

Finding Michigan Court Cases at the Flint Public Library Print and Online Resources

ABOUT MICHIGAN COURTS:

The state of Michigan has the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and Trial Courts (District Courts and Circuit Courts, with Civil, Criminal, and Family Divisions). These courts are responsible for interpreting and applying the law of the state of Michigan. Each case then sets the precedent for future cases and interpretations.

SOURCES OF MICHIGAN CASE LAW:

PRINT SOURCES:

- **West's Michigan Reporter: North western reporter. 2nd series (N.W.2d)**
(Michigan History 347.99 Mi - Law Aisle)
A weekly report of cases decided in the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals. It reports cases back to 1941.

- **Callaghan's Michigan Digest (Callaghan's)**
(Michigan History 347.99 Ca - Law Aisle)
Provides a summary of all reported decisions of the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, and selected Michigan-related decisions of the federal courts in the Sixth Circuit, which has jurisdiction over Michigan.

- **Michigan Law & Practice Encyclopedia, Second Edition (M.L.P.2d)**
(Michigan History 345.22 MI - Law Aisle)
A summary of Michigan law and cases heard in Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals. It also includes information about some federal court cases that interpret or affect Michigan law.

ONLINE SOURCES:

- **Michigan Courts: Michigan Supreme Court**
<http://www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/index.htm>
Under the Clerk's Office tab, find Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals published opinions released since 2001, unpublished Michigan Court of Appeals opinions dating back to July 1996, and summaries of cases that have been argued before the Michigan Supreme Court since October 2001.

- **Michigan Courts: Michigan Court of Appeals**
<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/resources/opinions.htm>
Find Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals published opinions released since 2001, and Michigan Court of Appeals unpublished opinions released since July 1996.

- **Michigan Appellate Digest**
<http://coa.courts.mi.gov/Digest/DigestLaunchPage.jsp>
The online Michigan Appellate Digest summarizes published Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals opinions dating back to 1992. The Digest will no longer summarize opinions published after June 2011 but will continue to identify major topics and subtopics.

- **Michigan Official Historical Reports**
<http://government.westlaw.com/miofficial/historical/>
Contains Michigan Supreme Court published opinions from 1942 – 2000 and published Michigan Court of Appeals opinions from 1977 to 2000.

ONLINE SOURCES:

- **State Bar of Michigan: Court Opinions**

<http://www.michbar.org/opinions/opinionsearch.cfm>

e-Journal contains case summaries and published and unpublished opinions from the Michigan Court of Appeals and the Michigan Supreme Court, as well as some federal courts, dating back to 1999.

- **7th Judicial Circuit Court**

<http://www.co.geneseee.mi.us/cgi-bin/gweb.exe?mode=5250&sessionname=as400cc>

Contains a database of “Online Court Records” available back to 1979.

- **67th District Court**

<http://www.co.geneseee.mi.us/cgi-bin/gweb.exe?mode=7800&sessionname=genpool>

An online “Records Check” feature has Court records dating back to 1983.

HOW TO FIND A MICHIGAN CASE BY NUMBER:

466



Volume

Mich.



Michigan Report
(Michigan Supreme Court)

264



Beginning on page 264

250



Volume

Mich. App.



Michigan Appellate Report
(Michigan Appellate Court)

622



Beginning on page 622

672



Volume

N.W. 2d



North Western Reporter 2nd ed.
(Michigan Sup. Ct. and Michigan App. Ct)

336



Beginning on page 336

- If you have the Michigan Report (Mich.) or Michigan Appellate Report (Mich. App.) number, look in the tables at the front of **N.W.2d** to find the corresponding **N.W.2d** number. The spines of **N.W.2d** are labeled as to which tables are in which volumes.
- Once you have the **N.W.2d** number, the case will start in the volume and on the page number indicated, and continue for several pages. The description will cover the factual background of the case, holdings, major arguments and precedents, and the judicial opinion.

HOW TO FIND RECENT MICHIGAN SUPREME AND MICHIGAN APPELLATE COURT CASES

- For recent Michigan Supreme Court cases, see **Michigan Supreme Court** (online source).
- For recent Michigan Supreme Court and recent Michigan Court of Appeals cases, see **Michigan Court of Appeals** (online source) and perform a “Field Search.” A field search lets you limit your search to: this week, last week, this month, and last month. Users can also select their own date range.
- For recent Michigan Supreme Court or Michigan Court of Appeals opinions, see **State Bar of Michigan: Court Opinions** (online source). Go to “Search the *e-Journal* Summaries” to browse all opinions released in a given year.

