LEGAL RESEARCH VENDORS COMPARISON CHART

GENERAL FEATURE COMPARISON

Below is a detailed comparison chart of Fastcase, LexisNexis, and Westlaw – three major U.S. legal research platforms – focused on features relevant to solo practitioners and small firms. Key aspects compared include AI tools, citators, secondary sources, jurisdictional covera ge, customer support, and integrations.

Feature	**Fastcase** (vLex Fastcase)	**LexisNexis** (Lexis+)	**Westlaw** (Thomson Reuters)
AI-Powered Tools	**Automated Case Summaries**: AI-generated summaries of cases **Forecite**: analyzes citation networks to suggest important cases that your keyword search might have missed **Interactive Timeline**: a visual timeline plotting search results by relevance, date, and citation frequency **Legal Issue Insights**: AI identifies and extracts key legal issues from cases **vLex's Vincent AI**: Provides automatic case summaries and AI-driven insights into legal issues	**AI Drafting**: Creates first drafts of motions, contracts, memos, discovery questions with tone/length adjustments **Brief Analysis**: upload a brief or motion for an AI-powered scan that identifies key legal issues and suggests additional relevant authority **Lexis Answers**: a natural-language Q&A tool that directly answers legal questions, *e.g.* "What are the elements of X?" **Lexis+ Litigation Analytics**: data on judges, courts, etc. to inform strategy **Protégé Legal AI**: Personalized agentic AI assistant that learns user preferences, firm standards, and practice are **Ravel View**: visualizations to quickly spot patterns in case law **Timeline Generation**: Creates graphical	**AI Jurisdictional Surveys**: AI-generated research overview on multistate legal questions **AI-Assisted Research**: Natural language queries with annotated summaries and direct links to primary law **Claims Explorer**: Upload documents to identify relevant legal claims and defenses **CoCounsel**: Advanced generative AI for drafting, document review, deposition preparation, timeline creation, multi-state surveys, and legal research **Deep Research**: Agentic AI creates research plans, executes them iteratively using Westlaw's tools, and delivers arguments on both sides **KeyCite Overruling Risk**: alerts if a precedent has been implicitly overruled **Quick Check**: an AI-driven brief analyzer that finds relevant cases you missed and

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		timelines from multiple documents	checks quoted cases for accuracy
Citator (Is it good law?)	**Authority Check Report**: List of subsequent cases citing your case with text blurbs **"Bad Law Bot"**: This algorithm flags cases with possible negative treatment; however, Fastcase itself cautions that this is not as complete as Shepard's or KeyCite. **"Cert Citator"**: This tool instantly reveals if a case has been overturned or criticized. **Fastcase Authority Check**: Lists later cases that cite your case and shows the citation passages in context.	**Automatic Shepardizing**: AI results automatically include Shepard's validation **FOCUS Restriction**: Narrow citing references by legal issue, jurisdiction, or date **Shepard's**: Signals (red stop signs, yellow caution, etc.) indicate negative, cautionary, or positive treatment, and it covers cases, statutes, and more. Lexis+ also integrates citator results into its **Brief Analysis** tool to recommend corrections or additional citations.	**Historical Analysis:** Traces full procedural history of cases **KeyCite**: Provides red flags, yellow flags, and other signals to show negative or positive treatment of cases, statutes, regulations, and even patents/trademarks. **KeyCite Overruling Risk**: As mentioned above, this uses AI to warn of cases at risk of being implicitly overruled.
Secondary Sources & Practice Area Content	**ABA Books**: 250+ titles available **Fastcase Library of Treatises and Guides**: These cover a range of practice areas relevant to solos – for instance, Fastcase offers family law, estate planning, criminal law, and small business guides. **Law Review Articles**: These are available through a HeinOnline partnership.	**Practical Guidance Modules**: These contain checklists, practice notes, and sample documents for areas like family and estate practice. Lexis also excels in legal news (Law360, ALM publications) and has extensive law review/journal archives. **Secondary Sources**: Thes include the Matthew Bender treatises, state-specific law practice guides, form books, legal encyclopedias, Restatements, and more. Lexis covers all major practice areas in all 50 states.	**Treatises, Practice Guides, Form Books, and Legal Encyclopedias**: These many volumes, often exclusive to Thomson Reuters, cover virtually every area of law. For general practice areas like family law, criminal, estate planning, etc., Westlaw provides both national resources (*e.g.*, American Jurisprudence legal encyclopedia and ALR annotations) and state-specific publications (such as state practice series, form sets, and CLE guides). Note: Access to specific treatises may depend on your subscription package.

