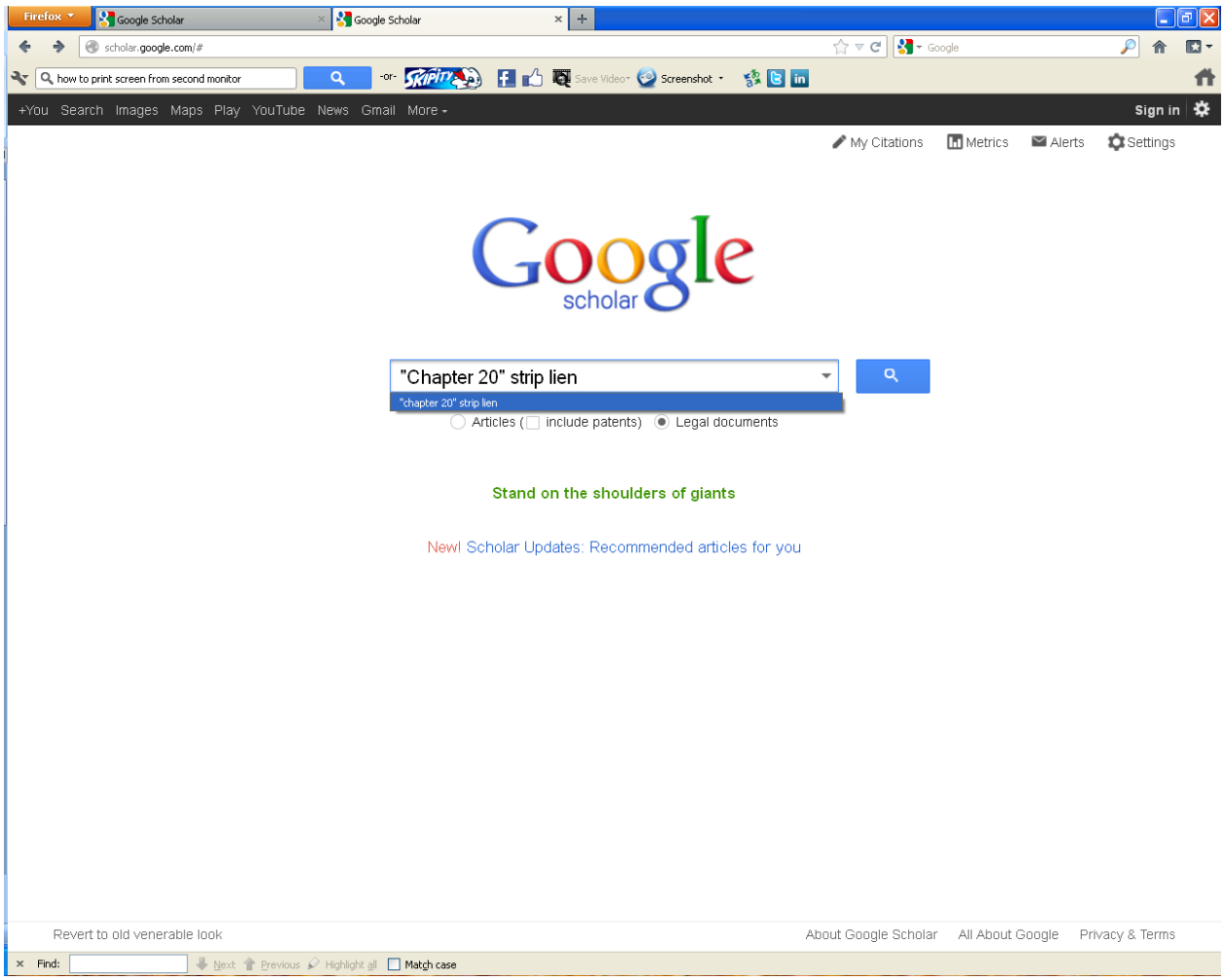
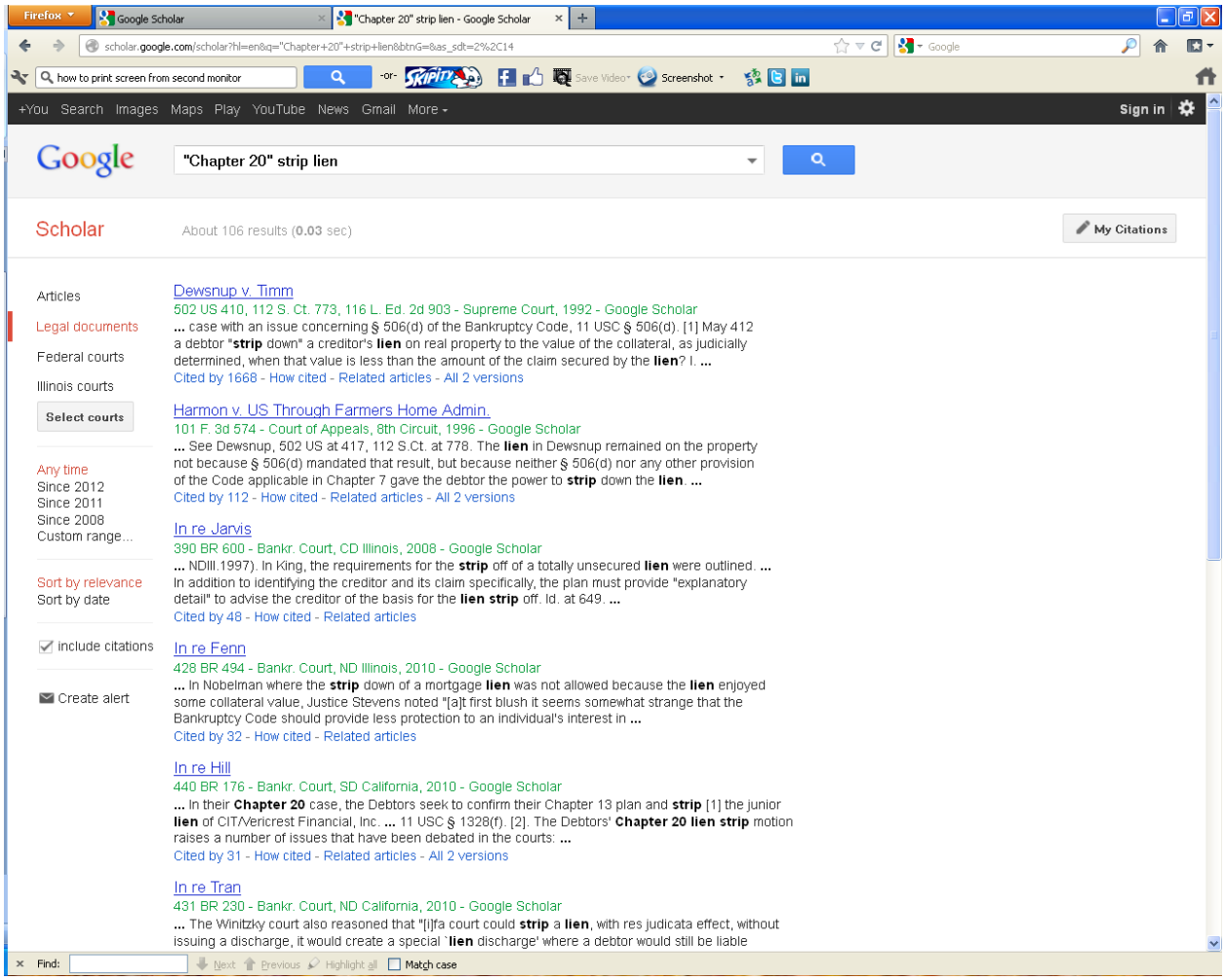
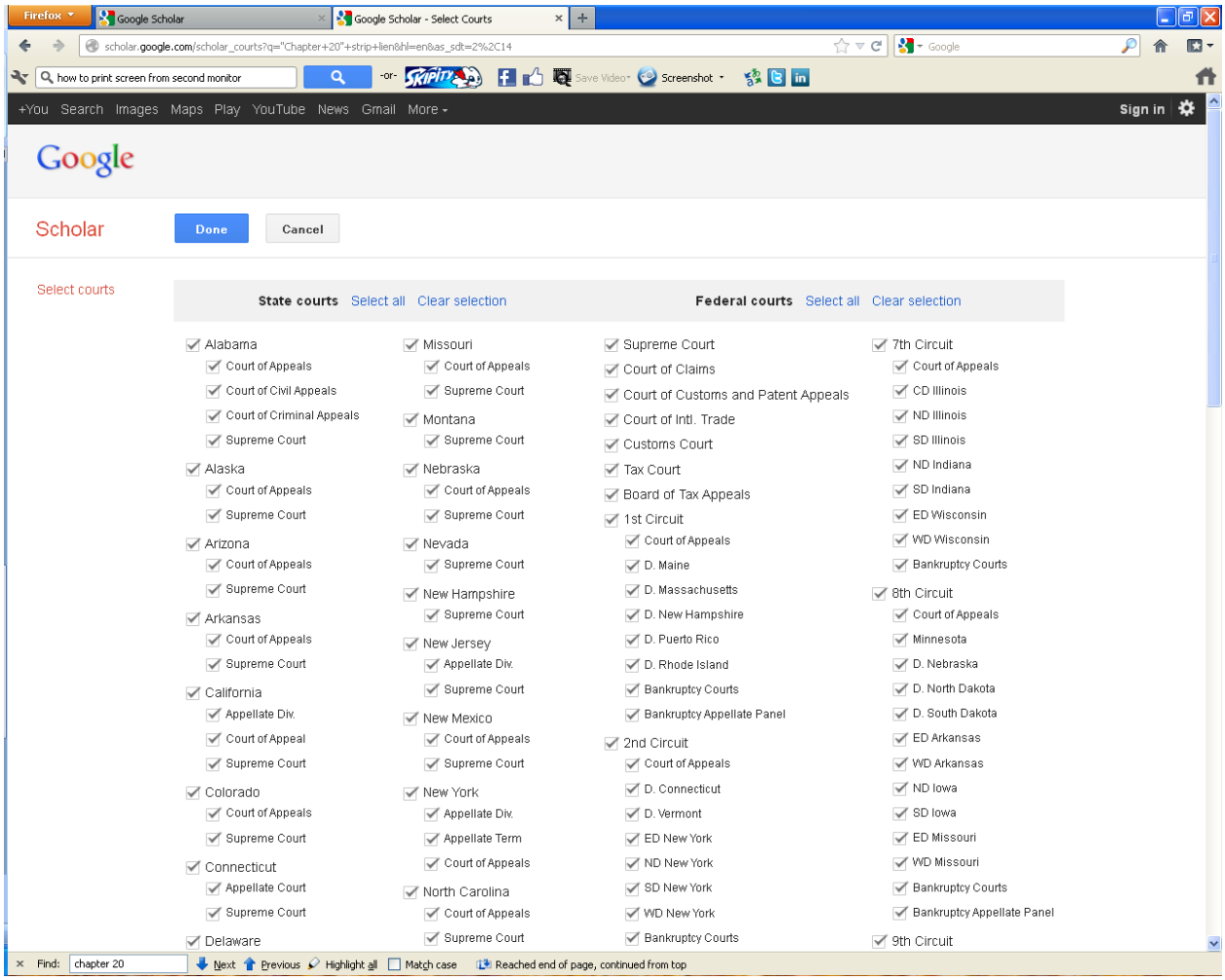


www.scholar.google.com

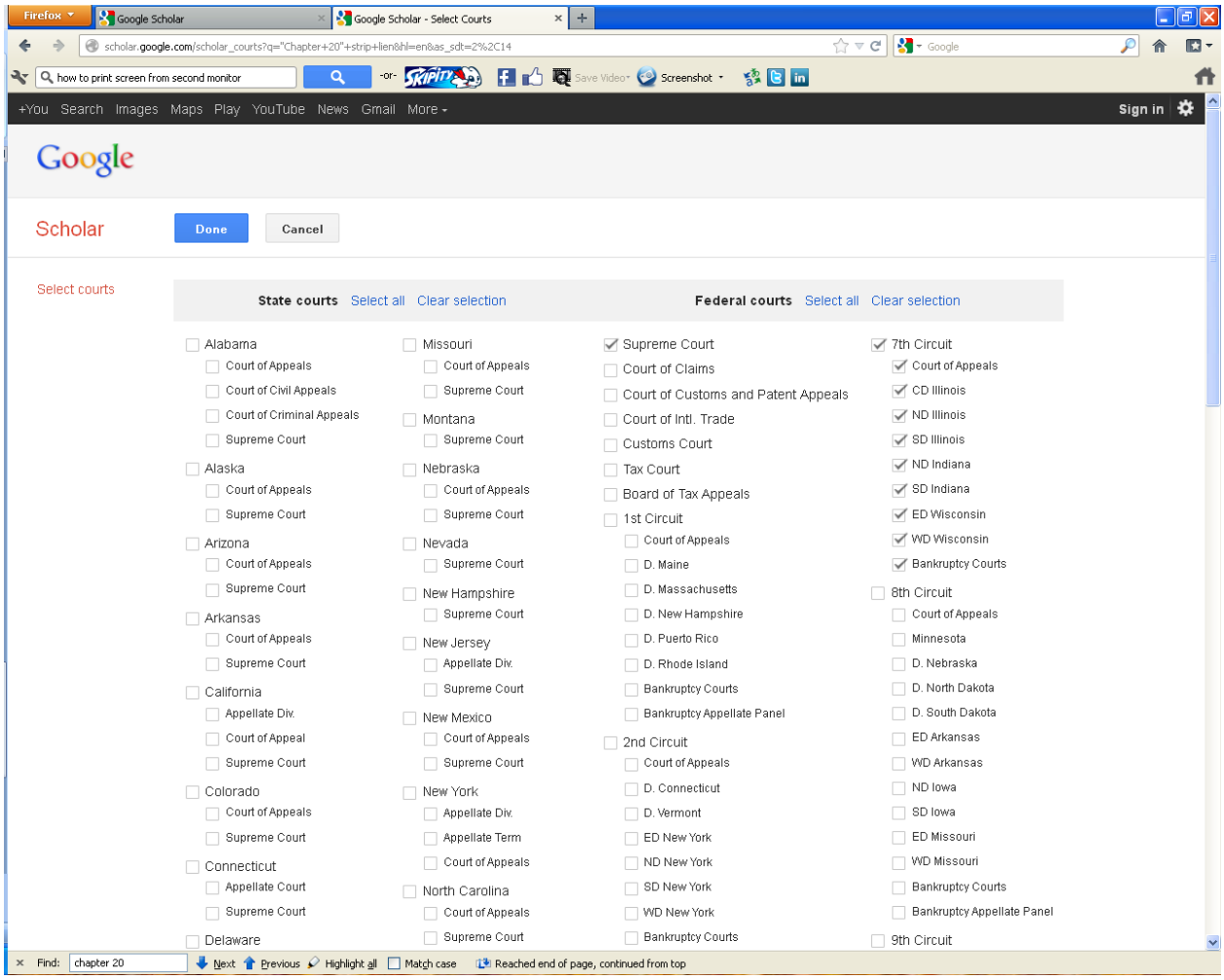
