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The College of William and Mary
Marshall-Wythe Law Library

Volume 2, Number 1

August, 1990

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For those joining the law faculty or student body for the first time, or returning for the Fall 1990 semester, the Marshall-Wythe Law Library staff welcomes you. I also wish to point out several Library changes which become effective this semester, most of which are detailed elsewhere in the newsletter.

This semester the Library staff assumes two significant new responsibilities. They are the management of the Computer Lab facilities and the assumption of video playback and production services for the Law School. Both services are coordinated by the Reference Department and questions concerning either service should be addressed to the reference staff.

The state budget crunch hit home this semester so we found it necessary to reduce weekend hours for circulation desk assistance. Circulation desk hours are posted on the message boards, in LION and in the handbook. Library and building closing hours are not affected.

You will also notice the installation of a Permanent Learning Center for additional year-round access to LEXIS and WESTLAW. The Center is located on the second floor.

One policy change concerns the circulation of Law Library and Swem Library materials to carrel collections. The new policy is posted in each carrel and will be distributed to students as they register for a carrel. The policy will be strictly enforced, as there are only 130 carrels available for students and Library patrons.

Notices are posted as to the copy card and photocopy costs. Students employed as faculty research assistants, teaching assistants or affiliated with Law School organizations should acquire a copy of the procedures for obtaining copy cards at the circulation desk.

Library handbooks and new floor plans are available on the shelves across from the circulation desk as you enter the reference/administrative area. Class handouts are also available on these shelves. Please feel free to ask the staff should you have questions concerning any Library service. ...MWR

NEW CARREL POLICY

Marshall-Wythe law students involved in a research project may establish a carrel collection for THIRTY DAYS by registering at the circulation desk. ALL books kept in the carrel, including Swem books and law circulating books, must now be slipped with our new pink carrel slips. The new carrel slips will make it easier for Library staff to identify carrel collection books. As in the past, regular circulating books and Swem books may be left in the carrel at the patron's risk. Reserve or reference books, citators, indexes, current periodicals, or

looseleaf services may NOT be checked out to a carrel collection.

Starting this semester, we will institute a 10-10-10 carrel policy; 10 non-circulating books may be kept in the carrel for 10 days, with one 10 day renewal. Circulating and Swem books continue to have their regular loan periods.

Students no longer need to fill out new carrel slips when renewing their books. The carrel slips need only be brought to the circulation desk to be restamped, renewed in the computer, and initialed by the staff member.

All materials must be placed on the top shelf of the carrel so that other patrons can sit at the carrel when it is unoccupied. LEXIS or WESTLAW printouts used in research may be left with the other carrel collection items in clearly labeled folders. Clip-on or small study lamps are permitted, but other personal items (textbooks, casebooks, pens, pencils, photos, editorials, pictures, seasonal decorations, clothing, bookbags, legal pads, computer disks, etc.) are NOT permitted. Of course, food and drink are not permitted anywhere in the Library.

For students' convenience, the carrel policy rules have been posted in each carrel. We will be monitoring the carrels much more closely this year, so please familiarize yourself with these policies before registering for a carrel. ...AF

BOOKS "ON ORDER" ARE NOW IN LION

Books that have been ordered by the Law Library or Swem Library now appear in LION. When the Law Library has ordered a title, you will see the words ON ORDER -- LAW LIBRARY when the screen is displayed instead of a call number. When Swem Library has ordered a title, you will see ON ORDER followed by an abbreviated department name, and Swem's name. (Example: ON ORDER -- GOV -- SWEM).

To browse through a list of titles on order at the Law Library, conduct the following search:

c/ON ORDER LAW LIBRARY

If you wish to inquire about the status of a title on order or to request that it be held, please ask at the circulation desk. ...SW

BITS AND BYTES

Computer Lab. Starting this Fall, the Law Library will assume management of the Computer Lab, providing training, technical assistance, and simple maintenance. Personal computers and printers located in the Computer Lab are for the use of the faculty, staff, and students of the College of William & Mary. In general, use of the computers and/or printers is on a first come, first served basis. Priority should be given, however, to anyone wanting to print envelopes from station #1. Mary Grace Hune will post additional guidelines for reporting problems and questions about the computers. We will also maintain a staff of student consultants who will be on hand to help with problems. **WATCH THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE COMPUTER LAB FOR SCHEDULES OF WORDPERFECT TRAINING.**

LEXIS/WESTLAW News. This summer we installed a LEXIS and WESTLAW Permanent Learning Center next to the Computer Lab in the Law Library. The Learning Center is equipped with state of the art equipment including 5 IBM P/S2's from Mead Data Central and 5 WESTLAW PC terminals from West. We also installed an instructor's station and hope to install a "Data Show" which will allow us to project computer screens through an overhead projector. This new equipment will allow us to offer more advanced and specialized training courses for students and faculty. As a side benefit we have 10 additional LEXIS/WESTLAW access points all year long.

