

# Marshall News

## Welcome

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library extends a special welcome to the Class of 2010, returning students, all new and returning faculty members.

Get ready for an exciting 2007 - 2008 academic school year. We have a number of training opportunities to assist both students and faculty members. We encourage you to stay abreast of current happenings through the *Marshall News* and the informational postings throughout the law library.

If you have a special request for a research consultation or classroom presentation, the librarians are here to help.

Please stop by the Circulation Desk to meet our awesome law library staff. Pick-up some of the library's helpful publications including the **2007-2008 Library Guide, Electronic Databases Guide, and Location Guide**, an abundance of pathfinders, bibliographies and other research guides.

They provide a wealth of information.

New law students were encouraged to take a library tour which were conducted during first-year computer orientation training and the Law Library's

Open House. If you missed your tour see any librarian.

This newsletter will provide some answers and insights to enrich your law school experience.

### DON'T MISS VALUABLE INFORMATION

Updates are posted to the Law Library Web page and via **TWEN** emails. Make sure you are connected.

### Again, Welcome!

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

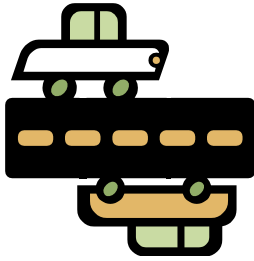
Pathfinders, Research Guides & Bibliographies	2
Brown Bag Sessions	2
Attention Research Assistants	3
Six New Databases	3
Let the Games Begin	4
Feedback from Library Survey	4
Vandalized Library Books	4
Meet the New Staff	5
Helpful Numbers	6
Library Rules	6

## Did You Miss Open House? *Time is Ticking*

### Pick-up Your *Free* Approved Drink Container From the Circulation Desk



*While supplies last*



## Need Some Direction in Your Legal Research Hunt; Try our Pathfinders, Research Guides, and Bibliographies

The library has revised several of its research guides, pathfinders and bibliographies. These materials point you in the direction of useful print and electronic materials. They are located near the library entrance and are made available in classes and library seminars.

Bibliographies are lists that reference material on a specific subject. Our bibliographies include references to articles in journals as well as books.

Pathfinders and research guides provide in-depth information on an area of law or a particular resource.

Why reinvent the wheel? These guides have done most of the work for you.

They can save you valuable time and quickly expand your knowledge of how to use a particular research tool.

In addition to the various handouts, the library staff can also provide a wealth of assistance. Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian, and Taciana Williams, Learning Resource Librarian are available to visit classrooms and discuss ways of expanding and improving your research.

Tracy Timmons, Electronic Services Librarian will teach database classes throughout the school year. The Electronic Database Guide provides the needed usernames and passwords to access these sources.

## ***Brown Bag Sessions***

Brown Bag Sessions are returning for another year. Each session will focus on an area of legal research or the use of an available electronic database.

Sessions will start in September. The first session will cover Developing a Research Strategy and available electronic databases at TMSL. A monthly schedule will be posted in the Library on the information kiosk and is available at the Circulation Desk.

Please note, schedules may be altered to meet student needs. If there is a topic you

would like to see covered, please contact Prof. DeCarlous Spearman by email [dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu).

If you missed it in legal research; if you have a research paper due; or if you have to draft a legal document, attending a Brown Bag Session can help!

Come join us for any or all sessions.



## ATTENTION RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Are you a new Research Assistant? Do you have a clue how to help your assigned professor conduct their needed research? Have you been asked to cite check a 35 pages article and don't know where to start? Then we offer an exciting opportunity for you to prepare for your tenure as a Research Assistant.

This training is especially designed for you. We will give you the keys to performing scholarly research. No longer can you limit your research to Westlaw and Lexis. We will introduce you to an in-depth look at performing interdisciplinary research. The topics discussed will include: EBSCO, netLibrary, TDNet Journal Locator, WorldCat, etc.

This seminar is entitled, *Writing Winning Articles*. Look for complete information to be posted in the law library.

In the meantime, use these helpful hints to get to the right source. To find materials owned by the Law Library, use **ALEX** the Law Library's Online Public Access Catalog. Journal articles are not available in the Catalog.

To find law-related articles, cases, codes or administrative regulations, take a look at the Law Library's Electronic Resources webpage.

For more information, contact Taciana Williams, Learning Resources Librarian.

## Six New Electronic Databases this Fall

Over the summer the law library reevaluated the electronic databases we owned and decided it was time to add a few more sources to our list. We are pleased to announce the addition of the following online databases:

### **BePress (Berkeley Electronic Press)**

Journal of Tort Law  
Review of Law & Economics

### **BNA Core Collection:**

ABA/BNA Lawyer's Manual on Prof. Conduct  
Antitrust & Trade Regulation Report  
Criminal Law Reporter  
Family Law Reporter

Labor Relations Reporter  
Securities Regulation & Law Report  
United States Law Week

### **HeinOnline's**

U.S. Congressional Documents Collection  
World Trial Collection

### **Immigration Law Interactive Drafting System Network (IDS)**

And

### **RIA Estate Planning Systems with Treaties**

To learn how to access these databases consult the Electronic Database Guide, or consult the Electronic Services Librarian, Tracy Timmons..

# Let the Games Begin

Last year the Law Library added a monthly game series to our educational lineup for your learning pleasure. The games were designed to help students learn more about the law library and/or to improve your legal

research skills and some games were **just for fun**.

