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Moot Points: Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East
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Sarita Kenedy East Law Library Collections

5-1-2009

Moot Points Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library

Liana Morales Editor

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MOOT POINTS

NOTES FROM THE SARITA KENEDY EAST LAW LIBRARY

May 2009 • Issue 6

Director's Message

Inside this issue:

Notable New Acquisitions	2
Hours/Schedule of Events	3
References to Reference	3
Website Wonders	3
New Book Display	4
Popular Reading Review	4

Much is going on at your Library. Since the last issue of Moot Points published in January, a lot has happened. Many new books were acquired. A new database—*The Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law*—was subscribed to. The library website was redesigned to have better organization and navigation. Two new scanners were set up for students to scan documents. The library staff is constantly working to improve access to information resources and services for teaching, research, and scholarship in the law school community.

I am delighted to introduce Liana Morales, our new staff member since April. See her profile on this page. Among her duties, Liana will edit Moot Points. As you can see in this issue, this newsletter now has a new look designed by her. We hope to publish this newsletter bi-monthly from now on, and add more contents to make it more informative.



Please let us know how we are doing and what we can do to make the library more helpful to you. Stop by my office or drop me an email at rhu@stmarytx.edu.

- Bob Hu, Director

Library Hours and Schedule of Events

Monday-Friday
8am—10pm

Saturday
9am—10pm

Sunday
10am—10pm

July 3:
University Holiday
8am-6pm

July 4:
Independence Day
9am-6pm

July 28—30:
Bar Exam
8am-10pm

Our calendar is available online at stmarytx.edu/law/library, click "Monthly Calendar"

Getting to Know Liana

Hello, my name is Liana Morales and I am the Library Assistant here at the Law Library. My hometown is El Paso, Texas and I am a recent graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Creative Writing.

My hobbies include writing poetry, short fiction, and blogs. I also like reading, swimming, crocheting, and I really love to travel.

While I was a student, I participated in the University Chorale as an alto voice and I was also in the University's Creative Writing Society. During my studies as an undergraduate, I worked in a few places including a funeral home as a secretary and as a clerk at a used bookstore. I spent my final semester as an intern for the El Paso Times newspaper where I spent time in the library updating information and digitizing old photos. I also wrote a few articles for them while I was there.

I am a new resident of San Antonio and so far I am enjoying the city very much. There are tons of things to do here and I hope to attend several poetry readings and concerts held in the area.

It is exciting to be working here at the law library and I look forward to cultivating a terrific and fruitful experience at St. Mary's University.

You may reach me by email at lmorales16@stmarytx.edu or phone at 436-3096.



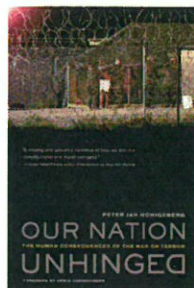
This is Liana in an ancient neighborhood in Beijing called Hutong in 2007.

Notable New Acquisitions

Let's take a look at a few selections from our newest hardcopy materials recently acquired.



Come take a look at what's new in our library today!



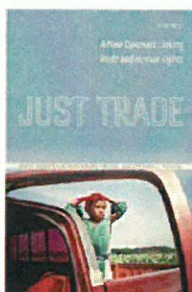
■ ***Our Nation Unhinged: The Human Consequences of the War on Terror***, Peter Jan Honigsberg. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2009. **Circ KF 9625. H66 2009**

The content of this book is definitely controversial, thus making it well-worth checking out. The author's purpose is to bring to light the human stories out of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay. Indeed he has many elements of American law and justice on his side. The introduction to the book connects the unlikely story of the Cuban iguana for helping establish human rights in Guantanamo Bay. The rest is filled with his compelling argument, evidentiary stories, a judiciary timeline, and a plausible, if not, mandatory conclusion. - Liana Morales



■ ***The Ugly Laws: Disability in Public***, Susan M. Schweik. New York: New York University, 2009. **Circ KF480 .S39 2009**

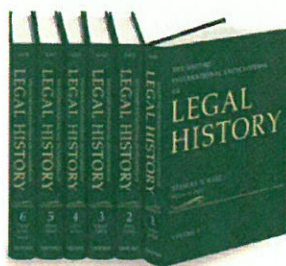
The author covers the concept of public perception and the criminalization of disabilities. These municipal laws set-up in the late 1800's and into the early 20th century are almost always considered urban legends now, and the author does a thorough job of uncovering the history and depth of these oppressive policies. Using an extensive array of research materials, including life stories, court materials and police reports, the author exposes a topic that isn't pretty in most cases, but one that is essential to those interested in law, politics and cultural aesthetics. - Liana Morales



