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SEAALL President
Kristina L.
Niedringhaus

Associate Dean for Library
& Information Services and
Associate Professor

Georgia State University
College of Law Library
404-413-9140
krisn@gsu.edu

Presidential Ponderings

...from Kristina L. Niedringhaus

Unbelievably, 2018 is almost over and we will be heading into a new year. As I frantically gather student papers for grading and consider next semester's class prep, the time seems to be flying much too quickly. I hope that you are able to take some time to relax, enjoy friends and family, and contemplate the successes of 2018 and the opportunity of 2019.

Spring 2019 will bring us the SEAALL institute and annual meeting. It will be held March 21-23, 2019, at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, VA. The website for the institute and meeting is now available at <http://libguides.wvu.edu/seaall2019>. The guaranteed hotel rate is \$165 per night plus a resort fee. Caroline Osborne and the local arrangements committee are working hard to make sure our accommodations, meals, and networking opportunities will be extraordinary. Louis Rosen and the program committee are also hard at work on the institute and annual meeting program, which promises to provide plenty of great learning and development opportunities. I hope that you will plan on joining your colleagues for what promises to be an excellent conference in a lovely setting. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Finally, I want to extend special congratulations to SEAALL members Emily Florio and Jason Sowards. Beginning July 2019, Emily will serve as AALL vice president/president-elect and Jason will serve as a member of the board of directors. Congratulations!

Recent Acquisitions



Cassandra Patterson

Reference Librarian

Elon University School of
Law Library
336-279-9278
cpatterson17@elon.edu

The Elon Law Library has a diverse collection of DVDs. Stored in a classic display, it's hard to pass by them without browsing and taking a look. Even with the availability of video streaming platforms, where someone can watch and download movies within minutes, students regularly stop and browse our DVD collection. With older selections like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, to newer ones like *The Post*, we have a variety of options available for check out.

Two recent DVD acquisitions are *Marshall* and *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* Released within a month of each other, both movies look at a moment in the life of an African American male attorney. Other than that one similarity, the movies each have their own different spin to them. *Marshall* is based on events that took place in the life of a real person, the first African American U.S. Supreme Court justice, Thurgood Marshall. In contrast, *Roman J. Israel, Esq.* is not based on the life of a real person and instead looks at a moment in the life of a fictitious character.

Having watched *Marshall* a couple of times since its release, I watched it again in preparation for this article. The movie focused on a case that Thurgood Marshall (played by actor Chadwick Boseman) worked on in 1941 when he was the sole attorney working for the NAACP. His mission at that time was to defend people falsely accused of a crime due to their race. The movie shows how the case played out, portraying Thurgood's tireless efforts in his battle for civil rights.

It also shows how the battle affected his personal life. From the judge not letting Thurgood speak, to racial profiling, the movie provides glimpses into the different ways that racism played out at that time. The movie showed how the legal battle for African Americans was fought on multiple fronts: fighting to get into law school, not being allowed to practice law, negative media image influence, and difficulty finding other attorneys in the area willing to take on cases involving black defendants.

The second movie, *Roman J. Israel, Esq.*, is a movie that some people might feel is a little controversial. The name gives two telling hints into what the viewer can expect. In the film, the viewer gets a look into the life of Roman (played by actor Denzel Washington), a criminal defense attorney. A unique person who can read and mentally record information, he pursued his career above everything else. The movie begins with him typing a brief for a case by himself vs. himself





(Roman J. Israel vs. Himself). In it, he cites his own recent ethical and criminal misconduct. The movie then takes you to three weeks earlier, showing why he's writing the brief.

In a matter of three weeks, a lot happened to him due to a change in his career. He was an attorney driven by pursuing justice for the underdog, but after he was forced to find other work, he ended up making a mistake that changed his entire life. This movie did a great job of showing the ins and outs of a criminal defense attorney. In a series of clips, the movie walks the viewer through what it looks like to enter the courtroom, negotiate with DAs, talk with clients, and conduct hearings. Roman's apartment was also telling, as it was full of books, papers, and endless tasks that he worked on from home. The sacrifices that he made for his profession and career was evident, showing similarities to many in the legal profession.

