Online Office Hours

We’ll get started at 2 ET
Welcome. We’re glad you’re here! Use the chat box to introduce yourselves. Let us know:

- Your first name
- Where you’re joining us from
- Why you’re here
Using primary sources to teach Supreme Court Cases

• Court cases represent the convergence of social, political, and economic forces—they represent a historical moment in time

• Court cases are narratives or stories of real lives being impacted by legal interpretation

• Consider how you might highlight that historical moment for students through using primary sources which represent beliefs and cultural values of the time period
Scott v Sandford (1857)

To the Pro-Slavery or Southern Rights Party.

The time has now arrived, to test the real interest the Southern or States Rights Party feel for the perpetuity of our institutions. Congress has at last blotted or "Expunged" from the Statute Books, that unjust and unconstitutional enactment, the Missouri Compromise, and solemnly recognised the great doctrines so long fruitlessly contended for, by that party. Now, that the wall which has so long barred our progress, has been broken down, and we are permitted to go, with all our property whithersoever we please; will we permit this opportunity for restoring that just equilibrium between the Slave-holding and non-Slave-holding States, to pass unimproved.


-This image is from our *The Civil War: the Nation Moves Toward War Primary Source set*. In it, you will find several primary sources to choose which offer a broad perspective of America on the eve of The Civil War and can help situate the case in its historical moment.
Drawing Justice: Explore the Exhibit

- Select trial categories for students to explore

- Prompt students to use the court drawing/primary sources as a springboard into further investigation of the case and its historical moment
Significant Landmark Supreme Court Case Primary Sources
Search LOC Collections for items relating to legal terms/concepts

• Search with general term
  Example: due process

• Yielded several results and some surprising ones.

• **Puck** Magazine covers are rich with imagery/content
Using our Primary Source Analysis Guides, direct students to analyze the multiple images and messages in this cartoon.

Students can research the legal terms shown: law, justice, certificate of beyond a reasonable doubt, change of venue, injunction, and appeals.

Students can also research what might have been going on at the time to prompt *Puck* to run this political cartoon.
Law Library of Congress - Overview

- Largest law library in the world
  - Approximately **2.9 million volumes** of federal, state, and foreign materials, including codes, constitutions, official gazettes, law reports, treatises, serials, and laws from all historical periods
  - Covering **267 nations and jurisdictions**
  - Working reference collection of **30,000 volumes in the public reading room**
Databases & eResources
http://www.loc.gov/law/find/databases.php

- Databases arranged by topic, with information regarding:
  - Coverage for each database
  - Whether the database is freely accessible outside of the Library
Sample guides:

- How to Find Free Case Law Online
- U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs
- Federal Statutes: A Beginner’s Guide
U.S. Reports
http://www.loc.gov/law/help/us-reports.php

- Fully searchable collection using the search tool on the top of the screen.
- Search for names of cases or keywords in the text.
Educational Opportunities

- **Legal Research Institute:**
  - May 13, 2020 – Orientation to Law Library Collections
  - May 14, 2020 – Orientation to Legal Research: U.S. Case Law
  - May 28, 2020 – Congress.gov webinar
  - Foreign and comparative legal topics
  - Links to online legal resources
The Law Library of Congress - Websites

Homepage: **www.law.gov**

- Legal Research Institute:

- Databases and eResources:
  - [https://www.loc.gov/law/find/databases.php](https://www.loc.gov/law/find/databases.php)

- Guide to Law Online:

- Research & Reports:

- Legal Topics:

- Global Legal Monitor:

- *In Custodia Legis*:
  - [http://blogs.loc.gov/law](http://blogs.loc.gov/law)

- Congress.gov:
  - [http://www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)
Questions?

 Contact the Law Library Reference Desk
 Phone - (202) 707-5080
 Open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday

Use the Law Library's "Ask A Librarian" button: http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/ask-law.html