FREE CLE FOR ATTORNEY FRIENDS MEMBERS

“Learning at the Law Library” Series
for Public-and Bar to Debut January 19

Even Katrina cannot prevent the Law Library of Louisiana from celebrating its 150th anniversary—albeit a little late. We will belatedly launch our “Learning at the Law Library” series of educational and enrichment programs for the bar and public on Thursday, January 19. Attorneys who join the Friends of the Law Library (paying $25 annual dues) will be able to receive one hour of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit for attending the program “It’s Not Only Books: Online Resources at the Law Library of Louisiana,” presented by lawyer-librarian Catherine Lemann, the Associate Director. The public is invited to attend free of charge. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the library, and the program will run from 5 to 6 p.m. Afterwards attendees will be treated by the Friends to refreshments and a tour of the library. While advance reservations are not required, the library will appreciate receiving notice if you plan to attend in order to have sufficient chairs and materials available. Please e-mail us at library@lasc.org or call the library information desk at (504) 310-2400 or from outside New Orleans via 1-800-820-3038.

Friends of the Library membership forms and CLE course attendance cards will be available at registration. De Novo readers may also mail in the Friends membership form in this issue. Payment of annual membership dues will entitle attorneys to free registration for any library CLE programs presented during 2006.

The second program in the series, to be presented in the early spring on a date to be announced, will feature three New Orleans attorneys who are well-known experts in historic preservation law—a subject that takes on special significance as the city restores and rebuilds itself. James Derbes, James Logan, and Lloyd (Sonny) Shields will explore many legal issues related to acquiring, restoring, maintaining, or altering historic real estate—the benefits and challenges. An application has been submitted to the L.S.B.A. for approval to offer 1.5 CLE credit hours for this program. French Quarter residents and members of historic preservation associations should find the session especially interesting. Refreshments will be offered following the presentation. Preliminary details appear elsewhere in this issue, and specific information will be in the next De Novo.

January 19 instructor Catherine Lemann will introduce her audience to a number of legal research tools—some available via the internet at one’s home or office and others which the library is licensed to provide on-site via computers free of charge for the public, bar and judiciary. Projecting computer images on the library’s large screen, Lemann will demonstrate the advantages of the electronic products. She describes her lecture as follows:

“While we have plenty of books on the shelves, we’re definitely about more than paper-based material. This program will review a variety of web-based resources available for use in the law library. Resources include Hein Online, a compilation of digitized law journals, the Federal Register, Treaties and U.S. Supreme Court material, the LexisNexis U.S. Serial Set Digital Collection containing Congressional documents 1789 - 1969; Loislaw; MarciveWeb Docs for locating government documents; InfoTrac and WilsonWeb law journal indices; Lexisone and Westlaw. Continued on page 3

Planning their lecture series presentations are James Logan, Catherine Lemann, Lloyd (Sonny) Shields and, James Derbes.

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Friday and Saturday
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Jason Kruppa – Library Associate
Friends of the Library Reorganize and Incorporate

by Carol Billings

The Advisory Board of the Law Library, chaired by Judith Gainsburgh, voted at its July 11 meeting formally to reorganize and incorporate as the board of the Friends of the Law Library of Louisiana. Articles and bylaws drafted by board member Margaret Woodward were adopted. Memberships paid earlier in 2005 to the original Friends organization, founded in 1982, will remain effective in the new organization through March 31, 2006. New memberships paid now through March 31, 2006, will extend through March 31, 2007—an excellent bargain. A new membership year will commence on April 1, 2006.

The revamped Friends organization will be governed by a board of directors, which shall annually elect a president and appoint a secretary, treasurer, and other officers and committees.

The board will meet at least twice a year, and at its official annual meeting will elect new and continuing board members to two-year renewable terms. Any member of the Friends will be eligible for election to the board and its presidency. In future years nominations will be submitted to the president no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting. This year the deadline for submission to the chair, Judith Gainsburgh, will be February 15.

