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Notes from the Underground

G.G.U. Library News

September 2001
Volume 1, Number 1

Welcome, to the first issue of a revised "Notes from the Underground." This newsletter will be published bi-monthly accompanying the bi-monthly acquisitions list. Regular features in the newsletter will be book and website reviews, a Lexis/Westlaw Update, staff news and announcements of library events.

This newsletter will keep you up-to-date on what is going on in the Law Library and what the staff are doing to provide the best library and online services to the faculty and students of the GGU Law School. The newsletter is also available online via the Law Library's website at http://internet.ggu.edu/law_library/index.htm under *Law Library's News and Events*. We hope that you enjoy it.

New Staff

During the summer, we have welcomed four new staff members: Joselin Benson, Lori Townsend, Edgar Howell, and Joy Pascual

Joselin Benson is the Government Documents Assistant. He is currently a graduate student in the Master of Science Software Engineering program here at GGU. Joselin holds a bachelors degree in finance from Saint Louis University, Missouri. While an undergraduate student, Joselin worked as library assistant in the Circulation and Interlibrary Loan departments of the Pius XII Memorial Library at Saint Louis University.

Lori Townsend is our new Public Services Assistant. Lori comes to us from Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, California, where she served as librarian for the last three years. Prior to that position, Lori worked in the Special

Collections Department of the Rivera Library at U.C. Riverside. Lori holds a bachelors degree in history from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Edgar Howell is the Computer Lab Coordinator and the Law Library's web-master. Edgar comes to us from the Business Services Office here at GGU. Edgar holds a bachelors degree in computer information systems from Golden Gate University. He has extensive experience in hardware maintenance, working with computer systems, and programming.

Joy Pascual joined the library staff in August as the Library Assistant for Technical Services. In this position, Joy will assist other staff in processing new materials for the collection and in updating materials currently in the collection. Joy is also a graduate student at GGU in the Integrated Marketing Communications Program. She worked for several companies in the Philippines before coming to San Francisco to pursue graduate studies.

We are very fortunate to have them on our staff.

Staff Professional Development

This past July Margaret Arnold and Maryanne Gerber journeyed to Minneapolis for the American Association of Law Libraries Convention. The title of the conference was "New Realities/New Roles" and the sessions focused on integrating technology with the traditional practice of law librarianship. There were presentations about completely virtual law libraries (happening in a very limited way), 24/7 online reference projects (using interactive email systems) and futuristic visions of where technology may take law libraries in the future.

One session that was of great interest involved a panel discussion of wireless networks in law schools. As you may know, last year we installed a wireless network for 8 pc's in the lab on the lower level of the library. So, this session provided a good opportunity to compare our experience with that of other law

schools in implementing wireless technology and to acquire information about new developments in this technology. The sessions showed that we are well ahead of the wireless curve in terms of dealing with security and hardware issues. We are also poised to expand our project in the future as new port/hub standards are introduced that will allow for greater speed. In preparation for this expansion, we are currently conducting a survey of some of the schools that have opened up wireless connections to all their students in order to gauge both the feasibility and advisability of such an expansion.

Margaret and Maryanne also participated in workshops for instructors of Advanced Legal Research and left feeling that we are progressive in our approach to teaching advanced legal research here at Golden Gate. Our integration of electronic resources in all four of the advanced research classes taught by the law librarians speaks well for our commitment to offering training on the latest research tools combined with a more traditional research approach.

Also of note, Marina Bacchetti will attend the Federal Depository Conference in Alexandria, VA this fall. Marina worked very hard to insure that the Law Library passed its GPO inspection this past spring with flying colors. She is looking forward to learning about the new requirements for overseeing a government depository collection so that Golden Gate can retain its reputation as a having a fine depository program.

Golden Gate Libraries Acquire New Server and Millennium Software

The Golden Gate University libraries have acquired both a new server and a new software package called Millennium. The new server increases the speed of the online catalog and remote databases. The new software allows for a full web interface with the libraries' catalog. One of the most noticeable aspects of the new software is that it allows true keyword searching capability. What this means for law students is that in addition to being able to keyword search on titles they can now do keyword searches on authors. For example, if you want to find

"California Procedure" by B.E. Witkin, you can now find this title by doing a keyword search of the author's name: "Witkin."

Please stay posted for more information about the new library software and how it can help you locate information in the near future.

