



LAW LIBRARY NEWS

Automated System Roars to Life

Automation has arrived at the law library! Our card catalog and circulation information is now available on the system dubbed "LION" (Library Information Online Network). The Appellate Division Law Library has joined with other court libraries throughout the state in this venture.

Next time you are at the library, try our new automated catalog. It can be used to locate our materials by subject, author or title. It is easy to determine whether the book is available or has already been checked out.

Your patience is appreciated while the finishing touches are added to this "work in progress." Although most of the titles we own have been added to LION, the process is not complete. LION currently contains 25,000 titles held at 52 court libraries throughout New York State. If you do not find the title you are seeking, or if you get

the message "No holdings in this location," please be sure to check with a reference librarian. In some instances the book is owned here, but this is not yet reflected in LION.

The venerable paper card catalog is no longer kept up to date. It will be retained, but moved away from its current location later this year.

Access to LION via the Internet will be available soon, allowing you to search the catalog from your office or home. In addition you can review what books you have checked out, and will also be able to be renew books and tapes via this remote access option.

The automated circulation system has been in use for six months. Users are being provided with new barcoded library cards. One new option available is to receive overdue notices via e-mail. Sign up for this service at the circulation desk.

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Internet Access Now Available

The Appellate Division Library is delighted to offer Internet access to our users. Two computer terminals in the library are now designated for Internet use only and can be used to retrieve legal information from the Worldwide Web. Users with either a Westlaw or Lexis account and password can conduct research on the Internet versions of these databases as well.

Internet access at the Appellate Law Library is offered as a supplement to our collection and as such is to be used strictly for legal research. It is not to be used for email or chat rooms. Those wishing to use the Internet for entertainment or nonlegal research needs should visit their local public library.

It's not necessary to sign up to use the Internet computers, and no reservations will be taken. Use of the Internet is limited to thirty minutes if others are waiting. Please sign up on the waiting list at the Reference Desk.

Printing is available from our two Internet workstations. Any user wishing to download information may do so as long as they have their disk scanned for viruses at the Circulation Desk prior to downloading. The major legal research sites will be available as bookmarks on each computer. As always, the reference staff is available to help you use this valuable resource.



Director's Column

It is apparent to anyone entering the new Appellate Division Courthouse at 50 East Avenue that there have been tremendous changes in our operations. While we are justifiably proud of our new home, we at the library are equally proud of the service we provide our patrons.

Libraries are, by their nature, service institutions. While service has been the cornerstone of the Appellate Library's mission throughout its 150 year history, we are constantly looking to make changes with an eye to improving our public services. Consider the following:

- ⇒ An online catalog was unveiled this spring. Dubbed "LION", this is a shared project with all of the court libraries within New York's Unified Court System. Besides the public catalog, LION has also allowed us to automate our circulation functions.
- ⇒ During the past year the library has been offering regular training sessions on legal resources on the Internet. We are working towards our goal of providing MCLE credits for our classes.
- ⇒ Speaking of CLE credits, New York State Bar Association produced audiotapes have been added to the library's collection. These tapes can be used to receive MCLE credits, although attorneys will still have to buy the individual course books from the NYSBA.
- ⇒ Internet access at our public computer terminals has been a goal of the library for some time. This service will be available beginning mid-November.
- ⇒ Quicker searching will be available on our LawDesk and Premise databases through an upgrade to the library's CD-ROM towers.

Evidence of our improving public service reputation is reflected in the awarding of the Craig Koste Award for Outstanding Service to Law Library Clerk Joseph Valenti by the New York State Library Assistants' Association. This award is given annually to a library assistant who demonstrates the highest level of public service. Joe is donating the cash prize toward the purchase of books for the library's newly established local history collection.

We hope that you agree that top notch service is an everyday event at the Appellate Division Law Library. If you have any comments or suggestions for further improvements, please contact me by phone at 530-3255 or by e-mail at dvoisine@courts.state.ny.us.

Easy Access to the Internet—Try Google

Looking for information on the Internet but unsure which search engine to use? Try Google at www.google.com, founded in 1998 by two Stanford Ph.D. candidates in computer science. *Time* magazine recently called Google "the Web's largest and hippest search engine" (*In Search of Google* by Chris Taylor, 8/21/00).

Named for a googol (a tremendously large number) Google's index is comprised of more than one billion URLs. Their stated mission is to organize the world's information, making it universally accessible and useful. Google differs from other search engines by weighing relevancy of results by most linked-to sites.

Searching is simple. Type in search terms, separated by spaces. Results contain all of your terms, with higher priority given to sites where search terms are in close proximity. Enclose words in quotation marks to search an exact phrase. Google has a specialized search engine at www.google.com/unclesam that searches only U.S. Government Web sites. This limits results to any site with an address ending in *.mil* or *.gov*.

"We are constantly looking to make changes with an eye to improving our public services."



"The web's largest and hippest search engine."

