Help in Understanding Your Casebook Homework: Casebriefs

By Ed Craig, Reference Librarian elcraig@samford.edu

As a law student beginning the school year, you will likely make an evaluation of what study aids you wish to use for the classes for which you are enrolled. A commonly-used study aid would fall under the category of “case briefs”. These publications are usually key to specific current law school case books distributed nationally. This type of student aid publication typically takes each case in the casebook and provides a review of the case in the IRAC format (Issue, Rule, Analysis and Conclusion). If this type of publication is used by law students, it is strongly recommended that the briefs be read in conjunction with reading the case decision in your class assigned textbook; while the briefs do help in the understanding of a court ruling, nothing can substitute for reading the decision itself.

Perhaps the most common series of case briefs is Casenote Legal Briefs, published by Wolters Kluwer. This series has long been sold in campus bookstores and typically cost around $40.00. West Academic, an online publisher of student aids available to Cumberland students for no charge, can be found by clicking on West Study Aids at the Beeson Law library database menu on our website (lawlib.samford.edu). You will find two case brief series among the holdings of this service – namely, the Legalines and High Court Case series. West Academic is a recent offshoot of the most prominent of legal publishers, West Publishing (or officially, Thomson Reuters West). If you wish to print pages of West Academic’s publications, there are several drawbacks, according to Grace Simms, the Information Technology Librarian at Beeson Law Library. She indicates that all students are limited to printing 150 pages total per month for all West Academic publications. Additionally, printing more than 20 pages at a time will usually crash the application and “eat up” most or all of your monthly print allowance though you may not actually receive a single printed page from the transaction.
A final option that fewer law students are acquainted with is Casebriefs.com. This service was begun by a law student in 1995, later sold off to Harcourt Brace Publishers and then repurchased by the same student. This service provides case briefs for 27 different legal topics, written by law professors and attorneys with significant knowledge of that subject area. It also provides outlines and exam preparation materials for 7 subjects, mostly first year courses. There appears to be no impediment to printing functionality, though this writer has not tested it. The database does require registration, but there is no charge for any of its publications.

If you have any questions concerning case briefs or other student aids, please consult a librarian.

Directors Briefs

Gregory K. Laughlin, Law Librarian and Associate Professor of Law
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As I announced to the new 1Ls during orientation, the Law Library had two vacant positions at the start of this academic year. The first was our Evening/Weekend Reference Librarian position, which had been filled by Brenda Jones for more than two decades. Ms. Jones retired effective August 31. The university has approved our filling this position and it has been posted on the university’s human resources website.

We are accepting applications from candidates until the position is filled. Applicants must have a law degree from an ABA-accredited law school, with a preference for their having a masters in library science or equivalent degree, but a provision for them to complete the second graduate degree after hiring. See the full job listing on Samford’s Faculty Employment web page.

Applicants should apply directly to me at:
Gregory K. Laughlin
glaughli@samford.edu
Law Library Director
and Associate Professor of Law
Lucille Stewart Beeson
Law Library
Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229

I will accept applications either by mail or by email.

If you know of anyone who is qualified for this position and might be interested, please let them know about this opening. While we hope to fill this position expeditiously, we are looking for a strong candidate. Ms. Jones provided excellent service to all of our patrons and we hope and expect to continue that tradition of excellence.

The second vacant position was one of our part-time evening and weekend desk attendants. That position had come open for the first time in nearly three years this summer, as the previous occupant had completed her master’s degree in library science at the University of Alabama and had secured a full-time position at its university library. I am pleased to announce that we have successfully filled that position, having received many quality applications and having interviewed several excellent candidates. We hired Becky Hairelson, who began working for us on September 12. Becky is working on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings each week and every other Sunday afternoon. Please welcome Becky to the Beeson Law Library and Cumberland School of Law.

For Your Information:
Chatting with Casebriefs, AALL Spectrum, Mar.-Apr. 2016, 47.
Best Wishes to Brenda Jones!

