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Museletter: December 2002

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Museletter

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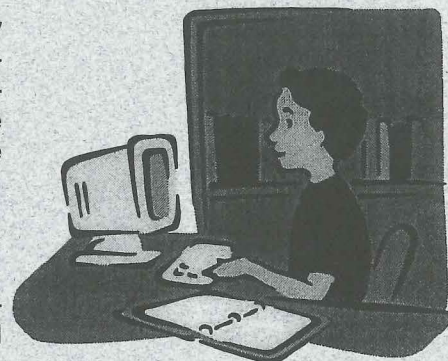
B.N.A. SERVICES ONLINE: EASIER ACCESS TO USEFUL B.N.A. TITLES

BY JAMES WIRRELL

Have you checked out the Law Library's new BNA Online services yet? This fall, the Law Library has added BNA's online services to its virtual collection. This is a subscription service available for faculty and students who are logged on to the Law School's network.

What's Available

The BNA online services include the online versions of BNA publications in such diverse legal areas as anti-trust, banking, bankruptcy, corporate, criminal, e-commerce, environment, family, health care, intellectual property, international, labor and employment, products liability, professional conduct, securities, tax and the U.S. Supreme Court.



Notable BNA publications and collections online are the Bankruptcy Law Reporter, Criminal Law Reporter, Daily Tax Report, Environmental and Safety Library, Family Law Reporter, Labor and Employment Law Library and the U.S. Law Week. A complete list of titles is available at the BNA site accessed via the Law Library search page. Go to <http://lobo.richmond.edu/lawlibrary> and select "online legal research" and then "BNA" from the left menu. Or you can go directly to the Law Library's BNA page at <http://lobo.richmond.edu/lawlibrary/bna.htm>.

Using U.S. Law Week

The introductory page of U.S. Law Week gives highlights of the current week's legal developments. Previous weekly legal news and case alert highlights can be viewed back to July 1997. Users may also review case summaries prepared by BNA editors or the full text opinions. Select "case citations" to view the summaries. Both summaries and full opinions can be browsed by case name, decision date or topic.

A very useful feature of U.S. Law Week is the "Supreme Court Today" service. This provides a daily summary of Supreme Court actions including cases decided, granted review and denied review. Coverage extends back to October 1996. Users can browse through cases arranged by the date of decision (including decisions made to accept or refuse review) and by topic. Alternatively, users can browse cases arranged alphabetically, by docket number or by date filed.

Spring 2002 Regular Library Hours

Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Midnight
Mon.-Thurs.
7:30 a.m. - Midnight
Friday
7:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Saturday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Spring 2002 hours
begin on Sunday,
January 5, 2003

For
Winter Break Hours
please see page 2

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B.N.A. Services Online
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On the administrative end of things, it is possible to review the Court's journal of proceedings for each day. If you are interested in a case that the Court has agreed to hear in the future you can check the upcoming argument schedules to see when the Court will hear the arguments of your case and how long those arguments may take. For cases that have already been argued you can read reviews of the arguments heard before the Court. These reviews are written by BNA editors and are not official.

Examples of the usefulness of U.S. Law Week are not difficult to find. One faculty member wanted to see a list of environmental cases for which the Supreme Court had recently granted a writ of certiorari. U.S. Law Week's "Supreme Court Today" service permitted such a search. The faculty member selected "Supreme Court Today", then selected "Topical" and "Cases Granted Review" from the right hand menu bar. This provided the needed list of cases.

If you would like to learn more about using U.S. Law Week or any of the B.N.A. services, please feel free to contact one of the law librarians. They will be happy to provide you with a more in-depth introduction to this new library resource.



Winter Break Hours

Happy Holidays!

Effective Friday, December 13 through Saturday, January 4

Friday, December 13
 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24—Wednesday, January 1
 Closed

Saturday, December 14 & Sunday, December 15
 Closed

Thursday, January 2—Friday, January 3
 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Monday, December 16—Friday, December 20
 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 4
 Closed

Saturday, December 21—Sunday, December 22
 Closed

Sunday, January 5
 RESUME REGULAR
 SPRING HOURS

Monday, December 23
 7:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.



