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Legal Beagle's Post

September 6, 2019

Need Directed Research Help?



September 6, 2019

In order to graduate RWU Law you must fulfill [the writing requirement](#) “under the direct supervision of a professor or director of an institute” during which you “must write an individually authored paper that reflects substantial legal research; presents a legal argument that is well-developed, organized, and supported; is at least 5500 words long; and is of sufficient quality to earn a grade of “C” or higher.” One way this requirement can be fulfilled is by writing a directed research paper.

If you are writing your directed research paper this semester, remember that you have resources beyond your supervisory professor. The law library and the law librarians are willing to help you identify resources and discuss your research plan. The library has resources for the writing process, from topic selection to writing improvement texts, but it also has knowledgeable librarians who can help you further develop your research skills. One of the services that the library provides is individualized research consultations. These sessions can be scheduled in Providence or Bristol and are focused on developing research strategies based on your individual needs.

Furthermore, we encourage students to meet with [Justin Kishbaugh](#), Associate Director of Academic Success & Professor of Writing. Schedule a writing consultation with Professor Kishbaugh by email: jkishbaugh@rwu.edu.

Basic information on selecting a topic can be found on our page [TimeSaver: Selecting a Topic](#). Information on legal research and writing can be found on our page [TimeSaver: Legal Research and Writing](#). Information on topic development and preemption can be found in our [LawGuide for Law Review](#).

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.

In the meantime, check out these [18 Motivational Quotes To Bring Out The Writer In You!](#)

September 13, 2019

Celebrating Black American Women in the Law



Human Rights Activism class at Duke in front of a downtown mural of Durham native Pauli Murray in the Fall of 2009. Image credit: Robin Kirk

September 13, 2019

The path to becoming a lawyer was not an easy one for the first Black American female lawyer, Charlotte E. Ray. [According to History.com](#), “during the 19th century, women were largely barred from the legal profession. They were forbidden from obtaining licenses to practice law in many areas and couldn’t join the professional associations that would allow them to advance in their careers.” In fact, “[Charlotte E. Ray was the first female graduate from the Howard University Law Department in 1872.](#)” The story of Attorney Ray continues, “even though she knew that women weren’t allowed on the bar of the District of Columbia, where she wanted to practice...she took her bar exams and applied anyway.” Her story is an inspiration to all law students and attorneys.

Another early Black female lawyer was [Mary Ann Shad Cary](#). Mary Ann Shad Cary was a teacher, journalist, abolitionist, suffragist, and lawyer who grew up in a family dedicated to fighting for justice and against slavery. She dedicated her own life and career to those ends. Beyond being one of the first Black female attorneys in the United States, she was also the first black newspaperwoman in North America. [According to a National Park Service](#) website, “Cary was one of the most outspoken and articulate female proponents of the abolition of slavery of her day, and promoted equality for all people.”

The first Rhode Island Black female lawyer was Dorothy Crockett. Attorney Crockett passed the written portion of the bar examination in April, and the oral portion in May of 1932. When her application was approved, [it was big news](#): the Boston Chronicle ran a front-page headline in the May 14, 1932 edition. The Chronicle noted that Crockett was “one of the few women of any race entitled to practice law in the state.” This week, RWU Law dedicated a classroom to Attorney Crockett. For more information on this historic event, see the [RWU Law Will Dedicate Classroom to RI's First African-American Woman Lawyer](#).

Visit our book exhibit on Black American women attorneys and see [our guide](#) for more information on this topic.

Image Credit: Robin Kirk. Image can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rightsatduke/4172757560>.

September 20, 2019

Support for Experiential Learning: The Law Clinic Series LawGuides



September 20, 2019

Among the sterling aspects of an education at RWU are the opportunities for experiential learning. Participation in the clinical programs provides students with hands-on experience. These guides highlight resources specific to the needs of each clinical program:

- [Law Clinic Series: Business Start-Up LawGuide](#)
- [Law Clinic Series: Criminal Defense LawGuide](#)
- [Law Clinic Series: Immigration LawGuide](#)
- [Law Clinic Series: Veterans Disability LawGuide](#)

In addition to the books, journals, and digital resources related to each clinic's focus, the guides include specialty databases, organization websites, legal and other blogs, Twitter feeds, and other items available to enhance your research or knowledge of the specific area of law. Some examples include:

- The [Small Business Reference Center](#) in the Law Clinic Series: Business Start-Up LawGuide - a digital resource providing access to full-text periodicals and books.
- [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#) in the Law Clinic Series: Criminal Defense LawGuide – providing students with the opportunity to watch and listen to real courtroom video as they prepare for trial and learn from the expert commentary and analysis on how to present a case.
- [ailalink](#) in the Law Clinic Series: Immigration LawGuide - providing searchable access to the forms, statutes, regulations, cases, the leading publication in the field – Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, and more.
- The [Court/Agency Resources](#) section in the Law Clinic Series: Veterans Disability Appeals LawGuide - providing links to information on court forms, fees, rules and procedures, and more.

The materials in these guides can be valuable to students beyond the confines of the clinics.

- Are you interested in preparing for your Trial Advocacy Class? Check out [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#).
- Do you want to know more about the work of [Operation Stand Down Rhode Island](#) with homeless and at-risk veterans?
- Are you interested in Project Innocence? Consider following the [Innocence Project Twitter](#) feed.
- Do you want to write a paper on the plight of hurricane refugees from Bermuda seeking to come to the United States? [ailalink](#) is a source worth exploring.

Check out these guides and if you have any questions, don't forget to [Ask a Librarian!](#)

September 27, 2019

Learn, Review, Practice: Getting Ready for Midterms with Study Aids



September 27, 2019

As midterms quickly approach, you are starting to get ready to review what you have learned so far in your classes.

Learn

You have already taken the first step: learning from assigned readings and in class. There is no substitute for completing the assigned reading, attending class, and taking notes.

Review

If you have started outlining, you are already reviewing, which is fantastic. Professor Thompson is a great resource for outlining help and we hope that you were able to attend her outlining skills lab. As you are reviewing your notes and/or outlining, what if you need to fill in some gaps? This is where study aids can be helpful.

Here are some useful study aids series from each of our collections to help you as you review in preparation for midterms:

- [RWU Digital Library](#): Understanding series, Mastering series.
- [West Academic Study Aids](#): Concepts and Insights series, Concise Hornbooks, Hornbooks, Law Stories, Short & Happy Guides, and Sum & Substance Audio.
- [Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aids](#): Glannon Guides, Inside series, Jumpstart series.

Practice

Once you have filled in the gaps, it is time to practice. You could read your notes over and over again, but when you practice applying what you have learned and reviewed, you test your understanding with questions (and answers) so that you focus your review on those areas where you have weaknesses.

Our study aids collections also include various series to help you apply and practice what you've learned:

- RWU Digital Library: Questions & Answers series
- West Academic Study Aids: Acing series, Exam Pro series
- Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aids: Examples & Explanations, Friedman's Practice Series

To find out which titles are available for your law school classes and to jump to specific titles, visit our [Study Aids](#) page.