The Friends’ board and library staff heartily welcome everyone interested in the library to join the organization—attorneys, judges, all members of the legal community, and the general public. The benefits of membership include a complimentary subscription to the library’s quarterly prize-winning newsletter De Novo and invitations to all Friends’ programs and events. For attorneys, this will include free registration for all library educational programs approved for Louisiana CLE credit. The basic individual annual dues are $25. Other individual membership categories are $50 for contributing members, $100 for sustaining members, and $250 for life members. For law firms, dues are $100 for firms with fewer than 20 attorneys, $200 for firms with between 21 and 50 attorneys, and $500 for firms with over 50 attorneys. A firm’s membership shall entitle each of its attorneys to all benefits, although notices shall be sent to one designated attorney.

Current members of the Friends Board of Directors in addition to Chair Judith Gainsburgh are David A. Dalia, Anthony Gagliano, Cameron D. Gamble, T. Jeffery Gregoire, Clayton J. Joffrion, Rowena Jones, Judge Rosemary Ledet, Adolph J. Levy, Judge Patricia Rivet Murray, Valerie Willard, and Margaret E. Woodward.

Historical Society Reorganizes, Elects Officers

The newly-appointed board of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society met for the first time on June 14. Robert Pugh, Sr. was elected chairman, and David Bienvenu president. Other new officers are vice presidents Donald T. Bollinger and Chancellor Freddie Pitcher, Jr.; secretary, Professor Paul Baier; and treasurer, Donna D. Fraiche. The new board, whose members were designated by the Supreme Court, replaces the now-dissolved board of the society that was founded in 1992 largely through the efforts of now U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James L. Dennis, who was then on the Supreme Court bench. Having seen its major goal—the renovation of the Royal Street Supreme Court Building—realized, the former board agreed to restructure and reincorporate the organization.

Chief Justice Pascal Calogero represents the Supreme Court on the board. Edward L. Dieffenbaker and Donna D. Fraiche were appointed by the court en banc. Other Supreme Court designees and their appointing justices are as follows: Judge Larry Green by Chief Justice Calogero, Louis D. Curet by Justice Catherine D. Kimball, Kelly McNeil Legier by Justice Bernette J. Johnson, Robert Pugh by Justice Jeffrey P. Victory, Judge John Harrison by Justice Chet D. Traylor, Cynthia Dupree by Justice Jeanette Theriot Knoll, and Donald T. Bollinger by Justice John L. Weiner. Michael W. McKay represents the Louisiana State Bar Association, and David F. Bienvenu represents the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

Each of the state’s law schools is represented by its chancellor or dean or their designee: Professor Paul Baier of L.S.U., Dean Brian Bromberger of Loyola, Chancellor Freddie Pitcher, Jr. of Southern University, and Dean Lawrence Ponoroff of Tulane.

At the June 14 meeting following opening remarks by Chief Justice Calogero, the original chair of the society’s board, Judge Eldon Fallon, reviewed the history of the society. The original president, James Coleman, Sr., then discussed plans for the Louisiana legal history museum that the society intends to establish. Library Director Carol Billings described the types of exhibits envisioned for the museum as well as other programs and activities that the society might undertake to support it. Professor Baier showed a brief film on U.S. Supreme Court history to illustrate the kinds of resources that can be presented in a legal history museum.
De Novo

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LOUNGING IN THE LIBRARY:
OUR NEW CASUAL READING AREA

by Miriam Childs

Up until now, the corridor outside of our Periodical stacks housed only lightly used carrels. The hallway has now been completely redecorated to become the Popular Reading Area. Featuring four luxurious chairs, ambient lamps, plush carpeting, and two coffee tables, the Popular Reading Area is the perfect place to relax and catch up on the news in such magazines as Time, Newsweek, U. S. News & World Report, and the New Yorker. The Economist, National Review, and New Republic are other titles displayed on the tables, with more subscriptions to follow.

