

HOT New Features in Georgia Casemaker

by Natalie R. Kelly

Not only is Casemaker one of the best member benefits the Bar has to offer, but it is also being updated with new features that you won't want to miss. The updated user manual explains the new caseCheck feature (available at www.gabar.org). Also, the Georgia Casemaker library contains the feature SuperCODE, and you will want to know more on Casemaker NetSnippets.

These features can help make your Casemaker research easier and more productive. But don't take our word for it. Log on and use these features personally, and experience their added benefit to your online legal research.

caseCheck

While not exactly new, the caseCheck feature is available in the Caselaw search results area, and it lists all of the subsequent cases that cite the case you select in your search results. By example, if you look for cases relating to "dog bite," in your results list, you can click on and open the first case in the list, and if applicable, you will see the caseCheck area with a list of cases decided after the initial case in chronological order. If no cases exist beyond the case you select, you will see the notation "No references found." If cases are found, you are able to click the cases listed in caseCheck, and find your initial case's citation highlighted in red throughout the text of the case.

With the added caseCheck list, you can explore the treatment of your initial case and expand the information base for your research. While you are not formally shepardizing your results, you are quickly finding the application of your case in subsequent and related case law.

SuperCODE

With information flowing at varying paces from legislative bodies, the SuperCODE feature has been


added to Casemaker to keep track of the changes to the Code and legislative session work. Updates to the Code are indicated in the system within a SuperCODE panel similar to that of caseCheck for caselaw. You are able to review the status of enacted legislation or see what, if any, has been amended in any legislation you are reviewing. As with caseCheck, if no changes have been made to statutes or session laws, "No references found" will appear in the SuperCODE panel.

SuperCODE helps you stay informed of changes along the codification process and allows you to monitor amendments or changes that might require closer scrutiny from manual research efforts.

NetSnippets

Researchers need to keep track of their research and keep the information they locate in an organized format for easy retrieval and future review. With NetSnippets in Casemaker, researchers are able to capture the cases and information they locate in Casemaker, and then organize that information in a more useful manner. NetSnippets even has advanced capabilities that allow users to generate a bibliographical report from the entries saved from its screen capture areas. You are not only able to capture information from within Casemaker, but you can also attach web pages, pictures, text, e-mail and various other items.

With NetSnippets, you are able to develop an easy "Favorites" listing of search history and results folders. You can even organize all aspects of a given matter file or specialized area of law. Go to www.casemaker.us/net-snippets for more details.

Casemaker is one of the best member benefits of the State Bar of Georgia. You can log on and experience the benefit and its newer features in the Members Only area of the Bar's website, www.gabar.org. 

Natalie R. Kelly is the director of the State Bar of Georgia's Law Practice Management Program and can be reached at natalie@gabar.org.