

Allegheny County
Law Library
operating hours:

MONDAY - THURSDAY
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SATURDAY
NOON - 5:00 p.m.



DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LEGAL INFORMATION
ALLEGHENY COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Newsletter

March 2002



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HEIN-ON-LINE PERIODICAL SERVICE

Hein-On-Line Service

Both Duquesne University and Allegheny County have added **Hein-On-Line** to its online databases accessible for patrons in both locations. This service is a new digital collection of 170 full-text legal periodicals online of major law reviews, such as Yale, Harvard, University of Pennsylvania law reviews, etc. from their inception. Not only can you access the law reviews and read them as if you have the book in front of you, but you can do key word searching in the database if you are trying to locate particular authors, articles or subjects.

At the Allegheny County Law Library, there is an icon on the screen of the computers. At the Duquesne University Center for Legal Information, just go to the Library's Web site, www.lawlib.duq.edu, then click on Subscription Links, then Hein-On-Line.

Duquesne University's Law Review will be added to the database in the near future.

LIBRARY PUBLICATION SERIES

Publication Series

R. Stanton Wettick, Jr. *Allegheny County Discovery Opinions Volume 5 (1999-2001)*. Compiled by Joel Fishman, Catherine Gerhold, Ashlie Donaldson, and Lisa Wilson. 2002.

It can be purchased for \$35 plus \$2.45 sales tax and \$4 for shipping for a total of \$41.45.

Joel Fishman, *Index to the Pennsylvania Family Lawyer Vols. 1-20 (1980-1998)*. 2002. It can be purchased for \$35 plus \$2.45 sales tax and \$4 for shipping for a total of \$41.45.

Make check payable to Duquesne University Law Library.

LIBRARY HOSTS PROTHONOTARY'S ELECTRONIC FILING TRAINING PROGRAM

Prothonotary Program

The Prothonotary's Office of Allegheny County is offering 25 classes between January and March in the law library's computer lab to train the legal community in electronic filing. Each class had up to 20 participants gaining hands-on training for this important service.

The training program introduces lawyers and their support staff to the procedures for obtaining an account with the Prothonotary's Office and how to use the system. One registers online and then selects payment methods for filing either by credit card or by a deposit account. A person can file new cases and/or secondary filings. The Web site also provides for searching by name of litigant, block/lot number, case search by case number, and case search by date range. Fees for searching by litigant's name are 15¢ during office hours, 10¢ for off hours searching. Through a grant to the Court of Common Pleas, the Court, the Allegheny County Bar Association, the Prothonotary's Office, and the law libraries collaborated in offering 25 classes between January and March in the law library's computer lab to train the legal community in electronic filing. It is expected that almost 500 people will gain training on this important new program offered by the Court of Common Pleas in conjunction with the Prothonotary's Office. Eric Feder, Deputy Prothonotary and Dr. Joel Fishman, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, served as the instructors for the course. Because of the high demand to hold these classes, arrangements are being made to continue the classes beyond March, but they are not yet finalized.

LIBRARIES INSTITUTE A NEW CIRCULATION FEE STRUCTURE

New Library Circulation Fee Structure

In the December 2001 Newsletter, we announced the revised circulation fee structure. A summary of the program is again printed for patron use:

An annual borrowers' fee will be charged to each user for checking out library materials for home or office use. The amount of fees charged is consistent with the norms practiced by other similar public law libraries in the country (e.g., Minneapolis, Seattle and San Diego).

The borrowers' fee structure is based on the premise that research performed by one attorney in an organization benefits the entire company. Therefore, law firms and corporate legal departments are thus required to pay the annual borrowers' fees for the total number of attorneys in the company, if it intends to check out library materials from ACLL and Duquesne law libraries.

The schedule of the annual borrowers' fees is as follows:

1. Attorneys of Allegheny County (both private and governmental):

<u>Firm Size</u>	<u>Fee</u>
X-Large (101 +)	\$3,000
Large (61 - 100)	\$2,000
Medium (31 -60)	\$1,000
Small (1 - 30)	\$30/attorney

2. Attorneys outside of Allegheny County: \$75 per person

3. General Public of Allegheny County: \$30 per person

4. General Public outside of Allegheny County: \$50 per person

5. Judges (federal, state and local) will not be required to pay borrowers's fees. Other governmental law departments are not excluded.