Books on popular subjects were pulled out of the main collection and shelved in the Popular Reading Area’s petite bookcases. The librarians agreed that many of these books go unnoticed in the main stacks. Shelved together as a browsing collection, the books may receive the use that they deserve. Some of the highlights of this collection include: Habeas Codfish: Reflections on Food and the Law by Barry M. Levenson; Notorious Woman: the Celebrated Case of Myra Clark Gaines by Elizabeth Urban Alexander; Witness to the Truth: My Struggle for Civil Rights in Louisiana by John H. Scott with Cleo Scott Brown; Judgment Days: Lyndon Baines Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Laws that Changed America by Nick Kotz; The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice by Sandra Day O’Connor.

The Library encourages anyone who stops by to visit the Popular Reading Area and browse its other offerings. A number of the monographs in this area may be checked out by judicial branch and bar members.

“Learning At The Law Library Series” continued from page 1

The program will also provide information about CD resources for use in the library such as Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices, Consumer Warranty Law, Louisiana Notary Forms, and more. Attendees will learn which resources may be used only in the library and which are universally accessible on the web. We will provide a brief overview of each product, and there will be a handout with additional information. Come learn about the many electronic and web-based resources available for free at the Law Library of Louisiana.”

Central Staff employees Dana DuTerroil and Belva Locker perusing some of the magazines in our new reading area.

Friends of the Law Library of Louisiana Board of Directors

Judith Gainsburgh, Chair
David A. Dalia
Anthony Gagliano
Cameron C. Gamble
T. Jeffery Gregoire
Clayton J. Joffrion
Rowena Jones
Judge Rosemary Ledet
Adolph J. Levy
Judge Patricia Rivet Murray
Valerie Willard
Margaret E. Woodward

GETTING TO KNOW US

Is your court, firm or class interested in participating in a Law Library of Louisiana Orientation? For more information call: Carol Billings @ (504) 310-2401
Could an Encyclopedia Change the World?

by Janice Shull

Americana, Britannica, Columbia, Encarta...Diderot? If you guessed that these are names of encyclopedias, you have just won the Jeopardy category of “Reference Books,” but the last name might have been a stumper. If you had lived in the waning years of the French monarchy, you probably would have been familiar with Denis Diderot and his ambitious project to “change the common way of thinking” through the gathering and dissemination of knowledge and the development of rational thinking about our world. In a collaborative effort, 140 scholars contributed articles on over 70,000 subjects, ranging from “AA” to “ZZuéné.” Publication in Paris of the 32-volume set, consisting of 16 volumes of text, 11 volumes of engraved plates of illustrations, and 5 supplemental volumes, spanned 26 years from 1751-1777.

The Greeks used the word “encyclopedia” to convey the sense of a circle of knowledge or a complete system of learning, and the Roman historian, Pliny the Elder, is credited with creating the earliest known encyclopedia in 77 A.D. By the mid-eighteenth century encyclopedias had become common enterprises in Europe. In 1728 Ephraim Chambers produced the first modern encyclopedia in London. A proposed translation of Chambers’ work into French led to a revised and expanded plan for what became the Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des métiers et des arts [Encyclopedia, or a Systematic Dictionary of Science, Arts, and the Trades], edited by Denis Diderot and Jean Le Rond d’Alembert, who later resigned from the project. The new idea for this work was to include the mechanical arts, or technology, with other branches of knowledge and to recognize the value of manual labor. Diderot and his writers presented the Rationalist viewpoint of Descartes in opposition to aristocratic thinking, and Diderot was imprisoned and the license to publish his work was revoked until political protection for the project was secured.