Cases are found under legal documents. Clicking on down arrow will lead to advance search box but it defaults to articles, not documents. Can achieve same results by using quotation marks “” for phrase searching.



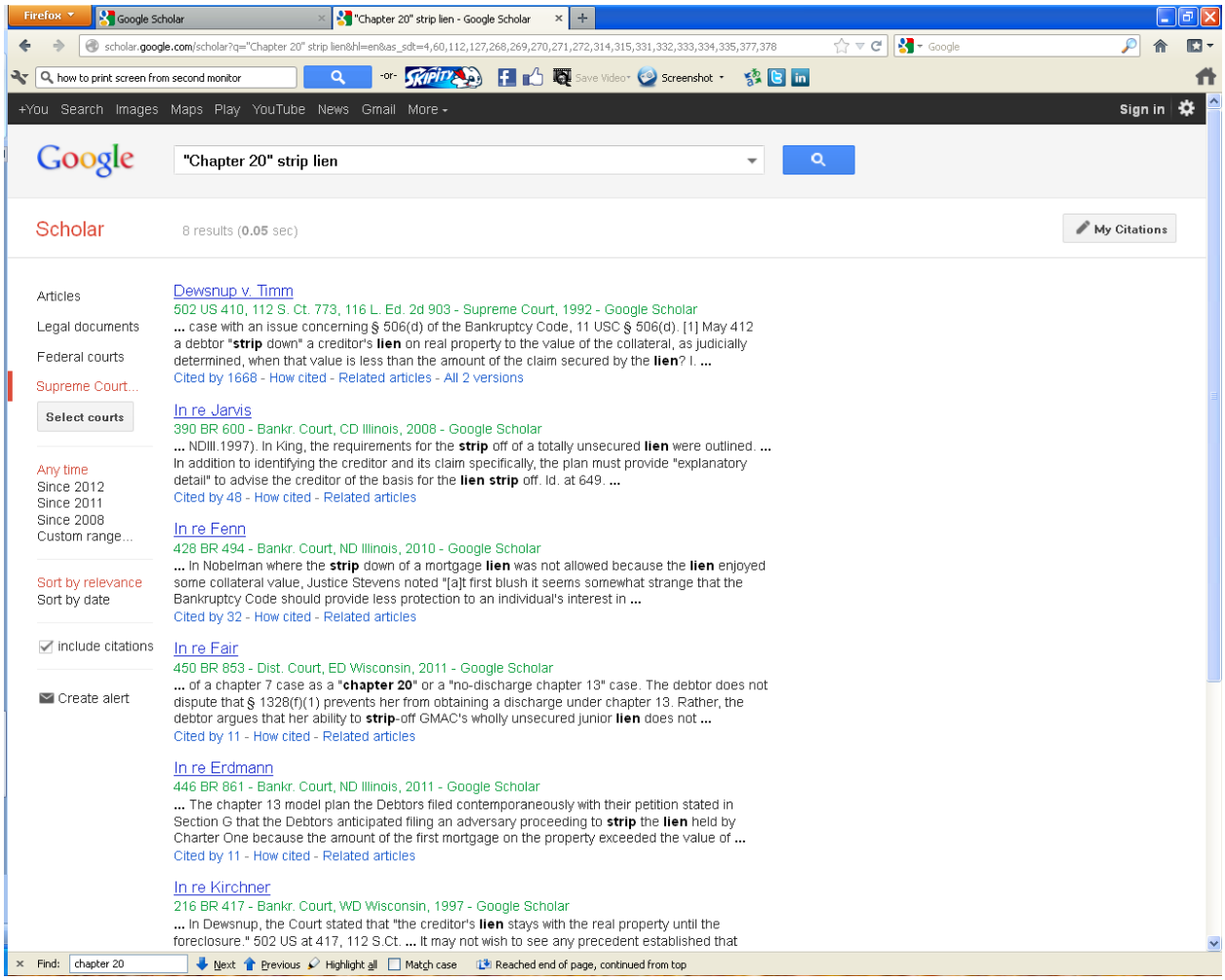
First results page. Notice returns 106 results. Automatically searches all cases. Click on “select courts” box to narrow to specific jurisdictions. Note you do not have the option to limit it to types of practices, just courts and dates.



