4-1-2010

Moot Points Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library

Liana Morales Editor

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.stmarytx.edu/mootpoints

Recommended Citation
https://commons.stmarytx.edu/mootpoints/10

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library Collections at Digital Commons at St. Mary’s University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Moot Points: Notes from the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at St. Mary’s University. For more information, please contact jlloyd@stmarytx.edu.
**Director’s Message**

Recently, the library staff did a survey of students. We received eighty-three responses. While the participants overwhelmingly approve of the library services and staff assistance, they raise a number of issues, such as property safety, noise, availability of carrels, copiers/printers, and the cleanliness of facilities, which need our attention. The library certainly will use the survey results to improve the facilities and services. We thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

As promised, we drew from the participants, and here are the four winners for a $25 gift card from the University bookstore: Charles Renaud, Roy Linnartz, Andria Aguayo, and Jose Galvan. Congratulations!

A new employee, Diane Powell, joined the library in March. Diane is a teacher aide at a local school, and is getting her Master’s degree in library science. She works part-time at the Circulation Desk primarily during weekends and evenings. Katy Stein, faculty services librarian, has been here for over a year. A short interview with her is included in this issue. I hope that you get to know Katy better. As always, I love to hear from you about our library staff members and services.

- Bob Hu (rhu@stmarytx.edu)

**Meeting Katy Stein, Faculty Services Librarian**

**Q:** What draws you to this profession?

**A:** Getting to solve new problems everyday, working with all areas of the law, different subjects, I get to explore the spectrum of law, in a way. I also enjoy working with all the smart and talented people of this university, all the attorneys, and faculty members.

**Q:** Other than books related to the law, what kinds of books do you like to read?

**A:** I’ve read a lot of historical non-fiction and biographies. Right now, I’m reading Game Change about the 2008 election. It’s scandalous. The best fiction book I’ve read recently would probably be *Mother of the Believers* by Kamran Pasha.

**Q:** You’re not from San Antonio. Since moving here, what have become your favorite things to do in the city or region?

**A:** I like hiking with my dog at the park, visiting my sister in Austin, and trying new restaurants.

Interview continued on next page.
Interview with Katy Stein, Continued from Previous Page

Q: Are there any you would recommend?
A: I recently visited Gourmet Burger Grill on Huebner and I-10. It was excellent. They’re locally-owned and featured in Texas Monthly’s 50 best burgers in Texas.

Q: Did you watch the Oscars?
A: Yes. The dresses were especially nice this year. The best one was probably Sarah Jessica Parker’s controversial yellow Chanel dress.

Katy Stein is the faculty services librarian at Sarita Kenedy East. She may be reached at 436-3011 ext. 1374 or by email at kstein2@stmarytx.edu.

Recent Faculty Publications

by Liana Morales, Library Assistant

Here is a selective list of several of St. Mary’s School of Law faculty members’ publications. Congratulations to each of these professors and all the best for their continued scholarly achievement!


- **Professor Kauffman** has also published an Introduction to Issue: “Education and Minorities in the Modern Era: Working Civil Rights Into Practice, Policy and Procedure,” in the Scholar’s Symposium issue. [12 Scholar 101 (2010)]. Available on HeinOnline


(Pictures listed alphabetically)

Our Library By the Numbers

Here is a list featuring the number of transactions handled by the Law Library staff from January to February 2010:

- **Acquisitions and Cataloging**: 1819 volumes, 234 titles
- **Circulation of Items/Times**: 1428
- **Faculty Requests**: 13 requests, which took 39 hours to research
- **Interlibrary Loans**: 104

Circulation desk supervisor Brandon Vasquez helps law students at the desk.
If I have seen a little further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.—Sir Isaac Newton

In my References to Reference column of August 2008, I noted that public information activist and software entrepreneur Carl Malamud had embarked on a project to make millions of pages of United States case law available to the public via the Internet (see www.nytimes.com/2007/08/20/technology/20westlaw.html for an article on the original project).

Since then, the big news on the free case law front is that Google, or to be more specific, Google Scholar has entered the “competition” (for a press release by Google on this development, see http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2009/11/finding-laws-that-govern-us.html).

Legal opinion and journal searches on Google Scholar build on the simple dialog search box characteristic of both Google and Google Scholar. Radio buttons allow the user to search both legal opinions together, or in advanced search mode, to search federal court opinions or state court opinions separately.

Supreme Court coverage is currently available from pre-1776 to the present; Federal Appeals opinions from 1924 to the present; and Federal District Court opinions on a more limited basis. State opinions are included from 1950 to the present. All opinions are full-text.

Law Journal coverage is more selective. If you are searching at computers that offer HeinOnline or Lexis/Nexis (such as those at St. Mary’s University libraries), results will be linked to full text. Otherwise, the results will generally be limited for the searcher to citations only.

Other websites offering free access to case law include Lexisone (www.lexisone.com) and Findlaw (www.findlaw.com).

For guidance in using these or other electronic or print reference resources, please contact any of our reference librarians by telephone, fax, e-mail, or in person.

---

**Recommended Reading**

**Louis D. Brandeis: A Life** by Melvin I. Urofsky  KF8745 .U67 U748 2009

This is the first full biography written about this most intriguing supreme court justice in 25 years. Read about this forward thinker and reformer who helped introduce the idea of pro bono publico to the world.

**John Brown’s Trial** by Brian McGinty  KF223 .B765 M34 2009

His trial was short, but it was one of the stormiest ever held. The book covers every nail-biting detail of abolitionist John Brown’s trial. This courtroom drama has a quite fascinating tragic figure at its center. Check it out.

**Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark: A Life of Service** by Mimi Clark Gronlund  KF8745 .C54 G76 2010

The law school’s own Professor Vincent Johnson wrote a sparkling review. Solid research by Clark’s devoted and scholarly daughter Mimi really brings to life the many contributions her father made to the U.S. Court system and beyond.

**The Past is Never Dead: The Trial of James Ford Seale and Mississippi’s Struggle for Redemption** by Harry N. MacLean  KF225 .S43 M33 2009

Uncovers the 2007 trial of James Ford Seale, a klansman who tortured and drowned two young black men in 1964. Decades later, Mississippi hoped to atone for its sins. This is the gripping story.
**Legal Film Showcase: L.A. Confidential**

By Liana Morales, Library Assistant

**L.A. Confidential**
Directed by Curtis Hanson  

Nominated for Best Picture among several other nominations at the 1998 Academy Awards, this film is a genuine example of modern-day film noir. The cast does well in carrying the morally ambiguous tendencies of typical players found in classic film noir including the femme fatale, the crooked lawmen, and juicy motives for murder.

Based on James Ellroy’s crime fiction, the director sets the scene of a 50s-era Hollywood complete with dark-lit glamour and style.

Like the streets of L.A., the plot is full of interesting turns. It twists to form a storyline that will capture the audience right from the opening credits.

Russell Crowe and Guy Pearce do a stand-out job playing the good-cop/bad-cop dynamic (in some cases it’s more like bad-cop/not-so-bad-cop, however). And Kim Basinger is more than worthy of the Oscar she won for her role as Veronica Lake lookalike Lynn Bracken.

These actors along with seasoned costars Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito and David Strathairn all bring suspense to the table.

My advice: if you want to pick up a nice crime drama, do the John Grisham thing, but if you want to pick up a smart, stylish crime noir thriller, don’t miss this movie.

I give this film 9 out of 10 stars.