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William Taylor Muse Law Library

MUSELETTER

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

Volume 6, No. 3

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The Law Library in Transition

1988-89 Developments Hint at Future

As we approach the end of another academic year, it seems appropriate to review some of the subtle, yet important developments that have taken place in the Law Library during the last twelve months since they portend a number of exciting events on the horizon that promise to change, significantly, the Library as we now know it.

Computers will play a large role in the Library's future, and 1988-89 saw the opening of the new Computer Lab which was actively used both by students for document preparation and computer-assisted legal research, and by Library and Law faculty members as a site for a variety of classes and training sessions using computers. In addition, the Library acquired its first CD-ROM database, LegalTrac, and it is expected that more CD-ROM titles will be reviewed and added to the collection in the coming years. Perhaps most exciting is the recently completed agreement

between the University and DYNIX, Inc., to automate all University libraries, including the Law Library, starting this Fall. When this system is fully in place, the Law Library's conventional card catalog will be replaced by online computer catalog terminals, and all circulation transactions will be handled by computer.

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In addition to computers and related technologies, the Law Library has greatly enhanced its ability to support advanced legal research and an increasingly diverse curriculum by increasing its holdings of historical material during the last year. The Library purchased much needed microform versions of post-National Reporter System official state reports, seminal legal treatises, and federal legislative and administrative publications that were heretofore difficult, if not impossible, to find locally.

Finally, offices and collections have been shifted to make use of the last bit of space remaining in the Law Library. While the entire law school is experiencing a critical space problem, there is light at the end of the tunnel as plans for a completely renovated and enlarged Law School/Law Library building are being finalized, with groundbreaking projected for as early as Fall, 1989. We anticipate that the new Library will include a dramatic increase in student study space, and will allow for significant increases in the scope and sophistication of our collections and services.

All signs point to a dynamic period of growth within the Law Library over the next few years. Stay tuned -- It should be exciting!!!

MDC Trial Offer:

Free NEXIS Access for Law Students/ Faculty through August

The Law Library is pleased to announce that, for a limited time, Mead Data Central - the "LEXIS people" - are making their non-legal database, NEXIS, available at no charge to the University of Richmond Law School during all LEXIS "off-peak" hours. This means that until the end of August, T.C. Williams students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to make extensive use of this valuable database Monday through Friday from opening to 10:00 a.m., and again from 4:30 p.m. to closing; as well as Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

As many of you know, NEXIS is used by some attorneys and legal information specialists as a means of determining legal trends, tracking pending litigation and legislation, and investigating settlements. Using familiar LEXIS search strategies and methods, NEXIS users have access to hundreds of invaluable general and specialized newspapers, journals, and newsletters in full text, containing a wealth of law-related information that may never appear in judicial opinions, or on LEXIS or WESTLAW. It can truly be said that an attorney with access to both LEXIS and NEXIS has an incredibly comprehensive library at his or her fingertips.

See NEXIS..... p.3

NEXIS.....from page 2

Why are the people at Mead being so generous? Frankly, because they are trying to introduce their NEXIS service to a larger law school audience in the hope of building demand that may result in increased law school NEXIS use, and eventually, to increased usage by attorneys themselves. At present, the University of Richmond does not subscribe to NEXIS because it is quite expensive, and there are no plans to do so within the next fiscal year. As a result, NEXIS will be removed at the end of August with no real guarantee of when (or if) it will be accessible in the future. Regardless, we in the Law Library see online information retrieval as one of the cornerstones of modern legal and law-related research, and would like to get some idea of the demand and interest in NEXIS felt by our patrons.

To use NEXIS, students merely sign up for one of the computer lab's two LEXIS terminals as they normally would, remembering that NEXIS is available only during non-peak hours (never on weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.). Special NEXIS ID numbers have been taped to the computers marked "LEXIS 1" and "LEXIS 2," and these should be used when signing on. Once these ID numbers are typed into the system, you will be in contact with NEXIS, and you can proceed using the same kind of searching that you use on LEXIS. Feel free to experiment - we are not being billed for NEXIS time during the trial period. The only restriction is

against using NEXIS for private, billable work (the same restriction we observe on LEXIS). A list of the publications available on NEXIS is being kept in a notebook near the LEXIS terminals. All that we ask is that you take a moment when you complete your NEXIS session and fill out the simple NEXIS evaluation form located near the LEXIS terminals. By doing this, we will be able to build a set of user statistics that may be invaluable in future requests for NEXIS funding.

