Moot Points

Newsletter of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
St. Mary's University School of Law
http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/

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Library Hours
Monday—Thursday 7 AM—Midnight
Friday 7 AM—10 PM
Saturday 9 AM—10 PM
Sunday 10 AM—Midnight
Circulation Desk
(210) 436-3436

Welcome back from the winter break. The year of 2009 ushers in many opportunities and promises. We look forward to serving you with a renewed energy and purpose.

Over the last few months, the library staff has worked hard to improve access to information resources for the law school community. We subscribed to several new databases, including the AudioCase Files, Journal Locator, and Subject Compilations of State Laws — you can talk to one of the librarians to find out more about these databases.

We also filled two librarian vacancies. Tim Wilson was hired as the Electronic Services Librarian last fall, whereas Katy Stein came on board as the new Faculty Services Librarian last month. With the two new librarians here, we hope to provide better support to students and the faculty, like providing extended reference hours and redesigning the library Web site.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can improve library services to assist you better. Stop by my office or drop me an email at rhu@stmarytx.edu.

Bob Hu, Director

Spotlight on Abraham Lincoln, Attorney-at-Law

In recent years, Lincoln scholarship and publishing has focused, among other areas of interest, on President Lincoln’s 25 years of legal practice (1836-1861). Titles available on this topic in our library include:


- The Papers of Abraham Lincoln: Legal Documents and Cases / Daniel W. Stowell, editor. (KF213 L53 S76 2007). Another major product of the Lincoln Legal Papers Project, this four-volume set includes extensively annotated documents for “more than fifty of Lincoln’s most interesting, important, or representative cases” as well as scholarly essays on Lincoln’s legal career, a biographical dictionary, a legal glossary, and an index to all four volumes.

- An Honest Calling: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln / Mark Stein. (E457.2 S8 2006). An overview of Lincoln’s legal practice by University of Houston legal historian, Mark Stein. Based extensively on sources collected by the Lincoln Legal Papers Project.

- Lincoln The Lawyer / Brian Dirck. (E457.2 D575 2007). Another monograph benefiting from efforts of the Lincoln Legal Papers Project, Lincoln The Lawyer focuses on the law’s influence on Lincoln as a man and politician.

- Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian
In today's column, I will highlight some legal encyclopedias — print and electronic — developed especially for the layperson.

The major title in this field is *West's Encyclopedia of American Law*, a thirteen-volume set published in 2004 and located in our reference collection at KF154 W47. This encyclopedia contains "nearly 5,000 entries devoted to terms, concepts, events, movements, cases, and persons significant to U.S. law." Appendix volumes include articles on landmark cases, a collection of historical documents, and a cumulative index. Annual yearbooks update the set.

Another useful resource for the layperson is the two-volume *Gale Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*, located in our reference collection at KF387 G27 2006. This title provides "practical information on laws and issues affecting people's everyday lives." Each article includes a bibliography and webography of additional resources and a list of organizations and agencies with contact information.

A similar title, *Nolo's Encyclopedia of Everyday Law*, is available as a 2008 EBook from Netlibrary (for access, contact a reference librarian).

A free internet legal encyclopedia for the layperson, hosted and sponsored by Cornell University Law School's Legal Information Institute, is the *WEX* ([http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex](http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex)).

On a related note, please stop by and browse in our new “Self-Help” collection, conveniently located next to our reference collection. We have titles from Nolo Press and other publishers on Social Security, Medicare, tenant-landlord law, employment law, bankruptcy, and of interest as April 15th approaches, income tax.

-Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian

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**GETTING TO KNOW US**

**Katy Stein**
Faculty Services Librarian

My name is Katy Stein and I am the Faculty Services Librarian at the Law Library. I'm a native Texan, and grew up in Plano, north of Dallas, where I attended Plano Senior High School. For college, I went to the University of Texas at Austin, where I studied history and government, and studied abroad in Prague, Czech Republic.

After graduation, I worked as a clerk for Chamberlain-McHaney, an Austin law firm. I enjoyed the job so much, I applied to law school and chose to return to Dallas and attend Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. During law school, I had many exciting opportunities including interning for then Dallas County Judge Cathannia Haynes, the Federal Trade Commission, and American Airlines. I also participated in the law school's civil clinic and served as an articles editor for the SMU Law Review Association.

When I completed my law degree, I worked as an assistant for SMU’s Child Advocacy Clinic before embarking on a new career as a law librarian. I received my M.A. in library science at the University of Arizona in Tucson, where I served as fellow at the law school's library. I graduated in December 2008, and was very excited to accept the Faculty Services Librarian position here at St. Mary's and return to Texas.

In my spare time, I enjoy reading, writing, cooking, and jogging with my yellow Labrador retriever, Truman. I look forward to serving the law school faculty, students, and staff, and would be pleased to assist you with any of your research and information needs. You can contact me any time through email at kstein2@stmarytx.edu or by phone at 436-3436, extension 1374.

**Tim Wilson**
Electronic Services Librarian

I came to St. Mary's from the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies. I spent my high school years in the historic city of Montgomery, AL, graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in 1993. In the fall of 1993, I began undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama, graduating in 1999 with a Bachelor’s degree in Classics and English. I spent two years teaching Latin at a local Catholic High School, but felt that I needed to advance my education. Deciding between a master’s program in Classics or trying my hand at law school, I chose the latter, enrolling in the University of Alabama’s School of Law.

I graduated from law school in 2004 and became a member of the Alabama State Bar that same year, although I never really practiced law. I returned to teaching high school, but this time not enjoying it very much. After two years, I finally decided to go back and get one more degree, a Master’s in Library and Information Studies. Within one month of graduating from Alabama’s MLS program, I received and accepted an offer from St. Mary’s University to work in the law school library as electronic services librarian.

So far, I have enjoyed my job as electronic services librarian. Besides working in an academic environment, I am able to combine two areas of extreme interest to me, information technology and academic research. I am currently striving to help the library achieve and maintain a stronger presence on the web while also enriching the lives of students who need help with legal research. I also so far thoroughly enjoy the city of San Antonio. You can contact me any time through email at twilson11@stmarytx.edu or by phone at 436-3436, extension 3512.