Closed Stacks (The Holiday Edition)



Adrienne DeWitt

Reference Librarian

Campbell Law Library
919-865-5873
dewitt@campbell.edu

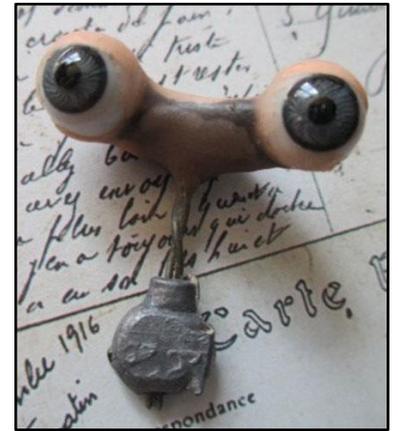
I come from a long line of antique dealers. My formative years were spent in houses overstuffed with late 19th century furnishings and filled with people willing to throw down over a vintage hat pin or a scrap of antique ribbon. I do not exaggerate. Family lore tells of the time my great-aunt accosted my mother over an ivory-handled glove hook. My mother was about to buy it when my great-aunt grabbed it smack out of her hand and bought it for herself. It took a long time for me to realize that not everyone lived this way.

While my family traded in pretty much anything shiny and pretty, antique dolls were their obsession. My grandmother's basement was a treasure trove of old chests and boxes full of 19th century china heads, and bisque, wax, and composition dolls. The "good" dolls — the ones by Jumeau, Schoenhut, Armand Marseille, and Bye-Lo Baby, among others — were kept in shelves along the back wall. To get to them, you had to navigate through poorly lit winding goat paths of boxes. Beyond dolls, however, they also collected doll accessories and parts, including clothing, wigs, china heads and doll bodies. One time I opened a drawer and discovered row after row of antique weighted glass doll eyes staring up at me. It scarred me for life. I still won't open a drawer if I'm not sure what's in it. As for me, I rebelled by becoming a

minimalist. No collecting, no boxes, nothing to collect dust. I would have been a good minimalist, too, were it not for books. Books overflowed from bookshelves and ended up stacked on the floor, in corners, and even under my bed.

The last straw was when I resorted to storing them in boxes. Visions of a basement crammed full of boxed books filled my head. I immediately cleaned up my collection and created a set of rules for future purchases which I follow to this day: No mass market paperbacks, no discount book sales, and only buy books that aren't available from the library.

Age, however, changes things. My once-minimal lifestyle has morphed into one filled with sentimental tchotchkes and random pieces of mid-century modern objets d'art. The books that remain are the ones that have survived my relentless trips to the Goodwill donation center. Titles run the gamut from old law books and study aids to YA dystopian to Janet Evanovich. I also have coffee table books, antique pricing guides, and several featuring my favorite fictional FBI agent Aloysius Pendergast. The majority of the collection is hardcover with a smattering of trade paperbacks thrown in. I might even have a mass market paperback or two. Rules were made to be broken.



Drop weight glass doll eyes.
Image from Etsy: BeansterGoods,
<https://etsy.me/2P4EGqM>



This holiday season, I decided to forgo a traditional tree, and instead decorated my bookshelf. Following through on the motif, I made book-page ornaments and used a selection of vintage glass and wood Christmas decorations as accents. Best of all, I didn't have to sacrifice any of my books; I used books weeded from our library. I made the hanging ornaments from old law reviews and used an out-of-date Nutshell for the Christmas trees. The vintage glass and wooden ornaments are gifts I have received throughout the years.



Book page ornaments are simple to make. If you're interested in making your own, First Palette has free patterns for tracing:

https://www.firstpalette.com/tool_box/printables/treeornaments.html.



Happy holidays to everyone, and best wishes for a wonderful 2019!

