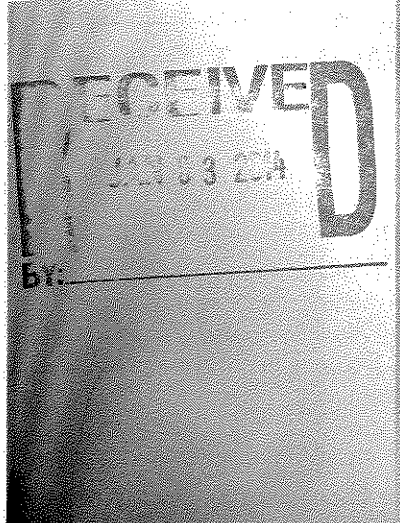
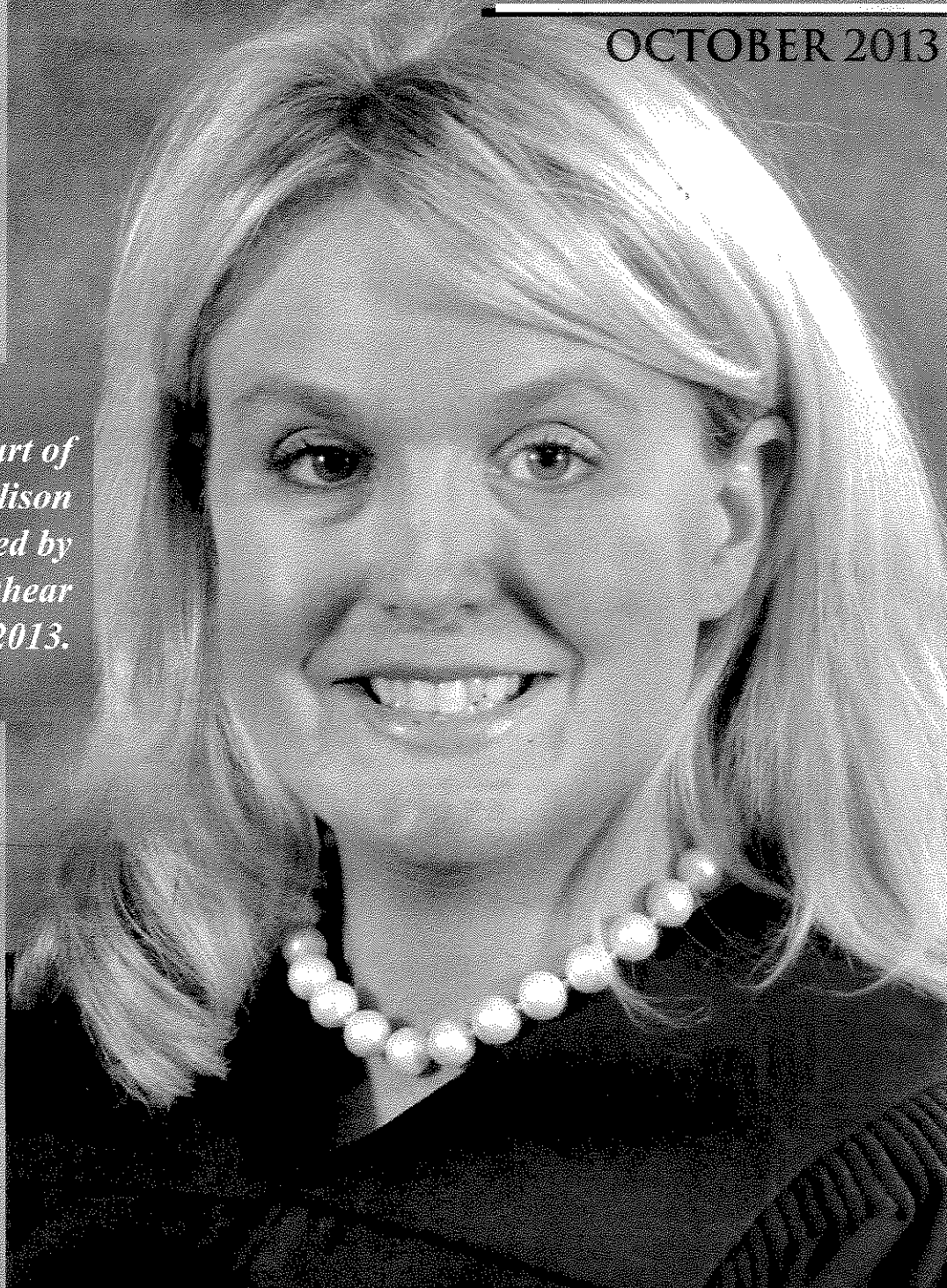


