

# THE EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS LAW LIBRARY

## FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

FALL 2010

### FROM THE LAW LIBRARY



The students have returned to campus, bringing a new class of first year students eager to join the Georgetown Law community. Since the first day of fall classes the Robert L. Oakley Reading Room has been full. Students are using



*Students working in Reading Room's Mezzanine*

every space in both library locations. The library feels full of the spirit of learning.

With the rest of the Law Center, the library mourns the death of three members of the Georgetown Law faculty and administration. Dean Carol O'Neil, L'88 magna cum laude, was the Associate Dean for Academic Administration. During her tenure she took a special joy in working with the law library and provided valuable advice, most recently when the library was drafting its current strategic plan. She helped organize a meeting with senior staff in order to discuss new ways that the library could support the Law Center administration. Professors Martin Ginsburg and Steven Goldberg were both beloved members of the Law Center faculty and good friends of the library. Steve was an active member of the faculty's library committee where he worked to build the library into its current status as a world-class legal research facility.

#### **Reflections on a Successful Year**

As the library prepares to greet alumni during the 2010 reunion weekend, it is a good time to reflect on the

successes of the year. The following are just a few of the innovations our librarians accomplished since our last reunion.

#### **Resources for Graduates**

This year the library offered graduates an online legal research course using a web-based classroom platform called WebEx. The class focused on free and low-cost legal research tools. During the reunion weekend the library will offer a similar course on campus. This is one of three events the library will host for alumni and Friends. Learn more about all three events in another article in this issue.

#### **Law at the Movies Film Series**

Last year the Friends of the Law Library launched a film series dedicated to creating a conversation between the students and faculty. Once a month the library screens a film related to the law. Afterwards, members of the faculty join librarians in leading an open discussion about the films. The library has scheduled three exciting movies for the fall semester: *Minority Report* (9/30), *Amistad* (10/14), and *Beeswax* (11/18). We invite all members of the Friends group to participate.

#### **Library Computer Labs Upgrade**

Thanks to the generous bequest of the family of J. Paul Erwin, F'23, L'26, the law library was able to renovate and upgrade its computer training facilities in the Williams and Wolff libraries. The rooms are now equipped for Georgetown law librarians to use 21st century tools to train future Georgetown graduates. Learn more about the renovation in this issue.

#### **An Invitation**

We hope you visit Georgetown Law, whether it is attending our monthly film series, participating in reunion events, or using our extensive research facilities. It is through your generosity that the library is able to provide these and other services for the benefit of our students, faculty, and alumni. Please accept our thanks for your continuing support of the library.

## COST EFFECTIVE LEGAL RESEARCH

During the Law Center's 2010 reunion weekend (October 15-17), the Georgetown Law Library will offer a legal research program focusing on cost-effective research using alternatives to Lexis and Westlaw. This program builds upon a recent online course that the library offered to D.C. –based graduates.

Each year nearly 4,000 participants attend one or more of the library's 150 presentations. For the first time this year, the library expanded its audience to reach graduates. Using the WebEx virtual classroom platform, librarians presented a well-received class on cost-effective legal tools. Demand instantly outstripped available space, indicating that the law library continues to be a valued resource even after graduation. One registrant reported that he believed the course was one of the most valuable things that Georgetown Law has offered alumni.

Strategies for cost-effective legal research are different now than even a few years ago. While Lexis and Westlaw remain the dominant legal research services, there are a number of online resources that provide access to primary legal material. These sources have proliferated in



*One of many alternative resources*

recent years, and have become effective legal research tools.

For example, low-cost databases such as Fastcase and Loislaw offer extensive libraries of case law, statutes, and regulations from every jurisdiction in the U.S.

Although these databases are not free, they are significantly less expensive than Lexis and Westlaw. Since some of these databases have arrangements with local bar associations, many lawyers will find they are already paying for access to them. In addition, Google recently added a large amount of case law to its Google Scholar search engine, including all cases from the U.S. Supreme Court, and lower federal court cases issued since 1923.

While these databases all have significant limitations, attorneys who understand those limitations can use them to reduce their reliance on Lexis and Westlaw.

