

Summer 1997

Museletter: Intersession 1997

Allen Moye

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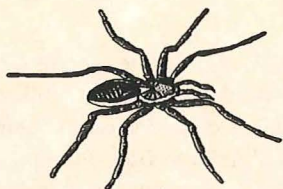


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MUSELETTER

The newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library

University of Richmond

T.C. Williams School of Law

FROM LAWYER TO LIBRARIAN: TAKING A CHANCE ON A NEW CAREER

By Brandon Quarles,
Reference Librarian

I took a big risk two and a half years ago when I decided to quit practicing law and return to school to become an academic law librarian. After all, I was working as an insurance defense attorney at one of the longest continuously-operating law firms in Dallas, Texas and I was earning a fairly respectable salary. After having spent three long years and a sizeable chunk of money training to become a lawyer, my decision to change careers wasn't exactly met with encouragement and enthusiasm by many of my closest friends and family members. However, I was convinced that it was the right thing for me to do at that time, and I have never looked back. There has never been a more exciting time to work as a law librarian, and I truly enjoy the challenges and opportunities that the profession offers.

While most people are unfamiliar with what law librarians do, some are not even aware that it is a bonafide profession. Library users frequently express astonishment when I explain to them that this IS what I do for a living! Law librarians help judges, attorneys, professors, students and members of the public find information on various legal issues. They perform many different duties, including, but certainly not limited to: specialized reference and

research services; teaching legal research and materials use; online database searching and training; evaluating and collecting legal materials; promoting resource sharing among libraries; designing and maintaining circulation systems; and preparing fiscal reports, budgets and long-range plans.

Law librarians are expected to be on the "cutting edge" of technology with regard to electronic legal research and the like. Whether the librarian works in a law school, a law firm, a courthouse, a corporate legal department, or any other number of places, he or she must be a lifelong learner. Like attorneys, law librarians have ample opportunities for continuing education. In early April, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) in Tallahassee, Florida. Approximately 150 law librarians gathered to present and attend programs such as "The Disappearing Paper Trail: the Publishing Habits of the Courts and Their Impact on Legal Researchers," "Law Libraries, the ADA and Access to Electronic Information for All" and "Intranets and Other Marketing Techniques That Work."

Most employers require a Master's Degree in Library Science (M.L.S.) or Information Services for a professional law library position. Of course, they also require a law degree for some positions, especially those in the academic setting. If you are not entirely convinced that "traditional" law practice is for you, if you enjoy legal research and helping people, and if you are looking for an extremely rewarding and potentially lucrative career (yes, you CAN

make a decent living as a law librarian), please do not overlook the benefits of law librarianship. I can honestly say that becoming a law librarian was one of the best decisions I've ever made, personally and professionally. I am always willing to speak with anyone who might be interested in learning more about the profession and can also recommend all kinds of sources that describe law librarianship in greater detail.

By the way, not all librarians are boring, quiet and stuffy. If you don't believe me, stop by sometime and let me tell you what REALLY goes on at those professional meetings!

MARKET FORCES AFFECT THE LAW LIBRARY

By Joyce Janto,
Acting Director of the Law Library

In past years, both CALR (computer assisted legal research) vendors, LEXIS and WESTLAW, bent over backwards to cater to the student market. They provided free local access to telecommunications, free software, and unlimited access to their databases. To facilitate student usage, free computer equipment and printers were provided to schools and law libraries. Not just printers, but many "consumables," such as ink and paper were also given. And that's not all, student workers were paid to change the paper and ink cartridges and keep the equipment up and running. Things are changing, however, in the legal publishing landscape.

In 1995, LEXIS was sold by its parent

company, Mead Data, to Reed Elsevier, a Dutch publishing company which specializes in academic journals. In 1996, West Publishing Company (of which WESTLAW was a division) was acquired by Thomson Publishing. Thomson is a Canadian corporation which now controls the bulk of American legal publishing.

LEXIS was acquired by Reed for a cost of \$24 million, with most of the purchase price representing debt to Mead Data. Thomson paid \$3.4 billion for West. What this means for the legal information consumer is that these two systems are now owned by corporations which are primarily concerned with making a return on their investments. Cuts in services and materials have already begun. Last year, both companies announced that they were going out of the hardware business. They would no longer provide, nor would they continue to service, hardware to allow law schools access to their databases. Law schools were given the option of keeping the equipment and continuing to maintain it, or they could give the equipment back to the company. At the University of Richmond, we decided to keep and maintain the equipment. In January of this year, both companies announced that beginning in July 1997, they would no longer support telecommunications charges for dedicated LEXIS/WESTLAW terminals in law schools or law libraries. We have decided to replace the telephone lines with Internet connections.

It was also in January that both companies made an announcement that will have a direct effect on our students. They have decided that as they are also out of the hardware and telecommunication business, they are also going out of the office supply business. Beginning in July, both vendors will stop supplying paper and ink to the printers attached to their terminals. Since we cannot afford to

take up this service, beginning in July, we will remove the printers from the dedicated WESTLAW and LEXIS terminals. To further control costs, we will also disable network printing for both services. Students will be able to download their research to disk.

