus briefs from the 1995-1996 Term to the present. In order to find the necessary brief, conduct a terms and connectors search and use one of the several field restrictors available with this database. Thus, the brief can be found by using several different identifiers, among them: case name, citation, attorney, topic, originating court, and/or docket number.

Currently, the Supreme Court does not maintain a Web site of the briefs, although the parties may post some of the briefs separately and one may find these briefs through various Internet search engines. One can find links to selected Supreme Court amicus briefs at *American Law Sources On-line* ("ALSO"). [95] ALSO is by no means comprehensive, but it does offer an organized listing of various amicus briefs.

Although we have focused on obtaining current copies of briefs in this section, there are also several print compilations of historical Supreme Court briefs. One of the most well-known compilations is *Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the Supreme Court of the United States: Constitutional Law*. [96] Another notable example of an ongoing series of compilations on Supreme Court cases is *A Documentary History of the Legal Aspects of Abortion in the United States*, which covers selected Supreme Court abortion cases. [97]

## **SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||**

### ***Oral Argument Calendar***

Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Supreme Court Collection* (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct> (calendar available through "Oral Argument" link).

The Web site at Cornell University provides information relating to the Supreme Court's current calendar and lists the schedule of oral arguments. The Web site arranges the argument schedule chronologically, and whenever possible, there is "a hypertext link to the decision being appealed." [98] The Cornell site also provides background information about current cases, practical information about visiting the Supreme Court, and general information about legal vocabulary in a glossary of legal terms designed "for those who don't speak legalese." [99]

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### ***Audio Files of Supreme Court Oral Arguments***

Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Dec. 1, 1999)  
<http://oyez.nwu.edu> (audio files available through "Cases" link).

*The Oyez Project* provides audio files of Supreme Court oral argument recordings as well as summaries of corresponding cases. [100] The *Oyez* sites' collection of cases includes leading cases in constitutional law. [101] "Recordings of select oral arguments are available back to 1961" though the database is expanding. [102] The *Oyez* Web site delivers hundreds of hours of audio materials in Real Audio format through a free player available from Progressive Networks. One can download this player from the *Oyez* site. [103]

## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### ***Oral Argument Transcripts***

Alderson Reporting, *Your Single Source for Court Reporting* (visited Dec. 1, 1999)  
<http://www.aldersonreporting.com/conaboutus.html>

Lexis and Westlaw

"Alderson Reporting Company has been in the court reporting business... since 1938." [104] Priding themselves on many "firsts," Alderson Reporting was the first to computerize transcripts and develop key word indexing software in Washington, DC. [105] Alderson was also the first court reporting firm to report live arguments of the Supreme Court; and Alderson Reporting continues to provide instant transcription of the oral arguments today. [106] Alderson Reporting is located at 1111 14th St. Suite 400, Washington, DC, 20001, and one can make requests for transcripts by mail, fax, or e-mail. [107]

Lexis and Westlaw also offer access to Supreme Court oral argument transcripts. On the Lexis software, one can find the oral argument transcripts in the GENFED library, USTRAN file. On the Internet version of Lexis, the "United States Supreme Court Transcripts" source will locate the transcripts. The Supreme Court transcripts on Lexis are available from October 2, 1989 to the present. On Westlaw, the SCT-ORALARG database contains Supreme Court oral arguments from the October 1990 Term to the present.

### ***Voting Records***

Harvard Law Review (Harvard Law Review Association 1887 - present) (November issues).

Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://oyez.nwu.edu> (audio files available through "Cases" link).

Each year, the *Harvard Law Review* ("*Review*") compiles statistics on the Justices' voting records during the preceding term and reports the voting statistics in various tables at the beginning of each volume. *The Review's* interest in the work of the Supreme Court began with a series of articles co-authored by then Professor Felix Frankfurter [108] and "first assumed statistical form in 1925." [109] The Frankfurter articles introduced a number of charts tabulating particular characteristics of the Supreme Court's activity. [110] These charts consequently became models for statistical tables which have "accompanied the Supreme Court Note every year since the Note was institutionalized in its present form in 1949." [111]

A recent *Harvard Law Review* containing voting statistics divides the statistics into three tables. [112] Table I, for example, includes information pertaining to: (a) the voting actions of the individual Justices, (b) the voting alignments, (c) percentages indicating the unanimity of the Supreme Court in the given term, and (d) the number of 5-4 decisions. Table II includes information on: (a) the final disposition of cases, (b) cases granted review each term, (c) the method of disposition, (d) the disposition of cases reviewed on writ of certiorari, and (e) the sources of cases disposed of on the merits. Table III in a recent *Review* volume provides information on the subject matter of dispositions with full opinions. [113] The voting records in the *Review* can provide a wealth of information. The voting records are published annually and represent a valuable source of primary material on the Supreme Court.

