

# ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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## What's New in the Library?

- If you have been dreading using the Library's large collection of microfiche, we may have some good news for you! One of our suppliers (Law Library Microform Consortium, known as LLMC) is beginning to digitize all of its materials, including administrative decisions and regulations, presidential documents, and some biographical information about Congress. ASL faculty and students can get access to this resource by going to our web site at <http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.php> and clicking on the link for "LLMC-Digital." At the moment, this is available only to on-campus users, but be watching for some exciting news next month ....
- Although this is the month of Halloween, don't be scared to come to our "Get REAL!" [Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning] classes in October! We will be offering a number of thirty-minute workshops on basic legal research, including finding your way around the Library, finding materials using the online catalog, and finding law review articles. We will also be introducing a new class on updating materials using citators. Check out our schedule of events on our web page at <http://www.asl.edu/library/classes.php> or look for one of our calendars at the Circulation Desk.
- Starting to think about this summer's job prospects already? Do yourself a favor and get LexisNexis certified during October. This three-part class offers a refresher on using the online legal database, as well as teaching cost-effective research skills. Scott Hite, our LexisNexis representative, will be on campus in mid-October; watch for sign-up sheets at the Circulation Desk. Please note that first year students will have to wait until next semester before attending.
- On the back page, we discuss the new Supreme Court term. There has been much speculation over the upcoming presidential election, since the winner of the Bush-Kerry contest will likely appoint several justices to serve on the High Court. One recent publication had three law professors debate the issue; two picked a political candidate and discussed the merits of each possible presidential administration, while one professor suggested that the presidential race would have minimal effect on the Court. Ask for the September-October issue of the *Legal Affairs* magazine at the Circulation Desk, or look online at <http://www.legalaffairs.org> (search for the link "Be Careful What You Vote For").

## Other News

- The Supreme Court begins the 2004 Term on the First Monday in October (October 4). As always, the Court has to deal with some thorny constitutional issues that could potentially wind up on a final exam here at ASL. Here are a few of the cases that the Supremes will hear over the next few months:
  - Whether the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees a right to appointed appellate attorney in a discretionary first appeal of an indigent criminal defendant who was convicted by a guilty plea (Kowalski v. Tesmer, 03-407)
  - Whether the Sixth Amendment was violated by the imposition of an enhanced sentence under the federal sentencing guidelines based on the sentencing judge's determination of fact (US v. Booker, 04-104, and US v. Fanfan, 04-105)
  - Whether a private party can seek contribution for CERCLA ("Superfund") voluntary cleanup costs even if no civil action has been filed (Cooper Industries v. Aviall Services, 02-1192)
  - Whether a state supreme court can reinterpret the US Constitution based on "evolving standards" and reach a decision contrary to the US Supreme Court {the other part of the case challenges the constitutionality of executing 16 and 17 year olds, allowed by a US Supreme Court case in 1989} (Roper v Simmons, 03-633)
  - Whether the federal Controlled Substances Act, which prohibits (among other things) marijuana possession for medicinal use, is an unconstitutional extension of Congress' Commerce Clause powers (Ashcroft v. Raich, 03-1454)
  - Whether the Fourth Amendment requires police to have a reasonable, articulable suspicion before using a drug-sniffing dog during a routine traffic stop (Illinois v. Caballes, 03-923)

Of course, we wouldn't tell you about these cases if we didn't have more information to share .... The Supreme Court has its own website at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov> and the unofficial weekly report is US Law Week, which you can review at the Circulation Desk. Two places to find the briefs of the cases argued are <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/> and [http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme\\_court/resources.html](http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/resources.html) as well as on Westlaw and LexisNexis. Ask at the Circulation Desk if you have more questions!

- At the end of October, we'll hang our usual signs reminding all to "fall back" one hour as Daylight Savings Time ends on October 31 at 2 am. You gain an extra hour of sleep (or an extra hour to study for that midterm!).

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