

FROM THE STAFF  
OF THE  
THURGOOD  
MARSHALL  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
LIBRARY



# Marshall News

Volume 6 Issue 1

September 2009

Marshall News is the newsletter of record for the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library. It serves the campus of Texas Southern University and the surrounding community. TMSL Library boasts a staff of 9 professional librarians and 7 support staff.

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## From the Director's Desk



To the class of 2012 and all new faculty members, I bid you welcome. To all our returning students, faculty and staff, I say welcome back. This will indeed be a reward-

ing year.

To the entering class I want to bid you well. You have entered a sacred place where you will test your personal level of endurance, law school. There will be questions that don't appear to have answers. Times when you feel you can't take it any more. Days when all you want is your family or significant other. Nights when you will wish for a hot shower and a long sleep. Hold on, summer will be here before you know it.

But now is the time to hit the books. To become acquainted with the law library like you never have before. Let it become your place of solitude. A place where answers lead themselves to you. Come in from the weary classes and long tutorials and seek tranquility.

To sections 1 & 2 of Lawyering Process, you are supposed to be "Spearman babies." I should have been teaching you all this semester. But life had other plans and after having a stroke in February of this year, I am thankful to be back. To all the 1L's, I say study hard, don't give up, and come and see us when you need to.

The law library is your safe haven.

We are here for you! Welcome!

DeCarlous Spearman, Law Library Director,  
[dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

## Laws of the Law Library

**BEVERAGES** are permitted in an approved, non-spill container. Patrons with drinks in unapproved containers will be asked to discard or remove such items.

**FOOD** will be permitted in the form of individual snack size containers of dry foods like chips, cookies, candy, granola bars, and

other relatively non-messy, individually packed snack foods. Please discard all food containers in the trash cans near the study rooms, basement elevator and at the main library exit. All library staff members are authorized to enforce this policy.



ACCEPTABLE

UNACCEPTABLE

Food is considered acceptable as long as it meets the following conditions:

*continued on page 3*

## Joseph Plumber, Learning Resources Librarian

The law library welcomes a new member to its staff, Mr. Joseph K. Plumber, Esq. Mr. Plumber joins us as the Learning Resources Librarian. Among his many responsibilities, he is responsible for the publication of this newsletter, teaching legal research, providing bibliographic instruction and coordinating the Brown Bag Lectures and Annual Clerkship Crash Course.

My advice to law students is to “always ask [about] what you do not understand.” Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a house built on knowledge and experience. It is im-

portant that during a student’s law school tenure that they take full advantage of the brick and mortar that holds this school together.

**“One must always show gratitude and give back to someone or something that afforded them the opportunity to better themselves,” says Mr. Plumber.**

My motivation comes from one of my philosophies’ of life which is: “One must always show gratitude and give back to someone or something that afforded them the opportunity to better themselves.” Thurgood Marshall not only

allowed me to obtain a law degree but it fostered my professional and personal growth. Therefore, I am motivated to pass on the legacy, the knowledge, and the passion to the students and the school.

A member of the Texas Bar, prior to becoming Learning Resources Librarian, Joseph received his Juris Doctorate in 2008 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Joseph also attended Xavier University of Louisiana where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. His office is located in the Law Library office 136.



Joseph K. Plumber,  
Esq.  
Learning Resources  
Librarian  
[jkplumber@  
tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:jkplumber@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

## Cicely Taylor, Loose Leaf & Upkeep Services

Cicely Taylor has joined the TMSL family as Loose Leaf Upkeep Services Clerk in the Technical Service Department. She previously worked for the Houston Public Library (HPL) as a Library Assistant. She attended Texas Southern University where she received her Bachelor’s in Computer Science.

A native Houstonian, Ms. Taylor was drawn to working in libraries because of their “peaceful environment” and “access to learning new things.” In particular, Ms. Taylor is drawn to law because of her interests in computer forensics and law enforcement. She is confident TMSL will afford her many

new learning opportunities.

Cicely brings a wealth of knowledge to the library from HPL. While there she staffed the Circulation Desk, created periodical databases, updated serial materials.

We welcome, Ms. Taylor.



Cicely Taylor,  
Loose Leaf & Upkeep  
Services Clerk,  
[cptaylor@  
tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:cptaylor@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

## Staff Member Reaches Professional Milestone

Congratulations to Patriona Epperson on recently receiving her Master’s in Library and Information

Science from the University of North Texas. Ms. Epperson is the Loose Leaf & Upkeep Services

Supervisor. Says Epperson, “I would like to thank the library staff for their support.”



Patriona Epperson,  
[pepperson@  
tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:pepperson@tmslaw.tsu.edu)



1L Students: Mark your calendars. You will receive full access to LexisNexis after attending a mandatory training during the week of Oct. 19th—23rd. Check with your Legal Research Instructor for more details.



