

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Please note our Spring Break hours: The Library will be closed with no card access on Sunday, March 8. During the week of March 9-13, the Library will be staffed from 9 am to 5 pm, with card access from 8 am to 10 pm. The Library again closes completely on Saturday, March 14. Our regular hours resume on Sunday, March 15.
- We'll be finishing up our series of legal research refresher classes in March. Ethan will discuss current awareness tools and how to stay up-to-date with various news sources. Join him on Wednesday, March 4, at 4:30 pm at the Reference Desk. If you've missed one of these classes during the semester, check with Ethan to reschedule a class at a time that's convenient for you.
- Once again, the Library will participate in National Library Week, which this year is April 13-17. Every year, the Library creates four puzzles during the week, and has a big prize drawing that Friday. If you need some warm-up exercises, check out our prior puzzles at <http://www.asl.edu/library/nlw.php>
- Since many of you will be thinking about the bar examination this summer, we've been hard at work keeping our "Bar Examination Resources" page up-to-date. Check out <http://www.asl.edu/library/barexam.php> for links to state bar rules and any questions (and answers!) that may be available online. If you're trying not to be distracted by the Internet, feel free to ask at our Circulation Desk for prior essay questions from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. (As we love to say: you need to provide your own answers.) We also have sample multistate examination questions and answers for the major tests, including the MBE, MPRE, MEE, and MPT. If you'd like more recommendations, ask at the Reference Desk.
- Although we've had a subscription to HeinOnline for a while, they keep adding new databases. Recently, they announced the "World Trials" library, which has texts from a number of sources on older trials, including the Aaron Burr conspiracy case, the Lincoln assassination, Sacco and Vanzetti's trial, the case of Leopold and Loeb, and many others. We're adding cataloging records so you can find appropriate materials when you search our online catalog (<http://innopac.hal.org>), but if you're the browsing type, click on http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Index?collection=trials&set_as_cursor=clear while you're on campus for access.

Other News

- It's time again to "spring ahead!" Don't forget to change your clocks one hour ahead for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 8! Sadly, that does mean one hour less of Spring Break.
- You may think you're now an expert in matters of legal analysis, but before you advertise that fact, you may want to be sure you can back it up with proof, at least in Virginia. A recently-approved ethics opinion by the Virginia Standing Committee on Lawyer Advertising and Solicitation made it clear that the use of the words "expert" or "expertise" in lawyer advertisements was a prohibited "comparative statement" unless it could be factually substantiated. This ruling was a part of a compendium opinion on many aspects of lawyer advertising. You can read the full text online at <http://www.vacle.org/opinions/1750.htm> ; you can read other opinions online at the Virginia Continuing Legal Education's Legal Ethics Opinions search page at <http://www.vacle.org/leo.htm> or you can grab the special volumes of the Michie's Virginia Code (the black-colored set) that contain the Legal Ethics Opinions. Note that West's version of the Virginia Code (the blue-colored set) does not offer access to the ethics opinions.
- Last month, we mentioned the transition to digital television, and suggested that the original date of February 17 might be delayed. The "DTV Delay Act" (Public Law 111-4 (2009)) now allows TV stations to convert anytime before June 12. If you have family members that need assistance, help them switch over now before you start your externship or start studying for the bar! (Remember that this only affects those TV viewers who get channels from an antenna. Cable and satellite couch potatoes don't need to worry.) Get more information at <http://www.dtv.gov/>
- New York isn't a "community property" state – where wife and husband share marital assets equally – but we doubt that any divorce court in any state would know how to handle this recent case. A surgeon donated his kidney to his wife. Unfortunately, as she recovered, he claims she started an affair with a therapist. So during the divorce, the surgeon asked for his kidney back – or, in the alternative, its cash equivalent (he suggested \$1.5 million). Needless to say, there are a few problems with the lawsuit, notably that individuals can't buy or sell organs, and that donating an organ is considered a "gift" (which you rarely can take back). For some background, see <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/ny-likidn0108,0,3706906,print.story> or http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/01/07/2009-01-07_long_island_doctor_richard_batista_to_es.html
We're wondering what the surgeon would do with the kidney if he *did* get it back.....

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