

12-1988

Museletter: December 1988

Muse Law Library Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter>

 Part of the [Other Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Staff, Muse Law Library, "Museletter: December 1988" (1988). *Museletter*. Book 16.
<http://scholarship.richmond.edu/museletter/16>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Muse Law Library at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Museletter by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.



William Taylor Muse Law Library

MUSELETTER

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

Volume 6, No. 2

December, 1988

SEASONS GREETINGS, or..... BAH, HUMBUG???

Ah..., holiday time at old T.C. Williams!!! What could be more wonderful??? Visions of good food, parties and warm celebrations, time with family and friends, tort exams, papers due, gut-wrenching pressure!!! Wait!!! Wait!!! What happened to the celebrations, and parties, and all that swell stuff?

Well, it is a truism in law school that you have to "pay before you play," and before we can escape to our respective "December Rewards," everyone has some less-than-thrilling work to do! Humbug, indeed!!! But, don't despair -- relief is in sight, and to help you make it through the nasty pre-holiday "technicalities," we present another issue of the MUSELETTER.

As always, this issue is chock full of, what we hope you will agree are interesting and important items regarding the Law Library, legal research, and microcomputing. In our feature article, Professor J.P. Jones offers some suggestions to students interested in purchasing (or receiving as gifts!) their own home computers or word processor over the holidays. As the

prices of these machines go down, and the demand for the Library's computers goes up (and up, and UP!!!), this may be the time to "byte the bullet" (aren't we getting cute?) and get your own system. Santa, are you listening? Professor Jones' article presents some solid, money-saving advice for those of you in the market for your own equipment. In addition to Professor Jones' article, this issue includes information about the upcoming LEXIS and WESTLAW training program for first-year students, a major new microfilm addition to the Library's collection (official state reporters!), and an open letter to the student body from Associate Librarian Steve Hinckley addressing recent complaints about the quality and friendliness of the Library's reference and circulation operations (we won't duck the tough issues, folks!). Scattered amidst all of that are our regular MUSELETTER features: Joyce Janto's "Recreational Reading Reviews," and our "Questions and Suggestions" column.

Hang in there for the next few weeks...better times are coming! Happy holidays from everyone at the Law Library!

Some Advice for a Law Student Contemplating the Purchase of a Computer by J.P. Jones, Professor of Law, T.C. Williams School of Law

Now that you've had a chance to see for yourself what word processing can do for you in the preparation of papers and outlines, and what reliance on the University's limited inventory of personal computers accessible to law students can mean as a deadline approaches, I wanted to offer some advice for those thinking about getting their own system over the holidays.

The bottom line is, of course, cost. But deciding whether or not you need your own system goes beyond a simple comparison of hardware and software prices. First, let me compare the relative advantages and disadvantages of doing your own typing with those of employing a professional. At first blush, the former requires less money out-of-pocket, but that may be more than offset by the time expended in doing your own work. (How much is your time worth in dollars? What does each page cost when you factor in time for pick up and delivery of each draft and changes?). I've heard too many horror stories to rely too heavily on the presumption that a typist's charges are offset by the convenience of letting someone else do the typing. Some free lancers are just that because they are too unreliable to work in a formal employment setting; others freelance because they then have the freedom to work only when they want to.

Some do not make promised deadlines; others make them by delivering inadequate product. One free lancer withheld a law review competition piece until the student forked over more than double the agreed upon price. Another sued a student for breach of contract. Most typists demand considerably more lead time than the typing actually requires, cutting into a student's research and drafting time. The coordination required between the student and typist to make inevitable changes and corrections seems to triple the time required to complete these projects. I think farming out typing generally produces only false economies, even when the longest PC operation learning curve - that of someone who sits down to keyboard never having typed before - is taken into account.

In terms of hard cash, the cheapest word processor is found in the law library. You use it for free. In terms of convenience, that "free" computer can be very expensive when you can't get to a keyboard or printer when you want to (again, how much is your time worth in dollars?). Buying your own system allows you to avoid the delay when all of the lab's PCs are fully booked, or when unforeseeable (but unfortunately, inevitable) breakdowns occur. (One year, we had to close the library

several hours early because of a power failure).

