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Presidential Ponderings

... from Jason R. Sowards

At the time of this Presidential Ponderings, I have very recently become privy to the theme for SEAALL 2018 in Nashville (though by the time you read this, the theme will most likely have already been made public). It's pretty amazing. *Changing Your Tune: Dealing with Disruption in Law Librarianship* is both musical (because, c'mon, you knew it would be) and timely. It resonates deeply with me as it captures what I have been spending a lot of my professional time on lately. No, not on vocal lessons, but on devouring everything I can get my hands on about emotional intelligence, empathy, resilience, mindfulness, and happiness. These topics had always interested me, but a new job seemed like the perfect opportunity to check in with myself about where I am in these areas, where I excel, where I might grow, and where I have major blind spots. Awareness of how to identify, employ, and hone each of these is a challenging journey, and very much about changing one's tune. Reading in these areas has been incredibly enlightening and rewarding, and I am happy to share my ever-growing reading list with anyone who is interested.

But that's just my personal/professional interpretation of how I'm changing my tune. As we all know, there are many other ways in which our daily lives are changing because of technology: artificial intelligence, the disparate needs of our multi-generation workforce, outsourcing, and other factors. We must all acknowledge and confront these disruptions. A key change, if you will. In fact, one of the first tasks in my new position was to completely rewrite job descriptions for all library staff -- job descriptions that had not been touched in an embarrassingly long time. It proved to be no small feat to find a way to bring the touchy-feely (yet vitally important) topics listed above in line to create meaningful work that will be engaging to our staffs, while at the same time remaining responsive and proactive to the present and forthcoming needs of our service base. If you have not yet undertaken the task of not merely updating, but actually reinventing, the positions in your library, you have my sympathy, but it is totally worth it.

I could wax poetic for pages about how excited I am about next year's theme because it makes explicit the challenge we face to take responsibility for creating a place for ourselves "at the table" (whatever that might mean at your institution), but you're the choir, of course. I will stop preaching to y'all now. We have always been the innovators. We got this. I am looking forward to seeing the programming that comes out of this brilliant theme local arrangements has given us. The call for proposals will be here before you know it.

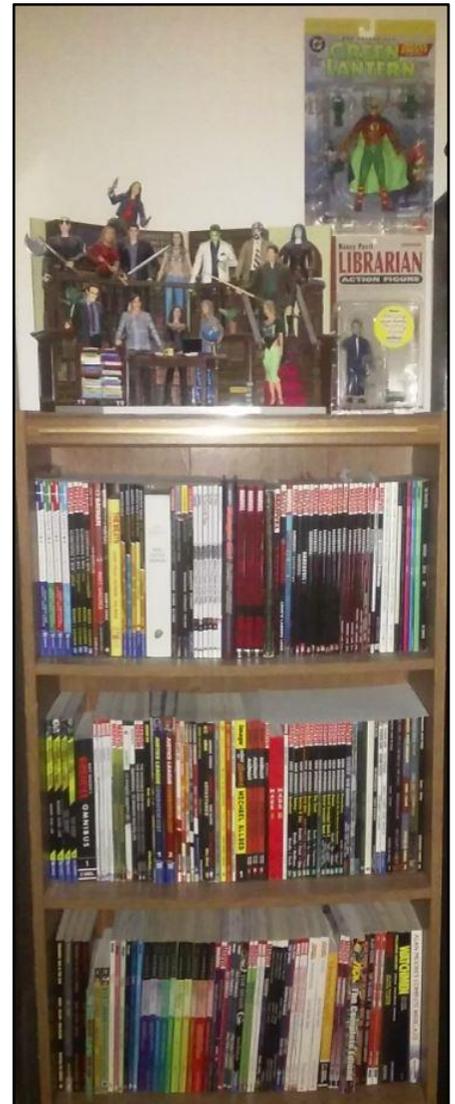
Closed Stacks

Way back in spring 2014, I wrote a recent acquisitions column about the complete set of *Suicide Squad* comic books I collected, with the plan to bind them into custom hardcover books, like I've done with several other beloved comic series. (See p. 5 here: <http://tinyurl.com/y76nyykl>.)

For my closed stacks column, I'd like to expand on my collection of comics, graphic novels, and other nerdy collectibles. I swear I own actual books that don't have pictures in them – really! But I'm a pretty serious library user, and I don't tend to reread books often, so I keep my personal book collection small.

My comic collection isn't huge either, at least by comic-collector standards. I've been reading and collecting since I was a little kid, but I've devoted the last 20 years to keeping it small and focused on favorites through selling, trading, and even donating stuff I don't want or "need" anymore. If I run out of shelf space in my humble home office, I'll know it has gotten out of hand, and to paraphrase *Fight Club*, I don't want the things I own to start owning me. I just like what I like. I no longer feel the need to keep "important," critically-acclaimed classics or pay a premium for trendy new comics if I'm not into them. I don't have anyone to impress. Nobody ever judges me on my bookshelves, although that might be about to change.

