Transcript: Federal Law: How It's Made, Where To Find It, How To Understand It, & How To Cite It

Presented by: Linda Kilb (she/her), Director, Legal Services Trust Fund Program, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

June 24, 2025

LINDA KILB: Thanks to everyone for joining. We're going to be moving pretty quickly over a lot of material so I'm not sure about question time, but everyone is absolutely invited to reach out to me in the future if you have questions that don't get answered. My email is Lkilb@DREDF.org. What will you learn today? This is our road map to explore the general structure of the U.S. government how each branching creates legal authority no pay wall places to find legal authority and we're going to talk about how the primary source documents can be decoded when you are looking at legal authority from different branches. There are links in the slides and more links in the notes. We are not going to click on all of them but I will flag some of the most useful.

You are free then to explore them on your own later. So here we have one of Rube Goldberg's you been workable contraptions, and things are harder than they need to be. I put that in here because on the next slide we find the basic structure of the U.S. government and it was designed to be completely inconvenient with the idea that the branches are going to keep each other in check. So a lot of that structure comes into play when we are talking about the way each branch works.

The next slide gives a general definition of legal authority for the law so each can create legal authority in specific ways. Together they create the overall law. The efficiency and the functionality is really when each branch stays in its lane and as we all know it's a bit of an adventure at the moment because there are branches that are stepping back from their roles and branches that are more aggressively pursuing their roles.

We're going to move now to what's in a name. This is going to be to some degree the technicalities of what things are called. It's the most useful for understanding what type of authority is being created. It's useful to sort of be able to parse as you are looking at especially new source documents. Where did they come from, what do they mean and what is the scope of their authority?

So on the internet I often will start with Wikipedia, that's a trusted, verified site but it has a lot of useful information including in a lot of situations primary source documents and obviously you need to then double‑check. You use it to start if you are otherwise having trouble finding something but don't end there, go to more sources that are going to give you specific scholarly and reputable sources.

One of the other places you can go for documents in law is the Avalon Project. I will let you explore that on your own. In terms of contacts the national archives and the library of Congress are particularly useful, less for primary documents although they have some more for timeline and insight into how and when authority was created and what was going on at the time.

The next slide I will ask Ally to click on the presidency link. This is a remarkable website. You can bring it up. It has a timeline for every President and includes a lot of links and treaties and executive orders and materials and it's not an official website so it doesn't have a comprehensive look. At this point Obama and earlier are definitely in, probably most of Trump 45, Trump 47 and Biden are probably not fully indexed, which is where we will get into other sources and resources.

Ally, I don't know if you were able to bring that up but if you click on a president you can give folks a view of what that looks like.

ALLY: Okay. It's up now.

LINDA KILB: If you click on any president prior to Trump 45, Obama or earlier, pick a President.

ALLY: It's on John Tyler now.

LINDA KILB: If you see below there will be a timeline of his presidency and that's where you can get into exploring the chronology and the primary source documents so we are not going to go into more detail about that but I wanted to give people insight into how much information and how useful that website is. We will now close out of that. I also put on that same slide the scholar link which is a place to get judicial decisions and articles and we will talk about that more when we get to the judicial branch. Now we're going to move into our first branch approximately.

Thecal article 1 branch was put in because Founders regarded it as the people's voice. One of the consequences is that it's inefficient because the people have a lot of voices in Congress. The role of Congress really is to navigate all of those interests and hopefully come out with useful and constitutional legal authorities.

The next slide the key information in Congress includes a new Congress every two years. The first year is the first session, the second year is the second session. They're numbered chronologically so the first Congress sat from 1789‑1791. We are now in the 119th Congress. I do like the Wikipedia list of U.S. Congresses because it's a good way to figure out without doing the math what year Congress was sitting at a time you are looking at relevant authority for that year.

So we will move to the next slide and basically this is obviously pretty basic information but worth remembering that Congress's main way of creating authority is via statutes. So a bill is a proposed statute and a statute is a successful bill. Predominantly what happens is members of Congress will initiate the legislative process. If we go to the next slide there are ways that the legislative process interacts with particularly the executive branch.