The library has implemented a single, online catalog and circulation system for both libraries. In addition to the Allegheny collection, the Duquesne library collection will begin to circulate to library patrons, who will be able to take out up to seven books at a time and will be able to return them to either library.

The fine system will remain at \$1 per day, while reserve books at Duquesne will be charged \$.50 per hour. A patron who loses books must pay market value of the book, plus a processing fee of \$50 per book.

The library continues to provide a document delivery service for photocopying for either pickup or fax and will add electronic delivery of documents for \$5 per document (e.g., Westlaw or Lexis case).

We will add a new program to hand delivery of materials (up to five books) downtown for \$15 per trip.

The professional staff will also start providing in-depth legal research (compiling legislative histories, expert witness background reports, medical information searches, company profiles, etc) for \$50 per hour.

We will offer discounts to members on services once the program is in place (e.g., document delivery, CLE programs).

If you have any questions concerning this new arrangement, please call Dr. Joel Fishman at (412) 350-5727 or Paul Recht at (412) 350-5353.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF LAW EXAMINERS

Law Board's 100th Anniversary

On May 2, 1902, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court promulgated an order establishing the State Board of Law Examiners. Although the Supreme Court had rules governing admission, there was no uniform examination for admission. County bar associations had their own local committees giving a variety of printed or oral exams for admission to the local county courts. In 1895, at the opening meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, one of the first steps taken by that organization was to create a Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. Over the next seven years, the Committee and its successors worked on

obtaining information from the local county bars, determining how to approach the Supreme Court and legislature, and eventually, in 1902, obtained the Court's support to create a state-wide board of law examiners.

On November 11, 1902, the first rules were published. Pennsylvania fell in line with other states in having a uniform system of admission to the Supreme Court. For a more complete account, see Joel Fishman, "The Establishment of Pennsylvania State Board of Law Examiners, 1895-1902" (unpublished paper, 2002).

LIBRARY SURVEY RESULTS

Library Survey Results

This survey was conducted between November 1, 2001 and December 24, 2001. The results have been tabulated by type of patron and additional comments incorporated from the surveys. There were 111 responses to the survey broken down into five groups: lawyers (88), paralegals (5), law students (5), general public (5) and law librarians (8).

Some of the results from the survey were as follows:

- 99% of the lawyers use the library at least once a month — over 50% of the lawyers use the library between one to five times a month, and 25% at least weekly.
- Only a little more than half use the library's computers for access to the Internet and the library's catalog. Only a small number use the online services provided.
- Slightly less than half of our lawyer patrons knew that we were offering CLE courses, and many provided their e-mail addresses to notify them of future courses
- Over 50% of the lawyers use reference services either weekly or monthly and only 8% responded 'never.'
- Approximately a third of the lawyers borrow books on a weekly or monthly basis, and another third a few times a year. More than a third do not borrow books at all.
- Almost 75% of all patrons did not know that we offer a delivery service between the Allegheny County Law Library and Duquesne University Center for Legal Information.
- The majority of lawyer respondents (from 58% to 72%) did not know that they can access Shepard's Citations, KeyCite or Loislaw, although there are notices on the carrels.
- A majority of users did not know that they can access our library catalog online or from their office through the Internet.
- A majority did not know that we offer a fee-based document delivery service.
- The library received a 99% score from satisfied to extremely satisfied respondents.
- An almost 100% rating reflects the high quality of assistance that the staff attempts to provide to all patrons to meet their various needs. Those that commented provided highly commendable statements for the professional staff.

In conclusion, the survey continues to demonstrate that the library provides an important legal resource to our patrons. Although most patrons are satisfied with the library, there is a need for the staff to "get the word out" about its services and improve lines of communication to its patrons.

In order to carry out the suggestions derived from the survey, the library will prepare a brochure describing services. In addition, we can begin to use the electronic mail service offered by the Allegheny County Bar Association in its weekly electronic newsletter sent to approximately half the members of the bar.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LEGAL INFORMATION

ALLEGHENY COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

CLE PROGRAM CALENDAR

CLE Program Calendar

CLE COURSES

March 27, 2002 (Wednesday)

Pennsylvania Legal Research Manual	3 hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Fee-Based Legal Research	3 hours 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

April 25, 2002 (Thursday)

Internet for Legal Research	3 hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Refresher Course in Federal Legal Research	3 hours 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

April 26, 2002 (Friday)

Fee-based Legal Research (Lexis & Westlaw)	3 hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Internet for Legal Research	3 hours 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

May 29, 2002 (Wednesday)

Pennsylvania Legal Research Manual	3 hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Internet for Legal Research	3 hours 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

June 27, 2002 (Thursday)

Internet for Legal Research	3 hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Refresher Course: Federal Legal Research	3 hours 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

CLE COURSES: These programs have been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for three (3) hours of substantive law, practice and procedure CLE credit and zero (0) hours of ethics, professionalism or substance abuse CLE credit.

