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JUMP START YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS

by Keith Buckley

In conversations with recent graduates and law students returning from summer clerkships, the Reference staff often hears the comment, "I wish I'd learned a lot more about legal research." In a similar vein, veteran practitioners consistently complain that law schools are not turning out experienced researchers. Most law students, unfortunately, have neither the time nor the opportunity during the academic year to acquire the necessary research skills for dealing with materials such as legislative history, administrative law and the regulatory process or specialized practice-oriented services.

In an effort to better prepare Indiana University law students as researchers, the Reference librarians are putting together the "Jump Start" program. Designed to address students' particular needs and prospective practice goals, the "Jump Start" classes will be informal, small-group, research refresher and information sessions. The sessions will begin meeting in the Public Services Conference Room shortly after spring break. Students will be able to sign up for the sessions in the Reference Office during the first weeks of March. Notice of the "Jump Start" sessions will be posted around the Law School and in Res Ipsa Loquitur.

While the "Jump Start" seminars will focus on individual student problems and questions about legal research, each session will include a brief review of the basic resources so that every student has a complete understanding of the legal research process. (How long has it been since you picked up a digest or the index to the U.S. Code?) And because most students cannot always predict or know what sorts of research tasks are awaiting them, the Reference librarians are interviewing alumni and senior practitioners about what they expect from law school graduates, and this information will be incorporated into the sessions. The Reference librarians will also describe how the Law Library can continue to serve alumni through research assistance and the copying of hard to locate cases, briefs, articles, documents, etc.

During the next month, we look forward to your comments and suggestions as to what you would like to see covered in the "Jump Start" program. Feel free to stop by the Reference Office or drop a note in the Library Suggestion Box.

PREDICASTS' BUSINESS DATABASES NOW AVAILABLE ON NEXIS

Mead Data Central, Inc. and Predicasts currently have an agreement that has added two of Predicasts' online business references to the NEXIS information service. Predicasts' Overview of Markets and Technology (PROMT) and Marketing and Advertising Reference Service (MARS) is now online in the NEXIS Market (MARKET) library.

This agreement creates a single source for a wide range and depth of business information. The Predicasts files provide NEXIS subscribers with access to information on companies, products, and markets, including market size and market share and applied technology. This complements already available news reports and financial information in the NEXIS library.

Mitch Counts,
Computer Services Librarian

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NEW & NOTEWORTHY: Ode to the Lawyer

Are the cold days and nights of another Bloomington February chilling you down to the bone? Do you feel like curling up in bed with a good book and waiting for Spring Break? Well, if you do decide to hide out under the covers, let me suggest you take along a book of poetry to help warm your soul:


This reprint of a 1900 anthology is prefaced with a new essay outlining the history of legal poetry and contains the works of more than 185 poet/lawyers. Additionally, the collection contains a new index of poems published in 4 leading legal periodicals.

The authors featured in this collection range from Sir William Blackstone to Edgar Lee Masters, from Shakespeare to Indiana's own James Whitcomb Riley. The subject matter is equally diverse. Writing in the preface, J. Wesley Miller describes the poems as dealing with "everything from abortion and civil rights to taxes and wills."

Many of the poems in the collection tell the story of specific cases ("The Six Carpenters' Case", "Lickbarrow v. Mason", and "Arraignment of a Lover"), while others offer a philosophical look at the legal profession ("Advise to a Young Lawyer", "A Legal Career", and "The Loves of a Lawyer").

So, if its heating up you need, try the warmth of some legal prose.

"The Devil and the Lawyers" (anonymous)

The Devil came up to the earth one day,
And into the court he wended his way,
Just as the attorney, with very grave face,
Was proceeding to argue the point in a case.

Now, a lawyer his majesty never had seen,
For to his dominions none ever had been,
And he felt very anxious the reason to know
Why none had been sent to the regions below

'Twas the fault of his agents, his majesty thought,
That none of these lawyers had ever been caught,
And for his own pleasure he felt a desire,
To come to the earth and the reason inquire.

