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The Newsletter of  
The Law Library of Louisiana

Volume 1, Issue 2

May/June 2002



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### Law Library of Louisiana Hours

Monday—Thursday 9am-9pm

Friday and Saturday 9am-5pm

Telephone (504) 568-5705  
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Toll free (LA only)  
800-820-3080

[www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org)

### At your service:

Carol Billings- Director  
Catherine Lemann- Associate Dir.

Georgia Chadwick - Librarian  
Marie Erickson - Librarian  
Cathleen Richards - Librarian  
Janice Shull - Librarian

Gregory Duhe - Library Associate  
Ruth Mahoney - Library Associate  
Jason Kruppa - Library Associate

## Library Welcomes Third Graders

# HEAR YE, HEAR YE, THE MOUSE SUPREME COURT IS IN SESSION!

BY: CAROL BILLINGS

*Marshall, the Courthouse Mouse* was definitely the most popular book at the Law Library of Louisiana on April 26 when 100 young visitors from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School in Metairie enlivened out premises for an early Law Day Celebration. The enthusiastic third graders, accompanied by teachers and parents, came in four groups to story time in the library after being welcomed in the courtroom by Chief Justice Calogero. Primed to ask the Chief dozens of questions about the operation of the court, the kids also got to assume the roles of justices and attorneys in pretend oral arguments—complete with black robes. Community Relations Director Valerie Willard and Robert Gunn got rave reviews from the kids for the courtroom activities. Then they went on tour in rotating groups to learn what happens in the Clerk's Office from John Olivier and the hows and whys of the court security system from Officer Gus Kinke.

When they came to the library, the kids and their adult escorts were happily surprised to discover that

we welcome the general public to take advantage of our services. After marveling at the thousands of books—including some many centuries old—the third graders settled cross-legged on the floor to hear the story of *Marshall, the Courthouse Mouse, A Tail of the U.S. Supreme Court*. Librarians Carol Billings and Janice Shull took turns reading and showing the clever, and extremely accurate, illustrations in the book. Research attorney Tracy Buccino was pulled in to help too. The book, written and illustrated by

Pete W. Barnes and Cheryl Shaw Barnes, very accurately depicts how a case makes its way through the Mouse Supreme Court. The case in question challenged a provision in the Mouse Constitution requiring all mice to dine on a specific kind of cheese each day, i.e. cheddar every Sunday, Roquefort every Monday, etc. The mouse petitioners sought the right to eat their cheese of choice any day, and the mouse justices, including three fetching lady mice, indeed declared the Cheese Law unconstitutional.



Librarians Janice Shull (left) and Carol Billings (right) sharing the story of *Marshall* with the students.



**Court History Tidbit**

Charles A. O’Niell was Louisiana’s longest serving Chief Justice, holding the post for the 27-year period from 1922 to 1949. Both O’Niell and John B. Fournet, who was the next chief for 21 years from 1949 to 1970, sat on the Supreme Court for 35 years. Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. is among the four longest serving members of the Supreme Court, having been elected more than 28 years ago. Besides O’Niell and Fournet, only Francois-Xavier Martin, whose 31-year term ran from 1815 to 1846 surpasses his longevity in office.



**Law Day** is celebrated the first day in May.

**STUMP THE LIBRARIAN!**

We received a telephone inquiry concerning R.S. 40:1298, Furnishing and maintaining of resuscitators; penalties. This statute was added by Act 578 of 1960. There is a note in the Louisiana Statutes Annotated indicating, “R.S. 40:1298 was suspended by House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, 2nd Ex.Sess., 1961, until adoption of amendments more clearly stating the legislative intent.”

Is the statute still suspended? The answer is yes. But it took some investigation to figure it out. To be sure that we were correct, we called the Legislative Research Library for consultation. They thought the question was an unusual one as well.

