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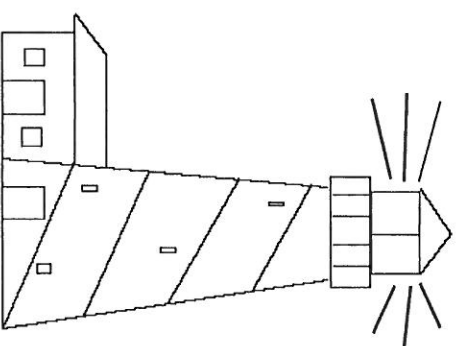
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Roger Williams University

Law Library Illuminations



Issue No.5

Winter, 1999/2000

Keeping “In the Know”

At Dean Rishikof's suggestion the library staff has compiled the following information to assist students and others in keeping up with current legal news. The Dean has recently expressed his belief that keeping abreast of current issues and trends in the law and legal profession is an essential professional skill which all students should develop. It is a skill which will enhance students' studies and employment opportunities as well as help them become better attorneys in the future.

The Law Library has numerous print, online, and web-based resources for keeping current on national and state issues. Legal newspapers, journals, and looseleaf services are invaluable tools for keeping “in the know.” They often report on high-profile civil and criminal cases, controversial legal issues, people in the legal profession, and activities of state and federal government entities. Other items frequently published are judicial calendars, legal notices, notices of rule changes, reviews of recently published legal materials, and summaries of recent case decisions. Most of the sources discussed below are also available on LEXIS or WESTLAW.

For nationwide coverage, the *ABA Journal*, the *American Lawyer*, *The National Law Journal*, *Lawyers Weekly USA*, and *United States Law Week* are very useful. The *ABA Journal* is a monthly

publication of the American Bar Association. Students can receive a personal subscription to the *ABA Journal* by joining the ABA Law Student division. (Membership is currently \$20.00.) For more information about an ABA Law Student Division membership, check out the Law Student Division's Web Pages at <http://www.abanet.org/lstd/home.html>. *American Lawyer* is a monthly magazine. *The National Law Journal* is a weekly newspaper. *Lawyers Weekly USA* (<http://www.lawyersweekly.com>) is a bi-weekly newspaper. Current issues of newspapers are located on the newspaper racks by the dictionary stand in the Library. Back issues are kept on Reserve. *United States Law Week* [Reference KF175.U54] is a weekly looseleaf service which tracks all cases brought before the United States Supreme Court from the initial docketing of the case until its conclusion. Orders in pending

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LEXIS Publishing explains how to use SHEPARD'S Citations on *lexis.com*, in print, and on CD-ROM. You may obtain a booklet by asking the Librarian at the Reference Desk or staff at the Circulation Desk.

Other features at the web site include: Supreme Court Web Buzz; Emanuel Outlines; Career Center; Web Lectures; and Professor Norman Garland's Relevancy and Hearsay tutorial and self-test. The Supreme Court Web Buzz provides information about prominent cases to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court during the 1999-2000 term. The Emanuel Outlines are summaries of topics from the Emanuel Law Outline series. The Career Center contains resources for finding legal jobs. The Web Lectures are links to legal web sites in eighteen topical areas.

New Y2K compliant LEXIS software may be downloaded from <http://www.lexis-nexis.com/lnc/custserv/software.html>.

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cases, orders granting or denying review, the schedule for argument, excerpts of oral arguments, and full-text opinions are all published in *United States Law Week*. It also contains summaries of recent significant state and federal court cases, agency rulings, and developments in specialized areas of the law.

Two excellent national non-legal sources of legal information are the *New York Times* (<http://www.nyt.com>) and the *Washington Post* (<http://washingtonpost.com>). Each of these daily newspapers provides extensive coverage of legal issues, including coverage of Congress as well as coverage of the courts. They are both available in print in the Library.