Readers' Advisory



Charlie Perkins

Reference/Access Services
Librarian

Elon University School of
Law Library
(336) 279-9345
cperkins8@elon.edu

Susan Orlean, *The Library Book* (2018)

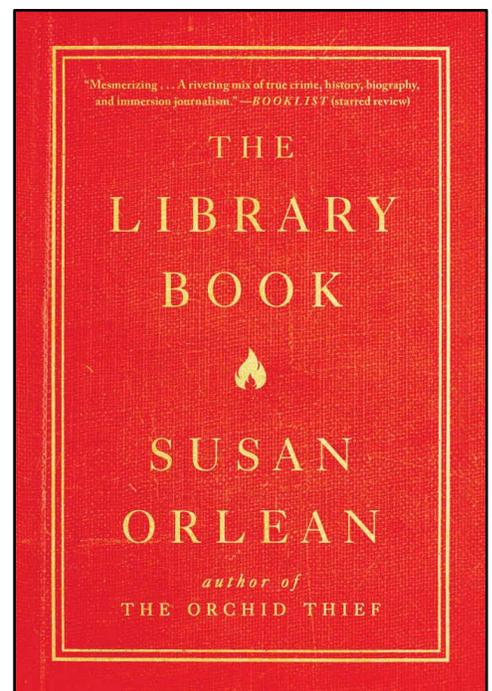
ISBN: 978-1-47674-018-8

I will avoid spoilers because I am certain many of you will receive this book as a present during the holiday season. Susan Orlean, author of the *The Orchid Thief*, has centered her new book on the Los Angeles Public Library. Specifically, the 1986 fire at the central branch. This fire burned for more than seven hours and resulted in over a million books being destroyed or badly damaged. Despite being the worst library fire in United States history, the public's attention was focused halfway around the world as information began to emerge about the nuclear accident in Chernobyl.

While the fire provides a central narrative for the book, it is primarily a device to explore several themes to greater or lesser degrees. The role of the library in society. A history of Los Angeles told by illustrating how the library grew and changed to meet the city's needs. The role of women working in, and at times, leading the library. As well as a profile of the young man, Harry Peak, who was the main suspect in the library arson.

Harry Peak is the single human being with whom the book spends the most time. As the identified suspect in the arson investigation Ms. Orlean traces his shifting accounts of what occurred on the day of the fire, but she also widens her lens. Harry's life, growing up as a son of a worker in suburban L.A.'s post-war aerospace industry, his failed attempts at stardom, and even his eventual death from complications associated with HIV/AIDS, creates an almost perfect subject for a tragic story of life in southern California in the second half of the twentieth century.

Even though the tragic tale of Harry Peak and the promise of discovering if he was responsible for the fire are the elements that provide the narrative momentum in this book, they are not what I enjoyed most. In chronicling the history of the Los Angeles public library, Ms. Orlean introduces us to a range of fascinating characters. It is true that Andrew Carnegie and Melvil Dewey make cameos, but the city's own librarians have the most interesting tales. They include Mary Foy, an eighteen-year-old hired to run the library at a time when, due to her gender, she was not eligible for a library card, as well as Mary Jones, who



received national attention in her ultimately doomed fight to keep her job when the city's only proffered reason for firing her was so they could give the position to a man.

The third major strand that Ms. Orlean works into her narrative is a behind-the-scenes look at the operation and role of the library. This includes visits to the shipping department where we meet, among others, Barbra Davis, the one woman in the department, as they pack the boxes and move the books around the system. We learn about some of the library's unique collections when we meet Glen Creason, the keeper of the library's map collection. Other library tasks are brought into public view, such as the time spent with Lisa Ondoy, a library assistant who assigns keyword tags to photographs. There is even a visit to Overdrive to learn about digital lending. Ms. Orlean discusses the history of libraries with references reaching back to Alexandria, and attends a conference on the future of libraries. As a librarian, I found these to be the most interesting parts of the book, allowing me to see the profession from the outside.

