

Library Notes from Broadway

Loyola University College of Law Library

Constitution Day by Brian Barnes

The Loyola Law Library was happy to be able to celebrate Constitution Day this year by presenting a display of historical United States documents. The collection was on loan from Stan L. Klos, a historical documents collector, curated by Dr. Naomi Yavneh Klos of the Loyola University Honors Program, and hosted by Dean Maria Pablon Lopez.

Key pieces on display from the collection included

several pamphlets of the Federalists Papers, an Oath of Secrecy signed by founders of the United States during the revolutionary war, and letters and signed documents from historical figures such as George Washington, John Jay, later to become the first U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice, and Thomas Mifflin, a President under the Articles of Confederation. Additionally highlighted was a

printing of the Constitution in a 18th century magazine which exemplified how many early Americans first read their new Constitution.

Many other documents were on displayed during this 26 day event and we hope to provide additional displays on an array of legal topics in the coming months to the entrance area of the Loyola Law Library.

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Casebook, Yes! Facebook, No!

By Brian Huddleston

With the fall semester in full swing, students here at Loyola New Orleans College of Law are busy reading hundreds of pages a week of case law and other assignments. That is a lot of material to absorb. How can you learn all that material more efficiently? Here's one suggestion: shut down your laptop and smartphone.

Studies show that very few people multi-task as well as they think they can. In one study, done in the United Kingdom for Hewlett-Packard, researchers studied the effects of multi-tasking on subjects taking IQ tests. One IQ test was administered to subjects in a quiet room with no interruptions in order to establish a baseline score. A week later, the subjects took another IQ test while multi-tasking by answering a telephone and responding to e-mail. On average, subjects' IQ test scores dropped ten points when they were multi-tasking. Other studies of IQ tests have shown that marijuana reduced subjects' IQ scores by only four points. The logical conclusion? Multi-tasking makes you stupider than smoking pot.

Even if you earned good grades in col-

lege doing your homework while texting, surfing the web, and updating your status on Facebook, success in law school requires mastering new subjects and concepts far more complex than what most students had to learn in college.

Mastering a new, complex subject requires extended periods of undistracted, focused concentration. Glancing up from the pages of a book to a computer screen, even for a split-second, causes your brain to make several instantaneous decisions: Is that new? Should I read that? Should I respond to that? Those involuntary decisions interrupt the deep reading process required for your brain to take new information and convert it from its active, working memory, to its long-term, retentive memory where comprehension of new subjects is formed.

Multi-tasking makes you stupider than smoking pot.

As one law student - not from Loyola! - recently noted on Twitter:



Still in this dang on law school library! Taking my time reading this opinion!!! IT's like 50 pages long! #CmonSon

Yes, law cases can be long. If she would stop tweeting for a while (she had at least a dozen tweets posted for the previous two hours), she could maybe finish reading that opinion.

Twitter, Facebook, and other applications and other applications are all revolutionary communication tools that can be put to great use. But, like your mother always said, there's a time and place for everything. And the time to check your friends' Facebook statuses, Tweet what you're doing to your followers, or check your e-mail again, is not while you're trying to read fifty pages of Constitutional Law for tomorrow's class.

Free Federal Rules eBooks from CALI's eLangdell

By Brian Huddleston

Some students may be familiar with CALI - the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction - through the over 850 interactive computer lessons they provide on forty-five different legal subjects. (If you're NOT familiar with CALI lessons, then stop by the circulation desk in the law library for a free DVD-Rom containing all the lessons,