Assuming that these factors have prompted you to consider buying a word processing system, you ought next to consider how much word processor you will need. Let's start at the low end. For little more than an electric typewriter, you can pick up a dedicated word processor with adequate memory and an integral printer. Both Brother and Magnavox offer models widely advertised and often heavily discounted. I describe these systems as dedicated word processors to distinguish them from personal computers. The former do word processing only; they are super typewriters which will allow you to create and electronically store documents, to make corrections easily (including structural adjustments like shifting entire paragraphs around), and to automatically search for spelling and typographical errors. The latter do all that dedicated word processors can do, and much, much more. A lot of what PC's can do a law student doesn't need, however. Access to LEXIS or WESTLAW through a PC is possible, but the cost is prohibitive. There is also little need for enormous data storage and sorting systems. If you don't need all this, why not go with the low end dedicated word processor option? Before going that route, let me give you some reasons that might make it worth the additional expense to get a PC.

The first reason to pay more and get a PC is compatibility. If you buy a PC and software compatible with those in the

law library, in teachers' offices, and in firms downtown, you can enjoy the convenience of working at home on materials you created at the library or vice versa. In addition, you can submit research or compositions which the teacher or lawyer can work with directly, avoiding the delay and error that comes from transcription. Materials you would share with fellow students are more easily exchanged.

A second reason is professional literacy. The PC is taking over the law office. Ordinary legal forms are now generated on PCs using software sold over the counter or customized for a particular firm. Large cases produce entire document libraries which can be sorted and retrieved by key words or dates. Firms with large numbers of PCs or offices are communicating internally by messages sent and received on the office PC. Court reporters can send daily trial transcripts on computer disk to attorneys for review that same evening. For this kind of practice, there is a real advantage in arriving as a new associate already versed in PC operation. If you think you are too busy to master the PC now, let me assure you that there will never be a more convenient time for a young lawyer to learn this increasingly important skill.

A third reason is flexibility. Among the more attractive features of using a PC for word processing is the ability to run other valuable software programs, including editing software like RightWriter (searches for and points out grammatical errors), CiteRight

(automatically produces correct legal citations), and Framework (an outlining structure).

Whether you decide to opt for the dedicated word processor suitable for most student needs, or the PC satisfying all student needs and offering greater flexibility and convenience is a matter of immediate versus long-term investment. You certainly can get your money's worth from a dedicated word processor after two papers or briefs, without even taking convenience into account. A term paper or moot court brief can easily cost \$150. A dedicated word processor, depreciated over your two and a half years here at school is a very sound investment at \$300 - 400.

A good, new PC runs at least \$ 700. (I've seen some excellent buys in used machines offered by outfits here in Richmond which will back up their merchandise with good service and warranty support.) For that price, you should get the fundamental hardware components of display screen, keyboard, and central processing unit; as well as the fundamental operating software. (A computer needs operating software to make it ready to accept other software like word processing programs. The only operating software you should accept is called "DOS." DOS has become almost universal. A PC which runs on the old "CPM" operating software will not accept the word processing or other software used by most other computers today. You'll lose the advantage of compatibility if you buy a CPM PC).

To use WordPerfect, the best word

processing software around (as well as the University's software of choice, and the most popular in law firms nationwide), you need a DOS-equipped PC with a memory capable of storing at least 256,000 bits of electronic information -- this is what is meant when someone says that a machine's internal memory is "two fifty-six K." To use the same kind of WordPerfect as the law library, staff, and faculty, you need an "IBM-compatible" PC, (coincidentally, the most popular type). A pair of disk drives is more convenient than one, but not essential. A "hard disk" is usually a much larger memory. It offers some speed advantage, as well as greater storage. The most advanced version of WordPerfect (that used in the student-accessible PCs in the law library and at University College) requires the greater storage capacity of a hard drive. Most professors do not have a hard drive; they use earlier versions of WordPerfect which are compatible with the newest version.

Among lawyers, the only real competitor to the IBM-type PC is the Apple MacIntosh. For every two IBM-type PCs in law offices, you can find one Mac. Software which will enable those two types to communicate is soon to appear. Those who've learned on a MAC stay loyal. I would not switch, nor would I start down that path from scratch.

