

Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library

Vol. 3, no. 1

May 2004

From the Director's Office ...

We Are Growing

By the beginning of the fall term this year, we will have opened our new international law library. We hope that on your next visit to Washington or to the Law Center, you will come to visit; we would love to give you a tour.

The new library will occupy the two middle floors of the Eric Hotung international law building. It will have capacity for 110,000 volumes and seating for 180. Eventually, three-quarters of the collection in the new building will be housed in compact stacks. There will also be both a computer learning center and a microform reading room. Students will access the internet by means of wireless connections throughout the building.



Architecturally, the library will have large windows on three sides, creating a very light and pleasant environment throughout.

Some of the windows will look out over the new south quadrangle and some of them will look back over to McDonough Hall. Two large archway windows on opposite sides of the main floor will bring back memories of the historic Georgetown Law Center arch that once graced the law school building at 506 E Street, N.W., and now overlooks the G Street Quad.

The new library, and indeed the new buildings, will greatly enhance the Law Center campus. Please come visit; we'd love to show you around.

National Preservation Program Takes Off

Last year, with the help of the Friends, Georgetown sponsored the first-ever national conference on the preservation of legal information for the 21st century. The conference considered the issues surrounding the preservation of both print and born-digital legal information, observing specifically that most print information is printed on paper that deteriorates with time, and most born-digital information is essentially ephemeral, disappearing from its original source in a matter of just a few

years.

Following the conference, 17 different libraries pledged a significant amount of money to spearhead an effort to deal with these issues. The first two projects are (1) the completion of an inventory of what has already been preserved and (2) the development of a white paper to analyze the issue, propose solutions, and support grant initiatives for future projects. The

Dedication to the Law Library



Photo courtesy of Peggy Fry

From right to left: Janice Anderson, Robert Oakley and Laura Bédard, at the 2004 Vicennial medal awards ceremony, celebrating 20 and more years of service to the Georgetown University Law Library.

The Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Newsletter is published several times a year by the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University Law Center, 111 G St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-1417. For further information about the *Newsletter*, contact Robert L. Oakley, Law Library Director, at 202/662-9160
Or e-mail: oakley@law.georgetown.edu

For information on joining the Friends Program or renewing your annual support, contact Mark Roberts, Georgetown University Law Center Development Office, 50 F Street, N.W., Suite 8100, Washington, D.C. 20001-1417
202/662-9885
Or e-mail: mr294@law.georgetown.edu

inventory will survey on-going projects by which existing legal information has already been preserved (usually by conversion to another format). Once the data from this review is analyzed, it will reveal what remains to be done. The White Paper will contain a historical review, an analysis of the technical and policy issues, development of some proposed solutions, and advocacy for grant support.

Other projects under consideration include a project to digitize the historical archives of printed federal government publications and the development of one or more coordinated repositories to assume the long term availability of the original print documents.

With all of these efforts now underway, Georgetown is now in a leadership role in the preservation of legal information into the future.

Current Updates on Legal Research

Brown v. Board of Education Documents Online

Electronic access to official court and government documents has broadened substantially in recent months. A wealth of current and historical legal documents is now widely and freely accessible on the internet.

Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision reveals that documents and images not widely available a few years ago are now accessible with a few clicks of the mouse and the keyboard. Look at the following web sites to view actual images from the *Brown* and Little Rock Central High School eras. Here are some great web sites to view these historical materials and powerful images.

Of particular interest are documents that help bring significant historical events to us. The 50th anniversary of the 1954 U.S.

- The Supreme Court Historical Society has pictures of Linda Brown and several other plaintiffs in school desegregation cases at http://www.supremecourthistory.org/02_history/subs_history/02_c13.html.
- The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library has posted documents such as the original complaint and court order filed with the U.S. District Court in 1951, as well as, letters and memoranda related to the suits. See http://www.eisenhower.utexas.edu/dl/Civil_Rights_BrownvsBoE/BrownvsBOEfiles.html Also see <http://www.eisenhower.utexas.edu/dl/littlerock/littlerockdocuments.html> for documents on the ensuing Little Rock era.
- See National Public Radio, "The Supreme Court and *Brown v. Board of Ed.*: The Deliberations behind the Landmark 1954 Ruling," at http://www.npr.org/display_pages/features/feature_1537409.html for images of the draft opinion and the implementation decree written by Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren.
- The Library of Congress has posted letters from Supreme Court Justices William O. Douglas, Harold H. Burton and Felix Frankfurter to Chief Justice Earl Warren in support of the decision he wrote in *Brown v. Board of Education*. See http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?mcc:2::/temp/~ammem_rG7M:: You may also search the Prints and Photographs catalog at the Library for images available for online viewing at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/catalog.html> (use search terms such as 'brown v board of education' and 'school desegregation').
- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's "Teaching with Documents Lesson Plan: Documents Related to *Brown v. Board of Education*," at http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/lessons/brown_v_board_documents/brown_v_board.html has images of the original opinion, related dissent, and correspondence from President Eisenhower.
- The University of Michigan Library's *Brown v. Board of Education* page at <http://www.lib.umich.edu/exhibits/brownarchive/> includes access to the oral arguments and photographs from *Brown*.
- The printed *Brown* decision can also be viewed at <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=old&doc=87>.