Well, the lawyer who rose, with a visage so grave,
Made out his opponent a consummate knave;

And Satan felt considerable amused
To hear the attorney so badly abused.

But soon as the speaker had come to a close,
The counsel opposing him fiercely arose,
And heaped such an abuse on the head of the first,
That made him a villain of all men the worse.

Thus they quarreled, contended, and argued so long,
'Twas hard to determine which of them was wrong,
And concluding he'd heard enough of the fuss,
Old Nick turned away, and soliloquized thus:

"They've puzzled the court with their villainous cavil,
And, I'm free to confess it, they've puzzled the Devil,
My agents were right to let lawyers alone,
If I had them they'd swindle me out of my throne."

Dick Vaughan,
Acquisitions & Serials Control Librarian

GETTING STARTED WITH FEDERAL REGS

Regulations were not organized and published in an organized form until the government was shamed into action with Panama Refining Co. v. Ryan, 293 U.S. 388 (1935), a case that had found its way to the Supreme Court before it was discovered that the regulation in question was not in force at the time of the disputed action. Truth is, indeed, stranger than fiction. The two publications that resulted are the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations. These sources allow a researcher to find the current text of any federal regulation and its status.

The Federal Register contains all proposed and final regulations and can be thought of as an "advance sheet" for the Code of Federal Regulations. In each daily issue, published Monday through Friday, material is arranged in the following order:

1) Presidential documents
2) Rules and regulations
3) Proposed rules (including proposed regs; regulatory agendas and notices of hearings)
4) Notices (documents not concerned with rulemaking)
5) Notices of Sunshine Act meetings

A monthly index cumulates the daily contents pages and is arranged in agency order. An important feature of the index is the Reader Aids page which contains phone numbers (this publication encourages audience participation!) and a table of cumulative CFR parts affected during that month.

The Code of Federal Regulations is the regulatory counterpart to the U.S. Code in that it is the logical subject arrangement, in 50 Titles, of regulations currently in effect. The CFR may be accessed through the subject index volume. The CFR is updated once a
year, one fourth of the titles at a time. This means that at any particular point in the year, at least half of the CFR is out of date. Which leads us to the List of Sections Affected (LSA) portion of the CFR. The LSA, published monthly, cumulates all the regulatory changes for a particular time period. It lists each change or proposed change that the Federal Register records to each section of the CFR. The CFR volumes can thus be brought up to the date of the most recent LSA pamphlet. The CFR can then be updated using the Reader Aids page of the daily Federal Register which contains the "Cumulative Table of CFR Parts Affected".

A piece of cake.

Marianne Mason,
Government Documents Librarian

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SUBJECT HEADINGS - AN UPDATE

The Library of Congress Subject Heading list, which the Law Library uses along with the rest of the Indiana University Library System, is constantly being changed and updated by the Library of Congress to meet current needs and developments. A review of the last several months of new additions and changes has produced some interesting ones. For example, in the area of music, LC has established as brand new subject headings--"Boogie woogie (Music)," "Bop (Music)," "Jingles (Advertising songs)," and "Swing (Music)." In addition, they have changed a few music headings, such as "Double-bass and piano music (Jazz)" now becoming simply "Jazz," and "Rapping (Music)" now just "Rap (Music)." These of course go along with such well established music headings like "Crooning," which I suppose is used to describe books about Bing Crosby. Animals are always a good source of strange new subject headings. Some of the latest additions include "Calf roping," "Whale watching," "Dog walking," and "Cat litter." You should be pleased to learn that "Mussels, Fresh-water" are now "Freshwater mussels," and "Megachile rotundata" is now "Alfalfa leafcutting bee."

Finally, some of the new subject headings which do not fit into the categories listed above but which are interesting none the less include "Knee braces," "Room service," "Television news anchors," "Burritos (Cookery)," "Screwball comedy films," "Adult children of sex addicts," and "Granny flats." But my favorite new one of all has to be "Elvis Presley impersonators."

