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Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University School of Law, "Legal Beagle's Blog Archive for November 2015" (2015). *Law Library Newsletters/Blog*. 137.

https://docs.rwu.edu/law_lib_newsblog/137

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Legal Beagle's Blog Archive for November 2015

Legal Beagle's Post

Eyewitness Misidentification

Posted by Library Blog on 11/06/2015 at 09:40 AM

A frequently debated issue in criminal law is the unreliability of eyewitness testimony. It is also a particularly interesting topic to research because it relates to science, psychology, criminal justice, and law. Our library contains several resources on this topic, both in digital resources and in our print collection, most notably Elizabeth F. Loftus, James M. Doyle, and Jennifer E. Dysart's [*Eyewitness Testimony: Civil and Criminal*](#).

The [Criminal Law Reporter \(Bloomberg BNA\)](#) allows you to identify and track the most recent news and cases on the subject. On November 2, this publication included an article about the U.S. Supreme Court declining to review Louisiana law on this topic: "[Eyewitness Identifications Evade High Court Scrutiny](#)".

Beyond our collection, there are other resources on the internet you might want to consider checking out. Forensic psychologist [Scott Fraser](#) has a TED talk on this topic as does [Elizabeth F. Loftus](#), one of the authors of the *Eyewitness Testimony: Civil and Criminal*. Basic information about eyewitness misidentification can be found on the [Innocence Project website](#) as well as on the website for [Nature, the International Weekly Journal of Science](#).



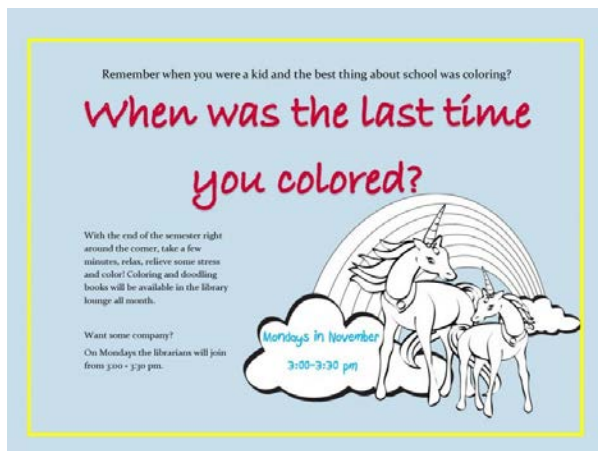
For more information about exonerations, a topic closely related to eyewitness misidentification, you might be interested in the [National Registry of Exonerations](#) which provides data on known US exonerations since 1989. For eyewitness misidentification information closer to home, you can review a [2010 report](#) on the Innocence Project website from the Rhode Island Task Force to Identify & Recommend Policies and Procedures To Improve the Accuracy of Eyewitness Identification. If you want to test your own eyewitness identification skills, there is an [online test](#) on the website of Iowa State University Professor Gary Wells.

Legal Beagle's Post

Fear & Stress Management

Posted by Library Blog on 11/13/2015 at 09:05 AM

One of the librarians noticed [this story](#) about overcoming fear which was recently featured in the online ABA Journal and remarked at how well it handled the issues of lawyer stress and fear. It states, "Fear has become part of the legal culture because lawyers, like soldiers, often feel engaged in battle." Not only do lawyers feel the pressures of stress and fear, but law students do, too.



Have you noticed the sign on the law school television display screens (with unicorns!) about coloring with the librarians? If so, we hope you have stopped by to color with us! If not, we hope you will consider stopping by on Mondays in November from 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm for some coloring or doodling.

Coloring is fun and it can also be part of a healthy stress relieving routine according to some [scientists](#). Whether you are looking for something to help de-stress your day or you are just looking for a break from the very adult world of law school, stop by and visit us on Monday afternoons in November.

Besides coloring books, the library has other opportunities to learn about stress management. We recently released an online LawGuide about [Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness](#). This guide features resources in the library and outside the library to encourage mental wellness. The last page of the LawGuide is a photo tour of reflective spaces on the RWU Campus (pictures by the library's own Kathleen MacAndrew!).

Legal Beagle's Post

Thanksgiving Quiz

Posted by Library Blog on 11/13/2015 at 09:29 AM

New England is known far and wide for its association with the Thanksgiving holiday. Whether this is your first Thanksgiving in New England or just your most recent Thanksgiving in New England, here is a quiz to give you a break from outlining!

1. True or False: Cranberries bounce.
2. What percentage of the pumpkins processed in the United States in a year are grown in Illinois?
3. 2008 was the International Year of the _____
4. True or False: There has been a Nantucket Sea Monster balloon in the Macy's parade.
5. Who has the most rushing yards in a NFL Thanksgiving Day football game?

Whether you are skilled at Thanksgiving trivia or not, we wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving from the law library!



Answers

1. True: According to the Ocean Spray website, "In the 1880s, a New Jersey grower named John "Peg Leg" Webb discovered that cranberries bounce." [Source](#)
2. Approximately 90% of the pumpkins processed in the United States in a year are grown in Illinois. [Source](#)
3. Potato! [Source](#)
4. True. [Source](#)5. OJ Simpson. [Source](#)

Legal Beagle's Post

Studying, Outlining & Finals

Posted by Library Blog on 11/17/2015 at 11:38 AM

It's beginning to feel a lot like finals. The end of the semester is always filled with studying and outlining and stress. The Legal Beagle has several suggestions for ways to cope with the end of the semester crunch time:

1. Use the library's study resources:

If you prefer online study aids, try the CALI lessons available at <http://www.cali.org/>.

If you prefer print resources, the Law Library's staff has prepared guides to the major study aids in the library's collection. The guides are by subject area, keyed to the curriculum and available at <http://law.rwu.edu/library/research/study-aids>.

2. Reserve a Study Room:

There are twelve small rooms which can be used for study and/or audio/video review. Three of the rooms are equipped for audio/visual use. Use of these rooms is governed by a room reservation policy which covers advance reservations, room renewals, cancellations, and consequences of the misuse of rooms. More information about reserving a study room can be found [here](#).

3. Find a Reflective Space on Campus:

RWU has many areas (indoor and outdoor) which can be used as a study space or a study break space for quiet reflection. A [virtual tour](#) of these places can be found here.

4. Take an Exercise Break:

The [RWU Campus Recreation Center](#) offers exercise equipment and a variety of group exercise classes to engage your body. Exercise, including walking, sports, and other fun physical activities, can help you maintain a healthy mind body balance.

5. Check out our LawGuide:

The library's guide for [Stress Management, Mindfulness and Wellness](#) provides information and links to help you manage stress in serious ways and not-so-serious ways.