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## Presidential Ponderings

...from Louis M. Rosen

I can't believe I'm actually writing my first "Presidential Ponderings" column for *The Southeastern Law Librarian*! I feel like it hasn't been that long since I was contributing "Reader's Advisory" book reviews and other short pieces as part of our newsletter and public relations committee. I especially love our newsletter for glimpses into the professional and personal lives of my *frolleagues*, professional colleagues who have since become friends.

That delightful portmanteau came from M.J. Tooey, the keynote speaker at our 2019 SEAALL annual meeting institute, "Ascending to New Heights," way back on March 21st. Medical librarian *par excellence* Tooey kicked off a day of programming about all aspects of leadership in law libraries, setting a positive and inspiring tone for the institute and the annual meeting that followed.

It seems like ancient history already, but the theme of our annual meeting was "Create. Innovate. Act." Back in March, SEAALL took over the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia, and from all accounts, a good time was had by all. The property was stunningly gorgeous, the programming was outstanding, and we even got some beautiful snow that didn't linger long enough to impede our travels back home. Thank you so much to our local arrangements committee, led by Caroline Osborne and Stephanie Miller, for making it all happen. For me, it was an honor and a privilege to work on the program committee alongside Wanda Barrett, Whitney Curtis, Avery Le, Patricia Morgan, Elizabeth Outler, Franklin Runge, and Deborah Schander, who curated a top-notch slate of educational programs.

Most recently, we convened in Washington, D.C., for the 2019 AALL annual meeting, where SEAALL members dominated with even more innovative programming. It was a treat to see many of you again so soon at our SEAALL business meeting, and to meet several of you for the first time. This was the first meeting I presided over as president, and I tried to keep things light and brief so our members could get on with the evening's revelry.

Thanks to all of our new committee chairs for making reports, and especially to Ed Hart, Fran Norton, and Jason Sowards, for bestowing the Service to SEAALL Award on the deserving Paul Birch.

I can't express my gratitude enough to our previous SEAALL President, the tireless Kristina Niedringhaus, who I'm relieved is sticking around to advise the executive board for one more year in the role of immediate past president. I am so grateful and lucky Treasurer Cas Laskowski, Secretary Kat Klepfer, and Member-At-Large Suzanne Corriell are continuing in their positions, now joined by our new vice president/president elect, Shamika Dalton, and our newest member-at-large, Leslie Street. And I bow before our previous immediate past president, Jason Sowards, and our previous member-at-large, Avery Le, for everything they have done and continue to do for SEAALL.

The strength of any organization is in its members, especially a volunteer-based organization like SEAALL. I appreciate those of you who volunteered to serve on committees for the 2019-2020 year. I tried to give everyone their top choices, and you can refer to the updated SEAALL website with the new rosters over the next year at <https://seaall.wildapricot.org/about>. If any of you need anything or have any questions or concerns over the next year, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [lrosen@barry.edu](mailto:lrosen@barry.edu). I have received such a warm welcome and a sense of belonging from SEAALL, and I want everyone else to feel the same, at all times.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year as we move toward our next SEAALL annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, in April 2020. Stephen Parks is chairing the next local arrangements committee, and I know they already have great things in store for us. I know it isn't always easy to get the green light from our employers to attend these professional conferences, but they are so rewarding – for the educational programming, the networking and service opportunities, and the chance to travel, explore, learn, and yes, eat, in new places. So, we'll stay in touch in the meantime, fellow frolleagues, and share ideas and meals when we meet again in Jackson.



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### *American Animals*

Welcome to a new column in the SEAALL newsletter, legal film reviews. The films reviewed might be current releases or a film of more classic, older status, or even just a personal favorite. The reviewers personally select the films. In any case, we hope that you'll find something you would like to see or add to your library's collection.

*American Animals*, written and directed by Bart Layton, premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 19, 2018.

*We must suppose that the American Animals . . . slowly migrated by successive generations from the outer world into the deeper and deeper recesses of the Kentucky caves.*

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of the Species*, vol. 15, page 100, opening epigram, *American Animals*.

My film choice, *American Animals*, is inspired by personal interest. I have some background in special collections and I always enjoy a good crime drama. At the just-concluded AALL convention, you might have had the opportunity to see the session, "To Catch a Thief: How the Librarians and Archivists at the Folger Shakespeare Library Masterminded the Recovery of the Durham First Folio." Security for collections, while allowing patrons access to artifacts, is an ongoing concern for librarians. If you would like to learn about another book theft, how can you miss with a film about librarians helping to solve a crime involving a theft of rare books?

