

Westminster Law Library
University of Denver College of Law

Hearsay

Spring 2007

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From the Director
Gary Alexander

"I was taught as a child that you cry when a child is brought into this world because they're brought into a world of trials and tribulations, and you rejoice and celebrate when [a person leaves]." Al Wilson

Welcome to '07 – hope your new year is off to a great start. The start of a new year is typically a time to celebrate and to reflect and to make plans – or plans for changes - for the coming year. The famous quotation attributed to Benjamin Disraeli that "change is inevitable. Change is constant.", makes me wonder whether there's a difference in 'planning for change' and 'planning to change.'

A wise friend once offered the sage advice that one should know the difference between what one was running from and what one was running to. I suppose the same good advice holds in thinking about change.

In any event, there's no dearth of articles discussing the changing nature of libraries and the changing role of librarians. The most provocative of these are asking the question, in the 21st century, what are libraries for?

In a parallel vein, one doesn't have to look far to find articles and commentary on the changing nature of the practice of law and the seeming disconnect with legal education as the preparation for practice. Early this year, yet another report was issued on the state – and short-comings - of legal education.

The gap between learning to think like a lawyer and being capable of acting like a lawyer, both clinically and morally, is, if anything, greater than it's ever been before," said Lee S. Shulman, president of the [Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching](http://www.carnegiefoundation.org), which recently released "Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law." A summary of this report is available at http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/files/elibrary/EducatingLawyers_summary.pdf.

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Opening Your Own Law Office

Catharine Cott

Reference Librarian

I earned my JD at the University of Denver College of Law in 1981, and then worked as a self employed attorney in private practice, and as a law clerk to three Colorado District Court trial judges. After receiving my Masters in Library Science in 2005 I began my new career as a reference librarian here at the Sturm College of Law (SCOL). I love my job because it allows me to work with law students and show them how to do legal research and analysis, which is a fundamental skill no matter what type of practice or job a student eventually pursues.

When asked to write a brief article about opening your own law office, I reviewed the information and range of publications, workshops, and services available to law students from the SCOL Career Development Center. What could I possibly add? I recently updated the Library Subject Guide (#3) "Opening a Law Office". It is available in print on level three or online from the Library's homepage. You can read all that information for yourself.

In order to open your own law practice, you must be skilled at finding the law. Our product as attorneys is information. Believe it or not, not all legal information is available on Westlaw or Lexis, nor is it free in the real world. There are countless free and fee based resources, in many formats, which have information that you will need. The ability to find, interpret, and apply the appropriate information is an art which must be learned and practiced. Make use of what is available to you now as students. For example, go to the Library homepage to access a wealth of resources.

When I looked back at what prepared me to open my own law office, I saw that it began in law school, but I did more than simply take courses. I actively sought out legal research projects from attorneys in a variety of firms and specialties while I was still in law school. These attorneys not only taught me about legal research and reasoning, but became sources for referrals when I later opened my own law office. Seek out attorneys who will share their experience; don't wait for a call or a job posting!

Upon graduation, instead of accepting a position as an associate in a firm, I went to work for a Colorado District Court trial judge, and continued to do research projects for attorneys on the side. Working for trial courts is an invaluable learning experience because of the variety of cases you see. It required legal research and analysis for all types of civil cases, probate, family law and water law. It made me a better attorney because such skills carry over into any type of practice or position. It also created more referrals.

The nature of many law school courses is to discuss the law, write about the law, but not necessarily to be the one responsible for finding it. While you are still a student you can begin to develop these skills by reaching out; educate yourself; look for opportunities; take on projects; find or create internships. Above all, become a valuable asset by learning to do legal research, fact-finding and analysis using a variety of formats and resources. Use your reference librarians. (We think research is fun.) Take Debra Austin's advanced legal research class.

I enhanced my chances to be hired as a reference librarian here at DU because I kept showing up throughout library school. I asked the library to allow me to do an internship for credit and they said yes! I interviewed for my dream job and they said yes! It can be the same for you.

Colorado Legislative Council Research Publications Online

Theresa Baker

Information Technology Librarian

The Colorado Legislative Council is the nonpartisan research arm of the Colorado General Assembly. Each year the Legislative Council produces reports (the *Research Publications*) on pending legislation in the Colorado Legislature, comparable in function to federal Congressional committee reports. Along with session laws, the *Research Publications* comprise Colorado's most authoritative written legislative history.

