

Accessing Court Rulings via CourtWeb and the Watch List Service

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

Here are the instructions for accessing CourtWeb:

1. Click on the **CourtWeb** icon located on the District of Minnesota website. (www.mnd.uscourts.gov)

CourtWeb

On-Line Rulings Information System

CourtWeb ★
On-Line Rulings

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

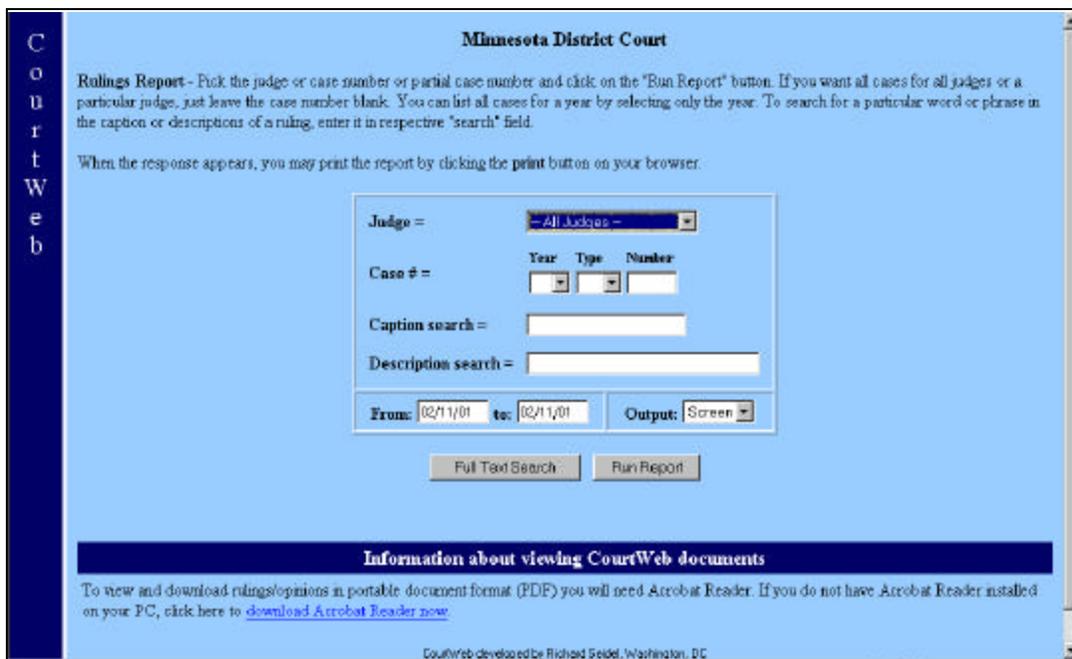
CourtWeb ★
Watch List Application

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

2. Click on the **CourtWeb On-Line Rulings** link.
3. Use the drop-down arrow on the **Welcome to CourtWeb** page to select the District of Minnesota. Click on the **Proceed to CourtWeb** button.



Searching for a Ruling

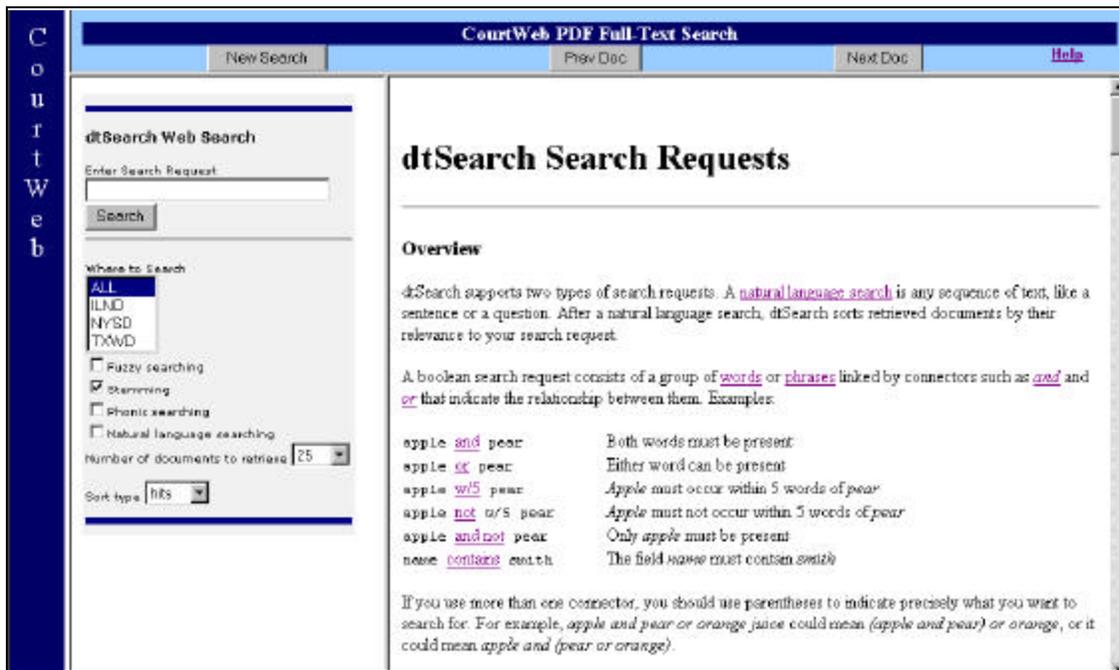


4. **(Judge Optional)** - Click on the drop-down arrow to restrict your search to a particular judge's rulings. If you do not have a preference, select the default, "All Judges".
5. **(Case # Optional)** - Use the drop-down arrows and the text box next to Case Number to select a particular case number.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

8. (**Date Range Optional**) - A date range can be selected to restrict the search results. The date range field refers to the date the rulings were issued by the judge.
9. After entering your case criteria, click on the **Run Report** button.

