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Spring 1998

## Law Library Illuminations

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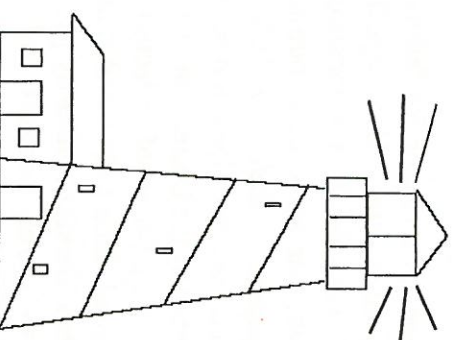
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Roger Williams University

# Law Library Illuminations

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## CD-ROMs in the Library

For those who have not used the CD-ROMs since last year, there will be some surprises. Many titles have been added.

For researching Rhode Island legal authority, use *L.O.I.S. Rhode Island* (Law Office Information Systems) or the *West Rhode Island Library*. You will be able to search Rhode Island Supreme Court opinions, the General Laws, and the Court Rules using either product. Rhode Island Superior Court opinions are available on the *L.O.I.S. Rhode Island* CD-ROM. Other *L.O.I.S.* databases contain United States Supreme Court opinions and opinions from the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

*L.O.I.S.* is a DOS based, menu driven program. To use, double click on the icon. When the program loads, click on **OK**. Highlight each of the "Books" to be searched and click on **Tag** to select the book. Multiple books can be selected and searched at the same time. Once all the desired books are tagged, click on **OK** to come to a search screen. Fill in the appropriate fields using **Synonyms** to find additional search terms, then click on **Search** to find any matching documents. The **Search pull-down menu** provides the commands needed to move within the search results. **Docs Found** will display a list of the search results. **Results** displays the search for editing. The **Print** and **Exit** commands are in the **File pull-down menu**. Users

familiar with WESTLAW will find the *West Rhode Island Library* software very familiar, if slightly less powerful, and will have no problems using this product.

In addition to the Rhode Island sources, other CD-ROMs available include *CALI*, *Canadian Case Digest*, *Canadian Statutes Citations*, *LegalTrac*, *Index to Legal Periodicals*, *Index to U.N. Documents and Publications*, *Matthew Bender Authority* titles, and the *Oxford English Dictionary 2d*. For reinforcing legal concepts that you are studying, try a *CAL* exercise. You can select from nearly one-hundred interactive computer-based lessons in twenty-three subject areas. *Canadian Case Digest* is a comprehensive encyclopedia of Canadian case law and *Canadian Statutes*

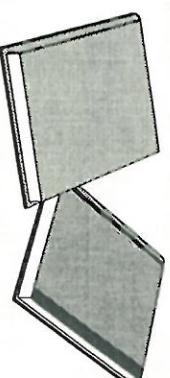
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# Nan's Helpful Hints



By Nan Kelley, Reference Librarian

For those of you graduating in May and taking a bar exam or two in July, I would like to direct your attention to TimeSaver No. 8, *Sources of Information on Bar Examinations and Admissions*. This Library publication contains descriptions of library materials for information on bar examinations and admissions. For those of you

wondering if a classmate or friend passed the July bar exam or where the results of the February bar exam will be made available, there are sources to consult for locating this information. Many legal newspapers publish the names of those who passed the bar exam. Also, a listing of names is often sent to local newspapers. Unfortunately, the names are not always published. Recently, Internet websites

sponsored by a state's judicial body or bar examination administrative agency have begun to post bar exam results. The following is a compilation of sources for the New England states, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. For others states, contact the state's bar examinations administrative agency for information or try searching individual names in the newspapers on WESTLAW or on LEXIS-NEXIS.

☞ Connecticut. Results are published in the *Connecticut Law Tribune* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS). They are posted on the website sponsored by the Judicial Branch, Commission on Legal Publications at <http://www.state.ct.us/jud/culp/barexam.html>. Generally, February exam results are released in May and July exam results are released in November.

☞ Maine. Results of the bar exam are released to

various newspapers. Try searching the newspapers on WESTLAW or LEXIS-NEXIS. Generally, July exam results are available in September and February results are available late April, early May. Currently, there is no website that posts the bar exam results.

☞ Massachusetts. Results are published in the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS and on WESTLAW) and on the website of its parent company's national newspaper *Lawyers Weekly USA* at <http://www.lawyersweekly.com/matreas>. February exam results are published in June and July exam results are published in December.

☞ New Hampshire. Results are released to local newspapers. Try searching the newspapers on WESTLAW or LEXIS-NEXIS. Currently, there is no website that posts bar exam results.

☞ New Jersey. Results are published in the *New Jersey Law Journal* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS) and the *New Jersey Lawyer* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW and at <http://www.njnews.com>). Results are posted on the website of the New Jersey State Courts at [http://www.state.nj.us/judiciary/bar\\_pg.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/judiciary/bar_pg.htm). Generally, February exam results are released late April, early May and July exam results are released in December.

