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Law Library Blog (September 2018): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Legal Beagle's Post

September 7, 2018

Professional Identity Formation: A Book Display



Professional identity [has been defined as](#) “the way a lawyer understands his or her role relative to all of the stakeholders in the legal system, including clients, courts, opposing parties and counsel, the firm, and even the legal system itself (or society as a whole).” While you are busy briefing cases and staying current on readings for classes, you probably are not spending a lot of time mulling over the concept of professional identity formation. However, professional identity formation is happening throughout your legal education.

[A recent study at Harvard Law School](#) noted that, “Over the course of their legal education, students bound for large corporate law firms tended to report increasing professional role distancing. In contrast, students who pursued jobs in the public-interest sector tended to sustain a more proximate conception of professional identity, overlapping with racial, gender, political, and other centrally constitutive roles.” How you view yourself as a lawyer might be different depending on what type of lawyering and what type of practice appeals to you.

Organizational skills, communication skills, leadership, and emotional intelligence development are all components of professional identity. [This book display](#) contains easy-to-read books from

our collection on these topics. Of particular interest, the book *Beyond Smart: Lawyering with Emotional Intelligence* by Ronda Muir is the first book written specifically for lawyers about practicing law with emotional intelligence. It argues in detail that emotionally intelligent lawyers are smarter, better practitioners, and make more money.

This semester consider taking a short break from your case briefs and read up a little on professional identity formation. It just might help you gain perspective on your legal education and your role as a lawyer!

September 14, 2018

Rock, Walk, or Stand for Better Studying (and Health)



The bad news is that [“it’s commonly understood that sitting for prolonged periods comes with a host of negative health effects.”](#) However, the good news is that there are many alternatives to sitting all day while you study!

One option is to study while rocking out in a rocking chair. (Don’t forget we have several outside on the ground floor of the law school!) Rocking in a chair not only burns calories but, according to at least one study, it [“stimulates the balance mechanism in the inner ear as the body works to balance itself as the chair rocks.”](#) Also, the rocking motion may even help you learn more efficiently! “According [*sic*] the Rocking Chair Therapy Research, [the motion of rocking can satisfy the needs of kinesthetic learners by allowing them to stay alert and process information.”](#)

Not only can you rock it out, but you can also take walking breaks while studying. [One study](#) from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus suggests, “that five little walk breaks during the day made test subjects feel less hungry, more energized and happier at the end of the day than if those people didn’t walk at all during the day. The little breaks also proved better than if study participants took one, longer walk at the beginning of the day.” For advice on how long your break should be, see [this article](#) that discusses several theories.

Besides rocking and walking, another healthy solution for long study sessions is a [standing desk](#). However, even standing at a standing desk should be [in moderation](#). Experts recommend “splitting your time between standing and sitting, because standing all day can lead to back, knee or foot problems.”

Want to try a standing desk this fall? The library has permanent standing desks along the walls by the periodical section and [two portable standing desks](#) for you to try!

September 21, 2018

Study Aids at the Library!



Study Aids at the Library!

As mid-terms are quickly approaching, many of you may be in search of study aids. Fear not! The Law Library has a plethora of study aids options.

E-Study Aids

The Law Library has two digital study aids collections available for you to use both on and off campus: the *RWU Law Digital Library* and *West Academic Online Study Aids*.

The *RWU Law Digital Library* provides access to a variety of titles from LexisNexis, including:

- eBooks: Understanding Series, Questions & Answers, Law Students Guides, Legal Research Guides, Mastering Series, and Skills & Values Series.

West Academic Online Study Aids provides access to both eBook and audio study aid content including:

- eBooks: Nutshells, Concise Hornbooks, Acing Series, Black Letter Series, Law Stories Series, Short & Happy Guides, Turning Point Series, and many more!
- Audio: Sum & Substance and Law School Legends.

Want to know the coolest part? All study aids from the *RWU Law Digital Library* and *West Academic Online Study Aids* are available for unlimited use!

These resources are available by selecting [RWU Law Digital Library – LexisNexis](#) or [West Academic](#) from the Law Library's list of digital resources.

Please check the library's orientation tour brochure or contact a librarian for the code to access the *RWU Law Digital Library*. For off-campus access to the *West Academic Online Study Aids* and to save notes/highlights, register on campus using the "Create an Account" option at the top of the opening page.