These days, I only purchase trade paperbacks, which collect story arcs and entire series in larger volumes, with anywhere from four to



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12 issues in each. It's a better format for reading comics than buying pricey single issues every month and getting serialized stories in 22-page installments. To me, reading comics in trade-paperback format is like binge-watching entire seasons of a good TV show versus watching it weekly – you get all the dizzying highs and terrifying lows at once, without waiting for crazy cliffhangers to resolve or forgetting key details along the way. Instant gratification rules, and the collected editions look better on a shelf and are easier to reread anyway.



So what do I have on these mismatched shelves that have survived several moves? Everything I can get my hands on by my favorite writer, Ed Brubaker, master of bleak, brutal crime-noir, and my favorite artist, Mike Allred, master of sunny, retro pop art. (Sadly, the two have never collaborated.)

Even after a lot of downsizing and more reliance on the public library to stay up to date on comics, I have personal favorites I'll never get rid of: Brian K. Vaughan's epic, *Y: The Last Man* series, and his current sci-fi hit, *Saga*; Matt Fraction's wonderful *Hawkeye*; Warren Ellis' *Planetary*, a brilliant deconstruction of 20th century fiction; Alan Moore's iconic *Watchmen* and *V For Vendetta*; the late, great Darwyn Cooke's *New Frontier*; Ben Edlund's hilarious original run of *The Tick*; and Neil Gaiman's complete *Sandman* (in the rainbow-colored editions that took me years to assemble, since they have been reprinted in different trade dress so many times).

Of course, the two most prominent comics about lawyers are represented in my collection: *Daredevil*, by Frank Miller, Brian Michael Bendis, and Ed Brubaker, and *She-Hulk*, by Dan Slott and practicing attorney Charles Soule. I cite heavily to both during my guest lecture on superheroes and the law every semester. So far, the comedic sci-fi/fantasy *Rex Libris* by James Turner is my only comic about a librarian. The industry hasn't produced a comic about law librarians yet, but it's only a matter of time.

I still have my custom-bound hardcovers of my personal favorites, *Justice League International* (my late-'80s childhood favorite that blended superheroics with sitcom-style humor), *Starman* (my all-time favorite series, which was the one constant in my life from 10th grade through my 1L year at UF), *Sandman Mystery Theatre*, and *Blue Beetle* – truly one-of-a-kind formats which include related issues from other series, customized tables of contents, and custom cover and spine colors and fonts. I have unbound single-issue comics too, but I'm down to two standard 28 ½" cardboard storage "longboxes" in my closet, in addition to the collected editions on the shelves.

You can relax – everything is painstakingly alphabetized, as well as cataloged on a simple Blogger page I can easily update whenever I pick up a new book or sell or trade an old one. This helps me search for increasingly rare collection gaps whenever I visit a new comic book store or a convention.



Speaking of conventions, I don't dress up for them, but I have gotten my favorite writers and artists to sign a lot of these comics over the decades, making some of these rarities even more singular and unique. Earlier this summer, I flummoxed the legendary *X-Men* scribe, Chris Claremont, with a truly obscure book to sign – not one of the classic *X-Men* issues he wrote from the mid-'70s to the early '90s, but the nearly-forgotten *Marvel Team-Up* #74, when he had Spider Man meet the *Saturday Night Live* "Not Ready for Prime Time Players." I like to think I made the man's day with that one, and as a comedy nerd as well as a comic nerd, him autographing it made mine. I'm grateful to have met other legends of the art form, like avuncular Marvel Comics mastermind Stan Lee, co-creator of almost every recognizable Marvel character and a familiar face from his cameos in almost every Marvel movie, and Darwyn Cooke, one of the most talented writer/artists in comics history, who succumbed far too young to cancer in 2016, but still made an indelible mark on the industry and the art.

I collect action figures too – DC and Marvel superheroes, Transformers, and even the casts of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and its spinoff show *Angel* in their library headquarters. (I'd be lying if I didn't admit that Rupert Giles, the heroic librarian mentor on *Buffy*, wasn't some small inspiration for me to become a librarian, so I owe series creator and fellow balding nerd Joss Whedon a great debt.)

Almost all of these toys are from the last 20 years, as I sold off my childhood toy collections to help pay for school along the way. But as fond as I am of the characters and toys of my '80s childhood, the new stuff almost always has better sculpting, articulation, engineering, and durability, plus the character selection can't be beat. I have multiple versions of my absolute favorite superheroes, Blue Beetle and Booster Gold (members of that comedic Justice League), which simply didn't exist back in the '80s.

I'm so glad that comic books and superheroes are mainstream art and entertainment now. As a kid and a teenager, I often felt like the only one who was into this stuff, but it thrills me that people of all ages now get unabashedly excited



about these characters and stories. Comic books, and especially superheroes, really represent our modern American mythology, but to me, they mean so much more. Even though I spend less money collecting than ever before, I love waking up and looking at this stuff every day, and I live for the thrill of tracking down the occasional book or piece I want, at the best possible price. And beyond that, they have inspired me to do better and be better throughout my life. They got me interested in reading as a very young child, in social justice as a teen, and in the basics of librarianship as I delved deeper into collecting.

