Law Library of Congress: Internet Resources

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For a wealth of legal information, visit the Law Library of Congress at www.loc.gov/law. According to its website, Congress established the library in 1832. With almost three million volumes, today the institution is the world's largest law library. Besides its impressive print collection, the Law Library of Congress also offers many digital resources free on the Internet. Of particular note are in-depth Legal Reports written primarily for members of Congress. Often, finding the law of foreign jurisdictions is a daunting task. Significantly, many of the library's Legal Reports contain reliable surveys of foreign law on current topics. To illustrate, the following titles are just a few of the many reports available free at the library's website.

- Provisions on Child Abduction in Non-Hague Countries
- Regulation of Bitcoin in Selected Jurisdictions
- Bioethics Legislation in Selected Countries
- Legal Status of Refugees: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq
- Wildlife Trafficking and Poaching
- China: Real Property Law
- Algeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia: Response to Terrorism

Another useful Internet resource is the Guide to Law Online compiled by the library's Public Services Division. Select the tab for Nations of the World to find governmental and legal information for roughly two hundred countries ranging from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The Indigenous Law Portal includes constitutions and laws for native tribes in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The Guide to Law Online also covers U.S. federal and state materials plus international and multinational sources. Explore the full website to find these and other valuable resources provided by the Law Library of Congress.

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Some Recent Articles to Consider for the Job Hunt

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Much preparation and thought is needed for finding that first legal position while in law school or after graduation. Law students can benefit from reading the following articles that will help them sort out their priorities in finding employment:

Binns, Erin. Jobs: Fast Track Your Career Plans with Informational Meetings, Student Lawyer, Jan. 2015, at 14. Article describes informational meetings and their importance. Author indicates that it is important to understand the purpose of such meetings and plan accordingly. It is also important to choose the right professionals.

Binns, Erin. Jobs: Five Ways to Seize Every Opportunity, Student Lawyer, Mar. 2015, at 14. Any pre-career work experience (such as clerking) should be more than jumping through the hoops; you must be your own advocate in obtaining a variety of work experiences, establishing positive relationships with practitioners, and making face time a valuable tool in obtaining opportunities needed to find a permanent position.

Binns, Erin. Jobs: Pack a Professional Punch With Your “Thank-Yous”, Student Lawyer, Apr./May 2015, at 14. Article describes the impact of thank you notes and examples of such notes, as well as tips for drafting them.

Herrmann, Richard. Employment Insight: Growth Practice Areas Under the Radar, The National Jurist, Back to School 2015, at 16. This article provides some insight on finding unconsidered areas of legal employment which may have emerged as a result of dynamic changes in the economy, new regulations, crises, etc.

Herrmann, Richard. Employment Insight: Mining the Law-Technology Gap for Legal Jobs, Fall 2015, at 16. Author points out that the massive changes in technology creates new job opportunities for lawyers. After identifying a gap where opportunities may exist, you will need to “pinpoint practice areas that take advantage of the gap.” This article gives numerous examples, including driverless cars, cyber security and telemedicine.

Mantis, Hillary. How to Avoid the Resume Black Hole, The National Jurist, Mar. 2015, at 38. Author provides some good advice on networking, and writing resumes and cover letters that will stand out in a pile of applications.


Mantis, Hillary. Job Search Hotline: 8 Ways You Could Be Sabotaging Your Job Search, The National Jurist, Back to School 2015, at 46. Author highlights errors that legal job hunters make when pursuing legal employment; basically, it all comes down to preparation.

Mantis, Hillary. Job Search Hotline: Interviews Made Easy, The National Jurist, Fall 2015,
at 46. Article discusses some positive habits to follow before, during and after the interview that help in acquiring that elusive legal position.

Martin, Laira. 10 Hottest Alternative Legal Careers, The National Jurist, Feb. 2015, at 19. This article lists ten careers that are trending as the best law related opportunities outside the conventional legal profession. The author provides reasons for their growth and the background necessary to enter the field. There are four “red hot” careers listed (regulatory compliance officer, cyber/information security analyst, health care, and intellectual asset management), three “hot” careers (risk management, electronic discovery consultant, and litigation management) as well as three “warm” careers (alternative dispute resolution counselor, legal information providers, and academia).

Morris, Kathy. Advice From the Inside: 9 Quick Questions to Help You Find a Good Fit, Student Lawyer, Sep./Oct. 2015, at 24. Article lists questions that will help you decide what area of the law will provide a career that you will find the most rewarding.

Richard, Larry. What Kind of Job is Right for You? Here’s a Model to Help You Identify Your Personal Criteria for Job Satisfaction, Student Lawyer, Sep./Oct. 2015, at 22. Article discusses five different criteria that will help in finding a job that provides personal satisfaction. Factors include values, psychological needs, communication style, motivated skills, and career interests.

Rosales, Alisa. Jobs: Live in X but Want to Work in Y? Here’s How to Make the Leap, Student Lawyer, Feb. 2015, at 14. Article provides suggestions on how to promote yourself in another locality for employment, including joining that region’s bar association, summer work in the destination city, and wise use of technology in networking for that location.

Staver, Jared. Jobs: Do You Have the Right Stuff to Succeed in PI Work?, Student Lawyer, Feb. 2015, at 10. Article lists important questions for law students that may be considering a career as a personal injury lawyer. Beyond the questions, the author, a managing partner of a personal injury firm, provides valuable insight on what this type of practice requires.

