Audio Study Guides

by Brenda Jones,
Reference Librarian
bljones@samford.edu

Do you commute to and from law school each day? Are you planning a road trip, or gearing up for finals? If so, consider using spare time in your car or at home listening to audio study guides, on reserve at Beeson Law Library. Cumberland law students may check out the following CDs at the circulation desk for three days at a time.

Sum & Substance Series

Torts, by Professors Steven Finz & Lawrence Levine (4th edition, 2010, 7 CDs, 8 hours).


NEW! Constitutional Law, by Professor Mary Cheh (9th edition, 2016, 12 CDs, 14.5 hours).

NEW! Corporations, by Professor James D. Cox (5th edition, 2014, 1 CD, 8.7 hours).

Criminal Procedure, by Professor Joshua Dressler (6th edition, 2013, 7 CDs, 8 hours).

Criminal Law, by Professor Joshua Dressler (6th edition, 2014, 8 CDs, 8.5 hours).


How to Succeed in Law School, by Professor John S. Dzienkowski (2004, 3 CDs, 3 hours).

Gilbert Law Summaries

Contracts, by Professor David Epstein (3rd edition, 2012, 4 CDs with handout, 4.5 hours).

Civil Procedure, by Professor Richard D. Freer (3rd edition, 2009, 10 CDs with handout, 10 hours).

Law School Exam Writing, by Professor Charles H. Whitebread (2005, 2 CDs with handout, 1 hour).

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Supreme Court ordered criminal court judges in 2012 to give jurors a set of such instructions whenever the case involved eyewitness testimony. These instructions include a tutorial on the research that has been done on eyewitness testimony and discusses the factors involved in making it more or less believable.

This research study, which was done by a graduate student at the University of Arizona, tested the effect of the New Jersey jury instructions, using volunteers watching a recording of a mock trial that involved eyewitness testimony of a robbery/murder. The researcher created two different versions of the eyewitness testimony—one video showed an eyewitness with strong, more conclusive testimony, while the second version showed an eyewitness with weaker testimony. The results of the study found that, after reading the jury instructions, juror study participants hesitated to believe eyewitness testimony regardless of whether the testimony was of the strong or weak variety.

This research was published in an online journal entitled PLOS ONE.

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1 http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/01/26/464300484/a-judges-guidance-makes-jurors-suspicious-of-any-eyewitness

New on HeinOnline: National Survey of State Laws

by Brenda Jones, Reference Librarian
bljones@samford.edu

A longtime standard in print, Richard Leiter's National Survey of State Laws (7th ed. 2015) is now available on HeinOnline. In this valuable resource, Mr. Leiter surveys the law for all fifty states, and the District of Columbia, on current or controversial topics. For example, the chart on gun control summarizes state statutes on illegal arms, waiting periods, prohibited owners, and firearms at schools. A convenient one-click button allows users to compare changes in the law over previous editions since 2005. The print version is in the Reference section at KF386.N38 2015. Whether print or electronic, the National Survey of State Laws is an excellent starting point for state-by-state analysis of the law.

by
By Ed Craig,
Reference Librarian
elcraig@samford.edu

While on a trip to Singapore this February, I made a point of visiting an academic law library on the island, the C.J. Koh Law Library of the National University of Singapore (NUS). Until very recently, the law school at NUS has been the only one in that country. Though the law library is in an older building, it has been very well maintained and is quite comfortable and conducive to study for the law student population there.

Databases available to law students there may not be identical to resources here, but would still be quite familiar to our student body; databases include HeinOnline, Westlaw (Australia) and Lexis (Australia).

Being a former British Crown Colony, Singapore’s judiciary relies upon common law judicial precedent in many of the same ways that we do in the United States. However, there appears to be a greater reliance upon court rulings outside the country (but within the British Commonwealth) than in our situation; this is quite understandable, given the fact that the nation has only been in existence for 50 years. Indeed, while the foreign reporter section for common law countries of Beeson Law Library may be seen as substantial by U.S. law library standards, it would pale in comparison to that of the Koh Library. In talking with Law Resource Librarian Carolyn Wee, I learned that United Kingdom rulings are heavily relied upon by the Singaporean judiciary up to the point that Britain joined the European Union. After this date, Australian law is relied upon, instead. Also, the Penal Code is, in large degree, taken from that of India. As a result, Indian criminal case law is heavily used.

One other major difference I noticed while visiting, was the age of the law students studying; as in the United Kingdom, law school is an undergraduate curriculum in Singapore. However, the students studying seem to be just as serious as our students seem to be!
Not too long ago, Macs did not often get malware, ransomeware, and/or viruses. Now, it's more and more common.

If your Mac starts up with a program like this, it has malware:

If that or something similar happens, you need to scan your Mac for malware. Pop-ups and slowness may often point to this too.

