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Legal Beagle Blog (October 2010)

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Legal Beagle's Blog

Appellate Briefs, Anyone?

Posted by Library Blog on 10/01/2010 at 12:00 AM

With the impending visit by the [First Circuit Court of Appeals to the School](#) of Law on October 6, you have received (via email) the appellate briefs filed in the cases scheduled for oral argument on that day. Did you wonder how you could find those and other briefs? Two **excellent** resources are [LexisNexis](#) and [Westlaw](#). Their databases contain numerous, but not all, briefs from the U.S. Supreme Court, federal, and state appellate courts. They provide an option to locate briefs filed in cases by practice area or by topic. The path on LexisNexis is **Legal>Court Records, Briefs and Filings**. The path on Westlaw is **Directory>U.S. Federal Materials>Briefs**. Where applicable, you might see links to appellate briefs filed in a case you located on LexisNexis or Westlaw.

More and more appellate briefs are freely available from the web. These include those from the [U.S. Supreme Court website](#). *Amicus curiae* briefs or those filed in high-profile cases are often available from the filing entity (e.g. [American Civil Liberties Union](#), [Nature Conservancy](#), [U.S. Department of Justice](#)) or topical blog.

The Law Library also has access to [Pacer](#), a national service for access to case and docket information from federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts maintained by the [Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts](#).

If you have any questions about locating appellate briefs, do not hesitate to "[Ask a Librarian](#)."

Audio Files of Oral Arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court - New This Term!

Posted by Library Blog on 10/07/2010 at 12:00 AM

Beginning with this October Term, the audio recordings of all oral arguments heard before the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) will be freely available at the end of each argument week. Options are to download the recordings or listen to them at the Court's website. To access the recordings, click "Oral Arguments" and then "Argument Audio" or click on "What's New" on the site's home page. The recordings will be listed by case name, docket number, and the date of the oral argument.

Free for Law Students! "Practical Law!"

Posted by Library Blog on 10/21/2010 at 12:00 AM

"Practical Law" offers how-to materials for business law practice areas. The materials include analysis of and forms for numerous business transactions and are authored by over 120 specialist editors. Use your law school email address to [sign up](#) for free access to explore this amazing service to which over 3,400 organizations have subscribed.

Interlibrary Loan Service

Posted by Library Blog on 10/29/2010 at 12:00 AM

Researching a paper and need a book or journal article that is neither in the Law Library's collection (print or electronic) or in the undergraduate library? Then consider requesting the item via interlibrary loan. Forms for requesting an interlibrary loan are available at the Circulation Desk and on the [web](#). [Thelma Dzialo](#), who processes the interlibrary loan requests, can answer any questions you might have about your request.