In the end, this book might be unsatisfying for those who want answers or expect a clean resolution to its true crime story line. However, if the reader captures some of Ms. Orlean's curiosity and enthusiasm, this book can serve as a springboard for further exploration, as well as an invitation to take advantage of all the library has to offer.

Readers' Advisory



Kathleen (Katie) Brown

Acting Associate Dean for
Information Resources

Charleston School of Law
Sol Blatt Jr. Law Library
843-377-2432
kbrown@charlestonlaw.edu

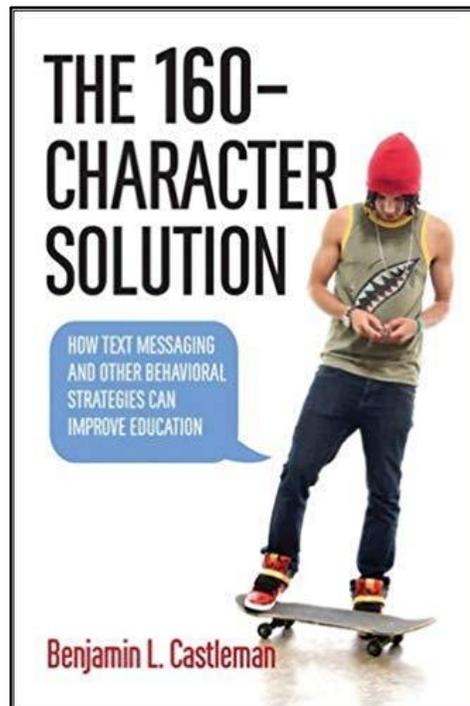
Benjamin L. Castleman, *The 160-Character Solution: How Text Messaging and Other Behavioral Strategies Can Improve Education* (2015)

ISBN: 978-1-4214-1874-2

A little while ago, I read a study that discussed how text messaging is one of the most effective ways to communicate and elicit a response from individuals in undergraduate and graduate schools today. In fact, the open rate for a text is 98 percent and the email open rate is only between 15 and 20 percent. Additionally, 90 percent of texts are read within 15 minutes of receiving them. Several years ago, I saw this first hand while working at an institution that had difficulty getting alumni to fill out a salary survey sent to their email. When the office switched their approach and began texting people the questions from the survey, they saw a huge bump in their response rate and were able to gather really excellent data. Many researchers claim that until student communication habits change, colleges should consider texting for their communication needs. Others argue that you should force students to use email as it will be their main

mode of communication in the work force. Personally, I am very interested in this topic, and when Castleman's book was referenced in another article, I quickly ordered my own copy.

Not being one to hide a lead, I will tell you the book was not what I expected, but it was still very interesting and informative. The short work does a great job at providing a succinct and accessible explanation of



behavioral science. In particular, the book addresses how decisions are made by people, how an individual's environment will influence a decision, communication surrounding a decision, and how to assist in helping others to implement habits that result in better decision making.

Because the book does read like a survey of the works of experts in the field on the topic of behavioral science, the author spends a significant amount of time discussing behavior and decision making. He contends that if we understand how individuals make decisions, then those in the educational setting can

ensure students' decision making is informed. Castleman very quickly recognizes that someone could use this behavioral habit data to influence the decision making process. Instead, he suggests that we, as education professionals, can improve the way we influence the decision-making process to enable a student to make a more informed choice. For example, he recommends that text messaging a student at the right time about completing their financial aid renewal forms simplifies a decision that many students are inadequately prepared for and would find complex and confusing. He suggests that an accurately timed and informative text can provide an adequate "nudge" or behavioral strategy to help a student make the most informed decision during key times while seeking a degree. He advises the reader that, "we have a pedagogical responsibility to meet them where they're at, so to speak," and finds in his own work that when he is focusing on behavioral changes, small changes in how we ask questions and provide reminders can have positive results for both the students and school.

Readers' Advisory



Francis X. Norton, Jr.

