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## Museletter: September 2001

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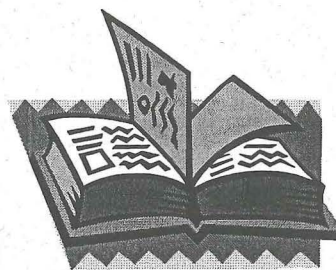
# Museletter

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**BANNED BOOKS WEEK—SEPTEMBER 22-29, 2001**  
**CELEBRATE YOUR FREEDOM TO READ**  
**BY TIMOTHY L. COGGINS**

Each year the American Library Association (along with five publisher and bookseller associations), libraries, and library users across the country celebrate "Banned Books Week." The message of Banned Books Week is the importance of ensuring the availability of unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. Banned Books Week focuses on the rights to freedom of speech and expression and the threats against the freedom to read that come from many quarters and political persuasions.



Between 1990 and 1999, there have been 5,718 challenges to library materials reported to or recorded by the Office of Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association. The reasons for the challenges vary. 1,446 of the challenges were made because a person or group was offended by the sexually explicit nature of the materials. More than 1,260 of the materials were challenged because of the use of "offensive language." 1,167 of the materials were considered "unsuited" to a particular age group. 773 materials were challenged due to an "occult theme" or Satanism. Other challenges were made because the materials were considered "too violent," had a homosexual theme or promoted homosexuality, promoted a "religious viewpoint," included nudity, were racist, or were "anti-family." Seventy-one percent of the challenges were to material in schools or school libraries. Another 20% were to material in public libraries. Almost 60% of the challenges were brought by parents, 16% by library users, and approximately 10% by administrators. (Statistics from the Office of Intellectual Freedom at the American Library Association)

The United States Supreme Court has considered "book removal" in 1982. In *Pico v. Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District* the Court addressed to what extent does the First Amendment impose limitations upon the exercise by a local school board of its discretion to remove library books from junior high school libraries. Justice Brennan wrote that local school boards do have broad discretion in the management of school affairs, but that discretion must be exercised in a manner that comports with the First Amendment. He wrote also that students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the school house gates. 457 U.S. 853, 863-865 (1982).

For additional information about "Banned Books Week," as well as some examples of specific books that have been removed or challenged, take a look at the display case outside the library. The display also includes a list of the 100 most frequently challenged books of 1990-1999, the most challenged authors in 2000, and the most frequently challenged books in 2000.

**Fall 2001  
 Regular  
 Library Hours**

Sun.-10:00 a.m.-  
 Midnight  
 Mon.-Thurs.-7:30 a.m.  
 - Midnight  
 Fri. - 7:30 a.m.-  
 9:00 p.m.  
 Sat. - 9:00 a.m. -  
 9:00 p.m.

**Fall Break  
 (Oct. 12-15)**

Fri. Oct. 12 - 7:30 a.m.-  
 10:00 p.m.  
 Sat & Sun. Oct. 13-14 -  
 8:30 a.m. -7:00  
 p.m.  
 Mon. Oct. 15 - 7:30 a.m. -  
 6:00 p.m.  
 Tues. Oct. 16 - Resume  
 regular hours



**Reference Source of the Month:**  
*Continuing Legal Education Sources, Virginia Law Foundation  
and Practising Law Institute*  
By Gail Zwirner

If you worked in a law firm this summer, you were probably introduced to continuing legal education sources, familiarly known as CLEs. These tools are valuable research sources for several reasons, but primarily because of the currency of the materials. The intent of these programs is to provide CLE credits for attorney bar requirements, so naturally they are going to address the most current issues.

In Virginia, the Virginia Law Foundation serves primarily as the coordinator of CLE programs. They put on dozens of programs annually. Programs such as the *Annual Advanced Family Law Seminar*, the *Annual Real Estate Practice Seminar*, and the *Virginia Conference on Federal Taxation* draw regular attendees and provide useful course materials on recent issues. Technology issues have become very popular CLE topics in recent years. The 2001 schedule includes topics such as *Internet 2001—The Electronic Autobahn for Lawyers*, *Key Legal Strategies for Representing Digital Age Clients*, and *Update on E-Commerce Issues: Practical Advice for Lawyers with Clients on the Web*.

I have also recommended successfully to students the use of CLEs as possible interviewing "talking points." Find the names of the attorneys with whom you will be interviewing, and see if by chance any of them has presented one of these programs. That should raise some interested eyebrows.

Additionally, several Virginia Law Foundation titles that accompany programs serve really as the only secondary sources providing analysis on key legal topics. Those include: *The Law of Damages in Virginia*, *Virginia Administrative Law*, *Negotiating and Drafting Marital Agreements*, and *The Attorney-Client Privilege and the Work Product Doctrine*.

The most popular general CLE provider is the Practising Law Institute in New York. Practitioners refer to them as PLIs, and my recollection of law firm use is that many were the "hot reads" upon release on several topics. Again, the value of PLIs is the currency of the material. Quality of the handbooks varies by subject. Some patrons would be teased by an intriguing title, only to find a copy of a Powerpoint presentation with an outline as the text in the handbook. Substantive articles are a rarity.