An excellent web site for legal news is FindLaw's "Legal Grounds with Jim Twu." Anyone can receive email containing summaries of legal news stories by subscribing to <http://lg.findlaw.com>. There is an option to receive legal news in HTML e-mail with

First-year LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW Training

Training on LEXIS-NEXIS and WESTLAW for first-year students will be conducted during the last two weeks of January, 2000. At that time, all first-year students will receive passwords to access both services while enrolled at the law school. WESTLAW software for at-home use will be distributed at the same time. Access to LEXIS is primarily through the web. WESTLAW is also accessible via the web. Memos assigning training dates and times will be placed in student mailboxes at the start of the Spring semester.

*Note: Upperclass students needing assistance with WESTLAW and LEXIS-NEXIS passwords should ask the Librarian at the Reference Desk for assistance.



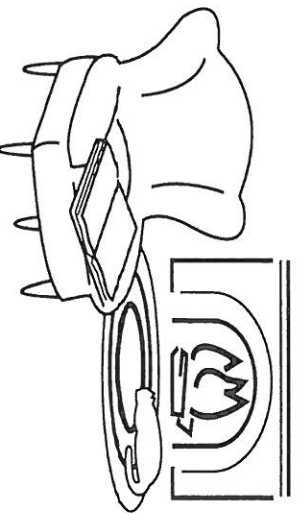
additional links by checking the HTML mail option.

For Rhode Island and Massachusetts coverage, consult the *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly* (<http://www.lawyersweekly.com/rilaw.htm>), the *Rhode Island Bar Journal*, and the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (<http://www.masslaw.com>). The *Providence Journal-Bulletin* (<http://www.projo.com>) and the *Providence Business News* (<http://www.pbn.com>) are also good sources for Rhode Island legal and political information. All of these sources are available in the Library.

For coverage of Law School happenings, check out the "News and Events" on the new Law School web site (<http://law.rwu.edu>). The new site will be up in early December.



Check It Out



Book Reviews

Want something to read during the break? Here is a sampling of interesting candidates.

Kasserman, David Richard, *Fall River Outrage: Life, Murder, and Justice in Early Industrial New England*, Philadelphia, Pa.: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1986. KF223 .A94 K37 1986
Reviewed by Lucinda Harrison-Cox, Public Services/Electronic Resources Librarian.

If you thought that the outrageous coverage of O.J. Simpson trial by the press was unique, you were wrong. This book tells the real life tale of the 1832 murder of thirty-one year old Sarah Cornell in Fall River, Massachusetts. The murder had all the elements needed for the yellow press to have a field day — sex, religion, and class conflict. The enthusiastic press coverage of the murder and the trial inflamed public opinion and brought national coverage to a small town crime.

The victim was an unmarried, pregnant mill worker. The mill owners wanted an image of the mills as safe places for virtuous women to work. The women mill workers wanted the independence that working in the mills offered. The accused was a married Methodist minister at a time when the Methodist Church was still viewed in some circles as a suspicious, upstart religion. The Methodists wanted him to be found not guilty.

The trial took nearly a month and set the record as the

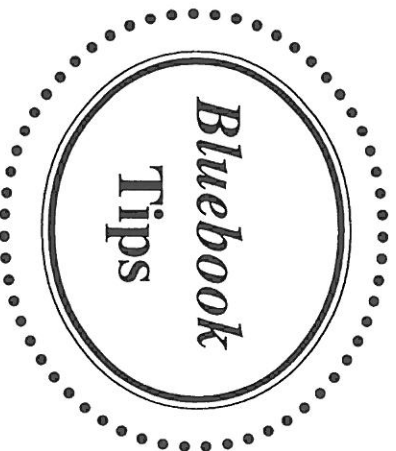
longest to date in American history. The victim, the Methodist Church, and the emerging industrial life-style were as much on trial as the accused. By the end no one involved in the trial walked away unscathed. The author of this book provides an extremely readable account of all the details from the ample printed sources and places the events that followed the murder in historical context.