Mike Maben,
Cataloging Librarian

RESEARCHING THE CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

An interesting element in many international agreements is that they establish processes for adjudicating disputes that arise between signatories. The GATT panel process is a prominent example of this, and its decisions are widely reported in the press. Another example is the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement, or FTA, the purpose of which is gradually to introduce a free trade regime between the two nations. Unfortunately, the process of dispute resolution under this agreement is not well known or widely reported, and therefore can
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pose a problem to the researcher wishing to track its development.

The FTA establishes a two-tiered procedure for adjudicating trade disputes. If either nation believes the other is discriminating against its products, it can request review by a binational panel under Article 19 of the treaty. The decisions of this panel, which is only constituted upon request, are not reported in full. However, they are summarized in the Federal Register, and indexed in a monthly Caseload Report, produced by the FTA Binational Secretariat, U.S. Section. From this latter document the researcher can obtain the date upon which a panel decision was handed down, and then locate a summary in the Federal Register for that date. If this review process does not settle the dispute, either nation can also request formation of an Extraordinary Challenge Committee. To date, this Committee has only been convened once, at the request of the United States, and its decision was reported in full in 30 ILM 1151 (1991). For those who are interested, the FTA itself is reproduced in 27 ILM 281 (1988).

Ralph Gaebler, Foreign & International Librarian

LAWYERS IN LOVE

There are lots of lawyers in films and in fiction, but a fairly small proportion of them are in love. And of this small number, many are merely in lust or are influenced by material considerations. Ah, well, let us celebrate the month of lovers anyway. Match the following descriptions with the fictional characters listed below.

1. Misguided lawyer becomes involved with a sensuous and mysterious married woman in a plot to kill her husband.
2. A woman represents her husband’s friend in order to free him of grotesque consequences resulting from her husband’s default on a loan.
3. Down-and-out lawyer prepares for the case of a lifetime while unwittingly fraternizing with a “spy” for opposing counsel.
4. A deputy prosecutor, though innocent of murder, is guilty of adultery, withholding evidence, and falling out of love with the woman who eventually frames him.
5. A public defender jeopardizes the case by teaming up with a juror in order to find the “real truth”.
6. First year law student finds time for extra-curricular activities (i.e. the professor’s daughter).
7. Handsome divorce attorney prone to sexual dalliances with clients (opposing counsel’s as well as his own).
8. A recently widowed defense attorney investigates his various romantic options.
9. Counsel for the defense squares off against district attorney/spouse in a case involving a woman who shot her cheating husband.

Choices
a. Rusty Sabich  f. Teddy Barnes  k. Sandy Stern
b. Rosalind  g. Stuart Markowitz  l. Ned Racine
c. James Hart  h. Michael Gallagher  m. Portia
d. Amanda Bonner  i. Henry Drummond  n. Arnold Becker
e. Kathleen Riley  j. Frank Galvin  o. Carolyn Polhemus

ANSWERS: 1-1 (Body Heat), 2-m (Merchant of Venice), 3-j (The Verdict), 4-a (Presumed Innocent), 5-e (Suspect), 6-c (Paper Chase), 7-n (L.A. Law), 8-k (Burden of Proof), 9-d (Adam’s Rib), 10-f (Jagged Edge)

Nonie Watt, Head of Technical Services

WORKING THE HALLS

We are pleased to announce the birth of John Dubach Rich, son of Linda Rich and her husband, Greg. The baby was born on January 27th at 6:21 am and weighed 8 lbs, 9 oz. Congratulations and happy baby!!

Congratulations also to Kathy McCarnes and Jane Truax who both received substantial upgrades within their positions in the Law School. It is nice to see hard work rewarded.

Recent Faculty Publications:


Happy February Birthday to:

Pat Clark in Admissions on the 1st; Nonie Watt in the Library on the 7th; Kevin Butterfield in the Library on the 15th; and Professor Julia Lamber on the 27th.

Best wishes for a wonderful day!!!

Happy Valentine’s Day!!!