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OCTOBER 2013



Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Allison Jones. Appointed by Governor Steve Beshear July 12, 2013.



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WHO'S LOOKING FOR "FREE" ACCESS?: LEGAL DATABASES AT THE CHASE LAW LIBRARY

By Jennifer Mart-Rice



It is no secret that electronic databases and access to various online legal resources has become a much easier, faster, and more intuitive way of doing legal research. However, gaining access and searching through these databases is sometimes cumbersome and time consuming, not to mention expensive! Remember the "good old days" when you had unlimited Westlaw, Lexis, and countless other legal resource access in law school? As you may have noticed, you no longer have that luxury and yet you find yourself in need of these expensive databases that contain such a variety of information. Did you realize that as a patron of the Chase Law Library you can come into the library, not only for access to books such as practice materials, but also for electronic database access, including Westlaw Next? This article highlights some of the accessible databases that can be utilized when one is *physically* in the Chase Law Library and the types of materials they contain that can benefit your practice.¹

BLOOMBERG BNA

The Bloomberg BNA database, provided by parent company Bloomberg, contains access to numerous legal, regulatory, and business materials that can help you to keep abreast of what is going on in the legal and business world and how it could affect your, or your clients', business or personal dealings. The subscription to Bloomberg BNA that Chase provides on their public terminals contains information on the following legal topics: Antitrust, Banking, Bankruptcy, Corporate, Criminal, Employee Benefits, Employment & Labor, Environmental & Safety, Ethics, Family Law, Health Care, Homeland Security, Intellectual Property, International (including Tax), Litigation, Products Liability, Securities & Corporate Responsibility, Tax & Accounting, and Trade & Commerce. Once you access the Bloomberg BNA database, you will be able to search through a wide range of resources and reports provided by Bloomberg's network of reporters, correspondents, and practitioners who provide expert analysis and guidance for the usage of legal tools and

information that exist. Starting your research on the Bloomberg BNA database is made easy by the alphabetical subject list that is chock-full of helpful resources.

INTELLICONNECT

IntelliConnect, a creation of Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, is another great database that provides access to a multitude of resources that may be utilized in both the corporate and legal worlds. The subscription to IntelliConnect, via Chase, includes three, very broad content areas: Human Resources, Tax, and Business. These content areas pull from a variety of publishers such as CCH, Aspen, and Wolters Kluwer. These materials are all placed within the IntelliConnect interface to provide users with a much broader database that will not only search all specified content areas, but it will also organize your results across multiple sources to save you time in the library. Each content area is continually growing as more practice areas are added to IntelliConnect. Most recently, Banking & Finance, Insurance, and Products Liability were all added to the IntelliConnect platform which can be easily searched by browsing areas of law or selecting a specific title of interest.