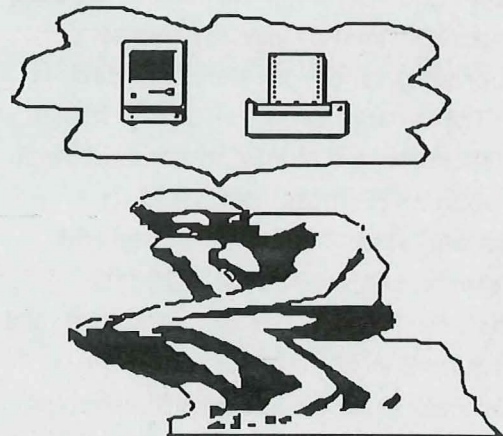
I haven't said anything about printers. Most retailers charge extra for a printer. The best printers use print jets or print character wheels to produce very fine (near type-set quality) type.

These machines are usually prohibitively expensive. Very good type, sufficient for any law school project, can be produced by virtually all new dot matrix printers. Reliable dot matrix printers can be had beginning at \$250 or so. Remember, you can always forego the printer and just bring your disk in to school for printing on campus machines. You must decide whether the extra cost is justified by the autonomy your own printer can offer.

Computers can be console, transportable, or laptop. Console models stay where you set them up. Until the new building is complete, I assume that will be at home. I have a transportable machine; I can lug it around to my office or a hotel room when I'm on the road. It needs ordinary electrical power from a wall socket nearby. The MAC is the biggest transportable; you can fit it in a back pack and two grips. A true laptop offers the same storage and versatility as a console model many times larger, and allows you to operate on battery power. You can use a laptop anywhere: the library, a classroom, on a train or an airplane, recharging its batteries periodically. The only drawback to a laptop is usually its display screen. While the new laptops will display just as many lines of a page, their screens are usually harder to read than the big screens on console models. For long hours at the machine, a console is best; for several short sessions in several locations, a laptop is a good idea.

If you do decide to go looking at PCs or word processors, check for the big

discounters. You should never have to pay full retail prices for computer equipment or software in today's competitive market. New computer warranties are not very long term (usually 90 days); you can work with your machine throughout the warranty period and not test anywhere near all its operations. For this reason, I'd buy a PC from a discount house out-of-town before I'd buy a tape deck or camera from the same dealer. Besides the major PC magazines that publish dozens of these discounters' ads each month, some of the D.C. outfits advertise in the "Business Magazine" that accompanies each Monday Washington Post. The University offers a great discount to students on WordPerfect; however, the discounts on computers themselves offered through the University's student computer purchase plan can be matched or beaten elsewhere. Regardless, the University price includes instruction and service that are not normally part of the package from commercial sellers. It might be advisable therefore to check out what Academic Computing has to offer before buying equipment from an outside source.

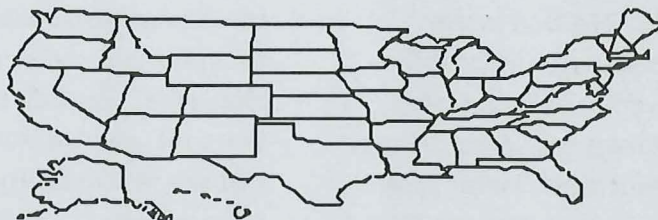


NEW MICROFICHE ACQUISITION ADDS OFFICIAL STATE REPORTERS TO LAW LIBRARY COLLECTION

How many times have you been frustrated by the fact that the Law Library collection did not include official state reporters (other than Virginia), thus making it impossible to provide parallel, pinpoint cites for material found in a regional reporter? Well, the Library has been frustrated, too, but we are pleased to announce a major addition to the collection that will go a long way toward alleviating this problem.

The Library has just received and processed Trans Media

Publishing Company's microfilm set of post-National Reporter System state reporters. Although the dates of the state reporters microfilmed for this set currently vary from state-to-state, it is Trans Media's eventual goal to film all state reporters published since the West Publishing Company developed its National Reporter System of regional reporters in the 1880s. When the historical part of the set is complete, and combined with the hard-copy pre-National Reporter System official state



reporters that the Library has had for years (shelved with the state materials in the Northeast Basement), researchers will have access to all official state reporters, beginning with each state's volume one until the present (or, until the volume with which the state ceased publication of its own judicial reports). In addition, Trans Media will keep the set current by filming all new state

reporters as soon as they are published.