The Reunion Weekend program is part of the Law Library's efforts to keep our students and alumni aware of these resources, particularly in the current economic climate. To learn more about this topic please consult the library's research guide to these free and low cost legal research sources (<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/freelowcost.cfm>.)



*Todd Venie*

Please join Georgetown reference librarian Todd Venie on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m., when he will provide an introduction to these sources and describe their content and search features.

### Library Offerings During Reunion 2010

This year the Friends of the law library will host three events during the Georgetown Law 2010 reunion weekend.

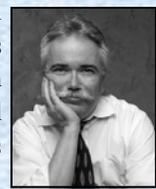
#### Faculty Authors Speak on Healthcare

On Friday, October 15 at 3:00p.m. we will



*Gregg Bloche*

host a panel on current issues regarding health care reform and law. Our speakers are two



distinguished *Timothy Westmoreland*

members of the law faculty, Professors Timothy Westmoreland and Gregg Bloche. Both have written extensively on the topic and have been involved in the national discussion on health care reform. In a lively one-hour session they will discuss their work and scholarship.

#### Tour of the Rare Books Room

From 3:30p.m. to 5:30p.m. on Friday, October 15 the library's Special Collections department will offer an open house which includes an exhibit and discussion of treasures of the library's Archives and rare books collection. It was through the generosity of the Friends of the Law Library that we acquired many of the most valuable items in the collection. Participants will learn about the Law Center's history, rare books as well as how to build their own collections.

#### Legal Research Training

On Saturday, October 16 from 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. Todd Venie, a Georgetown law librarian, will teach a course on free and low-cost legal research tools. Read more about the innovative class in a separate article in this issue.

#### Welcome

Join us for each of these library offerings. Add a visit to the Georgetown Law Library to your reunion itinerary. We always welcome the opportunity to see our Friends.

## LAW CENTER ARCHIVES AND REUNION 2010

As Georgetown Law Reunion 2010 culminates in the reunion weekend October 15-17, we wanted to share some resources available at the Law Center Archives to help you REVISIT, RECONNECT, and REDISCOVER Georgetown Law.



*Georgetown Law at 506 E Street*

You may have attended Georgetown Law when it was located at 506 E Street. Although the building served well for almost eighty years, the acquisition of the new site on New Jersey Avenue allowed the Law Center to begin an expansion of the physical plant which eventually reintegrated the clinical offices into the campus.

The completion of McDonough Hall in 1971 was followed by the construction of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library in 1987 to 1989. As Georgetown Law matured and added additional programmatic and clinical offerings, the increasing needs of students and faculty for space were met by the expansion of McDonough Hall, the completion of the Gewirz Student Center in 1993, and the Eric E.



*Georgetown Law campus early 1990s*

Hotung International Law Center Building and Sport & Fitness Center in 2004.

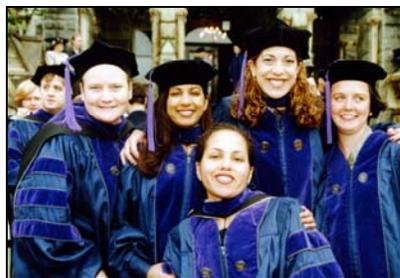
In addition to materials relating to Georgetown Law buildings, the Law Center Archives has significant accessions of student group and individual photographs, alumni events, newspapers and publications. The best part of reunion weekend is



*Class of 1970, 30 year reunion*

reconnecting with classmates and faculty from the Law Center. Whether it is your 40<sup>th</sup> reunion or your 10<sup>th</sup>, we are happy to welcome you back.

If you are attending Reunion Weekend, please join us for the Library Rare Book and Special Collections Open House on Friday, October 15, 2010 from 3:30p.m. to 5:30p.m. for a chance to hear about some of our treasures.



*Friends from class of 2000 at commencement*

If you are unable to attend, but would like to know more about a particular resource, please contact the Law Center Archivist by email ([http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/forms/research\\_consultation\\_sc.cfm](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/forms/research_consultation_sc.cfm)) or telephone (202.662.9133).