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Terrill Pollman, Jeanne Frazier Price, and Linda Berger, *Examples and Explanations: Legal Research* (2016)

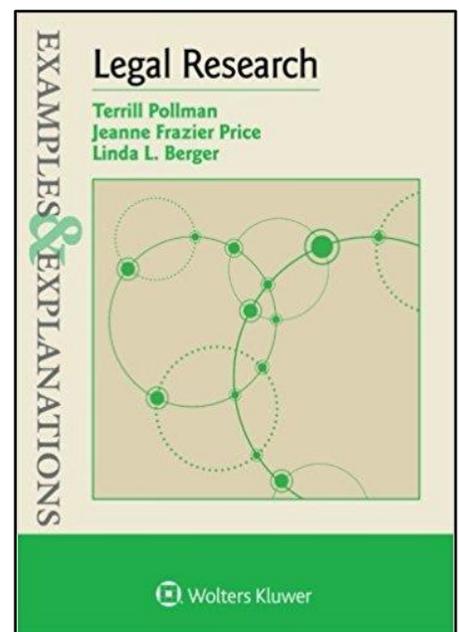
ISBN: 978-1-4548-6789-0

Terrill Pollman, Jeanne Frazier Price, and Linda Berger authored *Examples and Explanations: Legal Research*. Pollman has authored or co-authored numerous books and articles in the area of legal writing and research, including *Examples and Explanations: Legal Writing*. Price has been a contributor to the 8th, 9th, and 10th editions of *Fundamentals of Legal Research*, as well as authoring several other works by herself. Berger has written numerous works on legal writing and rhetoric, and has co-authored, with Kayhryn M. Stanchi, *Legal Persuasion: A Rhetorical Approach to the Science*.

Wolters Kluwer is well known for publishing the popular *Examples and Explanations* study-aid series. The E&E series are highly requested by law students. Students tend to like the hypotheticals and the detailed explanations for studying the various topics. *Examples and Explanations: Legal Research*, another book in this series, is well written and organized, and it is likely to garner law-student interest similar to the other E&E series titles.

The target audience for this book is law students, and first-year law students would benefit most. However, legal writing and research professors might find it is a great resource for use in their courses, as well. The book is relatively concise and its combination of instruction on researching, writing, and citation make it a great resource for beginning to learn the process of legal research and writing. With only 168 pages, one could easily read this book in a few days or less. Pro se patrons might also find this book useful.

Legal Research: Examples and Explanations is easy to navigate. It has 11 chapters and two appendixes that average under thirteen pages each. It also has a table of contents and an index. The opening chapter explains the guiding principles for organizing the book. The authors explain, "As a general rule, we discuss sources in the order most attorneys would follow to research and write." The authors also consciously avoid screenshots to specific databases. Including screenshots is a practice you still find in some research books; however, the exclusion of screenshots is a preferable approach due to the constantly changing nature of database interfaces.



Because the authors designed the book for researching from a practicing attorney's perspective, it focuses on primary resources, starting with statutes, moving to judicial opinions, and then to regulations. The book discusses secondary sources last. The layout of the chapters makes it easy to follow the research and writing process for each primary source. The authors have organized the book so that, for each primary source, there are two chapters covering the topic. The initial chapter explains the "basics" of how to research and write about the topic with some examples and is followed by an "in action" chapter that puts the initial chapter's lessons into practice and includes hypotheticals and illustrations for researching the topic. The discussion of writing in the initial chapter for each resource is extremely helpful, providing added insight on organizing and synthesizing the information gathered from research in order to write on the topic.

In addition to researching, the authors have added chapters on weight of authority, ethos, credibility, and legal research, as well as secondary sources. The chapter on weight of authority is aptly located before the researching chapters to provide the reader a clear understanding of mandatory versus persuasive authority and the hierarchy of different authorities. Chapter nine discusses ethical obligations and the need for updating the law, and chapter ten examines secondary sources. The authors chose to identify the types of secondary sources and their purpose and value rather than name particular secondary sources. This helps the reader quickly understand the type of secondary source that would work best for a particular use.

Two appendixes cover finding sources and citation basics. The addition of the two appendixes are helpful, as they highlight some important aspects of research and writing, such as using advanced search techniques and understanding how statutes, cases, and regulations are cited. The citation examples and explanations should satisfy the writing needs of most first-year law students.

If this book is not a part of your law library collection already, it will make a good addition. The book's organization, clarity, and brevity make it easy to read and understand. Both law students and pro se patrons can benefit from using it.

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Pop Culture Happy Hour ***National Public Radio's Pop-Culture Roundtable Podcast***

The thing about being the mother of two young children is that sitting still is nothing short of a rarity. Because of that, audiobooks have dominated my literary choices for the last six years. Unfortunately, once my oldest daughter got old enough to call David Sedaris “boring guy,” I realized that wouldn’t work anymore, either. Since then I’ve been an avid devourer of podcasts. Podcasts are short enough that I can finish them on around-town errands without my children, but podcast creators are prolific enough that I never run out of content. So for this edition of Reader’s Advisory, I’m writing about my favorite podcast, *Pop Culture Happy Hour*.

PCHH, as it’s known by its most loyal fans, first caught my attention in 2011, when I was driving from my home in Knoxville to a document-review job in Charlotte, NC, every weekend. Though the format and hosts have changed slightly since then, *PCHH* continues to be a fun and enlightening way to escape the work week with (usually) light-hearted discussions of recent and relevant movies, television, books, and music.

