



# Law Library News

Volume 3 Issue 5

<http://library.law.miami.edu>

November/December 2003

## WEBSITE OF THE MONTH



### The Avalon Project

(<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon>)

Yale University has mounted a major resource of historical documents in the fields of law, history, economics, politics, government and diplomacy. While consisting primarily of documents related to American history and government of the past three centuries, the range covers all time periods up to the present and many international documents.

There are numerous ways to find documents by searching  
*(Continued page 2)*

## Introducing: Lauren Collins

Sally Wise

Please Welcome Lauren Collins our new Reference/Faculty Services Librarian.

Lauren received her Master of Science in Information (MSI) from the University of Michigan in 2003 and her J.D. degree in 1994 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She interned at the University of Michigan, Government Documents Center and at the University of Michigan Law Library. Lauren has also practiced labor and employment law in Winston-Salem, North Carolina



and in Detroit, Michigan. At Central Michigan University, she was the Associate Director of Administration where she identified grant opportunities, prepared grant proposals, and administered a training program for entrepreneurs. She also worked at the Urban Business Institute and was a summer intern for Justice Conrad Mallett, Jr. of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Please stop by the reference desk and say hello!

## Preemption Checks

Virginia Templeton

Before writing a law review article, the author needs to be certain that the exact concept, subject, case, or law, on which he/she is writing has not been written about previously. All of the sources listed below must be checked periodically during the writing until the article is submitted to the publisher. Look in as many indexes as possible because, even if they claim to have similar scopes, one may include something the other does not.

Online indexes are a good way to start. The *Index to Legal Periodicals* is on Lexis and Westlaw, and *Legal Resource Index* is accessible on Lexis. The *Index to Foreign Periodicals* gives citations to periodicals from civil law countries (in original language), and periodicals that deal with international or comparative law. *Legal-Trac*, *Index to Legal Periodicals*, and  
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## New Class Offered

Barbara Brandon

This spring the law school is offering a one-credit advanced legal research in environmental law. This course will improve your skills in researching federal and state law, legislative history, administrative research, litigation tools, loose-leaf services and other secondary sources. The class will also focus on real estate transfer issues, permitting and enforcement.



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See Page 4 for information on 1L Lexis and Westlaw classes in January.

## New Electronic Resource: Aspen Treatises on Loislaw.com

Helen Wohl



Loislaw is a lower cost alternative to Lexis and Westlaw for online legal research. The really attractive part for currently enrolled University of Miami Law School students is that you can use Loislaw at work all year long, without restrictions. Lexis and Westlaw are only available to students for coursework and access is often restricted by Lexis and Westlaw in the summer. So when you take that summer job or part-time position this year, consider using Loislaw.

In addition to cases, statutes, rules and regulations, Loislaw, through the University of Miami Law Library, also has five libraries of useful and up-to-date treatises that can help you with your research. These titles include analysis, checklists and forms.

The **Evidence Library** includes *Wigmore on Evidence* and handbooks on Evidence in Illinois, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut plus three other titles.

Notable titles from the **General Litigation Library** include Aspen's *Deposition Handbook* and *The Trial Lawyer*.

The **Business Practice Library** includes Aspen's *Choosing the Right Business Entity, Purchase and Sale of a Business*

and three other titles.

The **Employment Law Library** includes Aspen's *Covenants Not to Compete*, Perritt's *Employee Dismissal Law and Practice* and three other titles.

Finally, the **Employment Discrimination Law Library** includes *Employment Discrimination Law & Practice, Representing Plaintiffs in Title VII Actions, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Law & Practice* and four other titles.

Register for Loislaw, using the instructions below, and discover other practical titles available online. (Note: the law library does not subscribe to all the libraries available through Loislaw – just the ones mentioned above.)



To take advantage of this offer, go to <http://www.loislawschool.com> and register to receive your own individual password. You must use the special UM access code. This code is available by going to our library web page (<http://library.law.miami.edu>), looking under "Subscription Databases", "Loislaw" or by coming to the Reference Desk and asking a librarian. (On campus, you can access Loislaw without a password). Ask a librarian if you have any questions about using Loislaw.

