

# THE EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS LAW LIBRARY

## FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE LAW LIBRARY



Nearing the end of another semester, the Georgetown Law Library is full of energy. Students are filling the halls, using library resources to prepare for exams, finish papers and finalize publications. It is fitting that in this academic environment, the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library celebrates its 20th anniversary with this May issue of the *Friends Newsletter*. Since it opened in January 1989, the library has been the physical center and intellectual hub of Georgetown Law. It seems a fitting time to reflect on the achievements from the last year, as well as prepare for the initiatives launching this summer. In this issue, we reminisce about the last 20 years, and bring exciting news about upcoming projects.

Preservation and authentication of legal information has long been at the heart of the library's mission. People can find information more easily online, but born-digital material does not always remain there. Eventually, links



Atrium Entrance to Edward Bennett Williams Law Library

Photo Courtesy Bill Petros

disappear. To address this problem, the library in 2007 led a regional pilot program with state law libraries in Maryland and Virginia to collect and preserve born-digital legal information and make it accessible through three permanent locations online. Today, the library is pleased to announce that the Chesapeake Project is now a permanent part of the library's mission, and it is expanding to provide even greater access to born-digital materials. In 2009, the library is launching a

project to archive the Georgetown Law Web site and for the first time will permanently preserve Georgetown Law's online history.

Through the support of the Friends, the library will host a scholarly conference entitled *The Future of Today's Legal Scholarship* this summer. Organized in honor of the late law

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

On July 25, 2009, the Georgetown Law Library and the Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library will host a symposium on the topic of preserving the research value of blogs. Blogs have become part of the canon of legal scholarship and researchers are turning to them as sources for their scholarship. This presents a great challenge for future researchers of blogosphere materials: How will they find valuable, historic blogs? How will they be assured of perpetual access to this scholarship

and how can they be confident that documents posted to blogs are reliable?

"THE LATE GEORGETOWN LAW LIBRARY DIRECTOR ROBERT L. OAKLEY FIRMLY BELIEVED THAT LIBRARIANS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ENSURE ACCESS TO INFORMATION."

This symposium will bring together academic bloggers, librarians, and preservation experts to brainstorm and debate these topics and develop best practices to ensure that blog scholarship is not easily lost.

The first panel will lay the groundwork for these discussions by presenting librarians'

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*(From the Law Library, Continued from page 1)*

library director, Robert L. Oakley, the symposium will bring scholars and policy makers from around the world to the Georgetown Law campus to discuss “best practices” for

“SINCE IT OPENED IN JANUARY 1989, THE LIBRARY HAS BEEN THE PHYSICAL CENTER AND INTELLECTUAL HUB OF GEORGETOWN LAW.”

scholarship in blogs, how to preserve this information, how to authenticate documents, and how to verify facts through blog publishing. Read more about

it in this issue and participate in the conversation through the interactive conference Web site at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls/>.

Other innovative programs and resources of interest to the Friends include new international databases, two unique manuscript collections donated by Georgetown Law alumni, and several new legal research guides, including a new guide on free and low-cost Internet sources of legal material. The library and Georgetown Law are grateful for the support of the Friends, enabling it to undertake new and innovative programs that benefit our students, faculty, alumni, and even the nation. Collectively, we thank you for your continuing support and invite you to visit the Williams and Wolff Libraries.

*(Memorial Symposium, Continued from page 1)*

and legal scholars’ views on the future research value of today’s blogs. Will future legal scholars turn to legal blogs as reputable and reliable sources of information? Here, experts on legal research will analyze the much-debated issue on whether future legal scholars will be interested in the analysis found in blogs or the documents posted to blogs. In addition, the panel will also address the rise of legal blogs and blogging as a phenomenon.

The second panel will assemble a group of national experts and leaders from a variety of backgrounds to share their perspectives, experiences and visions with respect to the problem of blog preservation. Specifically, this panel will discuss who is responsible for blog preservation; how to begin the process of prioritizing and collecting legal blogs; and what are the current standards, as well as the technological, economic, and social considerations that must be addressed, in Web harvesting and digital preservation.

The third panel will be 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. Future researchers wanting to rely on these documents must be aware of this

issue and must be able to confirm that the posted document is complete and unaltered from the version authorized for publication by the author. This panel will discuss this issue and the current standards for proving the authenticity of a document in order to foster a system for preserving the value of blogs and documents found on blogs for future researchers.

