

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- A new semester brings more of the popular "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic Assisted Learning) training classes. In between the Lexis and Westlaw certification classes (see next story), we'll be covering those I-honestly-can't-remember-how-to-do-that topics like digests and Shepard's citations. We'll also provide a citation workshop, and a quick guide on picking a seminar topic and writing the paper. February's calendar of events will be posted at a few spots in the Library (the entryway bulletin board and the Reference Desk), as well as on our web site.
- Want to be an Electronic Reference Ninja? Well, we don't know about the whole study-with-swords-in-Japan thing, but we can certainly increase your electronic research skills with some certification classes! Lexis and Westlaw will once again be visiting ASL to provide you with tips and tricks that just might help you in your summer job or externship. (And "Lexis Certified" or "Westlaw Certified" on a resume doesn't hurt either!) We haven't finalized the times and dates yet, but look for the announcements on our web page.
- If you are a regular reader of the weekly *Virginia Mountaineer*, you'll know that we are in the process of hiring a new Circulation Assistant. We'll post the biographical information of the winning candidate soon after he or she is hired. (And if you're not reading the *Mountaineer*, why not? We place our copy upstairs in the Current Awareness area every Thursday evening.)

	LexisNexis	Westlaw		
	Stephen Kennedy (2L)	Bryson Aldridge (3L)	Vlad Golondrina (3L)	Nick Hurston (2L)
Monday	2 – 4 pm	3 – 5 pm	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	5 – 7 pm
Tuesday	2 – 4 pm	11 am – 1 pm	3 – 5 pm	5 – 8 pm
Wednesday	2 – 4 pm	8 – 10 am	9 – 11 am; 1:30 – 3:30 pm	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Thursday	2 – 4 pm	8 – 9 am	4:30 – 6:30 pm	9:00 am – 1:30 pm; 3 – 4 pm
Friday	2 – 4 pm	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>

Contact Stephen at skennedy@asl.edu or any of the Westlaw reps at westlaw@asl.edu.

Other News

- Be looking for our biennial student survey! We're interested in finding out what you like – and what you don't like – about the Library. The short and anonymous survey will be placed in student mailboxes right after Spring Break.
- Our BNA All online subscription continues to grow. BNA announced that they have added several new databases, including *Corporate Governance Library* (which contains *Corporate Governance Manual*, *Corporate Governance Report*, and numerous worksheets), *Export Reference Guide*, and *Mergers & Acquisitions Law Report*. These databases have been added to the Library's database page (<http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.php>). Feel free to ask at our Reference Desk if you're looking for something in particular.
- In our November issue, we wrote about an Alaskan case that traced the history of the terms "attorney at law" and "counsel." But what about the term "esquire"?

According to Black's Law Dictionary, esquire is a "title of courtesy commonly appended after the name of a lawyer." *Black's Law Dictionary* 585 (Bryan A. Garner ed., 8th ed., West 2004). Interestingly, earlier versions add some historical information: "In English law, a title of dignity next above gentleman, and below knight. Also a title of office given to sheriffs, serjeants, and barristers at law, justices of the peace, and others." *Black's Law Dictionary* 489 (5th ed., West 1979). Wikipedia suggests that "it is the title of office ... commonly used by lawyers who passed the bar exam." <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire>

Last month's *ABA Journal* reviewed the few state ethics opinions that deal with how lawyers identify themselves. Kathryn A. Thompson, *Tussle over Titles*, 92 ABA J. 28 (January 2006) (which can be found at the Circulation and Reserve Desk). The article cites (incorrectly) a New York City ethics opinion that answers the question "May an attorney properly append the suffix 'Esq.' to his or her name when not acting in a legal capacity?" That opinion argues the answer is yes. Assn. of the B. of the City of N.Y. Comm. on Prof. and Jud. Ethics, Formal Op. 1994-5 (1994). However, an Ohio ethics opinion rejects that reasoning, since esquire is "a term commonly used to indicate a status as an attorney which carries with it the implication that the person is licensed to practice law [in that state]." S. Ct. of Ohio Bd. of Comm. on Grievances and Disc., Opinion 91-24 (1991).

If you're a stickler for perfection, you may want to steer clear of the term altogether. Bryan Garner, an expert on legal style, unequivocally states that the "abbreviation is never to be put on one's own name – as on a business card or stationery. Nor should it be used with any other title, such as *Mr.* or *Ms.*" *The Elements of Legal Style* 114 (2nd ed., West 2002).

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.