

The background features a large, faint watermark of the Wisconsin State Law Library seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top edge and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a stylized tree or floral emblem.

# Understanding the Wisconsin Circuit Court Records Website

presented by Carol Hassler  
[carol.hassler@wicourts.gov](mailto:carol.hassler@wicourts.gov)

# POLL

- **What can you find on WCCA?**
  1. Circuit court records
  2. Documents that have been filed in a case
  3. Municipal court records
  4. Criminal court records
  5. Recorded liens



# POLL

- **What can you find on WCCA?**
  1. Circuit court records
  2. Documents that have been filed in a case
  3. Municipal court records
  4. Criminal court records
  5. Recorded liens
- Answer: 1, 4, 5



# What's Inside?

- WCCA "CCAP" database: <https://wcca.wicourts.gov/>
- Online since April 1999
- Coverage varies by county and case type  
<https://wcca.wicourts.gov/counties-on-ccap>
- Docket information, not full text
- Public records law applies:  
Wisconsin Statute 19.31-19.39



# Case Types Include

- Civil
  - Small claims, divorce, restraining orders & more
- Criminal
  - Felonies, misdemeanors, criminal traffic
- Probate
  - Informal probate proceedings, trusts, wills & more
- Other
  - Liens, tax warrants, tribal court orders
- Traffic
  - Forfeitures and other traffic





# Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

## Access to the public records of the Wisconsin circuit courts

This website (WCCA) provides access to certain public records of the Wisconsin circuit courts. The information displayed is an exact copy of the case information entered into the circuit court case management system by court staff in the counties where the case files are located. The court record summaries viewed here are all public records under Wisconsin open records law.

Please read this agreement prior to using the WCCA website:

The data available on the WCCA website is limited in the following ways:

1. Case information is uploaded to the WCCA website hourly unless periodic maintenance is being performed or the site is experiencing technical problems. The WCCA website information is accurate as of those updates. The WCCA program may be down for maintenance every night from 3:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m. Central Time.
2. Each county began using the circuit court case management system at different times and made independent decisions about the conversion or backloading of old cases. Converted cases may display less information.
3. Records not open to public inspection are not displayed on the WCCA website. Confidential court records include adoptions, juvenile delinquency, child protection, termination of parental rights, guardianship, and civil commitments.
4. The official judgment and lien docket is located in the office of the clerk of circuit court for each county. Although WCCA is not the official judgment and lien docket, it does accurately reflect the information entered into the circuit court case management system for that purpose.

Please indicate that you have read the above and agree to the use of the WCCA website subject to the above terms and understand the limitations of the circuit court case management database.

I agree

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative emblem with a central star and symmetrical scrollwork.

