

A New Era: Integrating Today's Next Gen Research Tools Ravel and Casetext in the Law School Classroom

By Katrina June Lee, Susan Azyndar, and Ingrid A.B. Matton. 41 RUTGERS COMPUTER & TECH. L.J. 31 (2015).

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Reviewer's Summary:

The authors begin this article by discussing common issues, concerns, and trends in modern legal research instruction, including goals of first-year legal research programs. They identify two “next generation” legal research tools, Ravel and Casetext, that they believe may be successfully integrated into such curricula to support program goals, and describe those products’ development and key features. The authors then describe the teaching and assessment module they designed for Ravel and Casetext, which they introduced during the Spring of 2014 in Ohio State’s first-year legal writing course. They found that most students had no prior exposure to the tools, and they designed exercises to expose students to the tools in the context of issues arising in their writing assignments. Students responded positively to the tools, though raised concerns regarding their reliability and completeness. The authors conclude by providing recommendations for further research and/or pilot instructional programs involving Ravel and Casetext.

Summarized by: Meredith Capps, Vanderbilt University Law School, 2019.