In addition to the *Harvard Law Review*, the *Oyez Project* provides information about the Justices' voting records. [114] Generally, the Harvard Law Review presents the Justices' voting records in statistical tables. *The Oyez Project*, however, presents the Justices' voting records in an interactive format. [115] Finding a Justice's voting records on the *Oyez* Web site involves several simple steps. First, select the "Justices" heading from the *Oyez* Web site. [116] Second, select the name of a Justice. Third, select the name of a particular case, and then move the mouse over the image of the Justices to learn how each Justice voted on that particular case.

While the *Oyez* Web site does not provide all the Justices' voting records, the *Oyez* database is expanding. [117] The *Oyez* Web site provides the sitting Supreme Court Justices' voting records, however, the *Oyez* Web site does not provide voting records for the most recent cases. [118]



## SUPREME COURT OPINIONS ||

### *Statistics on the Supreme Court*

Lee Epstein et al., *The Supreme Court Compendium: Data, Decisions & Developments* (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1996) (1994).

Albert P. Blaustein and Roy M. Mersky, *The First One Hundred Justices: Statistical Studies on the Supreme Court of the United States* (Archon Books 1978).

As demonstrated earlier in this paper, Lee Epstein's *The Supreme Court Compendium* contains a wide variety of statistics about the Supreme Court. Epstein organizes the chapters into broad topical headings covering the Supreme Court and its Justices. The first chapters examine the workings of the Supreme Court and are grouped under the following headings: (a) an institutional perspective; (b) review process, caseload, and cases; and (c) opinion, decision, and outcome trends. [119] Epstein divides the chapters on the Justices into three categories: (a) backgrounds, nominations, and confirmations; (b) post-confirmation activities and departures from the Supreme Court; and (c) voting behavior and opinions. [120] Finally, Epstein addresses the Supreme Court's place in society with the following chapters: (a) the political and legal environments; (b) public opinion; and (c) the impact of the Supreme Court. [121] Generally, *The Supreme Court Compendium* provides a wide variety of statistical data in an easy-to-read table format. *The Supreme Court Compendium* is a quality ready reference source for anyone interested in Supreme Court research.

Although dated, Blaustein and Mersky's *The First One Hundred Justices* contains statistics on the first one hundred Justices and their Supreme Court opinions. The appendices include biographical information about the Justices in table formats. The opinions section is particularly interesting as the opinion tables examine the opinions by volume number of the *U.S. Reports*, by Court Term, and by individual Justice. [122] *The First One Hundred Justices* also includes a selected bibliography as well as narratives about rating the Justices, selection of capable Justices, and candidates who were nominated for the Supreme Court but did not serve on the Supreme Court. [123]

## **SUPREME COURT ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY ||**

In this final section, we outline places to find architectural information about the Supreme Court building and historical information about the Court, its work, and its members.

***Statistics on the Supreme Court***

Fred J. Maroon and Suzy Maroon, *The Supreme Court of the United States* (Thomasson-Grant & Lickle 1996).

Kermit L. Hall et al., *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, 43-46 (Oxford University Press 1992).

"The Supreme Court building, like the Capitol and the White House before it, stands as a fitting tribute to the branch of government it houses." [124] The Supreme Court of the United States is a book filled with a wide array of beautiful, full-color photographs of the Supreme Court building which capture "the power and the elegance of architect Cass Gilbert's design." [125] Fred Maroon's photographs take the reader from the exterior of the building into the Supreme Court. The photographs provide a glimpse of areas such as the Court Room, the Library Reading Room, and the Justices' Chambers. [126]

The text, written by Suzy Maroon, describes the Supreme Court's first location in the United States Capitol and recounts how the Supreme Court found its present home at One First Street. The text provides stories "of the people and forces that shaped both the American justice system and the building that would become its symbol." [127] The book also details how a case makes its way onto the Supreme Court docket and provides an historical account of the development of the Supreme Court. [128]