## Register for CALI Lessons

Need a little extra practice before exams start? Try running a CALI lesson. There are over 300 lessons covering 28 different legal topics. Students have access to the lessons through the law school network or through the internet.

On the web, CALI has a new web page which requires users to register before running the lessons. To register, students and faculty need a Law School Authorization Code. You can find the password under the Law Library Resources icon on your desktop or from the Start– All Programs menu under Legal Research Applications.

The new CALI web address is:  
<http://www2.cali.org>.



## Avalon cont.

author, title, subject or event, keywords or phrases, specific collections by time period, etc. A quick perusal will reveal the broad coverage: American Revolution, Confederate documents, Native Americans, African-Americans, Cold War, Blackstone's Commentaries, Nuremburg War Crimes Trial, treaties, diplomatic papers, and UN documents, to name a few. An extensive collection of human rights cases and documents, "Project Diana," is subsumed within the larger project and shares the same search capabilities.

There is an arrangement of diplomatic documents and treaties by common name for ease of location. A text comparison tool allows side-by-side display of frames of marked-up text for close inspection. Texts are linked internally and to any supporting documents mentioned within the text. In fact, that is how the database expands. When a new document is added, all the documents it cites must be added also. The project accepts recommendations from users regarding new documents to include.

Submitted by Leila Mestrits  
Sr. Cataloging Librarian

## Visiting the Federal Courthouse: Advice for Students Kay Mackey



Whether you are interested in seeking a federal clerkship or simply want to see our legal system in action, a visit to the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Florida courthouse can be an enlightening experience. Individual citizens, even law students, are welcome to observe court in session.

Court proceedings are generally open to the public. In a few situations the public may not have full access to court proceedings. For example, high-profile trials generally fill the courtroom, and there may not be enough space to accommodate everyone who would like to attend. Access to the courtroom also may be restricted for security or privacy reasons, such as the protection of a juvenile or a confidential informant.

The Miami courthouse is located at 301 North Miami Avenue. Court operating hours are from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. You will be required to go through security, so leave your knives and guns at home. **You are not allowed to bring cell phones, pagers, PDAs, tape recorders or laptops into the courthouse.**

Dress appropriately for your visit. Business attire is a good idea, but definitely leave the jeans and t-shirts at home. T-

shirts commemorating last Spring Break in Cancun are definite no-nos.

Upon entering the courthouse, you can check the day's calendar to determine what cases are scheduled. Court calendars are typically not made publicly available in advance, so you generally don't have the luxury of planning ahead. If you are interested in observing a particular judge in action, contact the judge's chambers for information. Phone numbers can be found in numerous places including the court's web site (<http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>) and the *Miami Daily Business Review*.

Once in the courtroom, don't forget where you are. Behave with decorum. Do not attempt to slip counsel your resume. Remember to rise when the judge enters or leaves the courtroom. If *you* enter or leave while court is in session, do so unobtrusively.

For additional information on the Southern District including driving directions, view their web site, <http://www/flsd.uscourts.gov>. The nearest Metrorail stop is Government Center.



Finally, enjoy the experience.

## Preemption, cont.

*Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* can be accessed through Baron, the online catalog, and the Subscription Databases link on the law library's web page. (*Index to Legal Periodicals* is not working on the public catalog terminals at this time.) These indexes cannot be accessed from off campus, except through Lexis or Westlaw.

The hard copy edition of *Index to Legal Periodicals* can be searched back to the beginning of the last century. It is shelved with the hard copy edition of *Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals* at the end of the periodical section on the second floor near the photocopy room.

The law library has two print indexes to Canadian legal literature: the *Index to Canadian Legal Literature*, part of the *Canadian Abridgement*, and the *Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature*, published by the Canadian Association of Law Libraries. Both are shelved at the end of the Anglo-American Periodicals Collection on the second floor.

Great care must be used in searching the full text sources

(as contrasted to indexes) on Lexis and Westlaw because not all legal periodical articles are included in these databases, and the ones that are included do not precede the mid-1980s. Also, the coverage in the earlier years was selective (i.e. not all articles were included). Historical searches can be made by searching Hein Online, but again, the coverage is selective.



