

9-2016

Law Library Blog (September 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 (September 2016): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive" (2016). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 147.

https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog/147

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Legal Beagle's Post

September 1, 2016

Directed Research

Posted by Library Blog on 09/01/2016 at 01:26 PM

Are you working on [directed research](#) this semester? If, so, the library is the place for you!

One of the services that the library provides is individualized research consultations with students working on a directed research project. These sessions can be scheduled in Providence or Bristol and are focused on developing research strategies based on your individual needs.

The law librarians are willing and eager to share resources on topic selection, topic development, and topic preemption. Basic information on selecting a topic can be found on our LawGuide, titled [TimeSaver: Selecting a Topic](#). Information on legal research and writing can be found in our [TimeSaver: Legal Research and Writing](#) LawGuide. Information on development and preemption can be found in our [LawGuide for Law Review](#). Finally, another great resource available to students is Justin Kishbaugh, RWU School of Law's Writing Specialist. If you are interested in scheduling a writing consultation, he can be reached at jkishbaugh@rwu.edu.

To schedule a research consultation with a law librarian, contact us via [Ask a Librarian](#), by email to LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu, or by calling 401-254-4547.

Legal Beagle's Post

September 9, 2016

Raising the Bar, One Pun at a Time

Posted by Library Blog on 09/09/2016 at 01:47 PM

One of the unique talents of our library employees (both student and full-time staff) is the ability to help SBA organizations come up with witty and sometimes punny names for events. While we certainly do not take all of the credit for the amazing names that our students choose for events, we can state that we

were definitely on the brainstorming committee for the naming of last semester's PDs vs. JDs event, as one example.



While libraries are traditionally known for their quiet spaces and books, they should also be known for the services they provide. As discussed in SBA Orientation this fall, our library is always willing to help out student groups during the event planning process. Specifically, our staff can help with the graphic design of promotional materials and the researching of speakers. As noted above, at least one of our staff members likes to help generate ideas (some good, some not so good) about witty program titles. To read more about the punny names that law school groups have, check out this [BuzzFeed article](#).

While we might not have come up with names worthy of the [Wall Street Journal](#), yet, stop by and give us the opportunity to amuse you with our efforts. If you would like our assistance with the planning of educational events for your group, please email us at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu or stop by and speak with the Reference Librarian on duty. In the meantime, enjoy Northwestern Law's [Habeas Chorus Talent show](#) on YouTube.

Legal Beagle's Post

September 16, 2016

ResearchFest: Here's why YOU should attend!

Posted by Library Blog on 09/16/2016 at 08:48 AM



Monday, September 19

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Law Library – Bristol Campus

One of the most valuable skills you can develop for your professional career is your ability to research effectively and efficiently. Legal Practice courses offer all law students an introduction to the leading legal research platforms, Lexis and Westlaw, but these are just the tip of the research iceberg.

ResearchFest is a digital resources showcase that provides an opportunity for students and faculty to discover several alternative research platforms and resources. During the event, you can visit informally with representatives from these resources as they show you how to use their products for legal research.

Resources represented include:

- [Bloomberg BNA](#), resources to stay current with the law, available to you via Bloomberg Law;
- [Fastcase](#), an alternative to Lexis and Westlaw that integrates with HeinOnline, one of the largest online legal research libraries;
- [Lexis Digital Library](#), a new service by LexisNexis and OverDrive® that offers access to the largest collection of authoritative legal eBook content on all major mobile devices and desktop platforms;
- [ProQuest](#), a key source for locating Congressional materials;
- [Social Law Library](#), one of the oldest and largest legal research institutions in the country whose collection includes 500,000 volumes as well as access to CDs, on-line databases and eBooks; and
- Roger Williams University Library, Sue McMullen from the University Library will be there to explain and demonstrate how to access a variety of campus-wide resource subscriptions provided by the University Library.