As is often joked about on the show, *PCHH* is perfect fodder for librarians. Each week, NPR editors Linda Holmes, Stephen Thompson, and Glen Wheldon welcome a fourth guest for two 20-30-minute discussions of a recent release, a pop-culture phenomena or, my personal favorite, the annual “Regrettable Television Pop Quiz,” wherein each panelist brings an audio clip of a certifiably horrific television show and the other panelists attempt to guess which certifiably horrific television show the clip comes from. If you’re missing Joel McHale’s *The Soup*, *PCHH* will fill that void once a year.

The best part of *PCHH* for me, however, is when it enhances my “viewing pleasure” by adding rich thematic layers that I had previously been missing while enjoying my favorite pieces of pop culture. For instance, if you were around for my Meet & Three in the last newsletter, you know I’m obsessed with *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. *PCHH* wasn’t the first place I heard of what is now my favorite show, but it was the first place I heard a discussion of how the show was treating character Rebecca Bunch’s struggles with mental illness. It was then that I started to notice what the panelists had already seen: exposition and discussion of an often-ignored topic with sensitivity and care. Once I knew to look for these nuances in writing and directing, the show I already loved became something else altogether – a show with the power to change how people treat each other, for the better.

The final segment of the Friday edition of *PCHH* (which for years was the only edition) is a weekly discussion of what is good in the world, aptly titled “What’s Making Me Happy This Week.” It seems only fitting that I would end my first *Reader’s* (er, Listener’s) *Advisory* column the same way. So what’s making me happy are a few recent episodes of *PCHH*, including the fall TV preview and Linda Holmes’ discussion with mother-daughter directors Nancy Meyers and Hallie Meyers-Shyer, standouts in the world of my cheesy rom-com Saturday afternoon favorites.



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Nicholas M. O'Donnell, *A Tragic Fate: Law and Ethics in the Battle Over Nazi-Looted Art* (2017)

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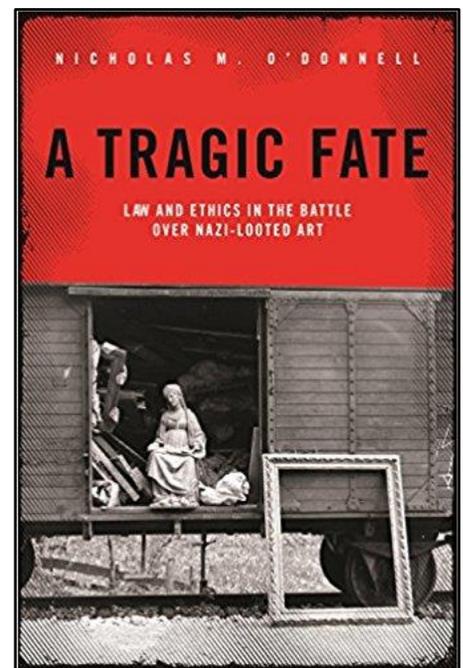
Do you ever see a 1L who's struggling, and you find out that he probably had not spent enough time around lawyers and legal institutions beforehand to make an informed decision to go to law school? I was one of those law students. I had naïve ideas about helping people and making a difference, and then I discovered civil and criminal procedure and spent two summers working for a state public defender office. All of a sudden, being a librarian started to sound fantastic.

Well, I got to relive some of that frustration, but in a good way, if that's possible, by reading this book. I think that my dad, a non-lawyer who loved history, might have thought this was a good history book that got interrupted by civil procedure. Quite right. But that's not a problem when your intended audience is attorneys, or others interested in the real-life drama of war, genocide, art theft, and attempts by would-be heirs to use litigation to obtain partial restitution for what the Nazis took from them and their families.

This book focuses primarily on litigation in the U.S. by individuals, families, and estates who were once in possession of works of art that were taken by the Nazis or their agents. These items were taken through coerced commercial transactions or by force and outright theft. The author describes the Nazi regime's systematic acquisition of art for personal and state collections and the expulsion from Germany of art that did not reflect Nazi ideals.

Additionally, the book summarizes the international movement to make restitution to the various Jewish populations, and other communities, devastated by the Germans from the mid 1930s through 1945. This movement was mostly initiated after the end of the Cold War, with some countries using a systematic approach and others simply going through the motions. One of these international events was the Washington Conference on Holocaust-era Assets, hosted by the U.S. Department of State, in 1998. If you read nothing else in this text, the description of various nations' summaries of the actions (or lack thereof) taken to right the wrongs of this shameful period in history is enlightening, and reflects the extant power of anti-Semitism that still faces Jewish communities today.

Beyond this introduction, various cases are looked at in detail. The author does an excellent job of summarizing the complexities of fact-finding, particularly across various



counties, some of which are reluctant to share records, the complexities of choice of law, and how the statutes of limitations from various jurisdictions have the effect of aiding defendants most often, but which are sometimes, in New York, for example, a bit friendlier to plaintiffs.

Policy justifications for various rules of civil procedure were awakened in long-dormant parts of my brain, but seeing how the competing interests of plaintiffs and defendants in these cases played out was illuminating and frustrating at the same time. This book, like my frustrating years in law school, leaves me certain that I am not the person to aid clients in the court room, yet, I am grateful to those who do this important work. I think this book would be a useful tool in giving civil-procedure students a window into the consequences of these seemingly arbitrary rules.