The symposium will conclude with a working group break-out session to create a uniform standard for preservation of blogs for bloggers and librarians.

The late Georgetown Law Library director Robert L. Oakley firmly believed that librarians have an obligation to ensure access to information; he was committed to meeting the challenges posed by information in a digital form. In this spirit, the Georgetown Law Library dedicates this symposium to him.

Details about the symposium can be found at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls/>.



*Georgetown Law Library Director Robert L. Oakley*

*Photo Courtesy: Bill Petros*

## EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS LAW LIBRARY: 20 YEARS AND COUNTING

The Georgetown Law Library has been serving the Georgetown Law community in a variety of buildings since



*The new Edward Bennett Williams Law Library*

1887. It has grown from a small single room with a few tables, chairs and books, to two library facilities with over one million volumes, and is now the fourth largest academic law library in the United States. In April 2009, Georgetown Law celebrates the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building. Here are some landmark dates that illustrate how the law library has grown.

### 1989

The new Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building, designed by Hartman-Cox, opened in January 1989 at 111 G Street, N.W. More than 100,000 square feet are added to Georgetown Law's library facilities with this new \$25 million building, including a two-story Reading Room, group study rooms and lounges and a Computer Learning Center.

### 1990-1995

The library moves up from 11th to 6th in the ABA statistical ranking of the largest law library collections.



*Williams Computer Learning Center*

John Grisham's *The Pelican Brief* is filmed in the Reading Room.

The library installs its first Web server, with home pages for the entire Georgetown Law community.

### 1996-1999

The library celebrates 10 years in the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building in 1999, and has more than 900,000 volumes housed in the Williams building.

The library starts a two-year Librarian Resident program for

minorities. Tracey Bridgman is the first Resident Librarian.

### 2000

Law library director Robert L. Oakley is elected President of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).

The library ranks 5th in the ABA statistical ranking of the largest law library collections.

The Library of John Scott, Lord Eldon, is acquired. Lord Eldon was the Chancellor of England in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The collection includes Lord Eldon's manuscript notebooks written when he was an attorney, a judge, and the Chancellor.



*Georgetown University President DeGioia & Law Library Director Robert L. Oakley with the millionth volume*

### 2001

The library celebrates the acquisition of its millionth volume, a manuscript bound volume from the Eldon Collection.

The library starts the new Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Program in Fall 2001 and launches its first *Friends Newsletter* in 2002.

### 2002

The library installs a SMARTBoard in the Computer Learning Center to provide a more interactive learning environment for legal research instruction.

### 2003

The library ranks 3rd in the ABA statistical ranking of the largest law library collections.

Over 60 computer workstations for patron use are located throughout the Williams Library.

### 2004

The International and Comparative Law collection is moved to a new library facility in the Hotung building and is

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renamed the John Wolff International and Comparative Law Library.

#### 2005

*Live Help*, the online live chat reference service, debuts in September.

#### 2006

Two group study rooms are equipped with new technology to promote collaborative learning.

The National Equal Justice Library (NEJL) opens for researchers on the first floor.

#### 2007

Dean T. Alexander Aleinikoff renames the Reading Room



Photo Courtesy: Bill Petros

*View of the Robert L. Oakley Reading Room from the Mezzanine*

in Williams Library The Robert L. Oakley Reading Room.

#### 2008

A fully searchable, Web based Faculty Scholarship Database is introduced on the library's Web page.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) awards the 2008 AALL Publications Award to the

Georgetown Law Library for its innovative interactive legal research tutorials.

#### 2009

The Edward Bennett Williams Law Library building turns 20 years old, and the library has over 1.1 million volumes, the 4th largest academic law library in the country.

## NEW RESEARCH GUIDES

The library writes and maintains research guides on a wide variety of topics. They are essential tools for researchers who are either new to the topic or need a refresher. They can be used by the public and are linked to the library's collections. A few of the new research guides are listed here.

### Food, Drug & Cosmetic Law

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/fooddruglaw.cfm>

This guide is essential for locating laws, regulations, and secondary explanatory resources, enforcement reports and letter warnings about food and drug laws, with a special section on cosmetic laws and regulations.



### Banking Law

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/bankinglaw.cfm>

Banking is in a state of flux, given the current financial crisis, so this guide is for those conducting introductory research in the area of banking law. It provides a listing of

the most important, current, and relevant materials available.

