USE BLOOMBERG LAW® TO SELECT A RELEVANT TOPIC, CONDUCT RESEARCH AND ORGANIZE THE RESULTS FOR YOUR NOTE OR COMMENT.

Congratulations on becoming a member of the law review or journal at your school! Being invited to join a journal is a prestigious achievement. As a member of a journal you will have the opportunity to write your own note or comment.

With Bloomberg Law, you can zero in on a topic for your note or comment using a variety of integrated resources—from court opinions and dockets to current awareness articles and news from tens of thousands of sources.

LEARNING THE BASICS

• A note or comment is a scholarly paper that discusses a relevant legal issue and is generally 20 to 30 pages long.
• Your goal in writing a note or comment is to provide a unique perspective on an issue of law, take a position on an emerging legal issue or offer a new interpretation to an existing rule of law.
• With Bloomberg Law, you have unlimited and unrestricted access to thousands of primary and secondary sources to help you work through your topic.

STEP 1: FIND A RELEVANT TOPIC
STEP 2: RUN A PREEMPTION CHECK
STEP 3: STAY ORGANIZED

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CIRCUIT SPLITS

With Bloomberg Law, you can review court opinions to research and analyze circuit splits on a particular legal issue. A circuit split exists when two or more circuits in the United States Courts of Appeals have different interpretations of federal law. Circuit splits are a great resource to find a potential topic for your note or comment.

FIND circuit splits on Bloomberg Law using the Specialized Searches by going to the Search & Browse menu and selecting Court Opinions. Type All Federal Court Opinions in the Select Sources search box (or find Federal Court Opinions in the expandable source tree), enter the Keywords (court or circuit) s/ split and enter a date range from a few years back, such as 1/1/2011 to present (there is no need to enter an end date for this).

You also can use Bloomberg BNA’s The United States Law Week® (U.S.L.W.), a publication that tracks the most significant cases and key legislative, regulatory and legal developments across the country, to find circuit splits. In the first issue of each month, U.S.L.W. publishes a chart of the prior month’s circuit splits. You can search for this chart by opening the Search & Browse menu and selecting All Legal Content. Type United States Law Week in the Select Sources search box and select Bloomberg BNA - United States Law Week (Issues) as your source. Enter the Keywords “circuit splits” and then run your search.

CUSTOMIZE your search by utilizing the filters on the left side of the results list to select, for example, a particular Court, Topic or Industry.

FOCUS your research by using BCite™ to perform a review of cases on Bloomberg Law. BCite provides a case’s Direct History (how the case has moved through the court system), Citation Analysis (a list of the cases that have subsequently cited to it) and a Table of Authorities (a list of the cases relied on by the court that handed down the court opinion). The treatment indicators, such as Distinguished and Caution, can be particularly helpful in analyzing how courts have treated an opinion.

KEEP TRACK of your case with a Citation Alert. Receive an email when a particular case is cited in the future, so that you stay current on what is happening with that case.
CASE OF INTEREST

Personal experiences or interests can provide the basis for a thought-provoking note or comment topic. If you already have a case in mind, Bloomberg Law can help you focus your research further.

PULL up a case directly through the <GO> Bar either by case name or citation using the Court Opinions by Case Name or Citation Search option, respectively, in the drop-down list.

ENHANCE your research with BCite using a Sort By option—such as Date, Court or Analysis. Remember that a case labeled as Distinguished may be helpful to explain why a particular court has treated your case of interest differently. Distinguished means that a case has been differentiated from another opinion on either the facts or the law. Using BCite, you can easily review Distinguished cases by selecting that treatment from the Filter By options or Analysis from the Sort By options.

HOT TOPICS

Reviewing hot legal developments in the news is another great way to find a newsworthy comment or note idea. Choose an area of law that interests you and spend some time reviewing relevant publications to learn more about recent legal developments. Through Bloomberg Law, you have access to Bloomberg BNA Law Reports, over 120 legal publications written by experienced legal editors and expert practitioners on a wide range of topics and industries.

ACCESS current awareness—such as the Bloomberg BNA Law Reports and news—by selecting the Legal Analysis & News menu. By choosing BNA Law Reports, you can browse the Law Reports by topic or title. You also can search across all the Law Reports by keywords using the search on the right side of the page.

START your research by reviewing The United States Law Week. You can sign up for Email Notifications for this or any other relevant Law Reports to be informed about the latest articles.

CONTINUE your research by searching thousands of sources in our specialized News Search.
**STEP 2: RUN A PREEMPTION CHECK**

> Review existing published articles in our secondary sources to see if your topic has been written about previously.
> Easily run a check on Bloomberg Law with integrated resources and unlimited searching.

**SEARCH** all secondary sources with keywords and search operators using the `<GO>` Bar. You can start with a broad search and then focus further. Select **All Legal Content** to search across all the legal databases on Bloomberg Law.

**REFINE** your results by adding terms or, on the left side of the page, filtering by content type, then content type-specific filters such as Title and Publisher.

**CREATE** a **Search Alert** to be notified when articles that deal with the subject matter of your note or comment become available on Bloomberg Law. You decide how often you want to be notified by email—such as As Available, Hourly, Daily, Weekly or Custom (to your specifications).

**STEP 3: STAY ORGANIZED**

> Use workflow tools on Bloomberg Law to keep your research organized and up to date.
> Save all your research in one place and have quick access to all your sources.

**REVISIT YOUR RESEARCH** with the **Research Trail**. Every search you run and document you view on Bloomberg Law is saved for six months.

**ORGANIZE YOUR WORK** with **Workspaces**. You can easily create a Workspace for your comment or note and use tags and descriptions to help organize your research. Items in your Workspace remain there until you choose to delete them. You also can share the research in your Workspaces with your editors and other members of your journal or law review.

**KEEP UP WITH LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS** by setting up custom alerts to receive emails on updates to the law and your comment or note topic. Bloomberg Law makes it easy to stay current on the latest legal developments on a particular issue.

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