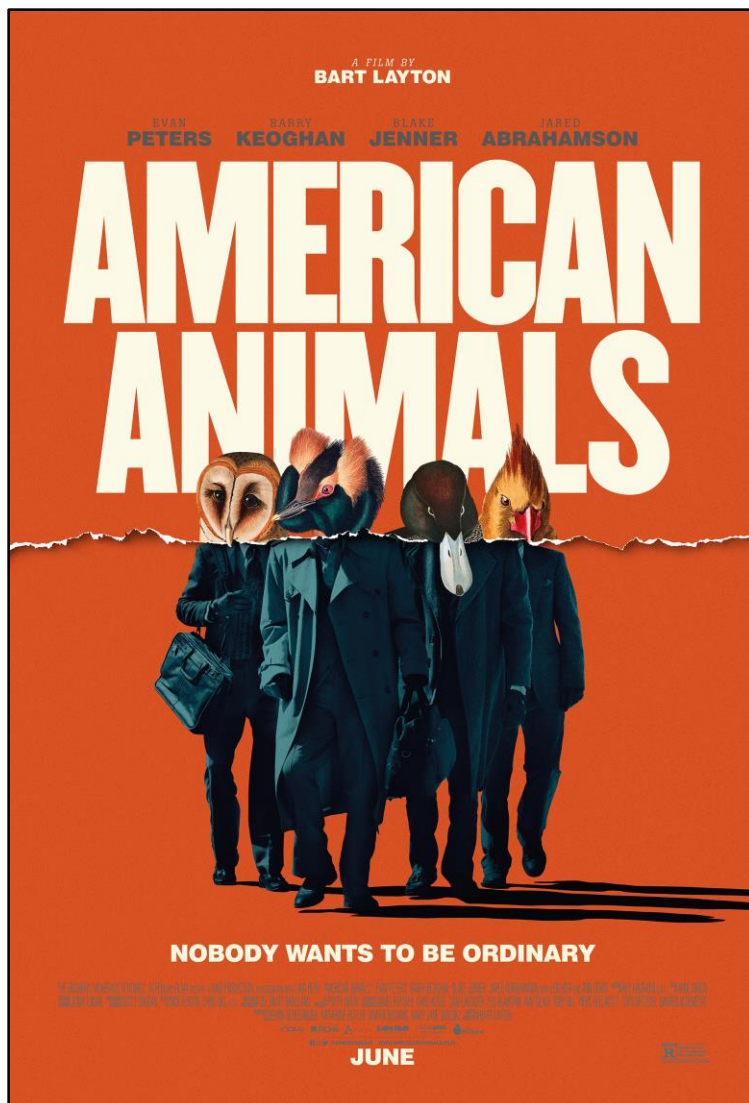
*American Animals* is a 2018 crime drama/documentary based on the 2004 library book theft at Transylvania University Special Collections, in Lexington, Kentucky. The "Transy Book Heist" was conceived and carried out by four college students who had



*American Animals*  
A FILM BY BART LAYTON

known each other most of their lives: Spencer Reinhard, Warren Lipka, Eric Borsuk, and Charles “Chas” Allen. The film utilizes a dramatic technique of interspersing interview clips of the real people and re-enactments of the events by actors. In addition to interviews, Spencer contributed his artwork to the film and Eric self-published his memoir about the events.

After college freshman Spencer tours Transylvania University Library’s special collections, he learns about the valuable items in the collection and what he perceives as lax security. Spencer mentions the collection’s multi-million-dollar value to Warren. They begin to plan how to steal John James Audubon’s *The Birds of America* and other rare books and drawings, including Darwin’s *On the Origins of Species*. Their plan begins to move from theoretical to actual and two friends are brought into the heist, Eric and Chas. Over several months, they survey the library and the staff to learn floorplans, staff schedules, and movements. Warren makes international contacts about selling the books after their theft. They design “old man” disguises and practice “get-away” car routes. One hurdle to overcome is Betty Jean “BJ” Gooch, the special collections librarian. Warren coldly states that BJ is the “single biggest risk to this entire operation. She needs to become a nonfactor as soon as possible.”



Without giving away too much of the film, the heist does not go smoothly. In fact, the gang aborts their first attempt. The next day, their second attempt is partially successful, and BJ is stunned with a taser, bound, and gagged during the theft. During their get-away, Warren and Eric are seen by another librarian, and drop the Audubon folios while trying to get away. They manage to escape with smaller books and drawings, even though police are responding to the campus.

The gang promptly takes the books to Christie’s auction house in New York City to establish authenticity for their overseas buyers, but their demeanor raises suspicions. They also realize their emails and cell phone numbers leave a trail for the police to trace them. The four students try to lay low, yet are ultimately arrested by the FBI. They are each sentenced to seven years incarceration for robbery, conspiracy, theft of major artworks, and using a deadly weapon. The film includes clips of the now-twenty-something adults expressing their regret for the theft, as well as what they are doing with their lives after prison.

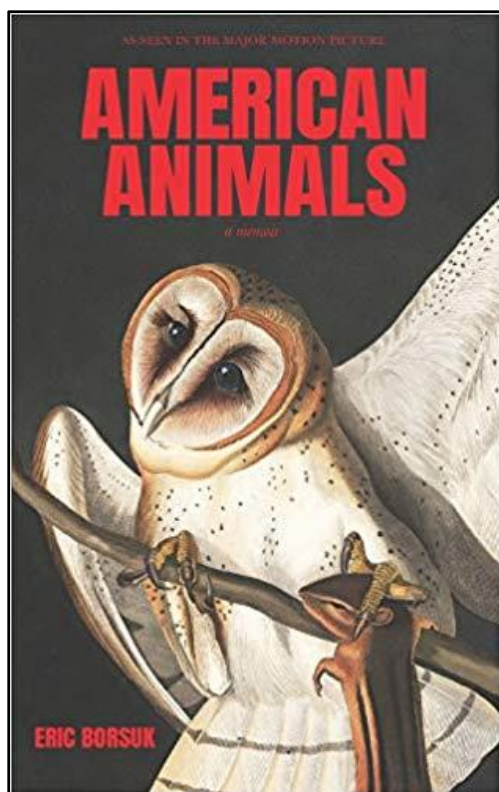
Betty Jean Gooch is interviewed in the film about her understanding of the students’ motivations. She is clearly someone who was hurt, not only physically, by the thieves, but also hurt that “her”



collection was violated by the theft. You might be interested to read more about the theft's impact on her life in the Blackford article cited below.

If there is a question left unanswered from *American Animals*, it is this: Why? Money seemed to be a motivation for the theft, but the thrill of the operation was also inescapable. Perversely, Spencer said he was torn between a desire to keep the operation moving forward and wanting to hit an insurmountable obstacle to stop the planning. In fact, the gang did not testify against one another and facts or accurate points of view might be open to interpretation. Luckily, the heist ultimately failed. The stolen books and drawings were safely returned and remain available to other patrons.

I would recommend this film for anyone with an interest in art and special collections, security for such collections, and patron access. *American Animals* would also be a good addition to a recreational film collection in academic or public libraries. The film's DVD is available for purchase at about \$12.99. It is not yet available for rental or streaming.