When clicked on select courts box, this appears. Since we are interested in mandatory authority, clear all courts on both sides (clear selection). Click on Supreme Court and 7th Circuit. See screen below.

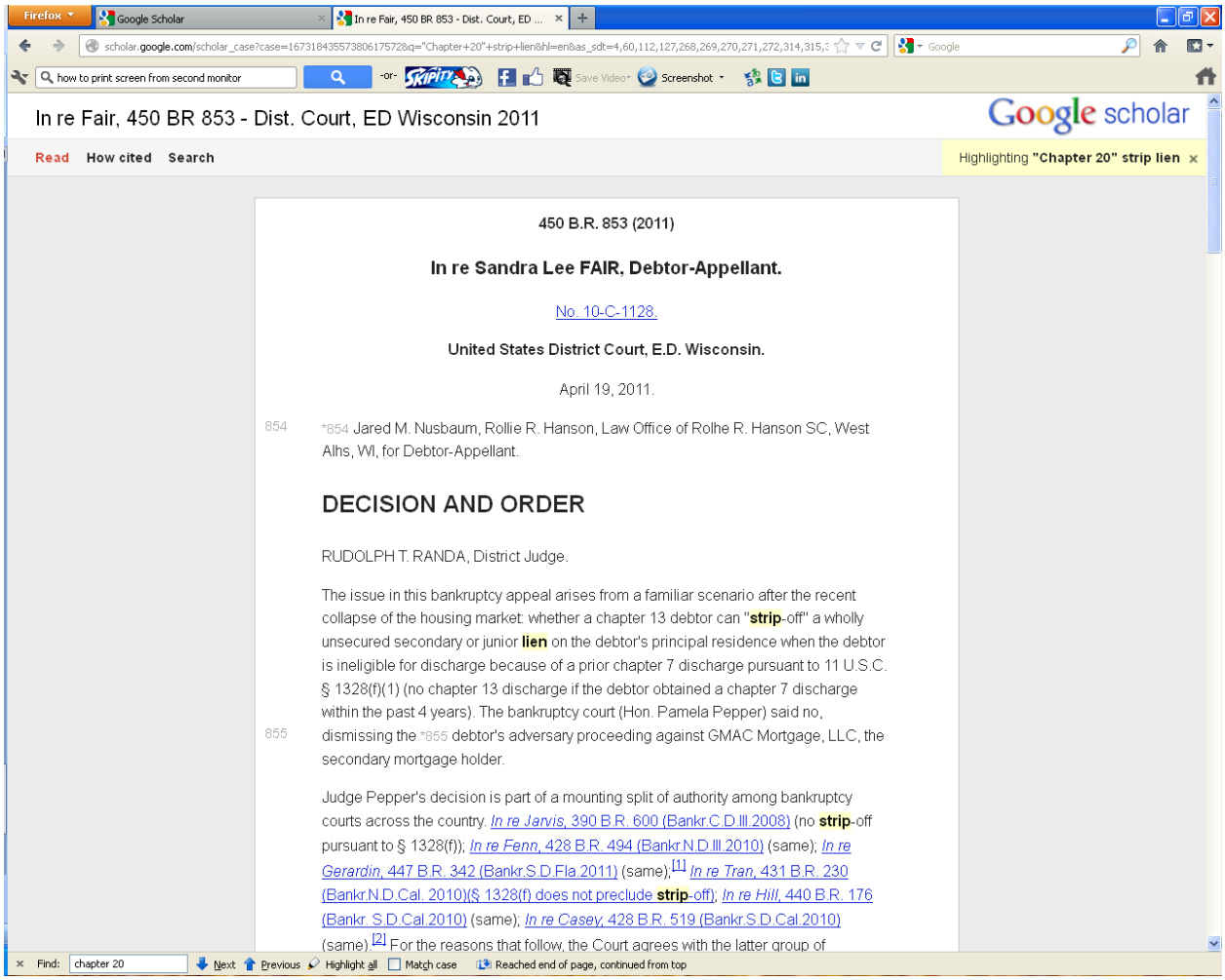


Note: When clicking on the 7th Circuit, it will automatically include all the courts below it.