Research Lawyer/
Librarian & Government
Documents

Law Library of Louisiana
Supreme Court of
Louisiana
504-310-2405
fnorton@lasc.org

Tanya Marsh, *The Law of Human Remains* (2016)

ISBN: 978-1-93636-029-1

Disclaimer: I did not read every page of this book; however, I didn't really have to read all of it. Part one discusses the law of human remains in great detail, while part two lists state laws state by state, including the District of Columbia. To be perfectly frank, I was only interested in Louisiana state laws.

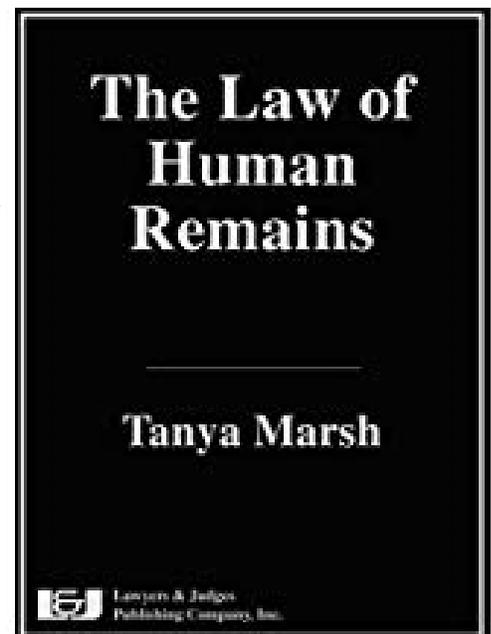
When you first look at this book, *The Law of Human Remains*, you might feel a bit daunted. Not by the subject matter, mind you, but by the physical book itself: It has roughly the same size and heft as the *Necronomicon Ex-Mortis* from the *Evil Dead* franchise. This new Marsh book might not bite your hand, but it could certainly break your finger if dropped upon it.

Death and taxes might be equally unpopular, but the amount of shelf space devoted to each topic is not. Go ahead and type the word "cadaver" into your catalog. I doubt if you have more than a few hits. People want to avoid death and any mention of it. So, why should you read this book? For one, it is very interesting and thought provoking. In addition, you do not want to be in the unenviable position of needing to request the location of the nearest Ralphs from a funeral director.

U.S. cemetery law is fascinating. It is also relatively new. In England, the civil courts did not concern themselves with human remains. That matter was left to the Church of England, which had both religious and secular jurisdiction. Since most of the early English colonists in this country wanted to be free of the Church of England, they did not adopt that church's ecclesiastical laws. They all did their own thing. As a result, the common law in this country is diverse, as are the subsequent statutes, which states later adopted.

Legally, what are human remains? They have no legal rights themselves (sorry zombies), and yet they are not considered the property of others. Courts have struggled with how to resolve this dilemma.

The book explores developments in New York City which led to the seminal Ruggles Report of 1856. (Just Google it.) The book also delves into the rise of the secular cemetery and the funeral industry in the early twentieth century. Abuses led to statutes which regulated



the growing business of modern death. Unfortunately, because today's death rituals are so complicated and diverse, most state codes do not have a single chapter that covers everything. State and federal statutes are often sprinkled throughout a code, rather than comprising a single title.

I recommend this book for a reinforced shelf in every type of library. As a lawyer, and even as a person who has spoken with funeral directors, I was really not aware of this area of law. Most people do not simply walk onto the lot of the closest car dealer and purchase a new car without any preparation or research. And yet, when faced with the untimely demise of a close relative, that is basically what many people do. A hundred years ago, death and burial were family matters. Today, we have outsourced death to specialists, and don't even understand the laws under which they operate.

Readers' Advisory

Sherri Burr, *A Short & Happy Guide to Financial Well-Being* (2014)
ISBN: 978-1-62810-039-6

Many of the books in my personal collection are self-help books, as I love books that help people improve some aspect of their lives. So, it only made sense that I do an advisory on a book that I think benefits the life of anyone in the law-school environment -- law students, faculty, and staff.