The Trans Media,

post-NRS state reporters are being stored in microfilm cabinets located in the southwest section of the Library's first floor (adjacent to the West regional reporters). At present, researchers using this collection will need to take the film to the second floor (where the Library's only microfilm reader/printer is located) to view and/or copy it. As the Library's holdings in microfilm and fiche increase, it is anticipated that additional microformat viewing and copying machines will be added.

RECREATIONAL READING REVIEWS

by Joyce Manna Janto, Acquisitions Librarian



The books on the Recreational Reading shelf this month run the gamut from an inside look at one of the most influential law firms in the country to the inside story on the Dalkon shield. So, after you finish your exams, grab one of these to help you relax over Christmas break.

✉ At Any Cost: Corporate Greed, Women and the Dalkon Shield. by Morton Mintz. KF/1297/.D7/M56/1985. In 1971 the Robins Company began distributing the Dalkon Shield IUD in over eighty countries. Beginning with Robins' purchase of the IUD from the small Dalkon Co., the author documents Robins' failure to test the device for safety, the suppression of unfavorable data, secretive arrangements with insurance companies, and, once litigation had begun, the "loss" of evidence.

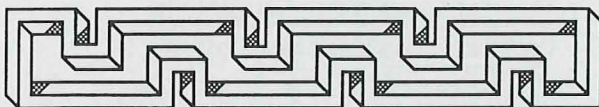
✉ A Law Unto Itself: The Untold Story of the Law Firm of Sullivan & Cromwell by Nancy Lisagor & Frank Lipsius. KF/355/.N4/L57/1988. A wholly new perspective on American history. The authors detail the firm's direct and potent influence on world affairs, and describe how the firm's partners have had a crucial impact on American business, government and international relations for more than a century.

✉ Storm in the Mountains: A Case Study of Censorship, Conflict and Consciousness by James Moffett. KF/4774/.M63/1988. In 1974, Kanawha County, West Virginia was the scene of one of the most violent textbook protests ever to occur in this country. Afraid that a new series of readers that had been introduced into the West Virginia school systems would undermine the values they taught their children, the dissenters mounted a wide-ranging protest. Extremists eventually shot at school buses and bombed school buildings when children were not present in an effort to get the books in question banned.

✉ Death by Installments: The Ordeal of Willie Francis by Arthur S. Miller and Jeffery H. Bowman. KF/224/.F69/M55/1988. When the state of Louisiana electrocuted 17 year old Willie Francis, it did so only after they had failed in their first attempt to impose the sentence. This book examines not only the constitutionality of imposing a second death sentence, but also the crime for which Francis was executed.

✉ The Boss: J. Edgar Hoover and the Great American Inquisition by Athan G. Theoharis and John Stuart Cox. HV/7911/.H6/T54/1988. From his appointment as director of the FBI until his death, J. Edgar Hoover maintained secret files chronicling the "subversive" or "immoral" activities of prominent Americans. His files, amassed through

"evidence" gained from illegal break-ins and wiretaps by agents of the FBI, included information on dissent activists, labor leaders, members of Congress, and even presidents and first ladies.



1Ls TO RECEIVE LEXIS AND WESTLAW TRAINING DURING SPRING SEMESTER

Having discovered the "joys" of conventional, good-old-fashioned "hard-copy" legal research during the Fall semester, first-year students will be given the keys to the future when they are trained on WESTLAW and LEXIS, the computerized legal research databases produced by the West Publishing Company and Mead Data Central, respectively, during January and February. Second and third-year students who remember squeezing into the former WESTLAW/LEXIS room (now Catalog Librarian Sally Wambold's office) for training, may be envious at the thought that this year all training sessions will be held in our comparatively spacious, new computer lab. As always, training will consist of a one-hour introductory lecture on computer-assisted legal research (delivered on Thursday, January 12, in lieu of first-years' regular Legal Writing classes), followed by

approximately fifty, one and one-half hour, "hands on" training sessions conducted by members of the Law Library's professional staff (twenty-five on WESTLAW between January 16 and January 27, followed by twenty-five on LEXIS between January 30 and February 10). Each first-year student will be required to sign up for one session on each system on training schedules that will be available immediately after the January 12 lecture. Each session will accommodate eight students, as opposed to only four at a time as in the past (can't you hear the librarians cheering the fact that they can get everyone trained in half the time of prior years?).

