Roger Williams University

DOCS@RWU

Faculty Newsletter (April 2013)

Roger Williams University School of Law Library

April 2013

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eBooks on Demand

In the September newsletter, we introduced you to [ebrary](#), a University provider of ebooks with over 75,000 titles available to the entire RWU community. Today we invite you to participate in a ebooks on demand project, hosted in the ebrary platform and available for download to your computer or mobile device.

We have started loading brief records in the Webcatalog for many law and law related ebook titles available on demand. You may review the books, even read a few pages without triggering a purchase, but if you find the book useful, simply keep reading it and the title will be added to our collection. Many titles have been added to the catalog, with many more to come.

To see a sample of books that have been added, visit our [New Electronic Books](#) page. Recent books include:

- [Energizing sustainable cities: assessing urban energy](#)
- [Corporate responsibility: the American experience](#)
- [Non-state actors, soft law, and protective agreements: from the margins](#)

Teaching Resources

CALI for Faculty

RWU Law's membership in CALI provides law students and faculty with free access to more than 1000 CALI lessons, which are interactive online tutorials covering 1L and over 30 upper level subjects. In addition to these lessons, CALI offers additional resources to faculty: *LessonLink*, *CALI Author, Classcaster*, and *Instapoll*.

- *LessonLink* helps faculty create a unique URL for CALI lessons that can be used to keep track of lesson usage and performance, including individual answers to questions. This URL can then be posted on course webpages or emailed to students.
- Using *CALI Author*, faculty may edit existing CALI Lessons or create original lessons using the *AutoPublish* feature.
- *Classcaster* provides hosting for a Wordpress blog within the CALI system. Classcaster blogs have been used for courses, casebook supplements, and to post podcasts of lectures or lecture summaries. Podcasts may be uploaded, or created via CALI's Phone Blog feature.
- *InstaPoll* is a simple online tool for professors to quickly create in-class student polls. Professors simply click on the create poll link students go to the poll on the web and select an answer from their computer or mobile device.

To use these tools, please register for the CALI website. You will need the "Faculty Authorization Code" for RWU Law. To request the code, please contact the reference librarians.

CALI also offers ebooks via its eLangdell website. These ebooks include the various federal rules of procedure and faculty created texts for selected areas of law. Tenured and tenure track faculty at CALI member schools are also invited to submit eLangdell book proposals via the Stimulus Project. The faculty member writes the content and CALI converts it into formats that can be read by different ereaders. Authors are compensated for each unit they write, defined as the amount of material that a student would have to prepare for one hour of class.

Ana Cunha: Acquisitions Assistant

Ask Ana Cunha to explain what she likes about working at RWU Law and she will tell you that she loves to work with and help people. With her friendly demeanor, a smile on her face, and her usual modesty, Ana shows that every day but also brings a lot more to the table.

Ana came to the law library in 2004, and like many RWU success stories, she went "temp to perm" in a short time. In her position as Acquisitions Assistant, Ana applies her prior secretarial background to perform many tasks related to library finances and managing the library collections. She processes all of the library invoices and enters invoice information into the library's accounting system. Ana pays close attention to detail as she understands that this information is also important for budget planning and to accurately report library data to the ABA. She also gathers data for projects that help us evaluate the library collection and negotiate with our vendors.

Another aspect of Ana's job involves receiving and processing new books. She checks carefully the items received against items ordered, records them as received in the system, adds security tags, and then promptly routes them for cataloging. Ana also prepares materials for binding. Although we now bind fewer journals, Ana has a bit more binding work these days as she applies reusable covers to frequently used books, such as titles in the reserve collection. This saves the library money, protects the materials, and makes them accessible more quickly than when they were sent out to a commercial bindery.

Since last summer, Ana has been helping staff the circulation desk in the afternoons. She enjoys helping out her co-workers, who use this time to perform other tasks away from the desk. Although shy at first about working closely with the patrons, she now loves getting to meet the students and always learning something new. Ana truly wears many hats in the library!

Outside the library, Ana enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering for church. She also "pays it forward" as a volunteer for A Wish Come True. In this capacity, she works with Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts families to grant wishes to seriously ill children. As a "wish granter", Ana interviews and gets to know the children, raises funds, and helps give the children a respite from their illnesses. Ana loves getting to know the families and finds the experience very rewarding.

Social Media

To Tweet or Not to Tweet

If you are pondering whether to add "tweeting" to your social media repertoire, read Washington University Professor David Becker's SSRN essay: To Tweet or Not to Tweet, That is the Question. The abstract reads:

"Twitter and tweets are now the rage among people in the world of sports, entertainment, media, government, and lately academia as well. They have even entered the world of law schools and law professors. This essay examines how Twitter and tweets are being used by law teachers and whether it is wise to tweet at all. More specifically, this essay critically examines the risks and dangers inherent in Twitter use and, further, whether it is the most effective, efficient, and desirable form of pedagogic communication between law teachers and their students."

Hat tip to the Legal Writing Prof Blog's post for news about Professor Becker's essay.

Two compilations can help you discover law professors who tweet.: Clare Kaufman of WorldWideLearn.com has compiled a list of the top 50 law professors who "dominate the Twitter-verse either through the wit, volume or audience. Criteria for selection for this list include the quality of the tweets, the number of followers and the most active users." Although by no means complete, the Faculty Lounge offers a Census of Law Professor Twitter Users—Beta Version (July 7, 2012). According to the census, about 200 individual law professors tweet.

To search for a Twiitter feed to follow in a particular area of interest, use the Justia Legal Birds directory of lawyers, librarians, and academics tweeting.

Editor's Note: See also the Legal Beagle Blog post Twitter for Legal Professionals and the book *Twitter in One Hour for Lawyers* (Stacks, KF320.I57 C67 2012).

Law Staff Commons: Technology Tips from the Trenches

After many discussions with senior staff regarding technology, we came to several conclusions.

- Many departments want to use basic office technology for more complex tasks but may not know exactly how it can be used.
- There is a lot of technology know-how among the staff and faculty.
- There are not many opportunities to share technology information among staff and faculty.
- Last year's staff retreat, while extremely useful, was limited to those who were able to attend.

Out of those basic conclusions came the idea to create a Law Staff Commons. Simply put, the Law Staff Commons is a virtual space where we can share technology related information that we come across during our day-to-day work.

Currently, there are three categories of materials in the Law Staff Commons: Tech Talk materials, Technology Resources, and Writing Resources. Technology Resources contains categorized links to tools and information, such as "All About Passwords" which links to

useful tools for checking the strength of your passwords and for generating more secure passwords. "Writing Resources" provides useful documents and videos created by Kim Baker.

Tech Talk was an outgrowth of the Law Staff Commons idea. In addition to an annual retreat, why not share information more frequently and possibly more informally? The first Tech Talk was held during spring break and consisted of presentations and Q&A on using Outlook and other tools for scheduling. Participants also contributed their tips to the presentations, making this a true avenue for sharing technology tips. All of the documents shared at the Tech Talk and participant tips are posted to the Law Staff Commons.

To join the Law Staff Commons, log onto Bridges. Once you log in, look under *My Workspace > My Settings > Membership > Joinable Sites* and then find and join "Law Staff Commons".   After you have joined the site, look for Resources on the left side of your screen, where you will find everything that has been posted.

To contribute links or content for the Law Staff Commons or to suggest topics for future Tech Talks, please contact Raquel Ortiz.