

# Marshall News

AUGUST 14, 2006

## Welcome

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library extends a special welcome to the Class of 2009 and all new faculty members.

We also want to welcome back our returning students and faculty. We are looking forward to an exciting 2006 - 2007 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 Reference/Circulation Desk to meet our awesome law library staff if you have not done so. While you are there, pick up some of the library's helpful publications such as the **2006-2007 Library Guide**, **2006-2007 Electronic Databases Guide**, **Location Guide** and an abundance of pathfinders, bibliographies and other research guides. They provide a wealth of information. Don't delay; pick up these guides today.

New law students are encour-

## Library TOURS

aged to take a library tour. Library tours will be 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.



### Open House



### 1st Year

### Students

**Aug. 10 & 11,  
2006**



### Returning

### Students

**Aug. 14 & 15,  
2006**



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### Regular Law Library Hours

Monday-Thursday	7 a.m. - 12 a.m.
Friday	7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 12 a.m.

### Reference Hours

Monday-Thursday	7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

# Pathfinders/Research Guides/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 in the library 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.

Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian, and L. Monique Gonzalez, 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.

**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY**  
**Pathfinder Series**  
 Revised September 2003  
 By DeCarlous Spearman, Associate Librarian  
**WEST DIGEST SYSTEM**

**I. What is a Digest?**  
 A digest is a topical arrangement of very brief summaries of the points of law found in a case. The digest entries are arranged in a table of contents, arranged in that order so that you can find a case in your case materials that cover your case. The handbook includes citations to other cases.

The logical approach of the West Digest System helps you to understand legal issues in context. A digest allows you to analyze your research topic and discover in that best case, statute and other relevant authorities for your research problem. This process is not complete if you haven't understood using digests.

A digest is a **case finding tool**. Digests do not interpret cases. That is your job. Digests allow you to find the cases, and only a lawyer can interpret them. The handbook may be the best statement of the law found in a case. Therefore, it is vital to obtain a complete understanding of the case you read and the entire case.

**II. How Do I Find The Current Digest Entries And Key Numbers?**  
 There are many ways to find digests and key numbers to help you research. One way is to use finding aids within the digest itself, such as the Descriptive Word Index. These materials help you on the researcher's previous knowledge.

Topic	Where to find it	How to find it
Case specific issues	Case specific issues	Case specific issues
Case specific issues	Case specific issues	Case specific issues
Case specific issues	Case specific issues	Case specific issues

\*Often, using a word index of materials usually yields the best results. Case you find one or more topics and you consider that one or more could be helpful sources within the digest. Return to one of them or other key numbers under that topic that may also be relevant to your research problem.

# Return of the Brown Bag Sessions



Back by popular demand, the 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. 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 display and is available at the Circulation/Reference Desk.

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

would like to see covered, please contact DeCarlous Spearman by email dspearman@tsulaw.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

If you are a new Research Assistant, we have planned an exciting opportunity for you to prepare for you tenure as Research Assistants.

This training is especially designed for you. We will give you the keys to performing scholarly research. We will go beyond Westlaw and Lexis and take 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 Electronic Resources page which can be located from the Law Library's webpage.

For more information, contact L. Monique Gonzalez, Learning Resources Librarian .

### Special Collections Addition: Records of the National Negro Business League

We are pleased to announce a long awaited addition to our Special Collections -- Records of the National Negro Business League (NNBL). This invaluable microfilm collection consists of two parts: Pt. 1 -- Annual Conference Proceedings and Organizational Records (1900-1919) and Pt. 2 -- Correspondence and Business Records (1900-1923).

The NNBL was founded by the late Honorable Dr. Booker T. Washington in 1900 with the express intent to improve the "commercial, agricultural, educational, and industrial advancement" of African Americans during the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Interestingly, his principal secretary-treasurer was Houston native, Emmet J. Scott -- the late uncle of our beloved local resident African American historian Mrs. Thelma Scott Bryant (Mrs. Bryant is now 100 years old and resides in Third Ward). This collection contains numerous correspondences between Mr. Scott and other members of the NNBL. It also has scores of printed materials chronicling key historical and social events impacting various communities

throughout the nation, especially Houston and Texas in general. Most of all, page after page divulges the wide range of successful African American business enterprises in spite of the adverse social conditions prevalent at the time.

Another important point of interest is that the NNBL collection provides insight into the elite of black business men and women and an emerging upwardly mobile black middle class. Additionally, the life and times of Dr. Booker T. Washington couldn't be better revealed. The NNBL is an excellent resource for southern historians, social scientists, labor lawyers, African American history majors as well as a superb research tool for those interested in race relations, American politics, American South, southern industries, economic development, educational development, and civic organizations.

For more information about the NNBL Collection, you may contact Karim Rand, Coordinator of Government Documents & Special Collections.

