

6-1989

## Museletter: June 1989

Muse Law Library Staff

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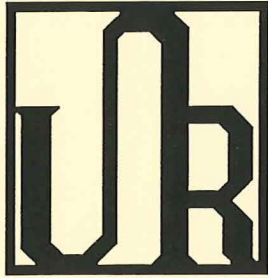
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William Taylor Muse Law Library

# MUSELETTER

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

Volume 6, No.3

June 30, 1989

## Open July 4th ?!

Here is information for those doubting Thomases within the Law School community. The Law Library will be open normal hours on the 4th of July. With final exam time rapidly approaching, we recognize our students' need to have the resources of the Library available.

Consequently, as has been our custom, the Library will be available to those persons who find studying and researching time too precious to waste or who do not enjoy cookouts and fireworks.

## *EXAMS! \* ?*

On the topic of exams, we would like to draw your attention to some of the materials in the Library designed to assist in the development of exam taking skills.

Some of these tools are subject specific, but many deal with basic writing techniques which help you to express what you have learned in the proper form to earn the best grades. Among these tools are:

Introduction to Law Study and Law

See EXAM TOOLS ..... p. 2

## **LAW LIBRARY HOURS**

### **SUMMER SESSION: Through July 14th**

Monday - Friday ..... 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday ..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday ..... 12:00 noon - 10:00 p.m.

Except: Friday, July 14th ..... 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **INTERSESSION: July 15th through August 21st**

Monday - Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday ..... Closed

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EXAM TOOLS .....from page 1

Examinations in a Nutshell by Stanley V. Kinyon. Part II of this work provides a general description of the objective of law exams and then goes on to provide examples of "A" answers and of "marginal" answers in a variety of subject areas, including: Contracts; Torts; Criminal Law; and, Civil Procedure.

Write the "A" Law Exam Answer by Betty Brody. A concise guide to the art of taking exams. This work begins by providing information on how to prepare for exams, how to analyze the questions, and how to write the answers. It then provides practice questions and answers on the subjects of civil procedure, contracts, and criminal law.

How to Do Your Best on Law School Exams by John Delaney. Perhaps the best of these works. Delaney covers all the basics of studying for exams, of the criteria on which you are graded, and of the actual writing of the exams. He provides questions with examples of "A" answers and with "poor" or "mediocre" answers. These examples allow you to see the small differences in writing styles which can translate into big differences in grades.

In addition to his book, Delaney has a videotape available on Reserve, Fundamentals of Taking Law Exams (240 min.).

Finally, Ballantine's Problems in Law for Law School and Bar Examination Review edited by William E. Burby, provides both information on law exam writing skills and subject oriented chapters in a question and answer format.

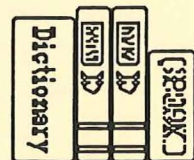


## **SAMPLE EXAMS**

Once you have reviewed general sources of information on taking exams, many people find it helpful to see samples of your own professor's past exams. The Library has sample exams on file at the Circulation Desk for each of the Summer Entry and ABP courses. These can help you know what to expect and can allow you to practice on your professor's "real" exams.

## **NUTSHELLS AND HORNBOOKS**

There are also subject specific study aids available on Reserve for your use. These works can assist you in seeing the interrelationship between the myriad of issues covered in class. They can explain points which are not clear to you. Remember there is no right or wrong study aid. Each aid works for some people. Pick the one(s) that work best for you and do not worry about the rest.



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## RECREATIONAL READING REVIEWS

by Joyce Manna Janto, Acquisitions Librarian



The summer session is almost over so check out the books on the recreational reading shelf for some light summer reading.

✉ Would be writers should read Invasion of Privacy: The Cross Creek Trail of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, by Patricia Nassif Acton (KF/228/.C34/A27/1989). In 1942 Marjorie Rawlings wrote a best selling autobiography that contained a vivid description of her friend and neighbor, Zelma. Zelma filed a \$100,000 suit alleging invasion of privacy, a suit that threatened the ability of an author to write factually about people still living.

✉ A book that manages to be both entertaining and instructive is Jerry Falwell v. Larry Flynt: The First Amendment on Trial by Rodney Smolla (KF/228/.F35/1988). The Supreme Court unanimously overturned a verdict in favor of Moral Majority leader

Jerry Falwell for intentional infliction of emotional distress and defamation. In doing so, the court upheld Flynt's defense which can best be summed up with "can't you take a joke Jerry?"

✉ Not many people realize it, but the library has a small fiction collection of books relating to the law or law school. One of the best is Scott Turow's Presumed Innocent (PS/3570/.U754/P7/1987). A suspenseful murder mystery that concerns an assistant Prosecuting Attorney first investigating and then being accused of his lover's murder.

✉ On the lighter side is The Socratic Method by Michael Levin (PS/3562/.E88965/S6/1987). Law school can be a bizarre place and this book chronicles an especially hectic week at fictional McKinnley Law School. The portrayal of law school life is very funny and amazingly accurate.

||BOOKS||  
||BOOKS||

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# FYI



Anyone interested in working for the Law Library in the Fall should contact Nancy Martin, the Circulation Supervisor, as soon as possible.



Library approved, spill-resistant mugs will be available for purchase for \$4.50 at the Circulation Desk during the summer. Please pay by check made to the order of "P.A.D."



QUESTIONS &



SUGGESTIONS

## Question:

I am trying to decide what to take in the Fall semester. How do I find out what subjects are needed for the bar exam in my state?

## Answer:

The BAR/BRI Digest is an excellent source of current information on the subjects on which each state tests. A copy of the Digest is kept in the Reference section at KF/388/.B37. Other useful information about the admission requirements for each jurisdiction can be found in the ABA's Comprehensive Guide to Bar Admission Requirements, (Reference KF/302/.A15/C66).

## Question:

Where can I find the full opinion for a very

recent United States Supreme Court decision?

## Answer:

While some opinions may be fully published in the New York Times or the Washington Post, the first place that a full opinion can be guaranteed to appear is on the online systems, LEXIS and WESTLAW. Both systems will tend to have United States Supreme Court decisions available in 12 to 72 hours. The first paper source which will always publish the full decision is United States Law Week. This source will have the opinion within a week to 10 days, sometimes sooner.