Website of the Month—Finding Basic British Law on the Internet

This month there will not be just one website, but rather several. They all provide quick and easy access to primary British law on the internet. Most of these sites are official British government sources and the information that is to be obtained is mostly from the mid-1990's on.

A good basic site to begin with is the British and Irish Legal Information Institute (<http://www.bailii.org/>) which aims to provide access to all freely available court opinions and legislation in Britain and Ireland. This site permits users to search for legislation and court opinions for Ireland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales, Scotland, and the United Kingdom generally.

The United Kingdom Parliament has its own site (<http://www.parliament.uk/>) where one can search the recent Hansard reports (think Congressional Record); bills before Parliament; and a directory of Members of Parliament (M.P.'s) and Peers. For Americans who are linguistically challenged when faced with British government vocabulary, this Parliamentary site also includes an online glossary of terms.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office (<http://www.hmso.gov.uk/>) is the internet site for the official government printer in Britain. From this site you can find, among other things, recent Acts of Parliament (<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm>) and Statutory Instruments (<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm>). Acts of Parliament are analogous to American Statutes at Large while Statutory Instruments are the British government's regulations. The HMSO site also permits one to search for legislation from the various sub-parts of the United Kingdom such as Northern Ireland and Scotland.

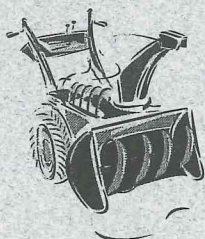


William Taylor Muse, for whom the library is named, was the University of Richmond's law school Dean from 1947 until his death in 1971.

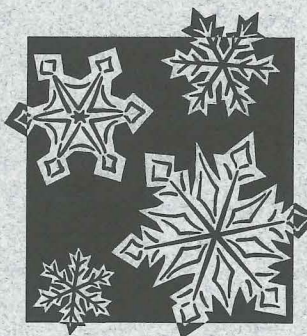
Dean Muse also served as President of the Virginia Bar Association and various commissions of the Virginia General Assembly, and authored the Virginia annotation to the Restatement on Torts.

Winter Closings

With winter upon us, it is important to know where to find out if the Law School is closed due to inclement weather. Your best bet is to call the **University's Emergency Hotline** at **289-8760**. This is your conclusive and official source for closing information. Law students can also call the Law School's Dean's Office at 289-8740 for updates specific to the Law School.



If you can not make it to a telephone, you can listen to radio stations WRVA (AM 1140), WRVQ (FM 94.5) or WCVE (FM 88.9) or watch television stations WTVR (CBS) - Channel 6, WRIC (ABC) - Channel 8, WWBT (NBC) - Channel 12, or WCVE/WCVW (PBS) - Channel 23.



Holiday Humor

Now that exams are over, do you need a little chuckle for the holiday season? There is a good supply of law related holiday humor to be found on the internet. Following are some sites to tickle your funny bone.



To really impress their friends and family about their upcoming legal career, law students can cut and paste this legalese seasonal greeting for their holiday cards (http://www.baetzler.de/humor/lawyers_seasonal_greeting.html). Just don't be surprised if you aren't invited to Christmas dinner.

At "A Legal Christmas" James Fuqua has collected a few jokes including some interesting legalese renditions of "Twas the Night Before Christmas". (<http://www.jamesfuqua.com/lawyers/jokes/christmas.shtml>).

Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't help but laugh at this account of the ACLU suing Santa Claus for invasion of children's privacy. Check out "ACLU vs. Santa Claus" at http://www.baetzler.de/humor/santa_lawsuit.html. And just so you know, the Law Library regularly contributes the names of those with overdue books or unpaid fines to Santa Claus's vast "naughty or nice" database.

If you haven't had enough quizzes, what with exams and all, try this Christmas Quiz where your task is to decipher titles for Christmas carols. Find the quiz (and the answers!) at <http://www.commonplacebook.com/humor/xmas/quiz1.shtml>.



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