

CHECK IT OUT

Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library Newsletter
Cumberland School of Law of Samford University
<http://lawlib.samford.edu/cio>



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Dollars for Scholars: Writing Competitions for Law Students

by Brenda Jones,
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Each year, various organizations sponsor writing competitions for law school students. Some of these contests offer substantial cash awards, the opportunity to publish in prestigious journals, and free trips to professional association meetings. For information on writing competitions, check the bulletin board just outside office 224 in the Cumberland Law School. If a topic catches your interest, just step into room 224 and ask Mrs. Janice Brantley for a copy of the posting. Mrs. Brantley updates the bulletin board with notices of writing competitions as received. Between now and December, she expects to add many new competitions. The following is a sampling of present postings:

(1) Federal Bar Association, North Alabama Chapter contest on federal jurisdiction awarding \$500 (deadline November 29, 2006, judged by Cumberland faculty);

(2) The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, William J. Pierce Writing Contest on a uniform or model act awarding \$500 plus publication in the organization's newsletter (deadline December 31, 2006);

(3) The American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers contest for the best book, article, book review or case note on consumer finance awarding up to \$2,500 plus travel

expenses to the spring meeting (deadline December 1, 2006);

(4) The American College of Legal Medicine writing competition in bioethics (first prize \$1,000 plus a trip to the annual meeting) or legal medicine (\$1,000 cash award) (deadline January 5, 2007 for both contests);

(5) The Federal Bar Association contest on federal taxation with a \$1,500 cash award (\$750 second place) plus a trip to the annual tax conference and publication in the section's newsletter (deadline February 1, 2007);

(6) American College of Trial Lawyers essay contest on judicial independence awarding \$10,000 for first place and \$5,000 for second place (deadline March 1, 2007).

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LIBRARY SCHEDULE

MONDAY-THURSDAY
7:30 A.M.-
12 MIDNIGHT

FRIDAY
7:30 A.M.-10:00 P.M.

SATURDAY
9:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.

SUNDAY
1:00 P.M.-12 MIDNIGHT



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The American Bar Association, another generous organization, distributes more than \$100,000 in awards and grants annually. For example, the winner of the Entertainment Law Initiative Legal Writing Contest receives a \$5,000 scholarship (\$1,500 for second place) and an expense-paid trip to the Grammy Awards. For information on ABA contest eligibility, deadlines, amount of cash prizes, and more, look for the following guide shelved on the Law Library's second floor:

2006 ABA AWARDS LISTING :
THE EXCLUSIVE GUIDE TO THE
AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS
SPONSORED BY THE
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
KF325/.A95/2006.

Several law schools publish web-based lists of writing competitions sponsored by organizations around the country. Check out these sites for information on contests:

Brooklyn Law School's Writing Competitions Catalogue
<http://www.brooklaw.edu/writingcompetitions>

Lewis & Clark Law School: Law Student Writing Competitions
<http://law.lclark.edu/dept/lawac/writing.html>

Saint Louis University School of Law: Writing Competitions
http://law.slu.edu/financial_assistance/competitions.html

Deadlines and criteria may change, so contact the sponsoring organization directly for full details of any contest. Remember that each Cumberland law student must complete a writing requirement before graduation. Writing a paper singled out for recognition in a competition approved by the Associate Dean is one way to satisfy this requirement. If needed, ask a Reference Librarian for help finding sources for your paper.

Don't miss
the October
issue of
Check It Out!



Welcome



Daniel Mitchell joined the Law Library staff on Wednesday, September 6 in the position of Law Library Assistant, Reader Services. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Fine Arts from Samford University. While in college, he worked as a student employee in the Samford University Office of University Relations. His most recent work experience has been as a full-time sales associate at Alabama Art Supply.

We welcome Daniel to the Law Library staff!

Bar Exam Review Found Liable for Stealing Questions

A Philadelphia federal judge ordered a bar-exam preparation company to pay \$12 million to the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE). The judge concluded that Multistate Legal Studies Inc., which does business as the Preliminary Multistate Bar Review or PMBR Multistate Specialist, copied more than 100 questions prepared by the National Conference of Bar Examiners for the multistate bar

exam, infringing on its copyright.

In the suit, NCBE claimed that the employees of Multistate Legal Studies attended bar exams in several states for the sole purpose of copying questions to be used in its prep courses. The events leading to the lawsuit began in February 2003 when Robert Feinberg, one of the PMBR founders, was stopped leaving an Alaska test session with a piece of scratch paper containing notes. The test proctor who stopped Feinberg filed a report with NCBE, which examined PMBR course material and found more than 100 questions that were likely copied.

Judge John P. Fullam noted that many advertisements for the PMBR course used "testimonials" from former students that emphasized the similarity between its practice questions and those on the MBE. In one ad, a student is quoted as saying that "dozens of nearly identical questions appeared on the actual exam," and another says he "breezed through the exam because I recognized so many questions from PMBR."