Because these reports provide such a valuable historical context for state laws, the Library decided to digitize them and make them available to all on the Web. We have scanned every Research Publication issued, indexed them, and created a website to provide access to the collection. The reports are searchable by publication number, date, and subject. In addition you can do a keyword search of the full-text of all the publications. The site also includes links to information about performing legislative research, and the Colorado legislative process.

Given the reaction we have gotten from attorneys and law librarians across the state, we think this site will become a primary source for Colorado legislative research.

<http://www.law.du.edu/library/CLC>.

Reading for Fun (not just for homework!)

Amanda Samland

Government Documents Assistant

Why do you come to the library? To study? To do research? Use the Internet? Print? To finish that last minute assignment? Meeting friends? To find some quiet?

Traditionally, the law library is used strictly for academic research, but the library can also be used as a place for students to relax and unwind as they grow comfortable in their chosen profession. A trend in many academic law libraries is offering recreational materials to patrons for relaxation and entertainment. Did you know that Westminster Law Library holds a modest but diverse selection of fiction and e-books also? These books are available for law students, faculty, and staff for your leisure and pleasure reading.

Fewer than half of American adults read any literature outside of work or school. According to a National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) survey released in 2004, American adults who read literature have declined over the years. The survey, *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading*, found that overall, literary reading has declined by 14 percent since 1992 (NEA, 2004). Are you one of these nonreaders? With all your studies and assigned readings, you may not read for pleasure because of lack of time or motivation. But, reading for pleasure not only gives you a break from studying law but can also help you to improve your vocabulary and reading comprehension. This in turn can help you with your studies!

Fiction and e-books can be found in this library by searching the online catalog (<http://pacman.law.du.edu/>) or by consulting your dedicated reference librarian at the reference desk. Within the catalog, you can search for books to read by title or by the subject of the book. By searching within subjects you can then “browse” the collection to see what is available such as adventure stories, dime stories, ghost stories, and medical fiction. You will find that the library has legal stories, science fiction, as well as Reel Justice Books (where the courtroom goes to the movies), and many other subjects pertaining to fiction. Have you come across the Pelican Brief or A Radical Departure as you search the stacks? They are there!

The library also holds a collection of video recordings and DVDs. No doubt you may be familiar with 12 Angry Men but did you know that library also owns *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, *The Man in the Glass Booth*, *In the Light of Reverence*, *Gentleman’s Agreement*, and *Cabaret*? Marianne Brown, catalog technician, recommends *Streams of Gold*. Brown exclaimed, “You should see this, it’s just gorgeous!” All of these can be viewed within the library and some are available to be checked out and taken home.

If you are writing a law paper, why not grab a quote from one of these resources, which for now can be found on top of the professor’s reserve shelf, located behind the circulation desk. This collection will be there for you to check out until mid-March when they will be moved back to their usual location on the shelf. So, the next time you are looking for a break or an escape, check out our fiction collection.

Be sure to take a book home with you over Spring Break or take a few now in case we see any more blizzards in Colorado. You don’t want to be stuck with just your textbooks!

Happy Readings!

Source

National Endowment of the Arts. (July 8, 2004). *Literary reading in dramatic decline*, according to National Endowment for the Arts Survey. Retrieved January 3, 2006

The Westminster Law Library is creating a “Bring One, Take One” fictional reading Collection for students, faculty & staff. It will be housed on the 3rd floor across from the Reference Desk. The material should be available for borrowing next week, so drop by and see if anything interests you!

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From the Director

(Continued from p.1)

From an online article headlined, **More Moral and Practical Law Schools**, according to the report, “law schools need to do a better job integrating the teaching of legal doctrine with a much stronger focus on helping students develop practical “lawyering” skills and understandings of ethical and moral considerations.” <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2007/01/05/carnegie>.

This article notes that the report contains a number of recommendations. Reading ‘between-the-lines,’ one can clearly make out ‘provide additional clinical opportunities.’ The following quote (excerpted) on page 7 of the Summary of the report caught my attention:

If the proponents of the need for increased law school training in ethics and professionalism are right, an effort equivalent to that which led to the increase in clinical legal education in the 1970s ... is required. The aim of this effort should be [the elevation of] the twin concepts of the practice of law as a public service calling and the development of the capacity for reflective moral judgment ... (American Bar Association, 1996).