#### For further reading:

Barrett, Paul H. (2016). *The Works of Charles Darwin: Vol 15: On the Origin of Species*, (First Edition, 1859). Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

Blackford, Linda. (2018). Librarian speaks for 1st time about heist movie, her ordeal. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.apnews.com/7f68497dd59f406d9fc3dd95de744b6d>

Borsuk, Eric. (2018). *American Animals: A Memoir*. Publisher: author.

Brayson, Johnny. (2018). Where Are The 'American Animals' Guys In 2018? The College Thieves Have Come a Long Way. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.bustle.com/p/where-are-the-american-animals-guys-in-2018-the-college-thieves-have-come-a-long-way-9229637>

Falk, John. (2007). Majoring In Crime: The Untold Story of the "Transy Book Heist" is One Part Ocean's 11, One Part Harold & Kumar: Four Kentucky College Kids Who Had Millions to Gain and Nothing to Lose. *Vanity Fair*. Retrieved from:  
<https://www.vanityfair.com/magazine/2015/02/transy-book-heist>



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## Meet & Three

**Meet . . .** my employer, Nora Everlove, an entrepreneurial law librarian. Nora began working in law firms after finishing library school in the 1970's. She theorized that for every firm large enough to employ a full-time librarian, there were fifty smaller firms with fifty smaller libraries needing experienced, talented, and educated staff – just not all the time. I have been fortunate to work for Nora's company, Everlove & Associates, for several decades. While I still have a client from my second day of work, I have also been able to advance both my duties and skills throughout that time. Nora even helped me to obtain a master's degree in library science.

One of my favorite things about working with Nora is hearing about her extensive travels. I always say that no one works as hard as Nora does but also no one has more fun while she travels. I thought it would be interesting to share three useful insights from her experiences.

### And Three . . .

**1.** I asked Nora *"Where is your favorite place?"* as over the years she has traveled almost literally around the globe. At first she replied "I have to pick just one?"

I'm not sure I could even narrow it between hemispheres. So much depends on who traveled with me, was I looking for fast pace, a slower pace, an adventure or opportunity to find peace or solace?" While Nora has spent more time in western Europe than anywhere else, she remembers riding an elephant in Thailand, talking to penguins in southern Argentina, and doing absolutely nothing in Hawaii, as highlights among her travels.

**2.** That led me to ask *"What is your favorite thing about traveling?"* Nora said, "I love the planning stages; I love anticipating it; I love imagining it. I check out guidebooks, I watch Rick Steves, I annoy friends who've been there before me, etc. . . ." Currently Nora has reserved three nights in a sixteenth-century Italian villa in the Veneto and a week of cooking



classes in Abruzzo, with two weeks in between. She will get much joy from filling in the days and miles in between. As an example, when Nora visited Bali a few years ago there were no fewer than 13 flights involved!

**3.** Well, 13 flights for one vacation doesn't motivate me to want to travel, so I asked Nora *"What motivates you to 'work' so hard to travel?"* Nora told me that she sees travel as an investment. "You are educating yourself and making memories. Start creating those memories now so you'll have them longer and benefit from it longer." Nora reminded me that we are not guaranteed to live into retirement, and we may not be healthy enough to enjoy travel if we put it off until later. Also, it is easier to plan longer trips now because we can work and play at the same time thanks to smart phones and the internet. Nora said, "You may be thinking that you can do this when you're retired and I'm here to tell you to do it now." I'm happy to say that when I ask for time off to travel, Nora doesn't blink. My next trip across the waters will be to Iceland!



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## Readers' Advisory

**Faith Pincus, *Being Heard: Presentation Skills for Attorneys* (2018)**  
ISBN: 978-1-64105-188-0

**Podcast:**

[http://www.abajournal.com/books/article/podcast\\_episode\\_99](http://www.abajournal.com/books/article/podcast_episode_99)

In preparation for a presentation, I found and listened to a podcast called *Public Speaking Skills Every Lawyer Should Master*. The podcast is part of the ABA Journal's Modern Law Library Series that produces brief discussions of ABA publications and the latest legal trends and issues. This podcast covers public speaking skills, featuring Faith Pincus, author of *Being Heard: Presentation Skills for Attorneys*. After listening to the podcast, the information was so helpful that I purchased the eBook on Amazon.

In the book, Pincus details her AMI (Audience, Message, and Image/Delivery) method of public speaking. She provides a glimpse into this method detail, offering examples for many of the concepts. The second part of the book, chapters 11 through 16, is geared for practicing attorneys. Even though the book is tailored for attorneys, it provides a lot of helpful information on public speaking. This advisory focuses on part one of the book: the art of public speaking.



**Audience: Find Out Who the Audience Is**

The needs and wants of an audience are usually the first thing we assess when preparing for a presentation. This makes sense, since people attend presentations expecting to hear and learn certain information. In chapter two, Pincus discusses understanding an audience by posing six questions. One question requires the presenter to consider "What benefit the presenter expects to provide." Considering this can help keep the presentation tailored to the right material. Another question to look at is, "Why is the audience here?" Knowing the type of audience can help with how the presentation is delivered. (This is discussed more below).

**Message: Crafting a Careful and Organized Message**

In the third chapter, the author discusses four types of speeches: impromptu, extemporaneous, written verbatim, and delivered from memory. The types are discussed briefly, noting how each will likely yield different results. Also in this chapter, the author details five steps to build a message and create a presentation. The first four steps are creating a thesis statement, researching and gathering



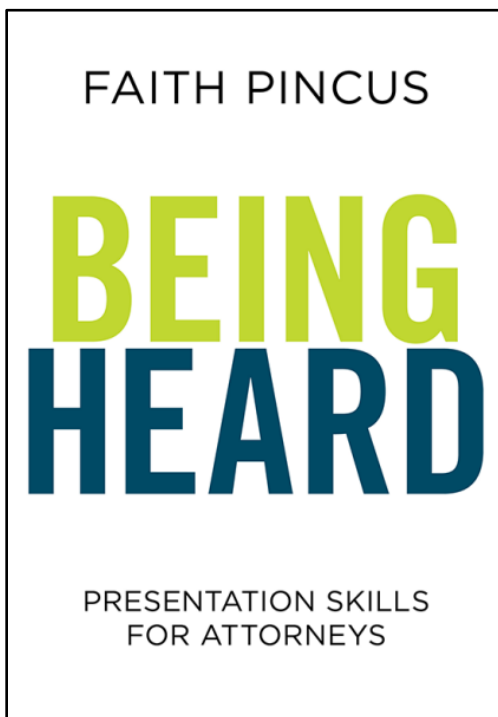
supporting materials, consolidating the three main points, and organizing those points. The last step to building a message for a presentation is creating an outline of it. Bringing outlines to a presentation is definitely a more user-friendly option than using notecards. As part of outlining, the author says that it's good to start with a full-sentence outline. Put everything in it initially, then cut it down to key words and phrases the more you practice it.

