Spring 2009

Marquette University Law Library Newsletter

New & Noteworthy:
The Legal Education Commons

The Legal Education Commons, http://w.cali.org/lec, a source of open-access, full-text teaching materials for law school courses, was launched on January 26 by the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) and Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society. Included are syllabi, podcasts and presentations for use by law faculty and students.

The Legal Education Commons contains more than 700,000 full text cases and other court documents, plus approximately 300 illustrations and images taken from CALI tutorials.

Tech Tip:
Navigating Long Web Pages

If you are viewing a long webpage, you can

Website Review:
GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)
Julie Norton

Federal government information is on the move. Up until this semester, the library's Advanced LegalResearch instructors and reference librarians would have directed students to the Government Printing Office'service, GPO Access, for free online access to federal government information. (Gentle reminder to my former federal ALR students—GPO Access holdings include the Code of Federal Regulations, the e-CFR, the Federal Register, presidential materials, and documents used in legislative histories like committee reports and hearing testimony.) However, in January, GPO announced that it is migrating all of the content available on GPO Access into the Federal Digital System (FDsys). The migration will occur in stages with an anticipated completion date of mid-2009. Collections currently available in FDsys include Compilation of Presidential Documents, Congressional Hearings, Congressional Bills, Congressional Documents, Congressional Record, Congressional Reports, Federal Register, and Public and Private Laws. As with GPO Access, dates of coverage vary by collection.

FDsys permits users to search across collections and defaults to a familiar Google-

tap the "space" key to scroll one screen length down the webpage. To scroll back up one screen length tap the SHIFT space key.

Advanced Legal Research ("ALRs")

"This is the best class I've taken. I have already started using skills learned." "This is a great ALR class and I learned a lot." "I loved this class!" - Student comments on course evaluations.

ALRs may focus generally on Federal or Wisconsin materials or may cover a particular subject area. ALRs by subject area include: criminal, family, intellectual property, international, labor & employment, practitioners, sports, and tax. All courses, whether ALR-Federal, ALR-Wisconsin, or ALR- subject specific, emphasize methodologies and strategies for legal research through the use of primary and secondary resources. Instruction includes use of subscription databases, internet searching, and print resources.

An ALR is a one credit, required course that is not graded on a curve. It is a 7 week course that involves weekly in-class exercises and assignments. The final comprehensive research project may be due 1-3 weeks later. ALRs are offered every semester. You may take more than one ALR. If you have any questions about ALRs please feel free to contact any of the instructional services librarians: Leslie Behroozi, Patricia Cervenka, Julie Norton, Megan O'Brien or Elana Olson.

style search box. FDsys supports Boolean searching (and, or, not), proximity searching (Adj, before/#, near/#), parentheses, quotation marks, and wild cards (?,*).
View a screenshot of this activity.

FDsys advanced searching allows users to limit searches by such fields as date, collection, citation, author and title. Search results can be sorted by relevance, date, and alphabetical order. Results can be narrowed by collection, date published, government author, organization, person, location, and suggested keyword. The search within results feature should be familiar to Westlaw (Locate) and Lexis (Focus) users. FDsys also allows browsing by collection, congressional committee or date. Documents are available in PDF.
View a screenshot of this activity.

Study Aids

Looking for study aids as exams approach?

The Law Library collects these popular study aids: Examples and Explanation series, Understanding series and Questions and Answers series. Many subject areas are offered including: civil procedure, constitutional law, and property. Click on the book icon to be linked to the catalog to check for availability.