I haven’t tried to find the source of this statement, but I knew that it reminded me of something I had read before. Then it hit me; you see, that quotation by Al Wilson, it was from the funeral for Darrent Williams.

It is in that spirit that what follows is intended as a ‘celebration’ of the recent passing of Dean Emeritus Robert Yegge, and a testament of his contributions to the legal profession and to legal education, and his enduring impact on our law school. Rather than even attempting to recount Dean Yegge’s remarkable achievements and many accomplishments, I’ve set out below an edited excerpt from page 93 of *Lawyers from Denver: A Century of Service to the West and the Nation*

A Centennial History of the University of Denver College of Law
1892-1992 by Philip E. Gauthier

A detailed account of the Yegge deanship is set out on the library’s website, Online Exhibits > Sturm College of Law > History > Lawyers from Denver. Those links are:

[Chapter 4: The Yegge Era \(pt. 1\)](#)

[Chapter 4: The Yegge Era \(pt. 2\)](#)

There were three themes that dominated much of the dialogue about legal education during the 1960’s and the law school was a leader on all three fronts. With the civil rights movement of the early ‘60s came an understanding among law schools that they had an obligation to provide minorities and women increased access to legal education if they were to fulfill their role of educating leaders from all segments of our society. Dean Yegge instituted a summer program to provide access to legal education for Hispanics and other minorities.

Law schools were also becoming more sensitive to the importance of educating lawyers in other disciplines. The law school became a national leader in this area by participating in the creation of the Law and Society Association, and appointing faculty with interdisciplinary backgrounds, that included political science, business administration, theology, psychology, and sociology.

Those interested in Dean Yegge’s role in the ‘law and society’ movement, might also want to read the following article (co-authored by our very own Professor Joyce Sterling): [From Legal Realism to Law and Society: Reshaping Law for the Last Stages of the Social Activist State](#), 32 Law & Society Review 409, 423 – 429 (1998); also available on HeilOnline at

<http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/lwsocrw32&id=419&collection=journals&index=journals/lwsocrw>

The third theme was the creation of law school clinics and internships to provide students practical experience in lawyering. The law school had always been a leader in clinical education, and it continued in that role into the ‘60s and ‘70s under the leadership of Dean Yegge.

To end on a somewhat personal note, Dean Yegge also made a significant contribution to law librarianship by virtue of his appointment of the law school’s first, full-time legally-educated librarian, Al Coco. In addition to having served as the Director of the Westminster Law Library from 1972 - 1988, Professor Coco directed the Masters in Law Librarianship program at DU until 1985. I am a proud alumnus of that program. And I know the answer to that question.

The library's home page gets over 130,000 hits per year! The most used resource by far is Web Research Links which receives over 75,000 hits per year. Next is E-Journals at 32,000, the Study Room Reservation System at 27,000, and Databases/Indexes at 15,000.

Lexis & Westlaw Office Hours

The Lexis & Westlaw student reps are available to answer your online research questions. Spring semester office hours are held in the Library, Study Room 330R at the following times. Hours & contact information for the individual reps is posted on the door and by the printers on each floor.

Monday:

LEXIS - 9am-10:15am; 10:30am-1pm;
1:30pm-6:30pm
WESTLAW - 9am-10:30am; 11:45am-2pm

Tuesday:

LEXIS - 10:30am-1pm; 6:30pm-10pm
WESTLAW - 10:15am-1:15pm; 4pm-5pm

Wednesday:

LEXIS - 10:30am-1pm; 6:30pm-7:30pm;
9pm-10pm
WESTLAW - 9am-11am; 11:30am-4:30pm

Thursday:

LEXIS - 10:30am-noon; 6:30pm-10pm
WESTLAW - 10:30am-1pm; 4pm-5pm

Friday:

LEXIS - 9am-11:00am; 5pm-6:30pm
WESTLAW - 1:30pm-3:30pm

Lexis Student Reps

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Opportunities in Law Librarianship

Patty Wellinger

Reference Services Coordinator

Law librarians work in diverse and challenging environments, and have a variety of educational backgrounds.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) was founded in 1906 to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information. Today, with over 4,800 members, the Association represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with a wide range of institutions such as law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies.

