

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

February 1, 2014

Volume 17 Number 7

What's New in the Library?

- February brings more Lexis and Westlaw training to campus! We plan to offer certification classes for 1Ls near the end of the month, but we may be able to schedule a few advanced training classes for our 2Ls and 3Ls too. Check at the Circulation/Reserve Desk for a finalized schedule; we were still in planning mode at press time.
- Our student survey will be distributed this month: Please let us know what you think about the Library's services! This survey helps us plan for further improvements, so let us know what we can do better. (Of course, if we're doing things well, that's always nice to know too!) Return the surveys to the Circulation/Reserve Desk before you leave for Spring Break.
- Is it already time for Spring Break? If you're planning ahead, we'll have more limited hours during your week off. We'll have our regular hours on Saturday, March 1, but we'll be closed (no card access) on Sunday, March 2. During the week (Monday, March 3, through Friday, March 7), the Circulation/Reserve Desk will be open from 9 am to 4 pm, with card access from 8 am to 9 pm. We'll be closed (no card access) on Saturday, March 8, but we'll be back to our normal hours on Sunday, March 9.

	LexisNexis			Westlaw	
@my.asl.edu	Nick Kalagian nkalagian14	Rachel Lacefield rlacefield14	Zachary Smith zsmith15	Monique Braun mbraun14	Amanda Kash akash14
Monday	12:00 – 1:00 pm; 2:30 – 3:00 pm	8:00 – 10:00 am	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	10:30 – 11:30 am	12:30 – 2:30 pm
Wednesday	12:00 – 1:00 pm; 2:30 – 3:00 pm	8:00 – 10:00 am; 11:15 am – 12:15 pm	10:00 – 11:00 am	2:30 – 4:30 pm	<i>no scheduled hours</i>
Thursday	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	10:30 – 11:30 am	<i>no scheduled hours</i>
Friday	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>	<i>no scheduled hours</i>

Other News

- While you were away on Winter Break, CALI (the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) kept updating lessons! There are brand-new lessons on negotiable instruments ("The Benefits of Being a Holder in Due Course"), one on drones, and one on "letters of credit." Several others have been updated, including one on hearsay, one on wills, and one on jurisdiction and venue. If you haven't discovered CALI yet, be sure to sign up for an account at <http://www.cali.org/> – although you'll need the authorization code of **[not in online version!]** (which is case-sensitive).
- In your Legal Process class, you learned that digests could be helpful tools in finding cases – even over multiple jurisdictions – on a particular point of law. Days after the assignment, you may have forgotten about the poor old digests, either because the Key Number system isn't available on Lexis and that's what you use, or because it just seems easier to run keyword searches on Westlaw or WestlawNext. But the folks at Westlaw are constantly trying to improve their Key Number system – in just the last few months, they've completely reworked sections like "Education" (instead of "Colleges and Universities"), "Election Law," "Federal Civil Procedure," and "Social Security." As the law changes, the Key Number system slowly gets updated so that you can always find pertinent information on your legal topic.

So that we don't sound like we're promoting only one service, we'll point out that Lexis has a comparable Headnote system that uses words rather than topics and numbers. Headnotes are also constantly being updated by on-staff researchers. However, Lexis' version only exists in electronic format on Lexis.com and Lexis Advance, while the Key Number System exists on Westlaw, WestlawNext, and in print.

- Hidden away on the US Supreme Court's web site is a short guide on preparing for oral arguments. While some of it isn't directly relatable to your moot court arguments (you likely won't get a quill pen to keep in remembrance of that day, like the pros do when they argue before the Supremes), there are a number of helpful tips. As an example:

Know your client's business. One counsel representing a large beer brewing corporation was asked the following by a Justice during argument: "What is the difference between beer and ale?" The question had little to do with the issues, but the case involved the beer brewing business. Counsel gave a brief, simple, and clear answer that was understood by everyone in the Courtroom. He knew the business of his client, and it showed.

Download the guide at

http://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/guideforcounsel.pdf

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