As was the case last year, WESTLAW training will be done "off-line" using a West-produced training program called "DISCourse." The DISCourse program has been carefully developed by West to simulate online communication with WESTLAW without having to tie up the actual WESTLAW database with training. The only disadvantage to the DISCourse program is that we must import special WESTLAW personal computers (on each of which the DISCourse program is permanently loaded) for the duration of the WESTLAW training schedule rather than conduct the sessions on our own AT&T lab computers (two of which are used primarily for WESTLAW research throughout the year). However, it was determined last year that the transition from these "borrowed" PCs to our own PCs upon the completion of training presented no real problems for students.

LEXIS training, on the other hand, will be conducted online to the actual LEXIS database using our own AT&T lab PCs. Obviously, the advantage is that students will learn LEXIS on the same machines that they will regularly use to do LEXIS research.

It is the Library's hope that we will be able to offer a number of training sessions, particularly on WESTLAW, for second and third-year students this year. We know that there is considerable interest in refresher sessions on both systems, and that many third-year students know next to nothing about WESTLAW since WESTLAW training was not available to them two years ago. Please watch for signs in the hallways and on the computer lab sign (to the left of the lab's doors) for announcements concerning sign-up instructions and times for these advanced sessions.



QUESTIONS &



SUGGESTIONS

QUESTION:


I have just completed a major research paper, and I would like to have it published in a relevant law journal. Is there any comprehensive source listing legal periodicals, the subjects that each publication is most interested in, and details of each periodical's manuscript review process?

ANSWER:

The Library recently acquired a book entitled Directory for Successful Publishing in Legal Periodicals by Al Joyner (shelved with the Reference collection - REF/K/36/.J69/1987) that does all of this and more. The Directory lists more than 450 journals published by law schools, associations, and private companies, including more than 50 journals from outside the U.S. A detailed "publication profile" is provided for each listed journal, including information concerning primary readership, number and approximate length of issues published, number of subscribers, and the number and type of articles included in an average issue. Following this profile, the Directory lists particular manuscript submission requirements for each journal (e.g., preferred subject areas; preferred page length including minimum and maximum

T.C. Williams Times

DON'T WORRY; EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT

STUDENTS STUNNED	FACULTY VOTES "A"s for All	"GRADE TRENDS" NO PROBLEM!	DEAN SHOCKED
CHICAGO		SAN FRANCISCO	HOUSTON
SEATTLE			

page length, if any; number of copies to submit; the availability of a style sheet used by the publication). Finally, the Directory describes each publication's manuscript review process, including whether or not articles are reviewed by a referee; the percentage of solicited and unsolicited manuscripts that are eventually published by each journal; the approximate time required to review a manuscript; and the approximate time between acceptance and publication. Following this list, Joyner has included a series of appendices in which he compiles such useful information as the journals paying a fee for manuscripts and the journals that periodically publish special issues.

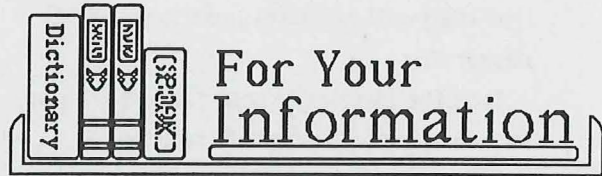
QUESTION:

Where can I find a straightforward description of the structure of the state court systems for all fifty states?