Feinberg vows to appeal the decision. The case can be found on Westlaw at: 2006 WL 2460903 (E.D.Pa.).

Sources: Bar Prep Co. Ordered to Pay \$11.9M for Copying Multistate Exam Questions, Posted online at www.law.com (August 28, 2006) ; Costly Case of Cribbing, Posted online at www.abanet.org (September 1, 2006).

Electronic Discovery Selected List

by Brenda Jones,
Reference Librarian
(bjones@samford.edu)

The fundamental shift in document storage from paper to electronic format has sparked a new and rapidly evolving field of law - electronic discovery. Today's litigator or corporate counsel must be e-savvy. To develop skills in this area, consider the following books in the treatise collection.

Kidwell, Brent. ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY. KF8900/.K53.

Nelson, Sharon D. THE ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE AND DISCOVERY HANDBOOK : FORMS, CHECKLISTS, AND GUIDELINES. KF8947/.N45.

Paul, George L. THE DISCOVERY REVOLUTION : E-DISCOVERY AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. KF9650/.P38.

Vance, Geoffrey A. DROWNING IN ZUBULAKE : THE RULES, PITFALLS, AND BENEFITS OF ELECTRONIC DISCOVERY. KF9650/.Z9/V35.

Wall Street Journal Blog

I ♥ BLOGS

A weblog, or "blog", as it is commonly referred to, is a popular phrase for today's computer users. According to a definition of the term, it is a journal (or newsletter) that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs generally represent the personality of the author or the Web site. In the legal world, many blogs are available and one popular one is the law blog from the Wall Street Journal. A listing on their home page says: WSJ.com's law blog focuses on law and business, and the business of law. Law students might be interested in a discussion of one of the pressing issues that began on August 25, 2006 - [Does Pluto Have a Cause of Action?](#)

Sources: Blog, <http://www.bytowninternet.com/glossary> (September 5, 2006) ; Law Blog, <http://blogs.wsj.com/law> (September 5, 2006).

Alabama's Oldest Practicing Female Attorney

Do you know who is believed to be the oldest practicing female lawyer in Alabama? Her name is Alice Lee and she works for a law firm in Monroeville, Alabama. She recently celebrated her 95th birthday with a surprise birthday at her law firm. Miss Lee had insisted on no birthday gifts, but her sister gave her a book on German history. The note inside the gift said: "No birthday presents. Merry Christmas." Alice Lee's sister is Harper Lee, the author of the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Alice Lee is a graduate of Birmingham School of Law and was admitted to the Alabama state bar on August 10, 1943. Alice Lee's full name is Alice Finch Lee.

Sources: Harper Lee's Sister Celebrates 95th Birthday, www.al.com (September 12, 2006) ; Member Search, <http://www.alabar.org> (September 13, 2006).

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them. - Joseph Brodsky, Poet Laureate of the United States, (1991-1992).



New Words of the Year

This year Merriam-Webster celebrates the bicentennial anniversary of America's first dictionary, Noah Webster's *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1806. The first volume, a small book with tiny print, contained 37,000 entries. Along with introducing a reform of British spelling, the volume included thousands of words (chowder, hickory, skunk) which were in daily use in America but not listed in any other lexicon.

The first edition included legal words such as: *advocate verb: to defend, plead in favor of* ; *appellate adjective: belonging to appeals* ; *decedent noun: one dead* ; *lot noun: a share or division of land, a field*. A [glossary of new words](#) from the first edition can be found online.

Nearly 100 new words were added to the 2006 editions of both the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary and the New World College Dictionary. Many of the new words are already in our vocabulary, for example: ringtone, spyware,

gastric bypass, sandwich generation. [A sampling of new words](#) can also be found online.

Source: Merriam-Webster Online, <http://www.m-w.com> (September 14, 2006).

Recent Acquisitions



Blum, Brian A.
BANKRUPTCY
AND DEBTOR/CREDITOR:
EXAMPLES AND
EXPLANATIONS. 4th ed.
KF1524.3/.B58/2006/-
Reserve.

Carter, Carolyn L.
CONSUMER WARRANTY
LAW: LEMON LAW,
MAGNUSON-MOSS, UCC,
MOBILE HOME, AND
OTHER WARRANTY
STATUTES, WITH CD-ROM.
3rd ed. KF919/.C6-
S42/2006.

Gorman, Robert A.
COPYRIGHT LAW. 2nd ed.
KF2995/.G67/2006.

Meyer, Charles H.
ACCOUNTING AND
FINANCE FOR LAWYERS
IN A NUTSHELL. 3rd ed.
HF5635/.M5857/2006/-
Reserve.

Rossman, Stuart T. CONSUMER CLASS ACTIONS: WITH CD-ROM. 6th ed. KF8896/.R65/2006.

