

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- November brings colder weather ... and Thanksgiving Break! We're going to have limited hours during your week off, so please plan accordingly:

	Circulation Desk	Access Hours
Saturday, November 17	not staffed	10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, November 18	not staffed	10 am to 6 pm
Monday, November 19	9 am to 5 pm	6 am to 10 pm
Tuesday, November 20	9 am to 5 pm	6 am to 10 pm
Wednesday, November 21	9 am to 12 noon	6 am to 12 noon
Thursday, November 22	not staffed	no access
Friday, November 23	not staffed	10 am to 6 pm
Saturday, November 24	not staffed	10 am to 6 pm

We resume our normal hours again on Sunday, November 25.

- Before Thanksgiving Break begins, we will have our final "Get REAL!" (Research and Electronic-Assisted Learning) tutorials of the semester! On November 5, we'll be learning how to search effectively for statutes. Then on November 12, we'll review steps on being more productive with our class on cost-efficient legal research. These classes start at 11 am on Mondays at the Reference Desk, and usually run about fifteen minutes. We'll be starting up another set of classes next semester, so if you have any special requests, talk to Chris and he'll try to schedule them in.
- As exam time gets closer, we try to be ever-more vigilant about the Library rules. Please remember that no food is allowed in the Library, and all drinks must be in a spill-proof container (no soda cans!). We also may be a bit more forceful with our shushing commands, as noise levels can get pretty loud from time to time.
- Please remember that our group study rooms are in very high demand during the last few weeks of each semester. The group study rooms must be checked out at the Circulation Desk (for a two-hour usage period), but we do not have the capabilities to "reserve" a room for a group at a particular time. If you want to quickly check if the group study rooms have already been checked out, go to our online catalog (<http://catalog.asl.edu/>) and choose "Study Room Availability" from the right-hand menu (if you see "CHECK SHELVES," the room is available).

Other News

- As commanded by law (15 U.S.C. §260a), remember to change your clock on the first Sunday of November (this year, November 4). It's time to "fall back" one hour as Daylight Savings Time ends for another year, so celebrate by sleeping one extra hour!
- It's time again for another presidential election, and the ballot box opens on Tuesday, November 6. Virginia voters will have their choice for president and vice president, a US Senator, a US Representative, and two constitutional amendments (one on eminent domain – essentially negating the U.S. Supreme Court's *Kelo* decision – and the other allowing a week's postponement of the General Assembly's veto session). To find out more, check out the State Board of Election's web site at <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/> If you're voting in another state, you can probably find information about your election through any Internet search engine, or use the Wikipedia-like <http://ballotpedia.org/>
- There have been a lot of briefs due at ASL in the last few weeks, so we thought we'd share some – not necessary brief – stories that caught our eye recently:
 - Page limits are often derided by lawyers who want to include all of their extremely persuasive arguments. In the recent federal antitrust case against three e-book publishers, one lawyer was frustrated with his mandated five-pages-only amicus brief, as he felt that "trying to explain why supply and demand does not operate normally on the pricing of e-books" couldn't be reasonably explained in that short allotment. His final resolution? He filed a five-page comic strip instead. In forty-five panels, he attempted to point out why the Department of Justice's proposed settlement was not sufficient. (Ultimately, the court disagreed with the artist-lawyer and approved the settlement.) The serious comic brief can be found in the ABA Journal's write-up of this story at http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/faced_with_a_five-page_limit_lawyer_files_cartoon_amicus_brief_with_proper_/
 - Compare that with a story from the Seventh Circuit last year. The court rule at issue states that a principal brief is acceptable if "it contains no more than 14,000 words" (Fed. R. App. Proc. 32(a)(7)(B)(i)). There's always someone who tries to slip in a few extra words, and one lawyer – who squeezed in some 18,000 words in his principal brief – demanded it be accepted. Judge Richard Posner would have none of that: "The flagrancy of the violation in this case might well justify the dismissal of this appeal: let this be a warning." The case is *Abner v. Scott Memorial Hospital*, 634 F.3d 962 (7th Cir. 2011).

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