

Federal Administrative Law

Agency Decisions & Orders

What are agency decisions and orders?

Authorized by law and issued by a regulatory agency, administrative “decisions” adjudicate controversies arising out of the violation or interpretation of statutes and regulations. “Opinions” arise from a question regarding a contemplated action and advise on the interpretation of statutes and regulations. “Orders” refer to final actions or dispositions regarding an agency action. The Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 (5 USC §551 et.seq.) directs an administrative law judge (ALJ) to hear and decide regulatory disputes at the initial level. ALJ decisions can be appealed to the chief administrative officer of the regulatory agency.

How are they published?

No one publication indexes or reports administrative decisions, opinions or orders. Agency decisions and orders can be found in either the official reports issued by a regulatory agency or in commercially published unofficial reports.

Some agencies have long-standing reporters that date back to the beginning of the regulatory activity. Others do not print any report but require interested parties to call and request each item. Many agencies are now making their material available via the Internet.

Some commercial publishers will include agency decisions in their publications. These unofficial reports can be found by performing a subject search on the library catalog to see if the library owns any services that deal with the area of law. Alternatively, researchers can consult legal research guides for the subject area of interest.

Locating and identifying sources for agency decisions.

This guide contains a list of official publications owned by the Ross-Blakley Law Library as well as internet sites that contain decisions. Most of the official reports in this library are shelved in the Government Documents Collection on the first floor.

U.S. Federal Government Agencies Database <http://www.lib.duke.edu/texis/uslinks/uslinks>

This website provides a hierarchical and alphabetical arrangement of U.S. government agencies, including Independent Establishments and Government Corporations and Quasi-Official Agencies. A brief description of the agency is provided as well as a link to the agency’s website.

Select Web Resources: Government Info Virtual Reference Shelf

http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/fed_decisions_agency.html

This site contains a list of websites that contain agency decisions and other actions. It is arranged alphabetically by agency.

Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications. Call Number: GP 3.8/8-8: The Current edition is located on the Law Gov Docs Index Table. Website: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cgp/index.html>
This website ceased being updated in May 2005. The Government Printing Office is in the process of creating Franklin, an online catalog of government resources. More information about Franklin can be found at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/cip/index.html

How to Find the Law. Call Number KF240 .C538 1989 Law Reserve
Appendix D, “Sources of Federal Regulatory Agency Rules, Regulations and Adjudications”, contains a fairly comprehensive list of administrative reports. Arranged alphabetically by agency, it lists the official reports, unofficial reports and whether the reports appear on Lexis or Westlaw.

Shepard's U.S. Administrative Citations Call Number KF153.2.S5, 1996 Law Indexes & Citators.
This set provides a compilation of citations to decisions and orders of various federal administrative departments, courts, boards and commissions as reported in the publication of its own respective reporter and by the federal courts and state courts.

Agency Name	Title of Reporter	Gov. Docs Call Number
Agriculture Dept.	<i>Agriculture Decisions</i>	Law Gov Docs - A1.58:v.1 (1942)- Internet: From v. 56 (Jan. 1997) www.usda.gov/da/oaljdecisions
Benefits Review Board (Dept. of Labor)	Decisions	Internet: From 1989 - http://www.dol.gov/brb/decisions.htm
Board of Immigration Appeals [Dept. of Justice]	<i>Administrative Decisions Under Immigration and Nationality Law.</i>	Law Gov Docs - J21.11: v.1 (1940/43)- Internet: From 1962 - http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/intdec/lib_indecitnet.html
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)	<i>Quarterly Bulletin</i> [contains Alcohol Tobacco and Firearm Rulings and Treasury Dept. Decisions dealing with ATF]	Law Gov Docs - T70.7: 1980-1992 Law Gov Docs Microfiche - 1993-2000 Internet: From June 1998 - http://www.atf.treas.gov/pub/index.htm#Bulletins
Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAB)	<i>Decisions of the Civil Aeronautics Authority</i>	Law Gov Docs CAB 1.21: v.1 (1938/1940) – v.106 (March 1984)
Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)	Opinions and Orders	Internet: From 1997 - http://www.cftc.gov/ogc/ogcopin02.htm
Comptroller General	<i>Decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States</i> <i>Digest of Decisions of the Second Comptroller of the Treasury</i>	Law Gov Docs - T13.5: v.1 (1817-65)-v.4 (1893/94) Law Gov Docs - T15.5: v.1 (1894)-v.27 (1920/21) Law Gov Docs - GA1.5: v.1 (1921)-v.73 (1993/94)- Law Gov Docs - T14.5: v.1 (1817-65)-v.4 (1893/94) Law Gov Docs – T15.6: 1894-1920 (1 v.) Internet: From Oct. 1995 - http://www.gpoaccess.gov/gaodecisions/index.html Current Opinions (last 60 days) : http://www.gao.gov/legal.htm