Each month a new game will be posted. This year the tradition will be continued. The games will restart in September. The first game will be

sent out via TWEN and the Law Library Bulletin Board.

Don't miss the opportunity to have fun, buff up your legal research skills and of course, win some prizes. What's the fun of knowledge if it has not immediate gain...

## Feedback on Library Survey

In an effort to improve customer service, the TMSL Library surveyed the students in Spring of 2007. There were 151 responses to the survey with the respondents being evenly split between the 3 classes. The survey focused on the ways in which the students use the library. 87% of the respondents are in the library to study, 50 % come in to use the printers, while over 30 % come in to use the computers, study rooms and check email.

One third of the respondents mentioned titles or subjects they would like us to purchase. The most requested items were study aids. In response to this request, we purchased several new Emmanuel's and Crunchtime titles.

Respondents requested more training in research skills and how to use library resources. Those classes are in the works. Watch for notices!

The computer lab was

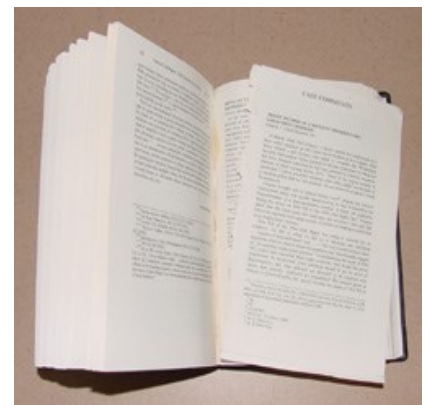
rated good or excellent by 84 % of the respondents as was the assistance given at the circulation desk.

One third of respondents rated the noise level in the library as poor. In response to this concern, the library staff is making an all out effort to reduce the noise in the library so please be considerate of other patrons and do not hold conversations in the library.

# Vandalized Library Books

Several books have been found vandalized with ripped and/or missing pages. The loose leaf books are experiencing the highest occurrence of vandalism. Vandalized books hurt the library and its users, i.e. law students. Please report any

acts of vandalism. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please take this personally, the next book they rip or steal may be the one you need!





## Meet the New Staff Members



### **Taciana Williams, Learning Resource Librarian**

During her tenure in law school, Ms. Williams discovered a passion for legal research. So strong

was this interest that it became very clear to her that professional fulfillment would lead outside of the practice of law. Once she discovered that the librarians in many law school libraries had law degrees, she knew that a career in law librarianship was perfect for her. What she brings to the TMSL Library family is an unrelenting passion for understanding the underpinnings of the law and the vast array of legal sources and resources. Ms. Williams counts it a privilege to have the opportunity to personally invest in the students and faculty of TMSL.

Currently, Williams is completing a master's in Library and Information Science at the University of North Texas. Prior to coming to TMSL, she worked at Southern Methodist University's Underwood Law Library as an Assistant Reference Librarian. She completed a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans in 2006. Williams also was Cum Laude graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

The law library welcomes Professor Williams to the library staff and to the staff of the Legal Research and Writing Program.



### **Danny Norris, Faculty Service Librarian**

Danyahel (Danny) Norris was born in Chicago, IL and later relocated to Ar-

lington, Texas in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. Norris studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Houston and received his Bachelor of Science in 2003.

He became a part of the TMSL family when came to law school in 2004 and graduated in May 2007. While at the law school, Norris participated in the work-study program in the law library during his 2L year, as well as helping recruit for prospective students as a student ambassador. While at the law school Norris won first Place in the 2007

James Weldon Johnson Poetry Contest, which was sponsored by the law library. The prize included a 6 day PMBR review course which helped prepare him for the July 2007 bar.

While he remained active in the law school, Norris also found time to clerk at two firms during law school.

Norris is excited about joining the TMSL faculty and looks forward to continuing his contributions to the TMSL family as the new Faculty Research Librarian.



## Helpful Law Library Numbers

*Marshall News* is a publication of the Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library. The newsletter is available in paper and electronic format. Copies are distributed to the law school faculty and staff via email and paper. Students can acquire a paper copy of the newsletter in the law school or from the law library web page at: [www.tsulaw.edu](http://www.tsulaw.edu). Please send all comments, contributions or concerns to:

DeCarlous Spearman,  
Interim Law Library Director  
Thurgood Marshall School of  
Law Library  
3100 Cleburne  
Houston, Texas 77004  
[dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

**Acquisitions** 713-313-1008

**Administration** 713-313-7328

713-313-1007

**Audio/Visual & Instructional  
Equipment (allow 2 working days)**

713-313-1007

**Cataloging** 713-313-1005

**Circulation** 713-313-7125

**Computer Help** 713-313-1120

**Course Reserve Materials  
(allow 2 working days)**

713-313-1157

**Class Instruction**

713-313-1009

713-313-1106

**Government Documents**

713-313-1978

**Faculty Assistance**

713-313-1107

**Fax Number** 713-313-4483

**Interlibrary Loan (ILL)**

713-313-1005

**Passwords or Training**

*(Lexis, Westlaw or LoisLaw)*

713-313-7328

**Reference** 713-313-1106

713-313-1108

713-313-1009



## Please Follow All Library Rules



**ON-**

- ***NO FOOD***
- ***DRINKS in proper containers***
- ***QUIET PLEASE!***
- ***NO TALKING on cell phones***
- ***Your assistance is appreciated!***

