Museletter: March 2003

Gail F. Zwirner
University of Richmond, gzwirner@richmond.edu

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BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN LAW SCHOOL AND EMPLOYMENT

If you have already forgotten basic legal research skills and feel you need a refresher to make the best impression as a summer associate, we have the answer for you! Join the legal research instructors, a firm librarian, the Virginia Supreme Court librarian, and a fifth year associate, who will provide some inside tips on making your summer employment successful.

The morning will include a review of research strategies and sources necessary to complete research projects typically assigned to summer associates. John Barden and Gail Zwirner will walk you through several research scenarios to provide a variety of examples of research techniques. Lexis and Westlaw representatives will be available for advanced search techniques instruction as well.

Cindy Smith, the Librarian at McCandlish Holton, will discuss the dos and don'ts of law firm research. She'll present the options available in a firm environment such as memo banks, in-house databases available through an intranet, use of alternative formats such as CD-ROM tools, and guidelines for online searching.

Gail Warren will provide some ethical reminders for your firm or court experience. She'll share some horror stories she has experienced, reminding us of the time when, for example, a clerk "slipped" innocently in party conversations, only to discover he revealed some details not intended for public consumption!

Michael Begland, a 1998 UR graduate, and fifth year associate in the Richmond office of Hunton and Williams, will discuss firm expectations of summer associate research skills, and describe typical projects you might be given at a law firm. Michael will also present guidelines for memoranda drafting and provide some insight into a "win-win" law firm summer associate experience.

Lexis and Westlaw will also be providing breakfast and lunch, so come hungry!
New DVD Titles

Antitrust
Bossa Nova
Changing Lanes
Contender
Double Jeopardy
Erin Brockovich
Finding Forrester
Glass House
High Crimes
Men of Honor
Rules of Engagement
Sweet Home
Alabama
Tortilla Soup
Traffic
Wall Street

All are shelved in the Recreational Video area on the First Floor

Library Creates DVD Collection of Legal Recreational Titles

Responding to market pressure from former Beta and 8-Track owners, the library recently expanded its format selection to include DVDs of recreational movies with a legal "spin." Our only criterion for collection is that the movie must have an attorney in the cast or have a legal theme as part of the plot. We don't even require that the attorneys be ethical ("Changing Lanes" or "Glass House")!

The first group acquired were those reviewed in the Museletter in the last few years. So, from "Antitrust" where the Bill Gates character tells his attorney team to "get creative," to the group of attorneys trying to get Gordon Gecko out of an insider trading mess in "Wall Street," you'll find a variety of movie themes for study breaks.

The first DVD titles available for checkout are listed to the left, but to find a list of these and any future acquisitions, go to the library catalog at library.richmond.edu. In the "search for: box enter "dvd movie" and in the "search by" box, scroll down and click on "call number." Click on "search," and you will retrieve an alphabetical list of DVD titles.

For those of you, who, like this Editor, are stuck in the 20th century and refuse to invest in a DVD player, the library will continue to maintain the VHS collection. Both types of videorecordings are in the library's Recreational Video area on the First Floor. The circulation period is three days.

—GFZ

Law at the Movies: The Life of David Gale
By Gail Zwirner

There are a few actors for whom I usually see all movies in which they appear. Kevin Spacey is one of those actors. He does a terrific job in every role he plays. Unfortunately, there are few movies since Usual Suspects (including American Beauty) that I enjoyed. The Life of David Gale is another "in your face" politically correct movie, where his acting was superb, but the movie itself was predictable. The underlying argument, that there are death row inmates who are innocent, warrants study, but the manner the screenwriters chose to present it was shameless.

Spacey plays a university philosophy professor, who is on "permanent sabbatical" after a drunken evening at a party led to an indiscretion with a student. His wife and child have left him, he pays the bills at a moving company job (the interview was a rare moment of humor), and he spends the rest of his time as a leader of an anti-death penalty group. At his side is a former school colleague, played by Laura Linney, who participates in the scam to prove their argument, but at the same time, helps put David Gale on death row for her rape and murder.

With only four days until his execution, he grants three days of interviewing to Bitsey Bloom, a journalist with a news magazine, described by a fellow reporter as "Mike Wallace with PMS." The price is an unlikely $500,000. Bitsey becomes convinced that Gale is innocent and is close to proving it when time runs out.