Enjoy NEXIS while we have it! If you have any questions about NEXIS and what it can do for you, please do not hesitate to see Steve Hinckley or Lucinda Harrison in the Law Library.

What's Available on NEXIS?

The following are examples of the hundreds of useful files searchable on NEXIS:

Newspapers:

New York Times from June, 1980
Los Angeles Times from January, 1985
Chicago Tribune from November, 1988

Magazines:

Business Week from January, 1975
Foreign Affairs from January, 1981
Forbes from January, 1975
Fortune from January, 1977
The Nation from January, 1984
The New Republic from January, 1983
Time from January, 1981
U.S. News & World Report from January, 1975

Government & Defense:

Monthly Labor Review from September, 1984
U.N. Chronicle from January, 1983

Looking Back

Women at T.C. Williams

by Lucinda D. Harrison, Reference Librarian

The role of women in the legal profession has been the subject of great interest lately. In fact, the ABA has several Committees studying the problems which continue to face woman attorneys. Historically, the first problems women faced were gaining admission to law school and admission to the bar. The University of Richmond can look with pride at the Law School's role in solving the former problem.

The first woman admitted to the Virginia State Bar in 1894, Belva Lockwood, was educated out of state. Twenty-six years later on July 1, 1920, Rebecca Pearl Lovenstein, a student of the University of Richmond Law School in 1919 and 1920, became the second woman admitted to the Virginia bar. The time lapse is the result of the Virginia legislature changing the law the year after Ms. Lockwood was admitted in order to prevent women from practicing law in Virginia. The right to practice law was not restored to women until 1920. Ms. Lovenstein was the first woman admitted to the bar after the change in the law.

Unfortunately, it may never be possible to know for certain the name of the first woman to attend law school at UR because the records which exist do

not indicate whether the "Beverly"s and "Shirley"s (and other dual use names) were male or female, nor do they indicate the sex of those individuals who were listed with only their initials. However, with this proviso, Elise Fitzwilson was both the first identifiable woman to attend law school at UR and the first to graduate. She graduated in 1919, but never was admitted to the bar in Virginia. Remarkably, 1919 proved to be a banner year for women law students at UR. Fitzwilson was one of four women law students. Also in attendance were Florence Elise Minor, Rhoda Rose Sonnenberg and Rebecca Lovenstein. None of these women completed the full course requirements needed to obtain a law degree and only Lovenstein was admitted to the Virginia State Bar. While this sounds bad, remember the dates of the first women at the other early law schools in Virginia: University of Virginia - first attended 1920, first graduate 1923; William & Mary - first attended 1923, first graduate 1937; and, Washington & Lee - first attended 1972, first graduate 1975.

Moreover, these women were not alone in their pursuit of a legal education. In the 1920's, seven women graduated from Richmond. In the

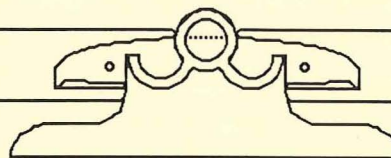
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1930s, nine graduated. In the 1940s, eight graduated. Nine graduated in the 1950s and eleven in the 1960s. They came from all over Virginia and from many other states. Nineteen of these women were admitted to the Virginia State Bar and undoubtedly many of the others were admitted in their home states.

UR does have reason to be proud. It was the first law school in Virginia to admit women and can claim as one of its own the first woman admitted to practice in Virginia who received her legal education in Virginia. Those early women law students chose a path full of difficulty. Regrettably, many of those difficulties remain, but at least at UR they had the opportunity to choose their path and to begin the process of creating a role for women in the legal profession.

* For more information on this subject, Sandra Schneider's article "Women's Entry Into the Legal Profession in Virginia," 34 Virginia Bar News 11 (April 1986), may be of interest.



Computer Clipboard

Legal Resources Index Now Available on LEXIS

I remember hearing about an article in the Notre Dame Lawyer dealing with Creditors Rights, but I don't know the Author's name or the actual title of the article. HOW CAN I FIND THIS THING???

