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Boston College Law Library Faculty Newsletter, Fall 2008

Boston College Law Library

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Here we are at mid-semester. Outside my window the leaves are in the midst of their annual recital of riotous color. Here at the Law School everyone is busy and absorbed, and the academic year is happily humming along.

Please take a moment to look at this Law Library Newsletter. Those of you working in a clinic, or with research interests in Massachusetts law, may find the new online access to materials from the Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education library especially valuable. Those of you teaching LRR&W might be interested in Bryan Garner’s video interviews of the Supreme Court Justices talking about legal writing. And last but not least, the final item is an invitation to everyone at BC Law to read and discuss The Color of Water, by James McBride.

Our mission is fulfilled when we successfully meet your information needs. We wish you a happy and productive fall semester, and welcome your visits to the Law Library - in person or online.

Peace, Filippa

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Faculty Technology Showcase Luncheon

Please join us for the Faculty Technology Showcase luncheon on Thursday, November 6th from 12:30-1:30 in the Law Library Conference Room, where we will be reviewing some new features and tools offered to you at Boston College. Presenters: Denise Sharif, Educational Technology Specialist, and Chester Kozikowski, Faculty & Technology Support Specialist. Come and learn about:

- BCshare: Get a general overview of the many features BCshare has to offer: Photo Albums, Blogs, Web Pages, Groups, and Wikis.
- Kindle:
  - Explore the ease of use and many features available in this electronic reader.
  - Begin experiencing the Kindle by reserving one of the three devices the library has available to faculty.
- Blackboard Vista: New Features
  - Wimba Voice Tools
  - Blog & Journal Discussion Features (new threaded discussion options that make it easier for students and teachers to communicate)
Come and Visit Frank William Oliver's Law Library in the Rare Book Room

You are invited into the library's Daniel R. Coquillette Rare Book Room to view our newest exhibit: "A LITTLE LIBRARY" - THE PRIVATE LAW LIBRARY OF FRANK WILLIAMS OLIVER. Highlights include a magnificent German Bible from 1693; a book that once belonged to Clarence Darrow; a rare first edition of Webster's Dictionary, dated 1828; and Frank Oliver's delightful bookplate (shown here). The exhibit will remain on view through early December 2008. The Rare Book Room is generally open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., but will be closed occasionally for class visits and special events. Please leave all food, drinks, and water bottles outside the room. Click here for more information.

Welcome our New Faculty & Technology Support Specialist, Chester Kozikowski!

You may have already met our new FTSS, Chester, but for those of you who have not had the pleasure, Chester joined the Law Library in July and has been getting acclimated to work life on the Newton Campus. He is here to help with training and troubleshooting of course management systems and related educational technologies. You can request training or support as needed; please don't hesitate to inquire if you have a question. For example, if you are interested in using Clicker technology for classroom presentations, please contact Chester to set up training and reservations.

Chester can be reached via email at chester.kozikowski@bc.edu or extension 2-8606.

News from HeinOnline

The very popular Subject Compilation of State Laws is now available in HeinOnline.

Google Scholar is now indexing law journals in HeinOnline. This will make the more than 1,100 titles in the Law Journal Library searchable in the Google Scholar interface.

New Database: Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education Online Library

This new database from MCLE provides unlimited online access to MCLE's entire collection of practice handbooks, checklists and forms, as well as much of the content in their printed course materials. More than 5,000 forms, 3,000 articles, and 94,000 pages of CLE content are searchable by keyword, date, practice area, and more.

If you already have an online account with MCLE, visit http://proxy.bc.edu/login?url=http://www.mcle.org/, sign in as usual, and click the "Quick Links" drop-down menu to get to the MCLE Online Library.

If you do not yet have an online account with MCLE, you must register before using the database for the first time. Visit http://proxy.bc.edu/login?url=http://www.mcle.org/, click "create new account" in the yellow box, and fill out the form. You must use your BC email address. When you finish, click "create account" at the bottom of the page and wait a few minutes before signing in.