The Short & Happy Guide to Financial Well-Being is one of many books available within most law libraries, either in print or via a West Academic Study Aids subscription online. It's a part of the short and happy guide series that law students know and love. While there are many books on the market available to improve debt and/or credit, the short and happy guide series provides a short reading on the topic, written in an entertaining way.

The author of this guide, Sherri Burr, is a professor of law and an author of multiple law books. In this text, she uses many examples, both real and fictitious, to illustrate various financial tips. From the use of real-life authors and photographers, to fictitious characters named Learned Lawyer and Seattle Businessman, there are plenty of examples that help readers grasp the different concepts. The book spans eleven chapters and each chapter provides multiple tips on improving one's finances.

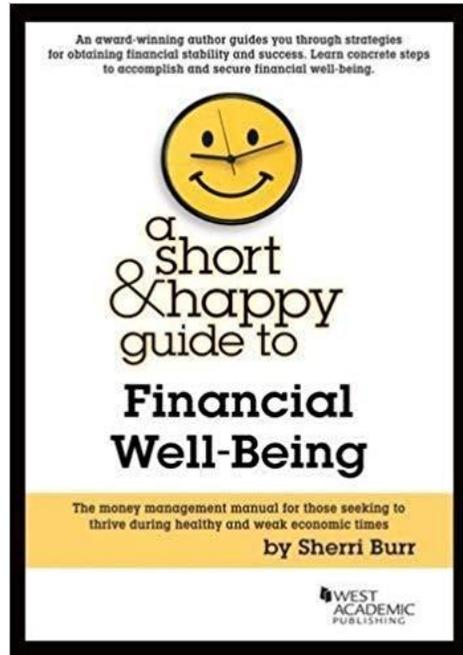
Broken down into four parts, the book begins with financial literacy basics. The first five chapters discuss fundamentals such as: facing credit head on, frugal spending, lending money, transportation management, and finances for homeowners and/or buyers. In this part of the book, the author provides tips relating to basic financial literacy, including paying bills before the due dates,



Cassandra Patterson

Reference Librarian

Elon University School of
Law Library
336-279-9278
cpatterson17@elon.edu



balancing checkbooks, and budgeting money. Also, the text shows how shopping with cash or debit, with a set limited amount, can help reduce spending.

Part two looks at saving and investing money. It shows the ways that long-term saving for someone with a tight budget allows them to splurge occasionally. This section of the book also challenges the reader to think of possible ways to generate extra money that can add to their savings. The third part of the text provides tips on going through financial challenges in life, such as bankruptcy and downsizing. It talks about how adopting

a new budget to fit a new situation can help with a financial challenge.

The book ends with general tips on improving well-being through utilizing free resources/services and adopting fulfilling lifestyle activities. Some tips include using local libraries for free access to the internet, books, and DVDs. She also promotes well-being by discussing how to prepare for the holidays early and plan for a vacation months to a year in advance. She even talks about unplugging from technology from time to time -- a tip we all could use.

There are many concepts in this text that the reader will be familiar with. Still, there's a wealth of basic information that I think is helpful to all audiences. It can cause one to think about some aspect of their finances in a different way. It changed my \$1,000 a year coffee habit by making me analyze how much I spent on Starbucks lattes over time.

Meet & Three

Meet . . .

My name is Charlie Perkins. Normally I am able to avoid talking about myself by mentioning that I have a nine-year-old red standard poodle, who is blind, and adorable. See . . . it probably worked.

And Three . . .

1. I could tell you that I got my library degree from Catholic University, and I have been the access services librarian at Elon since the fall of 2015, but you would much rather know more about my dog, Ginny. Her actual name is Ginger, because she is red. In my defense, I had my two nieces with me when I picked her up, and they decided the dog needed a name right away. Since I am not very creative, I decided to call her Ginger. I mean it isn't quite as obvious as calling her "Red" or "Dog."
2. Normally in these types of profiles I would mention that prior to becoming a librarian, I spent time in the Navy. I served in Japan and in Bahrain before going to law school at Seton Hall. "That's interesting," I can hear you say, but didn't I mention something about my dog being blind? Yes, she has suffered from glaucoma in both eyes and is now totally blind, but after a period of adjustment she is doing very well. Granted, we take our daily walks much more slowly now.
3. After law school I clerked for a year in the criminal trial court in New Jersey before taking a job as a claims adjuster for Travelers Insurance. I can feel you growing impatient, enough with the boring biography already. You want a picture of the dog don't you?