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

On July 25, 2009, Barack Obama issued a proclamation recognizing the Legal Services Corporation's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1974, the LSC has distributed grants to regional legal services organizations throughout the U.S., provided training, and promoted equal access to justice. Passing the LSC Act, though, was not an easy task. In 1971, President Nixon vetoed a bill that included a first attempt at establishing the LSC. One of his major issues with the bill was that it greatly limited the President's power to appoint board members. Two years later, after much behind-the-scenes negotiations and lobbying, Nixon proposed a new bill to establish the LSC. It passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law on July 25, 1974. The National Equal Justice Library documents the LSC from its birth out of the ashes of the Office of Economic Opportunity's Office of Legal Services, a component of Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Some of the materials in the collection are oral histories and papers of many of its board members and staff, including those of Tom Ehrlich, LSC's first president; Hillary Clinton, chair of LSC from 1978-1981; Bill McCalpin, chairman from 1980-1981; and papers related to LSC's legislative history.



## COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER UPGRADE

Thanks to the generous bequest of an alumnus' family, the law library was able to renovate and upgrade its computer training facilities in the Williams and Wolff libraries this past summer.

The family of J. Paul Erwin, F'23, L'26 has been a long-time supporter of the law library, most recently through the proceeds of a trust established by his wife, Irene Erwin. Their gift to Georgetown Law benefits a generation of law students who are learning in ways that could not have been contemplated at the time of Mr. Erwin's graduation eighty-five years ago.

Librarians offer students critical skills-training classes, with over 4,000 participants each year attending one or more of the library's 150 presentations. These instructional programs, most of which involve electronic resources such as Lexis, Westlaw, or subject databases, teach students techniques they will use for legal research in law school and in practice. While the classes introduce students to the latest technologies and services, the training spaces themselves were designed for an earlier era. In the

Computer Learning Center, twenty-year old furniture (complete with paper troughs for dot-matrix printers) limited the number of students who could participate in a class. There was no fixed equipment provided for instructors to use, and the projection system predated now-prevalent use of sound and video clips in presentations.

The renovation project involved replacing and reconfiguring furniture to allow for the expansion of available class seats by fifty percent. Electrical and data connections were upgraded, and new projection equipment was added to make multimedia presentations possible. Dedicated lecterns were installed, equipped, and wired so that instructors can readily access and manage their presentations.



*Teaching in the new facility*

Due to a benefactor who graduated at the start of one century, students at the start of the next century are acquiring the latest research skills in an environment that is conducive to effective teaching and learning. The Georgetown Law Library greatly appreciates the generosity of the Erwin family which made this project possible.

## NEW RESEARCH GUIDES

Two new research guides prepared by the Georgetown Law Library are timely in their coverage. The challenging economic times facing all professions have not spared the legal community and many academics are now conducting surveys and empirical research focusing on the resulting transformations within the law firm environment.

Focusing on the profession from a management standpoint, the [Legal Profession Research Guide](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/legalprofessionresearchguide.cfm) (<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/legalprofessionresearchguide.cfm>) identifies pertinent blogs to monitor for current awareness, secondary sources held by the library, including electronic resources, and academic research institutes whose work focuses on the legal profession.

Also, our International Law librarians recently revised the [International Cyberspace Law Research Guide](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/Cyberspace.cfm) (<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/guides/Cyberspace.cfm>) by updating all of the content and adding a section on cyberwarfare. Cyberspace law touches on a wide variety of issues including the Internet, cybercrime, privacy, ecommerce, and cyberwarfare. Cyberspace law can frequently incorporate aspects of comparative, international and foreign law.

