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RES IPSA LOQUITUR

Newsletter of the  Law Library

Volume 12, Number 6 Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington March 2002

Digital Assistance from the IRS

by Jennifer Bryan

For those of you who procrastinate the inevitable¹ (myself included), you should know about a useful and convenient resource for preparing your federal tax returns: the Internal Revenue Service Web site, *Digital Daily* at <http://www.irs.gov/>.

A complete collection of federal tax forms and instructions is available at the *Digital Daily*, along with an archive of IRS forms and publications, spanning back to 1992. The IRS also provides information specific to individuals, businesses, and tax professionals. Be sure to check out the following informative links, under *Tax Information For Individuals*:

- [Join the Millions who will e-file this year](#)
- [Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997: Tax incentives for certain higher education expenses](#)
- [Withholding Calculator](#)
- [Current Filing Season Tips](#) (under Topics, in The Newsroom)

The IRS wants you to be aware of an error that many early filers have made, related to a new line on the federal tax form. This line is for the Rate Reduction Credit, and you should use it if you did not receive last summer's Advance Payment in the maximum amount for your filing status.² So, be sure to read those instructions carefully!

While we are on the subject of government forms, I thought that I would also mention FedForms, available at <http://www.fedforms.gov/>. This Web

site provides “one-stop-shopping” for the essential agency-produced forms that are most used by the public.

You can search FedForms by agency or by keyword. If you know the title of a form, you can use it as a keyword search and then will be taken directly to the form that you are seeking. The agencies that are included range from the Agency for International Development to the United States Postal Service. You can also limit your search by sub-agency. According to this Web site, by October 2003, where appropriate, the forms will provide for online processing of transactions.

¹ In the final two weeks (April 1-15) last minute filers account for nearly one third of all IRS receipts during filing season. (http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-graphics/tax_graph_two_weeks.jpg)

² <http://www.irs.gov/irs/news/0,,i1%3D42%26articleId%3D78976,00.html>

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WOMEN IN THE LAW: MILESTONES AND INFORMATION

March is women's history month. To celebrate this event, the Law Library has showcased a group of remarkable women who were instrumental in transforming the legal profession. The following are a few important women's firsts. Some achievements are national in scope. For a more complete collection of important firsts, please see the display adjacent to the entrance of the Law Library.

- 1869 – First Woman to be Admitted to a Bar – Arabella Mansfield (Iowa)
- 1870 – First Woman to Graduate from a Law School – Ada H. Kepley (Union College of Law in Chicago, became Northwestern).
- 1892 -- First Woman Indiana Law School Graduate – Tamar Althouse Scholz
- 1893 – Indiana Supreme Court opinion holds that women are not barred by the common law from practicing law. *In re Leach*, 34 NE 641 (1893).
- 1926 -- First woman on the Indiana Law Journal Board of Editors and to print a student note (in the very first issue) – Pearl Lee Vernon
- 1950 – First IU Law School Woman Faculty Member – Betty LeBus (1950-1979)
Betty Lebus was hired as director of the Law Library in 1950 with assistant professor status. She taught the legal research class for many years.
- 1959 -- First African-American elected judge in the United States. First African-American woman to be appointed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (1988). Juanita Kidd Stout. (IU Bloomington School of Law Graduate).
- 1965 - First Woman General Jurisdiction Judge in Indiana – Vivian Sue Shields (IU Bloomington School of Law Graduate)
- 1977 - 1978 – First woman elected as editor-in-chief of the Indiana Law Journal – Renee McDermott (formerly Mawhinney.) (31 years after the first student editor-in-chief, Val Nolan, Jr. (1948-1949.)
- 1988 – First Woman President of the Indiana Bar Association – Jeanne Siedel Miller (IU Bloomington School of Law alum)
- 1995 – First Woman and First African American member of the Indiana Supreme Court -- Myra C. Selby
- 1996 – First Female Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Shirley Schlanger Abrahamson. (IU Bloomington School of Law alum).



Peter Hook
Electronic Services Librarian

SUGGESTION BOX

(Every month in this space associate director
Linda Fariss responds to a suggestion from the suggestion Box)

Suggestion: Loud talking in the library. Rhetorical question: “Why does the prohibition against talking-out-loud not extend to the librarians?” Lead by example: If librarians whisper, so will everyone else. People take cues from the librarians as to how to act in the library. Lets foster a quiet library-going environment.

Response: I wish it were true that people take cues from the librarians! Seriously, I understand and appreciate your concerns. I assume you are not speaking about tours. These are necessary and, of course, we must talk out loud. Sometimes when we are working with patrons it is difficult to whisper, but you make a good point. We will make every effort to speak more quietly in the Library. Thanks for the suggestion.

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY: SHOTS FIRED!

Bellesiles, Michael. *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000. [HV 8059 .B45 2000].

Popular historians have been taking a beating lately. The national media has had a field-day reporting accusations of plagiarism by both Stephen Ambrose (*Undaunted Courage, D-Day, Band of Brothers*, etc.) and Doris Kerns Goodwin (*Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream, No Ordinary Time, The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, etc.) Not as well known however, is the controversy that has been raging in academic circles over Emory University History Professor Michael Bellesiles' book, *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*.