Here you can see her in a poodle's natural habitat, the couch. Yes, she is as fluffy and soft and the picture makes it look.



Charlie Perkins

Reference/Access Services
Librarian

Elon University School of
Law Library
(336) 279-9345
cperkins8@elon.edu

Library Profiles

Barrister Breaks, a new program facilitated by the Charleston School of Law Library



Kathleen (Katie) Brown

Acting Associate Dean for
Information Resources

Charleston School of Law
Sol Blatt Jr. Law Library
843-377-2432
kbrown@charlestonlaw.edu

Beginning in September of 2018, the Charleston School of Law community can find free coffee in The Barrister (the study lounge/coffee shop space) directly outside of the library one afternoon a month. Free coffee in the library is not unique; many law libraries provide coffee and treats at different times of the academic school year, often during finals each semester. The unique and exciting aspect of these particular “afternoons of free coffee” is what else is happening in The Barrister at that time. As you observe the space, you will see pairs of students sitting at café high-top tables studying. However, in the corner where soft seating is set up, you will see eight to twelve individuals from faculty, alumni, students, and staff in informal discussion, asking questions and taking notes. Sometimes, the discussions are heated. Sometimes, they are more pondering, with no final resolution, but they are always engaging, respectful, and contain an underlying current of passion for the legal topic.

The *Barrister Break* is a programming concept I came up with attempting to address several challenges that the Charleston School of Law and other law libraries face on a regular basis. Those challenges are: engaging individuals from our entire law school community of users (students, faculty, staff, alumni and extern hosts); creating a forum for interaction of these users in a standalone building that is a short walk from the law school building; creating a forum to display the passions of our stakeholders, changing the mindset that a library is solely a place for research study; and finally, ensuring that programming hosted by the law library does not always have to be focused on research instruction.

CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF LAW

I believe a law library should not only provide information and instruction but also create an environment that actively fosters inquiries and discourse. If this environment is established, the law library is often the best resource on campus for hosting these forums that sometimes contain difficult or controversial conversations on timely legal topics, because we can couple the discussions with resources that question all sides of the legal topic.

Although I might have had the idea for the *Barrister Breaks*, it never would have made it beyond the concept stage without the support of others from the law school. Kudos on the successful launch of the program go to Deborah Turkewitz, who joined our team this summer as our new reference, faculty, and publications librarian. After sharing my concept with her to create a relaxed forum for people with current and past relationships with our law school that have a wide variety of passions for timely aspects of the law, we established a schedule for speakers. The first and second months of each semester we decided would have a faculty

member facilitating a discussion on a timely legal topic, the third month would be dedicated to an alumni speaker, and the fourth month to the externship program.

Once this speaker schedule was created, Deborah approached the faculty with the concept and goal of the new *Barrister Break* program. In short order, she had two faculty members booked to discuss two very different and dynamic topics.

September's discussion title was "Privacy and Internet Law," and October's title was "What is (and is not) Harassment?" Deborah also took the lead on creating the look and theme of the marketing for these events, so the students would be able to tell in an instant if the print or electronic marketing was for an upcoming *Barrister Break*.

For November, I tapped our director of alumni services, Michael Abro, to assist in helping us find a topic and speaker for the month. She was able to locate Scott Bischoff, a member of the 2008 graduating class who had moved from a large established firm to running his own shop with a partner in the last three months. The discussion's title was "Starting Your Own Firm . . . Almost Everything You Need to Know."

As I am writing this, we have begun working on how to incorporate our externship program into the *Barrister Breaks*. So, I will end this short piece with a "to be continued."

Attention!