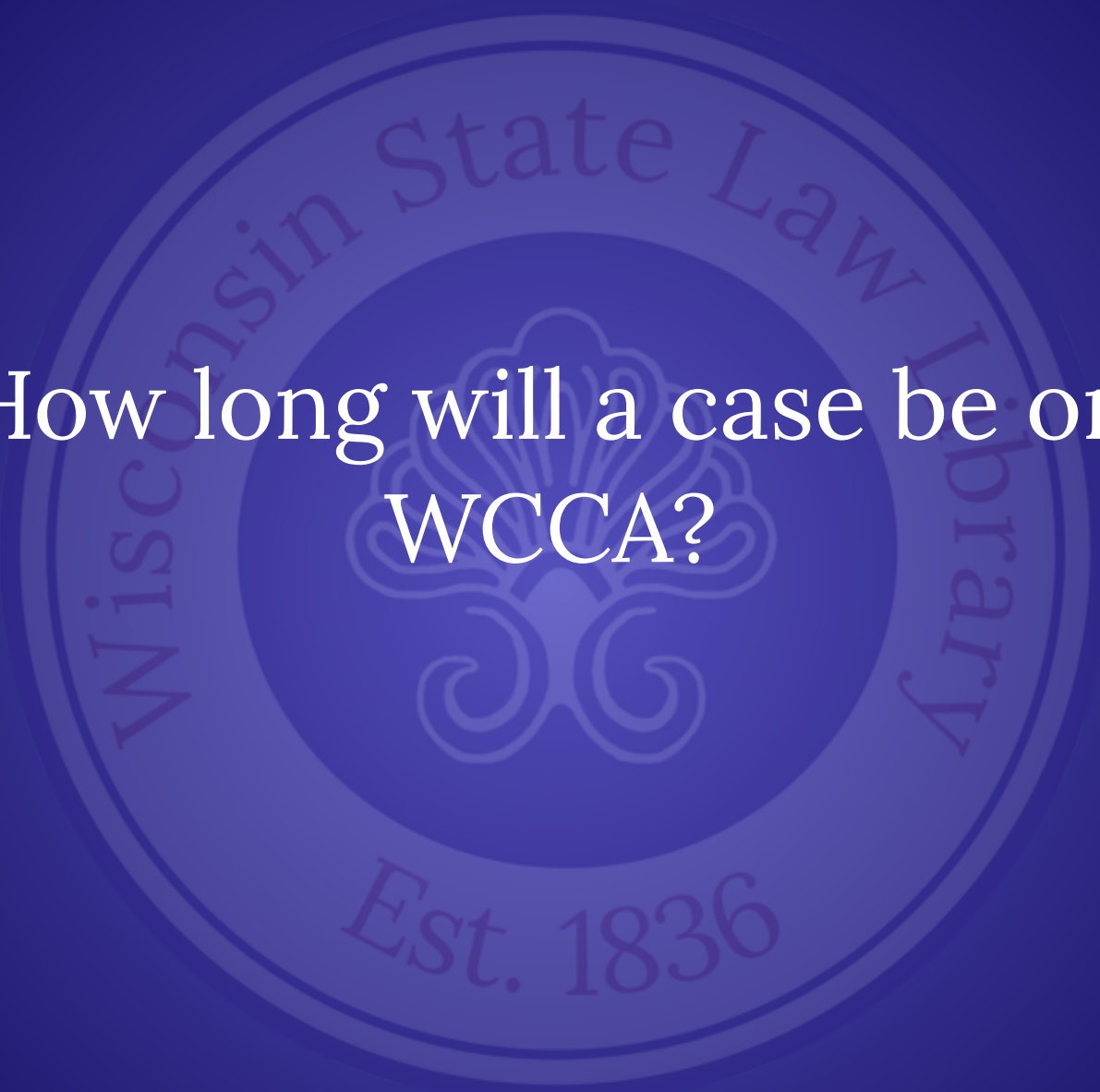
Why isn't a case on this  
website?

# Cases NOT Included

- Confidential cases or confidential case types
  - Adoption
  - Mental health commitment
  - Juvenile cases (Except for traffic cases tried in circuit court)
- Municipal court records
- Federal court (Includes bankruptcies)
- Some dismissed or acquitted cases





The logo is a circular seal for the Wisconsin State Law Library. It features a central decorative emblem with a crown-like top and symmetrical scrollwork. The text "Wisconsin State Law Library" is written in a serif font around the top inner edge of the seal, and "Est. 1836" is written at the bottom inner edge. The entire seal is rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background.

How long will a case be on  
WCCA?

# Retention

- Supreme Court Rule 72

Retention and maintenance of court records

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/scr/72>

- Check the FAQ!

<https://wcca.wicourts.gov/faq.html>





## Frequently asked questions

1. [WCCA overview](#)
2. [Case types and case information appearing on WCCA](#)
3. [Display periods for cases on WCCA](#)
4. [Handling incorrect case information displayed on WCCA](#)
5. [Understanding the information displayed on WCCA](#)
6. [Information about the judgment and lien docket](#)
7. [Privacy and safety concerns about information displayed on WCCA](#)
8. [Miscellaneous questions and trouble-shooting](#)

### WCCA overview

#### 1a. What is WCCA?

The Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA) website provides access to certain public records of the Wisconsin Circuit Courts. It was designed and made available to the public in accord with Wisconsin's Open Records Law and public policy toward providing greater public access to government activities.