Feature	**Fastcase** (vLex Fastcase)	**LexisNexis** (Lexis+)	**Westlaw** (Thomson Reuters)
Primary Law & Jurisdictional Coverage	**Case Law**: vLex provides complete coverage of U.S. federal and state law – including opinions from all levels of state courts and federal courts, all state and federal statutes, regulations, and court rules. It now touts coverage of all 50 states' jurisprudence (though historically, some older cases or niche reporters might have been missing) **Regulations**: Statutory and regulatory materials are included for all jurisdictions (usually the current code text; annotations may be limited). Fastcase's platform allows browsing by jurisdiction and content type. For U.S. primary law in general practice fields, Fastcase coverage is comprehensive and on par with larger services in scope.	**Case Law**: LexisNexis provides all published case law from every state and federal court, with extensive archives, plus the full U.S. Code and all 50 states' statutes and regulations. **Regulations**: Primary law coverage also includes state administrative codes, court rules, constitutions, and Attorney General opinions. Essentially, Lexis covers the same broad swath of U.S. law as Westlaw.	**Case Law**: Westlaw includes case law from all federal and state courts, generally from the oldest reported cases to present (complete historical case law archives). Statutes and court rules for all 50 states and federal jurisdictions are provided, typically in annotated form. Regulations: Westlaw also contains federal and state regulations, administrative decisions, and court orders.

Feature	**Fastcase** (vLex Fastcase)	**LexisNexis** (Lexis+)	**Westlaw** (Thomson Reuters)
Customer Support & Training	**Comprehensive Self-Help Resources**: online user guides, FAQ pages, video tutorials, and regular webinars. Because many attorneys access Fastcase through state bar association memberships, those bar associations often host training sessions or provide manuals to help members use Fastcase. Fastcase provides email and phone support during business hours, but not 24/7. For most needs the documentation and built-in help (*e.g.*, tutorial prompts in the app) are sufficient for tech-savvy solo practitioners.	**24/7 Customer Support**: for research and technical issues. Lexis's support line connects you to research specialists who can help craft search queries or locate specific materials. The company also provides extensive training resources, from live webinars and on-demand videos to written guides, often tailored for small law firms. LexisNexis representatives can give on-site or virtual training on using Lexis+.	**24/7 Live Research Assistance**: by phone or online chat. Thomson Reuters has dedicated reference attorneys available to help users find authorities or navigate the platform at any hour. Subscription plans for small firms often include training sessions, webinars, and access to online tutorials. Westlaw's interface also has built-in "Help" for search tips, and account representatives can assist solo attorneys with optimizing their research plan. Overall, support is high touch.
Integrations & Workflow	**Law Practice Management Systems**: From Fastcase you can directly track time spent on research and save case references to specific client matters in Clio (who owns Fastcase's parent vLex). Fastcase also offers integrations with MyCase, NextChapter, Rocket Matter, and several immigration and specialty systems. **Legal Data API**: Tech-savvy firms or third-party developers can integrate Fastcase data into other software. **Microsoft Word and a Google Chrome extension**: Thee let you pull up Fastcase research tools while drafting or browsing.	**Lexis for Microsoft Office**: It allows users to seamlessly access Lexis research, check citations, and insert quotes all from within Word or Outlook. **No direct integrations** with practice management platforms are available. **No public API** is available for third-party developers.	**Drafting Assistant for MS Word**: The add-in can pull Westlaw content for cite-checking and inserting authority. **No direct integration** with outside practice management software (no native Clio or MyCase integration, for example). **No open API** for custom integrations. In short, Westlaw is designed to be a one-stop shop rather than plug-and-play with outside software.

Feature	**Fastcase** (vLex Fastcase)	**LexisNexis** (Lexis+)	**Westlaw** (Thomson Reuters)
Mobile Access	**Mobile App**: Fastcase offers a mobile app for iOS and Android. The app supports full research functionality. Fastcase offers a free tier for basic access.	**Lexis+ AI Mobile App**: This app, available for iOS and Android, summarizes uploaded documents, allows you to access AI-powered research on mobile, and synchronizes your search history with your Lexis account, so complete query history is available everywhere.	**Mobile App**: Westlaw provides a mobile app for iOS and Android. The app supports on-the-go researching that sync's back to your Westlaw account for a complete search history.

HIGHLIGHTS ON FEATURES FOR SELECT PRACTICE AREAS

Below we've broken out resources of possible interest to select practice areas.

Practice Area	Fastcase (vLex Fastcase)	LexisNexis (Lexis+)	Westlaw (Thomson Reuters)
Estates	Estate planning through partner publishers (including Wolters Kluwer) Adequate forms and guidance May lack specialized treatises Good for routine matters	Matthew Bender estate planning treatises Comprehensive tax planning materials Trust and estate forms Regular updates for tax law changes	Estate planning practice guides Automated document assembly tools Tax planning resources Trust and estate administration forms
Criminal	Criminal law through partner publishers Federal criminal practice guides (available in bundles) Good federal coverage State resources vary	Comprehensive criminal law treatises Federal sentencing materials Jury instructions with commentary Strong procedural guidance	Federal and state criminal law practice guides Sentencing guidelines and commentary Criminal procedure treatises Trial practice resources
Family	Family law materials through partner publishers State bar family law resources Basic to moderate coverage Good for most matters	Matthew Bender family law treatises State-specific practice guides Comprehensive forms libraries Tax considerations for family matters	Family law practice guides and forms State-specific resources for divorce, custody, support 50-state family law surveys Practical Law family law resources
Transactional	Business law treatises through partners Corporate formation materials Basic transactional resources Good for routine business matters	Business Organizations treatises (Matthew Bender) Corporate governance materials Securities law resources Strong transactional support through Lexis Create+	Practical Law Corporate & Securities Business formation and operation guides Contract forms and templates Compliance resources