After creating a memorable message, the author continues to chapter four of the book discussing how to create effective introductions and conclusions, and how to make transitions throughout the presentation. It provides rules to guide the appropriate use of humor in presentations (mainly in introductions). When using humor, a presenter should make sure that it's actually funny and not offensive.

Using humor or story telling improperly can cause people to stop listening/paying attention, and it can throw off your presentation.

### **Image/Delivery: Present a Compelling Image and Create a Dynamic Delivery Style**

Presentation image and delivery style are covered in chapters six through ten. One of the main hurdles that people run into when they present is anxiety. In the text, Pincus details 18 ways to manage public speaking anxiety. One of them is preparing and knowing the material inside and out. Fully preparing and knowing the material builds confidence. Another way to manage anxiety is to understand or know your audience. It's important to know that the audience wants you to do well because that will result in a better presentation and learning experience.



The more you decide to “wing it” for a presentation, the more likely you are to go off on tangents. Practice allows you to see the points in the speech where you get hung up on something or get off track. Practicing the presentation is also helpful because it helps you to feel more comfortable with presenting. Since preparation is key, another important aspect of presentation delivery is the use of technology. The author explains how PowerPoint should be used as a visual aid, not as a reiteration of the presentation. Another important aspect to deliver a great presentation is making eye contact as much as possible throughout the speech.

### **One Additional Tip**

One important tip from the book and podcast that I want to leave you with is that everyone can be good at public speaking. Pincus emphasized that public speaking is a skill that can be learned and improved – meaning that anyone can get better at it if they continue to work on and develop the skill. This was especially encouraging to me as I looked forward to presenting!



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## Readers' Advisory

### **R. Shep Melnick, *The Transformation of Title IX: Regulating Gender Equality in Education* (2018)**

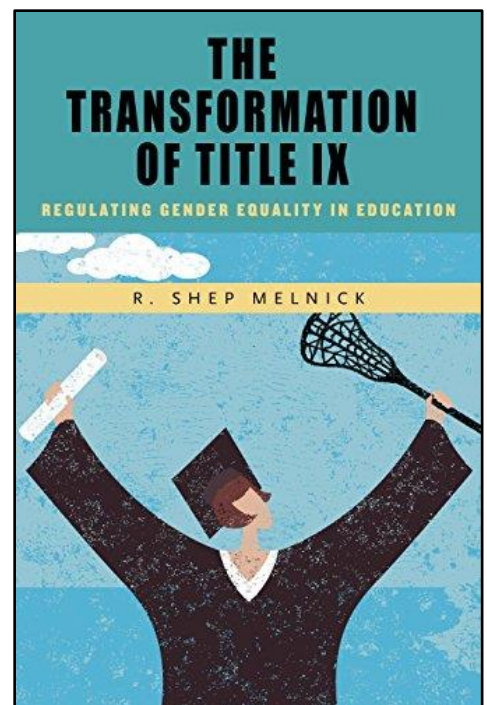
ISBN: 978-0-81573-222-8

Professor R. Shep Melnick is a political scientist. All three of his degrees are from Harvard, so it's unlikely that he could have been a successful walk-on for my institution's football team. Despite this handicap, the 16 years of research leading up to this book and Prof. Melnick's sharp intellect have resulted in a well-reasoned and superbly written text on the administratively and procedurally singular enforcement and "regulation" of educational institutions under Title IX.

His conclusions about the modern regulatory state would be right at home in the Federalist Society. He admits this bias in the introductory remarks to this text. But whether the expanding list of uses for Title IX over the years pleases you or not, the unusual regulatory history of the enforcement of this statutory scheme is clearly not in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, creating unintended consequences, which at times have suited or irritated parties on all sides of these issues.

By way of disclosure of my own potential political biases, I would categorize my own political views as cooperatively pragmatic, with a bias towards democratic socialism with a deep appreciation of civil libertarianism in favor of protecting "rights" far beyond those in the U.S. Bill of Rights (i.e. the right to receive basic food, shelter, health care, education, etc.). I mention this because I think that I am generally much more in favor of elaborate governmental regulation in our lives than is Dr. Melnick, but I appreciate his critique of the extra-textual improvisation of the U.S. Department of Education in its Title IX enforcement.

If you have ever extolled the virtue of utilizing secondary sources to your legal-research students so that they can prevent themselves from having to reinvent the wheel when it comes to compiling regulatory authorities, this text will illustrate that truth beautifully. Administrative law is complicated, and for most first-year law students (and lots of upper-level law students) it remains a little-understood mystery. An administrative-law class, and other electives in highly regulated areas of the law will make students more familiar with the basics and nuances of administrative procedures.



Then there's Title IX. It's weird.

The DOE, under Democrat and Republican administrations, have rarely bothered to propose rules, but rather have relied on "Dear Colleague" letters, and other extra-regulatory measures, like the threat of investigation with lots of publicity, to compel universities to take various actions. Federal courts have often accepted these outcomes, and an emboldened DOE then expands its extra-regulatory authority, while saying it is only doing what it has done before with court approval. The courts uphold it, and so on. This administrative "leap-frogging" has been DOE's *modus operandi* for expanding the opportunities for women to participate in hyper-competitive intercollegiate athletic competition. All this from a statutory scheme intended to create equal educational opportunities for women. More recently this same process has been used to compel behavior by educational institutions with regard to sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and transgender rights.