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS AVAILABLE

The SEAALL scholarship committee is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships and grants for SEAALL members. Brief descriptions of each scholarship and links to applications are below.

Student Scholarship

Need money to attend library school? Already have a library degree but want to attend law school? The SEAALL student scholarships are designed to encourage library school students and graduates to pursue a career in law librarianship. The scholarship committee will award grants to the student or students whom the scholarship committee determines has indicated a genuine interest in the profession of law librarianship and is likely to pursue a career in law librarianship. Award recipients will also be given a one-year membership to SEAALL.

Deadline: March 8, 2019 [Application](#)

Lucile Elliott Scholarship

Provides financial aid for any purpose reasonably designed to improve one's career in law librarianship. The amount of the award will vary depending on the proposed activity.

Deadline: Feb. 15, 2019 [Application](#)

AALL Annual Meeting Registration Grant

This grant was created to provide funding for a law librarian who lacks financial assistance to attend the AALL annual meeting. The award will be the cost of a full early bird registration to the AALL annual meeting.

Deadline: Feb. 15, 2019 [Application](#)

CONNELL Grant

This grant was created to provide funds for CONELL tuition and a one night stay in a hotel for a law librarian who lacks financial assistance to attend CONELL.

Deadline: Feb. 15, 2019 [Application](#)

Questions about the scholarships? Feel free to contact Beau Steenken, 2018-2019 chair of the scholarship committee, at beau.steenken@uky.edu.

Attention!

SERVICE TO SEAALL AWARD NOMINATIONS

It's time to nominate a dedicated member of SEAALL for the 2019 Service to SEAALL Award. The only difficulty might be in choosing which of the many wonderful, hard-working members you know. But don't worry! You can actually nominate more than one person. The committee will do the hard work of sorting the best honoree.

Eligibility for the award is predicated on these criteria:

- Special service to the chapter
- Sustained record of service to the chapter
- Member of SEAALL for at least five years
- Not a current or immediate past officer

Nominations may be made by submitting a nomination letter and accompanying documentation by email to Ed Hart at edward.hart@untDallas.edu. The deadline is Friday, Feb. 1, 2019, at 5 p.m. (CST).

Prior awardees:

- 2018 - Francis (Fran) X. Norton, Jr.
- 2017 - Edward T. Hart
- 2016 - Pamela Melton
- 2015 - Ken Hirsh
- 2014 - Carol Watson
- 2013 - Jack Bissett
- 2012 - Pam Deemer
- 2011 - Georgia Chadwick
- 2010 - Sally Wambold
- 2009 - Anne Klinefelter
- 2008 - Terry Long
- 2007 - Nancy Johnson
- 2006 - Carol Avery Nicholson
- 2005 - Joyce Manna Janto
- 2004 - Jim Heller
- 2003 - Donna Bausch
- 2002 - Sue Burch
- 2001 - William Beintema
- 2000 - Connie Matzen
- 1999 - Kay Todd
- 1998 - Ed Schroeder
- 1997 - Sally Wiant
- 1996 - Pam Williams
- 1995 - Timothy Coggins
- 1994 - Betty Kern
- 1993 - Mary Smith Forman
- 1992 - Hazel Johnson
- 1991 - Carol Billings
- 1990 - Larry Wenger
- 1989 - Ed Edmonds

Attention!

Want to know the secret to success?

Become an author in the Southeastern Law Librarian!

Share your articles, notes, photos, comments, ideas, rejected blog entries, or anything else that will fit into a Word document in the SEAALL Newsletter! Guaranteed to be your first step to conquering the librarianship world or your money back!

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SEAALL Officers 2018-2019

President

Kristina L. Niedringhaus
Associate Dean for Library & Information Services
and Associate Professor of Law
Georgia State University College of Law Library
P.O. Box 4008
Atlanta, GA 30302-5077
Phone: (404) 413-9140
Email: krisn@gsu.edu

Vice-President / President Elect

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Tallahassee, FL 32306-1601
Phone: (850) 644-7486
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