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## Law Library Blog (March 2022): Legal Beagle's Blog Archive

Roger Williams University School of Law

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March 2022 Library Blogs

# ***Legal Beagle's Post***

March 4, 2022

## **Women in Law Leadership: Esther Clark, A Leader Remembered**

March 4, 2022



Professor Esther Clark

The RWU Law annual [Women in Law Leadership](#) Lecture is almost here. We can look forward to the speaker, Amy Barasch, reflecting on a thought-provoking topic. The winners of the [Ruth Bader Ginsberg Essay Contest](#) for elementary, middle, and high school students on the topic of “How has Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) inspired me?” will also be announced at the lecture.

Both the esteemed speaker and the late Justice Ginsberg are excellent examples women in law leadership. However, this week let’s reflect on an early woman in law leadership from RWU Law’s history.

Esther Frances Giaccio Clark

When Professor Clark first started teaching at RWU Law in 1994, her record as a leader was secure. She came to RWU Law officially as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. Her regular

faculty position was at Widener University School of Law. However, she loved RWU Law so much, she retired from Widener when Widener could not accommodate her schedule at RWU Law.

From the beginning of her career in law, she was a leader. One of only two women in her class at Rutgers University Law School (Camden) in 1955, she was also an associate editor of the Law Review. After graduating, she practiced criminal defense law in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. In the [eulogy](#) delivered at her funeral service, it was said “[R]umor has it that many prosecutors, when hearing that Esther was the defense attorney, would suddenly have more pressing matters than opposing her in a courtroom.”

She was named "[Man of the Year](#)" by Delaware County Bar Association in 1980 and the recipient of the [Anne X. Alpern Award](#) from the Pennsylvania Bar Association in 1996. In 1982, she became the first woman elected President of the Delaware County Bar Association in its more than 100 year history.

As an academic, she became the first woman to receive tenure at Widener University School of Law and was a five-time recipient of Widener’s Outstanding Faculty Member Award. After coming to RWU Law, she received the first faculty teaching award in 1999.

She understood the value of a life outside work and was beloved a wife, mother, and grandmother. She was colleague, mentor, advisor, and friend and is still remembered by some here at RWU Law as more than just the name of the Moot Court Competition.

Her legacy continues in the work of her former students and this law school.

For more information about Professor Clark, see the [Fall 2002 Issue of AMICUS](#).

March 10, 2022

## The Path of a (New) Book: What People Think We Do vs. What We Actually Do

March 10, 2022



We are not sure what misconceptions people might have about the how library materials get to the shelves, but it is a complex process that we sometimes must complete in a matter of hours to get the new book in the hands of the patron who needs it for research or teaching. A new book follows a detailed process to ensure that the book can be easily identified, found, borrowed, and returned to its assigned location. This process involves the work of the Collection Services team.

We start our story at the time each item is ordered. The [Collection Services librarian](#) selects which items to purchase and orders them. As told in their own words, the [selection and ordering process](#) is more complicated than it sounds. After each book is ordered, a [bibliographic record](#) is obtained from a company called OCLC. There may be several records to choose; for our catalog we attempt to get the most complete record for each item we purchase. Occasionally, OCLC will not have a record and we will create a “stub record.” Stub records contain only the title, publisher, ISBN or other unique identifier, and imprint—which includes the date of publication, the publisher’s name, and the city where published.

Next, the item arrives in the mail. The [Collection Services Assistant](#) sorts the mail and checks-in items as needed. Next, they will stamp and apply security features to books. After this, the books go to the [Catalog, Metadata, and Archives Librarian](#) for additional processing and cataloging. See [Cataloging: What People Think I Do vs. What I Actually Do](#) for insights on the art of cataloging.

Assuming an item has been cataloged and a record is present in the library’s online catalog, the next step is to further process the book for use in the library. First, a barcode is placed on the inside of the front cover of the book or another suitable location that keeps it visible for the student employees at the circulation desk. The barcode is necessary for checking out an item.

Next, we locate the record in the catalog and create an “item record” that identifies the specific volume and determines whether it circulates and for how long. This seems a very easy feat, but it requires attention to rules for each book and filling out a template meticulously: entering the 14-character numeric barcode, volume information, date, and any other information that

identifies the item at hand as a unique item. When all pertinent information has been created in the item record, it must be saved to become a permanent attachment to the bibliographic record.

After an item is barcoded and an item record created, the item is labeled for the stacks. A special label printer is used to produce the alpha-numeric call number label needed for the item. Once again, the bibliographic record is located. From there the item record is selected to print the label, using specialized software to extract the call number and format it on the label. After a label is printed, it is placed on the spine of the volume or the front cover of the volume. Other items may require a more creative location, ensuring that the label is visible so that patrons can find the item in the stacks and library staff can return the book to its proper location when it is returned. The last processing step is to add a label protector over the printed label to keep it from fading or falling off.

Once the books are labeled, they go to the circulation area. The circulation staff goes out to the stacks to shelve these items using their labels to place them in the appropriate section of the library.

Processing sounds like a simple thing but in the path of a book, detail oriented and accurate processing is essential for patrons to find the items they need in the library.

March 18, 2022

## Researching the Supreme Court: Nominations and Data

March 18, 2022



Supreme Court Research is incredibly varied, and the sources are plentiful, so the Legal Beagle suggested we introduce you to resources on two specific aspects of the Supreme Court: nominations and data about the Supreme Court and its cases.