The seemingly odd focus of the DOE on inter-collegiate athletics, a uniquely American sub-category of higher education, has given many thousands of girls and women the opportunity to play athletics at a high level. The requirements of colleges and universities to make these student-athlete slots available has cost many non-athletically inclined students chances for admission. Both the procedural anomalies, and the cringe-worthy opportunity costs of this system are readily apparent in Dr. Melnick's book. Whether you are passionate about higher education or sports, whether you are a feminist or a reactionary old white man, the issues discussed in this book are incredibly important.

I encourage law librarians to acquire this book, and if any of these issues are of interest, please read it. Despite the complicated, dense, procedural material, this book is engaging. Anyone conducting research, teaching, or studying in this area would greatly benefit from Dr. Melnick's cogent analysis of the history of Title IX.

## Readers' Advisory



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### **Richard Gergel, *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring* (2019)**

ISBN: 978-0-37410-789-5

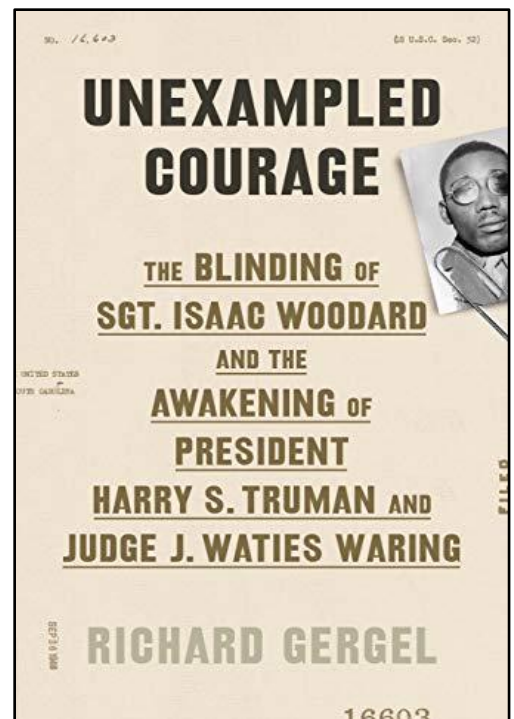
*"This is a story about Charleston, this is a story about South Carolina, this is a story about America."*

*-Judge Richard Gergel, Brith Sholom Beth Israel Synagogue, Charleston, SC, April 7, 2019*

Judge Richard Gergel, a sitting United States district court judge assigned to the very same courthouse in Charleston, South Carolina, as Judge J. Waties Waring, has recently published a book regarding a fundamental event in the history of the American civil rights movement. The book, *Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring*, was published in January 2019. Judge Gergel has researched a largely forgotten racial attack and examined its impact on President Harry S. Truman, Judge Waring, and, ultimately, the modern American civil rights movement.

The events described in *Unexampled Courage* are tragic. United States Army Sgt. Isaac Woodard, a decorated African-American soldier, was returning home after three years of military service in the World War II Pacific Theater. On Feb. 12, 1946, while travelling home, he climbed aboard a Greyhound bus in Augusta, Georgia. After expressing a desire to take a restroom break, SGT Woodard was removed from the bus at the bus driver's request and arrested in Batesburg, Carolina. Shortly after the sergeant's arrest, the Batesburg police chief, Lynwood Shull, beat the soldier with a blackjack and permanently blinded him. Woodard was convicted of drunk and disorderly conduct and fined.

News of Woodard's cruel treatment spread and ultimately reached President Truman. Using archival materials, Freedom of Information Act requests, forensic reports, and NAACP files, Judge Gergel found evidence of the president's outrage and call to action following the attack on a uniformed American soldier. Ultimately, in 1948, President Truman issued Executive Order 9981, integrating the American military – arguably a result of SGT. Woodard's beating.

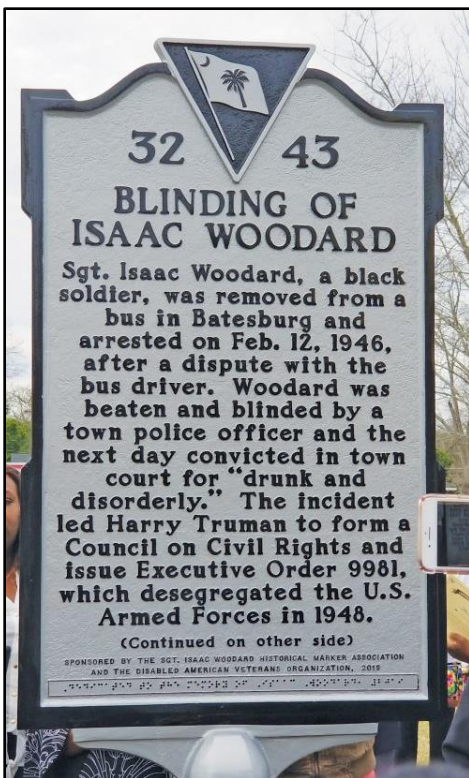




Federal charges were brought against Police Chief Shull, who found himself on trial before Judge Waring in Charleston's federal district court. The all-white jury quickly acquitted Shull in a one-day trial. Judge Gergel examines the impact of this case on Judge Waring's judicial philosophy and his evolving civil rights decisions. As Judge Gergel writes, Judge Waring became an unlikely and courageous jurist who wrote several influential civil rights decisions. We learn Judge Waring was also a strategic jurist, who understood how a case needed to proceed in order to make a difference.

