

# The Unofficial User Guide to New Casemaker Features (Part 2)

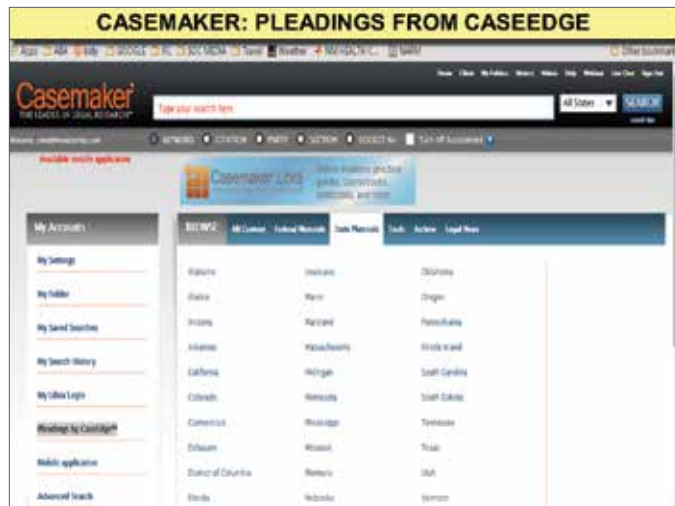
By Carole A. Levitt and Mark E. Rosch

In last month's column, we acquainted you with several new features recently rolled out by Casemaker. This month, we conclude with an overview of additional new features including CaseEdge pleadings database, statutes and administrative codes, Annotator, and Casemaker Libra.

## Pleadings database

Casemaker has teamed up with CaseEdge to offer a pleadings database. So far, it is limited to Colorado, Texas, and California (but not necessarily every trial court in each state). The database contains five million pleadings, and by March it will have expanded to 30 million pleadings by adding more Colorado and California courts and other states' courts.

There are two ways to search the pleadings database, depending on whether you want to search only pleadings or all of Casemaker's databases. To search only pleadings, click Pleadings by CaseEdge™ from the left column on Casemaker's home page.



You are then given the option of conducting one of three searches. Text Search allows you to search by keywords and phrases (using Casemaker's Boolean and proximity connectors) and by state (or all states), as shown in the next screen shot.



Quick Search allows you to search by pleading type. This refers to the underlined header in the pleading after the caption naming the parties, such as "Motion for Summary Judgment."

Advanced Search is a combination of (1) pleading type; (2) fact type, which refers to keywords related to events in the pleading's statement of facts; and (3) issue type, referring to keywords surrounding references to law, rules, and statutes that represent the legal issues on which the pleading is based (e.g., "when is summary judgment for a defendant proper").

A second way to search pleadings is to conduct a basic Casemaker search; pleadings relevant to your search will be indicated in the Overview list (see next screen shot). In this example, we searched all Texas materials with the phrase "negligence per se." In addition to results for cases, statutes, etc., we received notification that there are 500 pleadings.

Law Practice Solutions is a regular feature brought to you by the Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) of the State Bar of Michigan, featuring articles on practice management for lawyers and their staff. For more resources offered by the PMRC, visit our website at <http://www.michbar.org/pmrc/content> or call our Helpline at (800) 341-9715 to speak with JoAnn Hathaway or Diane Ebersole, Practice Management Advisors.



After you select Pleadings from the Overview list, you can narrow your search with the filters in the left-hand column, as shown in the next screen shot. You would have achieved the same result had you begun your search by clicking Pleadings by CaseEdge™ from the left column on Casemaker’s home page.



Click the down arrows for each of the three filters to display their drop-down lists, which allow you to filter by type—pleading, fact, or issue. You can also choose to filter by state (Colorado, Texas, or California) and jurisdiction (choose a local court).

You will see a preview of any pleading you choose, but you can only view the full pleading if you set up an account with CaseEdge (no credit card is required). You are entitled to five free full pleadings each month as part of your free Casemaker subscription. Each additional full pleading costs \$1.99.

To obtain unlimited pleadings, you must set up a paid account with CaseEdge (\$35/month), but this also entitles you to its law-practice technology platform, which allows your entire firm

to access legal research, e-Signature, and expert witness profiles; build a pleadings library; and much more, as shown in the next screen shot.



For more information on CaseEdge, including free webinars and guides about its platform, visit <http://www.caseedge.com>.

### Currency of statutes and administrative codes

Casemaker’s editors continuously update all state statutes directly from the legislative acts as they are passed. State administrative codes are treated in a similar fashion and are continuously updated as regulations are adopted or amended in the state registers. You no longer have to check two different places to view up-to-date statutes and regulations.