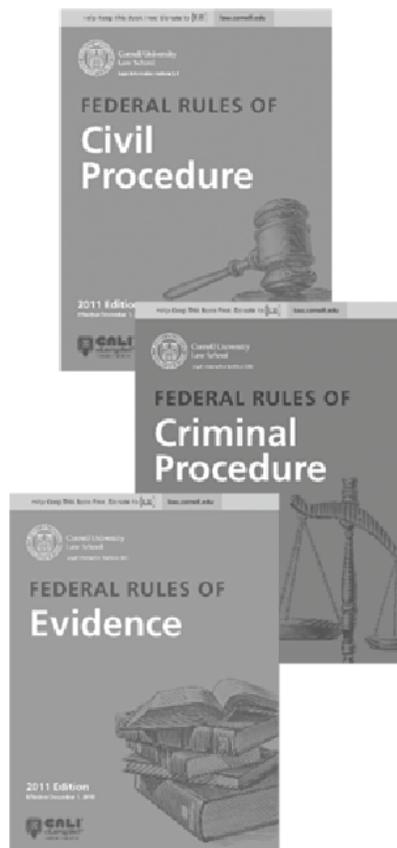
which you can then install on your own computer, and a registration code for the CALI.Org website, where you can register to run individual lessons online, if you prefer: CALI lessons can now even be run on iPhones, iPads, and most other smartphones and tablet computers.)

But CALI is more than just their lessons. They are working on several projects at the cutting-edge intersection of legal education and technology. And their resources are all free to students and faculty at CALI-member law schools, like Loyola New Orleans College of Law. Just last month, CALI, in partnership with the Legal Information

Institute (“LII”) at Cornell University School of Law, unveiled three free eBooks containing the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Federal Rules of Evidence.

All three eBooks are available for download through CALI’s eLangdell site. eLangdell is CALI’s “open source” law book project, through which they hope to encourage more and more law faculty to create, share, and use casebooks and other legal resources that are covered by a Creative Commons license. This basically means they will be free to download and use, but not to re-sell or re-publish.

The basic idea behind CALI’s eLangdell project is this: because all the cases, statutes, regulations, and court rules that law students study are produced by government entities, they aren’t subject to copyright. So why make students pay a commercial publisher \$100 - \$200 for a textbook of edited cases that are, for the most part, freely available elsewhere? That’s the goal of eLangdell: to help faculty collaborate, create, and share edited legal texts that can be freely used in classes at any CALI-member law school.



All three eBooks are available for download

These three books of Federal Court Rules are some of the first major releases from eLangdell. They are available in both an .epub for iPads, iPhones, and other devices using that format, and in the .mobi format for Kindle users.

So, OK, they’re free, but how do they compare with the commercial, print copies of these rules? Well, the eLangdell rule books are up to date with all amendments as of December 1, 2010. The official West Publishing pamphlets containing these rules are only up to date as of May 1, 2010, so the eLangdell version is a full seven months more current than the West version. And, being an eBook, the eLangdell rules have hyperlinks to jump between cross-references within each set of rules, and to cited U.S. Code sections on LII’s web site.

So if you have an eBook reader and want quick, easy access to Federal Court Rules, try these free eBooks from CALI, eLangdell, and LII and get a taste of what may be the future of open-source legal publishing in the 21st Century!

Professionalism

Many of you are aware of the recent problems here in the library: books that 1L’s need for their research assignments suddenly disappear from the shelves. What does this say about the person, or persons, who took them? Does it accurately predict how they may behave after they graduate? Maybe, or perhaps, maybe not. We cannot be sure about them. However, we can be sure about our own behavior. Socially, New

Orleans is a small city. The legal community is even smaller. Please remember that you will soon be members of the bar. What you do now will be remembered, and perhaps spoken of, for many, many years to come.

Your reputation is yours to create. Do you want the local bar to think of you as thorough, conscientious, prepared,

and professional? Then begin acting that way now. This is not college; it is a professional school. Please make the most of your time here.

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College of Law Library**

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Hours of Operation

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Monday - Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

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

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Halloween

As the temperature starts to drop below 85 degrees, and the sycamore leaves fall to the ground, we all know that Halloween cannot be far away. In New Orleans, this holiday is enjoyed by both children and adults. For some, especially for law students, it can also be a scary time of the year.

Final exams are right around the corner. Please take the time to look at old exams now, since that will help you as you finish your outlines and begin the countdown to finals. The library has old volumes of exams in the third floor copy room; many recent exams are kept at the reserve desk. Some exams are availa-

ble online via our catalog. Not all faculty members publish their old exams; the library has what is available.

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