#### 1b. What is the Wisconsin Open Records Law?

The public policy of Wisconsin state government is that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and its official acts. Wis. Statute 19.31. Circuit court records are open for public inspection, Wis. Stats. 59.20(3), unless closed by a statute, a common law limitation, or a specific court order.

#### 1c. What changes went into effect on March 30, 2018, for how cases are displayed on WCCA?

The Director of State Courts, acting on recommendations by the WCCA Oversight Committee, determined that the following cases will be

**Civil cases (CV) not small claims - 20 years**, with the following exception:

- Injunctions under Chapter 813, Wis. Stats., for domestic abuse, child abuse, individual at risk, and harassment that are denied or dismissed, are displayed for 2 years.

**Commitment of an inmate cases (CI) - 75 years**

**Complex forfeiture cases (CX) - 20 years**

**Criminal traffic cases (CT) - 20 years**, with the following exception:

- Criminal traffic cases with a disposition of acquittal or a disposition of dismissed, including dismissals resulting from deferred agreements, are displayed for 2 years.

**Docketed judgments - 20 years**

**Family cases (FA) - 30 years**, with the following exception:

- Dismissed divorce and annulment/legal separation cases are retained for 5 years.

**Felony class A cases (CF) - 75 years**, with the following exception:

- Felony cases with a disposition of acquittal or a disposition of dismissed, including dismissals resulting from deferred agreements, are displayed for 2 years.

**Felony class B - I cases (CF) - 50 years**, with the following exception:

- Felony cases with a disposition of acquittal or a disposition of dismissed, including dismissals resulting from deferred agreements, are displayed for 2 years.

**Foreign judgment cases (FJ) - 20 years**

**Forfeiture (non-traffic ordinance violation) cases (FO) - 5 years**, with the following exception:

- Forfeiture cases with a disposition of acquittal or a disposition of dismissed, including dismissals resulting from deferred agreements, are displayed for 2 years.

**Incarcerated person cases (IP) - 5 years**

**John Doe cases - 75 years** (JD, with class code 34001) for proceedings under [§968.26, Wis. Stats.](#)

**Misdemeanor cases (CM) - 20 years**, with the following exception:

- Misdemeanor cases with a disposition of acquittal or a disposition of dismissed, including dismissals resulting from deferred

The image features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library in the background. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative, stylized floral or sunburst emblem. Overlaid on this seal is the word "Searching" in a white, serif font.

Searching

# Choose Your Search!

- Simple
  - Name (Individual or business)
  - Case number AND county
- Advanced
  - Name, Case type, Class code, Attorney & more
- Judgment
  - Search liens and money judgments



# Understanding Case Numbers

- All circuit court case numbers have:
  - 4 digit year
  - 2 character alphabetic case code
  - 6 digit number

1998TR000001

Can also be typed as: 98tr1





# Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

[Search](#) ▾ [Calendar](#) ▾ [Pay fees](#) [Reports](#) ▾ [Help](#) ▾

[View payments \(0 items\)](#)

## Case search

[Click here](#) to learn about recent changes to WCCA case display and criminal charge modifier information.

### Party name ⓘ

Last name

ford

First name

harry

Middle name

When searching using a middle name, also show parties without a middle name.

Birth date

MM-DD-YYYY



When searching using a birth date, also show parties without a birth date.

Business name ⓘ

County

Statewide ▾

Case number ⓘ

Search

Reset



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# Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

[Search](#) ▾ [Calendar](#) ▾ [Pay fees](#) [Reports](#) ▾ [Help](#) ▾

[View payments \(0 items\)](#)

## Case search

[Click here](#) to learn about recent changes to WCCA case display and criminal charge modifier information.