HEINONLINE

HeinOnline is the most widely used database by public patrons, students, and faculty that Chase offers. The content provided by HeinOnline encompasses "nearly 100 million pages of legal history [...] in an online, fully-searchable [...] format"² that consists of smaller "libraries" within the larger database that can be used for nearly every type of researcher, whether you are doing historic or present-day research. With full-text access to over eighteen-hundred law journals, numerous international law resources, the entire Congressional Record, famous world trials dating back to the 1700s, and numerous other resources, HeinOnline provides a lot of access in one click of the mouse. Some specific state materials that are contained within the Hein database include historical Kentucky statutes from 1802-1963, Ken-

tucky Acts from 1792-present, and Kentucky Attorney General Opinions and Reports from 1960-present.³ All of the documents on Hein are either image-based or high-resolution reproductions of

the originals so not only is searching a title less complicated, but citation is also an easier task when referring to these documents. As you may be aware, some of these older materials are very hard to locate so that you can perform your research, but here they are, sitting on Hein waiting for you to discover them. A recent addition to the HeinOnline database was announced in July 2013 by Hein and Fastcase. "Hein will [begin to] provide federal and state case law to HeinOnline subscribers via inline hyperlinks powered by Fastcase."⁴ This is quite an impressive addition for those current, and future, subscribers. One caveat about Hein is that it can be a little frustrating to search if you do not have a specific resource in mind. However, with a little assistance from a librarian or a Hein user guide, you can quickly be on your way with the information you need.

PROQUEST CONGRESSIONAL

Another heavily utilized database that Chase provides to its patrons is Proquest Congressional. This particular database provides researchers with access to congressional publications and materials that deal with nearly every topic. You can find both historical and contemporary legislative information as well as full-text access to congressional reports, hearings, committee prints, etc. The Proquest database is most useful when doing legislative history research or if you are trying to track a current bill through the legislative process. The database is easily searched and contains some information and materials that date back to 1798.

WESTLAW NEXT PATRON ACCESS

The final electronic database I would like to highlight is Westlaw. Within the law library, there are two Westlaw public access terminals available for library patrons on the second floor, across from the reference desk. Within the last year these terminals have undergone a significant upgrade from Westlaw Classic to Westlaw Next. The new platform provides streamlined topic selection, more fluid transition between documents, and wider searching capabilities. Have no fear, the KeyCite feature from Classic Westlaw is still available on the Westlaw Next interface and you can still type in citations to retrieve KeyCite reports for no charge. Another cost-savvy feature that was added to the Westlaw Next terminals recently is the capability to access and then download documents to a USB flash drive. The ability to print is still an option within the Library but you can now cut down on your out-of-office time and expenses.⁵

CONCLUSION

Access to all of these electronic databases within the Chase Law Library can be found at any of the public computer terminals on the first and second floors. Even though access to these terminals and databases does not require a library card, I would like to encourage you to apply for one so that you can utilize not only the vast amount of electronic resources available, but also to gain access to the library's large print collection.⁶ Remember to check the Chase Law Library's website for their current hours, directions, and parking information.⁷ In conclusion, when you are researching, whether it be in the library or in your office, you should always remember the number one rule for legal research: Always ask for help! The Chase Librarians are readily available to help you either in the library or via phone, so feel free to ask for help.⁸

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¹ A complete list of Chase's "Major Databases" can be found at <http://chaselaw.nku.campusguides.com/databases>.

² Information provided by HeinOnline: <http://home.heinonline.org/about/what-is-hein-online/>

³ This material may be found in the Historical State Statutes Library, the Session Laws Library, and the State Attorney General Reports and Opinions Library on HeinOnline.


⁴ Please see Hein's press release, dated July 9, 2013 for more information: <http://heinonline.org/HeinDocs/HeinFastCasePressRelease.pdf>.

⁵ The cost of printing from the Westlaw public terminals is 10¢ per page.

⁶ Please visit the Chase Law Library's Circulation website for more information on how to obtain a library card: <http://chaselaw.nku.edu/library/services/circulation.html>.

⁷ This information can be found on the Chase Law Library's website: <http://chaselaw.nku.edu/library.html>.

⁸ For reference assistance, please check the website for current hours and contact information: <http://chaselaw.nku.edu/library/services/reference.html>.










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