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Museletter: November 2009

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Museletter

THIS ISSUE:

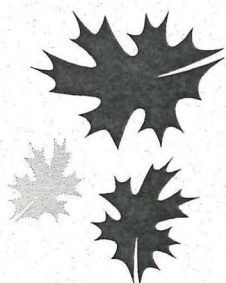
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**Thanksgiving Break
Library Hours**

Tues., Nov. 24
7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Weds., Nov. 25 -
Sat., Nov. 28
CLOSED

Sun., Nov. 29
10:00 a.m. - Midnight



**Extended Hours for
Fall Exam Period**

Sun., Dec. 6 -
Thurs., Dec. 17
Open until Midnight
(24-hour access
for law students)

AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT JOYCE MANNA JANTO

In November 2008, Joyce Manna Janto, Deputy Director of the Law Library, was elected Vice-President and President-Elect of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Her two-year term officially began in July 2009 at the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Janto will serve as the Vice-President of AALL for one year and then will become President of the 5,000 member Association at its Annual Meeting in July 2010 in Denver, Colorado. Janto previously served a three-year term as Treasurer of the AALL. She is a 1989 graduate of the University of Richmond Law School and received her M.L.S. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Library and Information Science and her B.S. in Education from Clarion State College, Clarion, PA.

Why did you become a law librarian?

I've wanted to be a librarian since I was 12 years old. But when I was in high school, at the height of the feminist movement of the late 60s/early 70s, we were discouraged from entering "female" careers. So I said I wanted to be a lawyer. I ended up as a high school librarian and while working on my M.L.S. at Pitt I got a job in the Law School Library. It was an epiphany. "There are law schools, and they have librarians!" I immediately dropped my copyright class to take academic library management. A career choice was made, and I've never looked back.

How has AALL helped you develop professionally?

I've spent my entire professional career in one library. It would have been so easy for me to get stale, dealing with the same people and issues all the time. By being active in AALL, I've been exposed to many different ideas, people, ways of doing things. I've worked on projects that I wouldn't have had the opportunity to work on here at Richmond. It has enriched my professional life immensely, which is why I'm so big on having our staff volunteer as much as they can/want, too.

What has been your favorite Annual Meeting?

That is a hard question! Reno was weird, but fun, since it was in a casino; San Francisco was memorable for the vendor dinner where our rep sprang for a bottle of Dom Perignon; then in Boston in 2007 I lost a member of the newer law librarian class during the city tour; San Antonio where every party had a frozen Margarita machine; or oh, you meant which one had my favorite programs???

An Interview with President-Elect Joyce Manna Janto

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Okay then, how about your favorite keynote speaker?

It's a tie – between Linda Greenhouse, the former NY Times reporter who covered the Supreme Court. She had just finished a book on Justice Blackmun, and her stories about the research she did for the book and for the articles she wrote about the various opinions the Court handed down were fascinating. The other great speaker was David Pogue, the personal technology columnist for the Times. At the end of his presentation, he sang to us. His song “You’ve just been sued by the RIAA” to the tune of “YMCA” was hysterical!

What are you looking forward to most about your tenure as AALL VP/President?

Meeting members. As VP/President you're in demand as a “chapter visitor,” and I really like going out to the different chapters, seeing other people's libraries, how they run things, etc. It's also good to get to meet people you would never have run across in your normal professional life, from different types of libraries.

What's going to be the biggest challenge of being AALL President?

Dealing with the vendor issue. There is a lot of mistrust and just out and out bad feelings on the part of many librarians about vendors and Thomson-Reuters in particular. I don't see this as a healthy thing, and AALL needs to deal with this issue sooner rather than later.

What does it mean to be involved in a professional organization such as AALL?

A friend of mine has a sig file that quotes Teddy Roosevelt: “every man has an obligation to contribute to the upbuilding of his profession.” I take that seriously. By being involved with professional organizations you can help shape the future of the profession. You can have an impact on the decisions that are made that can affect your library, your career. I think we all owe it to ourselves and our colleagues to do what we can to make the future a good one for librarians and libraries.