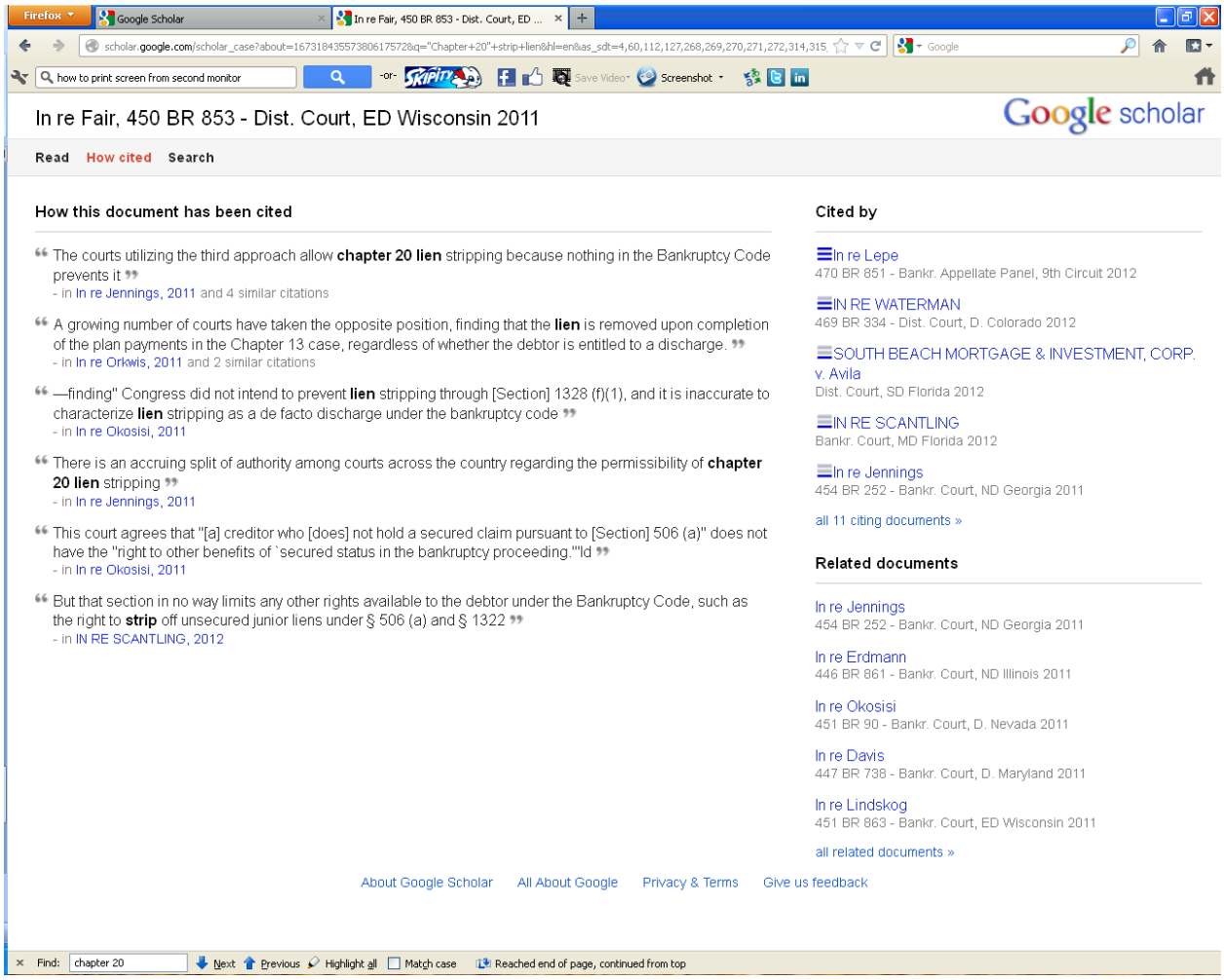


Results of Supreme Court and 7th Circuit searching. Down from 106 to 8 cases.

