

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Spring Break is just a few weeks away. If your plans to travel to a sunny and warm climate fall through at the last minute, we'll be open, but with more limited hours. We'll be closed (completely) the starting Sunday (March 4) and the ending Saturday (March 10) of Spring Break. During the week itself, we'll only have the Circulation/Reserve Desk open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, but we'll offer card access from 8 am to 9 pm Monday through Friday.
- February is a busy month for our popular "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorials. We kick off the season on February 8 with a short presentation on "Finding Topics for Seminar Papers." On February 15, join us as we start "Finding Secondary Resources." "Finding Statutes" will be held on February 22, and we finish off the month with "Finding Cases" on February 29. All classes will be held on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm at the Reference Desk; they usually run about fifteen to twenty minutes.
- During Winter Break, we reshuffled the Microfiche Room's cabinets to make more room for growing titles. It might take a good eye to spot the changes, but we've relabeled all the drawers and updated all the signs on the tops of the cabinets to help you find what you're looking for (in microfiche, anyway). We've also updated our "Microfiche Quick Guide," which highlights the collections we've hidden away; new copies are available at the Information Station across from our Circulation Desk. If you need assistance with finding microfiche, or with using the microfiche reader/printer, please ask at the Circulation Desk.

Reference Notes

by Nick Stump, Reference Librarian

A legal researcher must think critically throughout all stages of a research task. Too often students tell themselves: "I'll print off everything that looks on-point and figure out how it all fits together later." This is very, very bad because (1) you almost certainly will miss something important, and (2) in a "real world" firm setting this strategy is neither cost-effective nor time-efficient. Therefore think, think, think throughout. Put the puzzle together as you are researching, not afterwards. (And document your results within an ordered outline as you go.) For example, if you find a promising case, ask yourself right then how and to what extent it answers your research query. Then, in the applicable space within your outline, write down the case's name, citation, and a brief description of its significance.

Other News

- As promised, the biennial Library student survey will be placed in your mailboxes during mid-February. Please rate us on our services and our collection. We'll collect the surveys at the Circulation Desk (they're anonymous), and we'll report on the results in our April/May newsletter. Thanks for helping us improve!
- On our front page, we talked about rearranging our microfiche cabinets – but have you ever looked in there? One of our key microfiche holdings is the English Reports, which are cases from England covering the years 1220 through 1866 (we also have the English Law Reports that continue reporting English cases through today). Ever wanted to read the debate over Daniel M'Naghten, who gave us the earliest version of the insanity defense ([1843] 8 ER 718)? Or read the original case behind the famous "reasonable man" test (*Vaughn v. Menlove*, [1837] 132 ER 490)? Or the well-known breach of contract case *Hadley v. Baxendale* ([1854] 156 ER 145)? These seminal historical cases would take up too much room in our Library if they were in print, so that's why we have them in microfiche. There are quite a few more important collections in the Microfiche Room; if you ever want a tour, be sure to ask at the Reference Desk!
- Several recent newspaper articles carried the tantalizing headline "Court Rules in Favor of Bigfoot." It turned out to be a guy in a Bigfoot suit – who could have guessed? – who wanted to film a story about people who had seen the mysterious creature. The New Hampshire Supreme Court found in his favor after the state park service required him to get a permit while filming on Mount Monadnock, which is reputed to be the second-most climbed mountain in the world. It turned into a standard "time-place-manner" analysis of constitutional free speech clauses; the permitting wasn't narrowly tailored enough. It's not quite a victory for Sasquatches everywhere, but it was fun to read something about the creatures that wasn't printed in *The Enquirer*. The case itself is *Doyle v. Commissioner, N.H. Dept. of Resources & Economic Development*, 2011-420, 2012 WL 112228 (N.H. 2012).
- We've profiled several lawyers who have strayed off the beaten path before, and this month we've found one who lets his artistic side show. Alan Gerson takes legally-themed words and phrases and converts them into watercolor cartoon panels – like "Habeas Circus" where the courtroom is filled with clowns, or "Miss Trial" who is being crowned queen by a judge. View his "faux naive" watercolors at <http://alangerson.com/web/text.asp?id=biography> (he has other non-law-related paintings and sculptures at his site as well). While Gerson's law-for-art switch is fascinating (Henri Matisse and Wassily Kandinsky did the same many years before), we're still jealous of the corporate lawyer who became a Lego Master Builder (<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2050769/Lego-builder-Nathan-Sawaya-quit-job-corporate-lawyer-toy-artist.html>).

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