■ ***Just Trade: A New Covenant Linking Trade and Human Rights***, Berta Esperanza Hernandez-Truyol and Stephen J. Powell. New York: New York University Press, 2009. **Circ K3240 .H438 2009**

Judging the cover alone makes this book worthy of putting these topics and their consequent obstacles to the front of our minds, along with other world issues that concern not only this government, but administrations worldwide. Modern trade law and human rights, though commonly treated as hotly debated yet stand-alone entities aren't particularly suited to be so isolated. The authors work to open these boundaries, to create middle ground and have thus created a highly readable set of solutions to just how the preservation of international trade and the protection of human rights can co-exist. - Liana Morales

*"What is conservatism?
Is it not the adherence to
the old and tried against
the new and untried?"*
- Abraham Lincoln



■ ***The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Legal History***, Stanley Nider Katz, editor. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. **Ref K 50 O94 2009 v.1-6**

This essential encyclopedia offers an alphabetical listing of terms, governments, historical documents, laws, and persons related to the expansive history of law and justice systems around the world. Containing about 1,000 articles spanning from ancient to modern civilization, each entry comes complete with a bibliography. According to its product description, "it is the first encyclopedia of law to provide historical and contemporary comparisons of world legal systems." The six volume collection is sure to provide ample information instantly, whether by just browsing, or looking up something specific. The collection is edited by Stanley Katz, an international affairs professor at Princeton University. - Liana Morales



New library acquisitions are received on a monthly basis. A complete listing can be found on our website at <http://www.stmarytx.edu/law/library>, click "New Books and Journals."



The honorable
Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Fort Stevens, July 12, 1864...

This anecdote was found in Edward J. Bander's *Legal Anecdotes, Wit, and Rejoinder* (REF K183.B36 2007). For this and more anecdote collections, please check out our reference section.

"This sharp skirmish was President Lincoln's only opportunity of seeing troops in action. He had no concern for his personal safety. Both on Monday and Tuesday, with nearly half of his tall form exposed above the parapet, he was under fire at Fort Stevens. During the charge of Bidwell's brigade, he clambered on top of the parapet, where General Wright and a few others were standing. A surgeon was killed by a sharpshooter's bullet within three feet of Lincoln. The President remained, after Wright had cleared the parapet of everyone else, and the general ordered him to withdraw. Wright's remonstrance was couched in dignified, if peremptory terms; and it was left for his exasperated young aide, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver Wendell Holmes, to shout at the Chief Executive, 'Get down, you fool!'"

References to Reference

"The life of the law has not been logic; it has been experience."
- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., *The Common Law* (1881)

One of the major focuses of any library's reference collection are quotation dictionaries. In this month's column, I will highlight selected legal quotation sources—both print and electronic—that I have found personally useful.

Still the most scholarly legal quotation dictionary ever published (and an interesting read) is Fred R. Shapiro's *Oxford Dictionary of American Legal Quotations* (located in our Reference Collection at KF159.S53 1993). Alphabetic arrangement by broad subject categories and author and keyword indexes are featured. In addition, verified citations to the original sources, whenever possible, amake this title the "Bartlett's Quotations" of the legal reference world.

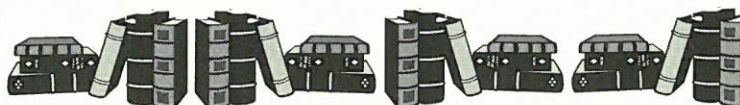
Another useful legal quotation dictionary—searchable electronically as part of the HeinOnline database system—is Eugene C. Gerhart's 1998 compilation *Quote It Completely: A World Reference Guide to More than 5,500 Memorable Quotations from Law and Literature*. An alphabetical subject arrangement and a name and keyword index are included. For assistance in using this resource, please contact a reference librarian.

A more specialized legal quotation dictionary (and an entertaining browse) is *The Breath of an Unfee'd Lawyer: Shakespeare on Lawyers and the Law* by Edward J. Bander (Reference PR2892.B732 1996). The title includes a detailed subject index.

Last (but certainly not least) I would recommend two non-quotation dictionaries that nevertheless are treasures of law-related quotations: the current edition of *Black's Law Dictionary* (located in our Reference Collection at KF156.B5 2004 and in our Circulation and Dictionary Stand Collections) and the monumental *Oxford English Dictionary* (Reference PE1625.087 1989).

For information on these and many other reference sources, please contact a reference librarian by telephone, fax, E-mail or in person. Happy quotation hunting! And remember: be sure to verify your sources!

