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Law Library Blog (April 2020): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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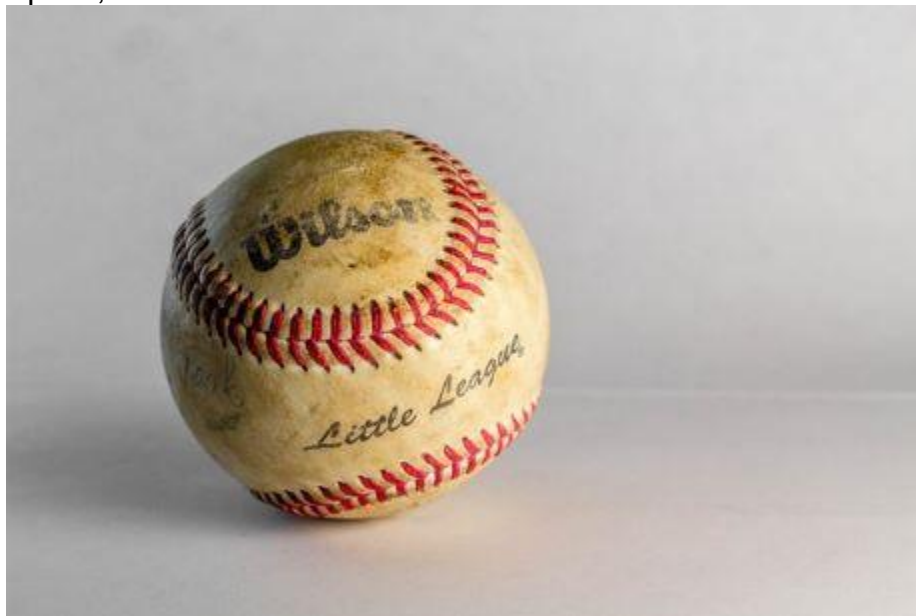
April 2020 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

April 3, 2020

Baseball & the Law

April 3, 2020



In a [1996 article](#), Dean Michael J. Yelnosky wrote, “because baseball is central to our culture, it is a presumptively appropriate source of metaphorical references.” One could imagine that he would agree that it is also an appropriate source for a law library blog post.

Baseball and the law has many intersections. There are many court cases about baseball as seen on this [podcast](#) and this [blog post](#) and this [book](#). There was even a [true crime documentary](#) on Netflix from 2017 that very much sits at the intersection of criminal law and a particular baseball game.

Our favorite intersection of baseball and the law is the [Green Bag's Supreme Court Sluggers](#). These baseball cards present “interesting information about the work of the Supreme Court of the United States” and are immensely “entertaining by providing small, amusing-but-respectful links between the world of law and the world of sport.” An [interesting fact](#) is that “many of the paintings by John Sargent and Alec Spangler that are featured on the front of every Sluggers card are in the collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.”

We know so many in our community are missing normalcy right now. We are also aware that for many, normal at this time of year means opening day. Instead of baseball, the Legal Beagle recommends you listen to local baseball fan anthem [Tessie](#) and sit back and enjoy [Jelle's Marble Racing](#) with the rest of the world.

April 9,2020

Interview with Professor Thompson

April 9, 2020



This week the Legal Beagle is back to hard-hitting journalism with an interview with Professor Thompson. Below is a transcript of our conversation:

1. What is the best piece of advice anyone ever gave you?

My mom recently read me a note that my dad had left her a long time ago and in it he said, “It’s the little things.” And he went on to describe all the things that really mattered to him like holding hands with her and attending our “little” events, our birthdays, and long car rides with her. And he reminded her not to worry about too much else. I liked that advice.

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

Their excitement when they share their progress and improvement. Sharing in that excitement really is a privilege and makes me very happy.

3. Google informed me that you are a trained vocalist and were also a professional journalist. In your current position, how do you continue to use creativity and art?

I hum in my office fairly often, but very softly, I hope. I need to add more creativity and art into my work!

4. You work so closely with so many stressed out students. How do you stay so calm and supportive?

I'm not sure I'm always as calm as I'd like, but I have a great, supportive team in Lorraine, Justin, and Brittany and I reach out to them when I need support. I also have a husband who is willing to listen to me when I'm stressed along with my sisters and my best friend who's known me forever. We all need our support network.

5. What is your pet peeve as an LP professor?

I'm sure I have one, but I can't think of one at the moment. I wish I were funnier in the classroom.

6. Cats? Dogs? Both? Neither?

I've never had a cat, although I've always wanted one and I've rarely not had a dog. So dogs.

7. What is your learning style and how do you structure your own learning to accommodate your own style?

I need to talk to myself about things and let myself "ponder" things so I try to be patient with myself as I work my way through a complex or even not so complex problem. I also need to write a lot as I think so I write down notes on pieces of paper and find these random notes everywhere. So I talk and I write and eventually I figure things out.

April 16,2020

At Home Entertainment

April 16, 2020



Now that you have a few weeks of remote learning under your belt, you might be ready for a little bit of self-care or just sheer entertainment. However, having to stay inside and away from people can make that difficult. Given our current situation, how can you see movies with friends or take a favorite gym class?

