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## Legal Beagle Blog (May 2012)

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# Your Post-Graduate Job Search and Legal Research Needs: What Now? Part II

Posted by Library Blog on 05/04/2012 at 03:50 PM

One of your first priorities practicing law as a newly minted attorney is to determine the nearest law library so that you can access its services and collections! Your state may have a law school library that is open to the public. Courthouses in your state may even have a law library. As a third option, you could pay a fee to use a membership law library such as the Social Law Library in Boston or Jenkins Law Library in Philadelphia.

Services offered by law libraries generally include reference assistance, borrowing privileges, document delivery, and interlibrary loan. The print collections will vary, but at a minimum you will have access to some federal primary materials and state-specific materials for the state in which the law library is located. Electronic resources provided by law libraries could be Westlaw for Patrons, LexisNexis/Shepard's (especially important for updating cases), HeinOnline Libraries, CCC Intellect, legal newspapers (e.g. *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*), LegalTrac indexing and full-text of legal periodicals, and Loislaw to search federal and state cases and statutes. Content of the law library's Westlaw for Patrons and LexisNexis is not as extensive as that of your Westlaw and LexisNexis academic account here at the law school.

Law Library websites are a treasure trove of links for laws, regulations, cases, municipal ordinances and other primary legal authority such as executive orders. Forms, practice books, and court rules are available. Just as the Roger Williams University Law Library has law guides to give you guidance on researching a particular topic, the law libraries provide research guides on hundreds of topics!

If you will be staying in this area, join dozens of other area attorneys who use the [School of Law Library](#) to access cases, forms and treatises. As an alum, you can use the Law Library's [databases](#) onsite (with the exception of Westlaw and LexisNexis) and [borrow](#) certain items from the collection. Reference assistance is available to you regardless of where you live. A reference librarian is only an email away at [LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu](mailto:LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu) or a chat away at [Ask a Librarian](#) (this chat service requires you to use your **g.rwu.edu** email address).

Here are some additional law libraries to check out if you are staying in the area:

- [Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries](#)
- [Massachusetts Trial Court Libraries](#)
- [Rhode State Law Library](#)
- [Social Law Library](#)

# Movies for Entertainment and Inspiration!

Posted by Library Blog on 05/11/2012 at 10:29 AM

Take a break this summer from your work and studies to watch a movie with a legal theme (what else!). Hopefully you will be entertained or even inspired!

Two years ago the *National Jurist* magazine published a list of the [top 20 movies for law students](#). Several of the movies are based upon a best-selling novel. The movies are:

- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Twelve Angry Men
- Anatomy of a Murder
- Kramer v. Kramer
- Michael Clayton
- The Accused
- The Verdict
- Inherit the Wind
- The Paper Chase
- Erin Brockovich
- The Thin Blue Line
- Murder in the First
- And Justice for All
- Presumed Innocent
- Class Action
- A Few Good Men
- The Firm
- My Cousin Vinny
- A Time to Kill
- North Country

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee tops just about everyone's list of best legal movies and novels of all time. In 2011, to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the [Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction](#) was created. The Prize is given annually to a book-length work of fiction that best exemplifies the role of lawyers in society. The inaugural Prize was awarded to best-selling author John Grisham for his novel *The Confession*.

If you aspire to be an attorney like Atticus Finch, check out *In Search of Atticus Finch: a Motivational Book for Lawyers* by Mike Papantonio (KF298 .P37 1997).