TO GO ONLINE....OR NOT TO GO ON LINE?

By Allen Moye*
Reference Librarian

Well, this may not really be "THE" question for many students who have what is essentially "free" access to both WESTLAW and LEXIS, while in law school. However, post-graduation, many of these same students who plan to turn into practicing lawyers may be shocked at the hefty price tag for these services. To avoid having to go "cold turkey" if your unlimited online access suddenly becomes a major expense, you should start practicing some cost-saving strategies now.

Consider this simple analogy. When you walk into a library for the first time, do you: (a) wander around aimlessly until you happen to come across the material you need; (b) search the library catalog; or (c) ask someone who works there for help. Most librarians hope you would always avoid doing (a), and opt for (b) or (c). This approach applies to computer assisted legal research. If you know where you are going on LEXIS or WESTLAW before logging on, it will make your search for information much easier and more efficient.

You should be aware that LEXIS is organized into files of information, which are grouped into libraries by topic. To search a file of information on LEXIS, the researcher must know both the name of the library by topic and the name of the specific file within that library.

For example, the United States Code Service can be found on LEXIS in the

USCODE file in the CODES library. Knowing this before you go online saves costly connect time and can quicken the research process. But, you might ask, "how do I find out the names of the libraries and files without going on line?"

The answer is as simple as looking in a book. Specifically, LEXIS publishes and freely distributes a directory of all of the libraries and files in its online service. The Directory of Online Services, is available at the reference desk and at the LEXIS dedicated terminals located throughout the library.

Similarly, WESTLAW is organized into databases that contain one specific type or set of materials. For example, the USCA database contains the United States Code Annotated. Again, knowing the name of the database that contains the information you seek before going online is best. Like LEXIS, WESTLAW has a directory called WESTLAW Database List, which is also available at the reference desk and the WESTLAW dedicated terminals.

Good Luck with your research and don't forget to think before you go online. Old habits die hard, so start the thinking process now.

*Adapted from an article by Sheri Lewis that appeared in the March 11, 1997 issue of Mercer University Law Library News.

Comings....

Some familiar faces will be leaving us and some new ones will be joining us.

As many of you have heard by now, **Dr. John Pagan** will assume the post of Dean of the Law School and Professor of Law in July. For more details point your browser to

<http://law.richmond.edu/pagan.htm>.

Kristine Marzolf has accepted the position of Associate Dean for

Student Services and Administration. Dean Marzolf will be coming to us from the law school at Boston University, where she is the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. We anticipate that she will arrive around July 1.

Also new to the law school is **Leighton Fuller**, who has accepted the position as Network Administrator. He joins Paul Birch and David Keats in the never-ending effort to keep the law school's computer network up and running. Leighton shares an office with David Keats in Room L-9.

And Goings....

Denise Johnston, of the Dean's Office, will be leaving UR after nearly 10 years of service to the law school. As Operations Coordinator, Denise arranged room scheduling, graduation events, and oversaw building maintenance. Denise who is the proud mother of Carl, 22 (graduating from Hampden-Sydney this Spring) and Rose, 19, will be moving to Atlanta, where a job transfer took her husband Nelson. We will miss her warm, sunny smile and pleasant disposition and wish Denise the best in her new ventures.

Also departing is **Diane Brust**, Alumni Development Officer. Diane accepted a position in the Development Office of the Bowman-Gray Medical Center at Wake Forest University. She will begin work there in early May. In the words of Dean Murphy, "this is a marvelous professional opportunity for Diane, and the offer of this position to her is a testament to what she has accomplished here and to the regard in which she is held in development circles." A farewell reception was held Wednesday, April 23rd, in the Law Faculty Study. As parting gifts Diane received a framed print of the law school, a Waterford crystal apple, and an engraved Cross pen, from University Services.

WILLIE L. MOORE AWARD

By Allen Moye,
Reference Librarian

The life of Professor Willie L. Moore is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can leave a legacy of inspiration for others. Professor Moore, who was director of the Youth Advocacy Clinic, left a positive impression on many faculty and staff members, but perhaps his most lasting impact was upon the students. For each of the past five years, since Prof. Moore's death, the Black Law Student's Association has selected a member of the staff or faculty for an award which bears his name. It is presented to honor Professor Moore's tradition of dedication and commitment to legal education.

