



# MOOT POINTS

NOTES FROM THE SARITA KENEDY EAST LAW LIBRARY

August 2009 • Issue 7

## Director's Message

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Welcome, first-year students! For those returning students, welcome back!

At the Law Library, we constantly seek ways to better serve the law school community and beyond. Over the summer we worked to add several new features to the library. As you enter the library lobby you will notice a few things: A new security gate system is in place to give better protection to library materials; A new Popular Readings collection is set up to offer interesting books that feature a lawyer, judge or law-related theme. These readings can be entertaining and educational at the same time. They can be checked out like regular items; A small collection of DVDs on law-themed movies is on the shelf to allow you to study the law while enjoying a movie. The DVDs can be borrowed for three days at a time. Not so visible to the public's eyes is our addition of two new scanners, located in the photocopy rooms, to allow students to scan class notes and other documents free of charge. These are just a few examples of enhanced library services to our students and faculty. In addition to these new features, we strengthened the library staff by promoting *Stacy Fowler* to the position of Technical Services Librarian and hiring *Charles Finger* as the Associate Director. These personnel changes will help the library carry out our daily tasks more efficiently.



Connecting people to information is our mission and purpose. In the future weeks and months, the library staff will work hard to further enhance your experience in the library. We look forward to serving you.

Bob Hu, Director and Associate Professor of Law

### Library Hours and Schedule of Events

Monday-Thursday  
8am—12am

Friday  
7am—10pm

Saturday  
9am—10pm

Sunday  
10am—12am

September 7:  
Labor Day (No Classes)  
8am-6pm

October 12—13:  
Columbus Day/Fall Break  
8am-6pm

Our calendar is available online at [stmarytx.edu/law/library](http://stmarytx.edu/law/library), click "Monthly Calendar"

## New Popular Reading/Film Collection

As previously mentioned, we now have a collection of law-related DVDs available to check out featuring several popular titles in genres such as Drama, Mystery, Suspense, Romance and Comedy. The new collection spans the decades to include some golden-age Hollywood classics to favorites of today.

We've accompanied this section with selections in popular reading as well. Here, you will find entertaining literature on famous cases, true stories, and various other interesting titles. We have also included a new subsection specifically directed for 1Ls and their success in law school. The new shelves are located near the entrance of the library. Be sure to take a look at these new collections; there is something for everyone. For more of a sneak peek, check out a movie review by Brandon Vasquez, circulation supervisor, as well as a list of more available titles on page 6.



The popular reading collection in the library's lobby.

## Notable New Acquisitions

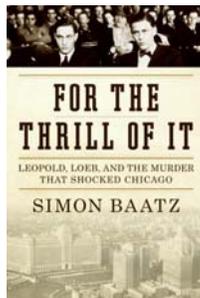
by Liana Morales, Library Assistant

There is much more to discover lately at the library with new books coming in on a more-than-regular basis. We have a new collection of guides and other literature for 1L students as well as a growing selection of popular non-fiction. Let's take a look at a few of our new additions.



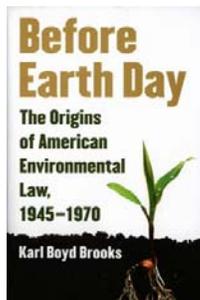
Come take a look at what's new in our library today!

"I cannot live without books." - Thomas Jefferson to John Adams (1815)



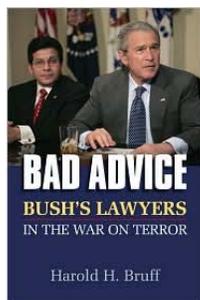
■ ***For the Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder that Shocked Chicago***, Simon Baatz. New York City, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 2008. **Pop HV6245 .B27 2008**

This book takes an in-depth look at the crime that swept through headlines during the Jazz Age. 1920s Chicago is at the center of it all in this fascinating account about two ruthless young men convicted of murder. At first, their futures as dead men seemed certain until Clarence Darrow, then-known as the most famous lawyer in America, was hired to represent them in their murder trial. The author takes hold of the truest roots of the story—scouring newly discovered transcripts and court records that make for a mesmerizing and unforgettable book.



