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Museletter: October 1999

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MUSELETTER

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BRIDGING THE GAP: ALTERNATIVE SOURCES FOR VIRGINIA'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION DECISIONS

In 1997, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission, formerly known as the Industrial Commission, ceased publication of its compilation of decisions in print format. Bound volumes of decisions from 1919-1997 are available in the Virginia Room shelved at KFV 2735 .W6. Recent decisions are only offered by the Commission in disk format.

Commercial vendors scrambled to fill the gap in publication abandoned by the Commonwealth, but no publisher has continued a print version of the opinions. Practitioners have relied on various CD-ROM and web-based products such as West's Virginia CD-ROM library (covering 1980-present) and *CaseFinder* by Geronimo Development Corporation (covering 1985-present).

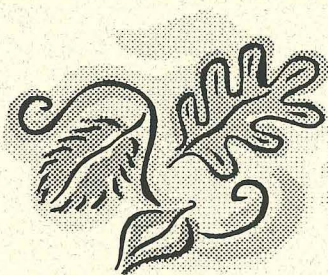
Electronic sources available to University of Richmond Law School faculty and students are as follows:

Virginia Lawyers Weekly Web Site (www.virginialaw.com). Summaries of decisions of the VWC are published as available. Full opinions are available through VLW's fax-on-demand service with an account number.

Lexis Web Site (www.lexis.com/lawschool). Begins coverage in January 1993. Access the opinions through the following links: (1) States Legal-U.S./Combined States/State Workers' Compensation Decisions/ VA Workers' Compensation Decisions; (2) Area of Law-By Topic/Labor/Workers' Compensation Decisions; (3) Area of Law-By Topic/Torts/Workers' Compensation Decisions; or (4) States Legal-U.S./Virginia/Administrative Materials States Legal-U.S./Virginia/Administrative Materials States Legal-U.S./States Agency Decisions Group File.

Westlaw (proprietary software). Begins coverage in 1980. Access the opinions with the database identifier VAWC-ADMIN.

CORRECTION: In the September *Museletter* a line in James Wirrell's introduction was inadvertently left out. James received his Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was then awarded a Lincoln Scholarship at the University of Illinois College of Law and began work on the JD degree there.



FALL 1999

Regular

Library Hours

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.
to Midnight

Mon.-Thurs. - 7:30
a.m. to Midnight

Friday - 7:30 a.m.
to 9:00 p.m.

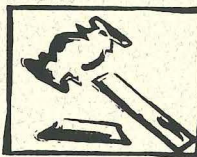
Saturday - 9:00 a.m.
to 9:00 p.m.

The *Museletter* is the official newsletter of the William Taylor Muse Law Library at the School of Law of the University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173.
Editor: Gail Zwirner

At the Movies: *Double Jeopardy*

By Gail Zwirner

Rules of evidence are often ignored and a legal premise stretched in this effort to convince the public that judicial processes are in fact neat and predictable. Tommy Lee Jones (Al Gore's college roommate, by the way) stars in a role he has perfected in many films as a parole officer. Ashley Judd is the parolee, who just spent six years in prison for the murder of her husband — an act she did not commit.



Rating: 3 gavels

The photography is beautiful, beginning in Washington's Puget Sound area, continuing to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, and finishing in New Orleans' fabled French Quarter complete with jazz funeral and an intriguing cemetery scene that you have to see to believe.

What makes a good movie to me is the development of supporting characters. Bruce Greenwood effectively plays the bad boy husband whose role ranges from "devoted" spouse and businessman to eccentric and stylish New Orleans hotelier and *bon vivant* in his second life. Roma Maffia (also on TV's *Profiler*) plays Judd's jaded prison cellmate, who, as former attorney, advises Judd when evidence surfaces that her husband is still alive, that revenge could be sweet and without consequence. (Do we wonder why she's in prison?)

If you're willing to suspend disbelief, you'll have fun watching the character development and the breathtaking scenery in *Double Jeopardy*. However, if you are a strict constructionist, the film will be implausible at points.

(The editor admits there are few movies she does not find entertaining. She almost walked out of *Eyes Wide Shut*, but having been a Stanley Kubrick fan, she sat through it.)

***Double Jeopardy Clause.* The Fifth Amendment provision stating, "nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb." • The amendment was ratified in 1791. (Source: *Black's Law Dictionary*, 7th ed. 1999)**

Ask Doctor Catalog

By Sally Wambold

Q. Dr. Catalog, this is almost the 21st Century. Must I still bother with the catalog?

A. The catalog has made advances and progress, too. You will notice that the Law Library catalog is accessed through the web. You can access it from your home on your laptop and hit the ground running when you get to the library, armed with call numbers. And this catalog has an extremely powerful search engine that wasn't dreamed of by folks who used the card catalog. It is called a *general keyword* search. It searches large parts of the catalog record so that you are not limited to the author, the title, or the subject headings. For example, if your search terms are a chapter of a book and it is listed in a contents note, this general keyword search will retrieve it. (Inputting contents notes is Dr. Catalog's challenge!) You can also search both author and title, like "clancy clear present." You do not need to input every word, just the significant, unique word or words. Avoid common words, like a, and, the, law, congress—you get the idea. Dr. Catalog must admit that, before coffee, it is easy to enter such generic words and really slow down the search.

If you do know the exact title (and often you won't), choose the title search, etc. But if you have some significant pieces of information, the general keyword search can work like magic.