In one of Judge Waring's most notable cases, he convinced a young African-American civil rights lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, to dismiss a pending case seeking relief in an unequal public school facilities case and refile it as a case seeking desegregation of the public schools. The refiled case was later heard *en banc* by Judge Waring and two other judges. It was Judge Waring's fiery dissent in this case, *Briggs v. Elliott*, 98 F.Supp. 529 (E.D.S.C. 1951), that was heavily relied upon by the US Supreme Court in its school desegregation decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

Judge Gergel's *Unexamined Courage* expertly lays out the events of the Jim Crow era in South Carolina and describes how it influenced our nation's highest levels of government. The author has truly succeeded in demonstrating how this largely forgotten attack on a returning African-American war veteran, along with a president's call to action, a district court judge committed to undoing a societal injustice, and a bright young black lawyer eager to fight for justice in the courtroom, all provided the spark that ignited the modern civil rights movement.



Photo/ Francine Goins  
The Voice of Fairfield County

The chapters are thoroughly researched and copiously annotated. Sources include trial documents, scholarly books and articles, Truman Presidential Library materials, Waring papers and oral history collections, newspaper accounts, and a variety of other sources which could lead to further scholarship. Judge Gergel includes a forensic analysis that demonstrates how SGT. Woodard's injury resulted from the beating. A selection of photographs bring this era vividly to life. I recommend this book for public, academic, and law libraries that collect civil rights materials, judicial and presidential works, and historical materials.

Judge Gergel's book has recently brought new attention to Sgt. Woodard's history. In February 2019, the town of Batesburg-Leesville, the State of South Carolina, the Disabled American Veterans organization, and the Sgt. Isaac Woodard, Jr., Historical Association honored Sgt. Woodard with a historical marker remembering his tragic blinding in 1946.

<https://blythewoodonline.com/2019/02/county-honors-native-son-isaac-woodard-jr/>

Judge Gergel's *Unexamined Courage* is a fascinating examination of this period in American history with consequences that continue to challenge us today.

Notable civil rights decisions/dissents by Judge J. Waties Waring:

1. Briggs v. Elliott, 98 F.Supp. 529 (E.D.S.C. 1951)
2. Duvall v. Seignious, February 1944, unpublished opinion
3. Elmore v. Rice, 72 F.Supp. 516 (E.D.S.C. 1947)
4. Wrihten v. Board of Trustees of University of South Carolina, 72 F.Supp. 948 (E.D.S.C. 1947)
5. Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, 347 U.S. 483
6. , 74 S.Ct. 686, 98 L.Ed. 873 (1954)

## Readers' Advisory

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**Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* (2015)**

ISBN: 978-0-81298-496-5

If your Netflix binge watch list included *Orange is the New Black* or you've listened to every episode of the podcast *Serial*, then you might be interested in a book about crime, punishment, and mercy, written by leading death-penalty lawyer, Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy* opened my eyes to the plight of real people facing economic and social inequalities that are sometimes found in the criminal court systems.

The book *Just Mercy* tells how Stevenson, as a young Harvard law graduate, got involved in defending those facing economic and social inequity and founded the Equal Justice Initiative out of Montgomery, Alabama. His clients include teenagers sentenced to life without parole and adults on death row. According to the L.A. Times, Stevenson has helped release more than 100 people from death row.

*It's important to understand all the ugly details so we can one day claim something really beautiful.*  
-Bryan Stevenson

*Just Mercy* was published in 2015 and will be released this December as a feature film starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, and Brie Larson.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4916630/>

While we wait for the movie to come out this fall, you can learn more by listening to Bryan Stevenson's TED Talk, watching the HBO biopic, or visiting the Equal Justice Initiative website:

TED Talk: We need to talk about an injustice (March 2012)

[https://www.ted.com/speakers/bryan\\_stevenson](https://www.ted.com/speakers/bryan_stevenson)



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True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality – HBO (streaming through July 31, 2019)

<https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/true-justice-bryan-stevensons-fight-for-equality>

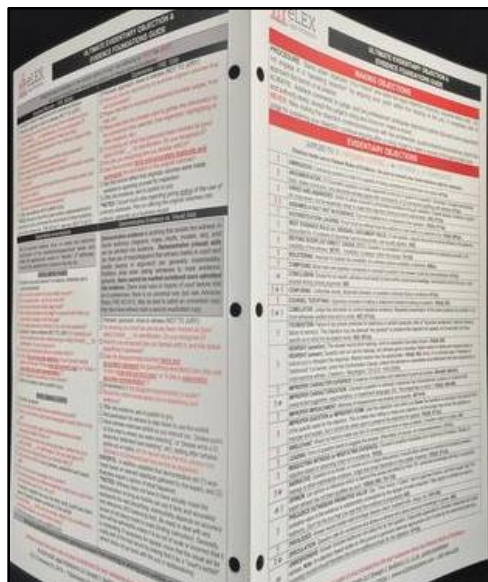
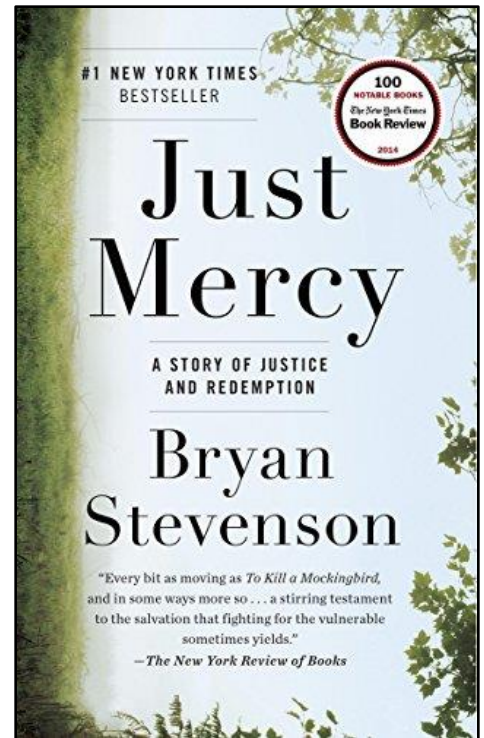
Equal Justice Initiative

<https://ejj.org/>

### Bonus: Elex Trial and Evidence Guides

For anyone who is here hoping to learn about legal texts or treatises recommended by librarians, I suggest taking a look at the evidence and procedure guides produced by eLEX Legal Publishers, LLC.