In addition to the sort of conventional legislation proceeding from introduction to signature there can be legislative overrides. An override is a response to something within Congress's power that Congress didn't like. So, for example, a presidential veto, it can be a legislative override of a statutory decision. Obviously the judiciary has the last word on the Constitution unless its amended so the legislature has to stay in its lane on overrides in terms of only focusing on statutory authority. There also is this procedure which confess I was not familiar with until the start of the Trump administration and it's a rescission request and it's a request to cancel a prior proportion that Congress authorized. And that's significant because not only can it mean that Congress can change its mind which of course we knew but if there is a rescission request that is in fact honored by Congress it means appropriated funds by a prior Congress don't have to be spent the way a prior Congress specified. It's worth knowing that to some degree this horns the constitutional structure and the fact that Trump is submitting rescission requests means he's not comfortable relying on judicial authority when it comes to things with regard to Congress. So he wants to get at things Congress did to make changes. There are notes to past recissions and historically how administrations stack up on the number of recissions. We're going to go back To Schoolhouse Rock for those of you old enough form. There are two ways for a bill to proceed, the House and the Senate pass it, the President signs it, the second path is that the House and Senate pass it and the President vetoes and Congress overrides it which takes a two‑thirds vote. The next slide has illustrations, the alphabet soup portion of this. Legislative citations have a time stamp and a category stamp and there are public and private laws and primarily a private source legislation is going to tell you when the statute happens. The same is true of what are called statutes at large. This is time information and you can think of the statute at large.

This is basically a chronological file of everything that the legislature has done. So you can think of it like your own inbox, a digital or hard cope. On a given day you might get a letter from grandma, a rehearsal schedule for a play and the water bill. The thing that they have in common is they arrived on the same day so the cite statute is going to be identifying the date of a particular action.

We'll go to the next slide and I'm going to give a moment to public versus private laws. Public law which is the overwhelming majority to laws applied to the entire body politic but Congress can introduce private laws and these apply to specified individuals.

Historically they have been used for three things although other things are possible. Ceremonial things such as congratulations on your birthday, they can authorize payments of damages to constituents, and perhaps of most relevance now they can be used to adjust immigration status for a particular individual.

However, in the next slide we can see the degree to which all of the legislation is basically wincing down to a much smaller volume than in the past. So I picked the 118th Congress that was the Congress that ended last year, it had passed 274 public laws. If you look at the 101st Congress which is when the ADA was passed there were 650 public laws passed. The distinction is even more stark in terms of private laws. They're never voluminous but there were 16 in the 101st Congress and zero in the last Congress so it is a method of achieving relief but it has to be enacted by the legislature.

And that's very difficult right now. We're going to go on now to talk about the U.S. code 3 and this is where we go from the time stamp information to the subject matter. Once you have a piece of legislation you can have a legislative citation, a public private law citation and a stat citation. Which you want to get it organized, like the water bill and grandma you want to separate those things into different categories so United States Code basically tells you where something belongs.

As a matter of subject of course. We're going to go on to the next slide and talk about numbers, so bill number is important until a bill is successful or until it fails. HR bills are spruced from the house, S from the Senate and once a statute has been passed the bill number gets confusing although there is often a time horizon where people are using both but once a bill is enacted the statutory number is going to be the most important.

So this is the point at which you have a private or public law citation with two numbers, a stat citation with a volume number and page number and a U.S.C. citation with a volume number and page number and because that seems overwhelming the next page is going to demonstrate with the Americans with Disabilities Act. That was passed in the 101st Congress, the 101 tells you the Congress, the dash tells you where it was in the lineup of legislation that was enacted during that session. It passed in July so you would expect tore a Congress that passed about 650 pieces of legislation, it be around 300.