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Spring Carrel Swap to Be Held April 14-16
By Deborah Barlett

The Spring carrel swap is schedule for April 14th to 16th. If you are content with your current carrel — do nothing. The process we use allows students to remain in the same carrel for all three years if they prefer. The only exception is if a student is registered for a clinic in the Fall, he or she will be assigned a carrel in the clinic during that assigned semester. Consequently, the student must give up the library carrel until the following semester.

Another component of this process is a Spring carrel swap for those students who would like to switch carrel locations. The evening prior to your assigned carrel swap date, Ms. Barlett will post a list of available carrels on the glass front doors to the library. This list will be updated for each day's selection. If you would like to switch carrels, the following are the dates, times, and location when you may request a new carrel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, April 14</td>
<td>Current Clinic Students only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 15</td>
<td>Rising 3Ls only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 16</td>
<td>Rising 2Ls only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location: Administrative Office (L17)
Times: 9:00 am to 11:30 am & 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Carrels of December and May graduating 3Ls and other vacant carrels are included in the process. Most of these carrels currently are occupied, and you will not be able to move into the carrel until Fall 2003. If the carrel you select is unoccupied at this time, then you may switch carrels immediately. Otherwise, you will not be issued a carrel key for the new carrel until Fall 2003 and will continue using your current carrel through the end of the term. You will turn in your carrel key at the end of this school year immediately after exams (these carrels will be issued to incoming 1Ls and transfer students).

If you have any questions regarding this process, you may contact Ms. Barlett by e-mail at (dbarlett@richmond.edu) or phone (289-8225 or on campus at x2556).

Security Cameras Installed to Aid in Resolution of Incidents in the Library
By Timothy L. Coggins

During the first week of January, security cameras were installed at the entrance of the Law Library. We hope that the cameras will provide additional security for the library and will aid in the resolution of incidents such as thefts from carrels.

Although the cameras will aid University Police in solving thefts, the library staff encourages students to secure valuable property in the lockable portion of your carrels.

The cameras should help to reduce the opportunity for crime, but if you experience any incidents of vandalism or theft in the library, please report it to someone in the administrative offices immediately.

Boatwright Library administration reports that University Police were able to solve four library crimes through the use of cameras.

New Lexis Enhancements Introduced in March

Add a tab: To organize or add tabs to the first screen organization, click "Add/Edit Tabs." You can add up to 18 preselected jurisdictional or subject area tabs. You can also change the default tab if you desire.

Get a Document: Now allows format options — either full text or case summaries and headnotes. (Yes, Lexis is now calling "core concepts" headnotes.)

Live Support: If your search produces too many hits (up to 3000 now), there will be a prompt for "live" support through a web discussion tool. The prompt screen will show your search strategy to aid in the discussion.

Printing: The default font is now to Times New Roman to save space, but there is an option to convert to Courier. You may also delay your print by day and time.

Get and Print: Supports both case law and statutes, but currently not case summaries.
David Gale's attorney, Braxton Belyeu, was long on clichés and short on talent. He combined a pinstriped suit and a Willie Nelson ponytail. Despite having multiple ethics violations on his record, Gale insisted on sticking with him because he had been "a good friend." He was such a good friend, Gale made him part of his scam.

Although there was a clear point in the film that tipped you off to the ending, there were some editing nightmares that made some parts confusing. Bitsey's race to the courthouse opened the movie and was repeated at the end. It made no sense at the beginning, even though there were some very effective flashbacks in other parts of the movie. The "money trail" was strangely presented also. It also took awhile to realize that Gale was on death row for the rape and murder of a colleague and not the student.

The Life of David Gale didn't deserve to have such good actors in the cast. If you enjoy seeing Kevin Spacey's acting diversity, then it's worth the admission, but otherwise, wait for the DVD.

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Chronicle Review Describes Dean Pagan's Book as "Nota Bene"

A book review by Nina Ayoub in the January 17, 2003 issue of the Chronicle of Higher Education described Dean Pagan's book, Anne Orthwood's Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia, "as an excellent source to understand more about life and death in 17th-century Virginia."

Dean Pagan analyzes the case law arising from the birth of illegitimate twins by an indentured servant in Northampton County, and explores the evolution of colonial law in an economy based on tobacco.

The Richmond Times Dispatch, in commentary by Brent Tarter, an editor of the Dictionary of Virginia Biography, described Dean Pagan's publication as "subtle and sophisticated research and analysis and his lucid and evocative writing bring to life these Virginians of 350 years ago. The character sketches. . .are gems of historical writing."

Both reviews can be found in the Lexis news databases. The book can be found in the library in the Virginia Collection on the first floor at KFV 2967 .S3 P34 2003.