Note: Search results will appear on the screen. The maximum number of rulings that can be displayed for each query is 500. If more than 500 rulings are found, an error message will appear telling you to narrow your search.

Full Text Searches



10. (**Search Request**) - CourtWeb also includes a Full-Text Search option. The dtSearch tool allows users to create Natural Language or Boolean search requests. Examples of both types of searches are provided in the online help screens associated with this feature.
11. (**Location - Optional**) - Choose which court you wish to search. Selecting the District of Minnesota (DCMN) will narrow your search to Minnesota rulings.
12. (**Fuzzy Searching - Optional**) - Clicking on the **Fuzzy Searching** will find a word even if it is misspelled. Fuzzy searching can be useful when you are searching text that may contain typographical errors, or for text that has been scanned using optical character recognition (OCR). You can either have the entire search criteria search for similar words or you can type the “%” symbol next to the word(s) that might require similar word matches.

13. (**Stemming Searching - Optional**) - Stemming extends a search to cover grammatical variations of a word. For example, a search for *fish* would also find *fishing*. A search for *applied* would also find *applying*, *applies*, and *apply*.
14. (**Phonic Searching – Optional**) - If you are unsure how to spell a word, but can spell it out phonetically, click on the Phonetic Spelling option to find a match.
15. (**Natural Language Searching – Optional**) - A natural language search request is any combination of words, phrases, or sentences. After a natural language search, dtSearch sorts retrieved documents by their relevance to your search request. Weighting of retrieved documents takes into account: the number of documents each word in your search request appears in (the more documents a word appears in, the less useful it is in distinguishing relevant from irrelevant documents); the number of times each word in the request appears in the documents; and the density of hits in each document.
16. You can broaden or narrow the number of rulings that appear in your results by entering information in the **Number of Documents to Retrieve** field. The allowable range is between **25** and **1000**. The higher the number, the longer the search will take to finish.
17. You can also choose the way the query results are sorted. They can be sorted by **hits** (the rulings with more matches will appear first), **date** (the newer rulings will appear first), **name** (alphabetical order) or **size** (the larger files will appear first).
18. When finished, click on the **Search** button.

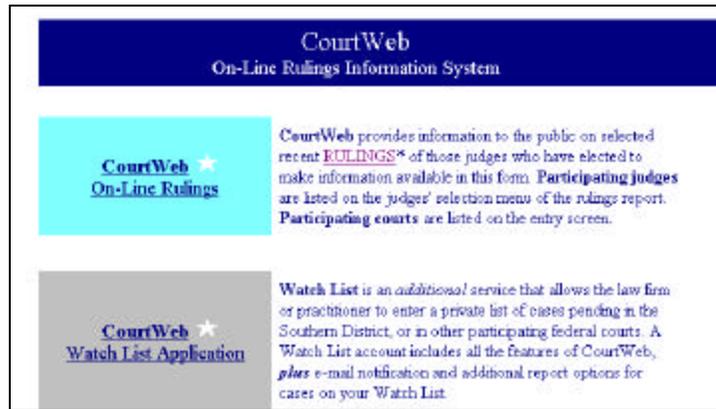
Sample of Query Matches

Rulings for ALL Judges posted on or after 02/01/01 as of 02/11/01 at 20:43:06						
Date	Case #	Caption	Title	Judge	Posted	
02/09/01	00cr01267	USA v. Fiore	Endorsement	Lewis A. Kaplan	02/09/01	
Description						
Request for modification of bail conditions granted.						
Date	Case #	Caption	Title	Judge	Posted	
02/09/01	00cv00648	In Re Auction Houses Antitrust Litig	Order	Lewis A. Kaplan	02/09/01	
Description						
Order issued						
View/Print this ruling (#01-01647)						
Date	Case #	Caption	Title	Judge	Posted	
02/09/01	00cv00648	In re Auction Houses Antitrust Litigation	Order	Lewis A. Kaplan	02/09/01	
Description						
Objectors and others wishing to comment on reports of court-appointed experts, which are being placed on the public file, shall serve and file any comments at or before 4 pm on February 16, 2001.						
View/Print this ruling (#01-01656)						

CourtWeb Watch List

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

1. On the main **CourtWeb** page (found after clicking on the CourtWeb link located on the District of Minnesota's main web page [www.mnd.uscourts.gov]), click on the **CourtWeb Watch List Application** button.



2. Enter your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. All information must be provided before a request will be processed. Once finished, click on the "Submit" button. Your submission will then be sent to the District of Minnesota for review. After your request is approved, a login, password and instructions will be sent to you via e-mail within 5 business days of your submission.
3. Once you are a member and enter the case numbers you wish to track, you will receive e-mail messages whenever a ruling has been posted to CourtWeb for the cases on your Watch List.