In fact, it is. So from public law 101‑36 exactly what Congress ‑‑ when Congress passed this particular bill. In the giant chronological file, the stat file it ends up 104 stat is the volume, its chronological which means if you're looking for more recent legislation it's got to be after 104, if it's earlier that be 1990 it's going to be earlier than 104 and a page legislation that tells you where to find the document in the stat file. The ADA was codified in Title 42 which has public social health welfare and civil rights legislation. So that gives you a clue, 42, what type of issue the legislation addresses.

The ADA begins at 12101 and they be you get the seq, meaning the following. I put the bill numbers in so you have those but basically those bill numbers which were important during the process get confusing once you have a piece of legislation. So that's a road map of how to untangle other laws.

It can be overwhelming but you just sort of pick one category at a time or one data point at a time and march your way through it.

On the next slide I have information about how to find legislation that website that Ally previewed has some legislation. You can look at Wikipedia and there is a portal this U.S. Law portal which I like where you can search by public law or stat citation and find the full text of a piece of legislation.

Now we're going to go on to an example and this is how I might proceed if I'm trying to find a piece of legislation that I I'm not familiar with. I might start with the Wikipedia, and it's likely to give me the date signed and the citations, although trust but verify. Once you have that information, the basic information, you can then start systematically searching by President on the UCSB website and you can go directly to the portal law link and insert the pdf legislation, and there are links beyond that, and it's rare to need to go past a pay wall to find legislation.

That's our overview of the legislature. We're going to move to the executive branch, Article 2 of the Constitution. In terms of the executive branch the main way they create legal authority is by the President issuing legislation by the President issuing rescission requests and there is danger in that for Presidents because if Congress fails to act on the rescission request it's an indication that that appropriation is legally required, should be sent as it by the President. I expect that will play out over the next years of the Trump Administration, we will see how it goes. Presidents can issue signing statements and remarks and there are various documents of varying did he free of authority which we will talk about.

There are also the federal agencies, part of the legislative branch. There are dozens if not hundreds of them at this point. I'm not going to address the agencies because it's a topic unto itself but agencies under the executive branch can issue regulations. That's the most robust form of authority and they can issue guidance and dear colleague letters that don't have the force of regulations but can be informative if you're trying to figure out the history of implementation of a specific type of law.

So we will move now to the types of presidential documents a little more detail. I'm going to set the agency regulations aside. We noted signing and veto statements. Those don't have the force of law except as an informative part of legislative history. There are presidential proclamations, these do not have the force of law. They can involve private individuals and can be ceremonial in the way that private laws can be ceremonial so this could be congratulations on your 100th birthday or glad you won the Eagle Scout award or whatever else is presented by a citizen to the President.

The presidential executive actions and memorandum is a step further in terms of robustness so they may or may not have the force of law and you have to be careful to identify the exact type of document. They tend to have more force of law than proclamations but less than executive orders. So the executive order issue is very prevalent in the Trump Administration.

In terms of what falls in the category of memoranda or action versus executive orders. The true executive order has the force of law and can't be overturned if it's executed within the President's legal authority. Obviously the scope of the authority is an outstanding legal question but the first issue is, is it really an executive order?

How you respond to the executive order is going to be different than how you respond to another type of action. We will move to the next slide. I just put some examples of signing and veto statements so you can look at them if they seem interesting. There was a signing ceremony on the White House in 1990 when George H.W. Bush signed the ADA. But there are various vetoes by former Presidents and tech tell you what the President was thinking the law meant in the notes.

We will move to the next slide and in addition to giving you the link for the ADA I put in the remarks that Obama made when signing the Affordable Care Act, and next we will go to the Nixon vetoes slides. I put in the slide but not the links so the slide would be readable. Nixon went back and forth with the legislature about enacting Section 504 specifically the Rehabilitation Act, of 1972. He vetoed them due to fiscal irresponsibility and the creation of organizational rigidities and he then did a pocket veto which means he ran out to the end of the Congressional session. And one of things the President can do is effectively ignore them or make remarks about them and there is no time for it to go back to Congress for an override.

