

Roger Williams University

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Law Library Newsletters/Blog

Law Library

8-2020

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

Roger Williams University School of Law

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August 2020 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

August 7, 2020

Welcome (Back)!

August 7, 2020



The [RWU Law Library staff](#) extends a warm welcome to our incoming 1Ls and returning 2Ls and 3Ls. Covid-19 has caused a uniquely quiet summer here at the library and we've missed you all so much! We worked diligently to make important safety updates to our services and we can't wait to see you and catch up, whether you're on-campus or virtual. As we all adjust to this new normal, we want to remind you of some handy links to our most popular services, so you'll never be without your trusty Library!

Our collection and services complement and advance the scholarship, practice skills education, and intellectual life at RWU Law. We'll communicate information in many ways to connect the library with our students, faculty, and alumni; our [website](#), [blog](#), [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) are the best means of staying up-to-date on all the happenings at the Library!

The Library and its knowledgeable, friendly staff are here to help you have a successful academic year and they can assist you in using our various resources including:

- Legal and non-legal research assistance in-person, via [Ask a Librarian](#), by [email](#), or by calling 401-254-4547;
- [RWU LawGuides](#), librarian-curated research starters covering a wide-variety of topics;
- [Guides on Study Aids](#) for the 1L and upper-class curriculum;
- The [interlibrary loan](#) service to obtain items not held at the [RWU libraries](#);
- [Printing and copying](#);
- [Wireless printing](#);
- The [WebCatalog](#) to locate items in our collection and online;
- Access to [digital resources](#) on and [off](#) campus;
- Instruction on legal research and technology by our librarians; and
- Westlaw, Lexis Advance, and Bloomberg training. (Check the [Law Library Computer Classroom/Events Schedule](#) for programing dates and times).

If you have any questions or just need a helping hand in the first few weeks, stop by and say hi!

August 14, 2020

Meet the Law Library Staff! - Artie Berns

August 14, 2020



This week we have a new feature in the blog. We are introducing the RWU Law Library staff (aka the humans behind the Legal Beagle).

Let us introduce [Artie Berns](#)!

Artie is brand new to our library. He just started here in July. Here are some fun facts about him for our readers:

1. *What is your title?*

Assistant Law Librarian, Collection Services

2. *Can you explain to our readers what you do using non-librarian terms?*

I am responsible for selecting what materials we put in our library collection based on the current research interests of our faculty and the needs of our students. Also, I oversee most of the online resources of the law library in addition to answering questions from our patrons.

3. *What is your favorite book?*

My favorite books include *Breakfast of Champions* by Kurt Vonnegut, *Anthem* by Neal Stephenson, and *Ringworld* by Larry Niven.

4. *What is your favorite part of your job?*

I am still learning different parts of my job but I think the answer is that I really enjoy helping people and I get to do that every day as a librarian. I also really like figuring out technologies.

5. *What is your favorite meme?*

I recently downloaded a bunch of memes of NFL refs that define and are calling a foul on different logical fallacies.

6. *What has been your experience in the RWU Law community?*

Everyone has been welcoming and friendly and I have enjoyed my interactions with students and faculty immensely.

7. *Name something you dislike, but everyone else seems to love.*

Sportsball

August 20, 2020

Directed Research & Topic Selection

August 20, 2020



As you all know, in order to graduate RWU Law you must complete the school's [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.

Once you have a faculty member chosen who has agreed to supervise you, the next big step is selecting a topic. This time of year is prime time for directed research topic selection and it is important to 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. Many students come to the library and meet with the librarians with some vague idea of what they are interested in researching but need a conversation with a research expert to help formalize their proposed thesis.

The library has resources for the writing process, from topic selection to writing improvement texts. The library also provides individualized research consultations for students who are working with faculty on a directed research paper. These sessions are being moved to Zoom this year and are focused on developing research strategies based on your individual needs.

Furthermore, we encourage students to meet with Dr. [Justin Kishbaugh](#), Associate Director of Academic Success & Professor of Writing. (If you are interested in scheduling a writing consultation, he can be reached at jkishbaugh@rwu.edu.)

Here are other helpful resources:

- 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](#), or by email to LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu.

Before you get started on the directed research paper, take a dive into the entertaining article [A Compendium of Clever and Amusing Law Review Writings -- An Idiosyncratic Bibliography of Miscellany with In Kind Annotations Intended as a Humorous Diversion for the Gentle Reader](#) (51 Drake L. Rev. 105 (2002)).

August 28, 2020

Supporting Experiential Learning in the “New Normal”

August 28, 2020



Is everyone getting tired of hearing about the “New Normal”? Probably!

The good news for experiential learning support at RWU is that the new normal has not been all bad news. Much of the “new” is very much like the “old.” The law librarians have lots of experience providing students with remote support via chat, email, and the phone. The [Law Clinic Series](#) of guides is an established resource to help students.

Now we have a new tool for helping you – Zoom. We can meet with you and through the power of screen sharing, demonstrate how a particular resource works or how it might be useful to you in resolving a research question. You can also share your screen. You can let us see where you have a question or problem. It is “almost” like meeting together (without the worry or hassle of a commute).

Our series of guides, designed to highlight resources specific to the needs of each clinical program, are still available and are revised and updated at least annually:

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

Whenever possible, the books and journals are linked to digital resources which provide anyone participating in the clinics access wherever they are physically located. In addition to the books, journals, and other 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* - provides access to full-text periodicals and books.
- [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#) in the *Law Clinic Series: Criminal Defense LawGuide* – provides 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* - provides 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* - provides links to information on court forms, fees, rules and procedures, and more.

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