

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

January 11, 2006

Volume 9 Number 6

What's New in the Library?

- Welcome back! While you've been away, we've been cleaning the study rooms and dusting the shelves, trying to make the place a little cleaner. We've noticed trails of crumbs located on many carrels, so this semester we're going to be more vigilant about food in the Library. We will also be on the lookout for soda cans and other non-approved containers. (Does your drink container have a way to be closed tightly? If it does, then it's "approved.")
- We will have limited staffing hours on Monday, January 16 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day). The Library will only be staffed from 1 pm to 6 pm. Students with a valid ID card will have access from 1 pm to midnight.
- Speaking of hours, be aware that winter weather may cause sudden changes to the Library's schedule – we might open later than usual, or we might close early. (Of course, we'll try to post signs as soon as we can!) Please don't wait until the last minute to use any Reserve items, especially if there's a forecast for snow or ice!
- We will be posting Lexis and Westlaw student representative hours in mid-January. Look for this chart online, and posted on the bulletin boards near the photocopiers.
- The Library has purchased one license to "Geronimo," a CD that contains Virginia law. Geronimo is fairly popular with smaller law firms in the Commonwealth, and we've heard from several students that they had to use it for their externships. The CD itself will be located in Reserve, so just ask at the Circulation Desk to use it. We'll be running training courses for the software as part of our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic Assisted Learning) classes when those begin later this semester.
- Some of you may have missed our news item in last month's newsletter about our improved web site. We'll be posting helpful information and newsworthy items during the upcoming semester. Look for information about Lexis and Westlaw certification classes, research tips, the "Get REAL!" schedule, and information about National Library Week (April 2 – 8). We've also added a direct link to the ASL webmail service, as well as direct links to Lexis and Westlaw.

Other News

- During our Winter Break cleaning spree, we found several "lost" items – sweaters, pillows, books (not ours!), and other miscellany. We'll be donating these items to a local charity at the end of the month, so if you are missing something, check at the Circulation Desk soon!
- Judge Samuel Alito goes before the Senate Judiciary Committee early in January as a nominee for Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The University of Michigan – which put together a compilation of documents about then-Judge John Roberts a few months ago – has once again put together hundreds of cases and briefs, written or prepared by Alito. Some of his majority opinions are sorted into topical areas ("First Amendment," "Criminal Law," "Habeas Corpus"). For more information, go straight to the source at <http://www.law.umich.edu/library/news/topics/alito/alitoindex.htm>
- On January 16, ASL – along with the rest of the US – observes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. You may hear some Virginians refer to this as "Lee-Jackson-King Day." In fact, until recently, the Commonwealth did recognize the trio of General Robert E. Lee, General Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson, and Reverend King on the same day.

General Lee's birthday was January 19, and Virginia first celebrated that day as a state holiday in 1890, twenty years after Lee's death. Several years later, Virginia began to honor General Jackson also on that day, even though his birthday was really January 21. In the early 1970s, many states and the federal government began moving holidays to Mondays to provide for three-day weekends. Virginia followed that trend by moving Lee-Jackson Day to the third Monday in January.

In March 1978, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was added to the Virginia calendar, but the Commonwealth celebrated it on January 1. It was in 1984 that Virginia moved King Day to the third Monday in January, creating Lee-Jackson-King Day. In 2000, Virginia split the holiday (in part due to political pressure, recognizing the odd combination of Confederate generals and a civil rights leader), and moved Lee-Jackson Day to the Friday preceding the third Monday in January, while King Day remained on the third Monday in January (which is now codified at Va. Code §2.2-3300).

Virginia also observes "Motherhood and Apple Pie Day" on January 26 (Va. Code §2.2-3303). It is not a paid state holiday. And in a somewhat odd definition of "month," Virginia celebrates "Virginia and American History Month" from January 19 through February 22 (Va. Code §2.2-3318).

The [ASL Library News](#) (ISSN 1535-539X) is published monthly during the academic year by the Appalachian School of Law Library, Grundy VA 24614. Uncredited stories are written by Chris King, Public Services Librarian. If you would like to respond to any story in this newsletter, please contact Chris or leave a message in the upstairs suggestion box.