☞ New York. Results are published in the *New*





## Book Reviews

by Emilie Benoit

**Davis, Todd S., *Brownfields, A Comprehensive Guide to Redeveloping Contaminated Property*. Chicago: American Bar Association (1997).**

Imagine a pleasant bay cruise from Bristol Harbor continuing up Narragansett Bay to the Providence River. To look to the shoreline along much of the Bay is to see beautiful green fields, lawns and pastures. As you proceed northward to the mouth of the Providence River, the appearance of the shoreline changes dramatically. Instead of green pastures you see "brownfields" which are old, abandoned industrial sites where manufacturing plants operated for years with little environmental regulation.

Depending on your perspective you might view these sites as health hazards and prime examples of why environmental laws need to be tightened. If you are an individual or corporate owner of a brownfields site, it is likely that you had long ago been advised by counsel to leave your brownfields site "as is." However, if you are a local government official or a developer, you might be of the opinion that if the contaminated, abandoned sites could be developed, new jobs could be created and hundreds of thousands of tax dollars added to a community's tax coffers and to a developer's bottom line. In fact you might consider that brownfields redevelopment is an "integral component of successful urban redevelopment."

Unfortunately, many would-be developers are

daunted by the onerous and numerous legal, business, financial, political and scientific issues associated with brownfields redevelopment. In order to "clarify and demystify" brownfields redevelopment related issues, the American Bar Association has published this text, which is a comprehensive compilation of articles concerning a wide range of brownfields related topics, including legal, business, financial and political issues associated with redeveloping contaminated property. This text is well-documented to facilitate further research and analysis. Specific topics examined include site valuation, financing, lender liability, environmental insurance, and community participation in brownfields redevelopment. There is scientific information on subsurface geology and hydrology, the phases of contamination, remedial alternatives for the property, risk assessment and remediation strategies.

Voluntary clean-up programs from thirty (30) states, including Rhode Island (Chapter 42), are described. Flowcharts setting forth each state's procedure are located at the end of each chapter.

All in all, this publication is a good, thorough, well-documented analysis of many of the legal, business, financial, political and scientific issues regarding brownfields redevelopment.

**Meyer, Jon'a F., *Inaccuracies in Children's Testimony: Memory, Suggestibility, or Obedience to Authority?* New York: The Haworth Press, Inc. (1997).**

Suppose you are prosecuting a child abuse case and the only witness to the crime is the alleged victim. Suppose your client has been accused of a crime and your client's accuser is a child. How reliable is a child's testimony?

This text presents a good discussion and analysis of certain research literature concerning the inaccuracies found in children's testimony. The author analyzes research demonstrating that child witnesses are indeed suggestible and that interviewers can inadvertently mislead children into remember-



*York Law Journal* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW) and on the newspaper's website at <http://www.nylj.com>. The State Board of Law Examiners post results at <http://www.nybarexam.org/exam>. Generally, February exam results are available in May and July exam results are available in November.

☞ Pennsylvania. Results are published in the *Legal Intelligencer* (available on LEXIS-NEXIS) and posted to the newspaper's website at <http://www.legalcom.com>. Results are posted on the website of Pennsylvania's Unified Judicial System at <http://www.courts.state.pa.us/pub/appeals/pble/072997.tx>. Generally, February exam results are available in May and July exam results are available late October, early November.

☞ Rhode Island. Results are published in the *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*. February exam

results are published in June and July exam results are published in December and posted to the website of its parent company's national newspaper *Lawyers Weekly USA* at <http://www.lawyersweekly.com/rilaw>. Future bar exam results may be posted on a website sponsored by the Rhode Island judiciary and board of bar examiners. Stay tuned!

☞ Vermont. Results are posted on the website of the Vermont Judiciary at <http://www.state.vt.us/atty.htm>. Also, results are sent to local newspapers. Generally, results of the February exam are available in April and July exam results are available in October.

Please note that the Library subscribes to most of the newspapers mentioned above.



## Computer Etiquette

When using the computers available in the library, please remember that they are shared resources. Observing the following guidelines will assist in maintaining these resources:

✓ *Exit and close all programs when you are done.* Not everyone will have the knowledge or comfort level to deal with an unfamiliar program left open on the screen.

✓ *Leave the screen settings at the Windows defaults.* This is particularly important for surfing the web. Individual color settings can result in trying to view web pages where the text and background colors are now the same. White on white is hard to read.

✓ *Leave the screen savers alone.* One person's idea of "cute" could be offensive to someone else.

✗ *Do not add programs or additional icons to these computers.* Only the programs properly licensed and supported can be on these computers. There are copyright issues involved with unlicensed programs. Duplicate or individually created icons add confusion to screens that already have a significant number of icons.

Your colleagues, the staff of the Information Technology Department, and the staff of the Library thank you for the consideration shown by following these guidelines.