### Party name ⓘ

Last name

First name

Middle name

When searching using a middle name, also show parties without a middle name.

### Birth date

MM-DD-YYYY



When searching using a birth date, also show parties without a birth date.

### Business name ⓘ

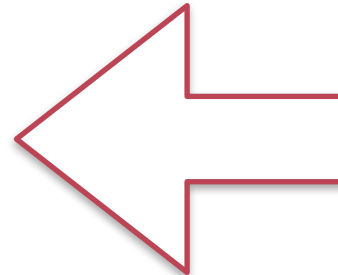
County

Brown



Case number ⓘ

002SC000003



Search

Reset



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Wisconsin State Law Library

wilawlibrary.gov

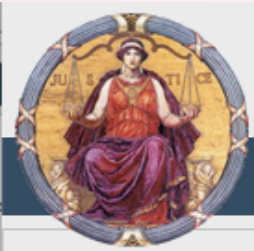
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# Civil Records

# Understanding a civil record

- Names
  - Plaintiff(s), Defendant(s), Attorneys, Judge or Commissioner
- County
- Case type
- Case status
- Events
- Judgment & fees





# Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

[Search](#) [Calendar](#) [Pay fees](#) [Reports](#) [Help](#)

[View payments \(0 items\)](#)

[Return to search results](#)



Summary

**Brown County Case Number 2002SC000003 Wisconsin Public Service Corp vs Gregory R Holte et al**

Parties

Court record

Civil judgments

<b>Filing date</b>	<b>Case type</b>	<b>Case status</b>
01-02-2002	Small Claims	Closed

<b>Class code description</b>	<b>Responsible official</b>
Sm Claim, Claim Under \$ Limit	Burdick, John

### Party summary

Party type	Party name	Party status
Plaintiff	Wisconsin Public Service Corp	
Defendant	Holte, Gregory R	
Defendant	Holte, Wendy L	

### Civil Judgment(s)

Type	Debtor name	Multiple debtors	Amount	Satisfaction	Judgment status	Date
Judgment for money	Holte, Gregory R	Yes	\$1,725.87	Full	Bankruptcy fully discharged	04-22-2003

### Parties

**Plaintiff: Wisconsin Public Service Corp**

Date of birth

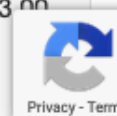
Sex

Race ⓘ



**Summary****Parties****Court record****Civil judgments**

Date	Event	Court official	Court reporter	Amount
04-22-2003	Satisfaction of judgment due to bankruptcy			
02-21-2002	Other papers			
	<b>Additional text:</b> Notification of Filing Under Bankruptcy Code and Suggestion of Stay			
02-07-2002	Judgment	Burdick, John	Maroszek/Shimek/Dewick	
02-04-2002	Other papers			
	<b>Additional text:</b> Notification of filing Under Bankruptcy Code and Suggestion of Stay			
01-25-2002	Order for financial disclosure	Burdick, John		
01-22-2002	Transfer at disposition	Burdick, John		
01-22-2002	Default judgment	Burdick, John		
01-22-2002	Notice of entry of judgment	Burdick, John		
01-18-2002	Affidavit of service			
	<b>Additional text:</b> Gregory Holte on 1/15/02			
01-02-2002	Filing fee paid			\$63.00
	<b>Additional text:</b> 02R 133191			



Summary

Parties

Court record

**Civil judgments****Judgment for money**

<b>County</b> Brown	<b>Case number</b> <a href="#">2002SC000003</a>	<b>Caption</b> Wisconsin Public Service Corp vs Gregory R Holte et al
<b>Judgment/lien date</b> 01-22-2002	<b>Total amount</b> \$1,725.87	<b>Type of tax</b>
<b>Warrant number</b>	<b>Date and time docketed</b> 02-07-2002 at 01:13 pm	<b>Service/event date</b>
<b>Satisfaction</b> Full	<b>Judgment status</b> Bankruptcy fully discharged	<b>Date</b> 04-22-2003
<b>Property/remarks</b>		