### Bankruptcy Law

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/bankruptcy.cfm>

Like our other research guides, this guide lists major primary and secondary sources that are useful in researching bankruptcy issues. Both print and online sources are listed, and links are provided to databases and records in the online catalog, to make it easy to find the resources you need.

### Scottish Legal History

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/scottishlegalhistory.cfm>

This guide brings together the library's substantial collection of materials on the Scottish law from the feudal period to 1901, that are in the Williams Library Special Collections Department, in the Wolff Library and in the microform and online collections. It complements the new online exhibit that features resources on early modern criminal trials in Scotland, such as those of Rob Roy's sons, Katharine Nairn Ogilvie and Madeleine Hamilton Smith.

### Jurisdictional Guides

[http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/browse\\_jurisdictions.cfm](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/browse_jurisdictions.cfm)

The library maintains brief research guides for all fifty states and several countries (Canada, EU, Germany, Mexico, Russia, & South Africa). Some state jurisdictions, though, warrant more in-depth guides, such as those for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, California, and New York.

## ELECTRONIC RESEARCH IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW

The Friends are invited to visit the law library to use international materials both in paper and online. For those interested in transnational law, there are numerous international and foreign legal databases available for use on campus. A complete list of current subscription databases is listed in the library's Web site in the "Alphabetical List of Databases," but several of the more important new titles are described and accessible through the international law resource page on *International Law in General* at [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/research/browse\\_topic.cfm?32](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/research/browse_topic.cfm?32).

Below are the highlights of the international law portal which can be reached from any computer:

**British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL) Membership** includes Web access to a collection of BIALL journal issues and access to other documents, such as papers and materials from events held by the Institute and copies of the Institute's annual reviews.

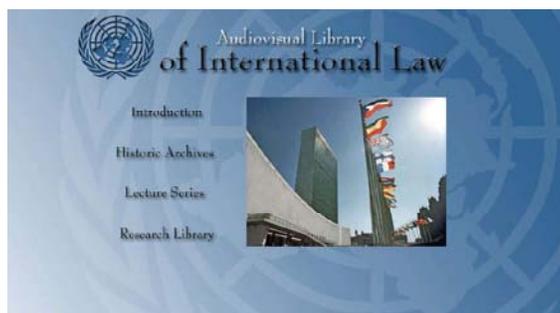
**Foreign and International Law Resources Database (FILRD)** contains image-based formats for many yearbooks and serials of international law from jurisdictions such as New Zealand, Africa, and the Baltics. It also includes U.S. Digests of International Law, the Permanent Court of International Justice decisions, the International Court of Arbitration (Balch). More titles will be added on the classics of international law.

**Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law Online** is the online version of this authority on the theory and practice of public international law. Terms are defined and placed in doctrinal context, with citation to leading treatises and international cases. Topics include peaceful change, internment and customary international law to name a few. The online edition has a select bibliography for

each article it contains.

**Recueil des Cours en ligne (Collected Courses Online - Hague Academy)** is an electronic version of courses (i.e., lectures or essays) published by The Hague Academy of International Law from 1923 to today. This collection is one of the most important encyclopedic publications on private and public international law. The collection can be searched by volume, year, author, or keyword.

**ASIL's i.lex: The Legal Research System for International Law in U.S. Courts** is a fast and free resource advertised as a "database of select U.S. court cases and related materials...a practical resource for...legal professionals to identify and understand how international law is interpreted and applied by U.S. courts at both the federal and state level." The search templates by statute and treaty save time and target international law.

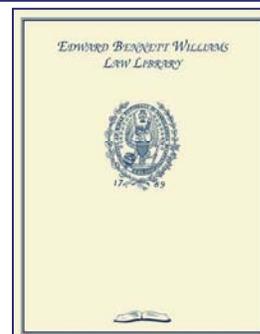


**United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law** <http://www.un.org/law/avl/> contains lectures on international law topics, links to important documents, commentary, and Web sites for the major intergovernmental and regional organizations.

**Yearbook of the United Nations** <http://unyearbook.un.org> "The Yearbook is the principal reference work of the United Nations and provides a detailed overview of the Organization's activities." The narratives of the year's activities in these volumes are now available with PDF access. Entries also cite all relevant documents and provide context for researching events and issues in international law and foreign policy.