HOW TO FIND MICHIGAN CASE LAW ON A GENERAL SUBJECT:

- Use the annual index in **Callaghan’s**. Under each heading, there are lists of related, official **Callaghan’s** topics. Topic lists proceed from general to specific.
- Use the annual index in **M.L.P.2d**. Under each general subject heading, there are lists of related, specific topics.
- Use either **Michigan Supreme Court** or **Michigan Court of Appeals** (online sources) to perform a “Field Search.” Limit your search by choosing “Case Type.”
- Search **Michigan Appellate Digest’s** (online source) “Major Topics.”
- Search **State Bar of Michigan: Court Opinions** *e- Journal* summaries (online source) by “Practice Area,” Court, and year.

HOW TO FIND MICHIGAN CASE LAW ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC:

- Locate the **Callaghan’s** volume containing that topic. The beginning of the topic’s entry contains a scope note (describing exactly what is included in and excluded from that topic) and an analysis, which lists the numbered sections and subsections of that topic. The text of each section is a listing of important laws and cases in chronological order. Citations to court cases list as many of the following as are applicable: plaintiffs’ and defendants’ names, Michigan Report number (Mich.), Michigan Appellate Report number (Mich.App.), and **N.W.2d** number.
- Use the **M.L.P.2d** volume that contains that topic. Topics are further broken down into chapters and sections, which are listed at the beginning of each topic. The text explains that topic, and extensive footnotes reference cases, laws, hearings, and other sections of **M.L.P.2d**. Case references give plaintiffs’ and defendants’ names, year, Michigan Report number (Mich.), Michigan Appellate Report number (Mich.App.), or **N.W.2d** number. Each topic also contains a historical appendix of older cases.
- Use **Michigan Appellate Digest’s** (online source) “Subtopic Search”

HOW TO FIND A MICHIGAN CASE BY PLAINTIFF OR DEFENDANT:

- Use the Table of Cases in **Callaghan's**. Cases are listed as plaintiff v. defendant and cross-listed by defendant in the same table. Look for either the **N.W.2d** number, the Michigan Report number (Mich.) or the Michigan Appellate Report number (Mich. App.). The table will also tell which topics and sections of **Callaghan's** relate to the case. If the volume covering that topic is newer than the Table of Cases, be sure to check at the beginning of the topic for a Table of Corresponding Sections, to see if any sections have shifted. It is also possible that the new revision of that volume may no longer include that case.
- Use the Table of Cases in **M.L.P.2d**. Cases are listed as plaintiff v. defendant and cross-listed by defendant in the same table. Look for either the **N.W.2d** number, the Michigan Report number (Mich.) or the Michigan Appellate Report number (Mich. App.). The table will also tell which topics and sections of **M.L.P.2d** relate to the case.
- Use **Michigan Supreme Court** or **Michigan Court of Appeals** (online sources) to search by "Party Name" in the "Field Search."
- See **Michigan Official Historical Reports** (online source) to search by "Case Name" in the "Field Search."
- See **Michigan Appellate Digest** (online source) to search by "Case Name."
- Search **State Bar of Michigan: Court Opinions e- Journal** summaries (online source) by "Case Name," Court, and year.

HOW TO FIND A LOCAL CASE:

- The **7th Judicial Circuit Court** (online source) has jurisdiction over Genesee County. It is responsible for family cases, civil cases with claims over \$25,000 and all felony criminal cases. The database of "Online Court Records" is searchable by case number, name, or attorney and date, and includes records back to 1979.
- The **67th District Court** (online source) has jurisdiction over Genesee County, **excluding** the City of Flint. It is responsible for traffic violations, civil cases with claims under \$25,000, landlord-tenant cases, and all misdemeanor criminal cases. The online "Records Check" is a searchable database of Court records from 1983 onward, by case number, traffic ticket number, or name.
- The **68th District Court** has jurisdiction over the City of Flint. It is responsible for felony arraignments, criminal cases punishable by one year or less in jail, civil cases up to \$25,000, small claims cases, landlord tenant cases, civil infractions (traffic tickets), and parking tickets. This court **does not** make records available online. For information, contact the Clerk's office at (810) 766-8968.