

2005

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NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Volume 5, Number 3

September 15, 2005



GARY'S CORNER

The Law Library is proud to present this series of book reviews by **Gary E. Kemp**, Continuations Assistant. Gary has published short stories in *Soaring* and *Spectrum* magazines and appeared in the anthology, *New Voices in Fiction and Non-Fiction*. Gary reviews a series of books from our Law & Literature collection.

In the Shadow of the Law. By Kermit Roosevelt. NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. Library Call#: PS3618 .O68 I5 2005.

The title of this first novel by Kermit Roosevelt comes from the narcissistic, arrogant head of the law firm, Morgan Siler. "Peter Morgan watched and understood what most did not: that we live all our lives in the shadow of the law". Of course, this is truer of the employees of Morgan Siler than most people, where hiding documents for a tort case is common and where pro bono work is sneered at; the two main cases of the firm are just that. For "training", first year associate, Mark Clayton is sent to handle a pro bono death penalty case, which everyone expects him to lose. Meanwhile, the other main case is about a chemical disaster at a Texas company, Hubble ("Our boys were storing some unpleasant chemicals and none too carefully").

The book is full of colorful and mostly unsavory characters, with the exception of Mark Clayton and Katja Phillips, an out of place idealist, ("others competed, others desired, Katja just performed"). There's also Ryan Grady, a lecherous nere-do-well who reads women's magazines for tips on how to pick up women. Walker Eliot, who spends much of his time wool gathering, and Harold Fineman, a loner who runs from his Jewish roots by listening to Wagner are also part of the firm.

As the various characters act out their parts, their disintegration becomes both funny and tragic. Still, the main character of the book, the firm itself, endures

WHERE'S WITKIN?

The new school year has begun, and first year students are enthusiastically completing their Writing and Research assignments. The most frequently asked question at the reference desk during the past week has been, "Where's Witkin?"

Bernard E. Witkin, 1905-1996, embodied California law. He was the court reporter for the California Supreme Court for many years, and gained unique insights on the workings of the court and in the content of California law.

Witkin, one presumes, was the only person to have actually read California law - all of it, codes and cases, during a time when reading it all was still possible. The resulting treatise, *Summary of California Law*, was first published in 1936, and its 10th edition is in the process of being shipped.

Bob Berring, Director of the Boalt Hall Law Library, says that on learning, somewhat disappointedly, that the law library in the first law office he worked at consisted only of Witkin, his boss told him, "Son, the judge reads Witkin, opposing counsel reads Witkin, and you're going to read Witkin, too."

Although now produced by other editors, Witkin remains a good place to start California legal research, if one needs a general understanding of the area of law in question.

Witkin Summary will be shelved on the Plaza Level at KFC80 .W5 2005.

even as the book hammers away at the immorality of corporate law. *In the Shadow of the Law* is sometimes like reading a primer on high power defense firms, but looking past that, it is a very enjoyable read which manages several big surprises.

Notes From the Underground is a bi-monthly law school-wide newsletter distributed electronically. We hope you find our newsletter useful and informative.

LAW LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

STUDY ANNEX HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Sex & the Statutes

How Law Mixes Up Sexual Practice, Marriage, Parenting and Gender to the Detriment of Us All

A Free Public Symposium featuring

- Terrific Films That Critique Legal Policy
- Nationally-Recognized Attorneys Who Are Challenging the Law
- Lively Discussions of How Law and Culture Deal with Sexuality
 - An Online Journal of Cases and Commentary

September 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, at 5:00 p.m.

Golden Gate University Law School, Room 3214

"Society has compelling interests in protecting the social institution, marriage ... and in preserving the linkage that institution forges among sex, procreation and child rearing."

Lawrence v. Texas (2003) 2002 U.S. Briefs 102.

September 9, 5:00 p.m.

Sexual Practice & the Law

Film: *Kinsey* (2004)

Guests: Pat Ferraro and Pat Jackson (SFSU) on the Passion Party cases, *Williams v. AG* (2005), et al

September 16, 5:00 p.m.

The Family & the Law

Film: *American Beauty* (1999)

Guest: Diana Richmond (Sideman & Bancroft) on *K.M. v. E.G.* (2005)

September 23, 5:00 p.m.

Marriage and the Law

Film: *Far From Heaven* (2002)

Guest: Therese Stewart (Office of the S.F. City Attorney) on the Gay Marriage cases, *Lockyer v. San Francisco, et al.* (2005)

September 30, 5:00 p.m.

Gender and the Law

Film: *Boys Don't Cry* (1999)

Guest: Brad Seligman (The Impact Fund) on the Wal-Mart suit, *Dukes v. Wal-Mart* (2005)

http://internet.ggu.edu/law_library/symposium/

<http://www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary>

Comments or questions about our newsletter?
Email Janet Fischer at jfischer@ggu.edu

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

We maintain a list of full-time faculty publications at <http://www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary/specialcollections/facultypubs>
Please contact Janet Fischer at jfischer@ggu.edu if you would like to change or update your listings.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

We welcome **Melissa Beuoy** as our new Evening Services Librarian. Melissa joins our staff on September 19. **Marisa Diehl** will be working with Maryanne as Electronic Services Librarian as well as staffing the Study Annex.

NEW ACQUISITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

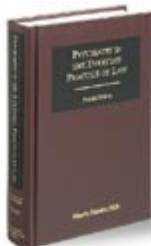
A list of new titles may always be found at <http://www.ggu.edu/lawlibrary/new/newacquisitions>.

In the shadow of the law / Kermit Roosevelt.
New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.
PS36 I8.O68 I5 2005.



"In this complex, ambitious, and gripping first novel, Kermit Roosevelt vividly illustrates the subtle and stark effects of the law on the lives not only of a group of lawyers, but also on communities and private citizens. *In the Shadow of the Law* is a meditation about the life of the law, the organism that is a law firm, and its impact on those who come within its powerful orbit."

Psychiatry in the everyday practice of law : a lawyer's manual for case preparation and trial / Martin Blinder.
Eagan, MN : Thomson/West, c2005.
RA1151 .B55 2005.



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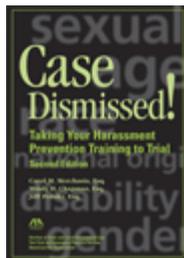
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"Topic-by-topic encyclopedia covering psychiatry as it applies to the law. Learn how to construct plaintiff or defense tactics for emotional distress, psychic trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder; negate the impact of crimes of violence; control the psychological elements in criminal cases; determine the long-term effects of child molestation; and more."

Case dismissed : taking your harassment prevention training to trial / Carol Merchasin, Mindy Chapman, Jeff Polisky.
[Chicago] : Section of State and Local Government Law American Bar Association, 2005.
KF4758 .M47 2005.



"*Case Dismissed!* shows you how to deliver harassment training in ways that are legally sound, fun and interactive. From the design of the training course to the most effective class size, *Case Dismissed!* takes you through the nuts and bolts of harassment training and the decisions that need to be made behind the scenes. This book also includes the latest information on state training requirements.

Whether you are a Human Resources manager faced with the challenge of building or auditing a harassment training program, an employment lawyer who has never done training, or a trainer who doesn't know the harassment content, this book will help you get it all together—quickly and easily."