Comptroller of the Currency [Treasury Dept.]	<i>Quarterly Journal</i> [Comptroller's Decisions]: <i>Interpretations and Actions</i> [Corporate, CRA,, Deposit Guarantee, and Mergers Decisions]	Law Gov Docs - T12.18: v.1 (1981)- Internet: From 1998 - http://www.occ.treas.gov/qj/qj.htm Law Gov Docs - T12.3/11x: v.5 (1992)- Internet: From 1996 - http://www.occ.treas.gov/interp/monthly.htm
Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)	Advisory Opinions	Internet: From 1973 - http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/advisory/advisory.html
Contract Appeals Boards - Armed Services	Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals	Internet: From April 1996 - http://docs.law.gwu.edu/asbca/decis05.htm
Contract Appeals Boards - Veterans Administration	Department of Veterans Affairs -Board of Contract Appeals	Internet: From 1994 - http://www1.va.gov/bca/page.cfm?pg=35
Court of Federal Claims	<i>Court of Claims Reports</i> <i>Federal Claims Reporter</i>	Law Gov Docs - JU3.9: - v.1 (1863) -v.231 (1982) Law Core - KF125.C5 - v.1 (1983) Internet: From 1997 - http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/opinions.htm -
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	<i>Customs Rulings</i> <i>CBP Bulletins and Decisions</i>	Internet: From 1990 - http://rulings.cbp.gov/ Law Gov Stacks -T17.6/3-5: - 1(1967)-20(1986), 23(1989), 32(1998)-33(1999)- Law Gov Docs Microforms T17.6/3-5: - 21(1988)-22(1988), 24(1990)-36(2002) Law Gov Stacks T 17.6/3-4: - v.37:1(2003)-v.37:14(2003) Law Gov Stacks - HS 4.103 – v.37:15(2003)-v.38:1(2003) Internet: From 2002 - http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/legal/bulletins_decisions/
Defense Dept. See Military Courts		
Education Department	Office of Hearings and Appeals Decisions and Decisions of the Secretary	OHA Decisions: Internet: 1989 - : http://www.ed-oha.org/ohadecisions.html Secretary Decisions: Internet: -1989 - http://www.ed-oha.org/secretarydecisions.html

Employees Compensation Appeals Board (ECAB) (Dept. of Labor)	<i>Digest and Decisions of the Employees Compensation Appeals Board</i>	Law Gov Docs - L28.9: v.1 (1946/48)- Internet: From 1992- http://www.dol.gov/ecab/decisions.htm
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Environmental Administrative Decisions Decisions and Orders originating from the EPA's Office of Administrative Law Judges	Internet: From 1992 – http://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/EAB_Web_Docket.nsf/Statutes?OpenPage Internet: From Oct. 31, 1996 http://www.epa.gov/aljhome/orders.htm
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)	<i>Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Decisions - Federal Sector</i>	Law Gov Docs Microfiche - Y3.EQ2:18/ 9001-9195(1984), 1001(1984)-96:10(1996) Internet: From July 2000 – http://www.eeoc.gov/federal/decisions.html
Federal Communication Commission (FCC)	<i>Federal Communication Commission Reports</i> 1st and 2d series. <i>FCC Record</i> Memorandum Opinions and Orders	Law Gov Docs – CC1.12: v. 1(1935)-v.45(1965); 2 nd series v. 1(1965)-v.99(1985) Law Gov. Docs - CC1.12/3 v. 1(1986)-v.7:18(1992),v. 8:19(1993)- Law Gov Docs Microfiche – CC1.12/3: v. 3:10-11(1988), v.7:17,19-26(1992),v. 8:1-18(1993) Internet: From 1994 - http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Miscellaneous/Orders/
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	FDIC Enforcement Decisions and Orders	Internet: From August 1989 - http://www.fdic.gov/bank/individual/enforcement/index.html
Federal Election Commission (FEC)	<i>Federal Election Commission Record</i> [digest of advisory opinions]	Law Gov Docs - Y3.EL2/3:11 v.5 (1979)-v.27 (2001) Internet: From 1977 http://www.fec.gov/law/enforcement/ao_search.shtml
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)	<i>Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Reporter : FERC Reports</i>	Law Gov Docs - E2.17: v.1 (1977)- Internet: From March 2004 – http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/dec-not.asp

Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA)	<i>Decisions of the Federal Labor Relations Authority</i> <i>Administrative Law Judge Decisions</i>	Law Gov Docs - Y3.F31/21-3:10-4/ v.1(1979)-v.17(1985),v. 21(1986)-v.26(1987),v 29(1987), v.47(1993)-v.48(1994), v.50(1995) Law Gov Docs Microfiche - Y3.F31/21-3:10-4/ v.18(1985)-v.28(1987), v.30(1988)-v.58 (2003) Law Gov Docs - Y 3.F 31/21-3:9/CASE No. – Preprints Internet: From 1979 http://www.flra.gov/18.html Law Gov Docs - Y3.F31/21-3: 9-3/: v. 21 (1983)-
Federal Maritime Commission (FMC)	<i>Decisions of the Federal Maritime Commission</i>	Law Gov Docs - FMC1.10 : v.1 (1919/38)-v. 21(1978/1979); v.23(1980/1981)-v.28 (1987) Law Gov Docs Microfiche- FMC1.10 v. 21(1978/1979)-v.22(1979/1980) Internet: Formal Docket Decisions From 1996 and ALJ Decisions from 2000. http://www.fmc.gov/reading/DocketProceedings.asp
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission (FMSHRC)	<i>Decisions / Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission</i>	Law Gov Docs - Y3.M66:9/ v.1 (1979)- Internet Commission Decisions and ALJ decisions from 1995- http://www.fmshrc.gov/index.html
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)	<i>Federal Trade Commission Decisions</i> Advisory and Staff Opinions	Law Gov Docs - FT1.11:v.1 (1915/19)-v.128 (1999)- Internet: FTC Cases by Case Name from 1996 http://www.ftc.gov/os/caselist/index.htm Adjudicative Opinions and Advisory Opinions http://www.ftc.gov/ftc/formal.htm
Health & Human Services	Departmental Appeals Board	Internet: From 1974 - http://www.hhs.gov/dab/search.html
Housing and Urban Development	Administrative Law Judges Decisions	Internet: Fair Housing Act Cases from 1989 - http://www.hud.gov/offices/oalj/cases/fha/index.cfm

<p>Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) [Justice Dept.]</p> <p>See Also: U.S. Customs and Border Protection</p>	<p><i>Admin. Decisions Under Immigr. and Nationality Laws</i></p> <p><i>Admin. Decisions Under Employer Sanctions and Unfair Immigr.-Related Employment Practices Laws of the U.S.</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs - J21.11: v.1 (1940/43)-v.22 (2000) -</p> <p>Law Gov Docs - J1.103: v.1 (1988/91)- v.8 (2000)</p> <p>Internet from 1988 - http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/OcahoMain/ocahosibpage.htm</p>
<p>Interior Dept.</p>	<p><i>Decisions. of the Department of the Interior</i></p> <p><i>Interior Board of Indian Appeals and Interior Board of Land Appeals</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs I1.69: v.1 (1881/83)-v.101 (1994)</p> <p>I1.69/5x:v.18 (1975)-v.67 (1982)</p> <p>Internet:</p> <p>Interior Board of Indian Appeals (from 1970) http://www.ibiadecisions.com/</p> <p>Interior Board of Land Appeals (from 1992) http://www.ibiadecisions.com/Ibla/iblamainpage.html</p> <p>Indian Self-Determination Act Decisions (from 1997) http://www.ibiadecisions.com/Isda/IsdaCaseListpt1.html</p> <p>Office of Surface Mining ALJ Decisions (from 1978) http://www.osmre.gov/aljindex.htm</p>
<p>Internal Revenue Service (IRS)</p>	<p><i>Internal Revenue Bulletin and Cumulative Bulletin</i></p>	<p>Law Tax. KF6301.A4 v.1 (1919)-</p> <p>Internet from July 1995 – http://www.irs.gov/businesses/lists/0,,id=98230,00.html</p>