Sound familiar? Just try finding an article with this kind of information using Index to Legal Periodicals, Current Law Index, or even the CD-ROM LegalTrac. Forget it!!! But, thanks to a recent agreement between Mead Data Central and Information Access Company, the producers of LEXIS and Legal Resources Index/LegalTrac, the Legal Resources Index is now searchable on the Law Library's LEXIS terminals. Using standard LEXIS searching strategies and connectors, one can search for articles using single words, or combinations of words, from an article title, journal title, or author's name.

Legal Resources Index is accessible on LEXIS in the "LAWREV" Library / "LGLIND" file. Check it out!

Worth Repeating... "A Spanish (Librarian's) Curse"

For him that stealeth a Book from this Library, let it change into a serpent in his hand and rend him. Let him be struck with Palsy, & all his Members blasted.

Let him languish in Pain crying aloud for Mercy, let there be no surcease to his Agony till he sink in Dissolution. Let Bookworms gnaw his Entrails in token of the Worm that dieth not, & when he goeth to his final Punishment, let the flames of Hell consume him for ever and aye.

And... have a nice day !!!

[from Sound Off. Arizona State University Libraries, June 20, 1988, as reprinted in the January, 1989 issue of Research Libraries in OCLC: A Quarterly]

Smoking No Longer Allowed in Library

[Editor's Note: The following is a copy of a March 20 memorandum to all members of the University of Richmond Law School Community from Law Library Director Susan B. English announcing an immediate ban on smoking in the library. Professor English invites anyone interested in discussing the new policy, and the reasons for it, to make an appointment with the Library secretary, Brenda Sturman, to see her].

Beginning today, smoking will no longer be permitted in the Southwest basement of the library. As most of you know, this used to be the only area of the library in which smoking was permitted. We are changing this policy for several reasons:

- (1) Students have complained
- (2) Smoking damages library materials
- (3) Smokers have damaged the carpets and walls

(1) Students have complained

Several librarians have been approached this year with complaints from students who are non-smokers. They have pointed out that it is unhealthy and unpleasant for them to use library materials in the Southwest basement. Since many of the materials housed in this basement are primary legal materials, non-smokers have no choice about using this area. In order to conduct their research, they are forced to enter an area that adversely affects their health.

(2) Smoking damages library materials

Air pollutants interact chemically with the paper in books and book bindings, causing them to deteriorate at a more rapid rate than they would in a pollutant-free environment. Smoking contributes to the air pollution problem in the library.

(3) Smokers have damaged the carpets and walls

Unfortunately, some smokers have not exercised a high degree of care in extinguishing their cigarettes. There are burn holes in the carpet as well as stains on the walls where cigarettes have been extinguished carelessly. This type of careless behavior not only damages the facility, but increases the risk of fire. There is no fire suppression system installed in this area of the library.

Conclusion

As director of the library, I am responsible for protecting the materials for future users and for providing a suitable environment for all current students, faculty and other patrons. The only way I can see to carry out this responsibility is to prohibit smoking in all areas of the library, including the Southwest basement. I regret the inconvenience this decision causes to our users who smoke, but I am sure you can appreciate the need for it. Thank you for your cooperation.

Susan B. English
Law Librarian

Library Acts on Student Demands For Quiet During Exam Crunch

"I would like to request that the Law Library administration eradicate undergrads from the Library beginning the week before exams and throughout the two week exam period to insure that law students have a quiet place to study." -- An anonymous law student.

This letter, recently received by Associate Law Librarian Steve Hinckley, is typical of a growing sentiment among law students that the Library has become too noisy during the "exam crunch," and that undergraduate students are to blame for this problem. Since the Law Library has always been open to the public, "eradication" (as nice as it may sound!) of any individual patron group is not our long suit. In fact, without door guards checking everyone's I.D. as they enter, restricting the Library to just our students would be nearly impossible.

We agree that our law students deserve a quiet place to study, especially during exam time. However, we disagree that undergrads and/or MCV students are the entire problem. In reality, many undergraduate and non-law graduate students come to the Law Library because they want to study in a serious, quiet environment, and it is our view that these people should not be banned from the library because of the sins of a few of

their colleagues. In fact, noisiness is not restricted to any single patron group - we have our share of law students who sometimes forget that the Library should be a place for quiet work.