That's how the first version of the Rehab Act of 1972 met its demise. There was a second presentation that Nixon again called fiscally irresponsible and he vetoed that at a time when there was time in the legislative session. There was an effort to override it but the veto was ultimately sustained.

That's the difference between majority to pass comes into play. On the third time Nixon did sign the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and it's called the Act of '73 because it took longer than '72 to get it across the finish line.

On the next slide we're going to go into detail about the types of executive action. The true executive order and here I'm going to ask Ally to click on the Federal Register link and while she is doing that I will highlight the requirements. Executive orders have to be in writing. They have to be within legal authority given to the executive branch, they have to be signed which is to say a signature, I think or autopen but it has to have the designation of a specific executive and it has to be published. What published means and if Ally has the website up, published means that it's included in the federal register.

I linked here to the portion of the federal register that collects presidential documents. It goes back through the prior presidencies, you can see the volume of actions from one president to the other Trump is making vastly more executive orders than other presidents have. In that link you can choose what president you want to look at once you open a particular President you can see what the executive orders are, and do a search from the main browser.

I will pause and make sure Ally had time to do that for you. Ally, you can let me know when it seems like we have had enough time to look at that.

ALLY: Okay, yeah, I think so. The website is up.

LINDA KILB: Great. Back on the slide now we're going to talk about things that are not executive orders. An executive action and an executive memorandum those are technical terms of art and when they have in common is that they mean they're not executive orders.

There is a great advantage to presidents who want to avoid the requirements of executive orders because they don't have to cite legal authority, they don't have to be published or have an impact statement so often executive actions or memos are issued precisely to get around the requirements. The publication requirement in particular can have a timeline on it but primarily these are used because the executive just doesn't want to have the requirement threshold for EOs.

If you look at the second link and I will ask Ally to open it, I haven't calculated it but my impression is that about half of Trump's actions are executive orders so they're found in the federal register but about half of them are not. So if you want to find a nonexecutive order the easiest way to do that for the current president is to go to WhiteHouse.gov. If it's a past president you can go back to the UCSB database, key word search on a browser. A lot of times you won't find it in a formal state because it doesn't have much force of law.

Although whether it has force of law in part depends upon the degree to which it's ultimately challenged. Some actions like the happy 100th birthday are not going to get challenged. Issues that Trump has done and is doing without executive order are, of course, being challenged.

So I will pause and just ask Ally to let me know if the White House website came up and gave a sample of these nonexecutive order actions.

ALLY: Yes, the website is up.

LINDA KILB: Okay, so you can keep that in your back pocket as a source. We're now going to go on to examples of executive orders and I went back in time in part because it's always worth remembering that something that seems pushing the envelope when the option does it may be something you want to do yourself. At a minimum, it's worth thinking about the degree to which things that you want to up hold are a bit pushing the envelope because you want to make sure that you're getting your arguments in order. So I picked two examples of things that were a bit edgy.

They may have been within the president's authority but raised questions. One was the creation of the U.S. Peace Corps. And it's the Mutual Secretary Act of 1954 so it was created as a national defense action and there is some thought to that because it helped make friends and allies around the world and it has an executive order number.

Then it has typically a five‑digit number, depending on how far back you go and we will see when we get to the next one, that it may drop to four digits. So obviously the higher the number the more recent it is. It has a date stamp, it was issued March 1, 1961, signed by Kennedy. It was published because that was the requirement. It's a volume 26 page, 1780 nine and that's when the Constitution came into being. It has a published date stamp of a day later which is typically.

Sometimes you will see the same date but usually it's a day or two before the publication and it's dated with a different date.

The second example I chose is interesting for a couple reasons. It banned the hording of gold, and it cited the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, an action to help stabilize the economy in the Great Depression. It's iffy did banning gold fit within the authority but that was how Roosevelt justified it, and it has a date and a number. That date predated the Federal Register Act of 1935 which became effective in 1936. So until 1936 there was not a publication requirement. One of the reasons we have one now Roosevelt was pushing the envelope and Congress wanted to push back and he ended up endorsing this Act because he realized it was inevitable and he realized there needed to be an equalization of the branches and transparency. So this is my trip down memory lane.