Saltzburg, Stephen A. FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE MANUAL. 9th ed. KF8935/.S2/2006/v.1-v.6.

Williams, Greg H. CIVIL WAR SUITS IN THE U.S. COURT OF CLAIMS: CASES INVOLVING COMPENSATION TO NORTHERNERS AND SOUTHERNERS FOR WARTIME LOSSES. KF5914/.W55.

Resources for Finding the Latest Legal News

By Ed Craig,
Reference Librarian
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A commonly overlooked source for cutting-edge legal news is legal newspapers, either printed or online. These publications typically provide information on members of the bar, judges, law firms, economic trends of the legal profession, awards and settlements, supplemental commentary on court rules, legislative activities, synopses of court opinions which are not reported, and discussion of current legal issues which may be so recent that they have not

been covered in typical law review or journal articles.

For national coverage, Beeson Law Library provides access to several legal newspapers in print or online. Perhaps the most dynamic and easy to access of these publications is University of Pittsburgh Law School's JURIST: LEGAL NEWS AND RESEARCH, and is available at Beeson Law Library's homepage (<http://lawlib.samford.edu>) by clicking on "Today's Legal News from JURIST." This service provides news items (and links to extended coverage) throughout the day. Its coverage of events involving foreign and international law is particularly outstanding.

AMERICAN LAWYER is held by the Law Library as a print publication, the latest edition of which is kept on reserve. Earlier issues are kept in storage or in microfiche format. This publication is also available on the web at www.americanlawyer.com and LEGALTRAC (with full-text coverage from May 1, 2000), though the latest print issue appears to be delayed in this format to protect their entrepreneurial interests. The publication concentrates on the business of the legal profession. It is well known for its special supplements which highlight a multitude of surveys and rankings they have

done of law firms and attorneys throughout the nation. WESTLAW carries this publication as well, beginning with the January/February 1995 issue.

LEGAL TIMES is held by the Law Library in a print tabloid format, with the latest issue kept on reserve at the Circulation Desk. Earlier issues are kept in Law Library storage or in microfiche format. Full-text access to this publication is also available on LEGALTRAC (with full-text coverage from December 9, 2002 to present) and some of its articles are available without subscription at <http://www.law.com/jsp/dc/index.jsp>. This publication in large part concentrates on legal news, lobbying and issues of the Washington, D.C. region and includes ads for employment opportunities with law firms and agencies in Washington. WESTLAW also includes this publication online beginning November 1994.

LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL is a print newspaper subscribed to by the Law Library. Its latest issue is kept on reserve at the Circulation Desk and previous issues are kept in Law Library storage. This publication concentrates on legal news and issues of the bar in California.

It includes a section entitled, "Verdicts and Settlements"

which provides synopses of cases, organized by legal topic. This newspaper has a fairly substantial section of employment ads for attorneys needed in the Los Angeles area.

NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL, "the weekly newspaper for the legal profession," is held by the Law Library in print tabloid format, with the most recent issue kept on reserve at the Circulation Desk. Previous editions of the publication are available from Law Library storage or on microfiche. Full-text retrospective access to this publication is also available on [LEGALTRAC](#) beginning February 3, 2003. This newspaper's website, <http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/index.jsp>, has a daily update as well as articles from the current and upcoming print version. The legal news articles covers issues and cases nationwide. It also includes synopses of important opinions recently decided in both federal and state courts. WESTLAW also has this publication online beginning October 1989.

If you have any questions about legal newspapers at Beeson Law Library, please ask a Reference Librarian

Conserving Battery Power

by Grace Simms,
Computer Services Librarian
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Laptop batteries drain quickly if steps aren't taken to conserve power. A few things to consider:

1. If your laptop is equipped with Bluetooth and you are not using it – disable it.
2. If you are not using wireless – turn it off.
3. Dim the screen as a brighter screen will cause a battery to lose power more quickly.
4. Remove any unused peripherals not in use. Eject CDs and DVDs when they are not in use as well.
5. Check on unnecessary programs that may run at each startup. To do this, click on Start, Run, type msconfig in the Run Box. Press enter and a new box will appear. Click on the Startup Tab. You will see a list of items that are starting each time your computer starts up. Be very careful when choosing what to remove. For

example, I usually suggest students remove programs such as iTunes, Adobe Acrobat, and Quicktime. You never want to remove programs that are part of your virus protection.

6. Purchase a backup battery.
7. Between classes – put your computer in Standby mode. Use Hibernation only if you plan to let your laptop "sleep" for a much longer period of time.
8. Use the portable/laptop power scheme – this will reduce your battery use but still allow your laptop to work quickly.



All first year law students received a copy of the 2006-2007 edition of [Guide to Study Aids in the Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library](#). This edition is also on the Law Library's home page.

One more issue of **CHECK IT OUT** will be published this semester. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to



ways we can improve, contact **Becky Hutto** via e-mail at

rmhutto@samford.edu.
