

College of William & Mary Law School
William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository

Library Newsletter

The Wolf Law Library

1994

Law Library Briefs, Vol. 6, No. 2 (October, 1994)

William & Mary Law Library

Repository Citation

William & Mary Law Library, "Law Library Briefs, Vol. 6, No. 2 (October, 1994)" (1994). *Library Newsletter*. 25.
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/libnewsletter/25>

Copyright c 1994 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/libnewsletter>



LAW LIBRARY BRIEFS

The College of William and Mary
Marshall-Wythe Law Library



Volume 6, Number 2

October, 1994

CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| THE HALLOWED SUPREME COURT .. | 1-2 |
| FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK | 2 |
| QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS | 2-3 |
| RARE BOOK QUOTE | 3 |
| GENERAL LIBRARY INFORMATION | 3 |
| MORE O.J., PLEASE - ANSWERS | 4 |
| UPDATING THE O.J. SIMPSON CASE | 5 |
| CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION | 5 |

THE HALLOWED SUPREME COURT

The United States Supreme Court sits as the highest court in the American legal system. As such, one would imagine that it would be open to public scrutiny. Instead, much of its functioning is shrouded in tradition bordering on the mysterious. Rituals abound.

For example, when the nine justices gather to vote on cases, the court's newest member sits closest to the door and is responsible for "tending" the door. Until last year, the Supreme Court had its own seamstress. The elevators in the Supreme Court building are still hand-operated. Courtroom chairs are custom built for each justice.

Even the Supreme Court building has its share of mystery. Nine allegorical figures adorn the front facade above the expression "Equal Justice Under Law." Sculptor Robert Aitken carved six contemporary faces out of the nine. For a recent exhibit, the faces have been identified as: Chief Justice William Howard Taft, who is portrayed as a Yale University student and represents "Research Present"; former New York Republican Senator Elihu Root, who sponsored legislation creating a fine arts commission; and Cass Gilbert, the building's

architect. The three central figures are allegorical, representing "Authority," "Liberty Enthroned" and "Order." The three figures grouped to the right are Justice Charles Evans Hughes; Aitken; and former Chief Justice Marshall, representing "Research Past." No one knows what, if anything, Root and Gilbert were intended to represent.

Inside the Supreme Court building, the deliberations have been criticized for their secrecy. Not even law clerks are allowed to attend the closed sessions during which cases are discussed and voted upon. Supreme Court justices, including Rehnquist, have written articles defending their closed sessions during which only the nine justices (without clerks) meet.

Recent criticism has been levied at the Court for not permitting television cameras to document the courtroom proceedings. With the increasing TV coverage of trials, many (including Court TV) think the United States Supreme Court should open its doors to television. The main reasons given for this reluctance to allow TV invasion are twofold: the justices enjoy their personal privacy and the mystique and moral authority of the Court would be diminished.

Despite these criticisms and traditions, the Supreme Court continues to decide cases. Books have been written explaining the procedures and practices of the Court so that practitioners and the public will understand the operations of this highest court. Supreme Court Practice (RESERVE/KF9057/S8/1993), now in its seventh edition, unravels the operations of the Court for attorneys. While most of the volume is devoted to procedural matters, the beginning chapters discuss the Court as an institution and describe such aspects as the

clerk's office, the building and courtroom, and the public information office.

To obtain statistics about the Supreme Court, both historically and recently, a particularly useful source of data is The Supreme Court Compendium: Data, Decisions & Developments (REF/KF8742/S86/1994). All sorts of tables and statistical complications are presented with information about the Court's cases as well as its justices. In particular, chapters four, five and six present information about the Supreme Court justices, from their nominations to their departures from the Court. For example, in Table 5-13: "Classic Statements from the Bench" Justice Tom Clark is quoted "There is no war between the Constitution and common sense."

Of course, news articles about the Supreme Court abound in newspapers and journals. And new books are constantly being written about the Supreme Court and its justices, often authored by justices themselves, such as William Rehnquist's The Supreme Court: How it Was, How it Is (KF8742/R47/1987), which provides an insider's view. These sources often examine rituals and traditions, and at times even dispel or squash rampant myths, like the four-month vacation enjoyed by the Justices. ...ST

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

With this issue the Reference Librarians begin a column of informational and/or research questions and answers for law students. The Reference Librarians receive an assortment of interesting questions daily and believe sharing the answers and sources used to locate them would prove beneficial. Questions such as: "What does E.E.C.L stand for?"; "Is there a source which compiles the legal professional responsibility codes for the fifty states?"; "Where can I find addresses for law journals?"; "Where can I locate information about judges sitting on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit?" are featured in this issue. Questions and answers to reference queries we

think are of interest to a broad range of patrons will be highlighted in future issues of the newsletter. I'm sure there are other questions students have where the answer would be helpful to others, so feel free to submit a question to a Reference Librarian for publication in the next newsletter.

...MWR

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What does E.E.C.L. stand for?

According to Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations 4th ed., by Mary Miles Prince, E.E.C.L. stands for the Encyclopedia of European Community Law. Bieber's contains thousands of acronyms and abbreviations used in American legal literature and is extremely helpful in tracking down an unknown source cited in an important document.