We will now go to a phenomena I call dueling executive orders and this is a scenario that unfortunately we have been experiencing pretty much since the turn of the century. Which is that the gridlock especially after 2008 results in presidents doing things by executive order because they can't get legislation through Congress. Again, if you think the result is good or bad, if you think it's not, it's worth analyzing what rule would you like if it was the people with the policy aims that you share?

So I'm using the example of the Antiquities Act because there is an argument on the age of the enemies act. It worth remembering that just because it's old doesn't mean that it's bad. It certainly means that it's old, but absolutely both Democrats and Republicans have relied on old authority to do things that they wanted to do, with some degree of policy goals. In this example opposite of policy goals. Trump back in his first term was using the Antiquities Act to review designations of parks and monuments which in addition to recreational had a climate impact. He was basically staking claim on the Antiquities Act for not expanding protected resources. Then we get Biden coming in, so this is the Biden Administration using the Act protecting the public health and environment and restoring science to tackle the climate crisis and then predictably when Trump comes in he reverse that Biden order without citing the an particular Wits Act, and it's not clear to me that this unleashing American energy order even fits the technical requirements of publication but be that as it may what you have here is two presidents that over three terms using the precise authority for opposite ends. So it's worth ‑‑

When you are thinking about a particular action it's worth going back in time and seeing if that same action has been justified by a prior executive on similar or identical grounds. Bringing us truly into the present, I actually had to amend this in early June we have a contrast in executive actions federalizing the National Guard. I did put in a note link the list of times that these types of actions have been taken just for historical moments.

These are not the only two but I thought these were in contrast. In 1957 pursuant to executive order and we happen that because it has a publication cite, with a date stamp we have Eisenhower federalizing the National Guard for Brown V. Board of Education, and we can contrast that with the Trump action that happened the day after I created this presentation. The addressing violence and disorder in response to immigration enforcement was not an executive order.

That was very clear when you look at what it did. It did not provide a geographic limit, it avoided publication and Trump did not make an effort to assert it as an executive order and the cited authority was rebellion or invasion, also part of 10U.S.C. but a different set‑up than the one that Eisenhower chose. So there is a temptation to say these are comparable but they aren't in terms of the actual legal authority of the president.

We're going to see over time how it plays out in terms of Trump's particular memoranda. I'm going to just gloss over the next slide. This is a preview of federal agency activities. They're pursuant to statutory authority, and they're intended to influence statutes and fill in details that are left unclear. At the molt there is enormous controversy and unsettledness about regulatory activities for one thing the way that executive agencies had a bit of a default credibility from the U.S. Supreme Court, and that's been eliminated. There is still a specific processes that agencies have to follow. They generally fit under the heading of transparency and authority. There is something that I have to confess was not on my radar called a direct final rule which is something actually that those of you on a lot of the disability rights list serves are aware of. An effort basically to bypass the regulatory process and let the agency direct a particular rule which makes it more stream lined and less transparent and with less opportunity for public input.

So on that moment momentous cliff‑hanger, which I can't envision the end of at the moment we will move on to the judicial branch. Specified in Article 3 of the Constitution. It was last at the time the founders were framing the government.

If you have heard the phrase Article 3 judge, it means that somebody has been pointed to the bench via a method that satisfies the requirements of Article 3 of the Constitution. Therefore nonArticle 3, appointments, and another thing you're thinking about when you think about authority is what is the level of decision‑making authority by the ‑‑ what George W. Bush would call the ruling of Article 3 judge, known‑Article three judge, and the key information here about court cases, and there are judicial decisions and they are for the most part published but they can be unpublished and we will talk about that in a minute or so but basically the published decisions can be citable for the body politic, and sometimes they only apply to a specific case and sort of public law versus private law in the legislative sphere. There are three main levels, here year just talking about the federal courts. Already the federal courts consistent of the district court, which is a trial court. That's where you go at the beginning. If the trial court makes a decision it can be appealed to the circuit court and then the highest court is the U.S. Supreme Court. Obviously published decisions particularly circuit and Supreme Court decisions get visibility as they should, they're important. Most cases never get there.