The annual award ceremony is also when graduates are recognized and outgoing officers are acknowledged and the incoming are introduced. At this year's ceremony, held in the atrium on April 24th, Professor John Stubbs read his own moving tribute to Professor Moore entitled "Brother" before a gathering of students, faculty, staff and alumni. This year's award was presented to Professor **Sara Finley**, Director of In-House Clinical Programs. Bridgette Hopson, a rising 3rd year student, who presented the award read excerpts from the writings of poet Maya Angelou. Ms. Hopson praised Professor Finley for the patience and genuine concern she has shown for the well-being of all of her students. In her acceptance speech, Professor Finley thanked the members of BLSA for the award and the opportunity to experience the true benefit of diversity. Professor Wade Berryhill was presented with a special recognition award for his role in establishing the first BLSA chapter at UR and for his continued support. Visibly moved by this honor, Professor Berryhill thanked the group for their recognition and applauded their efforts. Commenting on the brevity of his remarks, BLSA President Tracy Watkins laughingly noted it to be "a rare moment, indeed." After closing remarks by Dean Murphy, a

buffet of fresh fruit, sandwiches, punch and cake was enjoyed by all.

It was a poignant and dignified tribute to a remarkable, scholar, teacher, counselor and friend. Well-done BLSA. Professor Moore would be proud.

The law school's web site has a new look and a new location. Check us out at

<http://law.richmond.edu>



SPRING EXAM SCHEDULE

Monday, April 28	8:30 a.m.
Flexible Exam Period	
Wills & Trusts I' Rm. 114	1:00 p.m.
Flexible Exam Period	
Tuesday, April 29	8:30a.m.
Constitutional Law §1, Rm. 101	
Constitutional Law §2, Rm. 102	
Flexible Exam Period	1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30	8:30 a.m.
Flexible Exam Period	
Federal Income Tax, Rm. 102	
Flexible Exam Period	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 1	8:30 a.m.
Wills & Trusts II, Rm. 206	
Flexible Exam Period	1:00 p.m.
Friday, May 2	8:30 a.m.
Environmental Law §1, Rm. 102	
Environmental Law §2, Rm. 114	
Environmental Law §3, Rm. 101	

1:00 p.m.
Corporate Finance, Rm. 205
Secured Transactions, Rm. 206
Flexible Exam Period

Monday, May 5 8:30 a.m.
Flexible Exam Period
Corporations, Rm. 102

1:00 p.m.
Agency and Partnership, Rm. 205
Flexible Exam Period

Tuesday, May 6 8:30 a.m.
Contracts §1, Rm. 101
Contracts §2, Rm. 102

1:00 p.m.
Flexible Exam Period

Wednesday, May 7 8:30 a.m.
Flexible Exam Period
Corporate Tax, Rm. 206

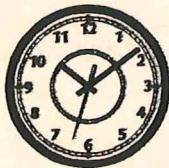
1:00 p.m.
Virginia Procedure, Rm. 101
Flexible Exam Period

Thursday, May 8 8:30 a.m.
Flexible Exam Period

1:00 p.m.
Flexible Exam Period

Friday, May 9 8:30 a.m.
Criminal Law §1, Rm. 101
Criminal Law §2, Rm. 102

1:00 p.m.
Flexible Exam Period



LIBRARY HOURS

SPRING EXAMS
APRIL 25 - MAY 8, 1997

Friday, April 25
7:30 A.M. - MIDNIGHT
Saturday, April 26,
9:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT

Sunday, April 27
10:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT
MON. - FRI. April 28-May 2
7:30 A.M. - MIDNIGHT

Saturday, May 3
9:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT
Sunday, May 4
10:00 A.M. - MIDNIGHT

INTERSESSION
MAY 9 - 17, 1997

Friday, May 9
7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Saturday, May 10
9:30 A.M. - NOON *
(Open for graduating students and their families only. Computer lab and copiers unavailable.)

Sunday, May 11
CLOSED
MON. - FRI. May 12 - 16
7:30 A.M. - 5 P.M.
Saturday, May 17
CLOSED

SUMMER SESSION
MAY 18, 1997 - JULY 06, 1997

SUNDAY
10:00 A.M. - 10 P.M.
MON. - THUR.
7:30 A.M. - 10 P.M.
FRIDAY
7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SATURDAY
9:30 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SUMMER EXAMS
JULY 7 - 10, 1997

MON. - THUR.
7:30 A.M. - 10 P.M.

REMINDER

By Deborah Barlett,
Administrative
Secretary



Now that Spring Semester classes are over and exams have begun, please keep in mind that you must have your carrels cleaned out and the carrel keys returned to the Library Administration Office no later than **5:00 P.M. Friday, May 9**. If you are registered for a summer class or are studying for the July Bar Exam, **YOU MUST NOTIFY MRS. BARLETT THAT YOU WILL BE USING YOUR CARREL FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

Please E-mail me at barlett@uofrlaw.richmond.edu Or stop by the Library Administrative Office(L-17) to make these arrangements.

Please remember the librarians are here to serve you at the reference desk. You are not interrupting us when you stop to ask a question. We are here to help you with as many questions as you have. It is our purpose for being at the desk.



Congratulations Class of 1997 !

Commencement Saturday, May 10, at 2:00 P.M. in the Robins Center.

The **MUSELETTER** is the official Newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, Virginia 23173

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