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Law Library Briefs

Roger Williams University School of Law Library



No. 41, February, 2008

A “Supreme” Semester: Some Selected Sources

Since School of Law activities involve three justices of the U.S. Supreme Court this semester, the Law Library staff suggests the following sources to bone up on all things “Supreme.”

Available in print and online, the *U.S. Law Week* provides information on cases brought before the Court from their initial docketing to their disposition. The *U.S. Law Week* publishes orders in pending cases, orders granting or denying review, the schedule for oral argument, excerpts of oral arguments, and full-text opinions. To access the *U.S. Law Week* online, select the Online Resources link from the Law Library’s pull-down menu at the School of Law’s home page and click on the U.S. Law Week link under the heading Bureau of National Affairs (publisher of the *U.S. Law Week*).

The official website of the U.S. Supreme Court at www.supremecourtus.gov provides docket information, slip opinions, orders, argument calendar, oral argument transcripts, and press releases. There is a link for merit briefs available via the website of the American Bar Association. General information about the Court is also included in the website.

FindLaw’s Supreme Court Center at supreme.lp.findlaw.com has current term docket, decisions, orders, briefs, rules and calendar. Commentary and analysis are written by attorney and law professor columnists.

A blog exclusively about the U.S. Supreme Court is the SCOTUSblog at www.scotusblog.com/wp. The SCOTUSblog offers commentary and analysis, new filings, orders, opinions, multimedia files, and a term tracker. Current authors include a law professor and attorneys with two law firms: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and Howe & Russell.

Two noteworthy reference publications are *The Supreme Court Compendium: Data, Decisions & Developments*, 4th ed. (Reference, KF8742 .S914 2007) and *Guide to the U.S. Supreme Court*, 4th ed. (Reference, KF8742 .W567 2004). Information in the *Compendium* includes a chronology of noteworthy events in the Court’s history, legislation relating to the organization and jurisdiction of the Court, and information on the Court’s budget and personnel. There is data on the Court’s review process, caseload, and decision trends. There is biographical information on 110 Justices. The Court’s relationship

with Congress, the executive branch, the states, interest groups, and the lower courts is analyzed. Discussions include the impact of the Court and public opinion polls on various social and political issues, the public’s perception of the Court, and trends and outcomes for the social and political areas frequently addressed by the Court. The two-volume *Guide* is an extensive narrative of the Court’s history, conflicts, decisions, workings, and impact. Volume I includes the origins and development of the Court, the Court and the federal system, the constitutional rights of the individual vis a vis the decisions of the Court. Volume II includes pressures on the Court by the Congress, the President, the press, and the public; the operations, traditions, and personnel of the Court; and a brief biography of each Justice who sat on the Court from 1789 to 1994.



Internships!

In addition to the staff and resources of the Feinstein Institute, the Law Library staff suggests the following resources for those interested in an internship.

Internships in the Legal Profession: A Beginner's Roadmap to Success (Career, KF272 .N37 2001) has topics that address locating the internship that is right for you, preparing legal resumes and cover letters, interviewing, preparing for the internship, legal intern professionalism and ethics, legal intern roles and responsibilities, and making the transition from a legal intern to a professional position.

The Vault Guide to Top Internships (Career, LC1072.I58 V38 2008) provides information on more than 760 top internship programs. Each entry includes impressions of the company by former interns, statistics such as the number of interns hired and compensation, background information about the organization, qualifications for and the type of work interns do, contact information, and application deadlines.

Rhode Island State Government Internship Program. A workshop on DVD (forty-five minutes in duration) conducted by Robert Gemma explaining the internship program with the Rhode Island state government. The DVD is shelved on Reserve (KF297 .G48 2006 DVD).

Studentjobs.gov at <http://www.studentjobs.gov> offers links to student employment information for the federal agencies offering it. Click on the "e-SCHOLAR" link on the home page for information on various internship opportunities.

Note: new publications on internships in various fields have been ordered and will eventually be shelved in the Law Library's career

collection located on the shelves adjacent to Training Lab 2; so either check the library webcatalog (search by keyword "internships") or periodically browse the collection.



Law Library News

Recent databases

The Law Library recently subscribed to the **Oceana Constitutions Suite Online**. This database provides electronic access to the Oceana publications *Constitutions of the World*, *Constitutions of the Dependencies and Territories*, and *Constitutions of the United States: National & State*. *Constitutions of the World* contains English language translations of 192 national constitutions along with commentary by experts examining recent amendments and highlights of pertinent historical, political and economic information. *Constitutions of the Dependencies and Territories* contains the texts of constitutions of territories and dependencies along with the relevant federal constitutional provisions and commentary describing the interaction of the federal constitution with that of the dependency or territory. *Constitutions of the United States: National & State* consists of the most complete and up-to-date constitutions of the fifty states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

The **Foreign Law Guide** provides electronic access to *Current*

Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World by Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores. For each country, there is a brief history of its government and descriptions of its legal history, legislature and judiciary. Major publications for the country's codes and session laws are listed as well as its laws by subject with links to websites for them.

New Student Library Assistants

Two recently hired Student Library Assistants are second-year students **Erica Avondoglio** and **Jason Ollman**.

Erica is from Andover, New Jersey. She received a B.A. in English and in Political Science from the University of Delaware. Erica worked at Riker Danzig, a large New Jersey law firm, in the commercial litigation practice group prior to coming to law school. She is unsure about which area of law that she would like to go into after graduation as she is daily learning interesting aspects of the various areas of law that she is studying.

Jason is from Senoia, Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of Florida ("Go Gators!") where he majored in Business and minored in HR. Prior to coming to the law school, Jason was a store manager for a drug store. He is interested in employment law and enjoys long walks on the beach!

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