

TRANSCRIPTS AND RECORDINGS OF ORAL ARGUMENTS

(October 2008)

Beginning with the October 2006 Term, the Court will make the transcripts of oral arguments available free to the public on its Website, www.supremecourtus.gov, on the same day an argument is heard by the Court.

The Court's contracted reporting service, Alderson Reporting Company¹, with the aid of a court reporter in the Courtroom and high-speed technology, will transcribe the oral arguments more quickly, therefore, providing the transcripts to the Court for same day posting on our website.

Transcripts will be listed by case name and the date of oral argument. Transcripts are permanently archived beginning with the 2000 Term on the Court's Website. Transcripts prior to the 2000 Term are maintained in the Supreme Court Library.

After Alderson completes an oral argument transcript and provides copies to the Court it is sent to Westlaw and added to their collection. Westlaw's collection includes oral argument transcripts since 1990, which subscribers can access through the SCT-ORALARG database².

Such oral argument transcripts are also available on the Lexis-Nexis service. Lexis-Nexis' collection includes all oral argument transcripts since the beginning of the October 1979 Term. Subscribers to Lexis-Nexis (with a software package) can access these documents by entering the GENFED library and then clicking on the USTRAN file, which allows for a case name, docket or date range search for transcripts³.

Alderson Reporting Company also delivers copies of oral argument transcripts to the Supreme Court Library where they are added to the Library's records and briefs collection and are available to the public after 3:00 p.m. the next business day⁴. The Library's collection

¹ To order a transcript from the contractor, contact Alderson Reporting Company, Inc., Attn: Transcript Order, 1111 14th Street, NW, 4th Floor, Washington, DC 20005-5650. An Alderson Company representative can be reached by phone at (202) 289-2260 or (800) 367-3376, fax at (202) 289-2221 or (800) 367-3310 or e-mail at www.info@aldersonreporting.com. Transcripts can also be ordered through Alderson's website at www.aldersonreporting.com (to purchase, click "Order Supreme Court Transcripts").

² Westlaw can be reached by phone at (800) 328-4880, or through its website at <http://www.westlaw.com/>.

³ Lexis-Nexis can be reached by phone at (800) 356-6548 (Lexis Sales) or (800) 843-6476, or through its website <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/>.

⁴ The Supreme Court website is at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov> (click on "Oral Arguments" and click on "Argument Transcripts").

contains the transcripts of every oral argument since the beginning of the 1968 Term and a random selection of transcripts from oral arguments before the 1968 Term dating back to 1935. Photocopies cost ten cents per page. In addition to its oral argument transcripts, the Library's collection includes records and briefs from 1832 to the present.⁵

The Court also makes its own set of oral argument recordings. This set of recordings is kept in the Marshal's Office for the remainder of the Term, during which time it is not available to the general public. At the beginning of the next Term, the recordings are transmitted from the Marshal to the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch of the National Archives. The Archives' collection contains audio recordings of Supreme Court oral arguments from 1955 through the immediately preceding October Term. Members of the public can listen to or make their own copies of oral argument recordings using their own tape recorders, blank tapes, and patch cords at the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch. Copies of recordings can also be purchased from the Archives.⁶ To listen to or purchase a copy of a recording, the Archives asks that individuals requesting recordings provide the case title, Supreme Court case number, and date of the oral argument. Although no formal appointment is required to listen to recordings, the Archives recommends that individuals interested in retrieving copies make sure the Archives has a "reference copy" of the particular argument they are looking for prior to visiting the Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch.

Many recordings of oral arguments are also available on the Oyez Project website created and maintained by Professor Jerry Goldman of Northwestern University.⁷ This website allows access to approximately 588 cases through the use of the RealNetwork's RealPlayer. The cases cover a wide range of time periods and areas of constitutional law and are digitized from actual copies of the official argument tapes held by the National Archives. To access arguments through the website, click on "Cases" on the homepage to search by title, citation, subject, or date. The website offers new audio materials from a Term approximately 10 months after the end of that Term.

Many Supreme Court oral argument recordings and/or transcripts are also available in published collections that can be purchased. The multi-volume set, Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the Supreme Court of the United States: Constitutional Law, edited by Professors Gerald Gunther and Gerhard Casper, contains oral argument transcripts and all written briefs submitted to the Court (including *amicus curiae* briefs) for major cases in constitutional law that are considered "landmark" cases by the editors. Purchases must be made by volume (not by

⁵ The United States Supreme Court Library can be reached by phone at (202) 479-3186.

