

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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Welcome!

Welcome – or welcome back – to the ASL Library. The Library is designed to complement the Law School's educational program. We provide a clean and secure area to study and to do research. Our current staffed hours allow us to help you find the materials you need in our collection. We have very dedicated staff members who will try to help you in every reasonable way possible.

Take the time to walk around and look at what the Library has to offer. We have a solid Virginia law collection and a growing collection of regional legal materials, as well as general reference materials. We continue to purchase books that cover the topics that you will learn in school. Our print collection is enhanced by our microfiche holdings, as well as many electronic databases that you have access to (see our web site, at <http://www.asl.edu/library/>).

Please feel free to ask questions or make suggestions as to how we can improve your law school experience. Our suggestion box is upstairs in the copy area (for anonymous suggestions), or you can pass along your ideas to a Library staff member.

What's New in the Library?

- The first question most people ask after summer break is "How was your summer?" If you're curious what we did – no, there were no vacations to any tropical paradise – here's a short list of what we've done over the summer:
 - We've stored away a bunch of second copies of the regional reporters. It's part of our plan to make more room for state materials. Please let us know if you can't find what you're looking for.
 - If you had complained about waiting forever for a printed receipt at the Circulation Desk, we've purchased two new receipt printers that are incredibly fast! Although they look like the receipts you get from the grocery store, we won't ask you if you want to "drive around" when you check material out.
 - Our big unabridged dictionary was mostly hidden by flyers and handouts at the Reference Desk. We purchased a dictionary stand, which proudly houses many of our regular and legal dictionaries; it is on the first floor in the main study area.

Other News

- There are no changes to the Library's student access schedule for the school year. The Circulation and Reserve Desk will usually be open on Sundays, 9 am – 10 pm; Mondays through Thursdays, 8 am – 10 pm; Fridays, 8 am – 5 pm; and Saturdays, 9 am – 5 pm. Students will still have access to the Library with a valid ID card from 6 am to midnight, Monday through Friday; and 9 am to midnight on Saturday and Sunday. Hours may be reduced during school holidays.
- We'll be starting up our Reference Desk hours after Labor Day, after we've assessed the busy hours in the school schedule. But that doesn't mean you have to hold your questions until then ... swing by the Circulation Desk and they'll point you to a librarian who may be able to help you.
- We've posted a new edition of our Student User Guide on our web site (<http://www.asl.edu/library/publications.php>). We also have extra copies at the Information Station, across from the Circulation Desk.
- This year, CALI (The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) has shipped us enough CDs for all of our students. We distributed copies to all the 1Ls during Orientation; we'll be stuffing 2L and 3L mailboxes later this week. You may also access the lessons online if you know the authorization code (which is **[not in our online version!]** and that is case-sensitive).
- It doesn't take too long in law school to figure out that the best answer to a professor's complex hypothetical is usually "It depends." This summer, one article in the always-satirical newspaper The Onion had the U.S. Supreme Court reaching the same conclusion, with an imagined Chief Justice writing that a (real) death-penalty case was "way too tough to call." You can find the whole article at http://www.theonion.com/content/news/supreme_court_reaches_landmark_it
- So the old joke goes that "an oral contract is only as good as the paper it's written on." But what about a promise written in blood? In what would seem to be the first lawsuit with this fact pattern, one party wrote in his own blood on the back of a napkin, "I will pay you back to the best of my ability." The other party sued to enforce the contract (worth around \$150,000). Several news sources picked up the story when the California judge started his opinion with this stirring quotation from German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche: "Blood is the worst of all testimonies to the truth." The judge found no consideration in the contract and ruled it unenforceable. Next, they'll go after pinky promises (sometimes known as pinky swears). One write-up of the case (which has not yet been printed in the reporters) can be found at <http://www.loweringthebar.net/2007/07/contract-writte.html>