

2-2016

Law Library Blog (February 2016): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Law Library Blog (February 2016): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive" (2016). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 140.
https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog/140

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Legal Beagle's Blog Archive for February 2016

Legal Beagle's Post

What are Brownfields?

Posted by Library Blog on 02/04/2016 at 02:49 PM

According to the [EPA](#), "a brownfield is a property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." An example might be an old factory or abandoned business and the EPA estimates that there are more than 450,000 brownfields in the U.S.

In 2002, then President Bush signed the [Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act](#), commonly known as the Brownfields Law which provides funds to assess and clean up these properties.

The newest book display in the library is on Brownfields and the books displayed are only part of the collection of resources highlighted on our [website](#). The collection is also featured on the library's [Pinterest page](#).

The [Environment & Safety Resource Center \(Bloomberg BNA\)](#) is an excellent source of news, analysis, cases, laws, and regulations related to the topic of Brownfields.

For more information about Brownfields in Rhode Island, see the [Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management website](#) or check out this [factsheet](#) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

For help with your research related to environmental law, stop by the reference desk or email one of the librarians at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.



Legal Beagle's Post

February is African-American History Month

Posted by Library Blog on 02/11/2016 at 03:23 PM

Whether you prefer to call it African American History Month or Black History Month, the tradition traces its [roots](#) back to 1915 in Chicago and a man named Carter G. Woodson. In 1976, President Ford issued the first [Message on the Observance of Black History Month](#). In 1986, Congress passed [Public Law 99-244](#). For more information about the legal history of this commemorative month, see the [Law Library of Congress website](#).



Aside from researching the legal history of the month's designation, you might be interested in researching African American contributions to law. If so, the library has several resources on this topic. One example is the book [*Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination That Changed America*](#). Another example is the book [*Rebels In Law: Voices in History of Black Women Lawyers*](#). There are also e-books available through the library's subscription to [ebrary](#) on this topic, such as [*A More Noble Cause: A.P. Tureaud and The Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana*](#) and [*Crusader for Justice*](#).

Finally, you may be interested in reviewing legal scholarship specifically addressing economic, political, and sociological issues affecting African-Americans. There are a few law journals that match this description and are available on [HeinOnline](#). For example, see the [*Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy*](#) or the [*National Black Law Journal*](#).

If you have a research question or just want to discover other African-American History Month resources that are available, stop by the reference desk.

Legal Beagle's Post

Library News: Week of February 15, 2016

Posted by Library Blog on 02/12/2016 at 01:31 PM

Certification Class: MS Word PowerTips



Go beyond the basics with Word! In this class you will learn how to style a document (cover pages & section numbering), add references (tables of authorities & more), use Word to collaboratively edit work, and prepare documents for secure sharing.

- Live class: Thursday, 2/18 at 10:30am
- Online class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/appyhour/word>

Certification Class: Acrobat 101: Creating and Manipulating PDF Files



Adobe's Acrobat is used by law firms to create and manipulate PDF files that are submitted to courts, clients, and more. In this class, you will learn how to edit PDFs, convert them to other useful formats, and redact or protect sensitive data.

This class will use Acrobat X, available in the library classrooms.

- Live class: Tuesday, 2/16 at 1pm OR Friday, 2/19 at 1pm.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/appyhour/acrobat>

Improved Study Room Reservations



Starting next week, RWU Law students, faculty, and staff will be able to use their School of Law login to make room reservations. Simply select your room and time, login with your RWU user name & password, and complete the required reservation information to reserve a study room.

Legal Beagle's Post

Library News: Week of February 22, 2016

Posted by Library Blog on 02/18/2016 at 09:58 AM

Certification Class: MS PowerPoint PowerTips



What is the difference between a PowerPoint and a GOOD PowerPoint? In this class, learn the principles for enhancing your presentation with a PowerPoint, how to customize the look and feel of your PowerPoint, and how to record or share your presentations with a broad audience.

- Live class: Thursday, 2/18 at 10:30am

- Online class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/appyhour/powerpoint>

Certification Class: General Practice Research: Forms, Jury Instructions, and Court Rules



As a transactional lawyer, your practice involves drafting and preparing forms. Come learn about the excellent print and electronic resources (Lexis Advance, WestlawNext, and Bloomberg Law) for legal forms that save you time and make you money.