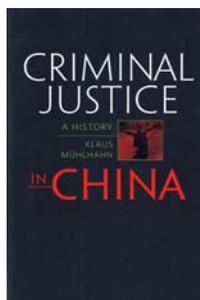
■ ***Before Earth Day: The Origins of American Environmental Law, 1945-1970***, Karl Boyd Brooks. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2009. **KF3775 .B727 2009**

Surprisingly, *Before Earth Day* is anything but bleak as many offerings in environmental literature can be. It is instead a very hopeful tome and according to many critics, is lovingly written. Author Karl Brooks reveals that environmental activism is an older cause than people think, sprouting in the time just after the Second World War. Pick up this enthusiastic and eye-opening study about America's early legal initiatives to save the planet.



■ ***Bad Advice: Bush's Lawyers in the War on Terror***, Harold H. Bruff. Lawrence, KA: University Press of Kansas, 2009. **KF5060 .B78 2009**

The account detailed meticulously in the book explains how and why the lawyers in the Bush administration began to go against the constitution and abuse the law to reach their own political agendas. Set against the controversial backdrop of Bush's War on Terror, the author—a former Justice Department attorney—makes an examination of surveillance and suspect interrogation techniques carried out by the titular regime and exposes them as crossing the limits of the law. This title can be useful not just to legal scholars, but may also prove important to the general public.



■ ***Criminal Justice in China: A History***, Klaus Mühlhahn. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009. **KNN1572 .M84 2009**

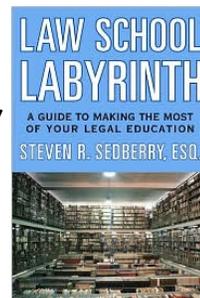
Mühlhahn's *Criminal Justice in China* is a carefully researched analysis of Chinese law and its legal system's development since the legal reformations of the early 20th Century. He dissects the values, society, and culture and makes a compelling argument about the state of criminal justice in China.

(Continued on next page...)

## Notable New Acquisitions (Continued)

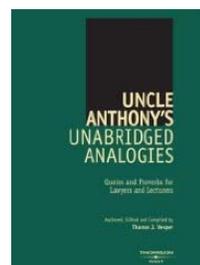
■ ***Law School Labyrinth: A Guide to Making the Most of Your Legal Education***, Steven R. Sedberry, Esq. New York City, NY: Kaplan Publishing, 2009. **Pop KF283 .S43 2009**

Touted by many professors as what should be required reading for new law school students, this book can serve as an informative and in-depth guide to the ever-challenging task of completing law school. It not only demystifies the admissions process, but continues its helpful guidance into graduation. The book provides tips on what to expect in the classroom and gives study tactics for exams. Useful career advice is also offered in this all-in-one comprehensive guide to go above and beyond as a new student.



■ ***Uncle Anthony's Unabridged Analogies: Quotes and Proverbs for Lawyers and Lecturers***, Thomas J. Vesper, ed. Thomson West, 2009. **Ref PN6404 .U53 2008**

This collection of proverbs, sayings and quotes is organized by topic. Filled with thousands of literary treasures passed down and teeming with historicity, this collection will remind us what those who came before us wanted the future to know. Whether you are interested in discovering time-honored expressions or a good way to open an argument, this book provides plenty of material. Surely this collection makes for a useful tool not just in the courtroom but also in the way we perceive the many contradictions, pitfalls, and successes of life.



A complete listing of library acquisitions can be found on our website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library>, click "New Books and Journals."

## Popular Reading Review: Books on Trial

By Stacy Fowler, Technical Services Librarian

***Books on Trial: Red Scare in the Heartland***, Shirley A. Wiegand and Wayne A. Wiegand. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2007. **KF221 .P6 W54 2007**

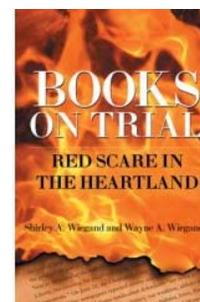
In August 1940, local police raided the Oklahoma City Progressive Book Store, arresting the owner and approximately 15 other people who were present at the time. Along with the arrests, boxes and boxes of printed material were confiscated, all purportedly associated with the Communist Party. Although the detained were originally not told what they were being arrested for, they were eventually charged with violating the state's syndicalism law, which was a ban on any type of speech advocating overthrowing the U.S. government.