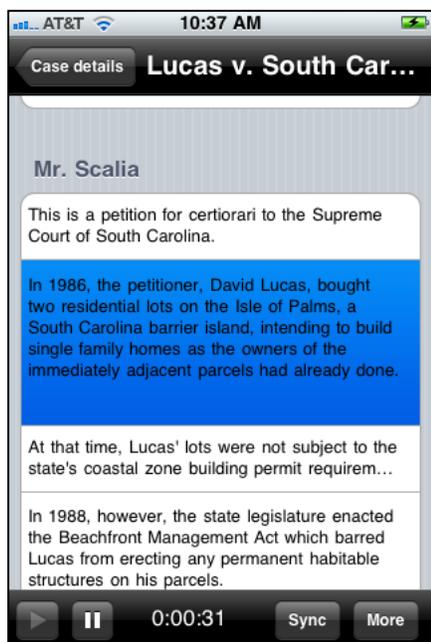
*One of over 2000 Georgetown Law research guides*

# IPHONE APPS FOR LEGAL RESEARCH: FIVE APPS AND FIVE INSIGHTS

At the Georgetown law library, we've begun to evaluate mobile applications to help support faculty scholarship and legal research activities. To date, only a few native mobile applications exist specifically to perform legal research. However, enough good apps exist to give us an insight into the types of applications and services we might expect in the coming years. Here we present five insights into mobile applications for legal research.

## A Good Mobile App Packages Curated Content

For companies who already have good legal research tools online, there's no expectation that a mobile application will duplicate all content and functionality of an existing site. A



*Pocket Justice from Oyez*

mobile app is a perfect place to highlight portions of your content, taking advantage of a mobile platform's rich audio and visual features. The Oyez project is a great place to find information about the Supreme Court, including recordings of oral arguments, histories of votes and information on the justices. For the iPhone, Oyez created an application called "Pocket Justice" which packages selected content for quick browsing and interactive analysis. The free version covers their list of the top 100 Supreme Court cases, and a \$5 paid version expands this to more than 600 constitutional law cases from the Supreme Court. One of the most impressive features of the app is that oral argument transcripts are integrated with many of their corresponding recordings.

## Free Public Data Has Good Marketing Potential

Information published by the federal government cannot be protected by copyright. Given this, government data is a place to look for planning application content. Deciding

how to package and update data can be difficult, but at least you don't have to clear it for use. If done well, providing free access to public data is a great way to bring attention to your firm or sponsoring organization.

Intellectual property law firm Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. provides a free iPhone app that packages freely-available data from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Within the app, you can search for patents and trademarks through a connection to the USPTO server.

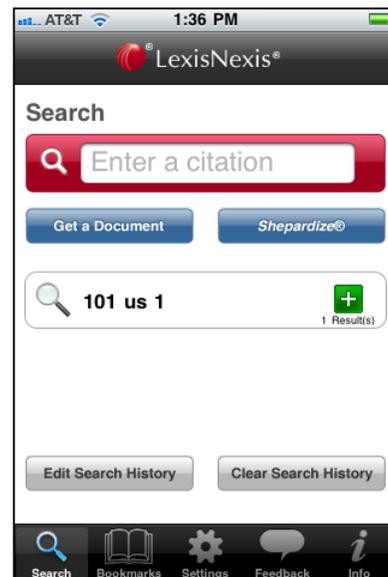


*Banner & Witcoff, IP Lawyer*

They also let you download patents from Google. In addition, you can read texts like the United States Code statutes for patents, copyright and trademark.

## Narrow Feature Sets Are Fine

Some of the most successful mobile apps perform a narrow range of tasks. In fact, the more focused and understandable an app's features are, the more likely somebody might use it regularly to perform a recurring task.



*LexisNexis Get Cases*

For their first foray into the mobile application world, LexisNexis decided not to create a full-featured application to emulate the entire LexisNexis legal research platform.

Instead, their application is meant to do two things: get cases and check case status. One of the most important

