

ASL LIBRARY NEWS

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What's New in the Library?

- Welcome back from Winter Break! We zoom right into our first holiday of the semester pretty quickly. The Library will not be staffed (meaning no Circulation/Reserve Desk hours) on Martin Luther King, Jr., Day, which is Monday, January 18, but we will have card access for students from noon to midnight. The prior weekend hours will be unchanged: Saturday, staffed 9 am to 5 pm with card access from 9 am to midnight, and Sunday, staffed noon to 8 pm with card access from noon to midnight.
- Please remember that winter weather may unexpectedly change our staff schedule. This may impact the hours Reserve material is available, so please don't wait until the last minute to get access to your assigned readings! The law school posts a weather alert notice when necessary on the main page of the web site, and also sends around text messages to those who have signed up (check with the Information Services department to double-check if your number or e-mail is correctly listed).
- Our Lexis and Westlaw student representative "office hours" will be posted later in the semester (and in our February newsletter). If you need to contact one of them before then, send them an e-mail:

LEXIS

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- This from the "so you don't get nervous" files: You should, by now, be familiar with WestlawNext, one of the legal world's premier databases. The name was chosen to contrast with the original Westlaw product, later dubbed "Westlaw Classic." Since the folks behind Westlaw have now retired the original product, there's really no "-Next" for the upgraded database to refer to (although we'd love to have seen them have to come up with a name for version three, like "WestlawFuture"). Therefore, beginning in February 2016, you'll be seeing the database rebrand itself as "Thomson Reuters Westlaw." We won't correct you if you just call it "Westlaw," though.

Other News

- There are some big changes to bar exams coming up. Iowa, Kansas, and New Mexico will require applicants to sit for the Uniform Bar Examination (UBE) – which comprises the Multistate Essay Examination (MEE), two Multistate Performance Tests (MPTs), and the Multistate Bar Examination (MBE) – beginning in the February 2016 cycle. Over the summer, New York will transition to the UBE for the July 2016 bar examination. Vermont has proposed that they might be the 19th state to offer that exam in July 2016 as well. If you think you're going to be in a UBE state, check out the information directly from the National Conference of Bar Examiners at <http://www.ncbex.org/exams/ube/> If you don't know what your state bar exam will look like, visit our handy guide on our Bar Examination Resources page at <http://www.asl.edu/Library/Library-Services/Bar-Examination-Resources.html>

Additionally, California has decided to go from being a three-day exam to a more-common two-day exam beginning in July 2017. That leaves six other states that test over three days; a few others require examinees to attend an orientation session in advance of the actual test, thus making it *feel* like a three-day exam.

- Legal writing is full of fairly obscure phrases, like "res ipsa loquitur" and "fee interminable," so it's easy to believe that sometimes lawyers will not use the correct wording. One legal writing professor collected a few decided cases where a particular phrase was used incorrectly, like using "mute point" instead of the correct "moot point," or having something "pass mustard" instead of "pass muster." You may want to add this collection to your proofreading list so that you don't make the same mistakes! See the list at <http://sites.utexas.edu/legalwriting/2015/11/17/law-related-eggcorns-malaprops/>
- We always like to inject a little humor into the newsletter, but perhaps this should be a cautionary tale for learning as much about billing practices while you can in law school. A Tennessee attorney billed her client for research on a particular accidental death case, which shouldn't seem unusual. The problem was in the actual itemization of the research: this attorney billed for watching a four-hour documentary, plus some twenty-five hours of watching *48 Hours* (a TV show) episodes. The Tennessee Supreme Court was not particularly impressed with the attorney's original "billing statements" sent to the client, which failed to itemize how much work had been done and when. (Moreover, the justices were disturbed by the attorney's "obdurate insistence that she did nothing wrong.") Therefore, the Court handed down a one-year suspension. One practice tip from this story: if you claim to be working contemporaneously with some 30 other clients, you probably can't bill one of them for more than forty hours in a week. Read the full details in the original case at http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/sites/default/files/salleeyarboro.opn_.pdf

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