**Civil judgment events**

Date	Type	Amount
04-22-2003	Bankruptcy fully discharged	

**Judgment parties**

Party type	Name	Dismissed	Status	Address	Attorney name
Creditor	Wisconsin Public Service Corp	No	Active	PO Box 19002, Green Bay, WI 54307-9002	Wacek, Kim Marie
Debtor	Gregory R Holte	No	Active	6724 Melvinia St, Apt A, Milwaukee, WI 53216	
Debtor	Wendy L Holte	No	Active	708 Taylor St, Green Bay, WI 54303	

**Costs / amounts**

Description	Amount
Judgment amount	\$1,522.87



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# Criminal Records

# Criminal Records

- No “national criminal records” search available to the public
- WCCA does not search arrest records
- Cases may result in a conviction or dismissed
- Forfeiture, Misdemeanor, Felony





# Criminal Records – CCAP

- Scope
- Felony Records
  - class A – 75 years
  - class B – 50 years
- Misdemeanors & Criminal Traffic – 20 years
- Circuit court only – no federal court actions
- Dismissed or acquitted cases removed from WCCA 2 years after the final order



# Adams County Case Number 2019CF000002 State of Wisconsin vs. Dawn R Raether

Charge(s) in this case were read in to this or other case(s). A "read in" charge is a charge that is dismissed as part of a plea agreement, however:

- The defendant agrees to have the court consider the charge(s) when sentencing for another crime, under Wis. Stats. 973.20(1g)(b); and
- The defendant cannot be prosecuted for these charge(s) in the future.

**Notice to employers:** It may be a violation of state law to discriminate against a job applicant because of an arrest or conviction record. Generally speaking, an employer may refuse to hire an applicant on the basis of a conviction only if the circumstances of the conviction substantially relate to the particular job. For more information, see [Wisconsin Statute 111.335](#) and the Department of Workforce Development's publication, [Arrest and Conviction Records under the Law](#).

[View case details](#)

[Return to search results](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)



- Summary
- Charges
- Defendant
- Court record

## Adams County Case Number 2019CF000002 State of Wisconsin vs. Dawn R Raether

### Case summary

<b>Filing date</b> 01-03-2019	<b>Case type</b> Criminal	<b>Case status</b> Closed - Electronic filing
<b>Defendant date of birth</b> 01-03-1981	<b>Address</b> PO BOX 631, 600 Main St Unit 4, Friendship, WI 53934	<b>DA case number</b> 2018AD000942

### Charges

<b>Responsible official</b> Wood, Daniel G.	<b>Prosecuting agency</b> District Attorney	<b>Prosecuting agency attorney</b> Maki-Wallander, Rebecca L.	<a href="#">Printable version</a>
--	--	--	-----------------------------------

**Defendant owes the court:** \$0.00

Count no.	Statute	Description	Severity	Disposition
1	946.49(1)(b)	Bail Jumping-Felony	Felony H	Charge Dismissed but Read In
2	946.49(1)(b)	Bail Jumping-Felony	Felony H	Charge Dismissed but Read In
3	946.49(1)(a)	Bail Jumping-Misdemeanor	Misd. A	Charge Dismissed but Read In

# Puzzling Records

- Converted cases
- Codes, abbreviations, and more

[https://wcca.wicourts.gov/download/CCAP\\_abbreviations\\_and\\_acronyms.pdf](https://wcca.wicourts.gov/download/CCAP_abbreviations_and_acronyms.pdf)  
<https://www.wisbar.org/newspublications/newsroom/documents/news%20reporters%20legal%20handbook%208.14.13.pdf>

