

# ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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## What's New in the Library?

- If you have ever been stuck at home and wanted access to one of ASL's online databases, you have been out of luck – until now. We've added special links on our "electronic databases" web page (at <http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.php>) that allow you to access a number of these databases from home. Yes, there is a small catch. You will need your ASL ID card – on the back is a long barcode that starts with 50767 or 21995. When you click on the "Access From Home" link on our web site, you will be taken to an authorization page. Type in your name (just first name and last name) and then your barcode. If it matches what we have in the system you will be taken to the database and then you can search to your heart's delight! If you have problems accessing these databases, or if you just have questions, stop by the Circulation Desk and ask for Chris.
- If you've missed any of our "Get REAL!" [Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning] classes, November is your last chance of the semester to catch one! These half-hour long classes review various topics in legal research, including using digests, Shepards, periodical indices, and our online catalog. Our schedule is posted on our web page at <http://www.asl.edu/library/classes.php> or you can look for one of our calendars at the Circulation Desk.
- We plan on having a few more Westlaw and Lexis refresher courses during November, but we are still trying to confirm dates and times. As always, check at the Circulation Desk for schedules and sign-up sheets. Please note that with more training sessions being held this year, the Seminar Room will be "closed" for general computer use more often.
- A quick update: In our September issue, we highlighted our new downstairs printer/photocopier, which could be used with your student ID card. We are pleased to tell you that the machine is now working. Ask at the Circulation Desk if you need assistance; we'll be glad to show you how everything works.
- We have modified our Thanksgiving hours from our previously announced schedule. We will only be staffed on Wednesday, November 24, from 9 am to 5 pm, but card access will be granted from 6 am to midnight. On Thursday, November 25 (Thanksgiving), the Library will be closed and your ID card will not work. On Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27, you will have access with an ID card from noon until midnight, but our Reserve Desk will only be open from noon until 6 pm. On Sunday, we return to our usual schedule.

## Other News

- If you haven't heard of Sarbanes-Oxley before now, you will likely be hearing a lot about it in November. On November 15, 2004, a number of provisions in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, Public Law 107-204 (named after its two main proponents, Senator Paul Sarbanes [D-MD] and Representative Michael Oxley [R-OH]), will become mandatory for most public companies. The Act, passed after corporate scandals at Enron, MCI/WorldCom, and Tyco (among others), requires corporations to protect investors through more detailed financial disclosures and annual reviews of certain accounting procedures. Westlaw has an in-depth discussion of Sarbanes-Oxley (use the database SEC-SOAP and then choose "Table of Contents"); in LEXIS, go to "Search | Legal | Area of Law – By Topic | Securities | Corporate Governance | Sarbanes-Oxley Corporate Reform."
- We had a bunch of articles about the Supreme Court in our October newsletter (if you have lost your copy, we keep all prior issues online at <http://www.asl.edu/library/publications.php> ), but this one was announced just after we went to press: The High Court will finally start placing justices' names in the official oral argument record. Past practice was that any question from the Bench would only be listed as "Question," without identifying who had asked the question. If you would like to see some of the new transcripts – perhaps to help you prepare for your own oral argument – visit the Court's own web site at [http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral\\_arguments/argument\\_transcripts.html](http://www.supremecourtus.gov/oral_arguments/argument_transcripts.html) (compare the 2004 Term transcripts to the older ones).
- There has been some talk about a "sports bar" possibly being constructed in town sometime in the future. In preparation for that, we have searched the laws and found this little gem: Ordering drinks from a bar knowing that you don't have the money to pay for them is petit larceny. One recent Virginia case made this quite clear ("Not paying a bar tab is not, by itself, stealing. But ordering drinks *knowing* that one cannot or will not pay is"). See *Wheeler v. Commonwealth*, 0860-03-3 (Va. App., Sept. 28, 2004), 2004 Va. App. LEXIS 461, 2004 WL 2156836. The case can also be found on the Virginia courts web page at <http://www.courts.state.va.us/opinions/opncavwp/0860033.pdf> (thanks to Kim Hibbitts for pointing this one out!).
- Don't forget to vote on November 2! (For the true political pundits, check out a few books on federal elections in our Reference area, like *Elections A to Z* [REF JK 1976 .M66 1999] and *The Presidency A to Z* [REF JK 511 .P747 1998]. For the statistical breakdown on the 2000 election, look through our *World Almanac* at REF AY 67 .W6.)

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