What has been your greatest accomplishment at the law school? In the law school, the collection. As first the Acquisitions Librarian and then as the Associate Director for Collection Development, I had a big say in what we purchased. We have an excellent collection; in fact we are net lenders when it comes to inter-library loan. That means we lend out WAAAY more than we borrow.

In AALL? As treasurer I instituted the fund to cover the eventual costs of moving the Government Affairs Office from Georgetown in the case of the eventual retirement of Bob Oakley, the then director. Many thought it wasn't needed; Bob had been in the position for over 10 years and showed no signs of retiring. Unfortunately, Bob died unexpectedly. When Georgetown then asked us to move the Office, we were able to do it with no problems since we had that cushion.

In other law librarian organizations? I'm proud of the fact that I'm a “founding mother” of VALL [Virginia Association of Law Libraries]. We were originally a group of locals who met for lunch once in a while. I was on the committee that wrote the constitution and bylaws for what became the Richmond Area Law Libraries and then VALL.

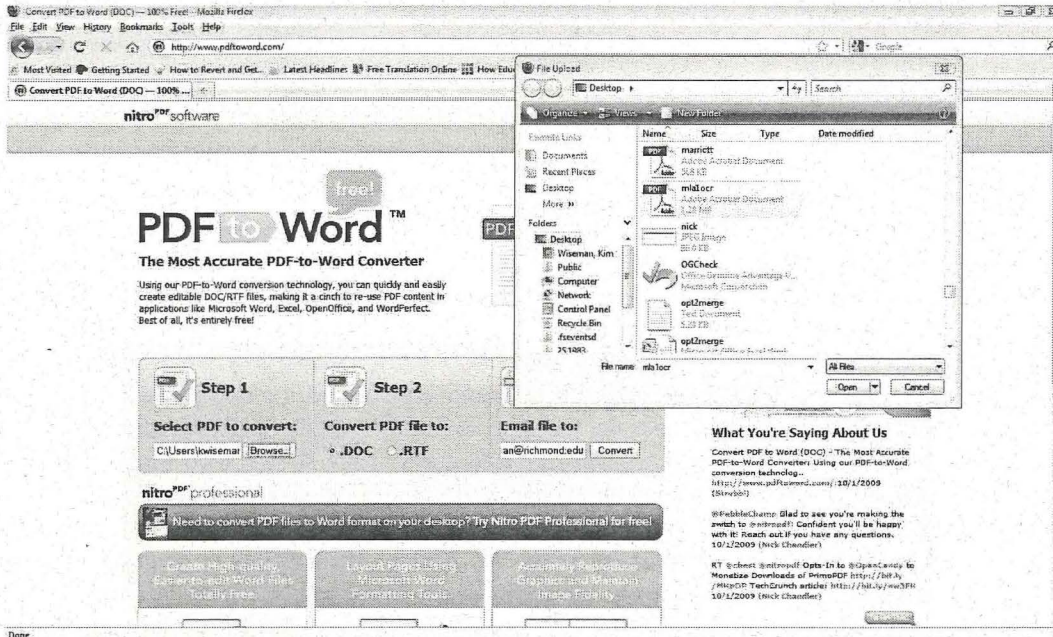
What's your favorite part of your role at the law school?

Working with the students – either in class, or as an advisor, or at the reference desk. They keep things interesting.

Converting a PDF to a Word File

By Kimberly Wiseman
Computer Services Coordinator

We've all been put in the situation of needing a PDF to be a Word file. There is a free internet service – www.pdf2word.com – that will let you convert MOST files from PDF to Word.



1. Log into the website. Click the “browse” button to browse to the PDF file you would like to convert.
2. Choose either to convert the file to a .doc (Word) file or .rtf file.
3. Type in your email address. Click “Convert.”

