



SARITA KENEDY EAST LAW LIBRARY

Connecting people to information: Access, Educate, Empower

Frequently Asked Questions for Law Students

Library Policies & General Questions

What are the library's hours?

During the Fall and Spring semesters, the library's hours are as follows:

Monday-Thursday: 7am-12 midnight

Friday: 7am-10pm

Saturday: 9am-10pm

Sunday: 10am-12 midnight

Special hours apply to University holidays and interim sessions. The Law Library monthly calendar provides a daily schedule, and can be located in the library and online at:

<http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/hoursdirections.html>.

Can I eat or drink in the library?

Sarita Kenedy East Law Library Food & Drink Policy Enjoy Snacks But Leave No Trace

Beverages

All beverages must have secure lids to prevent spilling.

No food or drinks are allowed in the computer lab or at any library computer.

Clean up after yourself and report any spills to the circulation desk.

Food

Please be considerate of the facilities and other patrons when eating in the library, and avoid foods that are noisy, odorous, or greasy.

Please see examples of the types of food allowed in main library spaces below.

Allowed	Not Allowed
Pretzels	French fries
Nuts	Pizza
Granola Bars	Burgers & Sandwiches
Grapes or Raisins	Ice Cream
Bagels	Soups & Salads
Cookies	Food Requiring Utensils

You may eat meals and foods of all types in the second floor student lounge, or on the patio.

Foods that may damage materials and disturb patrons are prohibited in all other library spaces.

Unattended food will be removed and discarded. Food may not be stored at student carrels.

The library staff reserves the right to require that a patron consume food outside the library if that patron's food consumption is disturbing the study environment for other library patrons.

Thank you for your help in making the library a pleasant place to study.

Who can use study rooms in the library?

Use of the study rooms is limited to St. Mary's law students, who may use the rooms on a first-come, first-serve basis. No reservations are needed. As they are intended for group study, groups of two or more students have priority, and an individual may be asked to relinquish the study room to a group upon notice.

Can I sign up for a carrel?

Since there is a limited number of carrels in the law library, carrels will be assigned only to some students on the Law Journal and the Scholar, law faculty teaching or research assistants, LLM students, independent study students, and students (St. Mary's Alumni) studying for the Bar exam.

- **First year students are not eligible for carrel assignment.**
- Carrel reservations are on a *first-come, first-serve basis*
- Law Journal and Scholar students are eligible for a carrel at the beginning of the Fall semester.

Please check with your Board to see if you have a carrel. If so, please email Brandon Vasquez at bvasquez@stmarytx.edu, or ask at the Circulation Desk.

Where should I use my cell phone in the library?

Please limit cell phone use to the lobby on the library's first floor, the student lounge, and the balcony on the second floor. The reading room and other areas of the library are designated as quiet study spaces; please respect others by placing your cell phone on silent or vibrate and only take calls in the lobby or in the student lounge.

Where is the reserve area?

The reserve area is located behind the circulation desk. This is where we keep many of our high-use materials, like course textbooks, study aids, and practice materials. If you need an item from the reserve section, or are unsure if an item is on reserve, please ask at the circulation desk and we will be happy to assist you.

Does the library have a lost and found?

Yes. If you believe you've lost an item in the library, please ask at the Circulation Desk.

Can I connect to the wireless network with my notebook computer?

Law students and members of the St. Mary's community may connect to the internet with a wireless connection. For more information, please contact the law school's information technology department, in Raba room 101B, or visit their homepage:

<https://www.stmarytx.edu/academics/law/currentstudents/technology/>

Can I use a microfilm or microfiche reader in the library?

Yes, the library has both microfiche readers and microfilm readers available for use in LL 108. Please ask for assistance at the Circulation Desk if you have questions about set-up and use.

Resources & Research Questions

How do I find a book?

The law library's online catalog, Regina, <http://regina.stmarytx.edu/>, will let you search for materials by title, author, subject, keyword, and more. You can search both the Blume and Law Library's collections for both print and online content.

How do I find a journal article?

Try using the e-journal locator, which has a link on the law library's homepage. Enter the title you're looking for, and the locator will tell you where the journal can be found (in print or online), as well as coverage dates. Another great source is the Index to Legal Periodicals, which you can link to from the law library's database page: <http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html>

HeinOnline is another great resource for law journal articles, providing PDF images of the original journal text and complete archives of most law reviews and journals. You can link to HeinOnline from the law library's database page at: <http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html>

What do I need to check out books and other materials?

A valid ID card issued by St. Mary's University is required to borrow library items.

