



## Legal Research On a Shoestring Budget

Written On November 20, 2009 By [Bob Kraft](#)

In a recent post by Anurag Acharya on the [Official Google Blog](#), anyone can now find federal and state court case opinions with Google Scholar. By entering either party names or topic (for example, disability) you can now search for the full text of legal opinions and articles. And it's free!

According to Acharya's post, this addition to Google Scholar will allow the average citizen to:

- be empowered by helping them learn more about the laws that govern us all;
- understand how an opinion has influenced other decisions by exploring citing and related cases using the Cited by and Related articles links on search result pages; and
- learn about the intricacies of law in the context of real-life situations.

We are grateful to the Google Blog for making everyone aware of this new feature. The following individuals are to be thanked as well for their efforts in making these legal resources available through Google: Tom Bruce (Cornell LII), Jerry Dupont (LLMC), Graham Greenleaf and Andrew Mowbray (AustLII), Carl Malamud (Public.Resource.Org), Daniel Poulin (LexUM), Tim Stanley (Justia), Joe Ury (BAILII), and Tim Wu (AltLaw).

Since we practice Social Security Disability law in Texas, which is in the Fifth Circuit, we gave the Google Scholar a test. We entered the following search terms: "treating physician fifth circuit"

This search pulled up the important Fifth Circuit case from the year 2000 where the court set out, in *Newton v. Apfel* 209 F.3d 448 (5th Cir. 2000), the rules that govern how the Social Security Administration assigns weight to medical opinions and treating physician opinions.