The authors first recount the events of that August day, including the arrests and confiscation of supposedly seditious materials, items which included books by Charles Dickens, Jack London,

and John Steinbeck. The Wiegands then lead the readers through the historical events that led up to the Red scare and to why conservatives were so readily convinced of just how dangerous communists were perceived as being. The next several chapters are dedicated to the trials of the four defendants, all of whom received maximum sentences of ten years. This material is followed by an account of the eventual appeals that set these four free.

This book includes a great deal of primary material that has been assembled into a meticulously researched, extremely readable account of the events leading up to the arrests, the trial, the convictions, and the eventual successful appeals of all defendants. Perhaps the most interesting chapter of the book, however, is the epilogue, which shows how easily fear can lead to civil rights infringement and how these events parallel what is still happening today.

This title can be found in the Law Library's Popular Reading Collection.



## My Visit to the National Archives and Records Administration in D.C.

Story and photos by Katy Stein,  
Faculty Services Librarian



"What is Past is Prologue."

If the Smithsonian Institution is America's attic, the National Archives might be considered America's record keeper, or perhaps filing cabinet. The National Archives is the U.S. Government's collection of documents that records important events in American history. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the Government agency that preserves and maintains these materials and makes them available for research. But, the materials preserved by NARA



represent only a fraction of all the Government's work. In fact, of all the documents created by the United States Federal government, only 1-3% are considered sufficiently legally or historically important to be preserved forever in the archives.



The records preserved by NARA help form our nation's historical fabric and provide the foundation for the future. Though established in 1934 by President Franklin Roosevelt, the National Archives major holdings date back to 1775. Included in the array of documents are 9 billion pages of text, over 7 million maps and charts; and more than 20 million still photographs. Many of the most popular original documents can be viewed online, but the vast majority of the records remain available only in their original print form, or through microfilm. Thus, researchers may find it

necessary to view the original archived documents at a NARA location.

Recently, I had the chance to visit the National Archives building in Washington, D.C., to research and locate documents for one of our faculty members, Professor Michael Ariens. In addition to housing millions of records, it is also home to our nation's founding documents: the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. After completing an orientation, and obtaining a National Archives ID card, anyone (not just U.S. Citizens) over the age of 14 with a photo ID, and an identifiable research purpose may request to examine original documents. After requesting documents, visitors may view them in the reading room, where documents are closely watched to make sure they are returned and not damaged.

Even if you do not have the opportunity to visit the National Archives building in Washington, there are many ways that you can view records of interest, whether related to an academic research topic, or a personal genealogical research. You can get started by visiting the NARA website, at [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov). The site provides links, research guides, indexes, and finding aids. If you are interested in researching your family's history in America, this is a great place to start. If you are interested in browsing records digitized and available on the web, take a look at the new Digital Vaults feature, at <http://www.digitalvaults.org/>. The Digital Vaults allows you to search through records via tags and filters, and can introduce you to parts of America's history with richness unavailable in any history text. The services provided by NARA are an important component of our democracy, and the ability to access the tangible artifacts of our nation can enrich both personal and professional research.



"Study the Past."

### Inscriptions and Quotations in the Buildings of the Library of Congress

All throughout these buildings in Washington D.C. are words remembered by the founders and great thinkers of this country.

For information, photographs, and a complete listing of each of these inscriptions and quotations, the Library of Congress has provided a webpage:

<http://www.loc.gov/loc/walls/>

## References to Reference

By Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian

*"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own governours must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." - James Madison*

One of the major highlights of my visit this summer to Washington D.C. for the American Association of Law Libraries annual conference was a tour of the Law Library of Congress and its sister organization, the Congressional Research Service – both located in the Madison Building of the Library of Congress complex.

