

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

October 1, 2008

Volume 12 Number 3

What's New in the Library?

- Our popular "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) training classes continue through October. These short, informal sessions will help clarify the mysteries of legal research. Topics this month include finding law review articles, finding statutes, using digests, and updating cases. Stop by the Reference Desk on Wednesday afternoons at 4:30 pm. For a complete class schedule, check out our web site at <http://www.asl.edu/library/classes.php>
- 1Ls will be having Lexis training at the end of October (Westlaw training will be the first full week of November). Trainer Scott Hite will explain the secret skills of successful searching in the LexisNexis service. We hope to also offer refresher classes for 2Ls and 3Ls; watch the bulletin boards and our website for class times.
- You may have noticed that we've been staffing our Reference Desk more regularly now that the semester is well underway. We generally offer at-the-desk reference service from 9:30 am until 4 pm Monday through Thursday, but we do have librarians available Sundays, 1 pm to 10 pm, Mondays through Thursdays, 8 am to 8 pm, and Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm. If we're not sitting at the Reference Desk, poke your head into one of our offices, or ask for a reference librarian at the Circulation Desk.
- Another service we're experimenting with this semester is "research consultation." If you've got a big research project coming up, e-mail Ethan (eatwood@asl.edu) or Chris (cking@asl.edu) with a list of convenient times and dates, and we'll work with you to help you select seminar paper topics, find appropriate research tools, and plan a research strategy.
- If you haven't created an account with CALI yet, now is a great time! The CALI web site offers almost 750 tutorials for all sorts of legal topics. The CALI authorization code is **[not in online version!]** (and it is case-sensitive). If you're still living with a dial-up connection, you can check out a DVD with all of those lessons from the Circulation Desk for three days.
- As you all may know, our ABA site team visit will be October 19-22. We apologize in advance for the few last-minute projects we need to do to get the Library in tip-top shape. We'll try to warn you if we plan on doing anything too loudly for an unreasonable amount of time.

Other News

- It's time for another Supreme Court term, which almost always begins on the First Monday in October (this year, it's October 6). Once again, the High Court will tackle some vital constitutional issues, including rehearing one that they just decided a few weeks ago (finding the death penalty for child rapists unconstitutional; see our story in last month's newsletter). Other topics for the Supremes to decide include :
 - Whether the federal labeling law for cigarettes preempts state law claims of unfair and deceptive practices; *Altria Group v. Good*, 07-562
 - Whether the federal prescription drug labeling law preempts state law product liability claims; *Wyeth v. Levine*, 06-1249
 - Whether a police informant invited into a home can grant consent to search that home without a warrant under the "consent-once-removed" doctrine; *Pearson v. Callahan*, 07-751
 - Whether an injunction can be levied against the Navy for conducting sonar tests (which may impact marine mammals) without preparing an environmental impact statement when relying on "emergency circumstances"; *Winter v. NRDC*, 07-1239
 - Whether a lab report (of drug analysis) prepared for a criminal trial is testimonial evidence, and thus implicates the Confrontation Clause; *Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts*, 07-591

For the briefs and eventually the opinions in these and all other cases before the High Court, you have many options. The Supreme Court's own web site has information including audio transcripts at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov> . Also skim copies of *U.S. Law Week*, a newsletter that follows the Court: paper copies are on Reserve at the Circulation Desk, while electronic copies are available at the "BNA All" link on our databases page (<http://www.asl.edu/library/databases.php>).

- This got a bit of coverage over the summer: Weddings can be expensive, but breaking an engagement can also break the bank. A Georgia jury awarded a woman \$150,000 when her former fiancé called off the wedding. The woman claimed she quit a job paying \$81,000/year, but after the engagement was called off, could only find a job paying \$31,000/year. The man argued that he had paid off over \$30,000 of her debt, and broke off the engagement when he found out she had even more debt. His lawyer also argued against "frivolous lawsuits": "You would be sending the message that if you have a dispute with somebody and you think they have been a scoundrel, go get a lawyer and hope the Brinks truck backs up to the jury room." The person driving the Brinks truck was unavailable for comment.

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.