Rather than target a group of library users for eradication before the fact, the Library intends to work with law students this exam period to insure that the Library will study areas will remain quiet. This effort will include campus-wide publicity, in the form of an upcoming Collegian article outlining our students' concerns about noise, and asking all students who do not intend to work quietly to find some other place to go between April 17 (a week before exams) through May 5 (the end of the exam period). In addition, the Law Library will post signs at the Library entrance, and at strategic locations throughout the building, reminding users that extra quiet is expected during this three week period. The Library will then attempt to insure that all study area remain quiet by stepping up our patrols of the floors and following up on student complaints. We will ask patrons who, in our judgment, are being too loud, to hold it down. If this does not deter them, we will not hesitate to call campus security to escort the patrons from the Library (we assume that this will be a last resort). This includes law students who are being too noisy.

See NOISE.....p.8

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What we need is law student help in this process. We are doing all of this in response to legitimate student complaints about the noise level of the Library during exam time. To make this work, law students must start by being quiet themselves. In addition, law students are asked to stand up for their right to have a quiet study environment by politely asking disruptive library patrons, regardless of who they are, to observe the special rules concerning noise (no fisticuffs, please!). If this does not work, and the problems continue, report the problems immediately to a librarian or library staff member, preferably Steve Hinckley, Lucinda Harrison, Nancy Martin, or Tim Edwards, and we will follow up.

Obviously, if these measures are not satisfactory, we will reevaluate the situation, and may consider restricting certain types of patrons during future exam periods. However, it seems likely that law students and the Law Library working together can insure a more quiet study environment without unfairly punishing any single group of library users, many of whom do not contribute to the problem.

Library Staff News

Associate Librarian Accepts Position at Georgetown

[Editor's Note: The following is a March 28, 1989 memorandum from Law Librarian, Susan B. English, to members of the Law School faculty and staff]

I am pleased to announce that Steve Hinckley has accepted the position of Assistant Librarian for Public Services at Georgetown University Law Center. Steve will have 8 librarians reporting to him as well as 18 support staff members. The Georgetown library has over 540,000 volumes and serves a diverse user population including 2,600 full-time and part-time JD and graduate students, and 75 full-time faculty members. Steve begins his new job in July.

In the five years Steve has served as Associate Librarian here, he has done much to improve services to students and faculty; he will be greatly missed. Georgetown, however, represents an exciting career opportunity and I know you all join me in wishing him well in this new endeavor.

LAW LIBRARY HOURS

Exam Period Hours: April 21 through May 4 - Regular Schedule

Monday - Thursday.....7:30 a.m. - 12 Midnight
Friday.....7:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday.....9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Sunday.....12 Noon - 12 Midnight

Intersession Hours: May 5 through May 13 - Reduced Hours

Friday, May 5.....7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, May 6-7.....CLOSED
Monday - Friday, May 8-12.....8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 13.....CLOSED
Sunday, May 14.....12 Noon - 10:00 p.m. (Begin Reg. Summer Hours)

Summer Hours: May 14 through July 14 - Regular Summer Schedule

Monday - Friday.....7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday.....9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday.....12 Noon - 10:00 p.m.

RECREATIONAL READING REVIEWS

by Joyce Manna Janto, Acquisitions Librarian



✉ Two Jewish Justices: Outcasts in the Promised Land by Robert Burt (KF/8744/.B87/1988) examines how being a Jew affected the lives and decisions of Supreme Court Justices Louis Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter. Both men agreed to be a Jew is to be homeless, but they parted in their response to this belief. Brandeis embraced his homelessness and identified himself with the outsiders in American society. Frankfurter, in contrast, believed he had found his home in the United States. As a justice, he sought to protect the status of the insider.

✉ Can a suit for libel be maintained against a newspaper for a story that was never printed? In Coals of Fire: The Alton Telegraph Libel Case (KF/228/.G74/L58/1988), Thomas Littlewood details the \$9.2 million damage award against the Alton Telegraph, an award that forced the newspaper into bankruptcy. Two reporters for the newspaper were investigating rumors of corruption against a local savings and loan and a local builder. At the request of the U.S. Department of Justice, the two wrote a confidential memo of the unverified and unpublished accusations. Although the Justice Department never used this information directly, action was taken against the individuals named. Thus, the damage suit.

