

FROM THE STAFF
OF THE
THURGOOD
MARSHALL
SCHOOL OF LAW
LIBRARY



Marshall News

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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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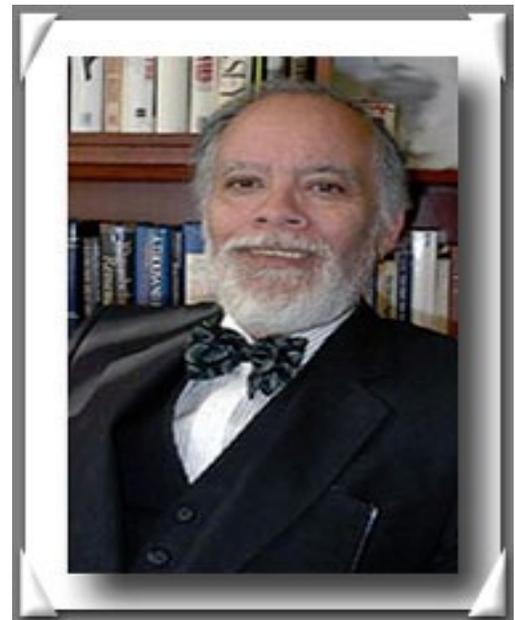
Classic Legal Texts: The Hill Collection has Arrived

A new collection has been added to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library stacks. The illustrious collection once owned by the late Professor Donald K. Hill is on display in the library. The books are located in the wooden bookcases along the wall.

Anyone that knew Professor Hill knew of his thirst for knowledge and love of reading. The books donated by his family were of his personal collection housed in his personal library. Professor Hill treasured his library as some of us were fortunate to find out. I along with some of my other classmates were allowed to alphabetize the books in Spring 2006.

The books are classic legal texts reproduced in genuine leather bindings. The collection includes legal classics and notable trials. The display was set up by Reference Librarian, Nannette Collins. The books are listed in the online catalog and have been assigned Library of Congress call numbers. Call number stickers were not put on the spine of the books due to the leather bindings (which would de-value the books).

The books are shelved in alphabetical order by title. The cases are locked but the books are available for use in the library. If you would like to peruse the collection, please see Mrs. Kelley or



Ms. Collins.

Knowing Your Library

Many people only think of the law library as a place to study, but the library is so much more than that. The law library can help you get through your tumultuous 1L year and assist you while practicing law. The law library houses supplements, form books, treatises, legal encyclopedias, legal periodicals, electronic resources, and other various resources needed to aid students as well as practicing attorneys.

For students, we have old exams, supplements, commercial outlines, and other materials to help

you understand difficult concepts or just to practice. For practicing attorneys, we have O'Connor titles, civil and criminal formbooks, and court rules to guide you through the process of practicing law.

If you are unsure of whether the library can assist you do not hesitate to ask any one of the librarians on staff and they will be delighted to help you in anyway possible.

Singing The Bluebook Blues? Bluebook is Now Online!

The Bluebook is one of those books either you understand it or it is like reading a foreign language. Many students finish law school with general knowledge about the bluebook but are unable to use the bluebook effectively. Whether it is jumping from page to page or reading all of Rule 10, the Bluebook can create a ball of confusion for those not fluent in its text.

For those who continue to experience the Bluebook blues an online Bluebook database has arrived. The internet now provides you with an online

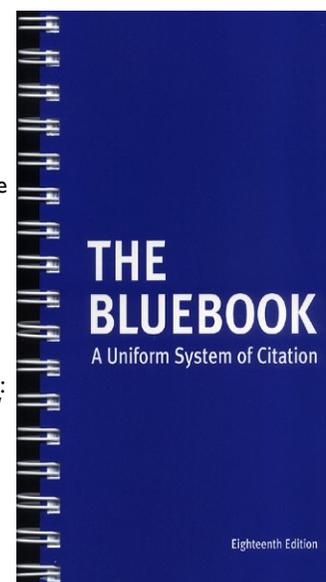
outlet to assist you with general citation questions for free and full access to the Bluebook for a yearly subscription fee.

The site was launched by the Columbia, Harvard, Pennsylvania, and Yale Law Review Associations. The categories addressed by the website are: cases, citation structure, cross-references, miscellany, periodicals, punctuation, quotations, signals, statutes, and subdivisions.

For more in depth citation help, the website owners allow you to purchase a yearly sub-

scription which grants full access to the Bluebook online. For those writers on the go, this will allow you to access the Bluebook anywhere internet access is available. It is official, you may now leave your bluebook at home for a nominal fee.

To visit the website the URL is: <http://www.legalbluebook.com/Public/BlueTips.aspx>.



