As the new school year starts, it is fitting to reflect on the projects that the Georgetown Law Library completed since the last Friends Newsletter and the exciting plans for the coming year.

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

For most of this year the library crafted an ambitious five-year plan to help build the library of the future. As more information becomes available online, the library is evaluating critically how best to provide patrons with convenient access to legal materials while ensuring the preservation of information for future generations.

The library created the Strategic Planning Committee to lead the discussion. It started by conducting an environmental overview of trends in legal publishing, technology, and legal education. The committee also directed a number of focus groups with students, faculty, alumni, and staff, asking them how the library could best serve their needs.

The new five-year plan is an ambitious one, anchored in five broad goals: Provide seamless access to library resources; align library services with the curriculum, research endeavors, and ongoing initiatives; cultivate and curate relevant content and collections; transform library spaces to integrate services, collections, and resources; and foster collaborative relationships.

**FUTURE PRESERVATION OF ONLINE LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP**

With the assistance of the Friends, the library hosted a scholarly symposium last July entitled *The Future of Today's Legal Scholarship* to discuss the research value of legal blogs, how to preserve their information, and how to authenticate the documents found there. Read more about the symposium in this issue of the Newsletter, and watch the presentations online at [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls).

**FILM FEST**

Starting this October, the library is launching its first film series, *Law at the Movies*. With help from the Friends, this monthly film fest is open to the Georgetown Law community. Faculty members will lead a discussion about the legal issues in each movie, prior to the showing. The films include classics such as *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* and *My Cousin Vinny*.

**BOOK TALK & RARE BOOKS OPEN HOUSE**

Finally, please join the library for a book talk and discussion at Alumni Reunion on Friday October 16 in the Hotung building. This year, *Georgetown Law Professor David Cole* will present his latest book, *The Terror Memos: Rationalizing the Unthinkable*. Read more about him and the book talk, below. The Special Collections department in the Williams Library will also host an Open House the same day, displaying some of its oldest and finest rare law books. We invite the Friends to join both events.

**BOOK TALK & SIGNING WITH GEORGETOWN LAW’S DAVID COLE**


Cole teaches constitutional law and national security law, and publishes in a variety of areas, including civil rights, criminal justice, constitutional law and law and literature. He is the legal affairs correspondent for *The Nation*, a frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, and author of the American Book Award–winning *Enemy Aliens: Double Standards and Constitutional Freedoms in the War on Terrorism* (2003). His other books include *Less Safe, Less Free: Why America is Losing the War on Terror* (2007), *Justice at War: The Men and Ideas That Shaped America’s War On Terror* (2008), and *Terrorism and...* (Continued on page 2)
From the Special Collections Vault: The Sherman L. Cohn Collection: A Glimpse at Watergate

Professor Sherman L. Cohn (C’54, L’57, L’60), who has been teaching at Georgetown Law since 1965, donated his materials on Watergate to the Georgetown Law Library a few years ago. The materials in the collection were recently reviewed and made available for research.

The Sherman L. Cohn Collection contains newspaper articles, copies of pleadings, briefs, memoranda and personal notes associated with the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities’ investigation of President Richard M. Nixon. Professor Cohn served as an expert consultant to the Senate Select Committee during its investigations into all the activities surrounding what became known as Watergate. He was also a close friend and colleague of the late Georgetown Law Professor Samuel Dash, who was Chief Counsel to that Committee.

The Sherman L. Cohn Collection is a treasure trove of Watergate materials spanning from 1972 to 1977. The pleadings, briefs and memoranda materials are divided into District Court Actions, Court of Appeals Actions, and Grand Jury Subpoena by Special Prosecutor Actions. The official Watergate documents of this Select Committee are at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and can be searched online at http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/046.22.2.

The Sherman L. Cohn Collection provides a personal glimpse into this historical moment in U.S. history. It is open to the public and available for research. Two other collections in the Special Collections vault are related to the Watergate investigation: The Samuel Dash Papers and The Judge John J. Sirica Papers. They will be available to the public in early 2010.

For more information on the manuscript collections contact Special Collections librarian Laura Bédard at 202/662-9172 or email bedard@law.georgetown.edu.
LAW AT THE MOVIES

Through the generous support of the Friends, the Georgetown Law Library has launched a new monthly series of popular films illustrating legal themes. Titled Law at the Movies, the screenings are part of an ongoing library effort to create forums for intellectual discussion outside of the classroom. All of the events are open to the Friends and the Georgetown Law community. Georgetown Law faculty and librarians will introduce and discuss each film.