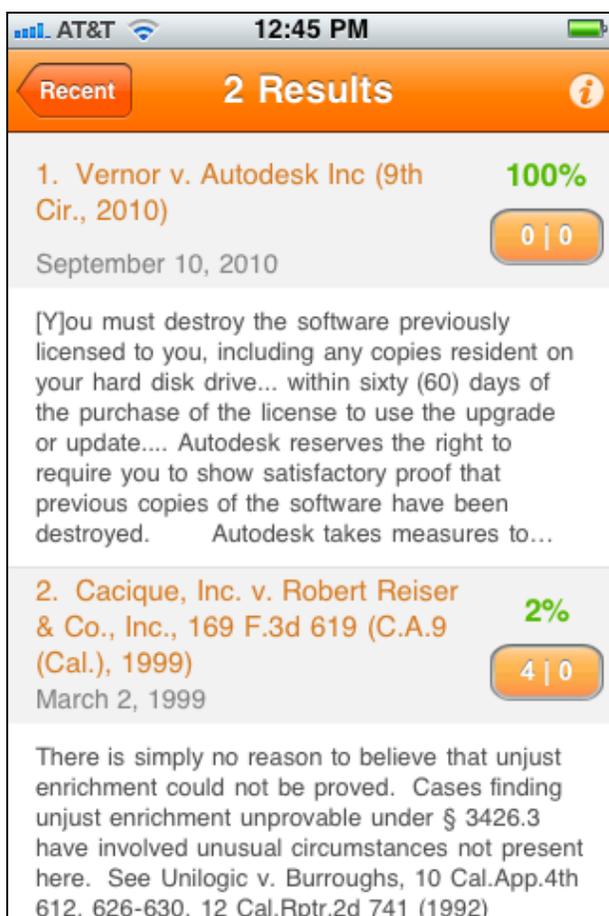
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value-added aspects of the LexisNexis service is the ability to update cases with Shepard's. The LexisNexis iPhone application gives you extremely efficient access to this service. If LexisNexis decides to develop another mobile application, it seems there's still a place for streamlined access to Shepard's.

### Free Is a Great Sales Pitch

Providing a free application with truly useful content is a great way to build a company's brand and recognition. For ancillary services or features outside the application space, a free app is a great sales pitch to drive interest in other areas. In the iTunes store, many free applications include hidden costs in the form of "in application purchases." These are add-on purchases that activate new features or



*FastCase iPhone app provides free access to federal and state case law.*

remove restrictions on certain uses. Though in application purchasing is a good way to show application potential before a sale, it may obscure true costs. When free really means free, people notice.

FastCase provides a legal research application that lets you search federal and state caselaw from their servers without charge. They provide an iPhone and iPad version of the application, and both are free after creating an account. FastCase makes their money by selling access to their databases through individual subscriptions as well as bulk deals with bar associations. The mobile app describes the Fastcase website and its additional features, but there is no upgrade path from one to the other.

### Good Apps Don't Have to be Free (or Cheap)

Although a large percentage of paid iPhone apps cost just 99¢, a good app doesn't have to be free or even cheap. If an app provides relevant research content in a way that's intuitive and attractive, people will pay for quality.

Black's Law Dictionary is a prime example of a high-quality legal research app that is neither free nor cheap. Priced at \$50, it is optimized for display on the iPad and iPhone in one application. Though it's one version behind the print edition, it gets great reviews and is very well liked. It is much easier to use than the Black's database on Westlaw, and it's still cheaper than the book version.



*Black's Law Dictionary and Bar Review Apps*

Other legal research apps that aren't cheap include the "Law in a Flash" series, which are \$40 per legal subject. Review flash cards are well-liked by law students, and this series of apps are well-reviewed on iTunes.

As a final example, consider the app the technology publication TechCrunch called "[t]he \$1,000 iPhone App That Might Actually Be Worth It". BarMax CA is a bar review app that includes thousands of pages of review materials and hundreds of hours of lectures. There are also interactive quizzes and essay strategies, all packaged together in a platform to prepare you to take the California Bar Exam. Other jurisdictions are a bit cheaper, and additional companies offer bar review materials to consider.