The 1921 Constitution had no provision for the length of time

that a statute could be suspended. Article 19, §5, Suspension of laws, provides:

“No power of suspending laws of this state shall be exercised except by the Legislature, or by its authority, and then only by the same vote that was required for final passage of the law proposed to be suspended, whether the suspension is accomplished by the enactment of a statute or by the adoption of a concurrent resolution....”

In the 1974 Constitution, Article 3, § 20, Suspension of Laws now provides:

“Only the legislature may suspend a law, and then only by the same vote and, except for gubernatorial veto and time limitations for introduction, according to the same procedures and formalities

required for enactment of that law. **After the effective date of this constitution** (emphasis added), every resolution suspending a law shall fix the period of suspension, which shall not extend beyond the sixtieth day after final adjournment of the next regular session. (Emphasis added)”

Because Louisiana does not have a person or office designated to clean up the statutes, there is no impetus to correct this situation. FYI, this statute required that there be resuscitators provided at swimming pools.

This stumper provided by the reference staff: Cathy Lemann, Marie Erickson, and Ruth Mahoney.

**MOUSE SUPREME COURT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.**

Our library staff considers *Marshall, the Courthouse Mouse* a wonderful teaching tool because it explains so clearly how the U.S. Supreme Court operates. The whimsical pictures show just what the courtroom and

library at the big court look like. Of course the librarians also took the opportunity to tell the young listeners about the two great Marshalls who have sat on the court, John and Thurgood. We have added a copy of

the book to our collection to be enjoyed by both young library visitors and their parents.

**LAW DAY THEME INSPIRES LOBBY EXHIBIT**

In celebration of this year’s Law Day, the library has prepared an exhibit of items in the library collection which express the theme of “Celebrate Your Freedom: Assuring Equal Justice For All.” The four glass exhibit cases in the first floor lobby of the Supreme Court Building are filled with examples of the courts and the legal community seeking to improve the administration of justice for all groups. One

exhibit case is devoted to materials that identify target populations and new ways to assure access to justice for those groups. Organizations involved in the promotion of equal justice are featured in other exhibit cases. Materials from court improvement projects in Louisiana and in other states reveal the challenges that courts face today and the opportunities for court/community part-

nerships in solving problems. Louisiana courts engage in a variety of community outreach activities which promote access to justice and the materials from these activities are also displayed. We invite you to drop by and peruse the exhibit for a few minutes. You will be amazed at the many ways our nation’s courts and legal communities are working to assure equal justice for all.

## ADVICE FOR LEGAL INFORMATION CONSUMERS

BY: CAROL BILLINGS

Every lawyer knows that keeping your office library up-to-date is an expensive proposition. Most titles in your library are acquired via a subscription arrangement whereby you either pay an annual fee to receive updates, or the publisher sends you supplements and replacements accompanied by a bill. Many lawyers are relying to some degree on electronic access to legal information, but this more often saves space rather than money. Arriving at the most cost-effective balance of print and electronic information products is a daunting challenge for any law office or court.

The most helpful source we know of for good solid advice is *Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual* by our law librarian colleague Kendall F. Svengalis, who was Director of the Rhode Island State Law Library for 26 years. The new 2002 edition has just been published in

Providence by Rhode Island Law Press (phone 800-955-4089). At \$105 this 636-page tome is a bargain. Svengalis covers state and federal case reporters, statutes, regulations, looseleaf services, citators, periodicals, and treatises arranged by subject. Both print and electronic products are discussed in detail. Svengalis gives the price, frequency, updating method, and excellent summaries of the contents. Helpful hints on ways to save money are abundant.

The Guide's chapter 27 provides a list of legal treatises that cover 60 subject areas. It constitutes the most complete annotated bibliography of legal treatise literature available anywhere. Many of the listings include advice on how to keep up-to-date cost-effectively. A new feature in this edition is a spreadsheet allowing the information

consumer to track the prices of supplementation for over 1,300 treatises over a five year period. This is a valuable tool for any law firm or court as it makes budgetary decisions related to its acquisition of legal information. Another helpful spreadsheet provides the historical caselaw coverage of ten computer-assisted legal research vendors, such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, and LOIS.

