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Moot Points: Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East  
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2-1-2008

### Moot Points Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library

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# MOOT POINTS

Newsletter of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library  
St. Mary's University School of Law

<http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library/>

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## LIBRARY HOURS

Monday—Friday 7 AM—Midnight

Saturday 9 AM—10 PM

Sunday 10 AM—Midnight

**Circulation Desk**  
**(210) 436-3436**



## From the Director's Desk

Greetings! Many things have taken place at your Law Library since last fall, and we continued to make progress in a few areas. First, creating a safe, comfortable environment for study and research remains our top priority. On that front, we undertook several projects - the window exteriors of the entire library building were caulked for water proofing; the dirty carpet in front of the rest-rooms on the second floor was replaced by new flooring; and the black ceiling tiles in some conference rooms were cleaned up.

Second, facilitating access to information and resources for the law school is our mission. In that area, we continued to add many new books and information resources to the Library. We also reorganized the Rare Book collection to promote easier access and better preservation. Moreover, we set up a proxy server to allow the law faculty and students access to electronic databases (for example, CCH Tax Research Network and CCH Legal Research Network) from home or on the road.

Third, using technology to conveniently deliver information and services to our users is a constant goal. Toward that end, we worked to improve the library Web site to make it richer in content and easier in navigation. For example, we added two librarian-created research guides to the Web site - Researching Federal Regulations, and Researching Federal Statutes. More will be loaded onto the Web site as they are created.

In the coming months, the library will work to update the computers and equipment in the library. We also plan to conduct a student survey of library services. As always, we are interested in hearing from you. Please tell us how we are doing and what we can do to better serve you. You can drop me an email at [rhu@stmarytx.edu](mailto:rhu@stmarytx.edu) or stop by my office at Room 130 in the Library. You can also call me at 431-2056.

- Bob Hu, Director & Assistant Professor of Law

## RECENT NEWS

**Congratulations** to Michael Forrest and Mike Martinez for their achievement of tenure and for their recent promotion to Associate Professors.

**Congratulations** to Michael Forrest, reference librarian and associate professor, for the article he co-authored in the most recent issue of the *St. Mary's Law Journal*: "Threading the Eye of the ERISA Needle: ERISA Preemption and Alternative Legal Schemes to Fill the Regulatory Vacuum." *St. Mary's Law Journal*, v.39, pp. 277-303 (2007).

## SPOTLIGHT ON RELIGION AND LAW

The many relationships between religion and law in modern society are of current and perennial interest. Among the recent books available in our library on the topic are:

***The Teachings of Modern Orthodox Christianity on Law, Politics, and Human Nature***, John Witte, Jr. and Frank S. Alexander, eds. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. **BX320.3 .T43 2007**.

***The Teachings of Modern Protestantism on Law, Politics, and Human Nature***, John Witte, Jr. and Frank S. Alexander, eds. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. **BX4811.3 .T43 2007**.

***The Teachings of Modern Roman Catholicism on Law, Politics, and Human Nature***, John Witte, Jr. and Frank S. Alexander, eds. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. **BX1751.3 .T43 2007**.

This three-volume anthology offers excerpts from nineteenth and twentieth-century religious thinkers and activists in the Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, and Catholic traditions. Each of the source documents is accompanied by introductory essays from contemporary religious and legal scholars providing an historical and philosophical context.

***Faith and Law: How Religious Traditions from Calvinism to Islam View American Law***, Robert F. Cochran, Jr., ed. New York: New York University Press, 2007. **BL65 .L33H69 2007**. Scholarly but accessible essays on American law by contemporary legal scholars in 16 religious traditions, including various Protestant denominations, Catholicism, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Topics discussed include social and political issues, and legal ethics, education, and philosophy.

***Shari'a: Islamic Law in the Contemporary Context***, Abbas Amanat and Frank Griffel, eds. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2007. **KBP440.3 .S53 2007**. Anthology of essays by contemporary legal scholars on the theory and practice of Islamic law in modern societies.

- Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian





# REFERENCES TO REFERENCE



A frequently asked question by law library patrons is how to identify a legal abbreviation. In this month's column, I will briefly highlight some useful print and Internet sources for accurately and easily identifying legal abbreviations.

A comprehensive resource on United States legal abbreviations is ***Bieber's Dictionary of Legal Abbreviations***, now in its fifth edition and available in our Circulation Desk and Dictionary Stand collections at **KF246 .B54 2001**. This handy guide includes both alphabetical listings from the abbreviation to its full wording and from the full wording to the abbreviation. An essential title for the legal researcher.

The ***World Dictionary of Abbreviations***, located in our Reference collection at **K89 .W67**, is a useful guide to non-U.S. legal abbreviations. This four-volume looseleaf includes listings of abbreviations for major countries in Africa, Asia, Europe (including extensive coverage of the United Kingdom) and Latin America, as well as Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Latin legal abbreviations and historic abbreviations prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century are also featured. An appendix includes abbreviations by subject (environment, maritime, taxation, and the United Nations).

A convenient source for identifying English-language legal periodical abbreviations is Appendix A, Table of Legal Abbreviations in the ***Fundamentals of Legal Research***, located in our Reserve collection at **KF240 .J31 2002**.

An online listing of U.S. and British legal abbreviations is available at [www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/](http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/). The website, maintained by Cardiff University, allows searching by both abbreviation and the full wording of the abbreviation. For identification of U.S. Government abbreviations and acronyms, see [www.ulib.iupui.edu/subjectareas/gov/docs/abbrev](http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/subjectareas/gov/docs/abbrev).

For guidance in using these or other print or electronic reference sources, please contact any of our reference librarians, by telephone, fax, e-mail, or in person.  
- Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian

## WEBSITE WONDERS

LOUIS - the Library Of Unified Information Sources

LOUIS, located at <http://www.louisdb.org/about/>, is a relatively new database designed to provide a free, comprehensive, completely indexed and cross-referenced depository of federal documents from the executive and legislative branches of government. At the present time it offers access to the Congressional Reports, Congressional Records, Congressional Hearings, Federal Register, Presidential Documents, GAO Documents, and Congressional Bills & Resolutions dating back to 2001.

- Lee Unterborn, Cataloger & Reference Services Librarian



## GETTING TO KNOW US

My name is Brandon Michael Vasquez, and I was born in San Antonio in 1974. I grew up on the west side of the city and went to Sidney Lanier High School. I was also a Congressional Page for the late Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez.

After graduating from high school in 1993, I briefly attended the University of Texas at Austin. After a small break from school, I attended St. Mary's University and graduated in 2002 with a B.B.A. with a concentration in Corporate Finance. I completed my M.B.A. with a concentration in Information Technology in 2006.

I met my wife, Crystal, here at St. Mary's. We have been married almost 5 years and have a wonderful 2-year-old little girl named Giselle. I have worked at the Law Library since I began as a work study student in the fall of 2000. I enjoy working with the students, faculty and staff here at St. Mary's University Law School.

You can contact me any time by email at [bvasquez@stmarytx.edu](mailto:bvasquez@stmarytx.edu), or call 436-3646.