

# ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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## What's New in the Library?

- Just a reminder: Please check out the group study rooms from the Circulation/Reserve Desk before using them. Since we have a very limited number of these rooms, we check them in and out like books (like materials on Course Reserve, rooms check out for two hours).
- If you made a New Year's resolution to study more to get your grades up, don't forget about using CALI, the Center for Computer-Assisted Learning Instruction, at <http://www.cali.org/>. CALI offers over one thousand tutorials for all areas of the law, and might help you in understanding a particularly thorny legal topic. We encouraged everyone to sign up for these helpful online lessons during Orientation, but if you didn't do it then, you'll need our authorization code, which is **[not in online version!]** (which is case-sensitive).
- Within the first week of law school, you've definitely heard of Lexis and Westlaw, the two largest legal database providers in the country. But if you need to do any historical research, HeinOnline may be a better resource. HeinOnline offers access to older law review articles – formatted as PDF, so you can get the page citations perfectly correct – as well as many historical state materials. Another feature HeinOnline offers – one that will presumably need updating within the next few months – is the "History of Supreme Court Nominations," which provides transcripts from all of the recent nominations, including the candidate's own testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, but also those of other witnesses as well. Hein also announced they've added a new "Slavery History" component, which offers many historical legal documents about slavery, including federal and state (and colonial) statutes and cases. You can access all of these resources by going to the Library's Electronic Databases page ( <http://www.asl.edu/Library/Electronic-Databases.html> ). If you're at home, look for the "Click here to access from off campus" link in the HeinOnline listing; you'll then need your Library barcode from the back of your student or faculty ID card.
- If you're planning ahead for Spring Break (March 6-10), we will have more limited hours during that week. Watch the Library's web site as soon as the times are finalized; we'll also post signs around the building in the usual locations.

## Other News

- The Congressional Research Service has always been a gold mine of legal information as it compiles analysis about many current issues in a non-partisan way. As is obvious from the name, these reports are provided to Congress – and thus the public rarely hears about them. Over the years, there have been several calls for the organization to make these reports available to the public, but Congress has repeatedly refused. Recently, one web site – presumably with a bit of help from various Congressional members – appears to have access to over eight thousand of these reports. Check out the details at <https://www.everyCRSreport.com/>
- Iowa solo practitioners will no longer have to keep and maintain a written succession plan, which provides information about a deceased or disabled attorney's case files. Beginning in January 2018, solos will simply be asked who should be contacted as a successor attorney in case that solo was no longer able to practice. The Iowa Bar president suggested that complete written succession plans were still recommended. Virginia attorneys will note that Iowa's new rule is similar to Virginia's Rule 1.3, Comment 5, which states that a written succession plan "should" be made to protect client interests (West Virginia has a similar provision). In Tennessee, Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 29.9 encourages a successor attorney to be designated "in advance." For a comparison of states that have successor rules (although the documents are slightly out of date), visit the ABA's Succession Planning page at [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional\\_responsibility/resources/lawyersintransition/successionplanning.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/resources/lawyersintransition/successionplanning.html)
- The law impacts us in so many ways, but have you ever been curious about how it could impact fictitious characters? For example, take a movie about rebel fighters – oh, say *Rogue One*, the newest *Star Wars* movie (it's always a good day when we can talk about *Star Wars*!). Now ponder those fighters' legal status as war combatants. If you're feeling a bit lazy, don't worry: the folks over at The Legal Geeks have already done the analysis for you. Without providing any spoilers here, we'll just summarize by saying that some of the folks in that movie might not be protected under the laws of war (at least as we know them, in our galaxy far, far away). If you've seen the movie (or don't mind the plot being spoiled), check out the blog post at <http://thelegalgeeks.com/2016/12/26/the-rebel-bunch-the-legal-status-of-rebel-fighters-in-rogue-one/>

If *Star Wars* isn't your thing, you might still find other posts there interesting, like "Your Duty of Care to Santa Claus as an Invitee," at <http://thelegalgeeks.com/2016/12/23/your-duty-of-care-to-santa-claus-as-an-invitee/>

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