Pay attention to flags, but mainly just to RED FLAGS. Be sure to click through to figure out EXACTLY why a red flag is there. Yellow flags are less helpful.

Click on the ADVANCED search button in any Westlaw database to bring up a screen like this with great search options.

GUIDE to BOOLEAN CONNECTORS you can use for pinpoint searches.

CONFINE your searches to certain sections of cases by using FIELDS.

The SYNOPSIS/DIGEST field allows you to search just the summary section and the headnotes of cases. Excellent for targeted searching.

CONFINE your searches to certain sections of cases by using FIELDS.

Pay attention to the DATE of DECISION. Older cases are often still good law, but is there a more recent decision with the same conclusion that you could use instead?

Check the CITING REFERENCES tab for cases, articles or other sources that cite to this case.

Click on the KEY NUMBER HYPERLINKS for a list of cases on the same topic.

Easily switch jurisdictions.

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