Court record		
Date	Event	Court official
11-15-2017	Records of prosec. are converted data. See file.	
11-17-1999	Prior Records Are Converted Data	
08-11-1992	Notes	
06-29-1992	Order	Northrup, George
05-08-1992	Disposition/Order/Judgment	Northrup, George

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# Advanced Searches

# Advanced Search Tools

- Case type abbreviations

<https://wcca.wicourts.gov/faq.html#caseTypesInfo>

- Class codes

<https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/circuit/circuitcodes.htm>

- Wildcards

- America\*

- Brown\*

- Case range search

- Filing date or case number



# Class Code Searching

- Pair class codes with:
  - Party name
  - Case number
  - Prosecuting attorney
  - Issuing agency
  - Filing date
  - Citation number
  - DA case number
  - State bar ID number



# Advanced case search

## Party name ⓘ

Last name

First name

Middle name

When searching using a middle name, also show parties without a middle name.

## Birth date

When searching using a birth date, also show parties without a birth date.

## Business name ⓘ

## County

 x ▼

## Case number ⓘ

## Case number range ⓘ

 x ▼ x ▼

from

to

## Case types

 ▼

When searching using a middle name, also show parties without a middle name.

**Birth date**

MM-DD-YYYY



When searching using a birth date, also show parties without a birth date.

**Business name** ⓘ

american\*

**Judgment party type**

Debtor (DB)



**Satisfaction**

Not satisfied or partially satisfied



**Judgment/lien type**

Select an option

**Case type**

× Construction Lien (CL)



**Case classifications**

Select an option

**County**

Dane



**Case number** ⓘ

Name	Multiple debtors	County	Judgment date	Docket date	Satisfaction
<input type="text" value="Search Name..."/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Judgment da"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Docket date"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>
<a href="#">American Eagle Outfitters</a>	No	Dane	09-25-2013	09-25-2013	No
American Way of Madison LLC	No	Dane	01-22-2016	01-22-2016	No



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# Judgment & Liens

# POLL

- What can you find on the judgment & lien database?
  - Tax warrants
  - Money judgments
  - Transcript of judgments from other counties
  - Condominium liens
  - Construction liens



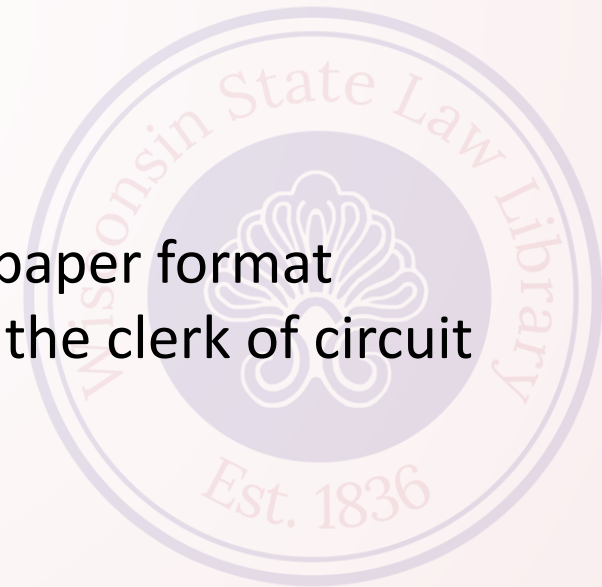
# POLL

- What can you find on the judgment & lien database?
  - Tax warrants
  - Money judgments
  - Transcript of judgments from other counties
  - Condominium liens
  - Construction liens
- All are correct!



# Liens and WCCA

- Types of Liens on [CCAP](#)
  - Money Judgments – when judgment has been docketed
  - Tax Warrants
  - Unemployment Compensation Warrants
  - Constructions Liens
  - Condominium Liens
  - And more...
- Judgment and Lien Search
  - Liens prior to early 1990s most likely in paper format
  - Official docket is located in the office of the clerk of circuit court for each county



# Docketed civil judgment search

## Party name ⓘ

Last name

brown

First name

james

Middle name

When searching using a middle name, also show parties without a middle name.