Diderot’s encyclopedia could be considered subversive on many counts. The mercantile theories which still dominated the economic policies of Europe demanded secrecy in trade and technology in order to stifle competition. Diderot believed that progress was dependent on making technological knowledge public so that materials, efficiency and products could be improved. He was attacked by the Jesuits for classifying theology as a branch of philosophy. Perhaps most revolutionary was his notion that the common man deserved to have access to knowledge which had always been the privilege of the aristocracy. The influence of the Encyclopédie on the French Revolution just a decade after its publication remains an open question. Certainly, the monumental work of Diderot reflected the Rationalist beliefs in liberty for all, which were then circulating in France, and the popular encyclopedia aided that process. The true legacy of Diderot’s work, however, is its preservation in text and illustrations of the way people lived and worked in eighteenth century France.

The Law Library owns a nearly complete set of the first edition of the Encyclopédie, which is shelved in the Rare Book Room. A collaborative project to translate the Diderot Encyclopédie has been launched by the University of Michigan, with articles appearing at this website: http://www.hti.umich.edu/d/did/ Translators are being sought for the project.
Librarian Janice Shull Retires

Longtime patrons of the library and readers of De Novo have for years benefited tremendously from the exceptional contributions of our Head of Technical Services and legal history aficionado Janice Shull. The library with deep regret announces that Janice, who was a key member of our staff for 21 years, retired at the end of October after her family’s home was severely flooded when the nearby Seventeenth Street Canal levee was breached. Janice and her husband, Professor Steven A. Shull of the UNO Political Science Department, have moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Dr. Shull is now teaching at Ohio State. She eventually plans to resume her career in librarianship in Columbus.

Janice has always been looked upon by her colleagues as a “renaissance librarian.” An expert in the cataloging and classification of legal materials, she master-minded the reorganization of the collection in preparation for our move to the French Quarter. But her love of history and rare books and her talents as a writer and exhibit curator led her outside the Technical Services Department to become our resident history buff. Janice has written many articles on the history of the Supreme Court and Louisiana legal institutions. She took particular interest in the court’s portrait collection, and has been working for some time on a bibliographical-bibliographical guide to all of the court’s justices.

The history of the Supreme Court Building has been another pet project, and Janice wrote the article on that subject for the library’s 2004 court history brochure. Highly respected in the national community of law librarians, Janice is a past president of the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians and has participated actively in the American Association of Law Libraries.

All of us will miss Janice tremendously, and we wish her and her family the very best.

American Association of Law Libraries Kicks Off Centennial Celebration

At its July meeting in San Antonio the American Association of Law Libraries launched the year-long celebration of its 100th birthday. Throughout the United States and beyond, law librarians who work for courts, public law libraries, law schools, government agencies, corporations, and law firms will be carrying out special projects to emphasize the value of their collections and services to the legal community and the public. The celebration will culminate at the 2006 annual meeting in St. Louis, where the theme of the program will be “Pioneering Change.” AALL’s new president, who took over the gavel in San Antonio, is Claire Germaine, a graduate of LSU Law School who is now director of the library at Cornell University.

In 1905 AALL was only a gleam in the eye of its founding president, A.J. Small, Curator of the Law Department of the Iowa State Library. In those days law librarians got together at the annual meeting of the American Library Association, which had been founded in 1876. Having decided that it would be beneficial for law librarians to have their own organization, Mr. Small in in the spring of 1906 sent out a call in which two dozen other libraries joined to meet during the ALA meeting at Narragansett Pier, R.I. There they founded AALL, whose membership has grown from 24 to 5,000.

While the largest law libraries in the country now tend to be in academic institutions, the founding member libraries of AALL were mostly ones like the Law Library of Louisiana that served the bar and public. Besides Small, the other founding officers were from the bar libraries in Baltimore and New York, the New York State Library, the Worcester (MA) County Law Library, and the University of Chicago. Librarians employed in law firms now constitute the largest membership category within AALL, but they were nonexistent in the early 20th century and rare until the second half. Even in the association’s earliest days, it took on issues such as the improvement of library facilities and the professionalization of law librarianship—combating hiring based upon political influence. Procedures were immediately put in place to exchange law books among the states and to produce indexes and a scholarly journal.

