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SEPTEMBER IS CONSTITUTION MONTH: RICHMOND LEGAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL

The University of Richmond School of Law and special guests and speakers from Richmond played significant roles in the 92nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries, held in Washington, D.C. in mid-July, 1999. The conference theme was "At the Crossroads: Information Management, Technology, and Policy," and the programs featured many government and information industry leaders who addressed issues relevant to access to legal information. The Annual Meeting was the largest ever for the AALL, and more than 2,600 law librarians registered for the meeting.

The University of Richmond School of Law was represented at the meeting by five law librarians, Timothy Coggins, Joyce Manna Janto, John Barden, Sally Wambold, and Gail Zwirner. Professor Rodney Smolla moderated and questioned the panelists at a program entitled "Access v. Privacy: the Case of the Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission." The program featured two attorneys from Mississippi who discussed the Commission records, which include information on more than 85,000 individuals, most of whom were active in the civil rights movement, and attempts to gain access to the records. Professor Coggins chaired the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee, which coordinated the more than 75 programs and 7 workshops at the Annual Meeting. As chair of the committee, he introduced one of the featured plenary session speakers, Roberta R. Katz, CEO and President of Technology Network, Inc. Ms. Katz, formerly Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Netscape Communications Corp., discussed her book Justice Matters, which argues that today's civil justice system is in deep trouble and needs re-vamping. Professor Coggins also spoke on a program entitled "Censorship at Your Library," where he updated the audience about attempts to limit access to information accessible through the Internet. Ms. Zwirner planned and conducted the business meeting of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries in her role as the VALL President at the AALL Annual Meeting.

Another plenary session, "Revitalizing the Constitution," featured David P. Baugh, an African-American and Richmond-based attorney. Mr. Baugh discussed his representation of an Imperial Wizard of the KKK, who had been charged with violating (Continued on page 2)
a Virginia statute dealing with cross burning. In his presentation he described the purpose of the Constitution as a protection for citizens from their government. He likened the Constitution to a brick wall between citizens and government. When government limits citizen's rights, it is removing the bricks from that wall. Stopping a KKK member from burning a cross, argues Mr. Baugh, is removing bricks from that wall. "Don't talk about the Constitution and use the word 'but,'" he warned. "Don't say we have a right to free speech, but ...." He urged the audience to understand the value and brilliance of the Constitution. "The Constitution creates an atmosphere where we can attain any goal we seek," concluded Mr. Baugh. "Use it or lose it." Mr. Baugh has served previously as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond. (Rising second-year student Stephen Webb clerked for Mr. Baugh this summer.)

Other Richmond speakers and participants at the AALL meeting were the Honorable Robert E. Payne, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia and the Honorable Elizabeth Lacy of the Virginia Supreme Court. Justice Lacy was a special invited guest at the meeting, while Judge Payne was a panelist on a program dealing with the ethical perils of ignoring electronic legal resources when conducting legal research.

Timothy L. Coggins
Director & Associate Professor

In recognition of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, Public Law 84-915 in 1956 established an annual Constitution Week for the period September 17-23.

The UR Faculty on the Constitution

John Paul Jones
Constitution Finder

This index offers constitutions, constitution drafts, and other documents related to national and state constitutions and constitutionalism. Nations and states are listed alphabetically, and each nation's or state's name is linked to its constitutional text posted somewhere on the Internet. To access this compilation on the World Wide Web, point your browser to http://www.richmond.edu/~jpjones/confinder/const.htm. The links are updated by 2L Christine Nguyen.

Rodney A. Smolla
Deliberate Intent

In addition to several First Amendment titles including Smolla and Nimmer on Freedom of Speech: a Treatise on the First Amendment, Professor Smolla's most recent publication is Deliberate Intent: a Lawyer Tells the True Story of Murder by the Book. This new title recounts the landmark "Hit Man" case, where Paladin Press was sued by murder victims' families for wrongful death for publication of its murder manual Hit Man. Professor Smolla represented the families in the matter and prevailed in his argument that if the press knew and intended that the manual would be used in the actual planning and execution of contract killings, then Paladin was not entitled to immunity under the First Amendment.
James Wirrell joined the Law Library staff on August 26 as the Circulation/Reference Librarian. In this position, James manages the circulation desk and course reserves and provides reference assistance also. He also is taking law classes part-time at the law school as a visiting student as he finishes up the requirements of a University of Illinois College of Law J.D. degree.

James is a Canadian who comes from Vancouver, British Columbia on the west coast of Canada. He did his B.A. degree at Simon Fraser University in the Vancouver area. Following this degree, he completed a Master of Christian Studies degree at Regent College at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver (not to be confused with Regent University in Virginia). His specialty was the early and medieval British church, and he authored a manual of church history for use by graduate church history students. He retains a strong interest in church history and contemporary developments and has created a reference website on the worldwide Anglican Communion and the Celtic Church.

James holds a Canadian law degree from the University of British Columbia Law School. He spent the third year of his LL.B. as an exchange student at the University of California, Hastings College of Law, in San Francisco. While at Hastings, he worked as a student circulation assistant in the law library. After completing his LL.B., James went to Illinois where he received a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois College of Law. During his two years in Illinois, James worked first as a graduate assistant and then as a reference librarian at the University of Illinois law school library.

James jokes that now that he is a visiting student at the University of Richmond, he will be receiving a truly national and international legal education, having taken law classes in Canada, the West Coast, the Midwest, and now, the East Coast. He comes to Richmond to follow his wife, an American Episcopal/Anglican priest, whom he originally met in Canada.

James is pleased to have joined the University of Richmond law library staff and the law school community.

Recent Faculty Publications


Associate Professor Joel B. Eisen contributed a chapter, "ADR at the Environmental Protection Agency," to the Federal Administrative Dispute Resolution Deskbook, a publication of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice.

Professor John Paul Jones wrote "The United States Supreme Court and Treasure Salvage," published in the April issue of the Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce.

Professor Michael Allan Wolf has been selected by Matthew Bender as a general editor for Powell on Real Property, the most widely cited American property treatise. He also wrote a chapter on Charles Warren for American National Biography.
LIBRARY ESTABLISHES CELL PHONE POLICY

Based on student requests, we ask that all library users turn off the ring feature on cell phones and pagers before entering the library so the noise does not disturb students and other patrons. If a call or page is received during your library visit, the patron must leave the library immediately to continue the call. Signs reflecting the policy will be posted in the next few weeks.

CONSIDERATION FOR YOUR CLASSMATES

In addition to complaints about cell phones, the library staff also has received numerous complaints about noise in the library. Conversations in the carrel areas should be kept to a minimum. If you find it necessary to speak to classmates, professors, librarians, or staff in furtherance of educational purposes, please do so quietly. Several group study rooms, located in the basement, are available for use by groups of two or more law students for a four hour period. Contact the Circulation Desk for reservations.

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