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Law Library Blog (January 2021): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

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January 2021 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

January 5, 2021

Happy New Year from the RWU Law Library

January 5, 2021



2020 brought us some memorable moments and unforgettable experiences like an impeachment trial, Brexit, COVID, murder hornets, Tiger King, the murder of George Floyd and other Black Americans, raging wildfires, an election, and the death of RBG. Enough is enough.

Let's celebrate the end of 2020.

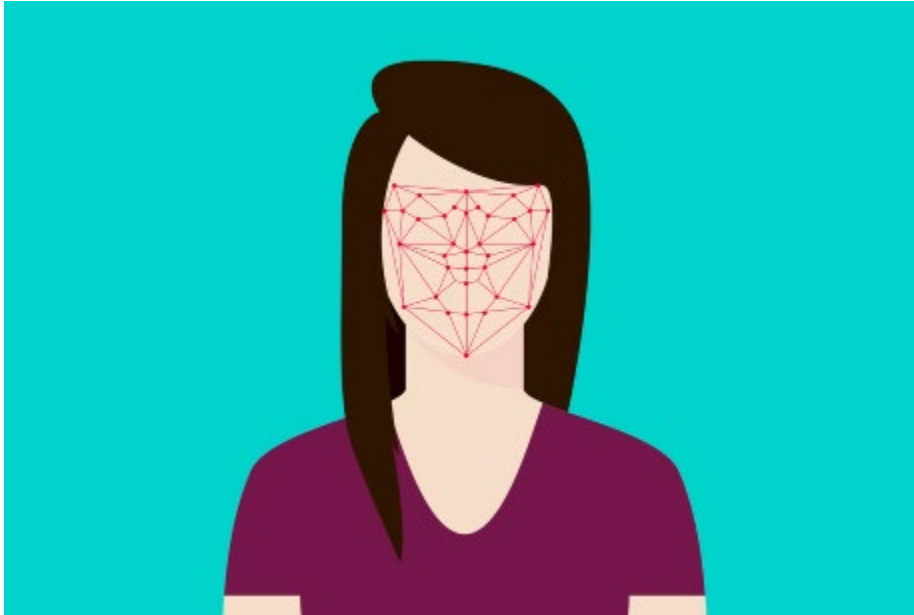
And new beginnings! May 2021 be filled with peace, kindness, grace, and joy.

Happy New Year from the RWU Law Library.

January 8, 2021

Facial Recognition

January 8, 2021



What is facial recognition?

Facial recognition is a type of computer algorithm that seeks to identify a person in an image. This technology has been [in development since the 1960s](#). Early systems used photos processed by humans to compare measurements of facial features to determine matches. Today's systems use AI and machine learning to recognize human faces. In recent years, the technology has improved significantly. Since 2014 error rates have [dropped from 4.1% to 0.08%](#).

Criminal law concerns

Criminal defense attorneys recognize the danger of the software misidentifying suspects. An article in the [August 2020 issue of the New York State Bar Journal](#) discusses some of those cases. In 2015 Denver police arrested a man identified by facial recognition software without corroboration. Similarly, in 2020, Detroit police arrested a man for shoplifting without checking his alibi. In both instances, courts found that while facial recognition technology could be used as an investigative tool, it could not be used as dispositive evidence in such cases.

Personal privacy concerns

Another area of law which concerns facial recognition software is that of personal privacy. Texas, Washington, California, New York, and Arkansas have regulated facial recognition by [defining biometric data as personal information](#). Illinois goes even further by providing

a [private right of action for violations](#). For more detailed information about this subject see Jason B. Binimow, *State Statutes Regulating Collection or Disclosure of Consumer Biometric or Genetic Information*, 41 A.L.R.7th 4 (Originally published in 2019) [Available on Lexis or Westlaw].

January 15, 2021

Welcome Back!

January 15, 2021



Whether you'll be on campus, remote, or a mix of both, the Law Library extends a very special welcome back to everyone for Spring 2021! We hope that you've been able to spend some time recharging for the new semester, and we're excited to hear what you've all been up to. If you are participating in the Alternative Winter Break, know that we're available to help with your research needs!