I recommend Malwarebytes for Mac. It's free and may be downloaded here:

http://download.cnet.com/malwarebytes-anti-malware/mac.html
After installed and run, if anything is found - this will appear:

Be sure each box is checked. Then click Removed Selected Items. The Mac will then need to restart.

If you have software such as uTorrent or MacKeeper, I recommend removing them with AppCleaner. It may be downloaded at:

http://www.macupdate.com/app/mac/25276/appcleaner

Install AppCleaner and open the Applications folder. Drag harmful applications to AppCleaner and then click Delete. By emptying the trash, you can complete the process.

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**Librarian Update**

Grace L. Simms, Information Technology Librarian, attended the 2016 ABA TECHSHOW in Chicago, IL, March 16 to March 19.

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**KEEP CALM AND ACE YOUR FINAL EXAMS**

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This is the last issue of CHECK IT OUT for this semester. Three issues will be published during the Fall Semester beginning in August, 2016. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to ways we can improve, contact Becky Hutto at rmhutto@samford.edu.
# Director’s Brief:
## Results of the Annual Law Library Survey of Law Students

By Gregory K. Laughlin, Law Librarian and Associate Professor of Law

glaughli@samford.edu

Each winter, the law library conducts a survey of law students to gauge how well we are meeting student needs, and what changes might be needed. The following is a report from this year’s survey.

1. When you visit the law library, are you able to find what you’re looking for?  
   a. Always 48.72%  
   b. Frequently 41.03%  
   c. Sometimes 10.26%  
   d. Seldom 0%  
   e. Never 0%

2. How satisfied are you with the overall services of the law library?  
   a. Extremely 56.41%  
   b. Very 35.9%  
   c. Somewhat 7.69%  
   d. Not very 0%  
   e. Not at all 0%  
   f. No Opinion 0%

3. How helpful is the law library staff?  
   a. Extremely 69.23%  
   b. Very 23.08%  
   c. Somewhat 5.13%  
   d. Not very 0%  
   e. Not at all 0%  
   f. No Opinion 2.56%

4. How satisfied are you with the information resources (books, periodicals, online databases, etc.) available through the law library?  
   a. Extremely 56.41%  
   b. Very 28.21%  
   c. Somewhat 7.69%  
   d. Not very 0%  
   e. Not at all 0%  
   f. No Opinion 7.69%
5. How satisfied are you with the resources available through the law library to locate information which you need (the online catalog, digests, indexes, etc.)?
   a. Extremely 44.74%
   b. Very 42.11%
   c. Somewhat 5.26%
   d. Not very 0%
   e. Not at all 0%
   f. No Opinion 7.89%

6. How satisfied are you with the law library’s reference services?
   a. Extremely 57.89%
   b. Very 31.58%
   c. Somewhat 2.63%
   d. Not very 0%
   e. Not at all 0%
   f. No Opinion 5.26%

7. How satisfied are you with the law library’s information technology services (computer labs, support, etc.)?
   a. Extremely 48.72%
   b. Very 41.03%
   c. Somewhat 7.69%
   d. Not very 2.56%
   e. Not at all 0%
   f. No Opinion 0%

8. How satisfied are you with the law library’s hours of operation?
   a. Extremely 35.9%
   b. Very 17.95%
   c. Somewhat 38.46%
   d. Not very 7.69%
   e. Not at all 0%
   f. No Opinion 0%

9. How satisfied are you with the law library’s physical space and furnishings?
   a. Extremely 41.03%
   b. Very 30.77%
   c. Somewhat 28.21%
   d. Not very 0%
   e. Not at all 0%
   f. No Opinion 0%
10 The law library subscribes to an online study aid service through West Academic. This service was formerly owned by Thomson-Reuters, the same company which owns Westlaw and West Publishing, which is our source for many print case reporters, statutes, and other primary secondary legal publications. Thomson-Reuters sold West Academic last year, and since then, we have had several complaints about the online study aid 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:

a. I use the service and would like the law library to continue to subscribe to it 46.15%
b. I use the service but would support the law library canceling the service 17.95%
c. I have not used the service but would like the law library to continue to subscribe to it and plan to use it 2.56%
d. I have not used the service and would support the law library canceling the service 25.64%
e. No opinion 7.69%

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.

a. I strongly favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level 51.28%
b. I somewhat favor the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level 28.21%
c. I somewhat oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level 7.69%
d. I strongly oppose the creation of a learning commons area on the lower level 5.13%
e. No opinion 7.69%

We also provided an opportunity for students to share their concerns at the end of the survey and received many responses related to a variety of issues.

The law library takes its annual survey seriously and has made many changes in recent years based upon the responses received. We are reviewing this year’s responses to determine what changes we can and should make in response.

Thanks again.

Want to know what is happening in the Law Library? Check the Law Library homepage for up-to-date information!