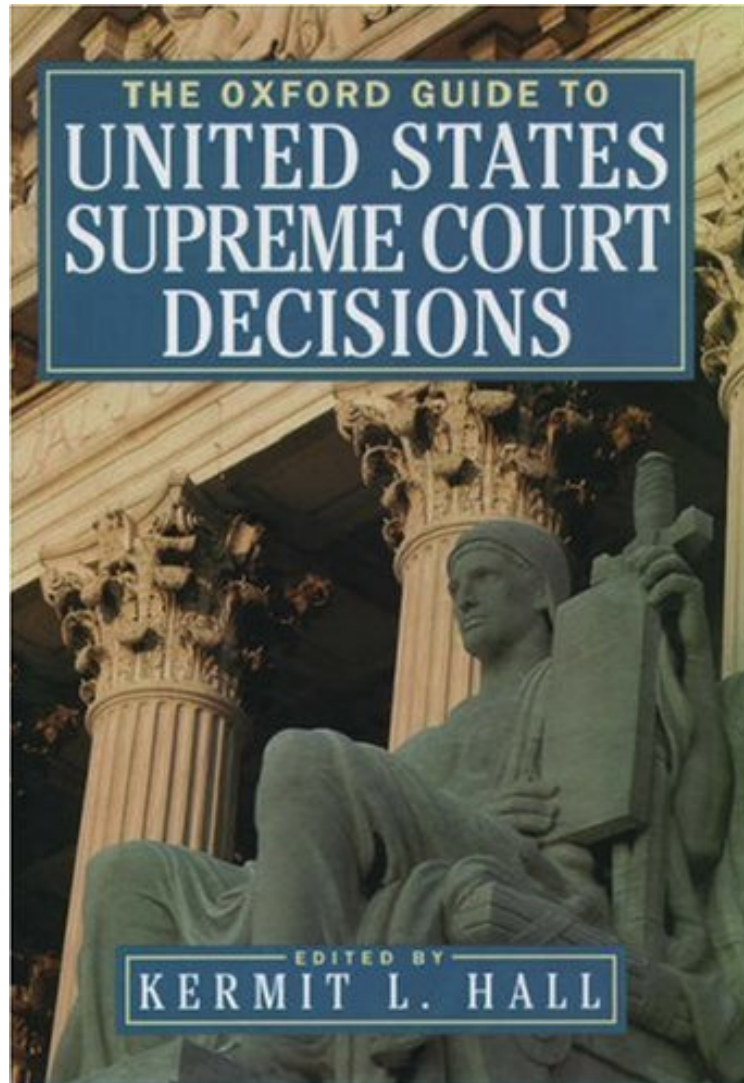


(Download) The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions

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**From Oxford University Press :** **The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book provides nothing that cannot be researched online in ...By Christopher Ott This book provides nothing that cannot be researched online in a quarter of the time BUT it is actually interesting to just randomly open and read a couple court decisions before bed.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Useful reference book By M. A. Krul The "Oxford Guide to US Supreme Court Decisions" is not much more than that. It gives an extremely expansive overview of all US Supreme Court cases that can remotely be

considered important, throughout the period of its existence. Every case contains information on the reference number, the composition of the majority, concurrence and dissents, and a summary of what the case or controversy was about by a legal scholar. The latter are sometimes a little problematic. Many cases are not given more than one or two paragraphs, and the index is incomplete. Some of the writers of the summaries also have a tendency to insinuate their own opinions on the cases into it, which goes particularly for those done by Kermit Hall himself, which are invariably positive about the most progressive justices and generally scathing about Scalia (though this is done in a 'read between the lines' manner, of course). An additional issue is that the index is incomplete, and the promised biographies of all Justices is no more than a list of their dates of nomination, appointment and death, which is rather disappointing. Still overall, it's an essential reference book for looking up cases and the inclusion of related cases in the case summaries makes it much easier to trace precedent through the decades. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Easy to read, easy to understand. By M. Castro This book is aimed at the legally proficient who needs a quick reference and for the lay legal reader who wants to gain knowledge. It is a must for the legal student who wants an introduction on constitutional law. The format makes it easy to read because it offers two ways for reading it: theme based for those doing some legal research on a given topic; alphabetically for those who use it as a reference. The section that includes the US constitution comes handy whenever you want to consult it as you read the cases.

