

Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No. 11, February, 2004

A Blast from the Past

The two previous issues of *Law Library Briefs* profiled current law library student workers. This issue profiles alumnus Stephen Maguire (Class of 1996) who shares his memories of working in the library during the first year the law library opened its doors. Stephen founded *The Docket* and currently serves as President of the Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. After working in a law firm setting, Stephen now practices law as a solo practitioner in Rhode Island.

Stephen writes: "It is hard to believe that it has been ten years since my first days in the library. I spent a couple of nights per week with classmate Matt Sabo and put the magnetic strips into the books and placed the books on the shelves, all the while discussing the careers we had left behind and the excitement and the rigors of law school. We took positions at the front desk after the shelves were full. With only about 100 students in school that first year, there was plenty of time to study while at the desk. I spent most of the second semester and part of my second year in the computer room putting together the first issues of *The Docket*. Professor

Winson and the library staff regularly contributed material and moral support.

From the start, the library was the school's greatest bragging point. There have been numerous times that I have returned to see the library's continuing evolution and, sometimes, lean on my friends on the library staff. Last year the Law Alumni Association secured even greater library privileges for its members. I am currently a sole practitioner, which gives me a greater appreciation for the continuing library access."



New Library Employees

Christina Wolfskehl, our new Cataloging Assistant, works with our Catalog Librarian Kathleen MacAndrew to provide access to the holdings of the law library through copy cataloging and processing library materials. Christina worked at the Salve Regina University library from 1998-2003, holding positions in both cataloging and circulation departments. She is a graduate of the University of

Massachusetts at Dartmouth and holds a B.A. in English Literature and in English Writing Communications.

Phyllis O'Neill, our new Public Services Assistant, is available to assist students with software and hardware computer problems and printing. She also processes library materials. Prior to joining the law library staff, Phyllis worked as System Support/Programmer Analyst for the Hasbro Toy Company. Other previous employment has been with the John Andrade Insurance Agency where she was Assistant Systems Manager and later promoted to Senior Claim Representative. Phyllis received her B.S. in Computer Information Systems from Roger Williams University.

Please join the law library staff in welcoming Christina Wolfskehl and Phyllis O'Neill.



Tips from the Experts

For those of you following the Office of Career Services' career road maps, the law library's career collection has titles which you

might find useful in career exploration. Of note in the career collection are the following titles containing information on areas of law practice.

Lisa Abrams' *The Official Guide to Legal Specialities: An Insider's Guide to Every Major Practice Area* (KF297 .A27 2000) profiles thirty areas of law practice. Practitioners offer their insights as to the clients, cases/issues, daily activities, and necessary skills that are representative of their speciality.

Although a bit outdated, books in the *American Bar Association Career Series* provide a basic overview of practice in a substantive area of law. Information in each book is based in part on personal interviews and surveys of practitioners in that area of practice. Titles in the series include: *Careers in Admiralty and Maritime Law* (KF1104 .J37 1993); *Careers in Civil Litigation* (KF299 .T7 B39 1990); *Careers in Intellectual Property Law* (KF3165 .Z9 A44 1993); *Careers in Natural Resources and Environmental Law* (KF299 .E6 L86 1987); *Careers in Sports Law* (KF299 .E57 S57 1990); *Entertainment Law Careers* (KF299 .E57 C37 1998); and *Family Law Careers* (KF299 .F3 V59 1998).

The Collection Services staff brings to your attention recently cataloged guides for career exploration from Vault, Inc. The *Vault Career Library* contains brief guides profiling a day in the life of practitioners in specific areas of law and offering strategies for getting hired in each area. Titles include: *Vault Guide to Bankruptcy Law Careers* (KF299 .B35 S78 2003); *Vault Guide to Corporate Law Careers* (KF299 .I5 E416 2003); *Vault Guide to Labor and Employment Law Careers* (KF299 .L3 G78 2003); and *Vault Guide to Litigation Law Careers* (KF299 .L5 V57 2003)

For those students considering a judicial clerkship, read *Behind the Bench: The Guide to Judicial Clerkships* (KF8771 .S77 2002). This guide covers types of clerkships, selection of the court and judge best suited for you, and the application process. Print and online resources for obtaining information on courts and judges are described. For brief biographical information about judges, consult *The American Bench: Judges of the Nation* (Reference, KF8700 .I19 A47) or search the West Legal Directory - Judges in the **WLD-JUDGE** database.

Read the next issue of *Law Library Briefs* for career materials on alternatives to traditional practice, international law careers and public interest law careers. Tips for locating information about lawyers and law firms will be included.

Did you know that since 2001 the law library has had an unofficial mascot, a Black Labrador named Kyack? Kyack is guide dog for third-year student, Michael Moore. Kyack was born on April 22, 1998, offspring of Nancy and Tank, an American Kennel Club champion! Kyack is a graduate of Guiding Eyes for the Blind located in Yorktown Heights, N.Y., where he graduated with honors and assisted Michael as class speaker. Kyack attends law school to assist Michael. His law school activities include tour guide for the law school's open houses. Upon graduation from law school, Michael and Kyack will be relocating to New York City where Michael plans to use his J.D. to pursue a public interest law career assisting blind and disabled children. Kyack's plans are to catch up on his sleep!

Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI)

The method for accessing CALI lessons has changed. You must now register to access the CALI lessons at <http://www.cali.org>. Please contact a librarian for the law school's new authorization code.



Law Library Mascot

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- First-Year Students: Please check
- your mailbox the week of Febru-
- ary 1st for a memo indicating the
- dates and times of your additional
- Westlaw and LexisNexis training.
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