While the prospect of losing a work of art to which you have long assumed you had clear title cannot, and should not, be equated to the horrors faced by victims of the Germans during this period, the author deftly walks a line that shows the legitimate concerns of individuals who wish to buy works of art and the museums who display them. Further, he shows how various jurisdictions' attempts to handle the complicated prospect of bringing some level of justice via substantive and procedural law play out decades after the greatest tragedy in human history.

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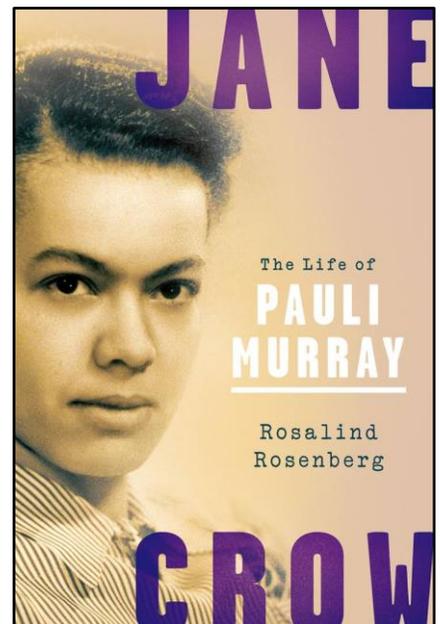
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Rosalind Rosenberg, *Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray* (2017)

ISBN: 978-0-19065-645-4

Early this year, Pauli Murray's (1910-1985) childhood home (and current [Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice](#)) here in Durham, NC, was made a National Historic Landmark. To say that Murray, a legal scholar, social justice advocate, feminist, and the first black female Episcopal priest, was ahead of her time is a true understatement. The icon's many influences, crusades, and journeys of self-discovery are exhaustively chronicled in *Jane Crow: The Life of Pauli Murray*, by Rosalind Rosenberg. Murray inhabited many difficult identities: being born mixed race in the segregated South; living in opposition to her birth gender and altering its expression from an early age; being brilliant and black at a time when her sex, and not her race, disqualified her from graduate study at Harvard University.

Any way you slice it, Pauli Murray is a fascinating subject for a biography. Her life and work are particularly interesting now as transgender rights, civil rights, labor unrest, and sexual politics continue to make headlines. An early advocate of intersectionality in social justice (before that term was commonplace), Murray literally applied legal strategy from the Civil Rights movement to support women's rights, influencing Thurgood Marshall's attack on segregation as a violation of equal protection in *Brown v. Board*, and later, Ruth Bader Ginsberg's protection of "sex" within Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Pauli Murray, her story, and her continuing legacy are far too expansive to go into here, but, if you haven't already, I highly recommend taking the time to learn about them.



Library Profiles

The Joel A. Katz Law Library at the University of Tennessee



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“The Katz,” as it’s affectionately known, with its 13 staff members and seven faculty librarians, including Associate Director Michelle Cosby and Director Scott Childs, serves approximately 300 law students and 40 faculty members.

The first thing visitors notice when entering the library is the numerous silver, gold, and platinum records that adorn walls and display cases throughout the building. Though these artifacts are usually reserved for a different type of special library, Katz patrons enjoy a special relationship with alumna Joel A. Katz, founding shareholder at Greenberg Traurig’s Atlanta office. Katz graduated from the university in 1969 and has since seen great success, being named Billboard Magazine’s number one entertainment law attorney for 2016. The library’s current facility, which opened in 1997, was built through an endowment from Katz and was renamed for him in 1999.

Since then, the library has seen numerous improvements, the most recent being the addition of digital signage created by IT Director Chris Bombardo, using Raspberry Pi technology.



In 2016, the law library became the proud host of the Tennessee Law Review, creating workable office space within our walls in order to facilitate a smoother working relationship between the library and the organization. In 2017, the Tennessee Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice will also take up residence in the library.

Our collection boasts nearly 283,000 titles (including both print and digital). Recent acquisitions include West Academic Study Aids, Lexis Digital OverDrive, PowerNotes, and Quimbee. We are also proud to serve local attorneys and pro se patrons in the community through Westlaw public access.



While our collection moves toward the future, one of the most interesting things about the Katz Law Library is how much we know about our past. Thanks to recently retired Head of Collection Management Loretta Price, library “Record Books” were saved from certain destruction during the 1997 cross-campus move. In these books, Price discovered detailed daily records of the activities of those in the College of Law community, particularly the library staff. Many of the records were kept by a personal hero of mine, Eliza Lucy Ogden, the library’s first “director” and one of the first female graduates of the University of Tennessee.



Dating back to September of 1921, the journals track the journey of the law library in its earliest days, when the school was still awarding “Bachelor of Law” degrees after four years of education. Items of note include requests from John R. Neal, one of two full-time faculty members at the College of Law in 1921. Prof. Neal would later be let go by the university, but went on to gain notoriety by assisting Clarence Darrow in the “Scopes Monkey Trial.” Another notable former professor, Edward Sanford, had left UT by the time the journals started, but he

did stop by to donate a set of law books. Sanford was later appointed to the United States Supreme Court. Combining the journals with what we know about history and our region at the time often provides a stark look at troubles few of us have known, for instance, the sharp decline in enrollment through the devastation of World War II.