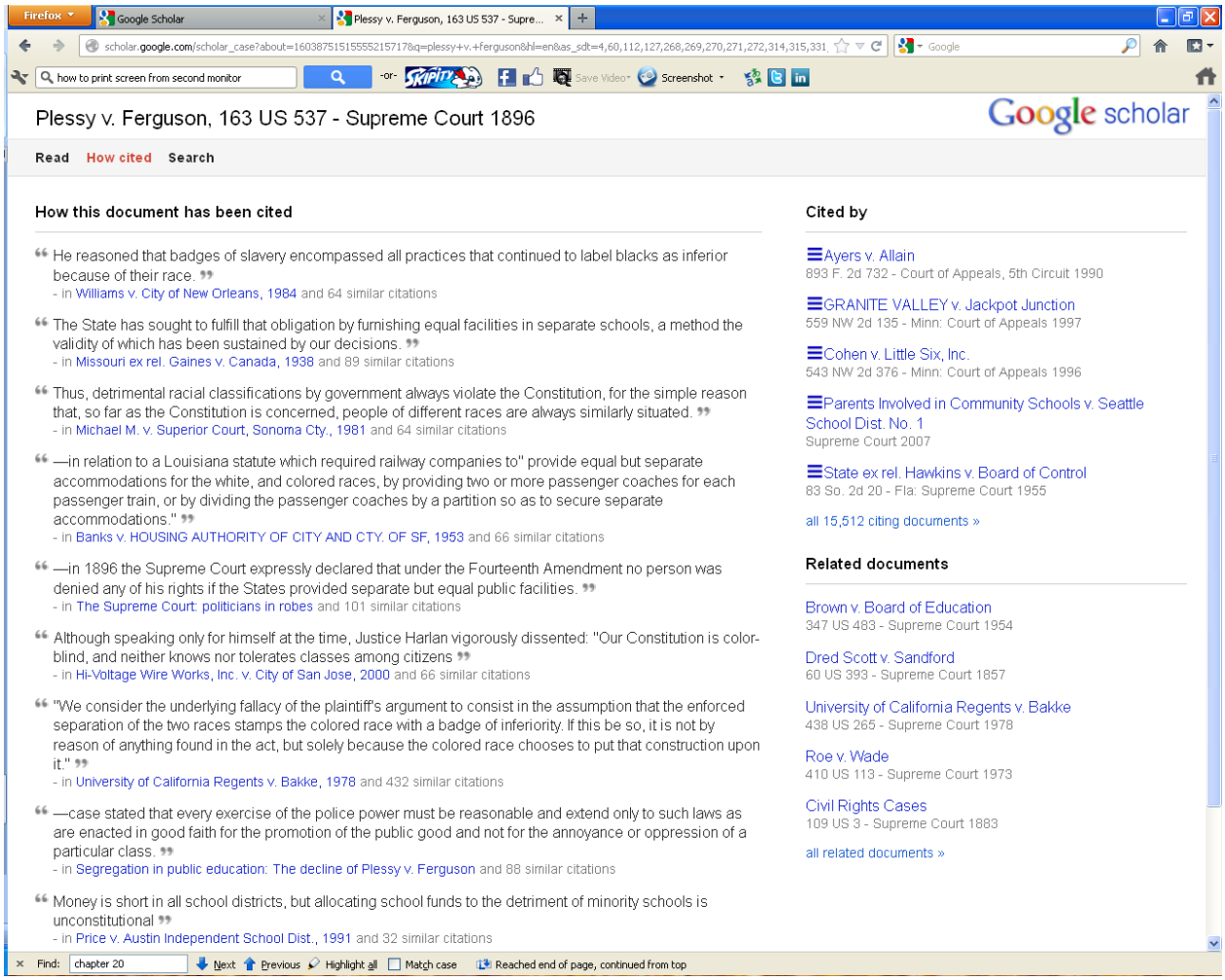
Note: *Dewsnup v. Timm* does not apply—does not include the phrase "Chapter 20" but the algorithm still brought up. No mandatory authority. Picked *In re Fair* since it came from WI ED and would be highly persuasive authority.