Conducting Legal Research in Google Scholar

By Taciana Williams, Associate Director

In mid-November, Google added legal opinions and periodicals as searchable content through Google Scholar. The materials are accessible as a radio button that limits searches for legal materials. According to Google, the searchable collection spans the year 1950 through the present. With this addition, Google offers these legal materials to the general population in a highly user-friendly, searchable format. Amidst the excitement of keyword searchable legal information, there are, admittedly, some encouraging aspects of Google's new development. At the same time though, there are some discouraging aspects as well.

The good news is, of course, the robust keyword searching capabilities that have been in-

troduced to legal research.



Stand on the shoulders of giants

[Google Home](#) - [About Google](#) - [About Google Scholar](#)

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Through its sophisticated algorithms, some law librarians find that Google provides related materials that are more relevant than those results provided by major commercial legal databases. Thus, a search for "endangered species act" will return results with the opinion Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife ranked at the top, a seminal case; as opposed to some other case or article that

may have the keywords

"endangered species act" more often throughout its text, but may not be as relevant. Also, Google Scholar provides a "how cited" tab for the opinions it provides. This tab links the searcher to other cases and articles that cite a particular case, much like a citator.

The bad news is not all legal articles are available in full text to the general public. In fact, many of the arti-

cles I retrieved after conducting a search contained links to Hein Online with the option to pay \$19.99 for temporary access. Still, the result provided enough information that the searcher could take the citation to the local law library to locate the full text article. Another point for improvement is in the "how cited" tab. The cases retrieved cannot be sorted by hierarchy of court, jurisdiction, topic or date. As a



Studying for Finals: We Have Extended Hours for You

The law library will be open for extended hours during the reading and final exam periods. Students are encouraged to take advantage of two additional hours of study time.

Extended hours will be in effect beginning on Monday, November 30, 2009 to December 10, 2009. The hours are as follows:

Mon– Thurs 7am—2am

Fri & Sat 7am—12am

Sun 12pm—2am

Students, please note that extended hours are a courtesy. During these times, only law students will be allowed in the library. Doors are not to be propped and students must remain in the library and use the facilities in the basement. Adhering to these rules will ensure a safe, incident-free reading period.

After acing your exam, you are welcome to visit the library during the holiday season. We are open Monday through Friday from 8am—5pm (Dec.

11—Dec. 18 and Jan. 4-8 2009). All hours are subject to change. Please visit or call the circulation desk for up-to-date hours of operation.

Remember: As you study for finals, you are not alone. Any librarian can assist you in locating study aids.

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law boasted a 71% bar passage rate for the July 2009 Exam, the library wants to aid those taking the exam in February to push that passage rate even higher.

Attention February 2010 Bar Exam Takers

Cannot afford all of the expensive bar preparatory classes? Or just looking for more practice? Well the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library has exactly what you need to obtain either goal. On reserve are many bar exam titles which can aid you in your preparation for the February 2010 Bar Exam. Some of the titles that are available are:

PMBR– RED & BLUE BOOKS
Texas Procedure and Evidence Workshops
MicroMash Bar Review– MPT and Essay Topics
PLI Multistate Bar Review
Previous Bar Exam Questions
BarBri Books

There are many more titles the library owns.

If you wish to use any of these materials, bring your student identification card to the librarian on duty and ask for the title you wish to use. Because of the limited number of books, the books may only be used while in the library. Our library staff looks forward to helping you prepare and acing the bar exam.



Librarians Supplementing Your Knowledge Through Brown Bags

The Brown Bag Series (BBS) provide students with informal yet engaging opportunities to discuss new and reliable print and electronic resources necessary for conducting legal research. These series are exclusive to TMSL students only.

BBS serve to clear up any confusion students may have after completing their course in legal research; to brush up in preparation for writing a re-

search paper; or the use if an available electronic database,

Sessions start in the Spring. A schedule will be made available at the Circulation Desk. Please note schedules may be altered to meet student demand or faculty request.

Each session will focus on a different area of legal research. If there is a topic you would like covered, please contact the Learning Resources Librarian,

Joseph Plumber, by email at jkplumber@tmslaw.tsu.edu.

Also be on the lookout for the announcement of the Clerkship Crash Course in Legal Research which is normally held in the beginning of April.

Please take advantage of both offering provided to you by your own library; both will be beneficial to you now and in the future.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library Staff

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December 2009

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- November 30, 2009– Holiday Hours Begin
- December 12, 13, 2009 – Closed
- December 14, 2009– Library Hours are 8a.m.-5p.m. and closed on the weekends.
- December 19,20, 2009– Closed
- December 23- January 3, 2010– Library Closed
- January 4, 2010- Library open from 8a.m.-5 p.m.