



INYaG Supreme Court Resources

Legal Research

The Oyez Project (<http://www.oyez.org/>)

This is a one-stop-shop for U.S. Supreme Court cases from the very beginning to the latest cases. Find Supreme Court opinions, history of cases, how justices voted, and recordings of more recent oral arguments.

Google Scholar Legal Resources (http://scholar.google.com/schhp?hl=en&as_sdt=800002)

Google Scholar recently added legal opinions and articles to its database. This is a very powerful tool that shows the official publisher's page numbers. You can choose the court, search by a keyword, or search the case citation. Google also provides links to cases the opinion cites and to cases that cite the opinion you're currently reading. It is the closest free service to the expensive search providers lawyers use.

Indiana Courts Appellate Opinions and Other Court Websites

Almost every federal court and every state appellate court has a website on which they post their decisions. Indiana's state appellate courts post their opinions at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/>. Indiana opinions are archived back to 2005. If you're looking for a case mentioning a keyword, you might Google with the following format: "site: <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/> [keywords]". This tells Google to search for your keywords only in Indiana appellate court opinions. (You can do a similar search in Google Scholar's legal database using the advanced search option.)

First Amendment Center (www.firstamendmentcenter.org)

For cases relating to the First Amendment, this is perhaps the best place to go for news, analysis, and cases. Browse the site by topic or search for keywords or cases.

Findlaw.com (<http://www.findlaw.com/>)

Findlaw is a resource for laypeople and attorneys alike. It has basic information sorted by legal issue as well as a good database of legal opinions.

Practicing Arguments

Timer Stopwatch—Online Timer (<http://www.timeme.com/timer-stopwatch.htm>)

Time yourself using this website's countdown clock. Set the Start Time for 20:00 (or 20:00 minus your rebuttal time) and the Stop Time at a negative number to replicate the courtroom's timer. Practice ending on time.

Indiana Courts Appellate Oral Arguments and Other Court Websites

Watch or listen to oral arguments from across the country. Many courts post—either audio or video—recordings of their oral arguments. Watching or listening to some of these can help you understand what you're supposed to be doing and how to prepare.

Indiana's videos (typically available in either Windows Media Player or RealPlayer format for more recent cases) are located at <http://mycourts.in.gov/arguments/> and are searchable by keyword. The website also has helpful pages like "What is an Oral Argument?," "Visitor's Guide to Oral Argument," and "Instructions for Attorneys Presenting Arguments."

Practice, Practice, Practice

The best way to practice for an oral argument is to set up a mock courtroom and have some friends play judge while you make your argument. Have them ask the toughest questions they can come up with, and try to answer them effectively.

Legal Procedure

Know Your Indiana Courts (<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/about/>)

This website provides a detailed look at the structure and process of the Indiana Judiciary. It also shows how judges are selected and how to file an appeal.

Lawyers

Ask lawyers you know any question you have. Lawyers can help you navigate caselaw, statutes, and strategies for oral argument. They can point you to helpful resources and may even open their law firm's doors to you. If you have a lawyer help you in any way, make sure to thank them and invite them to the Conference to see you argue or judge!