✉ They say that there are two sides to every story, and nowhere is this more evident than in two books recently acquired by the library. They are, Outrageous Conduct: Art, Ego and the Twilight Zone Case (KF/224/.L33/F37/1988) by Stephen Farber, and Special Effects: Disaster at Twilight Zone, the Tragedy and the Trial (KF/224/.L33/1988). While both books present fascinating views of the 1982 "Twilight Zone" tragedy and the ensuing nine-month trial, the books agree only on the basic fact, that actor Vic Morrow and two small children were killed in a movie scene gone terribly wrong.

||BOOKS||

||BOOKS||

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QUESTIONS &



SUGGESTIONS

Question:

I am working on a project that requires me to look at Canadian federal statutes, cases, and administrative law, and I don't know where to start. Does the Law Library collection contain any Canadian materials, and if so, is there any kind of research guide available to explain how they are used?

Answer:

The Law Library does maintain a solid, working collection of Canadian federal materials, including the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1985 (with supplements), the Consolidated Regulations of Canada, 1978 (as supplemented by the Canada Gazette, Part II), and Dominion Law Reports, 1st-4th Series (selected federal and provincial court cases). Finding aids include the Canadian Abridgment, which serves both as a digest for all reported federal and provincial cases, and as a citator for statutes and cases. Finally, the Library has slowly, but steadily, built a useful collection of Canadian law treatises on a variety of specialized legal topics that researchers may find to be invaluable as

a starting point in their Canadian research.

To assist researchers in acquainting themselves with the unique characteristics of Canadian legal materials, the Law Library recommends one of the following titles (Law Library call numbers follow the authors' names): Legal Research Handbook (2nd ed.), by Douglass T. MacEIVEN, REF/KE/250 .M32/1986; Using a Law Library (4th ed.), by Margaret A. Banks, KE/250/.B35/1985; and, How to Find the Law (8th ed.), by Morris L. Cohen and Robert C. Berring (see Chapter 19 on "English and Canadian Materials"), (Reserve) KF/240/.C538/1983. The first two are comprehensive, yet highly understandable descriptions of all aspects of Canadian legal research; much less detailed, but still helpful, is the chapter in How to Find the Law which provides a brief overview of the most important aspects of Canadian legal materials.

Question:

I am working for an attorney who has asked me to compile a list of people available to use as expert witnesses in a construction accident case. Apparently, my boss thinks that the accident occurred because of faulty work by the sub-contractors involved with pouring the concrete for the building's foundation. I am totally lost! Where can a person find lists of expert witnesses by specialty?

See QUESTIONS.....p.11

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Answer:

Although expert witness lists are not the kind of thing you run into all the time, there are, in fact, so many sources of this information in the Law Library that it would be impossible to list them all. Among the most useful sources that we are aware of are Lawyer's Co-Operative Publishing Company's Lawyer's Desk Reference (7th ed., Harry M. Philo, Ed., 1987 and 1988 Supp.) KF/319/.L3 1987 (this is an outstanding source for expert witnesses available to assist in a wide variety of specific tort cases); Richard M. Goodman and the Center for Auto Safety's Automobile Design Liability (2nd ed., Lawyer's Co-Op, 1983 and 1988 Supp.) KF/1297/.A8/G6/1983, (Chapter 14 includes a list of experts involved in all aspects of automobile design and design failure - also includes a list of experts by state); Matthew Bender's Forensic Sciences (Cyril H. Wecht, ed., Looseleaf) KF/8961/.F67/1981, (Chapter 41 includes a list of experts in a variety of forensic specialties); and the American Bar Association, Section of Litigation's Register of Expert Witnesses in the Construction Industry (ABA, 1983) KF/8961/.R43/1984 (Devoted entirely to lists of experts in extremely specialized areas of construction - including more than two dozen concrete experts). In addition to these and other printed lists of experts, WESTLAW

offers three extremely helpful databases designed to help researchers find experts available to serve as trial witnesses or as consultants. Two of the three databases - "ExpertNet" (biographical descriptions of medical malpractice and personal injury experts - WESTLAW database identifier "EXPNET") and the "Technical Advisory Service for Attorneys" (biographical records of experts - WESTLAW database identifier "TASA") describe all listed experts fully, but do not list their names or addresses. Rather, experts are given an identifying number and interested researchers must contact ExpertNet or TASA to make direct contact with the listed experts (ExpertNet and TASA charge users a referral fee for this information). The third, the "Forensic Science Directory" (WESTLAW identifier "FSD") contains entries from the printed 1986 book by the same name, and the database actually provides researchers with names, addresses, and telephone numbers (along with complete biographical information) for experts in a variety of scientific, medical, and technical fields. All three databases are available under our current WESTLAW contract at no cost to current students and other authorized law school users.