Svengalis covers primary materials for all 50 states as well. For Louisiana you can easily find the cost of maintaining our statutes, session laws, court reports, digest, administrative law, and citators in either print or electronic versions. Leading websites for Louisiana legal information are listed too.

Check it out  
on the Web

@:

[www.rilawpress.com](http://www.rilawpress.com)

A very comprehensive web site featuring Mr. Svengalis' book, highlighting the books features, reprints of reviews and information on how to

## Federal Legislative History Materials at the Law Library of Louisiana

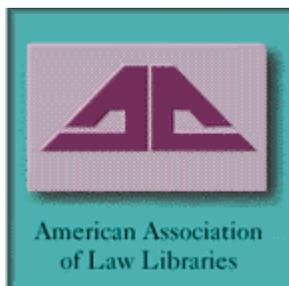
by: Georgia Chadwick

The Law Library of Louisiana is fortunate to have a comprehensive collection of federal legislative history materials. Anyone who wishes to delve into the purpose of a particular piece of legislation will most likely have to use resources which only a Federal Depository Library Program library will have. The Federal Depository Library Program is administered by the Superintendent of Documents to make government information in both print and electronic for-

mats available to libraries nationwide for free use by the public. For recent legislation many materials are available online from the two largest commercially produced legal databases, Lexis and Westlaw, and are also available at no cost via the Internet from GPO Access, or THOMAS. GPO Access is a service of the U.S. Government Printing Office providing free electronic access to the official version of government information products.

Free access to Federal legislative information, duplicating some of that found at GPO Access, is offered at the Library of Congress's THOMAS website. But for older legislation print sources will be the only option.

There are a number of sources to be consulted when determining legislative intent. Four of the most important are versions of the bill, committee hearings, committee reports and congressional debate. Our library has access to all of these sources.



For information about  
AALL check them out on  
the web @:  
[www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org)

## ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ELECTED SECRETARY OF AALL, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIANS

Catherine Lemann, Associate Director of the Law Library, has been elected to a three year term as Secretary of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). The American Association of Law Libraries was founded in 1906 to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information. Today, with over 5,000 members, the Association represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with a wide range of institutions: law firms; law schools; corporate legal

departments; courts; and local, state and federal government agencies.

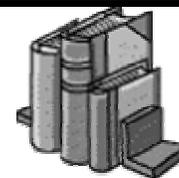
She will take office at the conclusion of the AALL 2002 Annual Meeting in Orlando in July. During her term, Lemann will chair the Executive Board's Governance Committee. Board members also serve as Board Liaisons to Association various committee's. Lemann will be liaison to the Copyright and Bylaws Committees for 2001 - 2002.

The AALL Executive Board meets three times a year, at the Annual Meeting and twice in Chicago. Lemann may also be making visits to

Chapters of the Association throughout the year. "I'm not quite sure yet of the time commitment or travel that will be involved," she said.

Previously Lemann served as President of the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians and the South-eastern Chapter of AALL. She chaired a Special Committee on Membership and Retention, served on the Publications, Government Relations and Professional Development committees of AALL. She will continue to serve as a member of the Executive Board of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of AALL.

## WHAT'S NEW? A LIST OF SOME OF THE LIBRARY'S RECENT ACQUISITIONS



The library adds new editions, volumes and monographs to its collection almost every day. This is a listing of a few of our newest additions.

### Electronic Resources:

*CQ's Politics in America.* (Free internet access with library subscription; request a password from the library)

*Vital Statistics of the United States.* (Continues *The government documents in print*)

*The World Fact book.* (Also available in print)

### Treatises:

Borgman, Christine. *From Gutenberg to the global information infrastructure: access to information in the networked world.* MIT Press, 2000.

*Internet law for the business lawyer.* American Bar Association, Section of Business Law, 2001.

Krause, Charles. *Aviation tort and regulatory law.* West Group, 2002.