Both LEXIS and WESTLAW offer students greater levels of service this year, including personal ID's, unlimited downloading to disk, and home access. If you have particular questions about any of these additional services, please see Mary Grace Hune or one of the student LEXIS/WESTLAW representatives.

We're really not playing hide the ball...but we did move the LEXIS and WESTLAW terminals. You can now find two of each in the room with the Shepard's Citators. For quick and dirty searches we also will have a

LEXIS and WESTLAW terminal in the Reference Room.

Continuing this fall as WESTLAW student representatives are Sue Trask and Gail Weber. Linda Fox and Jennifer Arlin are our two new LEXIS student representatives. The WEST representatives are in carrel 104 and the LEXIS representatives are in carrel 105. Each representative will post hours when she can be reached in her carrel.

We will offer refresher and advanced LEXIS/NEXIS and WESTLAW training sessions in September. WATCH FOR SIGN UP SHEETS NEXT TO THE LEXIS AND WESTLAW TERMINALS IN THE CITATOR ROOM.

WESTLAW has added the Current Index to Legal Periodicals (CILP) to its ever growing list of databases. This online version of the printed index published by the Marian G. Gallagher Law Library of the University of Washington indexes articles from over 300 legal publications. Each week the service arranges in subject order the articles received during the preceding week. When you access CILP, the first page of the most current edition is displayed. Press enter to move through this document page by page. To search for articles on a particular topic enter a search such as **topic(computer)**. Additional search tips can be found on an information card next to the WESTLAW terminals.

...MGH

IN BRIEF

Weekend Circulation Desk Hours: Weekend hours for circulation desk assistance have been reduced due to the budget cuts. The circulation desk will open at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings and close at 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings beginning Saturday August 25th. ...MWR

Copy Charges: New copy cards cost \$1.00. New cards DO NOT have copies on them. Each additional dollar adds 15 copies to the card. Cards and copies may be purchased from the cashier with cash or at the circulation desk with checks or cash....MWR

LEXIS Student Passwords: On September 28 and 29 representatives from Mead Data Central will be in the front lobby of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law distributing LEXIS passwords to second and third year students. You must see the representatives

on one of these two days to get your password. Information about the distribution times and procedure will be placed in your hanging file. If you have any questions about obtaining a LEXIS student password see Linda Fox or Jennifer Arlin. ...MGH

Congratulations to Greg Brummett: Greg won a gift certificate from the Cheese Shop for correctly answering all of the questions in the Library Research Trivia Contest held last Spring. If you are interested in finding out the correct answers, you can see Mary Grace Hune in the Reference Department. Watch future issues of this newsletter for more contests and chances to win great prizes.

...MGH

Equipment Out of Order: If you should have problems with equipment located in the Library, please report the problem to the circulation desk assistant. We may be able to correct the problem. If not, we will put an "out of order" notice on the equipment and place a service call as soon as possible.

...MWR

LION Terminals: There is an additional public access LION terminal located in the basement.

...MWR

Photocopiers: The two public access photocopiers which were in the Library lobby are now located in room 129 (where the LEXIS/WESTLAW terminals were located in May).

...MWR

LOOK IT UP

What's So Funny About The Law?

The law is not pretty, but it can be pretty funny. People have been laughing at the law and the legal profession for centuries. The subject heading for risible legal minutiae used to be LAW -- Anecdotes, facetiae, satire, etc. This has recently been changed to LAW -- Humor, which is shorter to type but often debatable, depending upon your taste and your interest in things legal. For those who would like to delve into the lighter side of law, the Law Library maintains a collection of books containing legal humor and interesting, bizarre and improbable legal anecdotes, many of which may be found in the Reference Room.

Books of legal anecdotes abound, and we have several. These are collections of at

least mildly interesting legal lore, ranging from the recollections of lawyers and judges to odd and outdated laws. The best of the lot is The Book of Legal Anecdotes, edited by Peter Hay (REF. K183 H39 1989).

Arranged roughly into subject categories, the book contains often humorous tidbits concerning the nature of the legal profession, definitions, colorful characters, odd crimes and punishments, and the general silliness of a profession burdened by centuries of incomprehensible tradition and precedent. Hay includes a name index and a comprehensive bibliography. John Marshall is mentioned, always respectfully, no less than nine times.

A second collection of arguably humorous material is found in The Judicial Humorist, edited by William L. Prosser (REF. K183 J83 1989). Better known as the author of a major treatise on tort law, Dean Prosser has assembled a collection of essays culled from various sources, primarily from periodicals and humor magazines. Authors include Mark Twain, Alexander Pope, Charles Dickens, Maxwell Anderson, and Finley Peter Dunne. The selections are literate and some are very funny.

Somewhat more obscure, mainly because it was first published in 1913 and contains primarily British anecdotes, (one section is entitled, "American Bench and Bar") is Law and Laughter, edited by George A. Morton and D. MacLeod Malloch (REF. K183 M67 1989). The editors have arranged their material alphabetically under the names of each particular jurist whose witty remarks are cataloged therein. A typical entry begins: "[s]ome amusing scenes have occurred in suits brought by tailors and dressmakers to recover the price of garments for which their customers have declined to pay on the ground of misfit." Those wacky English courts.