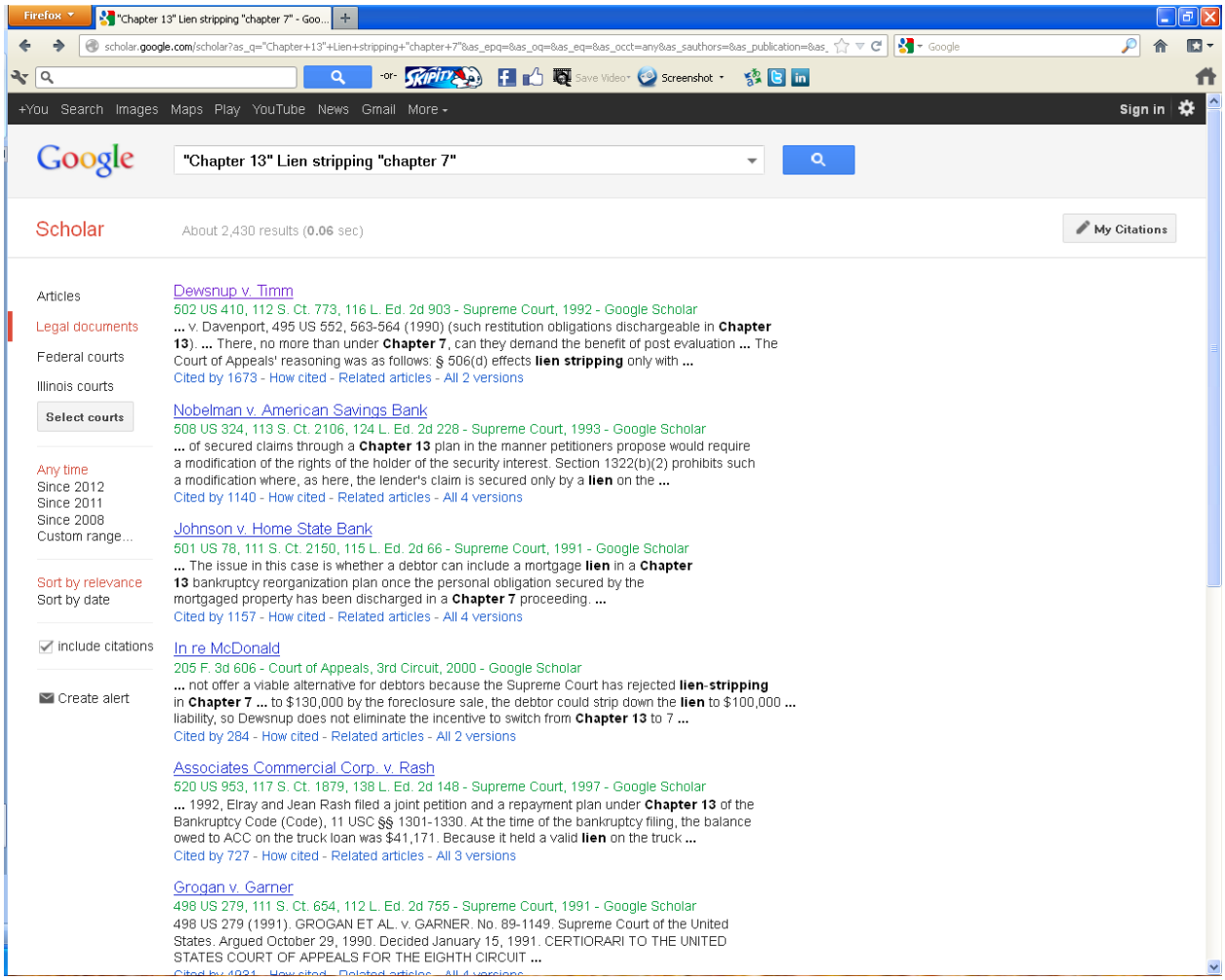
Note the “how cited” feature.



This is the “how cited” screen for *In re Fair*. Related documents can be other cases that may not directly cite your case or briefs.



Okay, *Plessy v. Ferguson* isn't a bankruptcy case. Note, there is nothing in the "how cited" feature that will indicate that it has been overruled. Brown v. Board of Education is listed as a related document. The "how cited" feature may help you find other case law but cannot be used in place of Keycite or Shepards.



Notice how changing the search query changes the results. Without the Chapter 20 language, now have 2, 430, instead of 160 results. Limiting the results to Supreme Court and 7th Circuit results in 199 results instead of 8

General notes about Google Scholar (direct from one of the Google Scholar engineers)
There are only six engineers working on this project. Heavily driven by the algorithm--no human intervention.
They are seeking the lowest common denominator for searching so that someone who is not trained in the law will find something. Recommend "advance" search for attorneys.
They deal only in "static" materials so they will not be adding rules, statutes or things that change. That is why they don't follow case history, just how cited.
Have all federal cases. State cases go back to 1923. Probably will not go back further than that.
Not designed to work with natural language—don't use a sentence as a query –"Can someone who files a chapter 20 in bankruptcy strip a lien off a mortgage?"