



United States Courts Opinions Collection on GovInfo

Search Strategies

Introduction

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) provides access to federal, appellate, district, bankruptcy and national judicial opinions through GovInfo (<https://www.govinfo.gov>). This document provides search strategies and features on GovInfo that will help you better target your search for opinions.

GovInfo [search features](#) include:

- The **basic search box** (first tab on search widget, all pages) uses **keywords and search operators**. Apply specific **filters and sorting** to target your search further over certain content, fields, or other criteria.

The screenshot shows the GovInfo search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Browse, About, Developers, Features, Help, and Feedback, along with a search button. Below this is a search widget with tabs for Search, Advanced, and Citation. The search term 'A.G.A. Flowers opinion' is entered in the search box. Below the search box, there are filters for 'Refined By' and 'Refine Your Search Further'. The 'Refined By' section shows 'Collection' and 'Organization' filters. The 'United States Courts Opinions' collection is selected, and the 'United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida' organization is also selected. The search results show 8 records, with the first result highlighted: '01-13984 - A.G.A. Flowers, Inc.'. The result includes the case title, court name, and a brief description of the memorandum opinion.



- The **advanced search box** (second tab on search widget, on all pages) uses a form to help you target your search using special criteria such as circuit or state.

The screenshot shows the advanced search interface with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: Search, **Advanced**, Citation
- Date Range: All Dates
- Refine by Collection:
 - Select All Collections
 - Public and Private Laws
 - Senate Manual
 - Statute Compilations
 - Statutes at Large
 - United States Code
 - United States Courts Opinions**
 - United States Government Manual
 - United States Reports
- Search In: Full-Text
- + Additional Criteria
- SEARCH button
- Get Bookmarkable URL | Help

- The **browse** tab navigates you to specific content (such as A-Z or Category pages).

The screenshot shows the GovInfo homepage with the following elements:

- GovInfo logo
- Navigation menu: **Browse**, About, Developers, Features, Help, Feedback
- Discover U.S. Government Information
- Search tabs: Search, Advanced, Citation
- Search bar: What are you searching for? SEARCH
- Browse options:
 - A to Z**: Browse documents by alphabetical order
 - Category**: Browse documents in specific collections
 - Date**: Browse documents within a timeframe or date range
 - Committee**: Browse documents by the issuing committee
 - Author**: View documents by government authors

Additional tips and tricks for finding information are posted on GovInfo's [United States Courts Opinions help page](#). This page is linked from the United States Courts Opinions browse page and also every single opinion's [Details](#) page (located under Actions to the left).



Search by Judge

Example: opinions with "judge ___" in the docket text.

Note: Inclusion of judge in docket text is inconsistent across courts.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts dockettext:\(judge ___\)](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Docket Text* from the first box and enter judge in the free text box.

Search by Code Section

Example: opinions that reference code section "11 U.S.C. 347(b)" in the full text.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts "11 U.S.C. 347\(b\)"](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Full-Text* from the first box and enter "[11 U.S.C. 347\(b\)](#)" in the free text box.

Search by Case Name

Example: opinions with case name "A.G.A. Flowers, Inc." in the title field.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts title:\(A.G.A. Flowers, Inc.\)](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Title* from the first box and enter [A.G.A. Flowers, Inc.](#) in the free text box.

Search by Keyword

Example: opinions with keyword "deference" in the full text.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts deference](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Full-Text* from the first box and enter [deference](#) in the free text box.

Search by Order Title

Example: opinions with the phrase "memorandum opinion and order sanctioning" in the docket text.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts dockettext:\("memorandum opinion and order sanctioning"\)](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Docket Text* from the first box and enter "[memorandum opinion and order sanctioning](#)" in the free text box.



Search by Case Number

Example: opinions with "1:01-bk-13984" as the Case Number.

- Using Basic Search, enter: [collection:uscourts casenumber:\(1:01-bk-13984\)](#) OR the shortened version of the case number, e.g., [collection:uscourts casenumber:\(01-13984\)](#).
- Using Advanced Search, select *United States Courts Opinions* under Refine by Collection, then under Search In, select *Case Number* from the first box and enter [1:01-bk-13984](#) in the free text box OR the shortened version of the case number, e.g., [01-13984](#).