RESERVE/KF246/B46/1993 also on REFERENCE

2. Is there a source which compiles the legal professional responsibility codes for the fifty states?

The National Reporter on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility is a multi-volumed loose-leaf service which includes the state codes of professional responsibility or rules of professional conduct. State Judicial Conduct Codes and state bar formal and informal ethics opinions are included for some states. The set is filed on the first floor with the special subject reporters. SPECIAL SUBJECTS/KF308/A6N33

3. Where can I find addresses for law journals?

The print copies of the Current Law Index and the Index to Legal Periodicals have

exhaustive lists of the names and addresses of the journals they index.

INDEX TABLE/REFERENCE ROOM

4. What is the office address, telephone number, and political background of the judges sitting on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit?

The Almanac of the Federal Judiciary includes multi-page biographies of the currently sitting judges in the Federal system which include evaluation by attorneys who have appeared before the judge, summaries of media coverage, and noteworthy rulings. To the extent that the judge volunteers information about formal political activities, there is a summary of offices or appointive positions held.
REF/KF8700/A19A4

RARE BOOK QUOTE

"Many men accumulate ye large libraries by borrowinge ye books and failinge to returne them." Coke. Littleton. (1st ed. 1651).

Submitted by Jennifer Hoh

GENERAL LIBRARY INFORMATION

Reshelving Books. Please reshelve books. By reshelving materials, they are available on the shelves more quickly for the use of other students. The only exceptions are those books with alphanumeric white labels on the spine which are not part of a major set such as state codes or reporters.

Food and Drink. To keep monster cockroaches and other critters out of the library, we must have your cooperation. Food should be

consumed in the lobby or other areas of the building before entering the library security doors. Drinks may be brought into the library in a spill proof container. Styrofoam cups with lids and bottled water/drinks are not in this category. Please help us keep the library food/spill free for the convenience of all patrons.

Telephones. Please do not ask the circulation staff to use the desk telephone. We need to keep the line available for patron questions and requests. There is a pay phone next to the desk and a local/campus phone in the vending area.

Change. In order to maintain sufficient change for overdue transactions and cash purchases of photocards, circulation desk assistants may not provide change. Correct change is necessary to use the copy card cashier and the coin operated photocopy machines. The cashier takes \$1 or \$5 bills and the copier takes dimes or quarters with change given for quarters. You may purchase a copy card at the desk by check or cash and receive change for cash purchases. There is a dollar change machine in the vending area.

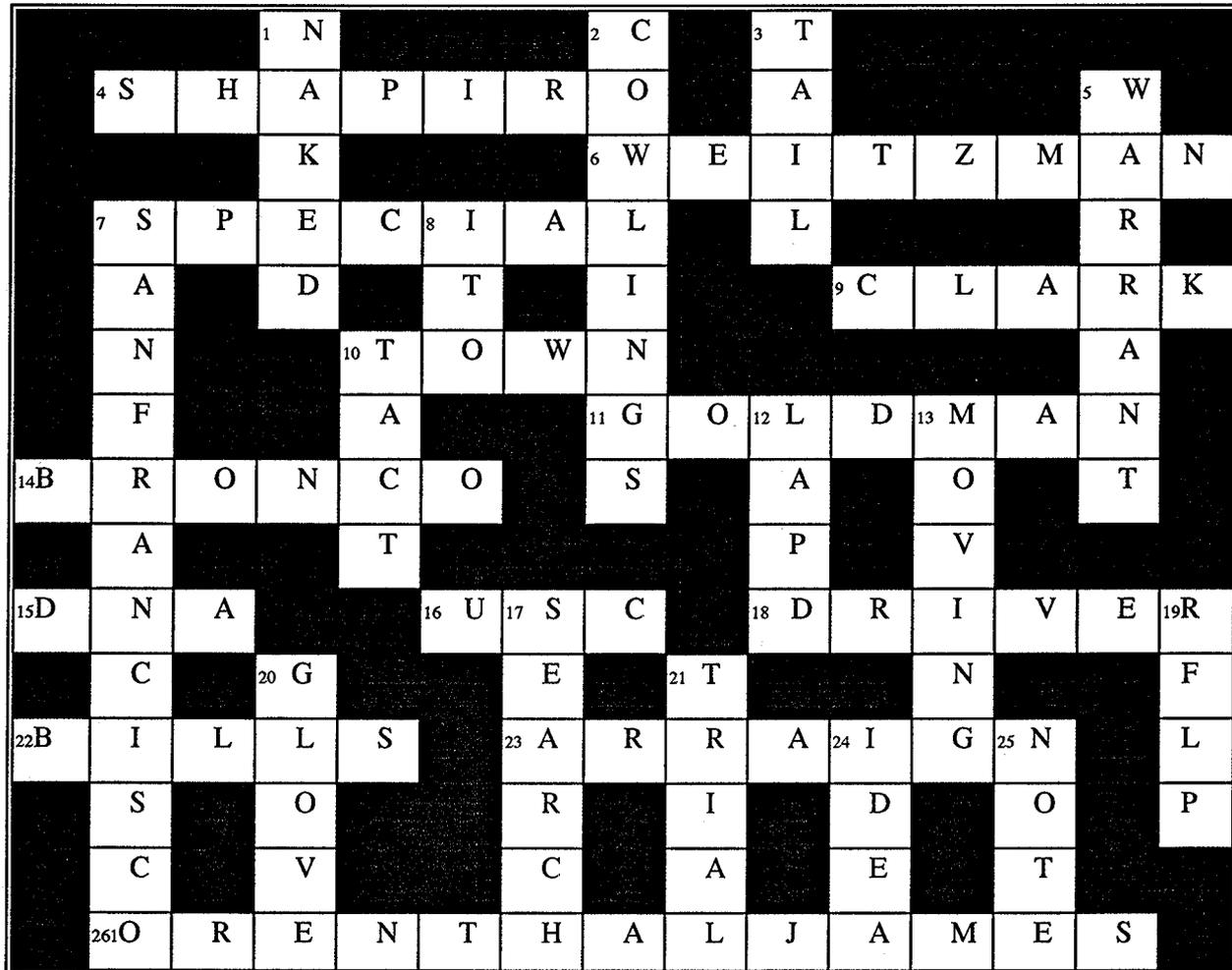
Class Handouts. Professors often make class handouts available to their students and when necessary distribute them via the library. Class distribution shelves are directly across from the circulation desk. If all handouts are gone, please see your professor.