Most cases settle at the district court stage without even the district court creating an opinion. There are district court decisions that are never appealed because often that just breaks the law count to settlement. If a case does go to the appellate court and there is an appellate decision that for the most part is not a matter of right to go to the Supreme Court but you're looking at the top of the pyramid of cases that get to the Supreme Court. On the next slide we're going to do technicality language exploration.

Many folks have heard of what's called a caption on a pleading. It is what describes the filing of the court who filed the case and filed the motion or the order that's in the docket, what the case number is, the lower court number was, et cetera, et cetera. That generally takes up a full page of what's called a pleading, which is a document filed in a court. The style is really this technical and much skinnier part of a caption that's basically the party name and the party name, so and so versus so and so. It can include the case number.

It's generally saying what's the style it's going to be Doe versus Doe with whatever party names. Party names can change if a party drops out. If a party name is different it might be because a party has dropped out or another party has joined. You don't really know. There is also something unique in the style of U.S. Supreme Court cases. Typically the first name in the party versus party is the person or entity that initiated the lawsuit.

Who actually got the ball rolling. The plaintiff, and on the other side the party name of the defendant, basically the party who did not initiate the case but were called into court because someone else dragged them into court. Regardless of what's going on at the district court level or the intermediate court level the party nails tend to stay on the same side of the "v." It may be that the plaintiff loses but ‑‑ it may be that the plaintiff wins and the defendant loses and the defendant then appeals to the intermediate court but the intermediate court caption and style is still going to have the plaintiff's name on the first side. There is a pronounced exception for the U.S. Supreme Court. The U.S. Supreme Court style the first name is always going to be the party that asked for high court review. What this tell us you is that first name has lost the case below.

You can only appeal if you have lost. The winner does not have a chance to appeal. It's a split decision there can be a partial appeal for either or both parties but the U.S. Supreme Court style can flip. It can be disconcerting if you're trying to look alphabetically so keep that in mind that there are times when ‑‑ maybe about half the time that the U.S. style is going to be the polar opposite of styles in the lower courts.

Now we're going to go on to what's called a slip opinion. It's a hot‑off‑the‑press situation where all of the formal its that we talked about with codified and formal citations have not yet happened in any branch because it's truly just been issued. So slip opinion it literally used to be that there was a distinct piece of paper loose‑leaf paper that we would get handed down and that was the first announcement, first iteration of the opinion.

There typically is a notation on the opinion, whether it's published or unpublished. Historically unpublished decisions that I mentioned, only bind in that one lawsuit but there's been a recent change in that and it's grounded in the logic of the modern world. It truly used to be often impossible and certainly very difficult to find unpublished opinions because the way that you found opinions was that you would go to a bound reporter book and you looked at the right part and there was your opinion and that reporter book was the only containing published opinions. Unpublished opinions would end up in court for however long they were supposed to stay there and drifted off to the Indiana Jones documents where they go to die. California still V a division between publication and un publication. The federal rule is that you can cite a decision that's unpublished, whether the Court you're citing it to or the party you're trying to persuade gives it as much prominence as a published decision remains to be seen but it's sort of a nod to the fact in the modern world almost nothing is impossible to find.

The next slide talks about category of cases, and we have five types. Appellate cases, specified by numbers and we will talk about those in a moment. Bankruptcy cases, which have the BK abbreviation, criminal cases, CR, civil cases, CV and multidistrict litigation, MDL, that's a complex scenario where there is litigation initiated over a topic of significant interest in different parts of the country and parts are trying to coordinate that.