Law Library of Louisiana Director Carol Billings is chairing the Centennial Celebration Committee that is coordinating and promoting the nationwide birthday projects and events. Louisiana law librarians, participating through the local NOALL Chapter, the Southeastern Chapter, and the Baton Rouge Association, will be involved in various law library recruitment and promotional activities. Billings served as AALL national president in 1994/95, and Associate Director Catherine Lemann just complete her term as national secretary.

To Choose From In Our Popular Reading Area

A Farewell to Justice: Jim Garrison, JFK’s Assassination, and the Case that Should Have Changed History, by Joan Mellen

A Little Book of Louisiana Political Quotes, compiled by Brent Barksdale

America’s Lawyer-Presidents: From Law Office to Oval Office, ed. By Norman Gross

Catastrophe–Risk and Response, by Richard A. Posner


Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana’s Chemical Corridor, by Steve Lerner

Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation, by Cokie Roberts

John Adams, by David McCullough

Lords of Misrule–Mardi Gras and the Politics of Race in New Orleans, by James Gill

Louisiana–An Illustrated History, by C.E. Richard (A companion to the La. Public Broadcasting documentary)

New Yorker Book of Political Cartoons

U.S. Senate Catalogue of Fine Art, by William Kloss and Diane K. Skvarla
SOLUTIONS FOR “TECHNOSTRESS”

By Cathy Lemann

Cell phones, Blackberries, laptops, email, digital newsletters, blogs etc. Think of all the ways that you receive information and, conversely, offer as possible contact points for people to communicate with you. Clients, bosses, co-workers, and even family members expect to be able to reach you instantly at any time of the day or night. It is much more difficult than it was 5 - 10 years ago to leave work behind. Call it technostress or information overload, the need for instant gratification and contact can leave you feeling stressed.

Performing legal research can also create technostress. When you use books to research, you are limited to the books available in your library, or libraries near you. As you find yourself seeing the same cases or statutes over and over, you can conclude that your research is thorough and complete. But, when you have the myriad of databases available for a fee (Lexis, Westlaw, Loislaw) and the billions of pages on the Internet, it can be daunting to be sure you’ve looked in just the right places. How do you know when to stop researching? When looking at internet sites, how do you evaluate them to ensure currency, reliability, and validity.

One solution to this problem is to consult with a law librarian when you have a difficult research assignment.

Looking for an obscure article or book? Librarians can consult a shared database used by hundreds of libraries worldwide to locate a library that owns it.

Looking for a statute as it existed prior to electronic versions? While much recent material has been either born digital or converted to electronic format, there are older items that are only available in paper. Find a library that has retained the superseded statutes and bound the pocket parts.

Looking for something from Tennessee or Wyoming but not quite sure where to look? Law librarians have contacts in other states who are happy to help find obscure resources and educate us on how to locate them.

Looking for non-legal material, information on an expert witness, old newspaper articles? Even though we are librarians who specialize in legal questions, we are familiar with many non-legal resources.

Ask a law librarian for help. While it won’t decrease the demands for immediate answers, it might help you find them more quickly and, hopefully, lessen your stress level.

LSU Sea Grant Legal Program

By Miriam Childs

For over thirty years, the Sea Grant Legal Program has concerned itself with Louisiana coastal issues. The Sea Grant Legal Program (SGLP) is a part of the Marine Advisory Services of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. The SGLP provides legal information and services to all users of Louisiana’s coastal waterways. Its clients include state and local government, recreational and commercial fishers, and the general public. Two in-house attorneys and law clerks are on hand to provide legal advisory services.

The attorneys at the Sea Grant Legal Program research any issue dealing with the use, conservation, and management of Louisiana’s coastal waters. Over the years, many issues have been covered, including: coastal restoration, marsh management, wetlands regulation, coastal zone management, oil spill prevention and response, oyster industry regulation, pollution, public access, and property rights. The SGLP publishes a quarterly newsletter entitled Louisiana Coastal Law (KFL 446.A73 L68).

