

Foreign Intelligence Law Collection – Searching Assistance

The Foreign Intelligence Law Collection (FILC) is a community housed within Digital Georgetown. On the FILC community [homepage](#), the search box is used to search the FILC community and its collections (i.e., any set of materials marked by a Roman numeral on the homepage). Once within a collection, such as *III. FISC/FISCR Opinions*, using the search box will only search the documents within that particular collection.

Boolean Operators

The repository uses the following basic Boolean operators: AND, OR, NOT, parenthesis (), and quoted language, “ ”. Note: Boolean operators **must** be capitalized or they will not be recognized as operators.

AND – requires both terms to be in each returned result.

Example: *bulk AND 215* provides results in instances where a document includes the word *bulk* and the number *215* (a reference to § 215).

OR – requires that either term (or both) are in the returned results.

Example: *bulk OR 215* provides results in instances where a document includes either the word *bulk* or the number *215*.

NOT – requires that the term before NOT is included in the returned results while the term after NOT is not located in the returned results.

Example: *bulk NOT 215* provides results in instances where a document includes the word *bulk* but does not include the number *215*.

() Parenthesis – Search strings inside a parenthesis will be the first processed.

Example: *bulk AND (702 OR 215)* will first retrieve a set of documents that either contain the numbers *702* or *215* (or both). The results provided to the user will only include the subset of these documents that also include the word *bulk*.

“ ” Quotation Marks – requires that the exact phrase is in the returned results.

Example: “*bulk collection*” provides results in instances where a document includes the phrase *bulk collection*. A document that contained the words *bulk* and *collection* but not the exact phrase *bulk collection* would not appear in the returned results.

Note that a space between words acts as an AND operator.

Example: *bulk collection* is processed as *bulk AND collection*. For only an exact phrase to appear in the returned results, search for “*bulk collection*”. Conversely, for *bulk* or *collection* to appear in the returned documents, search for *bulk OR collection*.

Also note that most symbols and punctuation are searched as spaces (and thus AND operators), as are the following words: *a, an, and, but, of, or, the, and not*.

Example: *GID.C.00001* will provide results in which *GID* and *C* and *00001* are located in the document or its metadata. To ensure accuracy, use quotations: "*GID.C.00001*".

Discovery Filters

Whether on the FILC community homepage or in any of the collections of the community, the Discover filters on the right side of the page can be used to browse to relevant materials. For instance, while in the *IV. FISC/FISCR Orders* collection, the filters can be used to locate material either by Author, GID Identifier, Docket number, Date created (date the opinion was written), or Declassification Date (when the order was made publicly available).

Author

By choosing "View More" under author, a list of all the judges who have issued a publicly available order appears. The number in parenthesis next to the judge's name indicates how many orders issued by that judge available in the Order collection. Clicking on the judge's name provides all the orders that judge wrote.

Note that if choosing "View More" under author while on the Foreign Intelligence Law Collection homepage (as opposed to within the Opinions or Orders collection), the list would include not only the names of judges that have written an order or opinion, but also the names of authors of reports or other documents within the repository.

Identifier

By choosing "View More" under Identifier, a list of all the official GID identifiers assigned to every order (or opinion if in the Opinion collection) appears. Clicking on a GID identifier resolves to the order itself.

Docket

By choosing "View More" under Docket, a list of all the docket numbers assigned by the FISC and FISCR that have associated orders (or associated opinions if in the Opinion collection) appears. The number in parenthesis next to the docket number indicates how many orders are associated with that docket number. Clicking on the docket number provides all the orders associated with that docket number.

Date created

By choosing a decade under Date created, a list of all orders (or opinions if in the Opinions collection) that were issued within that decade appears. By using the same filter on the results page, a user can choose a specific year. The number in parenthesis next to the decade or the year indicates how many orders were issued in that decade or year. Note that only opinions and orders that have unredacted dates will appear using the date created filter.

Declassification date

By choosing a decade under Declassification date, a list of all orders (or opinions if in the Opinions collection) that were made publicly available within that decade appears. By using the same filter on the results page, a user can choose a specific year. The number in parenthesis next to the decade or the year indicates how many orders were declassified in that decade or year.