The Law Library held a Retirement Reception for Brenda Jones on August 30, 2016. Brenda had worked as Evening/Weekend Reference Librarian for almost twenty years. The reception was held in the Friendship Room, and Dr. Westmoreland, Dean Strickland, former Law Library Director, Becky Clapp, and librarians from the Samford University Library were among the people helping with the celebration.

Brenda's dedicated work as Reference Librarian will be missed. Having Brenda available in the evenings and on Sundays was valuable for law students and attorneys needing help with study materials and a wide variety of law library research. We will miss her, but we wish her the very best in retirement!
University of North Carolina Press Publications Now Available on HeinOnline

By Ed Craig, Reference Librarian
elcraig@samford.edu

A welcome addition to the lineup of databases within HeinOnline (available to all Cumberland & Samford students and faculty) are the legal titles of the University of North Carolina Press. By going to the Law Library web site and clicking on "databases", you will be presented with a list of available databases provided by the Law Library. From this list, you should click on "HeinOnline" and then you are likely to be presented with a screen requiring entry of your Samford ID name and password. After completing this task, you should be given the database listing for HeinOnline, including the "UNC Press Law Publications." After clicking on the database name, you will be presented with an alphabetical listing of Press titles pertaining to legal subjects. This database will be particularly valuable for those researchers needing a discussion on topics of legal history. These titles can also be found in the Law Library catalog.

If you have any questions on how to search or otherwise use this database or the HeinOnline database service, please contact Ed Craig at elcraig@samford.edu.

Cumberland History

Have you seen the class composite photographs on the north side of the Law Library's Lower Level? They portray the Cumberland classes of 1961-1969 and illustrate the move from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee to Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama; the addition of Memory Leake Robinson Hall, new home of the law school; and Howard College’s evolution to Samford University.
Organizing Email

by Grace Simms,
Information Technology Librarian
glsimms@samford.edu

The amount of email we receive each day can be overwhelming. A way to help this is to create folders for your email to go to rather than to the In Box.

Open your Samford email at connect.samford.edu and click on the email icon.

Scroll down on the left side, below Trash. Under Categories, click on Create New Label.

Create a name for the label/folder.

With the label/folder created, you will need to search for what to direct there. Click on the down arrow in the search box at the top of your email:
A new box will appear:

Within this box - you will have the options of who the email is from, the recipient, the subject, and more.

Once filled out, click on Create filter with this search in the lower right corner.

Another option box will appear:

I recommend checking the following boxes: Skip the In Box (Archive It), Apply the label (choose the label/folder you created for this search), and Also apply filter to matching conversations (this will get new and old email).
Now - your email should skip your In Box (based on your rules) and go to the label/folder you created. This should help clean up your In Box a good bit. Just be sure to look at the labels/folders too!

If you have any questions or need help - please contact Grace Simms, Information Technology Librarian at glsimms@samford.edu.

### Preview of United States Supreme Court Cases to Soon Change Format

By Ed Craig, Reference Librarian elcraig@samford.edu

PREVIEW OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT CASES is a publication that Beeson Law Library has long maintained a subscription in print, that is available in the periodical stacks of the Lower Level. This publication provides well-written articles with in-depth discussions about the issues to be resolved in upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case decisions. We also have copies of older issues of this publication in various databases available to Cumberland law students and faculty, including HeinOnline, InfoTrac OneFile and Academic OneFile. With respect to HeinOnline, there is currently a significant gap (two years) between its online issue availability and the latest issue released in print. The online availability of the OneFile databases has been much better, with an embargo that prevents access to only the latest issue of the publication. Beginning with the fall term of the Supreme Court, this situation will change markedly; the very latest coverage of PREVIEW will be available on our subscription of HeinOnline! In addition, with PREVIEW on HeinOnline, you can create table of contents alerts, or an RSS feed.

### Banned Books Week

Banned Books Week is an annual celebration of the freedom to read. This year the dates are September 25 - October 1. Banned Books Week began in 1982 in response to a number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. Judith Fingeret Krug, an American librarian, freedom of speech proponent, and critic of censorship, was the founder.

Here are are few links with information about the yearly event:

- [http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/about](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org/about)
- [http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek)
- [http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/frequentlychallengedbooks)

### Recent Acquisitions