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Law Library Blog (November 2019): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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November 2019 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

November 1, 2019

Interview with Professor Kishbaugh



November 1, 2019

This week the Legal Beagle is doing some serious journalism and interviewed Professor Kishbaugh. Below is a transcript of our conversation:

1. What is your number 1 tip for students who are new to legal writing?

“You are not your audience.” And by that I mean most students come into law school with the experience of writing papers in an effort to figure out what they, as individual students, think about a topic. They are also in the habit of writing to *fill* space or meet a minimum page requirement. Legal writing, on the other hand, is as much a form of professional writing as it is educational writing, and, because of that, the ability to convey concise, accurate, and useful information to an audience is highly prized. As such, those new to legal writing should understand that *writing is a process*, and they should first learn to write so they, themselves, understand their topic and then, second, revise, edit, and rewrite so their audience understands that information as well and does not have to waste its time trying to doing so. Thus, *time management* also plays a large role in being a strong legal writer because each step of the writing process takes time and its own brand of attention; the days of writing an acceptable paper in a single sitting are but an increasingly distant memory.

2. What is the most rewarding part of working with students?

The most rewarding part of working with students is not just watching them succeed and achieve their goals using the skills and techniques I taught them but, even more, watching those same students take those skills and then teach them to or use them to help others. I mean, that's the great part of teaching in general: introducing students to the skills you learned over a lifetime so those students can, in turn, utilize, develop, and pass them on as well.

3. What is your favorite non-fiction book?

The Chinese Written Character as a Medium for Poetry by Ernest Fenollosa and edited by Ezra Pound. More of a pamphlet or a treatise than a book, Fenollosa's text with Pound's edits is the foundation for my understanding of written language and how one can use it to make and convey meaning.

4. Who makes the best pizza in Rhode Island?

I'm not a Rhode Island native and have only been living here for about three years, so my opinion on this topic is limited. Yet, while the clam pizza at Providence Coal Fired Pizza is amazing, I think The Big Cheese & Pub is the most consistent in price, portion, and quality ratios.

What I can tell you with a fair amount of certainty, though, is The Sandwich Hut in Providence has, by far, the best sandwich in the state (I recommend the Alitalia).

5. Oxford comma: yes or no?

Yes, yes, and yes again.

6. I found this pic of you online. Please explain:



In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.

7. As a fellow Phillies Phan, who is your favorite member of the 1993 team?

At the time, I was a big Dykstra fan. In fact, I would often chew an entire pack of gum in an effort to emulate the massive amounts of chewing tobacco Lenny was famous for constantly having in his cheek. With the benefit of time, however, my choice would now be John Kruk; his at-bat against Randy Johnson in that year's All-Star Game is a classic.

November 8, 2019

What is Title IX?



November 8, 2019

[Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972](#) is a federal law that states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." According to [the NCAA website](#), "Title IX applies to all educational institutions, both public and private, that receive federal funds. Almost all private colleges and universities must abide by Title IX regulations because they receive federal funding through federal financial aid programs used by their students."

While Title IX is often misunderstood as only applying to athletics, according to the [American Association of University Women](#), Title IX is broad. Title IX affects all areas of education, including recruitment; admissions; athletics; housing; career education; pregnant, parenting, and/or married students; sexual harassment and assault; comparable facilities; comparable access to course offerings; financial assistance; student health services benefits; student health insurance benefits; and harassment based on gender identity.

On Friday November 15th the RWU Law Review will be hosting a symposium on this topic: [Adjudicating Sexual Misconduct on Campus: Title IX and Due Process in Uncertain Times](#). In support of the symposium, the library is displaying a small collection of books in the library. These books, as well as additional online resources, are collected in an [online guide](#).

To learn more about or register for the symposium, visit the [symposium site](#).

November 15, 2019

HeinOnline's JFK Assassination Collection



November 15, 2019

President John F. Kennedy was killed on November 22, 1963. Almost 30 years later, the [President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992](#) directed the [National Archives and Records Administration](#) to create a collection of U.S. government documents related to the assassination.

Now available on HeinOnline, this collection contains an assortment of interesting documents, such as the [autopsy report](#). Many of the documents in this collection were released to the public in the 1990s but some [were withheld until the last few years](#), in accordance with the JFK Assassination Records Collection Act. Included in this HeinOnline collection, and released somewhat recently, are [the audio recordings](#) of the House Select Committee on Assassinations interview of CIA Mexico City employees Boris and Anna Tarasoff. For more information on the Tarasoffs, see this [Frontline article](#). For other less credible but very creative reads, check out the article [10 Interesting Websites About the Kennedy Assassination](#).

Find HeinOnline and the JFK Assassination Collection on the library's home page under Additional Resources > [Digital Resources](#).

November 22, 2019

Thanksgiving & the Law



November 22, 2019

One of the library staff's favorite holiday pastimes is finding the nexus between law and the holidays. While there are several ways that Thanksgiving is related to law, the one we are choosing to highlight this year is the invention of cranberry sauce.

Americans purchase over 5 MILLION gallons of cranberry sauce every holiday season. While this side dish is considered a staple at Thanksgiving, it wasn't invented in its current canned form until 1912...[by a lawyer](#). Marcus L. Urann [quit his career as a lawyer](#) to purchase a cranberry bog and the rest is history! (He also founded the company we now call [Ocean Spray!](#))

Cranberries are [one of the only](#) commercially grown fruits native to the United States. There were some problems with this American fruit, though. They had a very short season when eaten fresh and they were susceptible to being ugly and damaged from harvesting because "[the modern method of mechanical harvesting can often damage the delicate, tart berries, leaving them too imperfect to sell.](#)" The solution was to turn the smushed fruit into a jelly-like consistency and sell them in cans. This allowed the bruised fruit to pass muster and [extended the selling season!](#) While a lawyer may have invented the can-shaped log that is cranberry sauce, [it is marketing](#) that seems to have made it a staple!

Happy Thanksgiving! May your long weekend be restful and filled with gratitude. If you want to try making your own cranberry sauce this season, check out this recipe from [Bon Appetit!](#)

November 26, 2019

Researching Companies



November 26, 2019

RWU Law students have access to a wealth of legal and non-legal resources. Because RWU is home to the [AACSB International-accredited](#) Mario J. Gabelli School of Business, law students have access to a helpful array of business databases through the University Library. A list of these business-related databases can be found on the University Library's [Business research guide](#).

One of the most fun business research databases is the International Directory of Company Histories. This resource allows users to learn in-depth information about the history of US and foreign companies. For example, a search for “Rhode Island” allows you to find a list of companies with Rhode Island roots, even if they aren’t traditionally associated with our state. Did you know that Converse used to be made here in Bristol? In 1969, [Converse purchased a manufacturing factory from B.F. Goodrich](#) located in Bristol and began making shoes there. In fact, at some point in the town’s history, the [production of rubber goods](#) was its principal industry. [“Bristol has a storied history of manufacturing dating back more than 300 years which included everything from distilleries, iron hardware, rifles, rubber shoes and boots, textiles and many others industries related to the marine trades.”](#)

For more information on the Converse company, or other businesses, check out the business resources available at the RWU University Library.