You may even grab a slice of pizza and see demos from the Law Library's librarians on resources for law study, eBooks, and much more. You don't want to miss it!

Participation allows you to enter a raffle for prizes or get snacks and giveaways!

Legal Beagle's Post

September 22, 2016

Sick of politics this election season but still like puppies? We have the day for you!

Posted by Library Blog on 09/22/2016 at 01:46 PM

Observed annually on observed annually on September 23, National Dogs in Politics Day commemorates Nixon's "Checkers Speech" which took place on September 23, 1952. In this speech, then-Senator Richard Nixon responded to charges of improper use of campaign funds and stated:

Not one cent of the \$18,000 or any other money of that type ever went to me for my personal use...One other thing I probably should tell you because if we don't they'll probably be saying this about me too, we did get something-a gift-after the election. A man down in Texas heard Pat on the radio mention the fact that our two youngsters would like to have a dog. And, believe it or not, the day before we left on this campaign trip we got a message from Union Station in Baltimore saying they had a package for us. We went down to get it. You know what it was.

It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he'd sent all the way from Texas. Black and white spotted. And our little girl-Tricia, the 6-year old-named it Checkers. And you know, the kids, like all kids, love the dog and I just want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're gonna keep it.

To hear or read the famous speech in its entirety, [see this link](#).

To celebrate National Dogs in Politics Day, you might want learn more about other presidents and their pets. If so, check out the online [Presidential Pets Museum](#). Another way to research presidential puppies (and kitties), is by using the resources available on the websites of presidential libraries. Specifically, see the [Gerald Ford Library's website](#) and [JFK's Library's website](#).

Wondering who my favorite presidential pet is? Probably William Johnson Hippopotamus (Billy), [Calvin Coolidge's Pygmy Hippopotamus](#).



Legal Beagle's Post

September 30, 2016

Notes & Learning the Law

Posted by Library Blog on 09/30/2016 at 09:27 AM

Note taking is an essential part of the law school experience and is often one of the most difficult skills to master. No matter your preferred style for taking notes, there are ways to make the task a little easier.



A lot of students opt to take notes electronically. As a result, note taking has a new technology based friend: Apps! Many note taking apps exist to help improve your organization and save your notes automatically. Many of the apps have similar features, but different looks and feels. Finding the best fit is important, so compare the options and decide what is more intuitive to you. [Evernote](#) and [OneNote](#) are two options with free platforms that can be used on both Mac and PC systems.

If you are interested in learning more about Evernote, the [Prepare for Practice](#) Certification Program offers an online session about the platform. The Prepare for Practice Certification Program is a free online program designed to refresh and enhance students' legal research skills. In the [Evernote session](#), you will learn how to add different types of content to Evernote, how to organize your content in Evernote, the basics of searching Evernote, how to share your content with others, and what resources exist to help you use Evernote to its full potential. During the class, you will create a free Evernote account and be able to start putting these skills into practice immediately!

For those that prefer to avoid the distractions of electronics during class and take notes by hand, customizable notebooks such as [Arc](#) may help streamline the process. Such reusable notebooks allow you to mix and match pages and accessories to suit your needs (and come highly recommended from a current RWUSOL 1L).

Whether you prefer typing or handwriting your notes, it's the content that counts most. RWU School of Law's [Academic Success Program](#) hosts many events and workshops to encourage and support law student success, including workshops to improve note taking and outlining skills. The objectives of the Academic Success Program include "helping law students discover their particular needs and learning

styles, equipping them with the academic tools they need to meet the challenges of law school with self-assurance, and encouraging them to monitor their own progress as they adjust their study practices to achieve their personal goals.” For more information on RWU School of Law’s Academic Success Program, email Kathy Thompson, Director, at kthompson@rwu.edu.

Additionally, former law students have peppered the internet with tips for incoming students, including:

- [Helpful hints](#),
- [Strategies](#), and
- [Dos & don’ts for note taking](#).

Remember: find what works best for you and stick with it.