<https://elexpublishers.com>



These bi-fold handouts are a great cheat sheet to take to court. In addition to the federal guides, there are about twenty state guides available. They are also available as PDF downloads. I think they make a neat little gift for new lawyers who plan to litigate. I sent one to my own daughter who graduated from law school this year and is working for a judge in Washington state.





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## Recent Acquisitions

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In 2018, our library made some changes to our décor. Specifically, we added round tables on our first floor, standing tables on both floors, and a nineteenth-century rocking chair once owned by Chief Justice John Marshall. I'll start with the round tables.

### Round Tables

Our round tables came last summer to take the place of our first-floor computer bank. We hadn't initially considered round tables; in fact, there was some talk about doing a living room motif, complete with a sofa and coffee table. Concerns about cost combined with the inevitable wear and tear made us weigh other options, which is why we ended up going with the round tables. They seemed more practical for our students' needs, and they looked pretty good, too.

Turns out, the tables were a hit. Their convenient location makes them a prime study spot. Best of all, the tables allow for group collaboration when other designated areas are busy. Due to their location, students can have quiet collaboration without bothering others who prefer quiet.



### Standing Desks

In addition to the new round tables, our library has added standing desks on both the first and second floor. These were a gift from the Class of 2018. Before their arrival, students used our short stacks as makeshift study areas. Now students can stand and study without having a world atlas in their way.



Like the round tables, the standing desks have proved to be extremely popular. Since their placement in the library, we have noticed those students who once studied at our stacks have moved to the standing desks. During the semester, these desks are rarely unused.



### **The Marshall Rocker Display**

Besides the tables and desks, we also acquired a nineteenth-century Day Brothers hand-crafted rocking chair. Last year, a direct descendent of Chief Justice John Marshall donated to our school a rocking chair from Chief Justice Marshall's Oak Hill plantation. Family lore said that the rocking chair had been used by the chief justice himself. The chair (along with two settees on display in the Marshall House in Richmond, Virginia) were removed from Oak Hill sometime in the early twentieth century. Eventually, the rocking chair came into the hands of Chief Justice Marshall's great-great-great granddaughter, who kindly gifted it to our school.

Last summer, Dean J. Rich Leonard, Senior Reference Librarian Caitlin Swift, and our Wallace Leadership Fellow Seth Lumpkins travelled out to the Marshall House in Richmond, Virginia and to Milton, North Carolina, the home of Thomas Day and his furniture factory to learn more about the chair. Although we were unable to determine who among the Day family carpenters was the chair's craftsman, we did learn that it was carved from Tiger Maple, an exotic type of hardwood, and that it has the traditional curves and "thumb" embellishments often found in Day furniture and woodworking. It is truly a stunning addition to our library.



### **Design + Function = Positive Learning Environment**

All in all, our recent acquisitions have been a complete success. The round tables have given our students an easily accessible place to meet and study. Standing desks are helping negate the effects of prolonged sitting. Finally, our new Marshall rocker display provides additional learning opportunities that complement our traditional educational materials. All three combine to give our library a fresh new look and feel.

Now, about that sofa. Maybe it would work in my office?



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# Library Profiles

## UofSC Law Library Teaches Technology Skills by Ambush, Using Pop-up Tech Talks

At CALIcon19, held at the University of South Carolina School of Law in June, I presented [\*Teaching Technology Skills by Design, by Ambush, and in Context\*](#) with two of my law-school colleagues, Amy Milligan and Gary Moore. Because one portion was based on library programming that I spearheaded – our Pop-Up Tech Talks series that debuted in spring 2019 – I was in charge of the ambush section.

### What are Pop-Up Tech Talks?

Here are the parameters for a Pop-Up Tech Talk, Gamecock style:

1. Prepare a less-than-five-minute, in-person, technology demonstration, to teach a skill that 1Ls can use both now and in practice.
2. Prepare a handout to accompany the demonstration, both in print and electronic.
3. Set up for 60 or 90 minutes in a high-traffic area of the law school, such as the front lobby or the student commons.
4. Give the presentation to anyone who is interested, and offer a handout to anyone and everyone – even if they don't stop to listen.
5. After your talk, send a brief email to the rest of the speakers about what worked and what you'd do differently.

### How did Lightning Lessons turn into Pop-Up Tech Talks?

The idea for Pop-Up Tech Talks came from a presentation and toolkit by AJ Blechner and Heather Joy at AALL17 and AALL18, in which they provided ideas for quick, in-person, research instruction they call "Lightning Lessons." Similar to the reason Lightning Lessons were created, my library colleagues Dan Brackmann, Aaron Glenn, and I wanted to provide research instruction on a few topics that don't fit into the official curriculum. We also knew that student attendance appears to be generally dwindling at optional





lunchtime brown-bag sessions of all types, and we dreamed of somehow reaching the students who would never willingly attend a technology session.

We diverged from the Lightning Lessons concept in that we expanded beyond the library. We invited everyone in the law school – faculty, staff, or student – to give a Pop-Up Tech Talk if they wanted. Five speakers from academic technology, career services, legal writing, and pro bono met our offer with acceptance right away, bringing us to a total of eight speakers in spring 2019, and all are planning to speak again next year. A few more staff and faculty have asked to be added to the 2019-2020 lineup. No students have scheduled talks yet, but we retain hope for the future.

### **Why not a higher-tech strategy than in-person talks and print handouts?**

Our main goal was for students to see we are friendly and capable technologists they can talk to about tech. They can see that best in person. Also, it can be hard to reach people who are technology-resistant via technology. We wanted our basic topics like “Backing Up Your Computer” to reach even the most resistant.

The print handout offers two benefits. First, it makes tracking statistics easier. The speaker knows how many copies they made; they know how many were left after they finished. It is simple arithmetic to figure out how many copies they gave away, and this calculation can wait until after the talk is over. It’s a little harder to both give a demonstration and keep track of how many people stop to listen, although we did try to use tally sheets as well.