These databases may be accessed within the library by the Friends as well as walk-in patrons. If you have any questions about these and other databases, please contact Marylin Raisch via e-mail at [mjr47@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:mjr47@law.georgetown.edu).

Every year, Georgetown Law parents have the chance to honor their graduating seniors by making a \$100 donation to the Georgetown Law Library. This recognition is memorialized in a commemorative bookplate inserted into one of the library's new books. The bookplates can also be used for other recognition opportunities. For more information on the bookplate program, please contact Heather Dempsey, Georgetown Law Annual Fund at 202/662-9781 or e-mail at [had22@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:had22@law.georgetown.edu).



## BUILDING A TIME MACHINE FOR GEORGETOWN LAW WEB SITES

The task of Web site archiving has just been made easier with an exciting new tool. *Archive-It!* at <http://www.archive-it.org> will help create and maintain an archival collection of the law library and Georgetown Law Web sites. Many of the Georgetown Law community Web pages are a tremendous resource, and a significant amount of this information is published only online. Web sites require continual maintenance, and, unfortunately, items posted online are periodically removed. In the past, there was no formal way to recover information that disappeared from Georgetown Law Web sites, but now *Archive-It!* will make sure Georgetown's



online resources are preserved for the future.

*Archive-It!* is a subscription system developed by the Internet Archive, which currently runs the world's largest public Web archive, and is comprised of 100 billion pages and more than 65 million Web sites. Using this service, the law library will capture Georgetown Law Web

pages at regular intervals and preserve their original look and feel within archival storage files. These efforts will result in a permanent archives of Georgetown Law's Web sites, available through the Law Center Archives and via the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine at <http://www.archive.org/web/web.php>.

## FREE AND LOW-COST LEGAL SOURCES RESEARCH GUIDE

The *Free and Low-Cost Legal Research Guide* is the latest tool created by the law library to assist researchers in using free or low-cost alternatives to Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw. Moreover, there is so much legal information online that it can be difficult to navigate and make sense of it all. This new guide is designed to introduce researchers to the services available outside of the familiar databases, and assist them in determining whether the less expensive options meet their research needs.

The new guide is organized in two sections. The first is devoted to free legal materials and is organized by material type, such as case law and statutes. Researchers can quickly refer to the guide to see if a particular document is likely to be found online for free. For each type of document, the major online sources and their dates of coverage are listed, along with links to the sources, and some information about the search methods used.

The second section of the guide is devoted to fee-based alternatives to Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw. While none of these databases provide the depth and breadth of material offered by Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw, they do carry most

sources of primary law. A brief description of each database is included, along with pricing information.

The guide also indicates where low-cost alternatives come up short. The most notable advantages of Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw are with their finding aids, such as headnotes and digest subject headings.

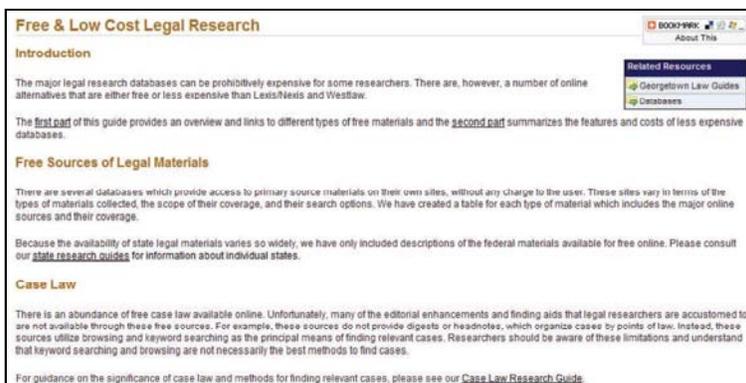
The low-cost services do not include these aids, and rely almost exclusively on keyword searching and browsing for finding cases and other legal authorities.

Updating and citation tools are also not as helpful with the low-cost alternatives. Most of

these databases do not review the citations, as Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw do with Shepard's and Keycite. As a result, they do not indicate when a case has been overruled or otherwise received negative treatment.

Despite these limitations, many attorneys will find that these alternatives provide much of the material they need for their practice at a fraction of the cost of the traditional databases. This guide should help students and alumni become more cost-effective researchers in the long run.