The series started on October 1 with the 1962 classic The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, starring James Stewart, John Wayne, and Vera Miles. Future events in this series will include film classics such as Anatomy of a Murder (1959) and My Cousin Vinny (1992). The next showings are on November 12 and December 3 in the Hart Auditorium in McDonough Hall at 6:00 p.m.
The Georgetown Law Library has recently purchased Stage VIII of Inter Documentation Company Publishers’ (IDC) microfiche collection of English Legal Manuscripts: The Middle Temple Library. Georgetown Law and the Friends now have access to a complete collection of invaluable manuscripts on microfiche from three of the English Inns of Court – Lincoln’s Inn, Gray’s Inn, and the Middle Temple – and from the libraries of Harvard Law School, Yale Law School, the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and the Cambridge University Library.

Most of these materials have never been printed or digitized; they are unique sources in the history of English law. They include manuscript copies of Year Book cases from the reign of Edward I through the early years of the reign of Henry VII. The Year Books were compilations of notes taken by students from the Inns of Court and by practitioners. The microfiche collection also includes Readings on statutes and important legal topics given by the Benchers of the Inns of Court to their students, as well as notes of the Moots the students were required to participate in. Readings were often given by prominent practicing lawyers and judges from the Royal Courts, such as Sir Edward Coke, among others. These Readings were often cited to as legal authority.

In addition to the medieval and early modern “law school” materials, the IDC collection includes handwritten manuscript copies of law reports from the 16th through 18th centuries, and excerpts from, and copies of, significant early legal treatises. The 8,656 microfiche of the English Legal Manuscripts collection contains nearly all of the legal manuscripts known to exist that are not available solely at the British Library.

All eight stages of the English Legal Manuscripts collection are now available in the International Media Room of the Wolff International and Comparative Law Library in the Hotung building. For more information on using this collection, contact the International Reference Desk, 202/662-4195, or by email at intref@law.georgetown.edu.

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The word *Incunabula* (plural of *Incunabulum*) means “cradles,” or “from the cradle,” and denotes the first generation of printed works in Europe, from Johann Gutenberg’s *Bible*, the first book printed in 1455, to books printed before 1501.

These books had no publishers, and no title pages; the imprint information was recorded in the “colophon,” on the last page. They were usually large books bound in wood and leather bindings.

The oldest printed books in Special Collections

**Incunabula**

The earliest books were printed using black typefaces, imitating the handwriting in manuscript books. The technology did not yet allow color printing, so red, blue, silver or gold was added by hand, called “illumination.” The illuminated initials were later printed by running the pages through the hand-press a second time.

The Georgetown Law Library’s first Incunabula is a 1482 first edition of the Emperor Justinian’s *Sacratissimi Principis Justiniani Pandectarum Opus*. This summer, the library acquired a few more such early printed treasures of the law.

**Corpus Juris Canonici**

The Corpus Juris Canonici, or Body of Canon Laws, was a medieval collection of separate works of canon law, updated in 1580-1582 after the Council of Trent, and replaced by the *Codel Juris Canonici*, or Code of Canon Law in 1918, further updated in 1984.

(Continued on page 5)
These early collections of papal letters or decrees and decisions became known as the “decretals” of a particular pope or commentator. The library acquired three of these important works.

**THE LIBER QUINTUS DECRETALIUM OF POPE GREGORY IX**

This 1482 edition of the *Compilatio Decretalium Gregorii IX*, also called the Liber Quinque Decretalium, or Fifth Book of Decretals, is a collection of papal rulings and letters issued by Pope Gregory IX. Compiled between 1230 and 1234, it is often referred to as the first true collection of canon laws. This edition includes beautifully illuminated letters in silver, red and blue, and is extensively hand annotated.

**THE LIBER SEXTUS DECRETALIUM OF POPE BONIFACE VIII & THE CONSTITUTIONES CLEMENTINAE OF POPE CLEMENT V**

Boniface VIII’s Liber Sextus Decretalium, or Sixth Book of Decretals, and Clement V’s Constitutions Clementinae, or Constitutions of Clement, written between 1298 and 1317, were printed and bound together in 1484, a common method of saving paper and ink.

**STATHAM’S ABRIDGEMENT OF LAWS (1490)**

Another new acquisition in the library is the very rare first edition of Nicholas Statham’s Abridgement of Laws, printed by Guillaume Le Tailleur for Richard Pynson in 1490. This was the standard authority on English cases for the 15th century until Anthony Fitzherbert wrote his *Grande Abridgement* in 1514. Statham’s Abridgement covers English cases between Edward I and Henry VI (1272-1461). For more on these new treasures, contact the Special Collections department at 202/662-9172 or bedard@law.georgetown.edu.

