

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

January 8, 2018

Volume 21 Number 6

What's New in the Library?

- Welcome back from Winter Break! Believe it or not, we're already about to take our first holiday of the semester. The Library will not be staffed (meaning no Circulation/Reserve Desk hours) on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, which is Monday, January 15, but we will have card access for students from noon to midnight. The prior weekend hours will be unchanged: Saturday, staffed 9 am to 5 pm with card access from 9 am to midnight, and Sunday, staffed noon to 8 pm with card access from noon to midnight.
- Please remember that winter weather may unexpectedly change our staff schedule. This may impact the hours Reserve material is available, so don't wait until the last minute to get access to your assigned readings! The law school posts a weather alert notice when necessary on the main page of the web site, and also sends around text messages to those who have signed up (check with the Information Services department to double-check if your number or e-mail is correctly listed).
- We'll be distributing our biennial student survey in February. We're hoping to get a general feeling for what we're doing right, and in what areas we need to improve. Look in your student mailbox for a paper survey around the middle of that month. We'll also highlight the responses in our final newsletter for the year.
- Thanks to CALI, we still have some disposable ear plugs if you want to drown out some of the noise while you are studying. Stop by the Circulation/Reserve Desk to ask for a free pair.

If that's the first time you're seeing the CALI abbreviation, you're missing out! CALI is the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, and they've compiled over a thousand go-at-your-own-pace tutorials on all sorts of legal topics. They're a great way to prepare for midterms and finals for virtually any law school course. If you haven't already signed up, go to <https://www.cali.org/> and use our school registration code of **[not in online version!]** (which is case-sensitive).

- As a reminder, if you want to use a Library group study room, you must check out the room at the Circulation/Reserve Desk.

Other News

- Confused about the new tax law that was passed before Christmas? (You aren't alone.) While you were on Winter Break, thousands of professionals were combing through the mammoth document, trying to understand it. Within the next few weeks, you'll be seeing some thorough insight about the new and changed provisions and how they might affect you. One of the best resources for this sort of news is the *Standard Federal Tax Reporter*, located at KF6285 on our first floor. That resource provides the official text of the tax rules, plus practitioner tips. If you need help using that reporter, or want alternative sources, swing by Chris' office.
- One way you can get some extra practice with legal writing is to consider entering a contest. There are several dozen student-writing competitions out there, some of which come with cash prizes! The Suffolk University staff keeps a master list of the various competitions (which you can sort by deadlines or by topic) at <http://www.suffolk.edu/icompetewriting>
- If the idea of programming a keyboard shortcut makes you shiver, never fear: one company has created an add-on keyboard that has a number of legally-related functions. The new LegalPad looks a bit like an old calculator keypad. Just plug it in to your computer through a USB port, and suddenly you'll be adding abbreviations (like "U.S.C." or "F.3d") or section symbols with just a single keystroke. It's a little pricy to be a late holiday gift, but if you're interested, check out the web store at <https://legalboards.myshopify.com/products/legalpad>
- With the beginning of a new year, many reporters write stories trying to predict the future, as well as reminisce about the past. On Law360, one legal writer has attempted to identify the "hottest practice areas" you might consider looking at as you get closer to searching for a post-law school job; she identified labor/employment law, data privacy and cybersecurity, autonomous vehicles, and health care. Another author from the blog "Attorney at Work" recapped 2017's "What's Hot and What's Not in the Legal Profession" and agreed with cybersecurity and health care, but disagreed with labor/employment law. If you're interested in the details of some of these jobs, or want more information about the job search process, we can probably find books to help you! Just stop by the Circulation/Reserve Desk and ask for Chris.

As reference, those blog links include:

<https://www.law360.com/legalindustry/articles/992014> (note: you must be on campus to read Law360 articles)

<https://www.attorneyatwork.com/2017-whats-hot-and-whats-not-in-the-legal-profession/>

The ASL Library News (ISSN 1535-539X) is published monthly during the academic year (except for two combined issues: Aug/Sept and Apr/May) by the Appalachian School of Law Library, Grundy VA 24614. Uncredited stories are written by Chris King, Library Director. If you would like to respond to any story in this newsletter, please contact Chris or leave a message in the upstairs suggestion box.