

**UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW  
DORRAINE ZIEF LAW LIBRARY**

**Z-Flyer**  
The Monthly Newsletter of the Dorraine Zief Law Library

Volume 1 Issue 2  
November 9, 2006

## ZIEF LAW LIBRARY - CURRENT NEWS

**New in the Library!**

Supreme Court Bobble-head:  
Justice Anthony Kennedy

**REGULAR LIBRARY HOURS:**

Mon.—Thurs.: 8 AM—11 PM  
Fri.: 8AM—9 PM  
Sat. 9 AM—9 PM  
Sun. 10 AM—11 PM

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## THE MAKING OF MODERN LAW

A resource for legal history buffs and researchers needing historical materials.

Interested in historical legal texts? Zief Law Library subscribes to an electronic source (database) that contains electronic page copies of many 19th and early 20th century legal texts. This source is called THE MAKING OF MODERN LAW, . It provides access to such diverse materials as questions from early bar exams, historical American and English treatises, statutory abridgements, memoirs, and notable speeches, including the following:

- An address to his law students / by John W. Edmonds.
- Speeches of Lord Erskine, while at the bar/ edited by James Lambert High.
- Three criminal law reformers: Beccaria, Bentham, Romilly / by Coleman Phillipson.
- A treatise on the law of promissory notes / by Theophilus Parsons.

My father was created a peer by Lord Melbourne in 1839. We were living at that time in Park Crescent, and my father came into my mother's room in a state of great excitement. I was six years old and was saying my prayers. "Margaret," said my father, "Melbourne has made me a peer." "Oh, papa," I exclaimed, "then now you will be able to frank our letters!" In those days only a Member of Parliament of either House could "frank" letters, otherwise the recipient paid the postage. This was done away with by the introduction of penny postage in 1840. The peerage was not a new creation, but a revival of an extinct title. The first Lord Leigh had been created by Charles I., and was a staunch Royalist, who received the King when the gates of Coventry (six miles from the Abbey) were closed against him. It is said that until the Restoration the Lords Leigh were refused admittance into Coventry. In their case it was the opposite to the well-known expression "Sent to Coventry."

Excerpt from Leigh, E. Chandos.  
*BAR, BAT AND BIT: RECOLLECTIONS & EXPERIENCES.*  
London, 1913. 245 pp., available in THE MAKING OF MODERN LAW.

**Special Points of Interest**

- Reading law blogs: see p. 3
- Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

Wed. : 8AM –5 PM

Thurs.: CLOSED

Fri.: 10 AM—6 PM

Sat.: 9 AM—9 PM

Sun.: 10 AM—11 PM

Search THE MAKING OF MODERN LAW at

[http://0-et.galegroup.com/ignacio.usfca.edu/servlet/MOML?ocID=usfca\\_zief&srcthp=b&ste=1](http://0-et.galegroup.com/ignacio.usfca.edu/servlet/MOML?ocID=usfca_zief&srcthp=b&ste=1)

## THINKING DEEP THOUGHTS ABOUT LEGAL RESEARCH

On Saturday, October 21st, Zief librarians Margaret Arnold, John Shafer, and Lee Ryan and intern I-Wei Wang attended a seminar on "Legal Information and the Development of American Law: Further Thinking about the Thoughts of Bob Berring." The seminar featured leading figures in law librarianship and information science who presented papers inspired by the work of Bob Berring, the former director of the Boalt Hall Law Library.

Prof. Berring has long been interested in the influence of the format and content of legal literature and information on the legal system — and particularly on how we think about law. For a taste of his scholarship in this area, see Robert C. Berring, "Legal Research and the World of Thinkable Thoughts." 2 J. App. Prac. & Process 305 (2000) (<http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/japp2&id=325&collection=journals>) and Robert C. Berring, "Legal Information and the Search for Cognitive Authority." 99 Cal. L. Rev. 1673 (2000) (<http://www.heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/calr88&id=1689&collection=journals>).

Speakers at the seminar included —

- Morris Cohen of Yale Law School, on the renewed interest in legal history resulting from the digitization of English and early American law books and court records;
- Roy Mersky of the Univ. of Texas and Steve Barkan of the Univ. of Wisconsin law library, on the implications of a proposal to test legal research in the bar exam;
- Virginia Wise and Frederick Schauer of Harvard, on the ways in which legal information might foster the creation of "social capital," and the social consequences of the changes in format and contents of legal publications;
- Peter Martin of Cornell Law School, on reasons why courts have been slow to adopt rules for medium- and vendor-neutral citations of opinions;
- Dan Dabney, Ph.D., of Thomson/West, on the utility of different ways of organizing and searching legal information in helping researchers create "answer spaces" (collections of documents from which a researcher can derive all plausible or possible answers to a question); and
- Paul Duguid of the Univ. of California's Information School, on the open source movement and the quality and authoritativeness of information.

Papers from the seminar will appear in an upcoming issue of Law Library Journal.

## NEW BOOKS OF NOTE



### UNANSWERED THREATS: POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS ON THE BALANCE OF POWER

Discusses "underbalancing," which occurs when states fail to recognize dangerous threats, choose not to react to them, or respond in paltry and imprudent ways.

For more info, see [Princeton Univ. Press](http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/8197.html) (<http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/8197.html>)

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[LAW-STACKS](#)



### KNOCKING ON THE DOOR: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S ATTEMPT TO DESEGREGATE THE SUBURBS

Examines how HUD attempted to forge changes in segregated residential patterns by opening up the suburbs to groups historically excluded for racial or economic reasons.