We're also looking forward to an exciting start to the Spring with 1L and 2L Legal Practice research classes. Please check your RWU email for more information!

Don't forget, there are many other ways the RWU Law Library can help you have a successful semester, right out of the gate. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff are available to assist you with our various services and resources including:

- Legal and non-legal research assistance virtually [by appointment](#), via [Ask a Librarian](#) instant chat, by [email](#), or by calling 401-254-4547;
- [RWU LawGuides](#) covering a wide variety of topics to help you find research resources;
- Guides on [Study Aids](#) for the 1L and upper-class curriculum;
- [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 and Lexis+ training. (Check the [Law Library Computer Classroom/Events](#) Schedule for programming dates and times).

Although we are still socially distancing, the library is a great place to research and study. It is also a place to chill out and de-stress. If you have any questions or just need a helping hand in the first few weeks of the semester, stop by and say hi!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the reference librarians at lawlibraryhelp@rwu.edu.

January 22, 2021

Cybersecurity and the Law

January 22, 2021



According to the [2020 Roundup Of Cybersecurity Forecasts and Market Estimates](#), “[c]ybersecurity now dominates the priorities of every organization as each adapts to a post-COVID 19 world.” According to that same report, the global cybersecurity market is currently worth \$173 billion. Cybersecurity is not just a tech thing. Instead, it is a growing area of practice for many lawyers.

According to [one ABA program](#), “[T]he practice of Privacy & Cybersecurity law isn’t just about strong passwords and encrypted emails; it’s about building a culture of security and privacy through regulatory compliance programs and best practices. It is also about being prepared to respond in the event of an incident. Privacy and Cybersecurity lawyers advise on implementing strategies to meet state, federal and international legal requirements, represent clients before regulatory bodies, and serve as the quarterback and crisis manager during incident response to mitigate loss and ensure compliance with the law.”

A speaker in that ABA program is local attorney, philanthropist, and RWU Law adjunct professor Linn Foster Freedman. Attorney Linn Foster Freedman is the Partner and Chair of the Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Team at Robinson & Cole LLP in Providence and she is also honored at RWU Law with a [room in her name](#). The law school offers a [joint degree program in Cybersecurity](#).

The RWU Law Library has many resources to learn more about cybersecurity and its intersections with law. [This guide](#) highlights some of the online resources and books available at the law library related to the topic of cybersecurity. One resource to check out is the website of the [American Bar Association’s Cybersecurity Legal Task Force](#) which serves as a clearinghouse regarding cybersecurity activities, policy proposals, advocacy, publications, and resources.

January 29, 2021

Meet the Staff: Kathleen MacAndrew

January 29, 2021



As we head back to school for the new year, the Legal Beagle returns with more introductions (or re-introductions) of the talented law library staff. This week, the beagle introduces you to Kathleen MacAndrew.

What is your title?

Cataloging, Metadata, and Archives Librarian

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

I organize the library's materials in our collection. I make it easy for people to find what they are looking for in the stacks or on the computer.

The Beagle explains "Kathleen makes this sound way simpler than it is. There's serious analytical thinking that goes into the job, to determine appropriate subject headings and much more. Kathleen also adds tables of contents for books, making it easier for you to find book chapters that may be relevant!"

What are the Archives mentioned in your job title?

It's a collection of the law school's history in one place.

Some of the Beagle's favorite things found in the archives – the invitation to the first Women In Robes event, DVD recordings of selected events, and previous Commencement programs.

What is your favorite reading genre?

Mystery and historical fiction

What part of your job is most satisfying?

Creating records for library materials that contain information that will be helpful to users of the library's web catalog.

What is the coolest item you've handled and/or the most interesting question you've ever answered at RWU Law?

The bookcase once owned by one of the first black attorneys in Rhode Island that was donated by a local attorney to the law school as an inspiration to black students attending law school.

I've heard that you joined the library during its first few years. What's the most profound positive change you've seen in the library since you joined it?

A more effective commitment to helping the law students in their preparations to practice the law.

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

Memes. I just don't get them.

Thanks Kathleen for taking time from your busy schedule to chat with the Beagle.