### LAYING NEW TRACs IN DIGITAL PRESERVATION

In early 2007, the Georgetown Law Library launched The Chesapeake Project Legal Information Archive, an innovative effort to preserve legal information published electronically to the World Wide Web. Along with partners at the state law libraries of Maryland and Virginia, the library established this collaborative, two-year pilot digital preservation project, guided by the late Law Library Director Robert L. Oakley’s vision of inspiring a nationwide movement to preserve legal resources in digital formats.

The Chesapeake Project has since preserved nearly 5,000 digital items. In 2008, the project launched the free Web-based interface www.LegalInfoArchive.org where users around the world can search its archived collections. Earlier this year, as The Chesapeake Project’s pilot phase came to a close, the library underwent a rigorous evaluation. The Center for Research Libraries (CRL) conducted an independent assessment of the project based on their Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification Criteria and Checklist (TRAC).

In the burgeoning world of digital preservation, TRAC is a digital archive auditing tool which is becoming an international standard for digital repository audit and certification. This project, as a smaller collaborative digital preservation pilot, was the first of its kind to go through TRAC.

The CRL auditors concluded that overall “The Chesapeake Project provides good stewardship of the Web content it has identified and collected, addresses a real need in the legal research community, and uses tools and processes that are cost-effective and focused.” CRL also provided concrete recommendations for strengthening the project to ensure its viability far into the future.

The library’s efforts through the first two years of the project have laid a solid foundation for the preservation of digital legal materials. As measured against the most rigorous international assessment criteria established to date, The Chesapeake Project will only become stronger and more robust as it expands in the coming years.

To find out more about TRAC, visit www.crl.edu/PDF/trac.pdf. For more information about The Chesapeake Project, visit www.LegalInfoArchive.org or contact Digital Collections Librarian Sarah Rhodes at 202/662-4065 or email sjr36@law.georgetown.edu.
NEW RESEARCH GUIDES

The Georgetown Law Library has created and updated many topical research guides in the past few months that will be useful to researchers. Here are a few of those guides:

PANDEMIC FLU RESEARCH GUIDE
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/publichealth_pandemic.cfm

With the increasing spread of the H1N1 virus around the world, the Pandemic Flu Research Guide has been updated, focusing on the legal efforts in preventing, detecting and containing human influenza on the international, national and regional levels.

JOB SEARCHING RESEARCH GUIDE
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/job_searching.cfm

This guide outlines the library resources available to investigate legal employers and prepare for an interview. Focus is on the electronic database Leadership Library which provides detailed directory information on government agencies, law firms, judicial entities, non-profits, news media and more.

POLICY RESEARCH GUIDES
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/policyresearch.cfm

Georgetown Law’s proximity to Capitol Hill brings extensive interest in policy analysis. This new guide serves as a starting point for conducting research in policy analysis. Links to think tanks and other policy research centers are included.

SOCIAL SCIENCES/INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GUIDE
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/interdisciplinary.cfm

This guide helps users find resources beyond traditional legal research tools, such as the social sciences, economics, psychology and ethnic studies.

COMMERCIAL LAW RESEARCH GUIDE
http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/commerciallaw.cfm

This new guide focuses on the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and related case law and commentary. It will be particularly useful to those who are unfamiliar with the UCC and its provisions.

GEORGETOWN LAW LIBRARIAN AUTHOR

When a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court dies, the legal community loses a leader. Fittingly, the Supreme Court Bar and Bench memorializes that loss. Since 1822, the Bar of the Supreme Court has appointed an ad hoc resolution committee to draft a resolution memorializing the life of each Justice. The process starts shortly after a Justice dies: The resolution committee will gather in the Great Hall of the Court or in one of the Court’s conference rooms to reflect on the life and work of the departed Justice and adopt the memorial resolution. After approving the resolution, the Bar moves into the Court Room of the Supreme Court for a ceremony to memorialize the justice and formally submit the resolution to the Court. Finally, the Chief Justice accepts the resolution on behalf of the Court and offers personal remarks about the departed Justice.

Kumar Jayasuriya, the Associate Law Librarian for Patron Services at the Georgetown Law Library, has recently published a compilation of these memorials entitled Memorials of the Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States (Hein 2009). This works continues an earlier publication by Roger Jacobs, then the Librarian for the Supreme Court. Focusing on the Warren court, the collection preserves the words of respect and admiration for twenty-two justices who served their country through the Supreme Court of the United States. To provide some objective historical background, the publication includes an Introduction by noted Supreme Court historian Scott Powe.