For more info, see [Princeton Univ. Press](http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/8205.html) (<http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/8205.html>)

[HD7288.76.U5 B66](#)  
[2006. LAW-STACKS](#)

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

Amy Wright, Online Research Services Librarian

The start of the fall semester is a favorite time for members of the academic legal community to launch new blogs. This fall, there are two new authors in the legal blogosphere that are worth reading:

- Dean Frank Wu at Wayne State University School of Law started his blog, **DeanWuBlog**, in order to have “direct access to many stakeholders – especially students.” This first-ever blog by a law school dean covers a range of topics, including course selection advice for students, information about the law school’s governance, and an analysis of the law school dean’s primary responsibilities. You can read Dean Wu’s blog at: <http://deanwublog.classcaster.org/blog/>

Professor David Hricik (Mercer University School of Law) has started a blog dedicated to statutory construction, which is called – not surprisingly – the **Statutory Construction Blog**. Since he began blogging this summer, Professor Hricik has written about a Texas statute criminalizing pecan tree-thrashing, which he dubbed the “worst statute in the world,” and posted his preliminary analysis of the highly controversial Military Commissions Act of 2006. The blog is available at: <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/statutory/>

If you’re interested in seeing an informal tally of all of the newest law professor blogs, you can visit Professor Daniel Solove’s October 5 blogger census on **Concurring Opinions** (<http://www.concurringopinions.com/>).

There are also some older blogs that are well worth reading if you haven’t encountered them yet:

Wayne Schiess is the director of the University of Texas at Austin’s legal writing and the author of one of my favorite books, *Better Legal Writing*. His blog, **Legalwriting.net**, is filled with no-nonsense tips on drafting legal documents that are relevant for all members of the academic community. <http://www.utexas.edu/law/faculty/wschiess/legalwriting/>

## SUPREME COURT CURRENT AWARENESS

Terry Cullen, Public Services Librarian

For researchers interested in receiving immediate updates on United States Supreme Court activities, Zief Law Librarian Lee Ryan has prepared a helpful guide entitled “Supreme Court Current Awareness.”

Included in the guide are instructions for finding the following:

- Breaking news about the court
- Grants of review, as soon as they are announced
- Analyses of pending cases
- Briefs and petitions for new pending cases
- Oral argument transcripts for new or pending cases
- New decisions

The guide provides links to resources for as well as instructions for setting up automated searches that will deliver current information directly to your email box.

It also includes a number of sources for news and commentary from respected reporters and commentators, such as

- BNA's *Supreme Court Today* from *United States Law Week*;
- SCOTUSBlog (<http://www.scotusblog.com/>); and
- The Washington Post's Supreme Court News page (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/nation/courts/supremecourt/>).

The Zief Library guide to Supreme Court Current Awareness is available at [http://www.usfca.edu/law\\_library/supcurr.html](http://www.usfca.edu/law_library/supcurr.html).

For more information or help with Supreme Court research, Contact the Reference Desk at 415-422-6773.

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**Important telephone  
numbers:**

Reference Desk:  
415.422.6773  
Circulation/Reserve Desk:  
415.422.6779  
Interlibrary Loan  
415.422.5120

**Librarians**

Margaret Arnold, Associate Dean/Director X2251  
Shannon Burchard, Technical Services Librarian X2249  
Terry Cullen, Public Services Librarian X2252  
Lee Ryan, Senior Reference Librarian X2253  
Mehry Samadi, Cataloging Librarian X2248  
John Shafer, Reference Librarian X2240  
Amy Wright, Online Research Services Librarian

Zief Library on the Web:  
[http://www.usfca.edu/  
law\\_library/](http://www.usfca.edu/law_library/)

## ZIEFBRIEF IN BRIEF

ZiefBrief (<http://ziefbrief.typepad.com/>) prints breaking Zief Library news and tracks current developments in legal research and legal information on the web, legal scholarship, and studying law. Use ZiefBrief to stay current in between issues of *Z-Flyer*.

Recent ZiefBrief articles spotlight:

- Grimm Brothers fairy tales as fodder for criminal law exams
- The impending electronic discovery rule changes, and information to help with the transition
- Online voter information sites
- "Northwestern Colloquy," the first-ever scholarly blog from a major law review
- The latest Supreme Court bobblehead to join the Zief collection
- New and proposed ethics rules governing lawyers' blogs and web sites
- A return of the presidential signing statement controversy
- Legal research training podcasts from Boalt's Bob Berring

## LOCAL LIBRARIAN ROUNDTABLE ON NEW ASSOCIATE RESEARCH TRAINING

Zief librarians Terry Cullen and Amy Wright attended a roundtable discussion of issues in preparing new associates for law practice held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in San Francisco on Oct. 23rd. The Roundtable, which was sponsored by Thomson/West, included librarians from academic and law firm libraries in the Bay Area and Sacramento.

Librarians from large firms discussed the common view expressed by law firm partners that new hires are less prepared than ever before to deal with the intricacies of researching in the law office environment. They stressed the lack of familiarity of new graduates with practice materials, both federal and state, including such common materials as pleading and practice forms and practitioner treatises, and were particularly concerned that recent graduates arrive at their firms unaware of the costs of online research that cannot be passed on to clients.

The academic librarians discussed the difficulty of providing research training to law students in today's academic environment, which tends to emphasize writing and de-emphasize research. Concerns were expressed that it may not be possible to provide advanced research training to all students with the current numbers of academic librarians, especially considering that currently advanced research courses are only available for about ten percent of graduates even at the larger law schools.

The interest of the ABA in making research a bar subject was also discussed and both academics and law firm librarians agree that it would be a good step in ensuring students are better prepared. But all also felt that librarians alone cannot solve the problem and that it might be more fruitful for law school administrators and law firm partners to engage in conversations about the subject in the future.