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Museletter: September 1986

Muse Law Library Staff

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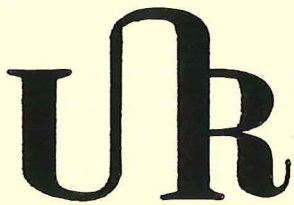


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MUSELETTER

William Taylor Muse Law Library

T.C. Williams School of Law

Vol. 4 No. 1

September, 1986

WELCOME (AND WELCOME BACK)!

The Law Library staff welcomes all new and returning students to another academic year. By all indications, the incoming first-year class is the largest ever at T.C. Williams. In light of the influx of new students and the changes made to the Library during the Summer, we are devoting the majority of this issue of the MUSELETTER to announcements of new services, policies, and equipment that will affect all Library users. In the limited space that is left in this issue, we present several of our regular features: "Questions & Suggestions" and Joyce Janto's "Recreational Reading Reviews."

We hope to publish the MUSELETTER bimonthly throughout the academic year. Remember, the MUSELETTER is your means of communicating with the Law Library staff. You may submit questions, comments, and suggestions to the MUSELETTER "Questions & Suggestions" box located on the Circulation Desk. We will attempt to address all legitimate questions in future issues of the MUSELETTER.

LIBRARY HOURS*

Monday-Thursday.....7:30 a.m.-Midnight
Friday.....7:30 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Saturday.....9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sunday.....Noon-Midnight

* The Library observes special hours during intersession periods, holidays, and Summer sessions. These special hours will be posted in advance on the board outside the Library entrance.

MUSE NEWS

Evening Reference Librarian Joins Staff

The Law Library is pleased to announce that Lucinda D. Harrison has joined our staff as a reference librarian. Ms. Harrison, who comes to UR following several years of private practice for a Roanoke, Virginia firm, is a 1982 graduate of the Washington & Lee University School of Law. Her schedule (Sunday-Thursday, 1:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) has been designed primarily to

provide much-needed evening and Sunday professional reference service. Those in need of evening and Sunday reference assistance will generally find Lucinda at the Reference Desk or in her office (located across the hall from the microcomputer room on the Library's first floor).

Please join us in welcoming Lucinda to the staff and feel free to see her with your questions.

REFERENCE DESK HOURS*

Monday-Saturday.....10:00 a.m.-Noon
Every Day.....2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Sunday-Thursday.....6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

* When no reference librarian is on duty, please see Lucinda Harrison or Steve Hinckley for assistance.

"Just When You Thought You Knew Where Everything Was...."

Returning students and regular Law Library patrons will notice that we have rearranged the books in the Virginia Alcove and the first-floor reporter section during the Summer. No, it's not that we enjoy seeing people walk around in circles for a few weeks (well, maybe a little!). Actually, the book shifting was done in an attempt to use all available space and to put the affected volumes in a more logical order.

In the Virginia Alcove, the Virginia treatises and Virginia Reports have traded places. This move allows greater room for expansion and makes it possible for us to move many frequently requested Virginia titles from the closed reserve stacks (behind the Circulation Desk) to open stacks, thus greatly improving access.

The first-floor reporter section (containing the federal statutes, ALR, and the National Reporter System) has been more drastically changed than the Virginia section. However, we think that upon close inspection, you will agree the new shelving scheme is far more logical than the old. The federal materials are now all together (ALR no longer intervenes), and they are in hierarchical order; the federal statutes and codes are followed by the U.S. Supreme Court reporters, which are followed by the Federal Reporter (1st and 2d), which are followed by the Federal Supplement and the U.S. Claims Court Reporter. ALR Federal follows the federal reporters. The remaining ALR's (1st-4th) follow ALR Federal. Following ALR are the regional reporters in alphabetical order.

The Library has prepared new signs indicating the contents of each shelving range. These signs are located on the end panels of each set of shelves. We trust that these will be of assistance in clarifying the new shelving scheme.

New Microfiche Reader/Printer

Although our new Minolta RP 503 microfiche reader/printer arrived in the Spring, very few patrons realize that we now have a very dependable, high-quality microfiche reader/printer. This machine, which represents the latest technology in microform printing, is located on the Library's first floor across from the elevator. The machine is attached to the University's vendacard system and to use it (either to print or merely to view) you must insert a vendacard into the vendacard reader. There is no charge for merely viewing the fiche. However, your vendacard will be debited \$ 0.20 for each copy made.

Basic instructions concerning the operation of this machine are located on top of the reader/printer. If you need further assistance, please ask at the Circulation Desk.