Like the Maroon book, *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* ("The Oxford Companion") provides a concise account of the architectural design of the Supreme Court building. Like an encyclopedia, *The Oxford Companion* arranges its subject matter in alphabetical order. [129] The entry for architecture provides a basic account of the design of the Supreme Court building, and reveals three black-and-white photographs depicting the Supreme Court building, the original design for the bench, and the "winged" design of the current bench. [130]

## SUPREME COURT ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY ||

### *Virtual Tour of the Supreme Court*

Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Dec. 1, 1999)  
<http://oyez.nwu.edu>

*The Oyez Project* hosted by Northwestern University provides users with a virtual tour of the Supreme Court building. [131] Touring the Oyez site requires installation of the QuickTime 3.0 plug-in that the *Oyez* site makes available with a link. [132] The tour involves images of the Supreme Court that provide a 360-degree panoramic view. [133] One "tours" the site by clicking and holding the mouse button and dragging the mouse in the direction one wants to go. The tour begins on First Street outside the Supreme Court, and it starts its travel from the exterior of the building to the interior, allowing viewers to see areas such as the Great Hall, the Court Room, the Conference Rooms, and the Library Reading Room. [134]

## SUPREME COURT ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY ||

### ***Historical Questions***

Joan Biskupic and Elder Witt, *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court* (3rd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1997).

Shelley Dowling, *The United States Supreme Court Library*, in *Law Librarianship: Historical Perspectives 3* (Laura N. Gasaway and Mike C. Chiorazzi, eds., Fred B. Rothman & Co. 1996).

Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project: U.S. Supreme Court Events Occurring 'On This Date in History'* (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://oyez.nwu.edu>

Kermit L. Hall et al., *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*, (Oxford University Press 1992).

Lisa Paddock, *Facts About the Supreme Court of the United States* (H.W. Wilson 1996).

Robert Shnayerson, *The Illustrated History of the Supreme Court of the United States* (Abrams, in association with the Supreme Court Historical Society 1986).

Kenneth Jost, *The Supreme Court A to Z: (2nd ed. Congressional Quarterly 1998) (1993).*

*Journal of Supreme Court History* (Supreme Court Historical Society 1990 – present).

*The Supreme Court Historical Society Quarterly* (Supreme Court Historical Society 1978 - present).

The Washington Post, *The Supreme Court* (visited Dec. 1, 1999) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/supcourt/supcourt.htm>

*Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court* ("*Guide*") is in its third printing and is an invaluable source for Supreme Court information. The *Guide* provides an historical account of the development of the Supreme Court through three centuries, complete with supporting tables and illustrations. [135] The *Guide* also examines the Supreme Court's place in society and reviews the operations and traditions of the Supreme Court. [136] Finally, the *Guide* provides one-page biographical sketches on the Justices, complete with portraits. [137]

The appendices to the *Guide* contain the full-text of selected important documents, such as: the Supreme Court Rules, the *Declaration of Independence*, the *Constitution of the United States*, legislation related to the Judiciary, selected cases, and former Justice Abe Fortas's letter of resignation from the Supreme Court. [138] A second appendix contains: (a) tables of the natural Courts and Supreme Court nominations, 1789-1996, (b) a glossary of legal terms, (c) a list of Congressional acts the Supreme Court held unconstitutional, (d) a chronology of the Supreme Court's major decisions, and (e) a map of the federal court system. [139] The ten-page selected bibliography corresponds to the chapters of this two-volume set. [140] The *Guide* is a fantastic comprehensive source for information about the Supreme Court.

Shelley Dowling is the current Librarian of the Court. Her article *The United States Supreme Court Library* offers a great review of the history of the Supreme Court Library. The article is part of a compilation of works written about law librarianship. It is included in *Law Librarianship: Historical Perspectives*, edited by Laura N. Gasaway and Mike C. Chiorazzi. In

the article, Dowling reviews how the Supreme Court Library has changed from the time of its inception to the present day. Dowling not only covers the Court's Library, but also reviews the establishment of the Supreme Court itself. Throughout the piece, she provides factual information about the Court and its Library, while sharing anecdotes about the Court. Dowling's article is an enjoyable and worthwhile read for anyone interested in the history of the Court and its Library.