FEE: \$80 per session;

PHONE REGISTRATION: Call Kathy Koehler, 412-396-6282. For further information call Joel Fishman, 412-350-5353.

Please make check payable to: **Duquesne University Law School.**

NOTE B CLE COURSES BEGINNING MAY 1, 2002:

Patrons with borrowing cards will be charged \$80 per three-hour session; non-library borrowers will be charged \$100 per session.

SNAP SHOTS

Snap Shots

The National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Virginia, is an active clearinghouse in coordinating and disseminating information on actual applications and successes in applying technology in the courts. For more information, visit <http://www.courtroom21.net/>.

The ABA 1998 Large Law Firm Technology survey confirms that 95% of attorneys use the **Internet** for legal research.

Effective January 16, 2002, Northern Light <http://www.northernlight.com>, a leading general purpose search engine, is no longer a free service.

Currently, there 2.5 billion publicly available pages are on the Web. The number of Web pages grows by 7 million pages a day.

In April 2000, The Wall Street Journal estimated that approximately 98% of the words in Webster's English Dictionary had been registered as domain names.

When you use Atlantic Shepards paper books, you get only Lexis citations to the cases decided in Pennsylvania Superior and Commonwealth Courts, since the Pennsylvania Superior and Commonwealth Court Reports have ceased publication.

The **Pennsylvania Legal Research Handbook**, authored by Prof. Frank Liu, Dr. Fishman, Mr. Dittakavi Rao and Mr. Tsegaye Beru, and published by American Lawyer Media, is

the only book currently available explaining how to do Pennsylvania legal research to obtain information manually and electronically for both primary and secondary legal information sources.

Members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association can obtain the full text of un-annotated cases from the Pennsylvania Supreme, Superior and Commonwealth Courts, Third Circuit and United States Supreme Courts, un-annotated Pennsylvania statutes and United States Code and Federal and Pennsylvania court rules for free from Lexis-Nexis service. Go to <http://www.pabar.org> and click on InCite to access.

Lexis-Nexis customers can now access Knight Ridder Digital's metropolitan newspapers, such as the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Miami Herald, etc., on the same day or within a day.

Access Law Lists <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/~llou/lawlists/info.html> to learn the meaning and history of the law lists and also to select and subscribe.

The popular general purpose legal search engines are Findlaw, www.findlaw.com, LawRunner, www.lawrunner.com, Megalaw, www.megalaw.com, Heiros gamos, www.hg.org, lawguru, www.lawguru.com, All Law, www.alllaw.com.

POPULAR LEGAL WEB SITES

Popular Legal Web Sites

Findlaw (www.findlaw.com)

Findlaw is a multifaceted web site designed to provide resources for legal professionals, law students and potential legal clients (including individuals and businesses). Practicing attorneys seeking free legal research can obtain access to federal and state statutes, codes, forms and case law via a keyword search, popular name, citation, title name, docket number or some combination of the aforementioned search terms. Generally, all federal and state level statutory law is available while only limited case law materials are accessible (typically dating back to the early to mid 1990s). Findlaw's student resources include access to course outlines, law school rankings and sites, law review articles, employment information and Bar preparation materials. Finally, Findlaw makes information available to the non-legal community to assist them in understanding the law and procuring the assistance of effective counsel.

Heiros Gamos (www.hg.com)

Heiros Gamso is designed in much the same way as Findlaw as it is targeted at legal practitioners, law students and prospective legal clients. However, access to substantive legal materials is somewhat more cumbersome via Heiros Gamso due to the fact that such resources are generally

accessed through other sites including Findlaw itself. Nonetheless, Heiros Gamso does contain an abundance of law related information including listings and information on law firms in the United States and abroad as well as maintaining consumer information, legal directories and general practice guides.