Boston Athenaeum Membership at a Reduced Fee!
The Boston College Libraries owns a share in this library and cultural center; members of the Boston College community may purchase annual individual memberships at a reduced fee of $85. More information on the Athenaeum is here: http://www.bostonathenaeum.org/.

Free to BC Law Community: AudioCaseFiles

The Law Library subscribes to AudioCasefiles, a product that offers audio versions of popular casebooks. AudioCasefiles has expanded their coverage to include videos of trials and certain hearings in selected trial courts. Practice areas covered by these trial videos include patents, product liability, mergers and acquisitions, and more. As a teaching tool, certain arguments are produced as separate videos, which are accompanied by a law professor’s analysis of the counsel’s presentation. Interested? Log on to AudioCasefiles AudioCaseFiles to watch Attorney Mark Lanier give his closing argument in the latest Vioxx trial; his Powerpoint presentation is titled “Desperate Executives” and focuses on corporate greed.

All BC Law students and faculty have access to the offerings on AudioCasefiles. You must log in and register first; be sure to log in using the BC network since the system will recognize your status using the BC I.P. address. To get started, visit http://www.audiocasefiles.com, click the “Sign Up!” button at the top, and follow the directions on the screen.

Video Interviews of SCOTUS Justices on Brief Writing, Oral Advocacy and More

Bryan Garner’s videos of the Justices were featured in this recent article from the Legal Times: “They are raw and unvarnished, like what might happen if you turned a videocam on yourself in your garage and started talking.”

The videos were shot at the Supreme Court and star eight of the nine justices speaking passionately, sarcastically, angrily, into the camera as they answer questions about brief writing, oral advocacy and their own love-hate relationships with the written word. Their interviewer is legal writing guru Bryan Garner, who talked with the justices a year ago or more, and has made them available to the public on his website LawProse.

Give your Class a Research Session with a Reference Librarian

Reference librarians can provide specialized research sessions on particular areas of law. If you would like to arrange a lecture or tutorial on legal research for a class, please contact your faculty liaison librarian.

Kindle for Book Fans!

In this recent review by a Boston College Legal Information Librarian, she explains why “in the space of six weeks, I went from Kindle-skeptic to Kindle-enthusiast.”

Technology Tips to Save You Time and Trouble!
Tip #1: Paste Special lets you copy and paste only the text from one document to another without bringing the formatting or hyperlinks or different font from the original document. Just copy the text, open new document, then select Edit, then Paste Special, then Unformatted Text. This is especially useful when you want to copy text from an online legal research provider or other web page into a word processing document. This "classic" tip, which can save a lot of document clean up time, is explained in more detail in a 2005 ABA article by Dan Pinnington.

Tip #2: Ten Underused Microsoft Word Keyboard Shortcuts Res Ipsa Blog, an online publication of a Texas Tech University School of Law student recently featured 10 tips designed to help you navigate your way around Microsoft Word. Check out their tech tips at: Tech Tips for Lawyers.

BC Law Community Read: The Color of Water

The BC Law community is reading James McBride's The Color of Water. McBride grew up in the Red Hook projects in Brooklyn. The book is both the author's memoir and a tribute to his mother. It is the powerful story of a man's search for identity, of growing up as the son of a black minister and a white Jewish mother, of being brought up in an evangelical African American Christian Church by a mother who was born an Orthodox Jew.

During the week of January 26 - 30, 2009, BC Law will be hosting book discussion groups at various times and locations around the school so that all interested members of the community will have an opportunity to join a discussion group and share their insights about the book.

Please read The Color of Water so that you will be able to join in the BC Law community read. There are several copies available on Permanent Reserve at the Law Library. More information will be available as our discussion week draws near. If you have any immediate questions, please contact Professor Anzalone at (617) 552-6809 or at filippa.anzalone@bc.edu.