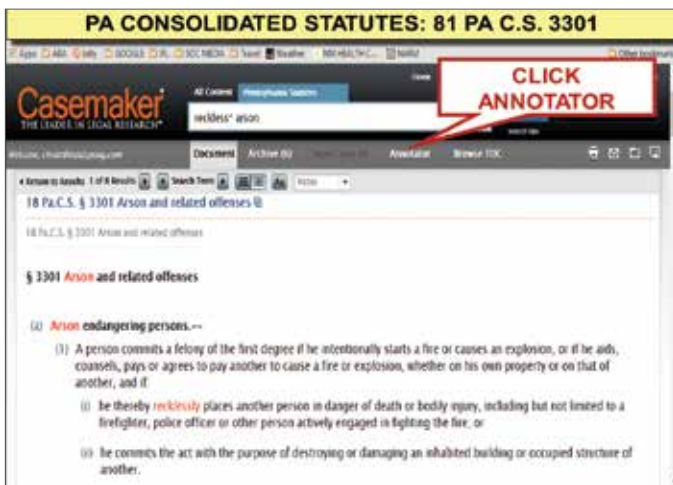
### Annotator

Many legal researchers disliked using free and low-cost online legal research databases because their statutes and codes lacked case annotations they were accustomed to reading in print sources and pay databases. This issue has been eradicated now that Casemaker has added Annotator to its federal and state statutes and codes. Although this feature is mentioned in the Casemaker user

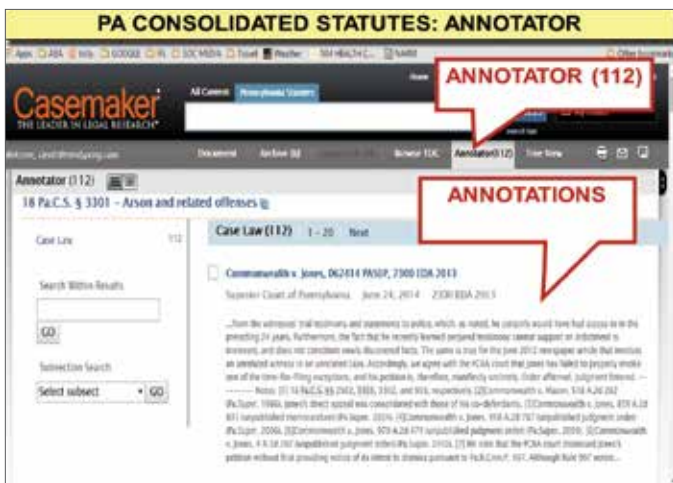
Casemaker’s editors continuously update all state statutes directly from the legislative acts as they are passed.

## Annotator is the product of much editorial effort to retrieve as many references as possible.

manual, it's worth pointing out because you might not notice it on your results page. When viewing any statute in Casemaker, click Annotator, as shown in the next screen shot.



You will receive a list of linked cases that cite the statute with enough words around the statutory reference to help discern its context, as shown in the following screen shot.



As explained by a Casemaker spokesperson, Annotator is “unlike those of some other services; it is the product of much editorial effort to retrieve as many references as possible and, perhaps

more importantly, to avoid references to other works that happen to use the same number as the statute.”

### Casemaker Libra

After you conduct a search, the Overview list might include a section labeled Books, Treatises, CLE & Other Research Materials. This is Casemaker Libra, an online searchable library of materials published by the American Bar Association, Colorado Bar Association, and Washington State Bar Association. You can review the title and table of contents for free, but you must purchase the materials to view and search the full text. There are three purchase/subscription plans, and prices vary depending on whether you are subscribing as an individual, group, or enterprise of 51+ attorneys:

- “All-Publications” subscription (contains all materials)
- “Practice area” subscription (contains materials in specific practice areas)
- Individual book purchase (not every book is available for individual purchase; some can only be subscribed to as part of a practice-area subscription)

### Conclusion

Casemaker has also added more help features including live chat, expanded e-mail and toll-free phone customer support, and free webinars and video tutorials. These are welcome additions to Casemaker’s strong customer service resources. ■



*Carole A. Levitt, president of Internet For Lawyers (www.netforlawyers.com) is an acclaimed CLE seminar speaker. She is a bestselling ABA Law Practice Division coauthor of seven books and has co-authored 13 editions of The Cybersleuth’s Guide to the Internet. Her areas of expertise include Internet investigative, legal, and social media research; social media ethics; and Google search and cloud apps. She was previously a California attorney, law librarian, and legal research and writing professor at Pepperdine.*



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