Stapleton, Laura Lee. *E-copyright law handbook.* Aspen Law & Business, 2002.

### Periodicals:

Legal Affairs. Vol. 1, no. 1 (2002)-

Yale journal of health policy, law, and ethics. Vol. 1 (2001)-

### Courts and Judicial Administration:

Green, Stuart P. *The Louisiana criminal code: ten proposals for reform.* Louisiana Bar Foundation, 2002.

*The improvement of the administration of justice.* 7th ed. American Bar Association, Judicial Division, 2002.

*Rethinking the revolving door: a look at mental illness in the courts.* Center for Courts Innovation, 2001.

### History:

Harlan, Malvina Shanklin. *Some memories of a long life, 1854-1911.* Modern Library, 2002.

Maraist, Frank L. and Politz, Henry A. *Louisiana law—legends and laughs: a collection of tales from the legal community.* Birdfoot Delta Press, 2002.

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★ Do you have any ★  
★ De Novo questions? ★  
★ Or suggestions? ★  
★ Story ideas, com- ★  
★ ments? Something ★  
★ you would like to see ★  
★ included? ★  
★ Please feel free to ★  
★ email them to: ★  
★ Cathleen Richards ★  
★ crichard@lasc.org ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Postcards from Royal Street By: Janice Shull

Henry P. Dart, President of the Louisiana Bar Association in 1898, noted in his President's Address that "in New Orleans civil justice is administered in a rookery [referring to the Cabildo] which was never fitted for courthouse purposes ...a wretched brick barn, damp, full of drafts in winter, with no rooms for witnesses or jurors and no conveniences for judges or lawyers."

The Courthouse Commission was created by Act 79 of 1902 and amended by Act 96 of 1904.

Members of the Courthouse Commission in its construction phase included Bernard McCloskey, E.B. Kruttschnitt, Aristides Hopkins, Colonel James Davidson Hill, George H. Dunbar, George Lanoux, Charles T. Soniat, and Henry P. Dart.

Edwin I. Mahoney was appointed superintendent of the New Orleans Court Building and secretary of the Court House Commission from 1910 to 1922. His grand-daughter, Ruth Mahoney, is a library associate for public services. Ruth has worked at the Law Library for 14 years.

*October 1, 1910*

*Dear Hortense,*

*Today I saw the magnificent new Court House on Royal Street. The superintendent, Mr. Edwin Mahoney, told me it cost more than \$1,000,000 to build--all Georgia marble and terra cotta that gleams in the sun! Everything was hustle and bustle around the building to prepare for the grand opening ceremony next Monday morning. I watched trucks and wagons delivering cartons of records, office supplies, and personal belongings for the 4 courts and the 14 other city and state offices which are all moving into the 4-story building. Mr. Mahoney (such a nice young man) allowed me to observe the delivery of the beautiful brass cuspidors which match the other fittings. Can you guess how many cuspidors are required for such a large place?--why, 334!*

*We are dining at a place called Galatoire's tonight. Henry tells me it's the best.*

*Wish you were here,*

*J*

## WHAT'S THIS AALL ABOUT? DO YOU NOALL?

### NOALL, it's not just for librarians!

NOALL extends membership to anyone in the legal community who is interested in law libraries.

For membership information, contact:

Georgia Chadwick  
gdchadwi@lasc.org

Throughout this newsletter, you may have noticed that staff members are working with various law library associations. Why do we do it?

At the local level is NOALL, the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians. There are about 50 active members from law firms and courts in Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Tulane, Loyola and LSU law schools. NOALL members meet 5 or 6 times a year for brown bag lunch meetings to listen to an outside speaker.

SEAALL is the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. SEAALL has about 600 members from 11 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are law librarians from the private sector, the government, academia, and more. SEAALL members meet annually in the

spring for a day long institute and a one and a half day conference attended by almost 200 people.