⁶ To obtain recordings of Supreme Court oral arguments through the National Archives contact the National Archives Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch, National Archives at College Park, Room 3340, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. The Branch can be reached by phone at (301) 837-3540 or by fax at (301) 837-3620. The website is located at:
http://www.archives.gov/research_room/media_formats/film_sound_video.html

⁷ The address for the Oyez Project website is <http://oyez.nwu.edu/>.

individual case) and each volume is hardbound and approximately 750 pages.⁸ This set is also available at various law libraries.

Another collection of oral arguments is The Supreme Court's Greatest Hits. This multimedia CD-ROM program currently costs \$29.95 and comprises oral arguments (taped and digitally encoded directly from the Archives' official recordings), texts, and images. The program, edited by Professor Jerry Goldman, creator of the Oyez Project, includes fifty cases, six related cases that were argued separately but decided with a principal case, and thirteen opinion pronouncements.⁹

Oral argument collections are also available on microfiche. The Congressional Information Service (CIS) produces a microfiche collection called Oral Arguments of the U. S. Supreme Court. This collection includes oral argument transcripts from the 1953 Term to the present and can be purchased from CIS, which sells microfiches only by Term (not by individual argument).¹⁰ The collection can also be found at various law libraries.

APPENDIX TO TRANSCRIPTS AND RECORDINGS OF ORAL ARGUMENTS

PRINTED TRANSCRIPTS:

Alderson Reporting Company, Inc.
Attn: Transcript Order
1111 14th Street, NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-5650
Phone: (202) 289-2260 or (800) 367-3376
Fax: (202) 289-2221 or (800) 367-3310
Website: www.aldersonreporting.com (to purchase, click "Order Supreme Court Transcripts")
E-mail: www.info@aldersonreporting.com

The National Archives (Old Military and Civil Branch)

⁸ For more information about this publication, contact the Congressional Information Service, 4520 East-West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-3389. It can be reached by phone at (301) 654-1550 or (800) 638-8380, or by fax at (301) 657-3203. The website is located at <http://www.cis.pubs.com/>.

⁹ To order The Supreme Court's Greatest Hits, contact the Association of American University Presses, 71 West 23rd Street, Suite #901, New York, NY 10010. The Association can be reached by phone at (212) 989-1010 or by fax at (212) 989-0275. The website is located at <http://aaup.uchicago.edu/>. For more information about the collection, see the following website: <http://nupress.nwu.edu/scgh/>.

¹⁰ For more information about the microfiche collection, contact the Congressional Information Service. See footnote 8, *supra*.

National Archives Records and Administration
7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenues, NW
Washington, DC 20408
Phone: (202) 501-5395
Fax: (202) 219-6273
E-mail: NWCTB@nara.gov

United States Supreme Court Library
One First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20543
Phone (202) 479-3186
Website: www.supremecourtus.gov

ELECTRONIC TRANSCRIPTS:

Westlaw
Phone: (800) 328-4880
Website: <http://www.westlaw.com/>

Lexis-Nexis
Phone: (800) 356-6548 (Lexis sales)
(800) 843-6476
Website: <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/>

U.S. Supreme Court
Website: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov>
Click on "Oral Arguments"
Click on "Argument Transcripts"

ORAL ARGUMENT RECORDINGS:

National Archives
Motion Picture, Sound, and Video Branch
National Archives at College Park
Room 3340
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Phone: (301) 837-3540
Fax: (301) 837-3620
Website: http://www.archives.gov/research_room/media_formats/film_sound_video.html

The Oyez Project (Northwestern University) -- Unofficial
Website: <http://oyez.nwu.edu/>

COLLECTIONS OF ORAL ARGUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:

Landmark Briefs and Arguments of the Supreme Court of the United States: Constitutional Law

Lexis-Nexis

4520 East-West Highway

Bethesda, MD 20814-3389

Phone: (301) 654-1550 or (800) 638-8380

Fax: (301) 657-3203

Website: <http://www.cis.pubs.com/>

The Supreme Court's Greatest Hits

The Association of American University Presses

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New York, NY 10010

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E-mail: <http://nupress@nwu.edu>

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Oral Arguments of the U.S. Supreme Court

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