On February 25, [President Biden nominated circuit judge Ketanji Brown Jackson](#) for the United States Supreme Court to fill the seat vacated by Justice Stephen Breyer's retirement. Because a good researcher never wastes good research that is at their fingertips, we wanted to point out the fantastic guide on Supreme Court Nominations maintained by our colleagues at the Georgetown Law Library, which includes a page on [Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's nomination](#). There you can read biographies and more about her, including documents on her prior nominations for court service, her opinions, and publications.

To learn more about Supreme Court nominations and Justices, check out HeinOnline's [History of Supreme Court Nominations](#), an excellent resource to start your research. The main page of this resource contains the hearings and reports issued by Congress as part of the review of Supreme Court nominees for all nominations from 1916 to present. Of special interest, this publication covers both successful and unsuccessful nominations. In addition to the nomination documents, you can browse the collection by justice going back to 1789. When you browse by justice, HeinOnline provides links to books in its collections as well as scholarly articles chosen by their editors that either discuss the justice or were written by the justice.

If you are a data geek, you are going to LOVE [The Supreme Court Compendium: Data, Decisions, and Developments](#) (2012 edition - newest edition on order). This book does a deep dive into and provides extensive data on the Supreme Court's history, composition, cases, outcomes and trends, nominations, voting, ideology, political background, public opinion, and impact. Its [companion database](#) provides empirical researchers data files that they can use to study the Supreme Court, with extensive documentation to make the best use of the data. For those of us who do not enjoy working with data files, the Analysis tab allows you to use a search template to select and combine data parameters and produce a report organized by citation, docket number, or issue/legal provision. For example, out of 142 First Amendment religion cases since 1946, five found a municipal or local ordinance unconstitutional, and one of them involved Rhode Island ([Fowler v. Rhode Island, 345 U.S. 67](#)). The database also provides links to retrieve the case from Lexis, Westlaw, or FindLaw.

An interesting aside: Did you know that in RWU Law's 29-year history, [eight Supreme Court Justices](#) have addressed RWU Law students? This excerpt from the news story about Justice Ginsburg's visit in 2018 lists our esteemed visitors:

Ginsburg's visit marks the eighth time that a sitting or retired U.S. Supreme Court justice has addressed RWU School of Law students. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy delivered the law school's first commencement address in 1996, and law students have since heard from Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. (2008), Justice Antonin Scalia (2008), Justice Stephen G. Breyer (2011), Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. (2012), Justice Elena Kagan (2013) and retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (2013).

We hope that this overview inspires you to conduct Supreme Court Research. There are 1000s of books and resources on the U.S. Supreme Court and its justices in the RWU Law Library. For help researching specific aspects of the Supreme Court or its Justices, please [Ask A Librarian](#).

March 25, 2022

## Researching Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

March 25, 2022



On February 25, [President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson](#) for the Supreme Court of the United States.

Last week, the RWU Law Library published a [blog post on researching Supreme Court nominations and data](#).

As a follow up to that blog post, we wanted to send out some research updates.

If you are looking to go a deep dive into Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson [while you watch the confirmation hearings](#), here are some tips for how to find helpful information on Westlaw and Lexis.

## **Westlaw:**

Westlaw Edge has a content category page concerning the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court.

There are 2 ways to find it from the Westlaw Home Screen:

1. Click on the Federal Materials tab or
2. Click on the Cases link from the homepage

[This link](#) will take you directly to the new page.

What's on the page?

- This new page highlights the Westlaw content available from Judge Jackson's legal career, beginning with two Harvard Law Review articles she authored.
- In addition to the search links for all her cases at the District and Court of Appeals level, the page highlights the three District of Columbia Court of Appeals cases where she is the author of either the lead or concurring opinion. No dissenting opinions were found.
- There is also a link to the Litigation Analytics data for Judge Jackson.

## **Lexis:**

Context: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Profile Pages

[Overview Bio/Experience Page](#)

[Motion Analytics Page](#)

[Documents](#) (links to cases, briefs, pleadings, motions, legal news and secondary source references)

### **Law360 Articles**

[What you Need to Know about Judge Brown Jackson](#)

[6 Judge Jackson Opinions You Should Read](#)

For help researching specific aspects of the Supreme Court or its Justices, please [Ask A Librarian](#).



# Hip Hop and the Law: An Event and Display

March 28, 2022



Where is the intersection of hip hop and the law? It depends on who you ask. Some might say that there is an [intersection of hip hop with criminal and evidence law](#). Some point out there is an [intersection of hip hop with intellectual property law](#). Some law schools even have [classes about hip hop and the law](#). The [ABA Journal reports](#), “Law professors Donald Tibbs and André Cummings are working on a textbook based on the class they co-taught this spring called ‘Hip-Hop and the American Constitution.’”

On Thursday, March 31st from 6-7:30 pm Eastern the RWU Law Intellectual Property Law Association, Black Law Students Association, Multicultural Law Students Association, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Criminal Law Society, and the Feinstein Center for Pro Bono & Experiential Education are co-sponsoring an online educational event called Hip Hop and the Law. This event will feature Dean André Douglas Pond Cummings, Dr. Dawn-Elissa Fischer, Prof. Todd Clark, and Prof. Atiba Ellis. It will be moderated by 2L Jeffrey Prystowsky.

Registration information can be found [here](#).

In support of this event, the law library has created a [guide of resources on the theme of law and hip hop](#). This guide features articles, podcasts, books, ebooks, case law, and online resources on this interesting topic. It doesn't contain any [hip hop music about libraries](#) though! (This song appears to be from a fictional artist and was featured in the 1990s science fiction show Sliders)

Check out the guide, without [library songs](#), for resources within and beyond the stacks!