The Legal Scholarship Network (<http://www.ssrn.com/lsn/>) provides abstracts and full text of selected articles that have been accepted for publication but have not yet been published. The researcher can search the legal papers only, or search the entire site, which also includes the Accounting Research Network, the Economics Research Network, and the Financial Economics Network.

When a topic concerns an area that is tangential to law, a routine check of some of the databases on Richter Library's web page (<http://www.library.miami.edu>) might be worthwhile. Some of these databases are *Historical Abstracts*, *PsycINFO*, *PAIS International* and the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. A hardcopy index, *Index to Periodicals Related to Law*, is located at the end of the alphabetical arrangement of Anglo-American Periodicals in the law library.

**Fall Hours** August 18th-November 30th

	<b>Library Hours</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Mon.-Thurs	7am-Midnight	8am-10pm
Friday	7am-10pm	8am-6pm
Saturday	9am-10pm	10am-6pm
Sunday	9am-Midnight	Noon-8pm

The law library will be closed on November 27th for Thanksgiving.

**Exam Hours** December 1st -18th

	<b>Library Hours</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Mon.-Thurs	7am-3am	8am-10pm
Friday	7am-3am	8am-6pm
Saturday	8:30am-3am	10am-6pm
Sunday	8:30am-3am	Noon-8pm

For intersession hours, please view the library's web page, or call (305) 284-2739.

**Library Directory**

- Circulation & Reserves 284-3563
- Reference Desk 284-3585
- Automated Operator 284-2250
- Administrative Office 284-2251
- **Other University Libraries**
- Richter Circulation 284-3233
- Richter Reference 284-4722
- Medical Library 243-6403
- Marine Library 361-4060

Law Library News is a publication by the University of Miami Law Library. It is published bimonthly.

Law Library News is also available on the Law Library's web site (<http://library.law.miami.edu/info.html#news>).

Send all comments and contributions to Virginia Templeton at [vtemplet@law.miami.edu](mailto:vtemplet@law.miami.edu) or 284-1927.

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**Computer Column**

**1L Training in Lexis & Westlaw**

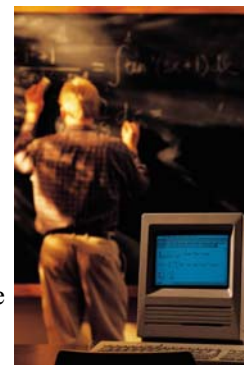
November marks the beginning of Spring Training Season for 1Ls. Here is what happens during those first few days in January.

The training begins at **9:00 a.m. on Monday January 5, 2004** and runs through **4 p.m. Wednesday January 7, 2004**.

Each student must take three separate classes:

**One Boolean Logic Lecture/LoisLaw demonstration:** This session is designed to provide an overview of the syntax of online searching and of the various search options available on Lexis and Westlaw. It will also address other important issues such as options for additional training, where to go for help, and current restrictions on the accounts. Passwords for both services will be distributed at this session.

The second portion of this lecture will consist of a demonstration and description of Loislaw. Loislaw is an Internet-based online legal research service that is a recent competitor to Lexis and Westlaw. Loislaw provides access to federal and state cases, statutes, regulations, and, more recently, treatises. (See page 2 for more information on Loislaw.)



**The Boolean Logic Lecture must be taken before the hands-on sessions.** The hands-on sessions need not be taken in any particular order.

**One Westlaw Hands-On Session** This hour-long interactive tour of the database will introduce students to the screens and commands of Westlaw. Participants will get an inside look at the types of material available on Westlaw as well as instruction on how to retrieve documents. Instructors will also demonstrate the two search methods: Terms and Connectors and Natural Language.

**One Lexis Hands-On Session** Like the Westlaw tour, this 60-minute session is designed to serve as an introduction to the content, features and search methods of Lexis

**For additional information and a list of frequently asked questions, visit the law library's web site (<http://library.law.miami.edu>) or the reference desk (305-284-3585).**