

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

March 1, 2007

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What's New in the Library?

- The Library will have modified hours for Spring Break.

	Circulation Desk	Card Access
Saturday, March 10	9 am – 6 pm (regular)	9 am – midnight (regular)
Sunday, March 11	<i>CLOSED</i>	NO ACCESS
Monday, March 12	9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 10 pm
Tuesday, March 13	9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 10 pm
Wednesday, March 14	9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 10 pm
Thursday, March 15	9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 10 pm
Friday, March 16	9 am – 6 pm	9 am – 10 pm
Saturday, March 17	<i>CLOSED</i>	NO ACCESS
Sunday, March 18	9 am – 10 pm (regular)	9 am – midnight (regular)

- Our last scheduled "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) classes will be held just before Spring Break. "Finding Law Review Articles" will be on February 28, and "Finding Updates (Using Citators)" will be on March 7. Classes will be held in the Library Seminar Room at 4:15 pm, and run about thirty minutes.
- National Library Week is coming soon! Mark your calendars for April 15-21, as we will have four puzzles during the week, and a prize drawing on that Friday. Need some practice first? Check out the puzzles from prior years at <http://www.asl.edu/library/nlw.php>
- Please note that our community service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be held in the Library on Wednesdays and Sundays. Volunteers and taxpayers will usually be located in the Library Seminar Room, but might be in the Microfiche Room during electronic training sessions.

Who's "New" in the Library?

Kandi Campbell has switched from our Circulation Assistant to our Cataloging Assistant. We're in the process of hiring a new Circulation Assistant, and we will have a short biography to share soon!

Other News

- Hard to believe it's time to "spring ahead" – just in time for Spring Break! This year, we change our clocks ahead one hour for Daylight Savings Time on March 11. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Pub. L. No. 109-58) moved that special date from the first Sunday in April to the second Sunday in March. (It also changed the end of DST from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in November.)

Along with confusing people, this has the potential to confuse some computers. If you're running the new Windows Vista, you already have an updated computer. If you're running Windows XP, be sure to run "automatic updates" (or go to <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/> using Internet Explorer) to ensure you get the special patch (KB931836). If you're using an older version of Windows, you'll have to change the clock yourself, as Microsoft has not issued patches for older operating systems. For our Mac friends, be sure to update to version 10.4.6, and you'll be fine. And anyone running Linux already knows the easiest way to update that system is `apt-get update && apt-get upgrade`.

- We found a few interesting stories over the last few weeks:
 - It probably won't work for you in your moot court argument, but a defense lawyer obtained a mistrial in an attempted murder case when he couldn't finish his closing argument because, as the AP reported, "he had lost his train of thought." After the lawyer (who is 74) returned from a short recess and stated he couldn't continue, the defendant offered to finish the argument. (Spotted in the Hampton Roads *Daily-Press*.)
 - Being "short and sweet" in your writing may get you bonus points from your Legal Process professor, and perhaps may be helpful once you begin practice: Some time ago, a firm arguing against the plaintiff's motion to reinstate a "truly frivolous wrongful termination suit" opted to go the simple route. Their motion in opposition: "Plaintiff has got to be kidding." That was it. Interestingly, the judge denied the original motion "for the reasons best stated in defendant's brief." (As reported by the "Say What?" blog on the Texas Bar site, located at <http://www.texasbar.com/saywhat/> .)
 - If you can't write simply, perhaps you can get practice by writing warning labels. For the last ten years, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch (M-LAW) has sponsored the "Wacky Warning Label Contest." This year's winner was found at a laundromat, where a washing machine warned "Do not put any person in this washer." (My personal favorite was the warning on a cell phone: "Don't try to dry your phone in a microwave oven.") M-Law has collected the best labels in their collection *Remove Child Before Folding*, which is available on their web site at <http://www.mlaw.org/wwl/> (ASL is not affiliated with M-LAW, and offers this for informational purposes only.)