CALI

In addition to the study aids, the Law Library offers free access to several [CALI](#) (The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) tools. CALI tools, authored by expert law professors and law librarians, help enhance your study of legal concepts and legal research.

CALI Lessons consist of over 1000 interactive lessons in over 40 legal subject areas. Lessons are accessible via mobile devices as well as via the CALI website.

When signing up for access to the CALI lessons, use the law school's authorization code from the orientation tour brochure. If you do not have this code, please [ask a reference librarian](#). CALI has so many fantastic resources for [research](#) (including a legal research coloring book authored by [two of your favorite librarians](#)), for the study of [substantive law](#), and for [general legal fun](#).

CALI is also a source for [free eBooks](#), including the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, and for [Lawdibles](#), 10 minute audio recordings by law professors answering specific law school questions.

Lexis Courtroom Cast

The Law Library also offers free unlimited access to the [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#) Audio CaseFiles and Video Training Library.

You can use these to hone your trial and appellate advocacy skills by watching civil litigation or trial advocacy video clips. You can also download the audio of case excerpts from casebooks in MP3 format.

Be sure to use your law school email address when signing up for access!

KIC Study System

The KIC book scanner, located within the Law Library's Print/Scan/Copy Center, allows the library's patrons to scan books or documents. Pretty cool, huh? Well, it gets ever better. The KIC book scanner was recently updated to include the new [KIC Study System](#)! Now you can scan a document and send it to the free KIC My Docs app on your smartphone or tablet, listen to the materials you scanned, and make flash cards directly from the scanned information.

Study Aids LawGuides

Find all of the information listed above and much more in the Law Library's [Study Aids LawGuides](#)!

These guides are organized by class subject, including guides for all 1L classes and many of the 2L and 3L classes.

In these guides you will find links to the Law Library's popular print and eBook study aids; audio and visual resources (such as the Sum & Substance Audio series & LexisNexis Courtroom Cast); and online, print, and eBook resources you can use to test yourself on concepts from class.

Don't forget, if you have any questions or need assistance using the Law Library's study resources, please ask your friendly librarians! You can stop by the reference desk or email us at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.

September 28, 2018

Remembering and Preserving Our RWU Law Roots



The Law School along with the Law Library opened its doors 25 years ago this past August. One hundred and eighty-five brave souls began their study of the law in a new building still being organized. Faculty, staff, and administrators started in newly created positions. So began the life and history of the Law School in 1993.

In the Library, a loyal and dedicated band of student workers complemented the small staff by helping unpack, process, shelve, and make the book collection available for use. In April 1996 as the first Commencement neared, the Library took time to recognize the contributions of sixteen of these students who started working in the library in fall of 1993, most of whom were about to graduate. Four of them had worked for the Library all three years.

For the ceremony, the Library borrowed a nautical tradition, that of a “plank owner.” A plank owner refers to a member of the ship’s original crew. The original crew had a special connection to the ship, represented by gifts of planks from the ship’s decking. The Library marked our students’ service by presenting them with planks made from wood left over after the installation of the library carrels.

This was just one of many events documented in the [Law Library’s Archives Collection](#). With the start of the Law School, it became the Law Library’s responsibility to collect, hold, organize, and preserve the memories and records of events great and small. The library’s Catalog, Metadata, and Archives Librarian collects information related to events, programs, symposia, publications, organizations, and people related to the Law School.

Acid-free paper, folders, and boxes preserve and organize archival materials. The boxes, arranged in categories to aid retrieval, may also include a finding aid to assist the user in knowing what is specifically stored in that box. Today, the library preserves many archives materials digitally.

With many born digital announcements and communications, the archives librarian must find ways to preserve this information so it is not lost to time or the volatility of technology. One way is to create and save PDF files of born digital information on [Docs@RWU](#). Enhanced with librarian-created metadata describing their content, these uploaded files become accessible to people anywhere in the world.

Preserving the Law School's history is as important as planning for the Law School's future. It inspires those to come. Many thanks to those early pioneers--students, faculty, and staff--who braved a new world to make the Law School what it is today. Thankfully, the memory of the past 25 years has been preserved in the Library's Archives Collection. It provides the connection to those pioneers for future generations.