AALL, the American Association of Law Libraries, is the national organization with approximately 5000 members. AALL hosts an annual conference. In the past few years, AALL has met in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Anaheim and Washington, D.C. and attracted about 2000 attendees. Over the course of the four day meeting, there are 60 educational programs, vendor demonstrations and social events. AALL will meet in New Orleans in 2007.

Each of these organizations provides the staff with the chance to meet and learn from other law librarians. Our contacts help us answer questions about the law in other states. Locally, we learn about various resources and substan-

tive law. The technical services staff can discuss questions of common interest with others grappling with the same issues. The public services staff trades stories of how to deal with difficult patrons.

It helps us remember that we are not alone and that we do not have to try to reinvent the wheel to solve every question. We can ask how other libraries have dealt with something. Sometimes we can adapt their solutions to our situation.

It's fun. The social events give us a chance to visit with friends from around the country. Email has made it possible to keep up with people more easily, but that face to face contact is important.

The bottom line: it makes us better law librarians.

### Check it all out on the web:

#### GPO Access:

[www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/index.html)

#### THOMAS:

<http://Thomas.loc.gov/>

#### American Memory Collection:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

### Federal Legislative History Materials at the Law Library of Louisiana continued:

Comparing the language of the various versions of a bill as it goes through the enactment process enables the researcher to discern the intent of Congress. The Law Library of Louisiana has microfiche copies of bills which were distributed by the Government Printing Office from the 96th Congress through the 106th Congress when distribution was discontinued. All published full text versions of bills are available starting with the 103rd Congress at GPO Access and at THOMAS from the 101st Congress. Information about bills and amendments is available at THOMAS from the 93rd Congress.

After a bill is introduced in Congress it is assigned to a committee, which may hold

hearings regarding the proposed legislation. Congressional committees may also hold hearings on matters of specific concern not related to any particular legislation. Hearings are not technically part of a legislative history because they do not contain Congressional deliberations, but they do contain the opinions of interested persons or experts on a bill or matter before Congress. Our library has been receiving hearings in microfiche since the 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session. They are filed by Superintendent of Documents number (SuDoc). Subject access to these hearings is provided by the commercially produced *CIS/Index*. The Law Library of Louisiana has the print version of this comprehensive finding tool, which since 1970 has provided greater detail

and more access points than any government-produced finding tool. The Catalog of U.S. Government Publications is located at GPO Access, and it includes citations to hearings from January 1994 to the present.

Committee reports are considered the most important documents in determining legislative intent because, if the committee recommends passage, the report will provide the committee's rationale for reporting the bill out of committee. Amendments may be added during committee consideration. After a bill is considered and passed by one house of Congress, it is sent to the appropriate committee in the

Continued on page: 7

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIALS CONT.

other house and later, if one house will not accept the other's version of the bill, a conference committee made up of members of both houses is convened. The conference committee reconciles differences between the two bills and explains the effect of the compromise. These House and Senate reports are published in a series of bound volumes called the *Serial Set*. Our library owns most of the *Serial Set* from the earliest sessions of Congress to the present. Like a gumbo with a wealth of contents, the current set consists of House reports, Senate reports, House documents, Senate documents, Senate Treaty documents, and Senate executive reports. Our library has an original set of the *American State Papers*, which is considered to be the beginning of the *Serial Set* and covers the 1<sup>st</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> Congresses. Our set is mostly complete from the 46<sup>th</sup> Congress. Some of our holdings are in microfiche. Although floor debate on a pending bill can occur at al-

most any time in its path through Congress, it typically takes place after the bill has been reported out by committee. Floor debate is usually included as an important part of a legislative history even though some authorities claim that it is not to be considered by courts as determining Congressional intent. During the debates, amendments may be proposed and explanations of cloudy or controversial provisions are offered. Consequently much revealed in the discussion of a bill on the floor of Congress. Our library has print volumes of the original *Congressional Record* since it began publication in 1873. We also have the earlier attempts at publishing the deliberations of Congress: *The Annals of Congress* and *The Debates in Congress*. We have the bound red "permanent" edition of the *Congressional Record* through the 98<sup>th</sup> Congress, and after that we have a microfiche version. The index volumes are still published in print. In them is the very helpful

