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BEYOND THE SHELVES

Researching patent litigation made easy

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Searching for court filings can be a huge pain. You know where you want to end up, but getting there requires finessing a search parameter that will easily extract what you need from a sea of documents. It can be quite frustrating when you either get too many results — who has time to keep drilling down — or worse, too little — which raises the question where did I go wrong with my search or what's the coverage of this database again? Sifting through a huge warehouse of documents can be too time consuming when you need highly relevant results right away ... and when do you not need it right away?

When it comes to finding patent litigation filings, Docket Navigator has done the sifting for you and finding what you need is as simple as a drop-down menu. Docket Navigator is a set of powerful research and reporting tools for U.S. patent litigation. Built and operated by seasoned patent litigators, Docket Navigator tracks every significant event in every patent infringement case in every U.S. district court and the International Trade Commission. Its daily reporting system is timely and useful. The drop-down menus in its filings research database are unlike any I have ever encountered; the level of detail extracted from their analysis of the filings is unlimited in potential. There's no need to run and rerun your searches. It makes it ridiculously simple; you can run as simple or complicated a search as you want. And if you naturally bristle at another's attempt at driving the "research bus," fear not; you have the option to freestyle your search as well. All available documents are free to download and for briefs underlying the order you can easily use the information from the orders to pull them from Pacer.

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Here's a sampling of the types of searches you can run in order to find documents or cases:

1). Orders based on parameters like legal issues, docket events, district, date or judges.

2). How claim terms are construed based on parameters like the term, patent, district, judge, party, date, firm or attorney.

3). Cases based on parameters like patent, party, district, judge, date, firm or attorney.

4). Specific docket events based on parameters like cause, action, result, district, judge, party, date, firm or attorney

5). Litigated patents based on parameters like ultimate determination, district, judge, party, date, firm or attorney.

6). Injunctions based on type, patent, district, date or parties for or against.

7). Awards by type, patent, district, judge, date or parties for or against.

Librarians not only appreciate simple and intelligent search capabilities, but also a vendor that is responsive and constantly improving upon its database. For instance, based on customer feedback, Docket Navigator recently added International Trade Commission §337 patent infringement investigations. Just as with district court cases, it monitors every ITC investigation daily and reports every significant event. This includes the ability to search new investigations, remedies, claim constructions, patent determinations and significant rulings — all with free links to the underlying ITC documents. Docket Navigator has also started to add Patent Trial and Appeal Board cases into its collection.

It is refreshing to find a no-nonsense database that is clear in its direction and content and that does not force you to pay extra for low-value bells and whistles bundled with the content that you are really after. A quality product, reasonable pricing scheme, and responsive attitude: Docket Navigator is truly a model product and company that this librarian appreciates.

Beyond the Shelves is a monthly column written for The Recorder *by members of the Northern California Association of Law Libraries.*

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