There's probably an Oxford Book published about everything, and the topic of legal minutia is no exception. The Oxford Book of Legal Anecdotes, edited by Michael Gilbert (REF. K183 O95 1986), is a collection of primarily British legal biographical anecdotes, arranged by the name of the subject judge or lawyer. A few of these bits were probably considered quite droll in certain circles, but the tone is

respectful, the prose scholarly, and the references (other than the few Americans listed) are completely obscure to the American reader. There is a topic index, a name index, and a comprehensive bibliography.

Devil's Advocates: the Unnatural History of Lawyers, by Andrew and Jonathan Roth (REF. K183 R67 1989), purports to uncover "the 3,000 year-old tradition of lawyer-hating." This is full of good stuff for the trivia buff. From ancient times to the present (in less than 200 pages) the authors chronicle the development of jurisprudence and the legal profession, combining well documented research with an irreverent style. The result is often interesting, sometimes amusing, and frequently depressing. From the book: "[o]ut of the 20,000 lawyers who attended the American Bar Association Convention in San Francisco in 1987, a panel on how to provide better legal access to the public drew a crowd of twelve."

One title which could lead to outright prolonged laughter is another British tome, A.P. Herbert's Uncommon Law: Being 66 Misleading Cases (REF. K183.2 H47 1982). Herbert, trained as a lawyer and admitted to the British bar, originally wrote these satirical case reports for the British humor magazine Punch in the 1920's and 1930's.

The cases explore such weighty issues as whether Magna Carta is still good law, the continued efficacy of Rylands v. Fletcher, is fox hunting fun, is a golfer a gentleman, and whether it is just to impose additional court costs upon a defendant who conducts his defense in rhyming couplets. The author also considers the plight of the judge when lawyers persist in pronouncing Latin legal phrases correctly. If you laugh at P.G. Wodehouse, give this a try.

Finally, no reference collection would be complete without a legal dictionary. For years, Black's Law Dictionary has been the choice of law students nationwide. Now comes White's Law Dictionary: An Indispensable Guide to Legalese (REF. K184 W46 1985) to provide a different point of view. Written by Robert White, author of The Official Lawyer's Handbook, White's brings a real world perspective to the dusty words and phrases of the law. Unlike Black's, for example,

White's provides clear and meaningful illustrations for especially difficult terms.

The author published his dictionary after realizing that being a great lawyer takes more than a "foxy secretary named Della, a handsome private eye named Drake, and a criminal populace prone to public confession" No, the "essence of lawyerdom is . . . sounding like a lawyer." White's will help you do this. From the book: brain death -- "a near certain consequence of prolonged exposure to the Code of Federal Regulations"; per curiam -- Latin, "None of us wants to take the blame."

To find other material of this type you can search LION under the subject heading LAW -- Humor. And try to smile once in a while. It's the law. ...RB

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

The Law Library, which has responsibility for playback of audio and video programs within the Law School, will now coordinate audio and video production as well. Video and audio production was formerly coordinated by the Trial Advocacy Program. Production demands have increased dramatically, however, and in the absence of a Media Services Department within the Law School, responsibility for coordination of both production and playback of audio-visual programming has been transferred to the Law Library.

Audio-visual production support at Marshall-Wythe includes video taping Moot Court presentations and student mock trials. Taping normally takes place in the Moot Court Room, which contains a fairly sophisticated array of video and audio equipment. Multiple video cameras and microphones can be coordinated from a control booth in the Court Room, and other equipment allows taped programs to be edited and fashioned into programs. The control room also contains equipment used to broadcast live and taped programs into class rooms. Classes and other programs can also be taped in any classroom.

Audio-visual playback of a variety of programs is also available, both in the classroom and in the Library. In addition to instructional and informational audio and

video materials, the Law Library also maintains a collection of commercial films with law related themes on video tape in VHS format. All materials are on reserve, and may be checked out by Law Library patrons. Viewing rooms and playback equipment may be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Use of audio-visual services by law faculty for instructional purposes will take priority.

Audio-visual services will be coordinated by Rick Buchanan, in the Reference Department. To arrange for audio-visual taping, playback of live or taped programs in the classroom, or to reserve audio-visual playback equipment, contact the Reference Department, at 221-6351. Audio-visual materials and playback equipment may be checked out, and viewing rooms may be reserved, at the circulation desk. ...RB

WORDPERFECT TRAINING

"Introduction to Wordperfect 5.1" will be offered at the following times:

SEPTEMBER 11 1:30 - 3:00 P. M.
SEPTEMBER 13 1:30 - 3:00 P. M.
SEPTEMBER 17 9:30 - 11:00 A. M.
SEPTEMBER 19 1:30 - 3:00 P. M.

This class is for first years only who have little or no experience with wordprocessing. The classes will meet in the Law School Computer Lab on the second floor of the Law Library. Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in the Lab.

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