

Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No. 18, January, 2005

FOLLOWING THE “SUPREMES”

New Current Awareness E-mail Service !

Beginning January, 2005, you will receive via e-mail from the Law Library weekly updates to the contents of the Bureau of National Affairs' (BNA) current awareness service *U.S. Law Week*. Available in print and as an electronic database, the *U.S. Law Week* contains summaries and analyses of newly decided federal and state cases, legal news items, and items from the U.S. Supreme Court such as excerpts of oral arguments and full-text opinions of recently decided U.S. Supreme Court cases. The weekly e-mails will highlight the contents added to that week's *U.S. Law Week*. If you have any questions about or need assistance in using this current awareness service, please consult a Reference Librarian.

Other Sources

For those of you who plan to follow the activities of the U.S. Supreme Court during its current term, there are several electronic resources which may be of interest. Materials available through these sources include full-text opinions, case briefs,

summaries or transcripts of oral arguments, Court rules, biographical information on the Justices, and news coverage about the Court.

The U.S. Supreme Court's official website (<http://www.supremecourtus.gov>) provides access to such items as slip opinions, orders, the argument calendar, and transcripts of oral arguments starting with the 1999 Term of the Court. Press releases and transcripts of speeches given by the Justices are available. General information about the Court is also included at the website.

Findlaw's Supreme Court Center (http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme_court/resources.html) features the current term docket, decisions, orders, briefs, rules, and calendar.

The Supreme Court collection at the Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute (LII) website (<http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct>) contains decisions arrayed by date; orders granting and denying cert.; rulings on procedural matters in pending cases; the court calendar and oral

argument schedule; and questions presented in cases to be heard. You can receive syllabi of the Court's decision via e-mail on the date each is decided by subscribing to a current awareness service offered by LII.

At the website of the American Bar Association is information about the U.S. Supreme Court (<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/home.html>). The "Supreme Court Preview" page provides previews of the issues raised in cases pending before the Supreme Court and highlights of key rulings. There are merit briefs beginning with the 2003 - 2004 Term of the Court.

For those who are unable to travel to Washington, D.C. to hear an oral argument before the "Supremes," the Oyez website (<http://www.oyez.org>) offers more than 2000 hours of audio recorded in the U.S. Supreme Court. All audio recorded in the Court since 1995 is available with selective coverage of audio recorded in the Court from 1955 and 1995. New audio materials of oral arguments are made available on the website approximately ten months after the completion of the

Court's term.

LexisNexis and Westlaw have various databases for U.S. Supreme Court materials which include opinions, case briefs, and transcripts of oral arguments. The opinion of a recently decided case is online generally within an hour of its release by the Court. Case briefs are made available within six weeks of publication by the Court. The transcript of an oral argument is online within two weeks after the case has been argued.

For additional details about the electronic resources described in this issue of Law Library Briefs, consult *TimeSaver*, No. 15 "United States Supreme Court - Current Term - Selected Sources" available at <http://law.rwu.edu/Law+Library/Research+Guides.htm>.



Student Library Assistant: Michael Dunn

Substituting for fellow student library assistants during the fall semester and this spring semester is second-year student Michael Dunn. Michael is from Littleton, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont and has a B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in management information systems. Prior to attending law school, Michael was accounts specialist for a telephone and internet service provider in Vermont. He is interested in working

with copyright and intellectual property issues resulting from the internet. Michael is a member of Phi Alpha Delta.



Printing Tips from the Experts!

Several weeks ago, I asked the Computer Lab Assistants to provide me with computing or printing tips which they would like to share with their fellow students. Here are a few!

☞ When adding money to your print/copy card, do not put the money in the dispenser before inserting your card or you will be issued a new card.

☞ You do not have to use your law school student ID and password for email when you are printing. The print pop-up window will take any user ID and password you provide. You need to make sure that you type the identical information when prompted by the print manager software.

☞ Make sure that you put your print/copy card into the card reader when you print and copy.

☞ If you try to print Westlaw and LexisNexis documents in .pdf format, they are directed to the computer lab network (\$) printers rather than the Westlaw and LexisNexis stand-alone (free) printers.



New Books

The New Books display is back by popular demand! It is located on the shelving formerly occupied by the Career Collection. The Career Collection is now on the shelving adjacent to Training Lab 2. Featured in the New Books display are recent acquisitions cataloged and processed by the Law Library's technical services staff on topics currently in the news or of a controversial nature or with interesting titles! They can be checked out of the library for twenty-one days.



First-year LexisNexis and Westlaw Training

Introductory training on LexisNexis and Westlaw will be conducted the weeks of January 17th and 24th. Advanced training on LexisNexis and Westlaw will be conducted the weeks of January 31st and February 7th.

First-year students, please check your mailboxes this month for two memos with the assigned dates and times for your LexisNexis and Westlaw training sessions. Please have registered and available your LexisNexis ID and Westlaw password when you attend your training sessions. You will need them for full access.

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