Birth date

MM-DD-YYYY



When searching using a birth date, also show parties without a birth date.

Business name ⓘ

Judgment party type

Debtor (DB)



Satisfaction

Not satisfied or partially satisfied



Judgment/lien type

Select an option

Case type

× Tax Warrants (TW)



Case classifications

Select an option

County

Statewide



Case number ⓘ

# Docketed civil judgment search results

You searched for: **First name:** gerald, **Last name:** gilbert, **Judgment party type:** DB, **Satisfaction:** NP

[Return to search](#)

Show  entries [Clear filters](#)

Showing 1 to 25 of 44 entries

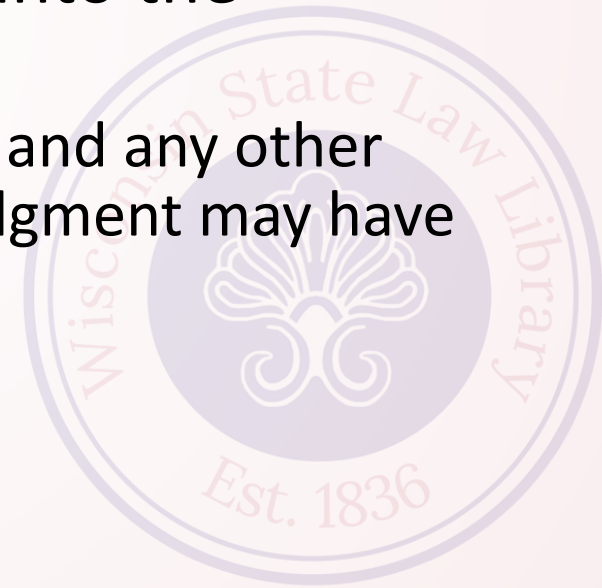
[Previous](#) **1** [2](#) [Next](#)

Name	Multiple debtors	County	Judgment date	Docket date	Satisfaction	Judgment status	Date	Case number
<input type="text" value="Search Name..."/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Judgment da"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Docket date"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="All"/>	<input type="text" value="Search Date..."/>	<input type="text" value="Search Case numbe"/>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Columbia	07-25-2011	07-25-2011	No			<a href="#">2011TJ000063</a>
GILBERT, GERALD	No	Columbia	01-14-2008	05-03-2010	No			<a href="#">2010TW000110</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Columbia	09-13-2010	09-15-2010	No			<a href="#">2010CV000414</a>
<a href="#">Gilbert, Gerald</a>	Yes	Columbia	03-07-2008	03-07-2008	No			
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Dane	10-08-2010	10-08-2010	No			<a href="#">2010TJ000420</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Sauk	07-25-2011	07-25-2011	No			<a href="#">2011TJ000072</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	No	Columbia	02-04-2014	02-07-2014	No			<a href="#">2014TW000015</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Sauk	07-08-2010	08-06-2010	No			<a href="#">2009CV001091</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Outagamie	10-25-2010	10-25-2010	No			<a href="#">2010CV000585</a>
GILBERT, GERALD	No	Columbia	09-04-2007	05-03-2010	No			<a href="#">2010TW000119</a>
Gilbert, Gerald	Yes	Columbia	09-10-2010	09-14-2010	No			<a href="#">2008CV000798</a>
<a href="#">Gilbert, Gerald</a>	No	Dane	02-23-2000	02-23-2000	No			
<a href="#">Gilbert, Gerald</a>	No	Dane	02-23-2000	02-23-2000	No			



# Lifespan of a Lien

- Lien for 10 years from the date of entry onto the judgment/lien docket
- Creditor can have lien re-docketed for a second 10-year period
- Satisfaction of liens will be entered into the judgment/lien docket
  - Entered in the county where first filed and any other jurisdiction where the transcript of judgment may have been filed