If being a litigator is in your future or you want to shine in trial advocacy courses, sign-up to learn about court rules and jury instructions available via free websites (federal and state) as well as the go-to print resources.

- Online only class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/p4pgeneralpracticeresearch>

Spring Break Hours

The library's Spring Break Hours are now posted on the law library website at <http://law.rwu.edu/library/about-library/hours>.

Legal Beagle's Post

Maritime Piracy

Posted by Library Blog on 02/18/2016 at 02:51 PM

According to [Oceans Beyond Piracy](#), maritime piracy costs billions of dollars a year. In [2014](#) alone, over 5000 seafarers were attacked by pirates. While many are familiar with the history of piracy in the Gulf of Aden, surprisingly, in 2012, the Gulf of Guinea surpassed it as the region with the highest number of [reported piracy attacks](#) in the world.

The newest book display in the library is about maritime piracy and the books displayed are only part of the collection of resources highlighted on our [website](#) and available in our collection. The selected books are also featured on the library's [Pinterest page](#).

For more online information about maritime piracy, check out [communis hostis omnium](#), a blog which dissects the international legal and practical problems of piracy. It is written by a combination of legal practitioners and academics. The blog also has a [book review section](#) which can be helpful for identifying relevant books on potential research topics.

For help with your research related to maritime piracy, stop by the reference desk or email one of the librarians at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.



Legal Beagle's Post

Library News: Week of February 29, 2016

Posted by Library Blog on 02/25/2016 at 04:06 PM

Certification Classes: State Practice Research



Planning to practice in Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Rhode Island? Then consider attending one of our state specific practice research classes next week. Watch this space for the announcements of each of the classes or visit [LINK] to learn more know and/or to register.

- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/prepareforpractice/classes>

Certification Class: Connecticut Practice Research

Go beyond the code and cases to learn about the other research and library related resources available to assist you when practicing in Connecticut. Practice sets, legal newspapers, specialized guides, and other resources will be discussed and then put into use to research a legal question.

- Live class: Thursday, 3/3 at 10:30am OR Friday, 3/4 at 1pm
- Online class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/P4P/ConnPractice>

Certification Class: Massachusetts Practice Research

In addition to forms, jury instructions, and court rules, most states have practice sets, continuing legal education materials, legal newspapers, and other materials that experienced attorneys rely upon for their practice. In this class, we will explore such resources for Massachusetts and put them into use to research a legal question.

- Live class: Thursday, 3/3 at 1pm

- Online class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/P4P/MassPractice>

Certification Class: Rhode Island Practice Research

So you want to practice law in Rhode Island? Impress your future employer with your knowledge of and expertise in researching Rhode Island law. We will explore the major resources for statutory and caselaw research as well as court rules. We will take a look at available scholarly works on areas of law and other secondary sources such as RI Bar Association and NBI CLE publications, RI Bar Journal, and Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. Selected websites will also be covered.

- Online only class: See the link for information on how to access the course on Bridges.
- <http://lawguides.rwu.edu/P4P/RIPractice>

Spring Break Hours

The library's Spring Break Hours are now posted on the law library website at <http://law.rwu.edu/library/about-library/hours>.

Legal Beagle's Post

Peep This

Posted by Library Blog on 02/26/2016 at 10:44 AM

The law is not always fun. In fact, lawyers and judges are often serious, if not VERY serious. However, one break from the seriousness of the study and practice of law is the ABA's annual *Peeps in Law* competition. This year the competition is entitled [Peep Wars](#) and is inspired by *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

So you may be asking yourself what is a “Peep War”?

Peep Wars is the ABA’s annual competition to create a diorama (think 3rd grade history project) which marries law, zeitgeist, and super sugary Spring marshmallow candies. The competition is in its eight year and is open to anyone with a love of the law and a tolerance for Peeps. The deadline for entries is Monday, March 21st , which conveniently gives you all of Spring Break to work on your display!

To participate in this competition, see the [contest rules](#). To see some of the entries from last year’s wars, [Game of Peeps](#), check out the ABA website.

Even if you don’t like Peeps, or don’t have enough time to celebrate their awesomeness in a [diorama](#), enjoy your Spring Break!