Mello, Michael, *The United States of America Versus Theodore John Kaczynski: Ethics, Power and the Invention of the Unabomber*, New York: Context, 1999. KF224 .K22 M44 1999. Reviewed by Emilie Benoit, Reference Librarian

In mid-December, 1989, Federal Appellate Judge Robert S. Vance was killed when a shoe-box sized mail bomb detonated in the kitchen of his home on the outskirts of Birmingham, Alabama. Although the author of this book spent a large part of his legal career defending death row prisoners, he also served as law clerk to Judge Vance, whom he knew and loved as a father. The author has stated that he will rejoice when Judge Vance's killer is executed.

The author has written this book because he believes that Theodore Kaczynski was denied his day in court by his own defense attorneys. They insisted that a mental defect defense be presented, over their client's objections, as the only way to avoid a death sentence. The author questions much of the "popular wisdom" which was set forth by the press surrounding this matter, including the claim that Ted Kaczynski was a paranoid schizophrenic.

In this book, the author presents a more complete account of what transpired between Kaczynski and his lawyers than the public was able to glean from news accounts. This was made possible by the fact that the author had access to transcripts of the closed-door conferences between Kaczynski, his defense lawyers and Judge Garland Burrell. The author believes that Kaczynski was competent to stand trial and that his lawyers did not have "any legitimate right to force their mentally competent client to stake his life on a mental defect defense." His book explores the reasons for this belief.



by Lucinda Harrison-Cox,
Public Services / Electronic Resources Librarian

Several years ago, Nan Kelley Balliot used her column in the *Docket* to tout my skills as a *Bluebook* "expert." She based my expert status on my experience writing legal documents while working as a judicial clerk and practicing attorney and my experience in providing reference assistance to law students for many years. It occurred to us that the advice I gave then bears repeating.

It is important to remember that using the *Bluebook* is mostly a matter of practice and experience. My starting point is frequently the index. Like any other index, the "secret" is locating the proper term for the information being sought. Once the index entry yields a page number, read the part of the rule dealing with the material being cited and look at the examples. Don't limit yourself to the examples found in the discussion of your rule. Look around for other examples of the type of material you are citing. If there isn't a specific rule on your item, look for similar materials or divisions within other cites and analogize. When drawing an analogy, remember your reader! All cites are present for the benefit of the reader so that he or she can easily find the cited material.

I find that the most common mistakes in using *Bluebook* citation include: forgetting the distinctions between law review citation form and the form used in briefs and memoranda; following the citation forms suggested by the publisher of a case reporter or treatise; and, not paying enough attention to detail. The blue pages at the front of the *Bluebook* tell you how cita-

tions in briefs and memoranda differ from citations in law reviews. The use of large and small caps is unique to law review citation. Use underlining and ordinary typeface when writing briefs and memoranda. As for the publisher suggested cite forms generally located inside the cover of a book, remember that the publisher is not required to follow *Bluebook* citation. Paying attention to detail requires your patience in taking time to look at the examples when working through your citations.

Finally, to me, the best parts of the *Bluebook* are the blue pages in the back. These pages give you information on federal and individual state primary sources. For each jurisdiction's primary materials, these pages show the major sources of what exists in published form, how to cite it, and in what order to cite it. There are also blue pages giving abbreviations for such items as case names, court names and documents, explanatory phrases, and legal periodicals.

Now that you know my "expert secrets," just take your time, pay attention to detail, and you too can be an "expert" at the *Bluebook*.

For further information on using specific rules in the *Bluebook*, consult Alan L. Dworsky's *User's Guide to the Bluebook* (Reserve KF245 .D853 1996); J. Reid Mowrer's *A Bluebook Survival Guide* (Reserve, KF245 .M68 1997) and *Citation Form for Briefs and Memoranda*, a CALI Legal Writing and Research exercise available at <http://www.cali.org>.

