

Washington State Law Library

November 2004

I am proud to announce the inaugural issue of the new electronic newsletter from the Washington State Law Library. These are exciting times in the legal profession, and it is the goal of this newsletter to provide our readers with research tips, updates, and ideas to make your job easier. The Washington State Law Library contains over 350,000 volumes, including materials from all fifty states. We have a comprehensive set of primary legal materials and an extensive collection of treatises and legal periodicals. We continue to add to our electronic resources, now offering online chat, Shepard's, and HeinOnline for the public.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us at:
Library.requests@courts.wa.gov

We are located in the Temple of Justice, across from the State Capitol. We are open to the public 8am-5pm, Monday through Friday.

Kay E. Newman
State Law Librarian

CHAT SERVICE AT WASHINGTON STATE LAW LIBRARY

Have a question? Not sure where to look? Just Ask a Librarian! Mon. – Fri., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the Washington State Law Library now offers live, online chat sessions. Chat is an instant message, one-on-one conversation between the librarian and patron. We help clarify a question, perform Internet searches, and then send you the results.

In November 2003, we joined the Sound Libraries Information Consortium (SLIC), consisting of Seattle Public Library, University of Washington Health Sciences Library, the Center for Urban Horticulture Miller Library and King County Law Library. With SLIC, we are able to not only pool resources but also obtain funding through a Library Services and Technology Act grant.

SLIC uses QuestionPoint, an OCLC product. Through QP we are able to direct patrons to the best library to answer their question. For example, when Miller Library receives a question on which poppies are illegal to grow, they forward it to us. When we have a question about homework assistance, we forward it to Seattle Public Library. All of this is done through the software, where patrons and librarians alike can track the question and the answer.

So far, Washington State Law Library has answered questions ranging in topic from bankruptcy to social security, from easements to motor vehicles, from civil procedure to divorce. You name it; we have probably answered it. And, although we cannot give legal advice, we are certainly willing to help patrons find the materials they need.

For more information on SLIC and chat at Washington State Law Library, go to: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/SLIC>

PUBLIC WORKSTATIONS HAVE NEW REFERENCE TOOLS

HeinOnline

This database offers full text access to over 500 law journals plus U.S. treaties and agreements, U.S. Reports (including slip opinions) and more. HeinOnline is image-based so that you see the text as it looks on the printed page.

LoisLaw

This is an invaluable tool for searching statutes, session laws, cases and regulations, under both federal and state jurisdictions. Patrons enjoy LoisLaw because it includes access to Washington Bar CLE publications.

Remember to Shepardize

WSLL has switched from print Shepard's to an electronic service available, free of charge, with the most current information. You will not find Shepard's Citations on the WSLL shelves except for the Washington set and U.S. case name citator. Stop by or call the reference desks and ask staff to generate cases which may impact those cited in your briefs.

INTERNET SITES – WASHINGTON STATE

Check out this section of our newsletter each month for new additions to your Favorites list. This quarter we feature sites with a Washington State focus.

Municipal Research & Services Center for Washington

<http://www.mrsc.org>

We most often use this site as a portal to state and local codes, but it is the place to go for local government information, both legal and nonlegal. Coverage not only includes local emphasis resources but general resources as well. This site is nicely laid out and well organized. For quick and easy answers the site comes with a search feature that allows you to limit your search to specific types of documents.

Washington Law Help

<http://www.lawhelp.org/WA/>

Maintained by the Northwest Justice Project in partnership with Probono.net, this web site is billed as a "guide to free civil legal services for low-income persons and seniors in Washington." In reality, it is a large depository of self-help legal publications that has become an indispensable reference tool for us at the library. An easy-to-use search feature is available as well.

HistoryLink.org

http://www.historylink.org/this_week/index.cfm

This is a fun site for amateur historians and serious researchers alike. HistoryLink.org is an online encyclopedia to Washington State History with a searchable database of over 4,000 entries. The "Advanced Search" provides a number of ways to search the entries, including by sector or county. Whether you are looking for information on Lewis and Clark or the history of dance marathons in Washington, this is the place to go.