Those interested in reading the transcribed journal entries can find them in the University of Tennessee’s institutional repository, otherwise known as [Trace](#).



Meet & Three



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Meet . . .

I am from Amsterdam. No, not the Amsterdam you are probably thinking of . . . I am from Amsterdam, Ohio. I am a Buckeye through and through; however, I have become a Floridian by choice. I love the warm weather and sunny skies of Florida. I have lived in Florida for nearly ten years now. I came to Florida to earn my law degree (Florida Coastal School of Law 2010), and subsequently, I began my career as a law librarian. In Florida, I have lived in Jacksonville and Orlando (my current home city).

My education and career path has been non-traditional from the beginning. After high school, I served four years in the Marine Corps, after which I enrolled at The Ohio State University. After a year of college, I left Ohio State and began working in sales. While I was working in sales, I completed a two-year Biblical Theology program at a non-accredited school for ministry. Five years later, I returned to Ohio State to finish my bachelor's degree (English writing and rhetoric 2006) with the intention of continuing on to law school. I completed my Juris Doctor at Florida Coastal School of Law in 2010. Later, while working for FCSL, I took library science classes online from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, earning my Masters in Library Science in 2014. While working at FCSL as an interim law librarian, I was selected for their library fellowship. During my fellowship, I received the American Association of Law Libraries' LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship (2012) and the SEAALL Lucile Elliott Scholarship (2011).

I started my law librarian career at FCSL after graduating in 2010. My first job was working the reference desk on weekends. I got the job because I was working for a local attorney who did not have access to a legal-research database at his office, so I was always in the library conducting research. The librarians saw me every day and remembered I had taken the advanced legal research course my final year of law school. I had asked about jobs in the library while in my final year of law school, but there were no openings at that time. When the librarians saw me in the library regularly after having graduated, they said they would let me know if something opened up. That is when an opening for the weekend reference desk position opened, and I got the job. I worked part-time for nearly a year, and then an interim reference librarian position opened up. I worked as interim reference librarian for more than a year when the library fellowship came available. I was selected for the fellowship position and, during that time, finished my library science degree.

After completing my library fellowship at FCSL, I moved back to Ohio, but winter in Ohio was just too much, so I looked for job openings back in Florida. When I saw that Barry University School of Law had an opening, I applied. Happily, I was hired and I am now in my third year here at Barry University School of Law. Here at Barry, I have continued to do a significant amount of teaching; something I had done a lot of while at FCSL. I have designed and taught a course in our LLM

program called U.S. Legal Discourse 1, which is a legal research and writing course for ESOL students. I am teaching this course again in the fall of 2017. I have also taught our advanced legal research course, which I recently redesigned to make it more like researching in a law practice. The feedback from students on both of these courses has been very positive, and based upon my assessments, the students made great progress in their ability to conduct legal research.

And Three . . .

Three things I like best about working in law librarianship are teaching legal research, customer service problem solving, and interacting with students and co-workers. These three aspects of my job are each rewarding in their own way. Each of them also allow me to interact with people, which is a must for me. I enjoy selecting resources for the collection and evaluating databases, but I have to have at least some time each day to interact with others.

1. Teaching Legal Research

Teaching legal research is such an exciting part of law librarianship because it allows me to pass my knowledge and skills on to law students. It is especially gratifying when I hear from students that they have used techniques I have taught them, and that they were successful in finding the information they needed. I have had many students tell me how taking my advanced legal research course has made them so much more confident in their researching capabilities, and I have witnessed their skills and confidence grow as well. Beyond the positive feedback from students, I like teaching because it allows law librarians to help shape the future of law. Well-trained legal researchers will provide better support for their arguments, which should, in turn, result in better precedent case law.

2. Customer Service Problem Solving

I really enjoy when patrons come to the reference desk or my office and need assistance researching difficult or novel legal issues. Helping patrons solve their problems through finding the right database or search terms is such a rewarding experience. On more than one occasion, I have had students come to the reference desk who were ready to give up completely, but with a short reference interview and some research guidance, they found what they needed and found a renewed confidence that they can do it.

3. Interacting with Students and Co-Workers

Third, I really enjoy working in law librarianship because of collegiality among librarians. Whether it's former co-corkers or current co-workers, librarians are friendly and helpful by nature. I also love working with the students. I feel like those who work in academia age less because the environment is fluid and never gets stagnant. There are always new students coming in and 3Ls who are graduating and they are all excited because they are either starting law school or starting their career.



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Introducing “Competitive Intelligence” Skills into the Law School Curriculum

I wish to thank the SEAALL scholarship committee for honoring me with the AALL registration grant. This grant not only permitted me to register for the 2017 annual conference, but also allowed me the opportunity to coordinate and co-present “Due Diligence and Competitive Intelligence: The “New Practice-Ready Skills.”

Although competitive intelligence research has long been conducted in corporations and special libraries, it has only been in the last decade or so that law firms began to understand how integral it was to identifying and maintaining clients. Even for solo practitioners and small firms, the need to investigate potential clients, industries, and individuals is essential. In the last couple of years there has been renewed interest in CI as evidenced by the increase in the number of programs sponsored by AALL and SLA. In addition, AALL is currently launching a “Competitive Intelligence Foundations” program which will assist librarians in developing a competitive intelligence function within their respective firms.