WESTLAW Comes to UR

WESTLAW, West Publishing Company's full-text, computerized legal research system and chief competitor to LEXIS, is now available in the Law School Library. Unlike the LEXIS terminals which are "dedicated" (in other words, used exclusively to communicate with LEXIS), WESTLAW will be accessed through a standard IBM-PC and modem located in what has been the LEXIS room. As a consequence, WESTLAW users will have to use a 5 1/4-inch floppy diskette kept on Reserve to communicate with the system. Instructions detailing the procedures to be followed when accessing WESTLAW with this software are posted on the bulletin board over the WESTLAW/IBM-PC.

WESTLAW will be available on the same basis as LEXIS; a WESTLAW reservation book will be kept at the Circulation Desk in which users may reserve up to 1/2 hour Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and an additional hour from 5:30 p.m. to closing. Saturdays and Sundays, users may reserve only one one-hour time slot between opening and 9:00 p.m. Please note that, like LEXIS, WESTLAW is unavailable for law school use each weekday for a certain period. This so-called "peak-use" period for WESTLAW is from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (LEXIS also becomes unavailable at 2:30 p.m. each weekday but signs back on at 5:00 p.m.). When arriving at the desk for your scheduled time on WESTLAW you will be asked to leave your UR student ID card. **ONLY CURRENT UR LAW STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ARE PERMITTED TO USE WESTLAW.** In exchange for your ID card, you will receive the WESTLAW software, a copy of WESTLAW for Law Students, and the WESTLAW Access Number. Upon completion of your WESTLAW session, you must sign-off (according to the instructions on the bulletin board over the terminal) and return the software and ID card to the Circulation Desk.

Undoubtedly, many of you will have questions concerning the operation of WESTLAW. When such questions arise, please see Steve Hinckley or Lucinda Harrison for assistance.

CCALI - Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction Diskettes
Available on Reserve

In 1982, Harvard Law School and the University of Minnesota Law School established the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CCALI). This non-profit corporation's primary purpose is to facilitate the development, distribution, and use of computerized instructional exercises in the law. The University of Richmond School of Law is one of over eighty AALS-accredited law schools that are CCALI members and, as such, the Law School has received a wide variety of law exercises on 5 1/4-inch computer diskettes. These diskettes are housed in the Law Library and are available for student use at any time. Presently, the Library has over twenty programs, most of which deal with civil procedure, professional responsibility, evidence, and torts. There are also programs concerning aspects of trial advocacy, insurance law, labor law, and commercial transactions.

All CCALI exercises are "menu-driven," meaning that you simply load the disk into one of the DEC Rainbow computers in our microcomputer room (instructions for loading disks are included with each box of software) and follow the instructions on the screen. Completion time of each program varies widely from one to five hours. A complete list of all CCALI software is kept at the Circulation Desk. Interested patrons should ask for specific software by the title listed. Remember to reserve time in the microcomputer reservation book (at the Circulation Desk) in advance of using a CCALI exercise. Competition with students using the microcomputers for word processing can be great, so reservations are very important.

Questions concerning the CCALI disks should be directed to Steve Hinckley or Lucinda Harrison.

Interlibrary Loans

If you are in need of a book or a copy of an article that is not available in our collection, you may be interested in contacting Nancy Martin at the Circulation Desk concerning the possibility of ordering the materials from another library. The Law Library generates interlibrary loan requests on the OCLC computerized system which links us with hundreds of other libraries nationwide. Mrs. Martin will be available to explain the approximate costs (if any) and the time constraints involved with these transactions Mondays-Fridays, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

From the "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" Department...:
"Va. Code" v. "Va. Code Ann." Part II

Faithful readers of the MUSELETTER may remember the minor furor started in our February, 1986, "Questions & Suggestions" column when we stated our position that the frequently used

citation "Va. Code Ann. ____ (19xx)" for the Code of Virginia was contrary to the 13th edition of A Uniform System of Citations (aka the "Bluebook").

We strongly recommended that the University of Richmond Law Review and all other users of the "Va. Code Ann." cite abandon it for the "Bluebook approved" Va. Code ____ (19xx) citation form. Our attitude was (and is) that the "Bluebook" is final authority on citation form.

Well..., when you live and die by the "Bluebook" you have to be prepared for occasional 180-degree turns in accepted citation form. The Harvard Law Review Association has just published its 14th edition of the "Bluebook" and, guess what? The "Bluebook" has now adopted the "Va. Code Ann." citation form as the correct cite for the Code of Virginia. As we stated in February, we still question the rationale for the "Va. Code Ann." cite. The Code of Virginia, published by the Michie Company, is Virginia's only statutory compilation. Unlike the federal system and many states where two or more codes are published, there is no other Virginia statutory compilation to confuse the Code with. While it is helpful that Michie annotates the Code, to state the fact that it is annotated is unnecessary. The actual title of the set is the Code of Virginia. Look at the title page. The mere fact that the word "Annotated" appears on the title page does not make it part of the title.