Melodie M. Frances, Innopac Systems Librarian

WESTLAW, LEXIS and Beyond

Most faculty members have new PCs by now and have noted that the Westlaw and Lexis software were not installed. Both companies are putting their efforts into advancements for their .com applications and encourage use of those sites. Our Electronic Services Librarian, Maryanne Gerber, has already helped some faculty become acquainted with the functionality of the web-based versions of these services. She is also planning to give an online demonstration at an upcoming faculty meeting. But, if you have any questions or need assistance, please call Maryanne at ext. 6520.

There are a couple of new features on both Westlaw and Lexis that might interest you:

WESTLAW - the push this year has been to simplify the way the West Digest works online. While one has been able to do topic/key number searches directly from any headnote for years, the process is now more intuitive. This feature will be demonstrated at an upcoming faculty meeting.

LEXIS - has added a great new feature to aid the researcher in navigating through a document. When viewing a case or statute, you can click on the EXPLORE button in the lower left-hand corner of the screen. From the menu that appears, choose an area of the document (for example, "dissent" or "judge") to go right to that part of the document. At present, this feature is only available by using Internet Explorer. But Lexis plans to make it available via the Netscape

browser in the near future. By the way, Westlaw has a similar feature called FIELDS -- button located in the lower right-hand corner of a document.

Also, check out LAW.COM - now part of American Lawyers Media. The website has added features that make it a worthwhile stop when doing legal research on the Internet.

Book Reviews

Brownbridge, Ronald L. *With Sweet Majesty, Warren E. Burger*. Washington, D.C. : Trust for the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, 2000.

In remembrance of Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, this book covers his opinions on controversial matters, his conservatism, and interviews with prominent judges -- Judge Kenneth W. Starr and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. This book promises to offer a fascinating read especially for those interested in legal history, United States history, and the Supreme Court.

Sarat, Austin and Thomas R. Kearns, eds. *History, Memory, and the Law*. Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press, c1999.

This book is part of the Amherst Series in law, jurisprudence, and social thought. It is an introduction to the writing of history and the historical recording of legal decisions and practices. The essays in this volume run the gamut of topics from forms of judicial blindness to the regulation of film and radio speech. Without a doubt, the editors of this book have provided us with a thought provoking collection of essays certain to stimulate much thought and discussion.

Conant, Michael. *Constitutional Structure and Purposes*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001.

This study of constitutional structure and its purposes is basically an epistemological critique of judicial reasoning. What this study attempts to answer

is the question, "to what extent can opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States in constitutional controversies produce reliable knowledge of law?" That is, "what is the level of uncertainty in constitutional law?" Probing and well written, this volume offers thoughtful and scholarly analysis in answering this question.

Shaman, Jeffrey M. *Constitutional Interpretation: Illusion and Reality*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2001.

Jeffrey Shaman offers a cogent and insightful examination of the process of constitutional interpretation via the viewpoints of history, political science, and jurisprudence. The product of years of study, teaching, and writing about the Supreme Court and the Constitution, this book offers a wealth of information, thought, and scholarly work for an in-depth look at the various ways of interpreting the Constitution.

Bell, Derrick. *Race, Racism and American Law*. New York: Aspen Law & Business, 2000.

Derrick Bell's fourth edition of *Race, Racism and American Law* adds depth and breadth to the preceding editions while incorporating "significant new materials and features." New chapters have been added – Chapter One, "The Nomenclature of Race", gives a review of "the theoretical underpinnings" of race and racial meaning in the United States and Chapter Four, "Color-Blind Constitutionalism: A Rediscovered Rationale," discusses the racial standard which has transformed the equal protection clause from a defense of minorities from majority abuse and domination into a controversial mechanism used to the majority's advantage during judicial review. Chapter Three, "Racism and Other Nonwhites," focuses in more depth on the racial experiences of Native Americans, Chinese, Japanese, and Mexican Americans.

Bennett, T. W. *Human Rights and African Customary Law: Under the South African Constitution*. Cape Town, Juta & Co, Ltd., 1999.

T.W. Bennett offers an updated and fascinating coverage of developments crucial to the transformation of customary law in South Africa over the last five years. The “courts have been active in scrutinizing it for compliance with the Constitution, legislation has been passed on customary marriage,” and “the Final Constitution has enacted new provisions on customary law and traditional leaders.” Although the process of change is far from complete -- further legislation “on succession and the application of customary law is expected” along with settling “the limitation and horizontal application of the Bill of Rights” – what has been achieved thus far holds promise that such progress will continue.

Marina Bacchetti, Acquisitions/Documents Librarian