NOMINATIVE REPORTS
(ENGLISH, IRISH, & AMERICAN)
UNDERSTANDING THE NOMINATIVE REPORTS

Nominative reports are the reports that documented the decisions of the court until the establishment of a formalized method of court reporting.

- Initially published by studying lawyers who would take notes on arguments at the Inns of Court in London
- Sometimes, multiple differing reports would be produced from the same court case, or reports wouldn’t be published until years after the case was decided
- Edmund Plowden, an English legal scholar, was one of the first to formally publish a book of his reports
- Practice of nominative reports ended around 1865, when the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting was established in England
WHY ARE THE NOMINATIVES SO VALUABLE?

A modern link to legal history

• Contributing to the **preservation of case law** while adding current **natural language and artificial intelligence tools** to allow researchers to search and explore these documents like never before
• Travel back in time and understand how and why case decisions that helped to shape the course of legal history were made!
ALTHOUGH THESE EARLY REPORTS, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, ARE NOW SELDOM CITED IN PRACTICAL WORK, THEIR HISTORICAL VALUE CAN HARDLY BE OVERESTIMATED. REPORTS THAT ARE ALMOST WORTHLESS AS JUDICIAL RECORDS OFTEN THROW VALUABLE SIDE-LIGHTS UPON EARLY PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE; NOT INFREQUENTLY THEY SUPPLY INTERESTING ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE TIME.

Van Vechten Veeder

from the article "English Reports 1292-1865," as printed in the Harvard Law Review (1901-1902)
DATABASE 1:
ENGLISH NOMINATIVE REPORTS
MORE THAN 2 MILLION PAGES OF REPORTS
SURPASSING THE SCOPE OF THE ENGLISH REPORTS

Identifying for the first time every edition of every printing of the nominatives that comprise the English Reports.

Our goal is to create the first and only complete collection of these reports.

More than 250 reporters across a more than 300-year timespan, from 1585 to 1899

Materials include:

- More than 250 other nominatives and law reports outside of those included in the English Reports
- Editions of the nominative reports published in the United States and Ireland, which often contain notes or commentaries by authors in those countries
- Year Books, which are volumes of court reports that preceded the nominatives and date back to 1220
- Books, digests, and other related works, including indexes, law compilations, handbooks, and more
- Legal newspapers, often containing much more timely reports of cases as compared to the nominatives, which frequently took years or decades to be printed
- A collection of relevant scholarly articles
CHART VIEW

To make it easier to view all of the reports identified in this collection, we’ve created a chart that allows searchers to view a comprehensive list of reports by each reporter. Citation abbreviations, series, and time periods are listed for further context. Simply click on a reporter to view all of their works:
Eventually, as we continue to add to the collection, all titles will be hyperlinked and full-text searchable in HeinOnline.
In what year was Edmund Plowden’s *Les Commentaries* first published?

POP QUIZ

A) 1603

B) 1565

C) 1501

D) 1571
In what year was Edmund Plowden’s *Les Commentaries* first published?

**POP QUIZ**

Plowden’s *Les Commentaries*, or *The Commentaries, Or Reports of Edmund Plowden*, was first released in 1571 and was a compilation of reports he wrote on cases during the reigns of various monarchies.
DATABASE 2: IRISH NOMINATIVE REPORTS
More than 100 titles and 160,000+ pages

Most Irish court reports were published between 1766 and 1859. Unlike in England and America, Irish reporters were mainly only focused on one court at a time.

The collection includes nominatives covering cases dating pre-1894, as well as:

- A subcollection of law reports, which are compilations of notes on cases
- A subcollection of books, digests, and other related works, such as notes, periodicals, treatises, and more
KEY TITLES IN THE IRISH NOMINATIVE REPORTS INCLUDE:

**Irish Chancery Reports**
- Cases heard in Court of Chancery in England (equity and trust matters)
- Decisions impacted property law and equitable remedies

**Irish Common Law Reports**
- Established precedents and principles in Irish common law system
- Decisions cover criminal law, property law, contract law, and more

**Irish Law Reports**
- Courts of the Queen’s Bench, Common Pleas, and Exchequer of Pleas from 1839 to 1852
- Shed light on social, political, and economic issues of the time

**Irish Equity Reports**
- High Court of Chancery, the Rolls Court, and the Equity Exchequer
- Equity focused on fairness, justice, and application of principles in conscience
DATABASE 3: AMERICAN NOMINATIVE REPORTS
During America’s colonial days, its early court decisions relied upon the precedent set by England, the mother country. The first volume of American decisions was published after the American Revolution and closely followed the example set by English reporters.

Nominative reports were the standard for state and federal court reporting in the United States until the U.S. Supreme Court hired an official reporter in 1817.

Nominatives in this collection span from 1789 to 1907.

Also includes a selection of scholarly articles.

Key reporters featured include:
- John Cadwaladar
- William Cranch
- A.J. Dallas
- Richard Peters
- Benjamin C. Howard
- John William Wallace
- And many more
INCLUDES ENTIRE SET OF FEDERAL CASES

Compilation of decisions from the U.S. circuit and district courts spanning from the nation’s first court cases in 1789 until the publication of the Federal Reporter in 1880.

More than 20,000 cases, including all available lower federal case law. Compiled by various reporters into a single set, arranged alphabetically and numbered consecutively.

Index to Books 1-30 features tables that cross-reference the citation of the original report to the federal case number assigned to each.

The Federal Cases, alongside the Federal Reporter, create a comprehensive collection of all lower-level U.S. federal court decisions.
What are federal circuit and district judges often called?

A) Article III judges
B) Class A judges
C) Level II judges
D) The Best judges
What are federal circuit and district judges often called?

A) Article III judges

Supreme Court justices and federal circuit and district judges are often called “Article III judges” because Article III of the Constitution discusses their appointment, tenure, and payment. Fun fact: HeinOnline also has a whole database dedicated to this class of the judicial branch, called Judges and the Judiciary: Exploring America’s Court System!
HELP RESOURCES

Customize your research
A dedicated guide to help you navigate the collection, with tips and tricks along the way.

View descriptions and examples of content in each database

Step through sample searches of various complexities

Help resources direct you to videos and articles designed to help you maximize your research in the database
## PRICING

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