# Foreclosures

- Foreclosure judgments not part of the judgment/lien docket
- If a deficiency judgment is entered, the deficiency judgment will be placed on the judgment/lien docket





# Involuntary Liens that are Not Required to be Filed or Recorded

- Mechanic's Liens
- Motor vehicle towing & storage
- Keepers of hotels, stables, garages, marinas, and pastures
- Jewelers
- Factors & brokers
- Prepaid maintenance contracts



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# Attorneys & Judges

# Researching Legal Professionals

- Court calendars
  - 7 day search range
  - Repeat search for a wider date range
  - Find Court Officials  
[https://www.wicourts.gov/contact/Circuit\\_Courts.html](https://www.wicourts.gov/contact/Circuit_Courts.html)
  - Find State Bar ID:  
<https://lawyerhistory.wicourts.gov/>
- Advanced search
  - Search by attorney State Bar ID





# Wisconsin Circuit Court Access

Search ▾ Calendar ▾ Pay fees Reports ▾ Help ▾

View payments (0 items)

[Return to](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)



Adams (number 2019CF000002 State of Wisconsin vs. Dawn R Raether

Case summary

Summary

Charges

## Court calendar search

County

Barron



Date range

from

MM-DD-YYYY



to

MM-DD

Traffic only

Search

Reset

Court official

Anderson, Janelle (0435)



Anderson, Mary (2758)

Anderson, Peter (2324)

Anderson, Peter C (2324)

Anderson, Shannon (2559)

Anderson, Shannon (2755)

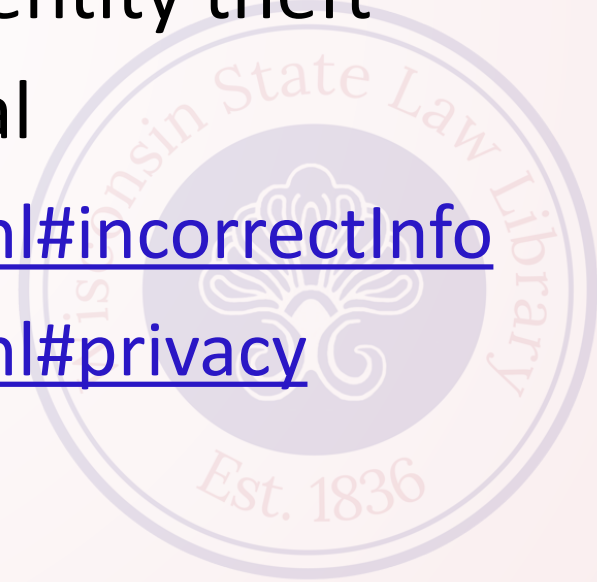
Anderson, Steven P. (2361)

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library. The seal contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative emblem with a central floral or sunburst-like motif and symmetrical scrollwork on either side.

My case is online and it  
shouldn't be!

# Case information

- Clerk of Court for each county responsible for information
- Form for incorrect information
- Form for mistaken identity or identity theft
- Form to request address removal
- <https://wcca.wicourts.gov/faq.html#incorrectInfo>
- <https://wcca.wicourts.gov/faq.html#privacy>



The background features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Wisconsin State Law Library. The seal is circular and contains the text "Wisconsin State Law Library" around the top edge and "Est. 1836" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is a decorative, stylized floral or sunburst emblem.

# Research Issues

# Frequent Questions & Sources

- WCCA copycat websites
- Expungements
- WCCA in the news
- Legislative alerts
- WCCA Oversight Committee

<https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/committees/wcca.htm>





The logo is a circular seal for the Wisconsin State Law Library. It features a central decorative emblem with a sunburst at the top and symmetrical scrollwork below. The text "Wisconsin State Law Library" is written in a serif font around the top inner edge of the seal, and "Est. 1836" is written at the bottom inner edge. The entire seal is rendered in a light blue color against a dark blue background.

Questions?