PDF to Word
[PDF to Word] mla1ocr.pdf is attached as a DOC/RTF file

You will get an email from PDF to Word with the converted file. Open the attachment in Word.

What else do I need to know?

- There is a limit on the size of the file that this free service will convert (8MB).
- Sometimes the service is unable to perform the function. If the original document was scanned sideways to be a PDF file, if the PDF file has a lot of handwritten information in the margins, or if none-clear text is in the PDF file – the service will not be able to read the words as actual “words” but will look at the text as an image and convert it as such.
- Works on all operating systems.
- However, if the PDF is a clean document, this service does a GREAT job of stripping the PDF code out of the document so it can be manipulated in Word.

Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice: a Review

By

Timothy L. Coggins

Associate Dean for Library and Information Services

You are going to be fascinated by some stories and ideas presented in *Let's Get Free: a Hip-Hop Theory of Justice* by Paul Butler. You are going to hate some ideas that are presented in the book and will probably disagree with some assumptions and conclusions. And you'll probably be surprised by other ideas presented in this book. But, you will not regret that you spent a couple of hours reading this relatively short book (214 pages), which begins with the premise that the American criminal justice system is fundamentally broken. Mr. Butler, a former federal prosecutor and current law professor, believes that the American criminal justice system is neither making the streets safer nor helping the people that he hoped, as a prosecutor, to protect. Mr. Butler's perspective is unique; he was a federal prosecutor, yet he also found himself in a much different role when he was arrested on the street and charged with a crime that he did not commit.

So what is a hip-hop theory of justice? Mr. Butler believes that hip-hop culture provides a blueprint for a system that would enhance public safety and treat all people with respect. Hip-hop has the potential to transform justice in the United States, he writes. How? Hip-hop offers a fresh approach. It first seems to embrace retribution. Next, he writes, comes the remix. Hip-hop takes punishment personally. Hip-hop exposes the American justice system as profoundly unfair. The music does not glorify those who break the law, but it also does not view all criminals with disgust. A hip-hop theory of justice acknowledges that when too many people are locked up, prison then has unintended consequences. Punishment should be the point of criminal justice, but it should be limited by the impact that it has on the entire community. He writes that the hip-hop nation, especially its Black and Latino citizens, are best situated to design a criminal justice system. He refers to philosopher John Rawls, who suggested that law is not just when it is made by people who do not know how they will fare under it. Since minority members of the hip-hop nation are both the most likely to be arrested and incarcerated for crimes and the most likely to be victims of crimes, they arguably come closest to Rawls's ideal lawmakers, writes Mr. Butler. Their theory of punishment, according to Mr. Butler, will value both public safety and fairness to lawbreakers. Pay close attention to Mr. Butler's proposal about jury nullification – jurors voting not guilty in certain non-violent cases as a form of protest. He writes, "The jury is saying that the law is unfair, either generally or in this particular case."

Butler's last chapter identifies the things that ordinary citizens can do to reclaim American justice. He recommends seven interventions that will make American citizens safer and more free: (1) pay a kid to finish high school; (2) take it to the courthouse (educating citizens – potential jurors – about the social and economic costs of mass incarceration); (3) get the lead out literally (lead poisoning according to some experts is one of the biggest factors behind violent crime); (4) "hug a thug;" (5) end racial profiling; (6) make punishment fit the crime; and (7) free 500,000 American citizens who are currently locked up for nonviolent, victimless crimes.

Let's Get Free gives an insider's view of the lock-em-up culture that makes every American worse off, Mr. Butler argues. He believes that American society has reached a tipping point – so many people are in prison, especially for nonviolent drug offenses, that incarceration now causes more crime than it prevents. *Let's Get Free* offers methods for citizens to resist complicity and to stand up for their rights.

Spend a couple of hours with this book and see what you think about Mr. Butler's philosophy and ideas.

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