**Become a fan  
of the law  
library  
today!!!**



Foods from vending machines like the one pictured above are generally acceptable in the library.

## Tips for Easy Research Using LexisNexis

by Adriana A. Ramirez, Esq., Account Executive

### LexisNexis Case Briefs

LexisNexis Case Briefs provide a clear and concise snapshot of the case facts and holding, while LexisNexis Headnotes provide an exclusive view into the rule of law for each issue raised. Students can easily use LexisNexis *Get and Print* to retrieve all the briefs for the cases assigned in their courses this semester in one search. Then, those briefs can simply be copied and pasted into outlines!

### Class & Exam Preparation: Using LexisNexis Case Briefs

- Click the *Get a Document* tab at the top of the Research System.
- Click *by Citation* in the red bar underneath.
- Type *248 N.Y. 339* or your own citation.
- Click the *Case Brief* radio button.
- Click the red *Get* button to retrieve the case brief.

### Retrieving Multiple Citations at Once

- Click the *Get a Docu-*

*ment* tab at the top of the Research System.

- Click *by Citation* in the red bar underneath.
- Click the blue *Get & Print* link to access the Get & Print form.
- Complete the form typing all citations *separated by Hard Returns or Semicolons*.
- Click the red *Get* button to retrieve all your citations at once.

☞ Use Get & Print to retrieve *Shepard's® reports & Case Briefs* for citations as well as the citations themselves.

### Easily Find Cases and Secondary Sources by Topic or Headnote

Start Your Research with Your Topic

- Click the *Search* tab at the top of the Research System.
- Click *by Topic or Headnote* in the red bar underneath.
- Select your Topic using:

*Option 1: Find a Legal Topic* Find a Headnote Topic through a terms search (e.g., type minimum contacts and click the red

*Find* button to get all the topics related to minimum contacts).

### *Option 2: Explore Legal Topics*

Find a Headnote Topic by drilling down through the topical categories (e.g., Civil Procedure > Jurisdiction > Personal Jurisdiction & In Rem Actions > In Personam Actions > Minimum Contacts).

- Once you have selected a *Headnote Topic*, you will find related case law and secondary sources through the search form for that topic.

☞ Search cases and secondary sources covering your *Topic* with terms or retrieve all the cases with your *Headnote Topic*.

### LexisNexis Headnotes

Identify and organize the major points of law in a case using the exact language of that case rather than an editor's interpretation.

For more tips, email Adriana at [adriana.ramirez@lexisnexis.com](mailto:adriana.ramirez@lexisnexis.com).

## Library Rules (cont'd from page 1)

- If you can buy it in a vending machine;
- It's not a liquid, frozen or wet;
- And it's not meant to be eaten with a fork or spoon.

Please help us make this new Rule work. Continuous violations may result in the reinstating of the original **NO FOOD RULE!**

Drinks and food are NOT

allowed in the computer lab and photocopy area.

Let's work together to ensure our library is a place where we all can work/study comfortably.



## Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library Staff

### Administration

DeCarlous Spearman	Director Law Library	713-313-7328	dspearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Taciana Williams	Associate Director	713-313-1009	tawilliams@tmslaw.tsu.edu

### Law Librarians

Olusola Babatunde	Government Documents Librarian	713-313-1978	obabatunde@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Evelyn Beard	Technical Services Director	713-313-1005	ebeard@tmslaw.tsu.edu
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Gwen Henderson	Circulation Librarian	713-313-1157	ghenderson@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Danny Norris	Faculty Research Librarian	713-313-1182	dnorris@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Joseph Plumbar	Learning Resources Librarian	713-313-1199	jkplumbar@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Tracy Timmons	Electronic Resources Librarian	713-313-1108	ttimmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu

### Support Staff

Denise Cebrun	Cataloging Assistant	713-313-1148	dcebrun@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Cynthia Davis	Office Manager	713-313-1008	cdavis@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Patrina Epperson	Loose Leaf & Update Svc Supervisor	713-313-1011	pepperson@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Maia Ford	Government Documents Clerk	713-313-4472	mford@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Shon Harris	Serial / Mail Clerk	713-313-1012	sharris@tmslaw.tsu.edu
Elsie Kelley	Administrative Assistant	713-313-1007	ekelley@tmslaw.tsu.edu
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Cicely Taylor	Loose Leaf & Update Services Clerk	713-313-4470	cptaylor@tmslaw.tsu.edu

# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Mid-term Examinations October 5-9, 2009</b>						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Mandatory LexisNexis &amp; Westlaw Training for 1Ls</b>						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Stu's Views

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They said to "think outside the box."  
Naturally, I assumed "box" meant "law."

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