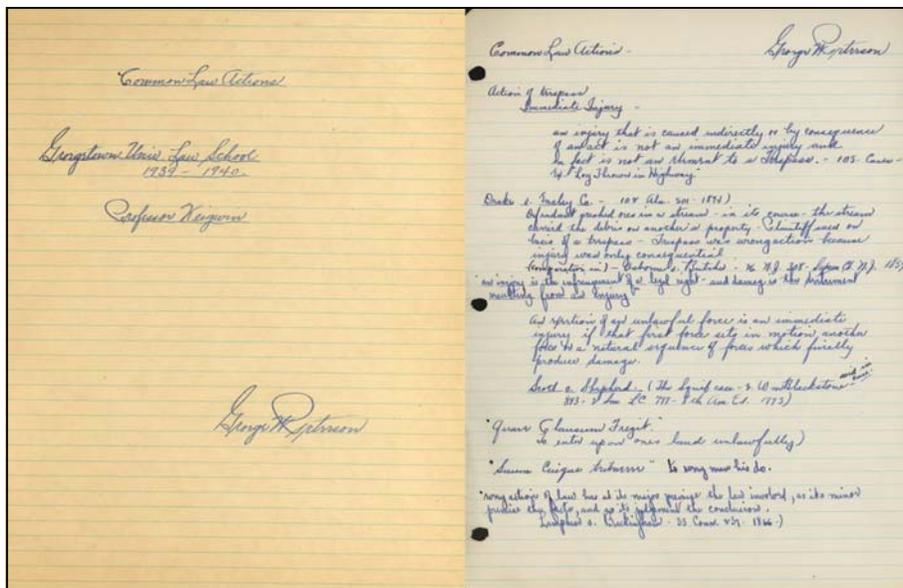
### Conclusion

Even though there are as many as a half million mobile applications available across all mobile device platforms, we've only just begun to see what kind of tools will be available for legal research. It will be exciting to discover and evaluate new apps as they appear. As long as they provide reliable, efficient and valuable content, there should be a market for new research apps at all points on the cost continuum.

## FROM THE NOTE PAD OF GEORGE W. PETERSON

Legal education has changed over the past 60 or so years; today we have more interdisciplinary focused classes and a larger global perspective. What was taught in law schools in the 1940s? Was it at all similar to what we teach today? Even if we subtract the technology and add a few new laws and decisions? Would even the most passionate law professor preserve his syllabi and class notes to be uncovered 60 years later? There is another way to glimpse a historical snapshot of legal education and that is through a student's class notes and course materials.

The George Peterson Collection, generously donated by Larry and Linda DeMellier, is comprised of the class notes and course materials of George W. Peterson, L'42. The collection spans the 1939-1941 school terms.



Peterson's class notes from Common Law Actions class, 1939-1940

George Peterson was a student of Georgetown Law enrolling in 1939, after graduating from Superior State Teachers College with his B.S. in 1934. Shortly after receiving his LL.B from Georgetown Law, George enlisted in the military and fought in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He later received the Bronze Star for his service. After the military George returned home to Balsam Lake, Wisconsin to practice law. He served twice as District Attorney in the years that followed.



Peterson's seminar room 1939

The marginalia found on notes and course materials suggest important key points or likely test questions. Through this collection we can get a sense of the student experience during a specific moment in time. It is a collection that is sure to bring back the memories of furious note taking and strenuous studying, for anyone who has been in that chair.

For more information on the manuscript collections contact Special Collections at 202.662.9172 or 202.661.6602 or email [bedard@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:bedard@law.georgetown.edu) or [htm@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:htm@law.georgetown.edu).

The collection of detailed notes from Civil Procedure, Common Law Actions, Equity and Real Property II enable us to view legal education through the eyes of a student. His notes and materials reflect his intense interest in the law and its practice and give us a unique perspective on a particular moment in legal education. For example, they tell us what important cases were being used in Real Property class discussions. Every captured detail on a note pad is an example of the learning process, a process that is individual to each person, but gives us a small window into their interests and their understanding of law.

# 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)

### Email

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

### Online Chat Reference

[www.ll.georgetown.edu/services/live\\_help.cfm](http://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](mailto:had22@law.georgetown.edu).

*Friends of the Edward Bennett Williams Law Library Newsletter:* Editors: Kumar Jayasuriya, Jill Thompson-Riese; Layout Editor: Tracey Thomas; Contributors: Laura Bédard, Heather Dempsey, Barbara Heck, Kumar Jayasuriya, Erin Kidwell, Margaret Krause, Anne Mar, Hannah Miller, Roger Skalbeck, Sara Sampson, Morgan Stoddard, Amy Wilson, Todd Venie.