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Law Library Newsletters/Blog

Law Library

9-2022

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

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Part of the [Legal Education Commons](#), and the [Legal Writing and Research Commons](#)

Legal Beagle's Post

September 2, 2022

Support for Experiential Learning

September 2, 2022



Experiential education is a touchstone of the work done at RWU Law. Participation in the clinical programs provides students with hands-on experience. Our series of Law Clinic Guides are designed to highlight resources specific to the needs of each clinical program:

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

In addition to the books, journals, and digital resources on related to each clinic's focus, the guides include specialty databases, organization websites, legal and other blogs, Twitter feeds, and other items 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 guide - a digital resource providing access to full-text periodicals and books.
- [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#) in the Law Clinic Series: Criminal Defense guide – providing students with 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 guide- providing 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 guide - providing links to information on court forms, fees, rules and procedures, and more.

Even non-clinic students will find materials in these guides to be valuable beyond the confines of the clinics.

- Are you interested in preparing for your Trial Advocacy Class? Check out [LexisNexis Courtroom Cast](#).
- Do you want to know more about the work of [Operation Stand Down](#) Rhode Island with homeless and at-risk veterans?
- Are you interested in Project Innocence? Consider following the [Innocence Project Twitter](#) feed.
- Do you want to write a paper on the plight of hurricane refugees from Bermuda seeking to come to the United States? [ailalink](#) is a source worth exploring.

We are ready to assist you in developing the research skills needed for success as you are ready to experience this new phase of your education. Check out these guides and if you have any questions, don’t forget to [Ask a Librarian!](#)

September 16, 2022

Topic Selection & Directed Research

September 16, 2022



To graduate from RWU Law, each student must complete the school’s [writing requirement](#) “under the direct supervision of a professor or director of an institute” during which the student “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, an excellent opportunity to work closely with a supervisor on a topic within the law that is uniquely interesting to you.

Once you have a supervisor who has agreed to work with you, you can move on to choosing your topic and focus. Topic selection is an exciting and work-intensive part of the writing process, and so we are here to remind you of the multitude of resources available to you beyond your supervisory professor. The law librarians are ready and willing to help you identify resources and discuss your research plan. Regardless of where you are in your topic selection process, from having a vague idea to narrowing in on a focused issue, meeting with a research librarian is an invaluable step to help formalize your thesis and research trajectory.

The library also has digital and print resources for all stages of the writing process, from topic selection to editing and footnotes. If your learning style is more compatible with face-to-face brainstorming, the library also provides individualized research consultations for students working on a directed research paper which focus on developing research strategies based on

your individual needs. To schedule a research consultation with a law librarian, contact us via [Ask a Librarian](#), or by email at LawLibraryHelp@rwu.edu.

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.)

Looking for inspiration? Try browsing the [Lexis Legal News Hub](#) and [Westlaw Today](#) for up-to-date legal news and the cutting-edge issues facing lawyers and legal scholars today. If you want something a bit more off the beaten path, you can peruse Thomson Reuters's [Legally Weird](#) blog, a great source for legal questions presented in emerging and unique areas of the law.

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](#).

We look forward to working with you!