The Supreme Court has been the site of the great debates of American history, from child labor and prayer in the schools, to busing and abortion. The Oxford Guide to United States Supreme Court Decisions offers lively and insightful accounts of over four hundred of the most important cases ever argued before the Court, from *Marbury v. Madison* and *Scott v. Sandford* (the Dred Scott decision) to *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Roe v. Wade*. Here are the landmark decisions that have shaped American life, described by some of our most eminent legal scholars. Arranged alphabetically, each entry provides the United States Reports citation, the date the case was argued and decided, the vote of the Justices, who wrote the opinion for the Court, who concurred, and who dissented. More importantly, the entries feature an informative account of the particulars of the case, the legal and social background, the reasoning behind the Court's decision, and the case's impact on American society. Kermit Hall has drawn the material primarily from the acclaimed Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court, revising and updating entries where necessary, and he has written 47 new entries covering recent notable cases, including *Clinton v. Jones*, *Reno v. Shaw*, *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, and *Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. FCC*. The Guide also features a case index (including all cases mentioned anywhere in the text), a topical index, the Constitution of the United States, an appendix on the Justices, and a legal glossary. For anyone interested in the great controversies of our time, this invaluable book is a must read--a primer on the epic constitutional battles that have informed American life.

.com Kermit L. Hall, Dean of the College of Humanities, Executive Dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences, and Professor of History and Law at Ohio State University, is well versed in American constitutional and legal history, and has a skillful touch when it comes to editing the contributions of well over 100 legal scholars (from attorneys and state supreme court justices to professors of law, political science, constitutional history, and government), producing a reference tome that invites the attention of lay legal beagles, students of American history, and practicing members of the legal profession. The first 348 pages are devoted to an alphabetically arranged presentation of more than 400 of the Supreme Court's most significant and consequential decisions, from *Abington School District v. Schempp* (1963, reaffirming that the establishment clause forbids public schools from sponsoring religious prayerful practices) to *Zurcher v. "The Stanford Daily"* (1978, ruling 5 to 3 that the Palo Alto police had violated neither the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press nor the Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches when they obtained a warrant and inspected the offices of Stanford University's student newspaper). Each case synopsis, generally half a page to a full page in length, describes the background incident, the constitutional issues in question, a concise summary of the reasoning behind the majority and dissenting opinions, what the public reaction was, and in what ways that ruling affected future cases and laws. In addition, there's a glossary of terms, defining general legal concepts such as bail as well as less commonly known practices such as the Bad Tendency Test, an appendix containing the Constitution of the United States, another appendix covering the nominations and succession of Supreme Court justices, and an exhaustively comprehensive topical index. It's a pleasure to see a reference work that so effectively and engagingly treats the major decisions of the Supreme Court from 1789 to present. --Stephanie Gold From Library Journal Ohio State dean and history/law professor Hall has assembled a stellar panel of experts to distill the essence of 440 key Supreme Court decisions. The cases are discussed in alphabetical order, with each ruling placed in its historical context. The true value of the book is that the contributors take a case like *Brown v. Board of Education* and provide a nontechnical, well-written explanation of its significance and manage to do so in three pages of text. In the case of *Brown*, the contributor, a University of Chicago law professor, provides fascinating details such as citations from Chief Justice Earl Warren's memoirs on how the decisions were written. In some cases, additional references are cited for further research. The book includes a case index, a topical index, the Constitution of the United States, an appendix listing the Justices, and a glossary of legal terms. An impressive accomplishment, this guide will

be invaluable to all students of United States history and will also appeal to sophisticated readers. For all public libraries. ?Harry Charles, Attorney at Law, St. Louis Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Reference librarians are all too familiar with the plaint, "Do I have to read the whole thing?" voiced by patrons who do not want to labor through a long U.S. Supreme Court decision or who want some analysis of the decision but do not want to read an entire law review article. For more than 400 of the Court's most significant cases, this guide may meet such patrons' needs. Each case entry typically provides background information on the case, explains the Court's decision, explores any disagreement among the justices about the legal doctrines and societal values at stake, and offers insight into the impact the decision has had on society and on the development of the common law. Entries are arranged alphabetically and include the United States Reports citation (if this citation was not available at the time of publication, the Supreme Court Reporter citation is given), the full dates the case was argued and decided, the vote, and the authors of all opinions filed in the case. A glossary of terms, a copy of the U.S. Constitution, several appendixes charting the nominations and succession of Supreme Court justices, a case index, and a topical index complete the volume. The typeface and size of the book are user-friendly and the price is right for all libraries. However, most of the content is drawn from *The Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* [RBB D 1 92]. There are new entries for 47 recent cases, including some from 1998, like *Clinton v. Jones*. Some of the other entries have been updated to reflect changes that have occurred in the last seven years, but this seems rather spotty. The entry for *Roe v. Wade* has been updated to discuss the impact of the Court's 1992 decision in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* and its 1994 ruling in *National Organization of Women v. Scheidler*, but entries for *Bowers v. Hardwick* and *Lemon v. Kurtzman* have not been revised, despite important Court rulings in the areas of law addressed by these cases. Not even cross-references to the entries for the newer related cases are given. With this caveat, the inexpensive price of this book and its clearly written essays recommend it to most libraries, even those that already have the *Companion*.