Messages. The circulation staff is unable to page patrons. If an emergency arises, we will attempt to locate you in the library. Messages - such as automobile lights left on or class schedule changes reported to the desk -- will be placed on the new bulletin board across from the circulation desk. This bulletin board is for messages from library staff and students to those using the library. Other notices will be removed.

...MWR

More O.J., Please ...

by Sue Trask



Across

- 4 O.J.'s attorney
- 6 O.J.'s first lawyer
- 7 the charge: double murder, _____ circumstances
- 9 name of female prosecutor
- 10 Brentwood, for example
- 11 Nicole's friend
- 14 get-away vehicle
- 15 basic component of genetic profiling
- 16 O.J.'s alma mater
- 18 Al Cowling's role
- 22 O.J.'s team's nickname
- 23 to bring before court to read charge and ask for defendant's plea
- 26 O.J.'s full name

Down

- 1 _____ Gun
- 2 charged with harboring a fugitive
- 3 _____ back, O.J.'s football position
- 5 arrest or search _____
- 7 O.J.'s last team
- 8 Judge Lance
- 10 diplomacy
- 12 investigating police department
- 13 changing position
- 17 look for
- 19 restriction fragment length polymorphism, most accurate method of DNA profiling
- 20 incriminating piece of evidence
- 21 what begins September 20
- 24 a plan, scheme or method
- 25 what Robert Karsashian read

UPDATING THE O.J. SIMPSON CASE

LEXIS and WESTLAW have made it easy to update your knowledge of the O.J. Simpson case. In LEXIS, news stories are grouped in the file SIMPSN in the NEWS library. WESTLAW offers the databases: OJ-TRANS (full trial and pre-trial transcripts beginning with the arraignment on July 22, 1994) and OJ-COMMENT (expert commentaries about the case written expressly for WESTLAW and updated daily). ...ST

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) is mandatory for attorneys in many states. In Virginia active members of the Virginia State Bar must accumulate a minimum of twelve credit hours of CLE credits each year (of which two hours must be in legal ethics or professionalism) to maintain their license to practice. (See Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia pt. 6, §IV, Para. 17). Many professional associations/organizations sponsor CLE seminars/workshops. Often law students are allowed to attend these courses for a nominal fee. Such programs provide students an excellent opportunity to gain an overview of an area of law not taught at Marshall-Wythe, provide additional information in a particular legal field, or simply meet practicing attorneys.

An upcoming CLE program of special interest to those in the legal information field is being held in November. The program is "Responsible and Cost-Effective Legal Research". One session is scheduled at the Tysons Westpark Hotel in Northern Virginia on Wednesday, November 16. The second is scheduled for the Richmond Marriott on Thursday, November 17. Several video replays in various locations are scheduled for mid-January.

A practicing attorney with in depth knowledge of firm research and billing considerations and law librarians in a variety of legal settings are the program speakers. The opportunity to gain insight into the ethical consequences of research, integrating technology and traditional sources, cost-effective selection and use of resources and billing research should be invaluable to students planning to practice not only in Virginia but in any of the other 49 states.

Law students may attend CLE courses sponsored by the Committee on CLE of the Virginia Law Foundation for the cost of the course handouts. The handout for the program mentioned above includes the newly revised 1994 edition of A Guide to Legal Research in Virginia. The cost of the materials is \$40.08 (including state sales tax). If you have questions concerning CLE or this program in particular, feel free to contact me at extension 1-3253 or in room 132C. ...MWR

Newsletter Contributors

Martha Rush, Editor

Jennifer Hoh
Sue Trask

Reference Librarians

Betta Labanish - Secretary