Books Recently Cataloged

<http://lawlib.courts.wa.gov/screens/brc.html>

The next time you find yourself searching the WSLI online catalog, click on the Books Recently Cataloged link for a look at new additions to our collection. The list changes monthly.

Legal Research on the Internet

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.display&fileID=netsrch>

Don't know where to start with your legal research? Go no further than our Legal Research on the Internet guide. Here you will find links to codes, opinions, and legal sites that won't lead you astray.

U.S. SUPREME COURT Back in session

The 2004 term of the U.S. Supreme Court opened October 4th with arguments in a case that comes on the heels of last term's Blakely v. Washington decision. United States v. Booker and United States v. Fanfan present the same question in relation to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines. The U.S. Supreme Court web site can be accessed at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/index.html>

MORE OF THE WEB

Employment Law

Workforce Management

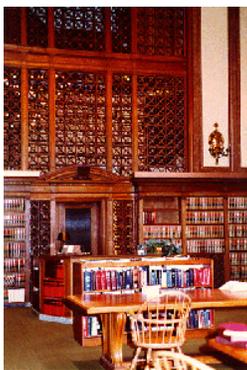
<http://www.workforce.com/>

An online companion to Workforce Management Magazine, the "Legal Insight" portion of this website provides access to scores of employment law articles. You will find the "Editor's Choice" list provides instant access to articles on the most common employment law issues. With a quick and painless registration you can access all past and current contents of the site by performing a keyword search or browsing the topic index in the "Research Center."

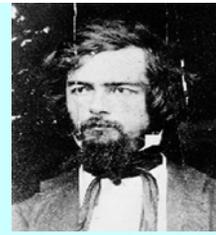
The United States Department of Labor

<http://www.dol.gov/>

The United States Department of Labor has put together an excellent resource for employers and employees alike to find their legal information needs. The "Find It" feature provides for information retrieval by topic, audience, or most requested items. Most useful is "Find It! By Topic," which is a comprehensive and well organized way to browse the information available from the department. From wages and hours to benefits and more, this is the place to go.



Please come visit us soon.



Gov. Isaac Stevens (1818-1862), ca. 1855
Courtesy Washington State Archives via History Link.org

THE LAW LIBRARY'S HISTORIC TREASURES

Washington historian Chief Justice Gerry Alexander approached Director Kay Newman in 2003 about featuring the Washington Territorial collection in our library. In September of 2004, we brought some of the collection to the Main Reading Room of our library. Visiting patrons are pleasantly surprised to find many books remain from the collection and are in great physical condition.

In 1853 Congress passed the Organic Act of the Territory of Washington. Isaac I. Stevens was appointed Governor of the Territory of Washington shortly thereafter. Along with his responsibilities as governor came the task of selecting books for the newly formed territorial library. Section 17 of the Organic Act provided \$5,000 for the collection. Gov. Stevens purchased prominent legal books, both American and English, from New York book dealers and requested volumes as gifts from states, territories, and societies.

The volumes were cased, wrapped in India rubber, and shipped around Cape Horn, South America's southern tip. The first shipment arrived in Olympia after 1853. A copy of the handwritten shipping lists and other information survive and are in the Selected Accounts for the Purchase of a Library for the Territory of Washington, 1854-59, now on a roll of microfilm at the State Library in the archived documents of former State Librarian Maryann Reynolds.

The books have been used for 150+ years by the citizens, attorneys and judges of Washington Territory and Washington State. We hope you will come and view this collection displayed in our Main Reading Room at the Washington State Law Library. They are kept in barrister bookcases, formerly used by Washington State Supreme Court justices, a fitting place for its collection to reside.

NOVEMBER RETIREMENT

Cora Morley Eklund will retire November 30, 2004 after 30 years of service to the Washington State Law Library. She began working at the Washington State Law Library as a cataloger after receiving her MLS from the University of Oregon. Cora is planning to focus on her art and community activities after retirement.

Washington State Law Library

Temple of Justice

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Olympia, WA 98501

360-357-2136 phone

360-357-2153 Fax

library.requests@courts.wa.gov request items from us

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/SLIC> chat with us

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/library> our website