In an effort to help us adjust to social distancing (and perhaps some remaining cabin fever), many companies and organizations now offer free or low-cost activities to help you and your family make the most out of this tough situation. There are so many options available that we have only broken down a few here, but at the end are lists of other compiled sources for you to peruse.

Fitness and Exercise:

Good Housekeeping Magazine has compiled [a list of over 25 gyms and studios](#) offering free and extended-trial class programs and many have pledged to provide new content daily, including: Barry's, Planet Fitness, OrangeTheory, the YMCA, and Peloton. These providers have content across platforms: the YMCA's hour-long classes are offered on their website, [YMCA360](#), [Barry's Bootcamp's 20-minute workouts](#) are offered via InstagramTV (still available at Instagram.com even if you do not have an account); and Orangetheory's "Orangetheory At Home" posts 30-minute workouts to YouTube ([@orangetheoryfitness](#)). Whether you are a novice or experienced, or whether you want to catch a workout from your home office computer or from your phone/tablet in the backyard, you have plenty of options from which to choose. Better yet, many of these don't even need equipment!

Nature:

Feel the need to get outdoors, or just want to watch some cute animals? [Explore.org](#) has nearly 100 live nature cameras across the world and a documentary library of over 250 films. Similarly, [EarthCam](#) provides links to live cams of natural wonders. Using these sites, you

can [watch an eagle in Iowa](#) tend to its nest and eggs; chase some [waterfalls in Yosemite](#), or even check in on some [otter-ly adorable otters](#). Whatever your interest, there are several options to choose from to help you get out of your house without leaving your house.

Entertainment:

Are you missing movie night with friends? Or, need an inspiring walk through a museum? Thankfully, there are a wealth of streaming and virtual options to keep you and your family entertained; for example, Netflix has launched “[Netflix Party](#)” (available only on Chrome browsers) so you can create your own virtual viewing party. Do you love musicals, the opera, or theater? Hang on to your hats because you can stream free [Broadway musicals](#), the [Met Opera](#), or [plays from UKs National Theater](#).

How about other entertainment offerings? [Google Arts and Culture](#) has a robust platform full of cultural offerings, including virtual gallery, exhibit, and landmark tours; curated collections; and other interactive activities. Tour the British Museum; take in a view of the Taj Mahal or Eiffel Tower from the top; or scroll through a mesmerizing collection of some of the world’s most stunning libraries; whether you have a few minutes or a whole day, there is something here to explore. (Our favorite? The “Books: From Scrolls to Screens” collaboration between with Google Books and 43 other collections!)

For those with kiddos, Audible is offering a selection of [free audiobooks for children](#) and Amazon has released [over 40 children’s programs to stream](#) (no Prime account needed!). Crayola is also offering free-to-download coloring pages!

Lastly, Roger Williams University, Forbes, and CNET have curated long lists of other events and resources. RWU’s Office of Student Life has assembled a [long list of resources](#) along topics of Arts & Crafts; Gym, Fitness and Yoga; Virtual Tours, Zoos, Aquariums, and Museums; Music; and Unique and Fun Things to Do (check it out Potterheads!). In addition to entertainment, the [Forbes list](#) includes educational opportunities (helpful for those at home without law school to attend), offers by phone and internet providers, and health and fitness resources. [CNET’s list](#) includes sites for free computer games, offers by streaming movie and TV providers, and they too have a list of exercise resources.

We hope that these resources can help you find something fun to do indoors when you take a break from your studies.

April 24,2020

Court Hearings During COVID-19

April 24, 2020



In 1996 a [Los Angeles Times](#) article stated, “it saves time. It makes money. It even reduces stress. It’s hailed as a high-tech savior. Praised as an innovative way to cut through some of the gridlock--and flush out some of the frustration--that burdens Los Angeles County’s overworked courts. It is . . . the speakerphone.”

Who knew that in 2020, the [speakerphone would still be in style](#). In fact, last week a lawyer in a telephone oral argument at the Supreme Court of Virginia stated, “I apologize, your honor. I had the phone on speakerphone and a neighbor is mowing his lawn, the lawyer replied as he switched off the speaker function.”

Closer to home, the [U.S. District Court in Rhode Island is using telephonic hearings](#) and they are open to the public. According to one [local paper](#), at the state court level, other technologies are also being used, “other tools being utilized include WebEx video conferencing, which started recently for pretrial conferences. WebEx allows for witnesses to tell their stories and people to see each other in cases such as contested pretrials, status conferences, settlement conferences and settlement hearings.”

One thing to keep in mind during these times, lawyers on video calls are still lawyers. [Check out this admonishment by a Florida judge](#) who states, “We’ve seen many lawyers in casual shirts and blouses, with no concern for ill-grooming, in bedrooms with the master bed in the background, etc. One male lawyer appeared shirtless and one female attorney appeared still in bed, still under the covers. And putting on a beach cover-up won’t cover up you’re poolside in a bathing suit. So, please, if you don’t mind, let’s treat court hearings as court hearings, whether Zooming or not.”

Just remember, you can always ask a reference question, even if you’re poolside in a beach cover-up! Email us at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.