International Trade Court	<p><i>United States. Court of International Trade Reports</i></p> <p><i>United States Customs Court Reports</i></p> <p><i>Court of Customs Appeals Reports / Cases decided in United States Court of Customs and Patent Appeals</i></p> <p><i>Cases decided in United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs - JU9.5/2:v.1 (1981/82)- v.24 (2000) – Internet from 2000-present http://www.cit.uscourts.gov/slip_op/slip-op.html</p> <p>Law Gov Docs - JU9.5: v.1(1938)-85 (1980)</p> <p>Law Gov Docs - JU7.5: v.1 (1910/11)-v.69 (1981/82)</p> <p>Law Gov Docs JU7.5/2: v.1 (1982/83)-v.13 (1994/95)</p>
Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC)	<p><i>Interstate Commerce Commission Reports 1st series</i></p> <p><i>Interstate Commerce Commission Reports 2nd series</i></p> <p>Surface Transportation Board Reports</p> <p>Surface Transportation Board Decisions and Notices</p>	<p>Law Gov Docs - IC1.6:v.1 (1877)-v. 367 (1984)</p> <p>Law Gove Docs IC1.6/10:v.1 (1984)- v.10 (1995)</p> <p>Internet from 1996 – 2000 – http://www.stb.dot.gov/stb/elibrary/stb_reports.html</p> <p>Internet from 1996-2005- http://www.stb.dot.gov/decisions/ReadingRoom.nsf/DailyReleases</p>
Justice Dept.	<p><i>Official opinions of the attorneys general of the United States</i></p> <p><i>Opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs – J1.5: v.1 (1852) –v.43 (1982)</p> <p>Law GovDocs - J1.5/4:v.1 (1977)-v.20 (1996)</p> <p>Internet from 1992 – http://www.usdoj.gov/olc/opinionspage.htm</p>
Labor Dept.	Office of the Administrative Law Judge (OALJ) - Decisions of the Administrative Review Boards	Internet- http://www.oalj.dol.gov/ (Dates vary)
Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB)	<i>United States Merit Systems Protection Board Reporter</i>	<p>Law Gov Docs - MS1.10: v.1(1979)-v.13(1983); v. 31 (1987)-</p> <p>Internet from 1979 - : http://www.mspb.gov/mspbdecisionspage.html</p>
Military Courts	<i>West's Military Justice Reporter</i>	Law Gov Docs D1.19B: v.1 (1978)-

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)	<i>Decisions and Orders of the National Labor Relations Board</i>	<p>Law Gov Docs - LR1.8: v.1(1935/36)-</p> <p>Internet: Decisions from v.255 (1981) http://www.nlr.gov/nlr/shared_files/decisions/board.asp</p> <p>ALJ Decisions from August 2003-present http://www.nlr.gov/nlr/shared_files/decisions/alj.asp</p> <p>Regional Directors from 1998 – present http://www.nlr.gov/nlr/shared_files/decisions/regional.asp</p>
National Mediation Board (NMB)	<i>Determinations of the National Mediation Board</i>	<p>Law Gov Docs – NMB 1.2:C 84 v.1 (1930) – v.5 (1978)</p> <p>Law Gov Docs – NMB 1.9: v.6 (1976) – v.30 (2003) –</p> <p>Internet from 1998- http://www.nmb.gov/representation/decmenu.html</p>
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)	<i>National Transportation Safety Board Decisions</i>	<p>Law Gov Docs - TD1.122: v.1(1967/72)-v.7(1990/91)-</p> <p>Internet from 1992 - http://www.nts.gov/O_n_O/query.asp</p>
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	<p><i>Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issuances</i></p> <p><i>Advance Sheets - Nuclear Regulatory Commission Issuances</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs - Y3.N88:11/ v.1(1975)-v.22(1985).</p> <p>Law Gov Docs Microfiche - v.23(1986) -</p> <p>Law Gov Docs - Y3.N88:11-2/ Advance Sheets</p> <p>Internet from v.46 1997 – http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0750/</p>
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission (OSHARC)	<i>Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Reports</i>	<p>Internet http://www.oshrc.gov/decisions/decisions.html Final Administrative Law Judge Decisions from 1993 Final Commission Decisions from 1972:</p>
Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) [Commerce Dept.]	<p><i>Decisions of the Commissioner of Patents</i></p> <p><i>U.S. Patents Quarterly (USPQ)</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs C21.6: 1869-1968 (compiled from v. 1-v.857 of the Official Gazette)</p> <p>Law Treatises KF2975.A2 U55 v.1 (1929) -</p>

