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MUSE LAW LIBRARY MUSELETTER



Volume 37, Issue 1 // August 2022

Director's Message



Fall 2022 marks a momentous milestone for the law library, with the biggest transformation of the library in decades. While construction continues, we're excited to provide a new reading room, expanded seating styles, and more group study spaces. Oh, and we still have books. And databases. And a team of talented experts to support your studies. Check out our construction photos, meet new members of the team, and learn about tips to track the law. We are happy to welcome new and returning students.

Roger V. Skalbeck

Associate Dean for Library and Information Services

Library News



The all-new Grand Reading Room (photo by ACH, August 8, 2022).

Welcome to all those beginning their law school journey, and welcome back to those continuing it. My name is Alex Clay Hutchings, Student Services Librarian at the Muse Law Library, and I would like to introduce (or reintroduce) you to your law library's services. I hope your summer was renewing—ours certainly was. The library has been completely renovated. New study spaces, new shelving, new *everything!* With so much *new*, you might be a bit overwhelmed trying to navigate the remodeled area, but don't fret. Your librarians are here to help! Please ask questions (librarians love questions) and stop by to visit with us (librarians need friends, too). For now, let's catch you up on the news.

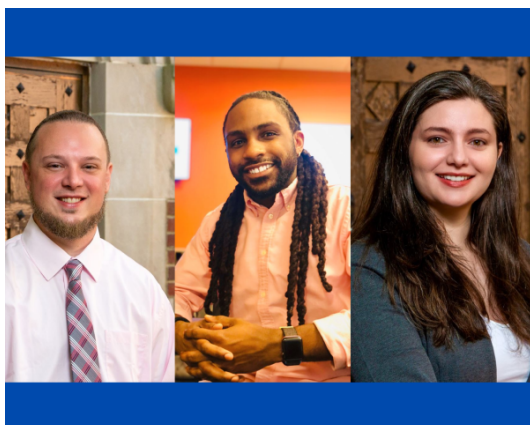
Student Services Guide

The [**student services guide**](#) is designed to assist you in navigating law library services. Here you will find tips for research and reference support, a guide to our databases, instructions for technology access, and information on interlibrary loans. It's one-stop shopping for all your library needs.

Library Catalog

Looking for a book or journal article? Start at the [library catalog](#). Use the tabs above the search bar to find items in the law library catalog, items across all UR libraries (OneSearch), journal titles, and [databases](#). If you are starting out on a research project, check out our [research subject guides](#) with advice and resources for all legal topic areas. Have a quick question? Use the "Chat with a Librarian" feature to talk to us at your convenience.

Featured Resources



Meet the Newest Members of the Law Library Family

The Library added three new faces to our staff. Stop by to meet Michael, Eli, and Sylvia!



Network Printing for Students

Important information on accessing network printers! You need to install them here.

Materials Update



We added **109** new books to our collection this month. Browse the Law Library's latest resources on our [**updated materials list.**](#)

Looking for an e-book? We added **over 4500** new e-book titles this month. Check out our [**updated e-book list.**](#)

Things to Consider



Library Renovations: A Photo Journal

By Alex Clay Hutchings

Summer of 2022 saw the biggest renovation of the law library in over a decade. We added a grand reading room, new furniture, new lighting, new study areas, and many more updates. [**Continue reading...**](#)

Student Services Corner



MuseDay Tuesday

MuseDay Tuesday

Join us in the library each Tuesday starting September 2 for bite-sized research and tech tips. Drop in anytime between 12 - 1. New topics every week.