There are two reasons to preserve and reproduce these memorials. First, it is fitting to preserve and make available these histories of the principal members of the Supreme Court of the United States, one of the major institutions of the United States government. Second, the memorials are reflections of the character of the Justices - reflections from the people closest to them.
The National Equal Justice Library (NEJL) is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Gershon (“Gary”) Ratner Papers. Gary Ratner first became involved with legal services as a student at Harvard Law School. He later became the Deputy Executive Secretary for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Ratner returned to legal services as the General Counsel and Director of Litigation of the National Veterans Legal Services Program. He is currently a leading voice for educational reform. His 1985 Texas Law Review article, “A New Legal Duty for Urban Public Schools: Effective Education in Basic Skills” is a landmark article in the movement for equality in education. In 1998, Ratner founded the Citizens for Effective Schools and currently serves as its Executive Director. The Ratner Papers are currently being organized and are not yet available for research. For questions on the collection and access, please contact Annie Mar, NEJL Archivist, at 202/662-4043 or email her at am626@law.georgetown.edu.

ROBERT L. OAKLEY MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM: THE FUTURE OF TODAY’S LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP

On July 25, 2009, the Georgetown Law Library held a symposium on the topic of preserving the research value of blogs for future researchers, in honor of the late Law Library Director Robert L. Oakley. It was inspired by his commitment to the provision of access to, and the preservation of legal information.

The symposium was organized and coordinated by five Georgetown Law Librarians: Jennifer Locke Davitt, Catherine Dunn, Kumar Jayasuriya, Sarah Rhodes, and Sara Sampson. The organizers were motivated by the recent recognition of legal blogs as part of the canon of academic scholarship. The symposium focused on the impact of blogs on legal scholarship: How will the researchers of today’s blog scholarship find valuable, historic blogs? How will they be assured of perpetual access to this scholarship? How can they be confident that documents posted to blogs are reliable? At the symposium, speakers and attendees debated these questions and began the process of developing best practices to ensure that the value of blog scholarship is not lost.

Professor Robert C. Berring, Jr. of the University of California at Berkeley Law School started the program with an overview of the legal and scholarly publishing issues facing legal blogs. The first panel of the day laid the groundwork for the symposium by presenting librarians’ and legal scholars’ views on the future research value of today’s blogs. Lee Peoples of the Oklahoma City School of Law, Margaret Schilt of the University of Chicago and Chris Borgen of St. John’s University (and the founder of Opinio Juris blog) addressed the rise of legal blogs and blogging as a phenomenon and discussed whether future legal scholars will be interested in the analysis found in blogs or the documents posted to them.

The second panel was devoted to examining the issue of the reliability of legal documents uploaded to blogs. From Newsweek’s posting of the “Torture Memos” to SCOTUSBlog’s postings of Supreme Court briefs, news agencies and bloggers regularly upload legal documents to support their stories. Although these web sites and blogs are often the only sources for these documents, few electronic documents have any verifiable proof of reliability. Michael L. Wash of the Government Printing Office, Toby McIntosh of BNA, and Tom Goldstein of Akin Gump (and the founder of SCOTUSBlog) discussed current practices and standards for proving and determining the authenticity of document. Tom Goldstein offered particularly entertaining insight into the high journalistic standards he demands for SCOTUSBlog and the consequent resources poured into his blog.

In the final panel, Laura Campbell and Donna Scheeder of the Library of Congress, Linda Frueh of the Internet Archive, Carolyn Hank of UNC-Chapel Hill, and Victoria Reich of LOCKSS presented their perspectives, experiences and visions on the problem of blog preservation. This incredibly knowledgeable panel provided a much-needed education into the technological, economic, and social considerations implicated by digital preservation.

The day concluded with a working group break out session to give panelists and attendees an opportunity to brainstorm and discuss solutions for many of the issues presented in each of the panels.
Our library is an active institution, even more so now that we occupy space in two buildings. Every day, we work with students, faculty, public patrons, alumni and Friends. If you are not currently using our services, we invite you to visit, call or email us, or consult our Web site when you need information or assistance with legal research. Our catalog, research tips and guides, tutorials, federal and state government information, and other reference sources are easily accessible online.

Web site
www.ll.georgetown.edu

Telephone
202/662-9160 (General Information)
202/662-9140 (Williams Reference Desk)
202/662-4195 (Wolff Reference Desk)

Email
libref@law.georgetown.edu (Williams Reference Desk)
intlref@law.georgetown.edu (Wolff Reference Desk)

Online Chat Reference
www.ll.georgetown.edu/services/live_help.cfm

Tours
Tours of the Williams and Wolff libraries can be arranged by calling Sara Sampson at 202/662-9144 for Williams Library tours, and Marylin Raisch at 202/662-9159 for Wolff Library tours, or by inquiring at the Williams or Wolff Reference Desks.

For inquiries and contributions to the Friends Program, or to renew your annual support, contact Heather Dempsey, Georgetown Law Annual Fund at 202/662-9781 or email at had22@law.georgetown.edu.