I was never a CI analyst during the years I was employed in private law libraries; however, every private law librarian is an analyst to some degree. We’ve supported business development, worked closely with marketing departments, and have fulfilled requests to locate the types of information that could be categorized as competitive intelligence or due diligence. When I transitioned from private law libraries back to academic libraries, I became responsible for teaching an asynchronous advanced legal research course. The course consisted of weekly units, each of which introduced a new resource or afforded the students an opportunity to steadily build upon their research skills. My new employer prided itself on offering its students an experiential education. I decided to draw upon my experiences as a private law librarian and create a mid-term assessment, a mini-briefing book on a public company, which would approximate a real-life, practical product.

Students were to approach the assignment as if they were preparing for a meeting with a “C” level executive and the general counsel. The assessment wasn’t a true briefing book because the students were expected to cite their sources and evaluate both the information and resources for each component of the briefing book. I wanted this project to encourage the development of basic information literacy skills such as critical reading and the ability to evaluate information and resources.

I knew that other instructional librarians had been interested in teaching competitive intelligence skills. A couple of years ago, Catherine A. Lemmer,

author of “Using Competitive Intelligence to Develop Practice-Ready Legal Professionals,” 34 Legal Reference Services Quarterly 268 (2015), had inquired via the RIPS listserv as to whether any librarians were teaching competitive intelligence in law schools.

Last fall, I ran across Matthew M. Morrison’s article, “Due Diligence: Company Information for Law Students,” 108 Law Library Journal 427 (Summer 2016). I immediately phoned him and asked if he would be interested in co-presenting at AALL. We thought it would be helpful to include a law firm librarian who could provide an overview of how competitive intelligence research is handled in law firms. Kevin Miles, manager of library services at Norton Rose Fulbright US, LLP, in Dallas, and co-chair of the AALL CI Division, recommended Kathleen Agno, knowledge and research intelligence director, at Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

Kathy, Matt, and I worked closely with our AALL liaison, Martin Korn, director of research and library services at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP. Martin scheduled conference calls, facilitated a dry-run, attended our program and participated in the Q&A segment. We three had a great deal of information to pack into only an hour. Kathy described the competitive intelligence landscape in law firms. She explained who might conduct the research, gave examples of the types of information requested, and highlighted some of the specific tools and products used.

I referenced several studies which had analyzed the research skills which law school graduates should possess. I also alluded to the AALL principle statements and research competency standards, especially those which addressed a legal researcher’s ability to evaluate information, and I provided an example of a tool which my students used to evaluate both resources and information. This was the C.R.A.A.P. test, an acronym for currency, relevancy, authority, accuracy, and purpose, and is attributed to the Meriam Library at the California State University, Chico. I included a detailed sample briefing book assignment and a copy of the rubric by which it was assessed, as additional, down-loadable documents.



Matt teaches a very popular business/due diligence advanced legal research course, as faculty services librarian and lecturer in law at Cornell University School of Law Library. His students focus on three distinct perspectives: what the company says about itself, what third parties, such as analysts and news sources, say about the company, and what “insiders” say about the company. He also detailed some of the specific resources he covers in his course, such as SEC filings, Mergent Online, and S&P Capital IQ.

We left time for questions and we were pleased by the number and quality. In particular, Matt and I were asked if we would consider inviting a

law firm librarian into class. That's a good idea. These days, with access to technologies such as Skype, there is little inconvenience and no good reason not to invite guest lecturers. The program seemed to be of interest to several types of libraries.

Again, I would like to thank members of SEAALL and the SEAALL scholarship committee for their generosity.

Accomplishments by SEAALL members at AALL



Liz McCurry Johnson and Ron Wheeler, Director of the Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries and Associate Professor of Law, at Boston University School of Law

From the Jurist, Wake Forest Law's alumni magazine:

Liz McCurry Johnson, a library faculty member of Wake Forest Law's Legal Analysis, Writing and Research faculty, authored "The Practical Obscurity of the Green Screen Terminal: A Case Study on Accessing Jury Selection Data," which will be published in the *The American Journal of Trial Advocacy* in fall 2017. The article received the 2017 American Association of Law Libraries/LexisNexis Call for Papers award.

The article is part of a series of papers that discuss jury selections, "by providing a positive, personal account with field data on how litigants pick a jury," specifically focusing on the challenges of acquiring historical data of jury selection outcomes. As a collaborator in the Wake Forest Law Jury Sunshine Project, Johnson discovered these challenges in data acquisition in legal, technological, and organizational capacities. Her article offers innovative research techniques to combat these obstacles and provides insight on potential reasons as to why the government permitted these public records to go dormant. This article is a part of a larger bed of legal scholarship by Professors Ron Wright, Kami Chavis and Gregory Parks who will further discuss the findings of this data through the Jury Sunshine Project.

Several librarians from the **Panza Maurer Law Library** at the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law contributed to the success of the AALL program in Austin, in July.