The newsletter contains articles on current issues and legislation affecting coastal waters. The SGLP website (http://www.lsu.edu/siglegal/index.html) has archived several issues of Louisiana Coastal Law, going back to the first issue in 1971. Currently the SGLP is researching legal issues in coastal restoration, aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico, and the oyster industry. The website provides more details on current and completed SGLP projects.
The United States Constitution: A Reason to Celebrate

By Georgia Chadwick

After England’s American colonies won their independence in 1783, the inhabitants were not anxious to become a new nation. They wanted to remain citizens of their own separate states. The states were organized in a league called the United States of America, held together loosely by the Articles of Confederation. However, by 1786 it was obvious that changes were needed, and delegates from the states were sent to a special convention in Philadelphia in May of 1787 to revise the Articles of Confederation. Soon the delegates realized that revision would not be enough, and they set out write a document to create a new form of government for a new nation. The United States Constitution is the framework for the three branches of our federal government, and it allocates the balance of power between the federal government and the states. September 17, 1787, was the day the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the Constitution and present it to the public. It took two more years before the United States Constitution was ratified by all the states.

Since the 1950's the President of the United States has been authorized to designate the days beginning September 17 and ending September 23 of each year as Constitution Week, and to issue an annual proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe the week in schools, churches and other suitable places. The President also proclaims September 17th as Citizenship Day in recognition of all who have attained the status of citizenship either by coming of age or by naturalization. Most recently in 2004, Senator Robert Byrd added a change to the Citizenship Day law to make it Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. He added a provision to the law concerning educational institutions in an attempt to increase knowledge of the Constitution among students. Any educational institution that receives Federal funds will implement an educational program on the Constitution each year on September 17th. Senator Byrd also added that new employees of federal agencies and departments should receive information on the Constitution as part of their orientation and again annually on Constitution Day. With the implementation of this new legislation, the writing and signing of our Constitution will be celebrated by more people and in more places than ever before.

The library’s collection contains a wide variety of materials for people to read and learn again about the creation of the Constitution. Carol Billings, Director of the Law Library, wrote a very thorough bibliographical essay for Law Library Journal in 1989 after the celebration of the bicentennial of the Constitution, and many of the works cited are owned by our library. An important bibliography is a two volume work by Ronald M. Gephart, Revolutionary America, 1763-1789: A Bibliography, which represents every source held by the Library of Congress on the period from the coming of the Revolution through the founding of the new nation. The library owns the best-known and most useful edition of the first-hand accounts of the proceedings in Philadelphia compiled by Max Ferrand of Yale University in the early 1900's. Ferrand assembled the journals of James Madison and others and later supplemented his work to include previously undiscovered documents. Two very important volumes of the United States Serial Set are Documents Illustrative of the Formation of the Union of the United States, which the library owns in paper, and Documentary History of the Constitution of the United States of America, 1787-1870, which is available in digital format in the library.

These are only a few of the sources in our library on the Constitutional Convention. Some of these, as well as others, will soon be on display in an exhibit in our lobby. Among the other titles, our exhibit will show a number of colorful childrens’ books such as Shh! We’re Writing the Constitution by Jean Fritz.

Before Katrina chased us out of town at the end of August, Georgia Chadwick was preparing a special exhibit to celebrate the anniversary of the Constitutional Convention in September. The exhibit will be mounted in the near future.
De Novo

Friends of the Law Library of Louisiana Membership Form

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- $250 Life Member
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- $200 Law Firm–21 to 50 attorneys
- $500 Law Firm–over 50 attorneys

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Dues paid prior to March 31, 2006 will extend membership through March 31, 2007. Please make check payable to “Friends of the Law Library of Louisiana,” and mail to:

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