And folks who do multi district litigation, specialize in that, but then there are the rest of us, those that specialize in appellate cases, bankruptcy cases, criminal cases, personally like many of you I do civil cases which means most of my civil case numbers are going to include the CV. The appellate cases will come into play when you appeal or are defending a CV decision in the lower court.

So the numbers and we will have an example of this momentarily. The numbers include the year the case was filed the number of the case, the year of the case is helpful, the case number much like the number of a piece of public law legislation tells you when in the rotation the case was heard or decided.

This next slide is about decoding party pleadings, I actually chose the Grants Pass decision which is litigation around anti camping ordinances affecting people living without shelter. So this case started as Blake v City of Grants Pass, and Blake was superseded by Johnson so the style changed in the intermediate court and the trial court you can see the year it was filed, 2018, CV, it was civil, the case number, and that indicates the volume of cases that are filed needing five digits and this last number, the CL this is interesting, I have never seen this before. Typically that, that is not a number, CL, it's either two or three letter indication at the very end of the trial court citation. It's almost always the initials of the judge or magistrate hearing the case.

For some reason the district of Oregon every judge is identified by their own initials except Mark Clarke who is identified as CL, which makes this a bad example because it's informative to look at the final letters and if you know the bench you can figure out who the judge is. So I will leave the Oregon mystery for solving by someone with more insight than I have.

We will look at Johnson v City of Grants Pass, and this is a style change and you wouldn't know this but I know that Blake and Johnson were plaintiffs and the style is as is typical which is plaintiff is first and the defendant remains named second. The citation is a two‑digit year followed by the number of the case so 20 meaning 2020 and then the citation of five digits.

This is also a good illustration of how cases can be consolidated because effectively they involve the same subject matter so at times you will see courts basically saying this is a case about not just this one case but these two cases with two different case numbers. We're hearing them together because effectively they're legally the same.

The style in Grants Pass flipped, so we know that Grants Pass lost below because they are now first and the defendant is first, Grants Pass, and then the plaintiff is second. And this case was given the docket case number for the U.S. Supreme Court of 23, and it was case 175. Which, again, is a low number if you look historically at the number of cases that the Supreme Court has decided over time.

These are basically the party pleadings, which when things are pending and they're slip opinions, and the case filing isn't over in any true sense. The next slide talks about where cases end up when they are over and as I mentioned they're chronological reporter series, they're different for different levels of court so district court decisions are D., circuit courts are Cir and Federal Reporter is F. The Supreme Court, this used to be important because people would purchase law firms and purchase these Reporter Series. Pretty much at this point we rely on the internet. You can see the F citation and the circuit court so if you decode that you can see what level of court decided something.

I will now ask Ally to click on this one clinic which is this Just Security link I have no idea how the folks doing this manage to sleep because they are putting up in realtime pretty much every case that has been filed against the second Trump Administration. So another place right now to get actual pleadings in addition to websites and media and browser searches is to go to Just Security, within 24 hours or sooner they have things up so I will pause and see if Ally had time to bring that up.

ALLY: It's up.

LINDA KILB: So it's nice to see key word search through the whole docket. Now you can look for ‑‑ and they range in categories. So I commend that website. I feel like you can pretty much know everything there is to know about free documents.

I did put other links and resources on the next slide. I'm not going to explore those in detail, just offering them up for you. And then I put on the following slide about decoding lawyer court decisions where to find the Grants Pass decision, which is what I used as an example, in legal citation form. This slide also includes the published citation for the circuit decision, 50F4. So the F tells you it's circuit court, the 4th volume of the series of the Fed Reporter and then the volume is 50. So 50 is the volume, F4th means it's the circuit series, the 4th iteration in the Federal Circuit Reporter and the page number and then of course the Court and the date. So I have run us out of time, unfortunately, however the last slide says thank you.

Thanks for your interest and, again very much happy to reach out if you reach out with questions at any point I'm happy to answer those. I will turn it back over to Ally.

ALLY: Thanks, Linda. I don't have anything else to add but thank you all for coming.

[End of Transcript]