To learn what happened at the Supreme Court on a particular date in history, the *Oyez* site at Northwestern University provides a current source of information. The "On This Day" service allows users to enter a particular month and day, and retrieve information about what Supreme Court-related events occurred on that date. [141] Events might include what cases were argued, what Justices were born, or what Justices were sworn in on a particular date in history. While the *Oyez* site does not purport to be a comprehensive source of historical information, the "On this Day in History" service provides a substantial amount of information about Supreme Court-related events that happened on a particular day in history.

*The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court* ("The Oxford Companion") is an excellent ready reference source for quick facts about the Supreme Court. For instance, to find information about the opinion-writing style of the Justices, simply look under "Opinions, Style of." [142] *The Oxford Companion* includes biographical entries about the Justices, recounts major Supreme Court cases, provides definitions, and gives general historical material. Each of the entries is signed and some contain references for further consultation and research. [143] In addition to these smaller entries, *The Oxford Companion* contains thirty-one pages on the Supreme Court's history. [144] All of these features make *The Oxford Companion* an excellent ready reference source for quick background information about the Supreme Court.

Lisa Paddock's *Facts About the Supreme Court of the United States* begins with an historical overview of the Supreme Court and then proceeds chronologically, Court by Court, beginning with the Jay Court and concluding with the Rehnquist Court. [145] Each section includes biographical information on the Supreme Court's Chief Justice and Associate Justices, as well as short summaries of major cases. [146] Paddock also highlights notable features of each particular Court. In the Hughes Court section, for example, a notation states that the 1935 Supreme Court building solved the lack of space problem the Supreme Court had been facing, but "most of the [J]ustices refused to occupy their spacious new suites, preferring to continue working at home, as was their custom." [147] Paddock's book gives the reader an excellent overview of all of the different Courts over the years.

Although dated, *The Illustrated History of the Supreme Court of the United States* ("The Illustrated History") provides excellent historical coverage of the Supreme Court. Illustrations in the center of the book include photographs of the construction of the Supreme Court building from 1933-1935. [148] In addition to these illustrations are pictures of the interior of the Supreme Court that are not included in the Maroon book. *The Illustrated History* is written in a narrative form and might not be as useful for ready reference, but would definitely be worth a look for more extensive historical background on the Supreme Court.

The layout of Kenneth Jost's *The Supreme Court A to Z* is similar to *The Oxford Companion*. Jost arranges the entries alphabetically, defines terms relating to the Supreme Court, gives brief biographical sketches of the Justices, reviews issues addressed by the Supreme Court, and covers selected Supreme Court cases. [149] Unlike *The Oxford Companion*, Jost's *The Supreme Court A to Z* also contains pictures, illustrations, and tables. [150]

The Supreme Court Historical Society publishes both the *Journal of Supreme Court History* and The Supreme Court Historical Society Quarterly. Both offer interesting pieces of historical information about the Supreme Court, although they are not really useful for ready reference. For instance, the first volume of the 1998 *Journal of Supreme Court History* includes biographical articles on six of the former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Historical Society is "dedicated to the collection and preservation of the history of the

Supreme Court of the United States" and seeks to fulfill its mission through a variety of Supreme Court history-related publications. [151] A new addition is the Supreme Court Historical Society Web site. Unique features of the Web site include: digitized versions of selected *Supreme Court Yearbooks*, the *Supreme Court Historical Society Gift Catalog*, a current schedule of Supreme Court-related C-Span broadcasts, and Real Audio versions of past lectures. [152] This Web site is in the development process and will likely be a valuable resource for Supreme Court history in the near future.

The Washington Post Web site offers an historical look at the Supreme Court through its "history" link. [153] The information is grouped into three categories: information about the Justices, how the Supreme Court works, and notable past cases. Joan Biskupic, Supreme Court correspondent for *The Washington Post* and author of the *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court* writes the narrative. [154] The site also includes a quiz, to test your mastery of Supreme Court knowledge. [155]

## **CONCLUSION**

The authors of this article saw the need for a guide that explained where to locate information about the Supreme Court. Although several comprehensive works about the Supreme Court exist, few of these texts offer much guidance for common Supreme Court-related questions, such as "where can I find a Supreme Court brief?" Therefore, in a practical effort to make researchers more aware of available resources about the Supreme Court, the authors of this article compiled and organized resources according to the potential questions individuals might ask. Although our listing is by no means comprehensive, the listing does offer a review of quality resources that one can use to answer Supreme Court-related questions. This article also includes a variety of different resources in order to produce a current ready reference guide. The authors of this article sincerely hope that the use of this guide in conjunction with the cited sources, will make finding information about the Supreme Court simpler and more efficient for patrons and researchers alike.