Alison Rosenberg, assistant director, research & reference, participated as a host in the AALL host program, tabled at the CONELL marketplace for the AALL continuing professional education committee, and attended the committee meeting for the annual meeting program committee, marketing and outreach content team.

Becka Rich, senior associate director, presented on Twinery at Cool Tools Café.

Michelle T. Murray, research and reference services librarian, attended CONELL where she learned about AALL and particularly enjoyed the speed-networking session. In addition to attending many AALL programs, she went to her first meeting of the bylaws and resolutions committee, to which she was recently appointed. There, she volunteered to develop an FAQ document based upon the comments the committee had previously provided to chapters and special interest sections, regarding their by-laws revision submissions.

Attention!

Nominations sought for SEAALL executive board

The nominating committee needs your help in putting together a strong slate of candidates to represent the variety and diversity of SEAALL for the upcoming 2018 election. Do you have a colleague or someone you have worked with on a committee that you think would bring good leadership skills to the SEAALL executive board? Perhaps you are ready to contribute your experience as a SEAALL officer? (Self nominations are not only accepted, they are encouraged!)

Open positions for the 2018 election:

- [Vice-President/President Elect](#) (3-year term, 2018-2021)
- [Secretary](#) (2-year term, 2018-2020)
- [Member-at-Large](#) (2-year term, 2018-2020)

Please email nominations to Wendy Moore, wemoore@uga.edu, no later than Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.

SEAALL Nominating Committee 2017-18
Wendy Moore, chair
Marie Hamm
Austin Williams

SEAALL Members Run for AALL President-Elect



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This year's AALL election is a win for SEAALL, regardless of the outcome, as one of our own will become the next AALL president for 2018. These are exciting times for our chapter, since we will be well-represented by the next AALL President. Michelle Cosby is the outgoing SEAALL president, serving from 2016-2017, and Carol Watson served as SEAALL president in 2011-2012. Both candidates have contributed tremendously to SEAALL and we thank them for their continued service. We asked a close colleague of each candidate to share insights which highlight the many accomplishments and dedication the candidates bring to the profession.



MICHELLE COSBY

Associate Director
Joel A. Katz Law Library
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN

Eliza Fink, digital resources and services librarian, University of Tennessee College of Law: *In her many years as an AALL member, Michelle Cosby has consistently shown dedication to service and leadership. During this time, she has enthusiastically committed herself to caucuses, special interest sections, and committee work. Though her works of service are too numerous to list, I would be remiss if I didn't illustrate the wealth of experience Michelle would bring to the table as AALL President. Examples of Michelle's leadership include serving as chair of the black caucus, as chair of the CRIV, and as president of SEAALL. Similarly, she is currently serving as chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents while simultaneously serving as chair of the AALL awards committee.*

Perhaps more importantly, Michelle also commits herself to work that improves our profession but often goes unnoticed, including volunteering her time at every AALL annual meeting by working the registration desk, volunteering with CONELL, and working tables and posters in the exhibit hall. Michelle's spirit of volunteerism also extends beyond AALL. In addition to her work with CALI and AALS, she also serves as a member of the alumni board of her library school at Indiana University.

It is my honor to work with Michelle on a daily basis and to see her dedication to the profession. She inspires me to work harder and be more passionate in my career.



CAROL WATSON

Director of the Law Library
Alexander Campbell King Law Library
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens, GA

Anne Burnett, foreign & international law librarian, University of Georgia School of Law: *Carol Watson's service to law library and legal education organizations spans decades and is beyond comparison. A quick glance of her "leadership activity" in the AALL directory depicts a person who assumes leadership as chair or president of every committee or chapter in which she is involved, including chairing the AALL annual meeting program committee. The volume and quality of her service to AALL resulted in her being awarded the 2016 AALL Volunteer Service Award. She continues to serve on AALL committees, and she is the current chair of the section on law libraries and legal information of the Association of American Law Schools. In addition to serving officially as a mentor to several newer law librarians, Carol has assumed that role unofficially to countless others who look to her for practical and friendly advice.*

In her role as a library director, Carol is ceaselessly hard-working and flexible, moving seamlessly from law school administrative work to teaching legal research to providing "push up her shirtsleeves" support for research requests. Her relentless good humor combined with extraordinary problem-solving abilities make her a natural leader who strives to help others do their very best work, whether they be students in her legal research classes or fellow law librarians. These attributes would translate seamlessly into her work as AALL President.



We are proud of all our SEAALL members on this year's ballot, including executive board member candidate, **CHRISTINE SELLERS**, research specialist at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Official biographies and statements for the upcoming AALL election can be found [here](#). Voting began on Sept. 29, and is open through Oct. 31. Best of luck to Michelle, Carol, and Christine!

Attention!

Want to know the secret to success?

Become an author in the Southeastern Law Librarian!

Share your articles, notes, photos, comments, ideas, rejected blog entries, or anything else that will fit into a Word document in the SEAALL Newsletter! Guaranteed to be your first step to conquering the librarianship world or your money back!

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Billie Blaine

Supreme Court Librarian
Florida Supreme Court Library
blaineb@fcourts.org

MS Word is the preferred format for electronic submissions.

Newsletter submission deadlines are:

Fall – Nov. 30, 2017
Winter – Feb. 28, 2018
Spring – May 31, 2018

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