ANSWER:

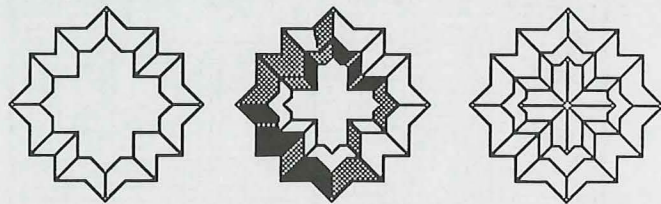
Perhaps the best source describing the state courts "at a glance" is Shepard's Lawyer's Reference Manual (kept on the reference desk - you may help yourself to it, but please return it when you are through). This 1983 bound volume (updated with accompanying annual supplements), includes "organizational charts" for every state that graphically depict the structure each state's judicial system. Following these charts are tables detailing the monetary and subject jurisdictions of each court within a state

system, and listing the state constitutional and statutory provisions upon which jurisdiction is based.



Library Hours During Interession:

Friday, December 16.....7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.
 Sat. & Sun., Dec. 17 & 18.....CLOSED
 Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 19-22.....8:30 a.m to 5:00 p.m.
 Fri.-Mon., Dec. 23-26.....CLOSED
 Tues.-Fri., Dec. 27-30.....8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m
 Sat.-Mon., Dec. 31-Jan. 2.....CLOSED
 Tues.-Fri., Jan. 3-6.....8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Sat., Jan. 7.....CLOSED
 Sun., Jan. 8.....12 Noon to 12 Midnight
 (Library returns to regular hours)



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS OF T.C. WILLIAMS SCHOOL OF LAW

"The patrons of this library deserve respect, not a nasty attitude from the librarians."

"I hesitate to ask librarians a question for fear that I will be treated like an idiot."

"This is a professional school and we expect to be treated like professionals by the library staff."

The statements above are actually paraphrases from conversations that I have had recently with a number of law students who are clearly less than impressed with the quality and professionalism of the Law Library's public services operation. Obviously, I regret that we seem to be alienating a number of our students since it is my personal feeling, as Head of Public Services, and the Library's general philosophy, as set by Library Director Susan English, that we are here to serve as a helpful oasis to students in the midst of the confusion and pressure of the law school environment. Library work is intensely service-oriented, and I am troubled whenever it is perceived, by any patron, that high-quality, courteous service has not been provided. I met the other day with all professional and paraprofessional staff members responsible for public services in the Law Library to discuss this problem, and I would like to share with you some relevant thoughts that came from the meeting.

I cannot think of a more dedicated and knowledgeable group of individuals than we have on the Library staff. To a person, they all care deeply about helping people make sense of the collection and our facilities. However, like individuals in all lines of work, each has his or her own way of dealing with others. What might be considered a professional, businesslike demeanor by one person might be construed as officious and condescending by another person. It is tough to please everyone. Does that mean that our staff could not improve its performance? Absolutely not! We talked about redoubling our efforts to be positive and helpful, and about not letting our own highs and lows (Yes! We do feel pressure, just like you!!!) adversely affect our performance. Rest assured that we are going to work very hard to help students feel good about the Library. All we ask is that you try very hard to meet us halfway. We are in a professional environment, and you will find that individuals who want to be treated with respect will treat others with equal respect. I don't care how deep your dedication to service runs; it's pretty hard to maintain a professional demeanor when you are being treated like a second-class servant. We do

the best we can to make sure that our finite collection and facilities are fairly rationed among everyone who needs them -- no easy task when you consider that we have over 450 students, 25 or so faculty members and administrators, and an unlimited number of members of the general public trying to use our Library (often at the same time!). It is the Library staff's unenviable task to enforce rules and policies designed to provide the "greatest good to the greatest number," and when deadline times approach, it is easy for individuals to feel that no exception is too great to ask for. Unfortunately, that really puts librarians on the spot, and sometimes we have to say no. What I can assure you is that we will not be "knee-jerk" policy enforcers -- slavishly following every policy regardless of its lack of practical sense. If you are willing to work with us calmly, we will try our best to find a way to accommodate you without adversely affecting others.

In summary, I think that there are things that we could do better, and I trust that you will see these things improve. If not, please be sure to see me and let me know about it. I promise you that I take our reputation for service very seriously, and I will fully investigate all complaints and concerns and act to remedy unacceptable situations. At the same time, I ask all of you for your help. Realize that we are not superhuman, and that we will sometimes have to make decisions that you might not agree with, or even understand. Don't take it personally; we're just trying to do our job as professionally and fairly as we know how.

Steve Hinckley
Associate Law Librarian