

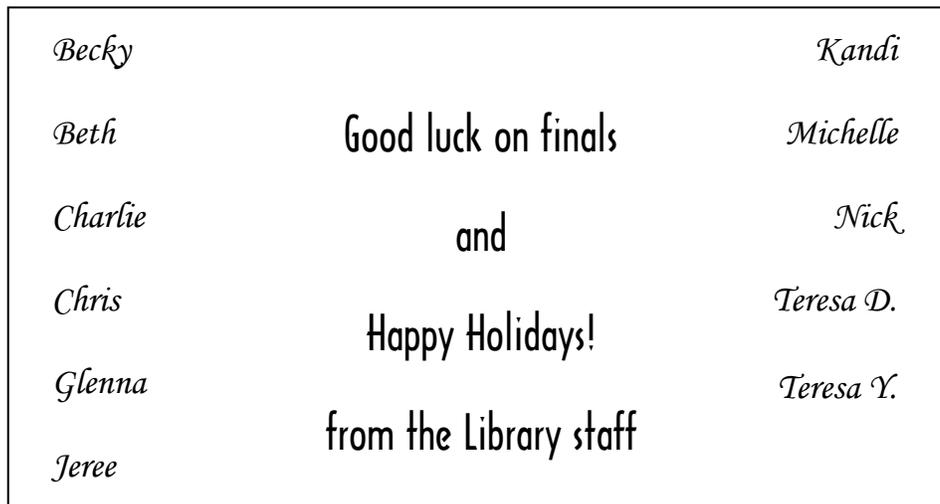
# ASL LIBRARY NEWS

December 1, 2011

Volume 15 Number 5

## What's New in the Library?

- **Exam Hours:** We will be offering extended exam access hours beginning on Sunday, December 4 (to be super-technical, it's really the morning of Monday, December 5). Starting Sunday evening, students with a valid ID card will be able to access the Library until 2 am (instead of midnight) through the exam period. (If you need a replacement ID card, stop by the Circulation Desk with \$5.) This extended access ends on Friday, December 16, at 5 pm.
- If you'll be in town during Winter Break, please be aware that we'll have more limited hours. We'll be closed completely to the public, but students can use the Library from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday except on ASL-designated holidays (December 21-23, December 26, and January 2). The regular school hours begin again on Sunday, January 8, 2012.



## Who's New in the Library?

Jeree Howard joins us as our new Circulation Assistant. She graduated in 2008 from Grundy High School with an Advanced Diploma (she was 5th in her graduating class). She graduated in 2009 from Southwest Virginia Community College with a Health Science Degree, and in 2010 received her Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree in Education (*magna cum laude*). She is currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration program online through King College.

## Other News

- Please make sure you have settled any Library fines and returned all overdue Library books before the exam period begins. (You can pay Library fines at the Circulation Desk Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.)
- If you are looking for last-minute study ideas, be sure to check out the Library's collection of Hornbooks (for thorough explanations of topics), Nutshells (for broad overviews), and the Understanding (Lexis) and Mastering (Carolina) series (for a "middle ground"). We also have many of the Questions & Answers series, Examples and Explanations series, and all of the published Friedman's Practice Series. And finally, there are CALI lessons, available on a DVD (check it out for three days) or online if you have the authorization code (you're the last on the block to know ASL's code is **[not in online version!]** which is case-sensitive).
- The federal court system updates its rules pretty regularly, and December 1 is usually the date new rules go into effect. For starters, the Federal Rules of Evidence have been completely "restyled" – some of the words have changed and the formatting is now very different, but the intent was to not change the underlying law. (The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure went through the same process over the last few years.) There are also a number of changes to the Bankruptcy Rules, including a new rule that explains how to keep home mortgage payments in a Chapter 13 debt action. Some of the most interesting changes, though, are in the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which modified a few rules to allow more use of technology during various processes, like allowing a defendant to appear by videoconference for certain offenses. To see the text of the new rules in addition to the committee's reports outlining the reasoning behind the changes, check out the Administrative Office of the US Courts' web site at <http://www.uscourts.gov/RulesAndPolicies/FederalRulemaking/PendingRules.aspx>

### Reference Notes

by Nick Stump, Reference Librarian

As legal researchers, we want to find our information quickly, and we want that information to be easily readable. To that end, great resources to find succinct/plain English answers to our research queries include practitioner's handbooks and continuing legal education handbooks. These handbooks are published by subject matter at the state and federal levels, and are produced in both print and digital formats. To find a handbook in print, search the ASL Library Catalog with search phrases such as "Virginia Criminal Law Handbook." As for digital, go to Westlaw/LexisNexis and select the "Search for a Database" option and search for a pertinent handbook by using a search phrase like the one above. (After that—in both print and digital formats—start with the table of contents.) NOTE: Handbooks are only available for certain legal topics; thus, when you can't find an on-point handbook, you will have to fall back on more traditional legal research techniques.

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.