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<sup>1</sup> CLARE CUSHMAN, *THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES, 1789-1995*, at 541-544 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1995).

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* MELVIN I. UROFSKY, *THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY* (1994).

<sup>1</sup> CLARE CUSHMAN, *THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES, 1789-1995*, at 545-561 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1995).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* LEON FRIEDMAN AND FRED L. ISRAEL, *THE JUSTICES OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT: THEIR LIVES AND MAJOR OPINIONS* (1997).

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* MELVIN I. UROFSKY, *THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY* (1994).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 99.

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* FENTON S. MARTIN AND ROBERT U. GOEHLERT, *HOW TO RESEARCH THE SUPREME COURT* (1992).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 24.

<sup>1</sup> FENTON S. MARTIN AND ROBERT U. GOEHLERT, *THE U.S. SUPREME COURT: A BIBLIOGRAPHY* (1990).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at xii-xiii.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at xi.

<sup>1</sup> ADRIENNE DEVERGIE AND MARY KATE KELL, *LOCATION GUIDE TO THE MANUSCRIPTS OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES*, (Tarlton Law Library Legal Bibliography Series Number 24, Revised Ed. June, 1981).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *See* ALEXANDRA K. WIGDOR, *THE PERSONAL PAPERS OF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: A DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE*, xi (1986) (arising as “an outgrowth of the Watergate affair, the Commission was established by statute in 1975, amidst the considerable controversy generated by former President Nixon’s broad ownership claims to the White House files.”).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at vii.

<sup>1</sup> *See generally id.*

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* ALEXANDRA K. WIGDOR, *THE PERSONAL PAPERS OF THE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: A DESCRIPTIVE GUIDE* (1986).

<sup>1</sup> The appointment number corresponds to the chronological order in which the individual was appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States (hereinafter, “the Supreme Court”).

<sup>1</sup> Unlike *The Personal Papers*, *supra* note 17, which provides the size of the collection measured in shelf feet and the number of items, *The Supreme Court Compendium* provides a more general description such as small, medium, or large.

<sup>1</sup> *See* LEE EPSTEIN ET AL., *THE SUPREME COURT COMPENDIUM: DATA, DECISIONS & DEVELOPMENTS*, 353-375 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1996)(Tables 5-11).

<sup>1</sup> *See generally* University of Louisville, *Guide to the Papers of Louis Dembitz Brandeis* (visited Feb. 15, 1999) <<http://athena.louisville.edu/library/law/brandeis.html>> (The University of Louisville holds a collection of Justice Louis Brandeis’s papers. A searchable guide to this collection, as well as instructions for requesting interlibrary loan copies of the materials in the collection are posted at this Web site).

<sup>1</sup> ROY M. MERSKY AND J. MYRON JACOBSTEIN, *THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES: HEARINGS AND REPORTS ON SUCCESSFUL AND UNSUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS OF SUPREME COURT JUSTICES BY THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, 1916-1994 (1975-1996)* (Preface, vol. 1).

<sup>1</sup> *See generally id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at xi (1983 Supplement vol.).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at v.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at Preface, vol. 1 (the Preface lists the first four unsuccessful nominees; the last two, Douglas H. Ginsberg and Robert H. Bork, were obtained by examining the set).

<sup>1</sup> See LEE EPSTEIN ET AL., *THE SUPREME COURT COMPENDIUM: DATA, DECISIONS & DEVELOPMENTS*, 305-312 (2nd ed. 1996) (Tables 4-11 and 4-12).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 305-312 (Table 4-11).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 312-321 (Table 4-12).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> See generally STEPHAN P. ELLIOTT, *A REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT*, 384-396 (1986).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings in the Supreme Court of the United States in Memory of Justice Marshall*, 510 U.S. v (Nov. 15, 1993).

<sup>1</sup> ROGER F. JACOBS, *MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES*, xiv (1981); see, e.g., *In Memoriam: Honorable Warren E. Burger*, 115 S. Ct. 425 (April 30, 1996).