There are some tricky aspects to PLI citations that require some knowledge about the organization of a PLI. Many references you will see to a PLI presentation are to a single presentation within one program handbook, similar to an article within a journal. In addition, each handbook has a series designation, such as Litigation or Taxation, and each course handbook has a unique number assigned within that series. That number is shown on the spine of the handbook. (There is also an "order number" on the title page that can be confusing.) The *Bluebook* has a good example of a proper PLI citation at Rule 15.3(b) on page 110.

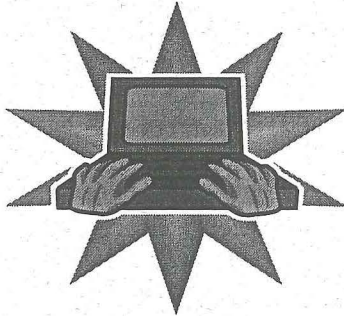
One common Reference Desk question is a patron who has an incomplete cite to an article in a handbook, and without the handbook title. Individual articles will rarely be cataloged in a library's collection, only the handbook title and series. The annual *Index to Course Handbooks* (Ref. KF8 .I54) will help identify the course handbook name, and then it is possible to use the library catalog to find the title and location. The *Index* is organized by author, a subject list of articles referencing the handbook number, and then the list of handbook titles listed by number, providing three access points for identification.

For those with Westlaw access, PLI articles are searchable in the database back to September 1984. Some articles in unusual formats, such as Powerpoint programs, may not display properly.



## Computer Services Offers *Technology Tidbits* Brown Bag Lunches

By Kim Wiseman



You made the commitment to Law School; then made the choice to come to the University of Richmond. You get here, and we hand you a computer and explain that this is your lifeline for the next three years for everything. . .everything! You ask yourself, "does this thing brew coffee?" Maybe not, but there are some features you should learn about your computer, as well as ways to keep it operating at its optimum. And for you returning students — how nice have you been to your computer this summer? It probably could use a little TLC this fall, too.

Join us for *Technology Tidbits* brown bag lunches this fall. Bring your lunch and your computer, and we will furnish the rest. Upcoming topics and dates include:

**September 4th: *Network Popup Messages*.** You've received them. . .but how can you get in on the action? [and] ***Advanced E-mail Functions*.** Learn how to block incoming mail, create distribution lists, etc.

**October 2nd: "O."** What is this drive and why would you use it?

**October 30th: *Using Your Zip Drive*.** Learn the advantages of the zip drive and how to use it.

**November 13th: *Computer Maintenance Oil Change*.** Like your car, did you know that your computer needs regular maintenance, about every 3,000 keystrokes. Learn how to do an "oil change" to reduce the risk of computer failure [and] ***Ensuring Your Printer Is Ready for Exams*.** With ready access to the lab printers, it's always wise to check your attached printer prior to exams to avoid any heartbreaks during those already stressful exam periods.

**November 27th: *Computer Maintenance Oil Change* [and] *Ensuring Your Printer Is Ready for Exams*.** Second verse, same as the first. If you missed the November 13th session, we're doing it again!

If there is something in particular you think *Technology Tidbits* should address, please let Kim know. There are also technology guides on various topics from WordPerfect to Remote Network Access available at the Computer Help Desk.

The Computer Help Desk is staffed between 8:00 am and 9:00 pm, Monday to Friday, 1:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and 1:00 to 9:00 pm on Sunday. Paul Birch, Alison Merner, Kim Wiseman, or any of the student assistants will be able to help you during those hours.

Eight students  
assist the computer  
services staff with  
Help Desk hours.  
Thanks for  
your help!

Michael Freeman  
John Meadows  
Jason Scarberry  
Erik Smith  
Cameron Snapp  
Vidal Torres  
Lauran Wikle  
Eric Wiseley

## What's Behind the Curtain?

By John Barden

No, it's not the latest art installation by Christo. The black plastic curtain across from the Reference Desk is hiding the construction of the Law Library's new Special Collections Reading Room. The room, scheduled for completion by October 5, will be named in honor of retired Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr., LL.B. '42. Judge Merhige recently donated a large collection of working papers documenting nearly 30 years on the Federal bench here in Richmond. These papers, along with the Law Library's other special collections, will be available to researchers in the new Reading Room.

What are "special collections"? Generally, these are materials that have to be handled with particular care, such as the Law Library's collections of personal papers. Besides Judge Merhige's papers, these include the Sutton documents, the working papers of an assistant prosecutor for the post-World War II Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal. The Library's rare books also fall into this category, as well as the Law School's archives. Researchers seeking access to these materials will find in the new Reading Room all they need to examine the special materials conveniently and without damage to the documents or volumes.

The façade of the new Reading Room will also contain several display cases where some of our more interesting treasures will be exhibited on a rotating basis. In the future you may see anything here from original Jeff MacNelly cartoons (the Merhige papers) to a translation of Premier Tojo's deposition (the Sutton collection) to the earliest laws of the colony of Virginia (rare books). Check out our first exhibits later in the semester.

SEPTEMBER IS  
CONSTITUTION  
MONTH

LOOK AT  
PROFESSOR  
JONES' WEB-  
SITE,  
"CONFINDER,"  
AT WWW.  
RICHMOND.  
EDU/  
~JPJONES/  
CONFINDER  
FOR DOCU-  
MENTS RE-  
LATED TO NA-  
TIONAL AND  
STATE CONSTI-  
TUTIONS.

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The Museletter is the official newsletter of the  
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