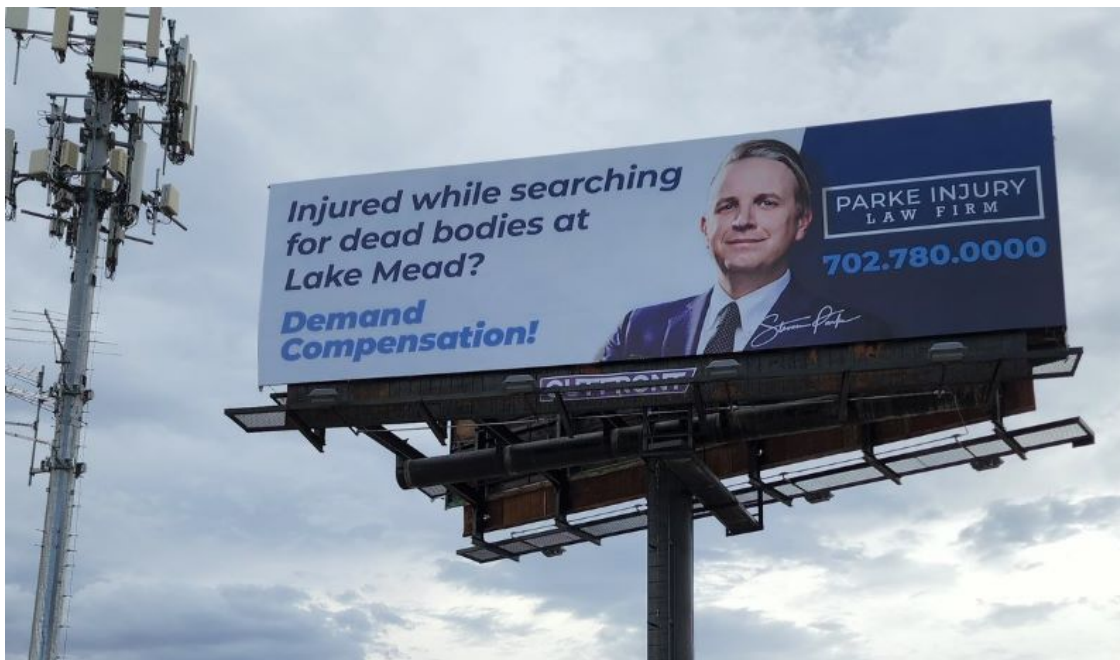
Constitution Day Celebration

In recognition of Constitution Day on September 17, the library will be hosting a week of fun and informative programs from September 12 - 16. We are planning a week of guest speakers, prizes, trivia, and cake! Stay tuned for more details.

If you are a student who wants to have your voice heard and be published in MuseNews, contact [Alex Clay Hutchings](#), Student Services Librarian.

The Facepalm

Legal News to Make You 



And now a Facepalm all the way from my hometown. Growing up in Las Vegas, you learn quickly that trashiness flows as freely as yard-long margaritas, and **Parke Injury Law Firm's billboard** is no exception. "Injured while searching for dead bodies at Lake Mead? Demand Compensation!" If that doesn't inspire confidence in your attorney, I don't know what will.

So, let's take a step back and dive a little deeper into the much shallower Lake Mead. America's largest reservoir, Lake Mead was created by the construction of the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River. The dam provides hydroelectric power and water for much of the Southwest, and the lake offered a lovely recreation oasis in the middle of the Mojave Desert. But for the last two decades, Lake Mead has been the most visible victim of a megadrought that has plagued the region and has dropped to a record-low 27% capacity. One scientist called this climate change-fueled draught a **"slow-motion trainwreck"** and the worst drought to hit the area in 1,200 years. For the 40 million people who depend on Lake Mead for power and water, this is grim. In fact, scientists believe that if the drought continues, the lake will reach "dead pool status." This ominous term means that the water level will be too low to flow downstream and therefore unable to power the generators of Hoover Dam.

With the dramatic recession of the shoreline, many sunken treasures have surfaced from the inky depths – speedboats, ghost towns, and of course, **dead bodies**. To pile on to the all-you-can-eat buffet of craziness that is Vegas, at least five sets of human remains have been discovered since the great dry-up began, and authorities believe at least one was likely a Mafia hit. This poor soul was killed sometime in the 70s or 80s, stuffed in a 50-gallon drum, and dumped

into the water.

Now, back to our tongue-in-cheek attorney. Steven Parke says his billboard was meant to be ironic, a poke at "the idea of the greedy attorney mixed with the person who doesn't want to accept any responsibility for anything they've done...which is very timely today." Many have taken to [Twitter](#) to express their displeasure at the Billboard, pointing out that Parke looks exactly like the sleazy, Saul Goodman-esque ambulance chaser he is trying to parody. Perhaps what Mr. Parke has forgotten in his attempt at humor was that these "dead bodies" are people who have been missed by their families for decades. But really, this story is about more than just one attorney ironically not seeing the irony in his own irony – it's about the giddiness of distraction from the real issues. Climate change and drought have dropped Lake Mead to levels of impending catastrophe. Any chuckles we get out of that now won't seem so funny when the power is out on the Las Vegas Strip.

And that's a facepalm for all of us.

[READ OUR FACEPALM ARCHIVES HERE](#)

[MUSENEWS BLOG](#)

[LIBRARY HOURS](#)

QUESTIONS?

Have a questions about Muse Law Library resources, events, or other goings-on? Want to share your ideas with us? Email Alex Clay Hutchings, Research & Student Services Librarian, at ahutchings@richmond.edu.

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