- Garry Stillman, Reference Services Librarian

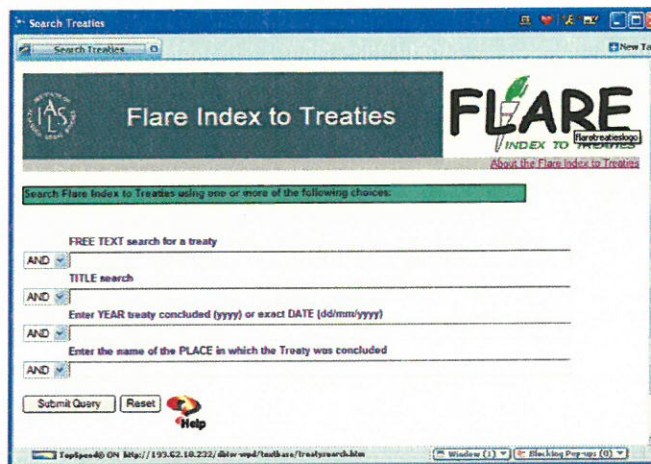


Website Wonders: Flare Index to Treaties

URL - <http://193.62.18.232/dbtw-wpd/textbase/treatysearch.htm>

This is a new online database, available free of charge. It consists of over 1,500 of the most significant multilateral treaties (bilateral treaties are not included) from 1856 to the present, selected and compiled by Dr. Peter Clinch, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London. The Flare Index is a finding aid that allows you to find the treaties in full text in print sources, or if available, on the Internet. The information has been compiled from two print sources, *Multilateral Treaties: Index and Current Status*, compiled and annotated within the University of Nottingham Treaty Centre by M.J. Bowman and D.J. Harris (London: Butterworths, 1984, ninth supplement, 1992), and *International Legal Materials* (Washington, D.C., American Society of International Law, 1962-).

- Lee R. Unterborn, Cataloger & Reference Services Librarian



San Antonio's Center for Legal Information

St. Mary's University
One Camino Santa Maria
San Antonio, TX 78228

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Fax: 210-436-3240
Email: lawlibrary@stmarytx.edu

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



Completed in 1984, the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library offers two stories of research materials and services to the students, faculty and community surrounding St. Mary's University.

Law students of the university have access to quiet study areas, 136 private carrels, 17 conference rooms, and two classrooms.

Our library is the winner of the American Institute of Architects Honor Award and the Texas Society of Architects Honor Award and is well-equipped with multimedia collections, labs, wireless Internet, and helpful, knowledgeable staff.

Come visit us or see us online.

New Book Display: Abraham Lincoln & The Law

*"A house divided against itself cannot stand."
- Abraham Lincoln*

These next couple of months we will be featuring a book case display of Abraham Lincoln and the law. He was one of 26 presidents who had a background in law before being elected, (the newest member of this group of course is Barack Obama).



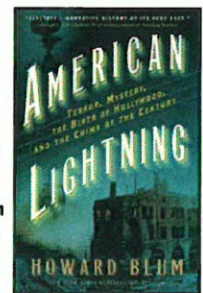
In order to commemorate Mr. Lincoln's 200th birthday, we've gathered and arranged a visual bibliography about not just his law practice, but also how he affected and redirected the course of U.S. government. Having been a practicing lawyer for over 30 years, Abraham Lincoln was known to be a powerful speaker and revolutionary thinker, though he was surprisingly criticized in his day.

Come take a look at this collection of books and media and pick up an information sheet that annotates these fascinating books in detail. Included is a list of the books displayed, a few of the 16th president's most famous quotes, and where and how you can find online journal articles about him in relation to law.

This display is located next to the elevator on the second floor of the law library building.

Popular Reading Review

American Lightning by Howard Blum
HV6440 .B58 2008



I picked up this book partly because the title was so intriguing, as was its subtitle: Terror, Mystery, the Birth of Hollywood and the Crime of the Century. The author makes quite a promise. And though I somewhat disagree with its "crime of the century" label, the non-fiction book does unravel an intricate tapestry of events. The beginning of the book reads like a classic mystery novel, complete with cast of shady characters. The course of the book changes subtly every now and then into a political narrative, all the while maintaining its historicity and intrigue.

The crime took place at the spark of the silent film era, the Los Angeles Times building collapsed, most likely being due to a detonated bomb inside the building. The suspects included a couple of conspiring union workers, a radical political group and the owner of the Los Angeles Times himself. The book puts a spotlight on filmmaker D.W. Griffith (yes, of *Birth of a Nation* fame) and so-called "American Sherlock Holmes" Billy Burns who both become entangled as well in this twisted web. It's definitely worth the read for film connoisseurs, mystery lovers, journalists, historians and law enthusiasts alike.

-Liana Morales, library assistant