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INDEX TO THE APPELLATE CASE FILES
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
1792-1909

On the 20 rolls of this microcopy, M-408, are reproduced an alphabetical card index to the appellate case files of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1792-1909. The index contains about 59,000 cards. The early appellate case files, 1792-1831, have been microfilmed as a separate publication (M-214).

Each card in the index gives the name of the party in the case, the file number, the title of the case, the date the case was docketed, and the date of decision. The title of the case usually includes the names of the first appellant and the first appellee listed for the case in the Court's docket, such as "*People's Savings Bank, et al. v. Bates, et al.*" Cards for other parties in a case are not always included in the index. For parties who were involved in more than one case, such as the United States, individual States, cities, and many other subjects, the cards under each heading are arranged in numeric order by case file number. The index may be used for finding both particular and related or similar cases.

The appellate case files include transcripts of records from lower courts, petitions for writs of error or certiorari and the writs themselves, amendments or supplements to the transcripts of records, exhibits, citations, appeal bonds, assignments of error, agreements of counsel, depositions, motions, orders, decrees, judgments, mandates, correspondence, a few briefs, and other documents.

The Supreme Court of the United States, provided for in Article III, section 1, of the Constitution, was established by authority of the Judiciary Act of September 24, 1789 (1 Stat. 73). The jurisdiction of the Court extends to all cases arising under the Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made under their authority; to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime law; to controversies in which the United States is a party; and to controversies between two or more States, between a State and citizens of another State, between citizens of different States, between citizens of the same State claiming lands under grants of different States, and between a State or its citizens and foreign states, citizens or subjects. In all cases affecting ambassadors, ministers, and consuls, and those in which a State is a party, the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction. Its appellate jurisdiction is defined in various statutes; but as the circuit courts of appeals are now competent to give final decision in the majority of cases, the Supreme Court usually hears only those cases that involve the construction or the constitutionality of legislative enactments or other issues of general importance.

Among the appellate cases of the Court are many cases that helped to establish the implied powers of the Federal Government and the power of the Court to pass on the constitutionality of acts of Congress and of the State legislatures; prize and admiralty cases; cases concerning the neutrality of the United States in wars between foreign nations; and cases involving the contract clause of the Constitution, interstate and foreign commerce, the slave trade and the status of slavery, the powers of the Federal Government during the Civil War and foreign wars, civil rights, labor disputes, immigration, wage and hour legislation, and Federal and State police power.

The titles of Supreme Court appellate cases in the reports of the cases in the *United States Reports* are not always the same as in records of the Supreme Court, including the index reproduced in this microcopy.

Some of the admiralty cases, for instances, have been designated in the *Reports* simply by name of ship. Occasionally the title of the case in the *Reports* is so different from the one used in the records of the Court that there is no clue by which the case can be found in the index, as in the well-known case of *United States v. Judge Peters* (5 Cranch 115). In the records of the Court this case is called *Olmstead and Others v. Sergeant and Waters* (Case 343). Differences in spelling also create difficulties, as in the title *Harden v. Fisher et al.* (1 Wheaton 300), which also appears as *Harnden v. Fisher et al.* (Case 763).

The index reproduced in this microcopy and the appellate case files are part of the records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 267, Records of the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the same record group are other records of the Supreme Court that have been reproduced as microfilm publications. These include the minutes, from February 1, 1790 (M-215); the dockets, from August 4, 1791 (M-216); and the attorney rolls, from February 5, 1790 (M-217). Also in this record group are records of prize cases heard on appeal from Colonial and State courts by committees of the Continental Congress, 1776-80, and by the Court of Appeals in Cases of Capture, 1780-86 (M-162).

Additional records of the Court in the National Archives that are of interest in connection with the appellate case files and their index are the original-jurisdiction case files, 1792-1910; the opinions of the Court, 1808-1913; and the records of the Clerk of the Court, 1791-1911, including notes and briefs of Justice Henry Baldwin, correspondence, and unidentified case papers. An inventory of the records of the Court, prepared by the National Archives, has been published as Preliminary Inventory No. 139.

There are several other groups of records in the National Archives that relate to the activities of Federal courts. In Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, are dockets, minutes, case files, and other records of some district courts and former circuit courts of the United States. These report the actions taken by the Supreme Court Justices on circuit. They relate to the same types of cases and in some instances to the identical cases that appear in the appellate case files of the Supreme Court. Record Group 60, General Records of the Department of Justice, and Record Group 206, Records of the Solicitor of the Treasury, contain correspondence, memoranda, reports, and other records relating to cases in which the United States was a party or had an interest. Record Group 118, Records of United States Attorneys and Marshals, contain a few records of U.S. attorneys and marshals that relate to Federal legal proceedings beginning in 1824.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	A-Bars
2	Bart-Bri
3	Bro-Cha
4	Che-Cra
5	Cre-Eap
6	Ear-Fos
7	Fou-Gun
8	Gur-Hov
9	How-Ken
10	Keo-Lov
11	Low-Mem
12	Men-Nel
13	Nem-Pea
14	Pec-Rib

15	Ric-Sed
16	See-Ste
17	Sti-Ull
18	Ulm-U.S. (Case 16011)
19	U.S. (Case 16015)-Wei
20	Wel-Z