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April 2021 Library Blogs

Legal Beagle's Post

April 1, 2021

National Library Week!

April 1, 2021



Each year, libraries across the United States celebrate [National Library Week](#). This year, National Library week takes place April 4-10, 2021. This annual celebration highlights the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in our lives and our communities.

The American Library Association chose “Welcome to Your Library,” for the theme of National Library Week 2021. Libraries offer opportunities for everyone through access to technology, multimedia content, and education programs in person and virtually, especially this year. The RWU Law Library offers a variety of services, resources, and programs in person and virtually extending far beyond the walls of the building.

This year at RWU Law Library we will be taking time to celebrate our library student workers, our full-time staff, and our amazing patrons, of course! To celebrate National Library Week with us, please stop by the library for one of these events:

- Tuesday, April 6: National Library Workers Day: If you see a student worker, library staff member, or librarian be sure to thank them for all that they do.

- Wednesday, April 7: National Library Outreach Day: a day to celebrate library outreach. Join us for our Law Library Grab-N-Go Event in the Law School Atrium between 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM to pick up your Library Themed grab bag.

Happy National Library Week!

April 9, 2021

Meet the Staff: Nate Pracht

April 9, 2021



This year the Legal Beagle is featuring blog posts which introduce you (or re-introduce you) to our hard-working and amazing staff. As we get near the end of our Meet the Staff posts, the Beagle is thrilled to introduce you to Nate Pracht, the man who makes sure that the librarians have what they need to be able to do their jobs and who helps ensure that our library facilities and technology work as intended.

What is your title?

Administrative Assistant

Can you tell our readers what you do for the library?

I interact with every staff member in some way providing support the best I can. My main areas of focus are accounts payable, student worker payroll, and interacting with the University on facilities & technology requests.

[LB. Dean Ortiz likes to say that Nate is the COO of the library – he keeps things going when no one else is paying attention.]

What is your favorite reading genre?

Theology

What part of your job is most satisfying?

Playing a supportive role in enabling our Librarians to excel in serving the needs of our Law Students & Faculty.

We have it on good authority that you have seen A LOT of children's movies thanks to adorable nieces and nephews. What is your favorite kid movie and why?

Moana is an exceptional movie on so many levels. The music is top notch, the humor is great, the story is interesting, and the characters are memorable. The character of Moana is one of the best protagonists you'll find in the animated genre.

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

Eggs

April 16, 2021

Looking for Work?

April 16, 2021



Most law students agree, having a job when you are done with law school is preferable to not having a job. But, how does one go about getting a job?

One great resource is the [RWU Office of Career Development](#). Dean Paricio and the career development team are here to help you land your dream law job. How will they do that? The

Office of Career Development provides opportunities to meet with prospective employers. They help prepare you with mock interviews and provide access to Symplicity, a system of tools and connections to enhance student employability, including a list of current job openings. They also work with other law school career development offices across the country through their reciprocity programs. The Office of Career Development also maintains relationships with firms and businesses that actively recruit our alumni.

The law library has created a [TimeSaver on Job Searches](#). This is a library guide which gives you a one stop place to shop for resources related to job searching and preparation. This guide includes resources for helping you draft a resume, how to handle interviews, how to develop a professional network, and how to get started.

Another way to find a job is to network with current attorneys. One can do this as a law student by joining the state bar associations and participating in the bar association events. For example, the [Rhode Island Bar Association](#) has student memberships for \$50. Both the [Massachusetts Bar Association](#) and the [Connecticut Bar Association](#) offer free student memberships. There are also city and county bar associations as well as affinity group or specialty bar associations.

Legal newspapers usually have a classified section where firms post job openings. The law library has both the [Massachusetts Lawyer's Weekly](#) and the [Rhode Island Lawyer's Weekly](#). The [American Bar Association](#) maintains a career center with postings for legal jobs all over the country.

April 22, 2021

Spring Is Here!

April 22, 2021



Papers, final exams, graduation, summer jobs, externships, and bar exams are just around the corner. While these may seem like reasons for stress or panic, take a pause and consider this.

There are flowers to smell and sunshine to absorb.

You may think you don't have time for flowers and sunshine. You need them more now than ever. "[Spending time in nature can help relieve stress and anxiety, improve your mood, and boost feelings of happiness and wellbeing.](#)" A little time enjoying the benefits of nature, sunshine, fresh air, flowers, is time well spent. [Studies](#) show time spent enjoying nature provides a reduction in the levels of anxiety and fatigue.

Great news, it doesn't take much time to reap benefits – "[just a few moments of green can perk up a tired brain.](#)" A little nature improves your cognitive ability. Better yet, it is free and fun.

We've all been staring at computer screens too much. [Zoom fatigue is real](#) and there are tips for dealing with it. Taking breaks and moving are among those tips. What better way to move than to step outside for a few minutes?

If you are on-campus, check out the law library's guide on [Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness](#), the section on *Reflective Spaces at RWU* includes some images of lovely locations on campus to absorb nature. The campus has nice views and relaxing walks just right for a beautiful spring day. If you are not on campus, a walk around your block, a neighborhood park, or even just your own yard can be a pleasant and useful break.

Take a minute to enjoy the gifts spring offers.

April 30, 2021

Music and Studying: Friends or Frenemies?

April 30, 2021



This time of year at law school is associated with different verbs; studying, graduating, writing, interviewing, and outlining are a few of those words! The mood in the library changes a bit during the reading period and final exam period. It becomes more serious and more tense. Because of COVID-19, you may be studying at home this year instead of in the library. If you are at home, there are a variety of library resources which can help you, [specifically the law library's study aids collection](#). That is a fact and not at all controversial. But what is quite the controversy is whether you listen to music while you study.

Some say that listening to music while studying is a bad idea. They argue that the music can distract your focus from the material and can be annoying. Others swear that music enhances their studying and cite a [1990s study](#) that made “the surprising claim that, after listening to Mozart's sonata for two pianos for 10 minutes, normal subjects showed significantly better spatial reasoning skills than after periods of listening to relaxation instructions designed to lower blood pressure or silence.” A further study refutes this so-called Mozart effect and that study's authors claim that [music can interfere with short-term memory performance](#).

It may be a matter of preference and not a matter of science but there does not seem to be general agreement, even here at RWU Law. Some of us (Prof. Raposa and Nicole) like to listen to music while studying. Nicole listens to the same album on repeat and has listened to that same album while studying since she was in high school. Dean Ortiz never listens to music while studying. Mike and Artie take a middle position and both listen to music without lyrics while studying. Mike particularly favors the soundtrack to the movie *Last of the Mohicans*.

Whatever study method you prefer, remember the librarians are available to chat if you have research questions or just want some study music recommendations!