Mega Law (www.megalaw.com)

Mega Law is another basic law related site similar that provides access to a variety of state and federal resources. Users can access statutes and limited case law related to any of the 50 states or the federal government. Typically, access to these materials is provided through links to the specified jurisdiction. Mega Law also maintains news-related information, a court reporter location service, and a fee-based process service for those seeking to serve out of state defendants. Additionally, users can access links to law review articles from virtually every U.S. law school and obtain a variety of free legal forms in PDF format.

Thomas (Thomas.loc.gov)

The Thomas web site is specifically designed to provide online access to federal legislative information. Users can obtain information relating to the voting records of members of congress, the floor schedules for the House and Senate, committee reports and a variety of other sources. The most relevant of these other sources to legal practitioners may be the option to check the status of any current or pending

legislation before the Congress or Senate. This feature allows users to obtain a status report by using a bill number, keyword or phrase. Additionally, the full text of all legislation dating back to 1989 is currently available, while summaries are available for legislation dating back to 1975.

GPO (www.access.gpo.gov)

GPO is the official web site of the United States Government Printing Office, which operates to provide free electronic access to a wealth of government products and information. The contents of this site include links to federal agencies, congressional records, economic reports and indicators, and limited access to U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Additionally, GPO maintains over 1,500 databases of federal information including the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations. Finally, this site serves as the federally mandated clearinghouse for permanent public access to government information products distributed through the Federal Depository Library Program. It should be noted that GPO is user friendly and does provide user support to aid researchers in obtaining information through its site.

Cornell (www.law.cornell.edu)

This comprehensive legal research site is maintained by the Legal Information Institute (LLI) at the Cornell School of Law and is designed exclusively as a legal research mechanism for practitioners and academics. One of the unique features of this site is the list of recently decided cases on its home page. This list contains a brief description of the case holding and allows access to the full text in PDF format. Additionally, the LLI provides access to substantive federal and state resources. These resources include a compilation of statutes and access to case law (typically dating back to the latter part of the 1990s) and legislative materials.

Federal Government (www.firstgov.gov)

This site is the result of a government initiative to procure a detailed website that would provide the general public with information about all aspects of the government. This effort has proved successful as Firstgov now maintains a comprehensive site with links and/or information regarding virtually every aspect of the federal government. Members of the legal community are likely to find most of their general research needs under the "Library and Reference" link, which provides information on laws, regulations, statistics and various other topics. Specifically, this link will connect users to Fedlaw, which is a compilation of federal legal research that provides access to just about any federal legal resource available. It should be noted that Firstgov's target audience is not limited to the legal profession, for it contains a variety of resources that are useful to the general public, such as information on how to prepare tax returns, access to immigration forms, government job listings and much more.

Pennsylvania Legal Research Web Site (www.Pennsylvanialegalresearch.com)

This site, maintained by Dittakavi Rao, Associate Director, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information, is the most comprehensive compilation of Pennsylvania legal research available online. Specifically, this site condenses a

variety of Pennsylvania research links in one place so as to provide easy access to research material. These links are divided into categories characterized by area of law (i.e. family law or corporate law) or by type of research material (i.e. statutes, county rules, etc.). Additionally, this site does contain some links to federal material such as case law and statutes.

Law.com (www.law.com/pa)

This site is particularly beneficial to legal practitioners seeking to keep abreast of key changes in the law of their jurisdiction. Specifically, Law.com provides daily news on key decisions that have been handed down in the Pennsylvania courts. Additionally, users can view local rule changes as listed in the Pennsylvania Bulletin in PDF format. Search capabilities similar to those of Findlaw and Cornell are also available pursuant to a 30-day free trial period.

Jurist (www.jurist.law.pitt.edu)

Jurist is yet another general legal resource web site providing access to current legal news and indirect access to publicly available case law and statutes. The differentiating aspect of Jurist is its focus on legal academia. Pursuant to this focus, Jurist maintains links to 350 online legal journals, lists recently published law review articles, and contains a variety of student and teacher resources.

LLRX (www.llrx.com)

LLRX is a comprehensive site related to the latest developments in legal research. This site contains articles related to current events with a special emphasis on legal research concerns. Thus, this site can prove useful for users seeking assistance in conducting advanced Internet research. For example, if a user is interested in researching company information online, he/she need only enter the relevant terms in the search box (in this case "locating company information"). Upon doing so the user is presented with various articles related to the subject of researching company information. Highlights of this site are: Zimmerman's legal research guide and court rules.