

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- On Monday, January 21 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day) we will have more limited access hours. The Library will only be staffed from 2 pm to 6 pm; card access is available from 2 pm to midnight.
- During January, the Library will be getting some repairs made on the roof. We apologize in advance for any noise issues that may arise. (We expect most of the repairs will be on the first floor roof, near the periodical section.)
- With the Hollywood writers' strike still on, there's really only repeats on TV. So why not check out one of our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic Assisted Learning) classes, and review how to find cases, statutes, and updates? We will be holding these fifteen-minute classes near the end of January, and they will run through February. We'll post a schedule at the Circulation Desk and near the photocopiers.
- If you are looking for ways to improve your resume before you start sending them to employers (or even to externship sites), you may want to investigate the certification programs run by Lexis and Westlaw. These classes – which will be scheduled later this semester – offer you the tips and tricks of the online systems which will help you become a better researcher. Watch for signs posted around the Library and on our web site.
- Our Westlaw and Lexis student representatives will have different "office hours" this semester. As soon as their class schedules are finalized, we'll let you know.
- Due to staffing issues, our *public* hours on Sunday will be changing this semester (we will no longer be open to the public on Sundays). This does not affect student access in any way; card access remains 9 am to midnight and we will still have staff here from 9 am to 10 pm.
- Now that a new semester is here, and things are relatively calm, why not poke around and see what the Library has to offer for study guides? We have CALI lessons on CD for those with a slow Internet connection, plus dozens of Hornbooks and Nutshells and "Examples and Explanations" and "Q & A"s you could read by candlelight or flashlight if the power goes out this winter! Stop by the Circulation Desk to check the books out, or swing by the Reference Desk to ask for recommendations!

Other News

- Did you know we had several hundred "legal classics" available through Hein Online? The Legal Classics Library contains the usual suspects: Blackstone, Story, Coke, Cardozo, and Brandeis (among others). While poking around, we found *An Apologie for Women, or An Opposition to Mr. Dr. G. [and] his assertion [that] it was lawfull for husbands to beate their wives* by William Heale. Interestingly enough, using another book (*Punishments in the Olden Time, Being an Historical Account of the Ducking Stool, Brank, Pillory, Stocks, Drunkard's Cloak, Whipping Post, Riding the Stang, etc.* by William Andrews), we find that the common punishment for a man who beat his wife – or for "allowing himself to be hen-pecked" – was to "ride the stang," which seems to involve being tied to a chair, which is tied to a plank, which is then carried by a mob. See what old books can still teach us? (Of course, the Legal Classics Library also contains those oft-cited materials like Blackstone's *Commentaries*, Coke's *Institutes*, Story's *Commentaries*, and many others.) Hein Online can be found at <http://www.heinonline.org/> ; offsite access is available through our web site on our "Electronic Databases" page.
- If you're filing briefs to the Virginia Supreme Court, you'll now need to know your typefaces. The Court is amending its rules as of February 1 to require filings in 14-point type (currently, it's 12-point), and only three fonts are acceptable: Courier, Arial, and Verdana. (We don't think anyone ever tried using "Comic Sans" or the oddly-named "Wingdings" fonts, thankfully.) Don't think you can squeeze any extra information into footnotes, though, as the page limits remain the same. Lawyers are also required to file their documents electronically, either in Microsoft Word (preferred), WordPerfect (which the Court misspells), or PDF format. The new rules are available at the Supreme Court of Virginia's web site at <http://www.courts.state.va.us/amend.htm> (amending Rules 5:6 and others).
- Perhaps we shouldn't mention this story while grades are being distributed.... Last year, a paralegal student at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst felt he deserved an A-minus on a paper, but was given a C. So, as the story goes, he made a federal case out of it. Acting as his own lawyer – in preparation for hopeful admittance to law school – he sued the teaching assistant and the school for breach of contract and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The *Boston Globe* story quoted one university official as saying, "If every student that didn't like his or her grade started to do this, we'd have to hire, I don't know, 25,000 attorneys" [for the school, which has approximately 25,000 students]. The suit was thrown out in October, but the student was considering an appeal to the First Circuit.

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