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC)	PBGC Opinion Letters	Internet from 1974-2002- http://www.pbgc.gov/practitioners/law-regulations-informal-guidance/content/page13191.html
Post Office	<i>Official Opinions of the Solicitor for the Post-Office Dept.</i> Administrative Decisions Purchasing Protest Decisions Board of Contract Appeals Decisions	Law Gov Docs P6.5 :v.1(1873/85)-v.9 (1936/51) Internet from 1957 - http://www.usps.gov/judicial/ Internet from 1987 - http://www.usps.com/lawdept/protestdecisions/ Internet from 1990 – http://www.usps.com/judicial/BCAD/welcome.htm
Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	<i>Securities and Exchange Commission Decisions and Reports</i> <i>SEC Docket</i>	Law Gov Docs - SE1.11: v.1 (1934/1936) – v.54 (2001) - Law Gov Doc – SE 1.29: 1973-1983 Law Gov Docs Microfiche - SE1.29: v.24 (1981)- Internet: http://www.sec.gov/enforce.htm Federal Court Actions/Litigation Releases 1995 – Administrative Proceedings 1995- Commission Opinions 1996- ALJ Decisions and Orders 1995-
Social Security Administration (SSA)	<i>Social Security Rulings - Disability</i> <i>Social Security Acquiescence Rulings</i>	Law Gov Docs HE 3.6: D63/2 : 1963-1986 Law Gov Docs - HE3.6/2-2: 1988-1995 Law Gov Docs - SSA1.6/2: 1995 Internet: http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/rulings/rulings.html Acquiescence Ruling 1986- Social Security Rulings 1960-
Tax Court	<i>Reports of the United States Board of Tax Appeals</i> <i>Reports of the Tax Court of the United States</i> <i>Reports of the United States Tax Court</i>	Tax Coll. KF6280.A2T36 v.1 (1924)-47 (1942) Tax Coll. KF6280.A2T37v.1 (1942)-53 (1969) Tax Coll. KF6280 .A2 T38 v.54 (1970)- Internet: http://www.ustaxcourt.gov/UstcInOp/asp/HistoricOptions.asp TC and Memorandum Opinions – 9/25/1995 Summary Opinions – 01/01/01

<p>Treasury Dept.</p>	<p><i>Treasury Decisions</i></p> <p><i>Customs Bulletin</i></p>	<p>Law Gov Docs - T1.11: v.1 (1899) – v.101 (1966)</p> <p>Law Gov Docs - T17.6/3-5: v.1 (1967)-v.20 (1986); v.23 (1989); v.32 (1998)-v.33 (1999)</p> <p>Law Gov Docs Microfiche – T17.6/3-5: v.21 (1988)-v.22 (1988); v.24 (1990)-v.36 (2002)</p>
<p>Veterans Administration</p>	<p>Veterans' Appeals Board. <i>Decisions.</i></p>	<p>Internet:</p> <p>Board of Veterans Appeals Decisions from 1992- http://www.index.va.gov/search/va/bva.html</p> <p>U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Decisions from 1989 – http://www.vetapp.gov/Download/Default.asp</p>