"History of Bills and Resolutions" published for each session of Congress. Our library also receives the "daily edition" of the *Congressional Record* in microfiche. Members can revise or add remarks, thus the content of the "permanent" and "daily" editions of the *Congressional Record* is not the same. The pagination is different, and generally references to the *Congressional Record* should be to the bound edition. Sometimes, due to the very slow publication rate of the bound edition, the cited material is only available in the daily edition. For the fastest access to recent daily editions of the *Congressional Record* use GPO Access, THOMAS, Lexis or Westlaw.

Another source to consider in looking into the history of a law is a message or statement made by the President when he signs or vetoes an act or sends it to Congress.

Continued on pg: 8

## The Newspaper Collection at the Law Library of Louisiana

By: Ruth Mahoney

The Law Library has a wide selection of local, state and national newspapers. The most recent issues are kept on the Newspaper Rack in the Reading Room and older issues are sent to the basement for one year. After one year, the paper copies are discarded. The collection includes The Advocate which is the Official Journal of the State (R.S. 43:81). The Acts of the Legislature are printed in The Advocate and kept at the Reference Desk. The library subscribes to three legal newspapers; two of which are kept permanently on microfilm. We have recently acquired the index to the Times-Picayune on microfilm for the years 1951-1990. The following is a list of our newspapers and their

frequency:

Times-Picayune - daily

New Orleans City Business - weekly

The Advocate - daily

Greater Baton Rouge Business Report - biweekly

New York Times - daily

Wall Street Journal - weekdays

Legal Times - weekly

National Law Journal - weekly- Microform holdings V. 1-24 (8/7/78 - 9/2/01)

New York Law Journal - weekdays - Microform holdings V. 181-227 (1979 - 2/1/02)

It is important to remember that we are a library without walls, and that we can search the Internet, Lexis and Westlaw for articles in newspapers that are not listed above. Just call us!



The Newsletter of  
The Law Library of  
Louisiana

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We are on the web!!  
**WWW.LASC.ORG**



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**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE HISTORY MATERIALS  
CONTINUED:**

These statements may appear in several places, but the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is the one of the best known sources. Our library has this set in microfiche format from 1965. GPO Access offers the *Weekly Compilation* from 1993 to the present and offers the most current access.

Several other Congressional publications which may have some slight relevance to legislative history are House and Senate documents and committee prints. House and Senate documents are published in the *Serial Set* when required by law or by special request. Committee prints, generally special studies in specific subject areas, are prepared for the use of Congressional committees. Our library has House and Senate documents in print in the *Serial Set*. Our committee prints are in microfiche filed by

SuDoc number. Again, the *CIS/Index* offers the best subject access to these materials.

The Law Library of Louisiana treasures its complete set of the *United States Statutes at Large*, containing the authoritative text of public and private laws. We also receive slip laws from the Government Printing Office which update it. Of course Westlaw, Lexis, GPO Access, and THOMAS as well as commercially printed products provide the fastest access to very current laws.

The least complete source of legislative history for federal legislation is West's *United States Code Congressional and Administrative News* (USCCAN), which reprints the text of selected relevant documents. Included are the text of the public law, the house or senate report, the conference report and possibly

a Presidential statement. USCCAN does have some useful tables and indexes. Our library has this set which began in 1941 with the 77<sup>th</sup> Congress.

As a Federal Depository Library we have been receiving publications from the government for many years. While a Federal Depository Library may be the only source for print versions of very old legislative history materials, a surprising number of these treasures are now available at "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates 1774-1873" found at the American Memory Collection at the Library of Congress website.

Check it all out on the  
web:

**GPO Access:**

[www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/  
index.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/index.html)

**THOMAS:**

<http://Thomas.loc.gov/>

**American Memory  
Collection:**

[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/  
amlaw/lawhome.html](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html)