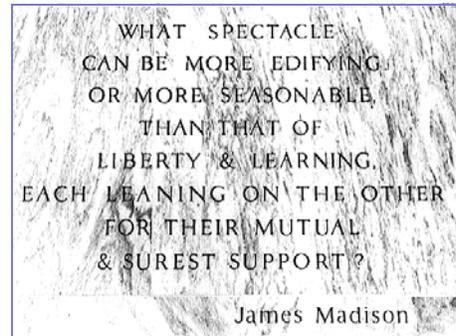
The Law Library of Congress, established officially in 1832, houses the largest law collection in the world, with approximately 2.65 million volumes (by contrast, the Harvard Law Library currently comprises 2 million volumes) and covering approximately 260 legal jurisdictions worldwide. Although the primary mission of the library is to serve the legal research needs of Congress and other federal entities, the Law Library also produces several electronic databases that are freely available to the public.

Perhaps its most popular product is THOMAS, an official electronic source of Congressional information available at [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov). Launched in 1995, THOMAS is a continuously updated database featuring full-text of bills, public laws, the Congressional Record (including the Daily Digest), Congressional calendars, and other documents from recent Congresses. Extensive search help is also provided.

Other electronic products available to the public include A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation ([www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html](http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html)), which provides full text of Congressional documents from 1774-1875; the Global Legal Information Network or GLIN ([www.glin.gov/search.action](http://www.glin.gov/search.action)), a database of official legal texts from numerous legal jurisdictions around the world; and the Guide to Law Online ([www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.php](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide.php)), an annotated guide to electronic sources of information on domestic and foreign law. For further information on the Law Library of Congress and links to its many resources, see [www.loc.gov/law](http://www.loc.gov/law).

The Congressional Research Service, officially established in 1914, has as its primary mission to provide research support and descriptive and analytic reports to Congressional representatives and their staffs on U.S. legal and domestic and foreign policy issues. Although it does not have a publicly available website, many of its CRS Reports are available full-text at numerous websites, such as the database hosted by the University of North Texas libraries at [digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs](http://digital.library.unt.edu/govdocs/crs).

For further information on these and other resources, please contact a librarian by phone, fax, email, or in person.



Inscription on the Madison law library building in Washington D.C.



The National Archives Building preserves a very large collection of government documents.

Connecting people to information: Access, Educate, Empower

St. Mary's University  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, TX 78228

Phone: 210-436-3436

Fax: 210-436-3240

Email: lawlibrary@stmarytx.edu

Completed in 1984, the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library offers two stories of research materials and services to the students, faculty and community surrounding St. Mary's University.

Law students of the university have access to quiet study areas, 136 private carrels, 17 conference rooms, and two classrooms.

Our library is the winner of the American Institute of Architects Honor Award and the Texas Society of Architects Honor Award and is well-equipped with multimedia collections, labs, wireless Internet, and helpful, knowledgeable staff.

Come visit us or see us online.

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<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library>

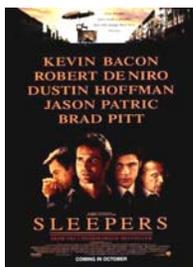
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## Film Review: Sleepers

By Brandon Vasquez, Circulation Supervisor



This impressive and well-acted legal drama centers around 4 boys that are sent to a correctional youth facility and subsequently abused there. Many years after their release, 2 of the young men, now hired killers, happen across one of their former guards/abusers (Kevin Bacon) and kill him. They are arrested and charged with his

murder. The other young men, one an Assistant District Attorney (Brad Pitt) the other a journalist (Jason Patric), with the help of a priest (Robert DeNiro) attempt to then lose the case and simultaneously expose the abuse the 4 boys went through at the correctional youth facility. Although the movie centers on the theme of revenge, the basic premise underlying the story of whether a case can in fact be lost on purpose is rather intriguing. The courtroom scenes are effective even if a bit over-dramatic.

## Titles Now Available

Here are just a few titles from our new DVD collection.

- Adam's Rib (1949)
- 12 Angry Men (1957)
- Vertigo (1958)
- The Godfather Trilogy (1972, 1974, 1990)
- Gandhi (1982)
- Cape Fear (1991)
- JFK (1991)
- A Few Good Men (1992)
- My Cousin Vinny (1992)
- Dead Man Walking (1995)
- L.A. Confidential (1997)
- Liar, Liar (1997)
- Legally Blonde (2001)
- The Royal Tenenbaums (2001)
- Fracture (2007)
- Michael Clayton (2007)