How many items can I check out at a time?

Law students may check-out six items at a time, including items from the Blume library.

What items can I check out?

Generally, permanently bound, single-volume treatises are available for general circulation. Additionally, DVDs, study aids, and other materials may be checked-out for shorter periods of time.

How long may I keep the books or other materials I check out?

- The circulation period is three weeks at a time with one renewal allowed as long as the same item(s) are not wanted by other patrons.
- Reserve items can be checked out for 4 hours only.
- DVDs from the Law in Popular Culture Collection may be checked out for 3 days.

How can I renew my books?

You can renew books once online or by visiting the library Circulation Desk.

How much are overdue fines?

Fines vary per item:

- General Collection 25¢/day
- Reserve Collection 50¢/hour
- Audio-Visual, DVDs \$1/day

Fines will not be waived. If a student accumulates a fine, additional materials may not be checked out until the fine is cleared. In addition, a block will be placed by the registrar's office on any account with an outstanding fine.

Where do I find reserve materials for my professors' courses?

Reserve materials are held behind the Circulation Desk; please ask desk staff for materials. To find out what materials a professor has on reserve, visit the law library's homepage at <http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/>, click the drop down menu for "Law Library Quicklinks" in the top corner, then use the drop down menu to select "Course Reserves".

What electronic resources are available to me?

Law students are provided with access to Westlaw, LexisNexis, Bloomberg Law, HeinOnline, CALI, and CCH Intellconnect, among others. In addition to these, students also can access all databases and publications available from the Blume Library, including JSTOR and Science Direct.

For a complete list of law library databases, visit:

<http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/databases.html>

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Can I access electronic resources from off campus?

Yes. When you click on a subscription database link from home, you will be asked for your last name and student ID number (without the leading zeros), and then you can continue to the resource.

What is Interlibrary Loan?

Interlibrary Loan is a free service provided by the library that can be used when you need a copy of an article, or when you want to borrow a book, or other material that is not available from the St. Mary's University libraries. Our staff will do its best to get a copy or borrow an item for you from another library outside the campus.

How do I submit an Interlibrary Loan request?

The law library can help you borrow materials from other libraries if we do not have the item you need. First, please check the library catalog to make sure we do not have the item in our collection. At the circulation desk, forms are provided for interlibrary loan requests . Simply fill out the form with as much information as you have, and place it in the designated box. Our technical services librarian, Stacy Fowler, will contact you when the materials have arrived. For more information, see the Interlibrary Loan page of the library website at <http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/ILL.html> .

I'm a research assistant for a faculty member and I need to check books out for him/her. How can I do that?

Please call or visit the circulation desk at the law library (210) 436-3435 for assistance.

Library Contacts & Services

What is the library's contact information?

Circulation Desk: (210) 436-3435

Email: lawlibrary@stmarytx.edu

Fax: (210) 436-3240

Mailing Address: Sarita Kenedy East Law Library
School of Law
St. Mary's University
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Where do I go if I have a question?

For any assistance needed, please come to the circulation desk. The staff and librarians on duty are happy to help answer your questions.

Can a librarian help me develop my research skills, assist me in finding resources for a paper, or with other in-depth questions?

Yes, the library welcomes law students who want hands-on assistance with their research questions to sign-up for a reference appointment. To schedule a research appointment, please visit our research appointment page at <http://lawlib.stmarytx.edu/student-services.html> or send an email to Charlie Finger at cfinger@stmarytx.edu.

Can I get help from a librarian in the evening?

Yes, we have librarians available for reference assistance from 8am to 6pm on weekdays, as well as on Sundays. Also see Research Appointment in the above answer.

How do I contact a librarian?

Name	Title	Email	Phone	Office
Robert H. Hu	Director & Professor of Law	rhu@stmarytx.edu	(210) 431-2056	LL 130
Charles Finger	Associate Director & Associate Professor	cfinger@stmarytx.edu	(210) 436-3589	LL 109
Stacy Fowler	Technical Services Librarian & Assistant Professor	sfowler@stmarytx.edu	(210) 431-8073	LL 140
Mike Martinez	Reference Librarian & Associate Professor	mmartinez17@stmarytx.edu	(210) 431-8070	LL 131
Wilhelmina Randtke	Electronic Services Librarian	wrandtke@stmarytx.edu	(210) 436-3512	LL 104
Lee Unterborn	Cataloguer & Associate Professor	lunterborn@stmarytx.edu	(210) 436-3011 ext. 1352	LL 134

Compiled by Liana Morales and Charles Finger

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