The second benefit of a print handout is that it takes no time at all for a student rushing to class to simply take a handout and keep walking. We hope they’ll look at the handout later – We heard one student exclaim, “This is actually useful!” – but even if a student tosses the handout in the recycle bin, they still had an interaction in which faculty or staff were going out of their way to encourage them to develop their tech skills. The piece of paper in their hand is tangible evidence that we tried!

### **What did it take to set up Pop-Up Tech Talks?**

We asked each speaker to pick their own date, time, and location within the law school, because in a fairly new building, everyone is still getting used to the foot-traffic patterns. This required a brief



meeting for us all to coordinate; and my colleague Aaron Glenn volunteered to manage the associated LibGuide. Each speaker had to arrange for their own equipment, such as table, laptop, extra-large display monitor, and any extras, such as treats to give away. This reduced the administrative burden of coordinating a talk series, and allowed each speaker to bring their own style to their talk. We coordinated with law-school communications for marketing. When we realized that some 1Ls didn't recognize us and seemed to think we were vendors, I created a Pop-Up Tech Talks sign in school colors that now rests on the table whenever a talk is being held.

### **How successful were Pop-Up Tech Talks at UofSC Law in Spring 2019?**

The numbers say it all: 8 speakers  
15 talks (of either 60 or 90 minutes)  
341 interactions  
586 handouts

### **What is the future of Pop-Up Tech Talks at UofSC Law?**

We plan to improve the marketing of each talk by having the table and the sign "pop up" the day before the talk, to build anticipation. Some of our Pop-Up Tech Talks material is in the works to be adapted into a one-hour technology CLE for lawyers and law students, to be held at the law school, somewhat in the style of "Cool Tools" at AALL. We will keep updating <https://guides.law.sc.edu/techtalks> with new schedules and handouts. Meanwhile, I have bookmarked the inaugural spring 2019 materials on perma.cc, including the [homepage](#), and the [January](#), [February](#), and [March](#) 2019 handouts.



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# Library Profiles

## Georgia State University Law Library

There are many wonderful things that can be said about Georgia State University Law Library. GSU Law Library provides access to an extensive collection of both print and electronic research resources to GSU students, faculty, staff, attorneys, and the general public, in comfortable research and study areas. From the super-talented law librarians that work (and have worked) in the library, to the extraordinary leadership that has made and continues to make an impact on the law school, library, and the legal profession, GSU Law Library is a great place to be!

### People

To adequately profile the GSU Law Library, you have to start with Nancy Johnson. Nancy was a fundamental part of the development of the law library (and law school). Well known even to newer librarians like me, she joined the law library as a reference librarian in 1982 – the same year that the law school was founded. After obtaining her law degree from GSU, she later became the director of the law library in 1986. Under her leadership, she contributed to many successes of the law school and the profession. She also led an entire generation of law librarians, many of whom became law library directors or leaders, such as: Beth Adelman, Rhea Ballard-Thrower, Karen Douglas, Kris Niedringhaus, Deborah Schander, Lisa Smith-Butler, Ron Wheeler, and Austin Williams (to name a few).

Nancy retired in 2012 and the law library welcomed back Kris Niedringhaus as Associate Dean of Library and Information Services and Associate Professor.

Under Kris's exceptional leadership, the library currently has an awesome team of experienced and knowledgeable librarians: Pam Brannon, Meg Butler, Gerard Fowke, Trina Holloway, Terrance Manion, Patrick Parsons, and me. Gerard and I are the newbies, having just joined the team in July of this year. Meg Butler leads public services, while Trina Holloway heads the library's collection services. There are numerous other support staff without whom the library would not be able to function!

### Place

The law school, along with the law library, started in the GSU Urban Life building. The building wasn't initially designed to be a law school and is now a part of GSU's main campus. Initially, the library and faculty offices were situated in the same general area across one floor. From the beginning, the law school centered around the law library. Over the years, there were expansions to the law school and library. Talks of a new law school building went on for years. In 2015, the new law school was finally built, and the library got a new home.





From the take down and move of the book shelves, to the move of books and other items, a lot of work went into the transition. The library was placed in the new law school building on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors. Placement of the library on the two top floors was to encourage a steady flow of student traffic throughout the entire building. As the heart of the law school, use of the library encourages traffic from the ground up.

As the new librarian over outreach, I am excited about the awesome features already in place that draw students into the library. At the entrance of the library is a lounge area with a hub that provides games for library visitors. It's a great relaxing area that students (and staff) love! There are also terraces on both floors of the library with great outdoor views of downtown Atlanta. The numerous windows built throughout the library provide plenty of space for indoor studying with beautiful views of the outdoors. The library also has a stunning reading room where students can enjoy a quiet space to read materials. One of the two law school cafés is also located within the library.

The law school and library facilities are fresh and cutting edge. As a newer facility, the law school has held many conferences, including the long awaited and anticipated "Teaching the Teachers" conference. If you're ever in Atlanta, stop by the law school for a visit!







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## Tech Tip: Use your Phone to Scan Documents

Did you know that you can use your phone to scan documents? It's a great way to get a document signed and to the right place on the go.

Most smart phones have a built-in option, either Apple's Notes or Google Drive. Either will let you save as a PDF, but the Notes PDF isn't as easy to edit and doesn't have text recognition built in.



There are also apps that offer additional options.

One of these is Microsoft Office Lens. It's a free option that integrates well with Microsoft Office, and, unlike Drive or Notes, will OCR your content, allowing you to cut and paste from the scan and increasing its accessibility.



If you're an Evernote user, Evernote Scannable works well for storing scans in your Evernote. It also works well for keeping track of receipts for expense reports.



The quality of these scans isn't quite as good as that of a dedicated scanner, but it's perfectly fine for the average expense report or form you need to fill out, and it only requires carrying around one device.

## Attention!

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MS Word is the preferred format for electronic submissions. All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, and to ensure style consistency within the newsletter. Every effort will be made not to change the intended meaning of the text.

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