*The Free & Low Cost Legal Research Guide* is available on the law library's Web site at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm>



## FOCUS ON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS' MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS: THE JAPANESE WAR TRIALS & THE WATERGATE TRIALS

The vault of the Special Collections, Archives & NEJL Department contains a richly varied collection of rare and unique materials. One level below the department's Father Healy Reading Room lies the Law Center Archives, historical legal books dating back to the 15th century, and a burgeoning number of manuscript collections donated by alumni, citizens of the surrounding community and others who found the Georgetown Law Library a fitting place to house their materials. Two such collections, donated by Georgetown Law alumni, focus on two major trials of the 20th century, convened three decades apart: The International Military Tribunal for the Far East and, closer to home, the Watergate trials.



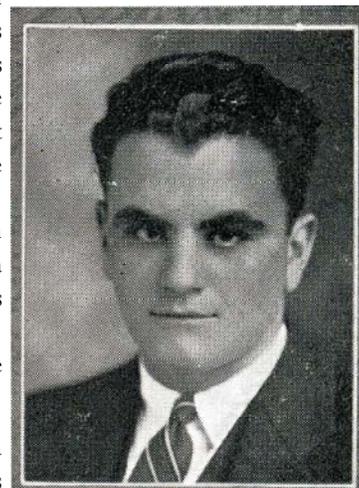
*George Yamaoka L'1928*

Iwane Matsui, Commander of the expeditionary forces responsible for the Nanking Massacre; and Baron Hiroshi Oshima, the military attaché to Nazi Germany.

The donor of the Japanese War Trials Collection, **George Yamaoka (L'1928)**, was one of a select group of American attorneys appointed by General Douglas MacArthur in 1945 to help in the defense of those Japanese accused of war crimes. Mr. Yamaoka was the first Japanese-American to be admitted to the New York State Bar, and was a prominent New York City attorney. He was president of the Japanese American Association of New York and donated his papers to the law library in 1981, the same year he died. In addition to copies of the proceedings there are correspondence, memos, notes and other related material generated during Mr. Yamaoka's work with the trial, and does not appear to be duplicated in any of the trial materials published by the National Archives and Records

Administration (NARA). Some of the materials are in Japanese, but most are in English. They give an insider's view to an important time in legal history. The collection is being processed and will be accessible for research in late 2009. Other materials on the Japanese War Trials are available in the John Wolff International and Comparative Law Library, including the published transcripts of the trials proceedings, *The Tokyo War Crimes Trial: The Complete Transcripts of the Proceedings of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East* (R. John Pritchard & Sonia Magbanua Zaide eds., 22 vols., Garland Pub., 1981).

**The Watergate Trials** in 1972-1973 exposed the nation to the shady dealings that went on behind the scenes of the Nixon Administration. The seven men accused of breaking into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate Hotel had to face the formidable U.S. District Court Judge **John Sirica (L'1926)**. Already possessing a reputation for being tough, Sirica participated actively in the trial, often questioning witnesses himself and declaring his own opinions about the case in court. His singular pursuit for the truth earned him the admiration of the public. *Time Magazine* named him Man of the Year in 1973 – a year after Nixon and his national security advisor, Henry Kissinger, were named Men of the Year.



*John Sirica L'1926*

**The Judge John J. Sirica Collection** contains transcripts of the trials and related court documents as well as correspondence, articles and notes by and about Sirica. The bulk of the collection, though, pertains to the writing of Sirica's book, *To Set the Record Straight* (Norton 1979), which can be found in the law library. This collection will be available for research use by the end of the summer 2009.

For more information on these or other manuscript collections, please contact the Special Collections Librarian, Laura A. Bédard at 202/662-9171 or e-mail her at [bedard@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:bedard@law.georgetown.edu).

# THE EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS LAW LIBRARY

Georgetown University Law Center  
111 G Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20001-1417



## AN INVITATION

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](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu)

### Telephone

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

### E-mail

[libref@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:libref@law.georgetown.edu) (Williams Reference Desk)  
[intlref@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:intlref@law.georgetown.edu) (Wolff Reference Desk)

### 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 e-mail at [had22@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:had22@law.georgetown.edu).

*Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Newsletter*: Editors: Laura Bédard, Kumar Jayasuriya, Margaret Krause, Todd Venie; Layout Editor: Tracey Thomas; Contributors: Laura Bédard, Kumar Jayasuriya, Margaret Krause, Annie Mar, Sara Sampson, Mabel Shaw, Roger Skalbeck, Todd Venie.