Stetz, Mike. Best Law Jobs, The National Jurist, Back to School, 2015, at 18. Article ranks legal careers that “offer the greatest opportunity for happiness and job satisfaction.” The positions are, in descending order, judge or magistrate, law professor, civil legal services, mediator/arbitration, government attorneys (non-litigation), solo general practice, lobbyist, in-house counsel NPO, government prosecutor, and public defender.

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Congratulations

Brenda Jones, Reference Librarian for Evening/Weekend Services, Della Darby, Metadata Librarian, and Candace Lambert, Law Library Assistant, Acquisitions each received a Samford University Service Award. Jones was honored for twenty years of service, Darby for fifteen years and Lambert for ten years. Congratulations to each of them!

Don't miss the February issue of Check It Out!!
HeinOnline Law Journal Library is now available for Cumberland School of Law Alumni. This should assist our graduates with research, writing, and more.

To access the HeinOnline Law Journal Library, go to:

https://www2.samford.edu/lawlib/heinrequest.html.

A login box will appear:

![Login Screen]

You can log into the database with your Samford email ID and password. If you don’t remember your email address and/or password – try pwchange.samford.edu to reset it.

If that doesn’t work, email support@samford.edu for help.

If you don’t have a Samford email address – contact support@samford.edu.

For quick search tips – take a look at this HeinOnline PDF:


Any questions? Please contact Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian, at glsimms@samford.edu.
Annual Law Student Library Survey

by Greg Laughlin, Law Librarian and Associate Professor of Law
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Each winter, the law library surveys its students regarding their satisfaction with our services and resources, as well as suggestions for possible improvements. Student responses to these surveys are a vital part of our planning process. Through the years, we have made a number of changes to the law library’s operations in response to survey replies.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, which you can access at:

Below are the questions comprising the survey. You may choose to review them before visiting the survey site to expedite the process. The survey will remain open through the end of the day on January 31.

Thanks for your anticipated participation.

Library survey:

1. When you visit the Law Library, are you able to find what you're looking for?
   ○ Always
   ○ Frequently
   ○ Sometimes
   ○ Seldom
   ○ Never

2. How satisfied are you with the overall services of the Law Library?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

3. How helpful is the Law Library staff?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

4. How satisfied are you with the information resources (books, periodicals, online databases, etc.) available through the Law Library?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

5. How satisfied are you with the Law Library resources available to help you locate information which you need (the library online catalog, digests, indexes, etc.)?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

6. How satisfied are you with the Law Library's reference services?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

7. How satisfied are you with the Law Library's information technology services (computer labs, support, etc.)?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very

8. How satisfied are you with the Law Library's hours of operation?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

9. How satisfied are you with the Law Library's physical space and furnishings?
   ○ Extremely
   ○ Very
   ○ Somewhat
   ○ Not very
   ○ Not at all
   ○ No opinion

10. The law library subscribes to an online study aid service through West Academic. This service was owned by Thomson-Reuters, the same company which owns Westlaw and West Publishing, our source for many print case reporters, statues, and other primary and secondary legal publications. Thomson-Reuters sold West Academic last year, and since then, we have had several complaints about the online study service being unreliable. The service costs more than $20,000/year to maintain. In light of this information, please select the response which best reflects your opinion regarding this service:
   ○ I use the service and would like the law library to continue to subscribe to it.
   ○ I use the service but would support the law library canceling the service.
   ○ I have not used the service but would like the law library to continue to subscribe to it and plan to use it.
I have not used the service and would support the law library canceling the service.

No opinion

11. The law library does not have a learning commons area, where students can work together collaboratively. Our small study rooms are not suited for such collaborative work. Not only does this hamper such collaboration, but it also results in students who try to work collaboratively having to find space wherever they can, contributing to a noise problem in the law library. While funds are not currently budgeted for the purpose, the law library is considering the possibility of redesigning the lower level reading area into a learning commons area. This would provide a space specifically designed for collaborative work and would also direct such work to an area audibly isolated from the rest of the law library. Many of you undoubtedly attended colleges which had such spaces in their university library. The space would include more soft seating, tables and chairs arranged for better collaboration, and technology to facilitate such collaborative work.

Please select which response best reflects your opinion of the law library creating a learning commons area on the lower level.

- I strongly favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level.
- I somewhat favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level.
- I somewhat oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level.
- I strongly oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level.

No opinion

12. Please provide any comments you would like to share concerning the law library, its staff, services and/or programs, including, but not limited to, changes you would like to see made.

Recent Acquisitions

ALABAMA APPELLATE PRACTICE. KFA555/- .A15/A43/2015/Reference.

Crittenden, Judith S. ALABAMA FAMILY LAW. 2nd ed. KFA94/.C75/- 2015/v.1-v.3/Reference.


NEW FIELD, NEW CORN: ESSAYS IN ALABAMA LEGAL HISTORY. KFA78/.N38/2015. (Part of the Legal History and Biography Series, edited by Paul M. Pruitt, Special Collections/Collection Development Librarian, Bounds Law Library, University of Alabama.)


Welcome back for the Spring Semester!

CHECK IT OUT is published three times a semester. Your opinion is important to us! Send your ideas and/or comments to: Becky Hutto at rmhutto@samford.edu. We welcome your new ideas!