Fourth Department Slip Opinions Available for Free on the Internet

The full text of decisions recently released by the Fourth Department are now available for free on the Internet, at three distinctly different Web sites. The features offered vary at each site.

The Appellate Division Library's Web site offers the quickest access to the decisions after they are released by the Fourth Department. The opinions are posted on the library's Web site at www.courts.state.ny.us/ad4/slips.html by 3:00 p.m. on the next business day after their release. The full text of all decisions released on a particular date can be easily printed or downloaded. The printout in this format should have a familiar look, as it will be identical to the Decision List that has been widely distributed by the Fourth Department Clerk's Office.

The other two Web sites each offer excellent searching capabilities. The New York State Law Reporting Bureau's New York Slip Opinion Service at nyslip.westgroup.com provides recently released State court decisions that have not yet been edited for publication in the Official Reports. You can search by court, word or phrase, case name, docket number, judge, counsel, opinion type, or decision date. You may also browse all slip opinions by court. In addition to Fourth Department opinions, included are all court opinions that will be available in the New York Official Reports. The opinions are slated to remain on the site for about one month following the production of the quarterly release of the New York Official Reports on LawDesk CD-ROM. The search site is actually maintained by West Group which states "Westgroup offers the slip opinions on the Website pursuant to its contract with the State of New York to publish the New York Official Reports." For more information about this service from the New York State Law Reporting Bureau go to www.courts.state.ny.us/reporter and click on **Decisions**.

The New York Law Journal was the first source to offer free access on the Web to New York court decisions. The Journal maintains a six-month archive of the latest decisions at www.nycourts.com from New York's Court of Appeals, the four Appellate Divisions, and the Supreme Courts in eight downstate counties. In addition to keyword searching on a subject, it is easy to limit the search to a predefined area of law (e.g. elder law, products liability, or taxation).

It is important to remember that slip opinions, in any format (print or electronic) are not official. They are always uncorrected and subject to revision in the Official Reports.

THE OPINIONS ARE POSTED ON THE LIBRARY'S WEB SITE BY 3:00 P.M. ON THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY AFTER THEIR RELEASE.

Welcome to...

Rob Cunningham has been hired as a Senior Appellate Office Assistant. He comes to us from Data Vault Storage Services where he was the company archivist. Rob will be re-shelving books, updating volumes with pocket parts and attending to other Technical Services duties.

Law Library News is published two times per year. Please direct all inquiries to Judy Weiner at the Appellate Division Law Library, 50 East Avenue, Suite 100, M. Dolores Denman Courthouse, Rochester, New York 14604, (716) 530-3267, or jweiner@courts.state.ny.us

Earn MCLE Credits with Audiotapes or Videotapes

Did you know that MCLE requirements can be fulfilled using audiotapes or videotapes? Recent New York State Bar Association audiotapes which can be used to fulfill mandatory MCLE credits are now available at the library. An additional coursebook will need to be purchased from the NYSBA by those seeking CLE credit.

Several videotapes from the National Law Foundation are also available for use for MCLE credit. The Foundation charges a \$20 processing fee for each user who wishes to receive CLE certification.

See a reference librarian for more information about the use of these products for CLE credits.

RECENT NYSBA AUDIOTAPES WHICH CAN BE USED TO FULFILL MANDATORY MCLE CREDITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY.



APPELLATE DIVISION LAW
LIBRARY

M. Dolores Denman Courthouse
50 East Avenue, Suite 100
Rochester, NY 14604

Selected New Book

Crime Lab : a guide for nonscientists / John Houde -- Ventura, CA : Calico Press, c1999.
HV 8073 H68 1999

Judicial Opinion Writing Handbook, 4th ed. / Joyce J. George -- Buffalo, NY : W.S. Hein, c2000.
KF 250 G46 2000

Lawyers and Reporters: understanding and working with the media / edited by Robert L. Rothman -- Chicago, IL : Section of Litigation, American Bar Association, c2000.
KF 298 L39 2000

How to Review a Federal Contract: understanding and researching government solicitations and contracts, 2nd. ed. / James F. Nagle -- Chicago, IL : General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Section, American Bar Association, c2000.
KF 849 N34 2000

An Estate Planner's Guide to Life Insurance / Louis A. Mezzullo -- Chicago, IL : American Bar Association, c2000.
KF 1175 M499 2000

Cybertaxation : the taxation of e-commerce / Karl Frieden -- Chicago, IL : CCH, c2000.
KF 6289 .A7 F75 2000

Encyclopedia of Supreme Court Quotations / Christopher A. Anzalone, ed. -- Armonk, NY : M.E. Sharpe, c2000.
KF 8742 E53 2000

Civil RICO : a definitive guide, 2nd ed. / Gregory P. Joseph -- Chicago, IL : American Bar Association, c2000.
KF 9375 J67 2000

Second Circuit Criminal Handbook / Gordon Mehler -- Charlottesville, VA : LEXIS, c2000.
KF 9606.99 S43 2000



CHECK OUT THE
NEW BOOKS
SHELF FOR MORE
NEW TITLES.