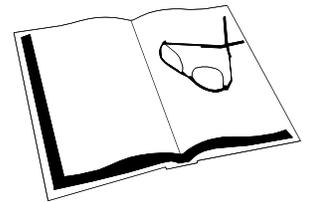
Bellesiles' book was published in 2000 to rave reviews and quickly won the coveted Bancroft Prize for historical excellence. Bellesiles hypothesizes that America's "gun culture" is a post-Civil War phenomenon, not something that can be traced back to the country's founding as many had previously suggested. The few who questioned Bellesiles' findings, when it was first published, were generally dismissed as right-wing trigger fingers and/or amateur historians.

Enter James Lindgren, Professor of Law, at Northwestern University. Over the past year Lindgren has openly questioned Bellesiles research methods and his interpretation of data culled, mostly (according to Lindgren), from probate records. Once a critic of Lindgren's standing spoke out, the flood gates opened.

So veracious were the attacks the American Historical

Association published the following statement:

Although it is appropriate to subject all scholarly work to criticism and to evaluate that work's arguments and its sources, the Council of the American Historical Association considers personal attacks upon or harassment of an author, as we have seen directed at Michael A. Bellesiles following publication of *Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture*, to be inappropriate and damaging to a tradition of free exchange of ideas and the advancement of our knowledge of the past.



Lindgren's accusations have primarily appeared in *The Boston Globe*, and prompted Emory University administrators to request that Bellesiles publish a defense of his work (see "Disarming the Critics" at: <http://www.oah.org/pubs/nl/2001nov/bellesiles.html>)

In an effort to publish the final word on the subject, but which will probably only result in more controversy, the January 2002 (v. 59, no. 1) issue of *The William and Mary Quarterly* features several articles debating and exploring multiple aspects of the academic dispute. If you would like to learn more, both the Bellesiles book and *The William and Mary Quarterly* can be found in the IU Law Library.

Dick Vaughan
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

THE DICTA BOARD

In case you haven't noticed, we have a bulletin board here in the Law Library that features articles of interest to the law school community. This board is located next to the glass doors that lead from the library's lobby into the stacks. A sign at the top of the board reads "MORE DICTA."

One of my duties as the Reference Librarian is to find articles to post on the Dicta board. I put up new articles almost every week. I look for articles in various publications, including the *ABA Journal*,

The National Law Journal, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The New York Times*. Recent articles I've posted have covered such topics as trends in law firm hiring practices, interesting court decisions (e.g., a federal district court ruled that employers must include contraceptive coverage in health care plans), settlements (e.g., the government of Mexico agreed to pay a California company \$16 to settle a complaint brought under NAFTA), laws with which attorneys and the general public should be
(continued on the next page)

more familiar (e.g., federal law requires state Medicaid programs to seek reimbursement from the estates of deceased beneficiaries), technology (e.g., new software that allows law firms to interview job candidates over the Internet), and news (e.g., legal issues surrounding the Enron debacle).

Stop by the library soon to see what's new on the Dicta board!

Liz Larson
Reference Librarian

WORKING THE HALLS

Please join us in wishing the following people Happy Birthday!

Happy March Birthdays to:

- **Prof. Joe Hoffmann** on the 1st
- **Debbie Eads** on the 4th
- **Prof. Charlie Geyh** on the 6th
- **Prof. John Applegate** on the 20th
- **Prof. David Fidler** on the 20th and
- **Liz Larson** on the 30th



Please join us in a belated welcoming to **Micah Van Hoff**, the new Serials Check-in Clerk. We have two old faces in new places: **Sean Frew** who is now the Night Circulation Supervisor and **Chris Zonkel**, the new Journal Coordinator.

**SPRING BREAK HOURS
MARCH 8-17, 2002**



March 8	Friday	7:30 am - 6:00 pm
March 9	Saturday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
March 10	Sunday	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 11-15	Mon. - Fri.	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
March 16	Saturday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
March 17	Sunday	Resume Regular Hours

JUMP START RETURNS!

The extremely popular "Jump Start" research program will return to the Law Library later on this spring. The program, designed by the reference librarians, will again work towards preparing law students for summer clerkships and the first year of practice. In addition to sessions on traditional legal research, there will also be sessions dealing specifically with Internet applications. During last year's sessions, a number of students learned the necessary research skills for dealing with materials such as legislative history, administrative law and the regulatory process, and computer-assisted legal research.

Following the formula established in previous years, each of the "Jump Start" sessions will begin with a brief review of the basic legal resources so that every student has a complete grasp of the legal research process. The librarians will also provide information about more specialized types of reference books, including practice aids and form books. The "Jump Start" sessions will then focus on individual student problems and questions about legal research, with an emphasis on the type of practice student participants will be seeing in the summer.

During the Internet sessions, Peter Hook, the Electronic Services Librarian, will discuss applications and uses of these extraordinary computer sources in the law office and on the job. These sessions will include hands-on exploration of the various on-line sources.

If you have any questions about the "Jump Start" programs, be sure to drop by the Reference Office and speak to a reference librarian. We'd especially like to hear from those of you who already know in what jurisdiction you'll be working this summer and any special areas of law with which you'll be dealing. We plan to tailor the "Jump Start" sessions to your particular needs in order to make the program a continuing success.

Keith Buckley
Collection Development Librarian