Only about 30% of AALL members have a law degree. Academic law libraries are more likely to require a JD than are other employers, especially if you are interested in public services positions. A legal bibliography class or practical experience through working and volunteering in a law library can give you great experience. For more information about educational requirements in the field, see <http://www.aallnet.org/committee/TFedu/education.html#Qualifications>

The AALL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/> provides information on scholarships and grants, job postings, a salary survey, and a writing competition for library school students. There are also numerous regional and local chapters affiliated with AALL including the Colorado Association of Law Libraries (CoALL).

Student membership in CoALL costs only \$5 per year and includes a newsletter, free or reduced price educational programs, scholarships & grants and an opportunity for networking with area law librarians from a variety of backgrounds.

If you are interested in more details about the profession of law librarianship, or have questions after reviewing these websites, please stop by the reference desk on Level 3 of the Law Library. We are happy to discuss librarianship or other career alternatives available to JD's and help you locate some of the resources that the Library owns in this area.

ETC.:

Or What We Do Outside the Library

Diane Burkhardt

Faculty Services Liaison

Several members of the library staff managed to escape the holiday snowstorms.

Carol Wunderli and her husband, Rick, spent a week in Merida, Mexico. Traveling around the Yucatan Peninsula, they visited Mayan ruins at Chichen-Itza and Uxmal and a lesser-known archaeological site, Dzibilchaltun. They also went to the small port-city of Progreso, where they enjoyed bird-watching, kayaking, and gorging on fresh sea food. Carol reports that Denver's blizzard was on the front page of Merida's local newspaper, El Diario de Yucatan.

Sheila Green spent the holidays in Florida with her family, although she reports that the weather there was mostly wet and cool. She enjoyed Michael Andrew's Big Band concert in Orlando, which featured her nephew on bass trombone. She and her brother climbed all 203 steps of the 175-foot lighthouse at Ponce Inlet near Daytona Beach. The lighthouse is a National Historic Landmark, and Sheila is a member of the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association, which is dedicated to the preservation and dissemination of the maritime and social history of the lighthouse.

Catharine Cott visited family in Savannah, Georgia during the holidays. She reports that life is good!

Stacey Bowers traveled to Prague with her husband, James, to celebrate her birthday in early December. They had a wonderful time in this fairy-tale city.

In the fall, **Theresa Baker** vacationed in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoyed sea kayaking and whale-watching off Orcas Island, bicycling in Vancouver, and catching up with friends in Bellingham, Washington. In October, Theresa took a week-long class in "Programming a Microsoft SQL Server Database," which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Santa brought **Caryl Shipley** a new intraocular lens for each of her eyes. She is seeing clearly now that the cataracts are gone and warns us all that we can run from her, but we can't hide.

The Executive Board of the Colorado Association of Law Libraries has awarded a scholarship to **Chris Hudson**, a library shelver and student in DU's Library and Information Science master's program. Chris already has a JD and is interested in becoming an academic law librarian. Congratulations Chris!

Welcome New Staff Member

Caryl Shipley

Community Services Liaison

Welcome to **Esti Shay** who has joined our library team as a reference librarian. Esti began her SCOL journey in October 2006 after moving her from the Seattle area (where it really doesn't rain as much as people think!) Esti earned a BA in English from Western Washington University and an MLIS from the University of Washington. While earning her MLIS, she worked at UW's Foster Business Library. This taught her that she did not want to be a business librarian, but she did enjoy working with students.

Childhood dream job: Archaeologist/Egyptologist

Main hobby: dancing

Favorite band: Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem

Books to throw out the window in case of fire:

The Awakening by Kate Chopin

The Magic Orange Tree by Diane Wolkstein

Address Unknown by Kathrine Kressmann Taylor

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Funniest book I own: Always ask a man: the key to femininity by Arlene Dahl (1964)

*You can now search the full-text of all issues of the **Sturm College of Law Alumni Magazine**. The search results will show you every issue where the search term is found. Click on the link and it will take you to the first page of the issue that contains the term, with the term highlighted. This feature has also been added to the "Lawyers from Denver" book. Both resources are part of the library's [Sturm College of Law History](#) collection*