

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Our "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorials will be ending soon. On Monday, March 7, we will cover finding secondary sources (like ALRs and encyclopedias). Then on Monday, March 14, we discuss finding statutes. Finding law review articles is on Monday, March 21, and our final class is on finding updates, to be held on March 28. All of these classes meet at the Reference Desk at 3:30 pm, and run about 15 minutes.
- Finals always bring about feelings of stress, but perhaps the Library's collection of study guides might help alleviate some of those feelings. We've just purchased some new guides in Administrative Law, Criminal Procedure, and Estates & Trusts, and continue to update our Hornbooks and Nutshells series. Our just-updated "Exam Prep Resources Starting Points" research guide – available behind the Reference Desk or on our web site – outlines which subject areas have guides available (in the Examples & Explanations, Friedman's Practice, Mastering, Q&A, and Understanding series); our most recent copies can be checked out at the Circulation Desk for two hours.
- National Library Week is celebrated April 10 through April 16. Join us in celebrating as we again offer a week's worth of puzzles about libraries and the law, as we are, of course, a law library. If you need a little time to warm up your brain cells, be sure to check out our archive of puzzles on our National Library Week page on our web site (under the "Library Services" link). We've had some great prizes in the past from Lexis and Westlaw for our winners – could you be next?
- Now that some of you have your bar applications sent in (if you haven't, do it now as the deadlines get closer every day!), you might be interested in our "Bar Examination Resources" web page (click on "Library Services" to find the link). We have tried to post links to all the rules of the state bars, and even links to prior exams if they are available (some even have answers!). We've also listed the resources we have in print at the Circulation Desk for a two-hour checkout. Be sure to stop by the Reference Desk if you want other options.
- As you likely have noticed, ASL now has an updated web site. We've tried to make sure all of our original content has migrated over, but if you can't find something on our site, be sure to ask.

Other News

- It's time to change the clocks again! On Sunday, March 13, Daylight Savings Time begins. Don't forget to "spring ahead" and move your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.
- We had written in the September 2010 *ASL Library News* about the "Stolen Valor Act," 18 U.S.C. §704(b), which outlaws the false claiming of being a recipient of a military decoration or award. At that time, we were reporting on *U.S. v. Alvarez*, 617 F.3d 1198 (9th Cir. 2010), which held the act to be unconstitutional. A more recent district court case – from our own Western District of Virginia -- has now held that the act is constitutional, setting up a potential Supreme Court challenge in the years ahead. Judge James Jones noted that "false statements of fact are not protected" speech, and that "is now the prevailing understanding of the law." *U.S. v. Robbins*, 2011 WL 7384 (W.D.Va. January 3, 2011).
- A high percentage of law students come from a political science/government background. But we don't want to ignore those who come from a different discipline, so we'd like to point out the upcoming "Law and the Brain" conference in New York in mid-March. It's a conference on neuroscience, with sessions like "Neuroimaging for Lawyers" and "The Development of a Psychopath." Complete information is at the conference's web site at <http://www.lawandthebrain.com/> If the conference is too expensive for you, but this is an area of law that interests you, check out a recent book by one of the presenters: *Law and the Brain* at K346 .L393.
- In the "everybody has to report for jury duty" files:
 - Only a handful of people seemed to recognize Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan as she dutifully reported to court in January – not to preside, but as a potential juror. She didn't wind up being selected. ABC News also reported she didn't pick up the stipend for transportation, a whopping \$4. See <http://blogs.abcnews.com/thenote/2011/01/spotted-supreme-court-justice-elena-kagan-waiting-for-jury-duty.html>
 - Last year around this time, Sal Esposito from Boston was summoned for jury duty. Unfortunately, Sal is a cat. Some states and towns allow animals to be listed on census forms as a family member, so Sal's owners did so. But jury pools are often taken from census forms, so Sal's number was up. The original story appeared at <http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO133130/> The story got a new lease on life when the Huffington Post "found" it and posted it as new earlier this year. Dozens of other media organizations followed, which led the *Boston Globe* to claim that this story had "nine lives." (Sal was excused from duty last year by an exasperated jury commissioner.)