<sup>1</sup> ROGER F. JACOBS, *MEMORIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES*, xiv-xv (1981).

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*; see generally Roy M. Mersky and Christy B. McCrary, *Supreme Court Memorial Proceedings and Related Items: An Index*, 71 *LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL* 415 (Aug. 1978).

<sup>1</sup> See e.g., *In Memoriam: William J. Brennan, Jr.*, 111 *HARV. L. REV.* 1 (Nov. 1997) (several tributes by different authors); e.g., *In Memoriam William J. Brennan, Jr.*, 97 *COLUM. L. REV.* 1603 (Oct. 1997) (two tributes by different authors).

<sup>1</sup> Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://www.law.cornell.edu/rules/supct/overview.html>>.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> The New York Law Publishing Company, *Law Journal Extra!* (visited Feb. 18, 1999) <<http://www.ljextra.com/courthouse/rules/suprules.html>>.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> Warren E. Burger, *The State of the Judiciary - 1970*, 56 *AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL* 929 (Oct. 1970).

<sup>1</sup> Most notably, *The State of the Judiciary*, *The State of the Federal Judiciary*, *Year End Report on Judiciary*, *Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary*, and *The Year-End Report of the Federal Judiciary*.

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., William H. Rehnquist, *The 1998 Year-End Report of the Federal Judiciary*, *THE THIRD BRANCH* (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Washington, D.C.), January 1999, at 1.

<sup>1</sup> A subject search on LegalTrac for “federal courts – reports” revealed that each of these journals has published a full-text transcript of the report within the past 10 years. Further verification was done through keyword searches for “Rehnquist report” and “judiciary report.”

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> See *Subject Matter Index*, 20 *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF TRIAL ADVOCACY* I-46 (Spring 1997).

<sup>1</sup> See e.g., *Chief Justice Issues 1988 Year End Report on the Judiciary*, *THE THIRD BRANCH* (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Washington, D.C.), January 1989, at 6.

<sup>1</sup> Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, *The Federal Judiciary Homepage* (visited Feb. 17, 1999) <<http://www.uscourts.gov>>.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> See Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Supreme Court Collection* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>>.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> See generally *HARV. L. REV.* (Nov. issues).

<sup>1</sup> Compare *Supreme Court Review*, *LEGAL TIMES*, July 29, 1996, at S25; with *Supreme Court Review*, *NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL*, July 29, 1996, at C1.

- <sup>1</sup> See generally PREVIEW OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CASES (ABA DIVISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, 1973- ).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See, e.g., 2 SUPREME COURT DEBATES 34 (Feb. 1999).
- <sup>1</sup> See, e.g., GEORGE COSTELLO, SUPREME COURT OPINIONS: OCTOBER 1997 TERM (July 14, 1998).
- <sup>1</sup> See e.g., GEORGE COSTELLO, SUPREME COURT OPINIONS: 1993 TERM (1994) *microformed on Major Studies and Issue Briefs of the Congressional Research Service* (Arlington, VA: University Publications of America).
- <sup>1</sup> See U.S. Senate, *Selected CRS Reports* (last modified July 8, 1998) <<http://www.senate.gov/~dpc/crs/index.html>>.
- <sup>1</sup> Penny Hill Press, *Penny Hill Press* (visited Feb. 23, 1999) <<http://www.pennyhill.com>>.
- <sup>1</sup> See generally SUPREME COURT REVIEW (BUREAU OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS, 1981- ).
- <sup>1</sup> KENNETH JOST, THE SUPREME COURT YEARBOOK, at 4, 7 (1997-1998 ed.).
- <sup>1</sup> J. MYRON JACOBSTEIN, ET AL., FUNDAMENTALS OF LEGAL RESEARCH (7<sup>th</sup> ed., 1998).
- <sup>1</sup> The Washington Post Company, *The Supreme Court* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/supcourt/supcourt.htm>>.
- <sup>1</sup> The Washington Post Company, *The 1997-1998 Term* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/supcourt/1997-98.htm>>.
- <sup>1</sup> See generally PREVIEW OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CASES (ABA DIVISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, 1973- ).
- <sup>1</sup> Reed Elsevier, Inc., *Lexis-Nexis Xchange* (visited Feb. 18, 1999) <<http://www.lexis.com/xchange/>> (using this URL will lead you to the Internet version of Lexis-Nexis, where you will be prompted for your password).
- <sup>1</sup> West Group, *Westlaw.com* (visited Feb. 18, 1999) <<http://www.westlaw.com>> (using this URL will lead you to the Internet version of Westlaw, where you will be prompted for your password).
- <sup>1</sup> ROBERT L. STERN ET. AL, SUPREME COURT PRACTICE, 22-23 (7<sup>th</sup> ed. 1993).
- <sup>1</sup> Law Source, Inc., *American Law Sources On-line* (visited Feb. 17, 1999) <<http://www.lawsources.com/also>>.
- <sup>1</sup> See generally PHILIP B. KURLAND AND GERHARD CASPER, LANDMARK BRIEFS AND ARGUMENTS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (1975- ).
- <sup>1</sup> See generally ROY M. MERSKY AND GARY R. HARTMAN, A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES: WEBSTER V. REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES (1990); see also ROY M. MERSKY AND GARY R. HARTMAN, A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES: ROE V. WADE (1993); see also ROY M. MERSKY AND SUZANNE F. YOUNG, A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ABORTION IN THE UNITED STATES: PLANNED PARENTHOOD V. CASEY (1996).
- <sup>1</sup> Diana Botluk, *The Legal List: Research on the Internet*, THE WEST GROUP (1998); see also Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Supreme Court Collection* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>>.
- <sup>1</sup> Cornell University Legal Information Institute, *Supreme Court Collection* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>>.
- <sup>1</sup> See Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://oyez.nwu.edu/other/faq.htm>> (users will also need a sound capable computer and speakers).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> Diana Botluk, *The Legal List: Research on the Internet*, THE WEST GROUP (1998); see also Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://oyez.nwu.edu>>.
- <sup>1</sup> See Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *supra* note 71.
- <sup>1</sup> See The Alderson Reporting Company, *Your Single Source for Court Reporting* (last modified July 23, 1997) <<http://www.alderonreporting.com/conabouts.html>>.

- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See *The Supreme Court, 1967 Term*, 82 HARV.L.REV. 93, 301 (1968).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See generally *The Supreme Court, 1997 Term*, 112 HARV.L.REV. 366 (1998).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> LEE EPSTEIN ET AL., *THE SUPREME COURT COMPENDIUM: DATA, DECISIONS & DEVELOPMENTS*, v-vi (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1996).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.* at vii.
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.* at viii-xi.
- <sup>1</sup> ALBERT P. BLAUSTEIN AND ROY M. MERSKY, *THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED JUSTICES*, 127-149 (1978) (Tables 8-11).
- <sup>1</sup> See generally *id.*
- <sup>1</sup> FRED J. MAROON AND SUZY MAROON, *THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES*, back cover (1996).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See generally *id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.* (*The Supreme Court of the United States* draws on the resources of the Supreme Court Historical Society, Curator's Office, Library Staff, and Clerk's Office. *The Supreme Court of the United States* also lists over twenty other resources for information about the Supreme Court in its bibliography).
- <sup>1</sup> KERMIT L. HALL ET AL., *THE OXFORD COMPANION TO THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES*, 43-46 (1992).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See generally Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University, *The Oyez Project* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://oyez.nwu.edu>>.
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> See generally JOAN BISKUPIC AND ELDER WITT, *CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY'S GUIDE TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT* (1997).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> KERMIT L. HALL ET AL., *THE OXFORD COMPANION TO THE SUPREME COURT*, 607-611.
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 373-404.
- <sup>1</sup> See generally LISA PADDOCK, *FACTS ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES* (1996).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.* at 274.
- <sup>1</sup> ROBERT SHNAYERSON, *THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES*, 185-187 (1986).
- <sup>1</sup> See generally ELDER WITT, *THE SUPREME COURT A TO Z: A READY REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA* (1993).
- <sup>1</sup> *Id.*
- <sup>1</sup> Amazon.com, Inc., *Amazon.com* (visited Feb. 19, 1999) <<http://www.amazon.com>>.

<sup>1</sup> The Supreme Court Historical Society, *The Supreme Court Historical Society Homepage* (last modified Feb. 17, 1999) <<http://www.supremecourthistory.org>>.

<sup>1</sup> The Washington Post, *The Supreme Court* (visited Feb. 5, 1999) <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/supcourt/1997-98.htm>>.

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*

<sup>1</sup> *Id.*