But, true to our policy, the Law Library will follow the current "Bluebook" citation and use the "Va. Code Ann." form until such time as our friends at Harvard decide to change again.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Law Library needs your help to keep this facility in great shape for today's patrons as well as the patrons who will use it long after our current students have gone. Here are several reminders:

1) Food and Drink

Please do not bring any food into the Library. There have been too many violations of this rule this year; if this continues, we may have to initiate regular "patrols" which would be embarrassing for you and a waste of valuable time for us. Why do we care? Simply because that innocent crumb that falls from your sandwich can attract insects and other unsavory characters that also like to eat the paper in books. Believe us when we tell you that pest infestation can destroy library volumes. If that doesn't get to you, then think of your fellow students and other Library patrons who deserve to sit in a clean carrel, devoid of your mess! How much more needs to be said?

The Law Library's rule on drinks is already more liberal than most libraries -- all you need to do is get yourself a "spill-proof" cup (otherwise known as a "travel cup" or "car cup") and you can enjoy a drink while you work. Please realize that a "spill-proof" cup as defined by the Library is not a McDonald's cup with a plastic lid. The whole idea of a true spill-proof cup is that the lid will not pop off if the cup is dropped or knocked over. If you have any questions as to what an acceptable spill-proof cup looks like, ask one of the librarians when they are at the reference desk. The best place to get one? Although they are sold in a variety of places, perhaps your best bet is (believe it or not) at an automotive store or automotive department of a store like Sears. The library is looking into the possibility of selling spill-proof cups later in the year.

2) ID Cards

The Law Library requires students to show a current UR ID card when requesting to use the computers and software, LEXIS, and WESTLAW. We are sorry that some people are offended by the fact that not everyone working at the Library knows everyone by sight, but there are simply too many students to keep track of without ID cards. We must insure that only authorized students are using this equipment and ID cards are the best way to do that. Academic Computing also requires an ID card before they will hand out software, so we are not alone on this! If you do not have an ID and you want to use the Library's computers, please get one immediately!

Recreational Reading Reviews - by Joyce Manna Janto, Acquisitions Librarian.

Books designated as "recreational reading" in this column are recently acquired works dealing with a wide variety of law-related topics that we feel would be of interest to our patrons. These books are located on the book display rack atop the Shepard's Citations. They will eventually be shelved on the third floor at the designated call numbers.

Protecting the Best Men: An Interpretive History of the Law of Libel, by Norman L. Rosenberg. KF/1266/.R67/1985.

To support his thesis that there exists no natural evolutionary history of free speech, Rosenberg chronicles political defamation cases from the trials of John Peter Zenger in 1735 to William Westmoreland in 1984.

Judging the Jury, by Valerie P. Hans. KF/8972/.H27/1986.

The right to a trial by jury is one of the firmest beliefs of our society. This book examines how juries deal with a variety of controversial problems, including the imposition of the death sentence and consideration of the insanity defense.

Justice Downwind: America's Atomic Testing Program in the 1950's, by Howard Ball. KF/3942/.N8/B34/1986.

From 1951 to 1963, the government detonated above-ground atomic bombs in Nevada without regard for the 100,000 people who lived downwind from the test site. Despite the deaths of several thousand head of livestock, and growing evidence that the testing was linked to an epidemic of childhood leukemia, Ball details how the Atomic Energy Commission downplayed the adverse effects of the testing and discloses that the AEC went so far as to conceal evidence linking the animal deaths and childhood illnesses to nuclear fall-out.

Questions & Suggestions

QUESTION

I would like to contact the Mental Disability Legal Resource Center. I am working on a paper concerning the rights of institutionalized individuals and would like to see if they can provide any research assistance.

Perhaps the best source for locating information concerning national and international non-profit trade and professional associations, social welfare and public affairs organizations, religious, sports, and hobby groups, and other types of organizations that consist of voluntary members headquartered in the U.S. is a set entitled the Encyclopedia of Associations, 21st ed., (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1987. REF/HS/17/.G334). This set, in three parts, provides extensive information concerning over 23,000 organizations including contact information (addresses and phone numbers), descriptions of activities, and publication information. A fourth part of this set provides the same sort of information for some 2,500 organizations based outside the U.S.

All entries are arranged by subject and are assigned a "sequential entry number." To search for a particular organization, one would use the alphabetical "name and keyword" index. As indicated in that index, the Mental Disability Legal Resource Center is indexed both under its name and a "keyword" (in this case, "legal" ; Legal Resource Center - Mental Disability). The sequential "entry number" for this organization is 4971. A look at the spine of volume one, part one reveals

that entries 1-9670 are in that volume. By merely turning to entry number 4971, the user will find a very complete description of the organization in question.

We highly recommend the Encyclopedia of Associations as a starting point when looking for information concerning an organization. Remember that all books with call numbers starting with "REF" are shelved in the first floor reference area.