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society

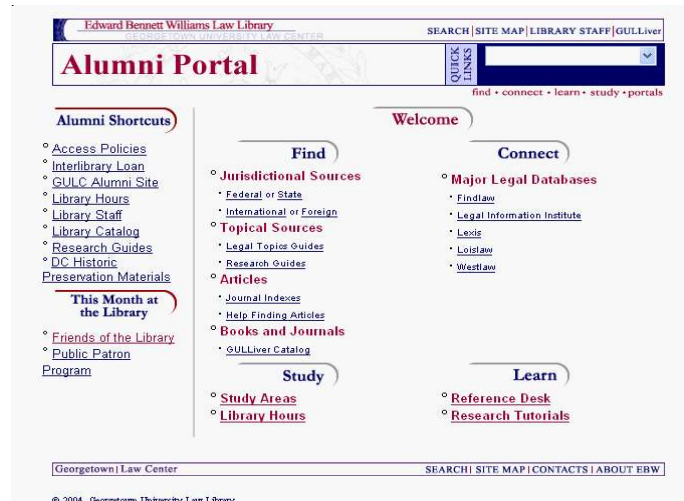
As always, when seeking documents, it is very important to use authoritative web sites and portals. Governmental, educational and other proven sites should be consulted for the best resources and information. For guidance on documents available on the internet, and other reference sources, please feel free to contact the Reference Department at libref@law.georgetown.edu, call 202/662-9140, or see our web site at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/staff/ps/reference/index.cfm>. For these documents and more information on researching *Brown v. Board of Education*, see <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/brown/internet.cfm>.

Alumni Portal

The Georgetown University Law Library website provides access to the electronic resources and services available at the Library. It contains Researcher Portals that organize links to the most popular resources used by our different patron types – Faculty, Students, Alumni, Friends, and the Public.

The **Alumni Portal** contains links to functional categories of the website – Find, Connect, Study and Learn. Within those categories, you'll see tips on finding articles and jurisdictional sources, links to such legal databases as LII, Findlaw, Lexis and Westlaw, information on study areas and library hours, and services to help you research more efficiently, including our Research Tutorials and reference desk services.

In the coming year, we will be stepping up our commitment to the portals as part of our website reorganization. Watch for new content and functionality as we expand the technological foundation of the site.



Check out your Alumni Portal at

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/alumni/index.cfm>

Literary Alumnus

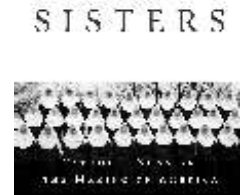
John Fialka (L'65) has covered politics, military, diplomatic and national security during his career as a journalist. He began at the *Baltimore Sun* and later moved to the *Washington Star*. In 1981, he went to the *Wall Street Journal* where he was their lead reporter in the Gulf War. He is currently reporting on energy and environmental matters for the *Journal*. He has earned several journalistic awards, among which are the Raymond Clapper, the Worth Bingham and the National Headliners awards.



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Press

Fialka is also an accomplished author. His most recent

work, *Sisters: Catholic Nuns and the Making of America*, was published in January 2003 by the St. Martin's Press and received the 2004 Christopher Book Award. *Sisters* explores the pivotal role of nuns in the building of American society. Fialka has directed 70% of the proceeds from the sale of *Sisters* to SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious!) and the remainder to Holy Trinity Church in Washington, D.C. His earlier works include *War by Other Means: Economic Espionage in America* (W.W. Norton, 1997), and *Hotel Warriors: Covering the Gulf War* (Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1992), with Peter Braestup.



John Fialka

GULC Fast Facts

20 years ago ... 1984

Library starts first year training in Lexis and Westlaw, and Dialog and Legislate databases are added to the Reference Office.

50 years ago ... 1954

John Harrison Boyles, Law 1948 is appointed Law Librarian.

An Invitation

Our library is an active institution. 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 e-mail 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 from anywhere. Check us out!

Web site

<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu>

Telephone

202/662-9160 (General Information)

202/662-9148 (Reference Desk)

E-mail

libref@law.georgetown.edu (Reference Desk)

For inquiries and contributions to the Friends Program, or to renew your annual support, contact Mark Roberts in the Law Center Development Office at 202/662-9885 or e-mail him at: mr294@law.georgetown.edu.

**Edward Bennett Williams Law Library
Georgetown University Law Center
111 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-1417**

Hours during the academic year

Monday - Thursday

Library: 8:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday

Library: 8:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

Library: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Reference Desk: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Library: 10:00 a.m. - midnight

Reference Desk: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Note that special hours apply for holidays and the summer months. Please call 202/662-9131 if you plan to visit us during these times.

Tours

Tours of the library can be arranged by calling Chris Knott at 202/662-9151 or inquiring at the Reference Desk.