



DE NOVO

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9am-9pm

Friday and Saturday
9am-5pm

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New Library Director Georgia Chadwick

Georgia Chadwick was promoted to director of the Law Library effective September 1, 2007. During the thirteen years Georgia has been at the Law Library, she has held positions as Reference Librarian, Collection Development and Documents Librarian, Head of Technical Services, and most recently as Associate Director. Her first professional position as a new law librarian in 1978 was as reference librarian at the Law Library of Louisiana.



During her career as a law librarian, Georgia has worked at two law school libraries: the University of Texas at Austin, Tarlton Law Library and Southern Methodist University law school library. She also gained experience as a law librarian at several law firms in Texas, New Orleans and Washington, D.C. Georgia has been active as a committee member or officer in various professional organizations, including the American Association of Law Libraries,

the Southeastern Chapter of AALL, the New Orleans Association of Law Librarians, and the Louisiana Library Association.

Although Georgia is a native of New Orleans, she was five years old when her family moved from Gentilly to an "inside-the-beltway" Maryland suburb of Washington, D.C. She returned to New Orleans to attend Newcomb College and graduated in the class of 1976. Georgia received her Master of Arts in Li-

brarianship from the University of Denver in 1978.

Georgia and her husband Ken have one child, Gordon, who is a pitcher on the Rhodes College baseball team in Memphis, TN. Her interests besides baseball are genealogy and local history. Georgia is a member of Le Petit Salon, a club which meets at 620 St. Peter Street, a lovely building once owned by Chief Justice Edward Bernudez which is maintained by the Salon members. **8**

The Historical Archives of the Louisiana Supreme Court

by *Katie Nachod*

Just in case you missed it, October was American Archives Month, a time to celebrate our country's vast repositories of historical records, documents, papers, and files. As the old adage goes, you cannot know where you are going unless you know where you have been,

and exploring historical archives is a good method for researching our collective past. In honor of this occasion, Florence Jumonville, Ph.D and Chair of the Louisiana and Special Collections Department of the Earl K. Long Library at the University of New Orleans (UNO), presented a program at her library entitled

"Yesterday's Lawsuit, Today's History: Using the Archives of the Supreme Court of Louisiana in Research." I attended along with several other Law Library of Louisiana staff members, and we learned some fascinating facts about this collection.

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Printing from Westlaw
\$0.04 per line

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\$7.00 per document.

Mediated Westpack
\$25.00 per search

Mediated Lexisone
\$25.00 per search



Supreme Court Archives

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Dr. Jumonville started her talk by providing a rundown of Louisiana's high courts: 1712-1769 - French Superior Council; 1769-1803 - Spanish Cabildo; 1803-1804 - Governor's Court; 1804-1812 - Superior Court of the Territory of Louisiana; 1812-1813 - Superior Court of the State of Louisiana; and 1813-present - Supreme Court of Louisiana. The UNO collection comprises approximately 3,000 linear feet of case files for the years 1813 through 1920. The files for the courts prior to 1813 are housed in the Louisiana Division of the New Orleans Public Library, and the post-1920 files are kept at the State Archives in Baton Rouge. There are also collections of some case files at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Law Library, as well as at the Louisiana Supreme Court Records Division.

The UNO Archives of the Supreme Court of Louisiana represents a unique partnership between a court and a university that was forged by Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Albert Tate and then-Associate Professor of History at UNO Warren Billings. Justice Tate was concerned about the preservation of these important records, but he and the other Justices were reluc-

tant to have them moved to the State Archives in Baton Rouge, a distance of eighty miles. At UNO, the documents could be stored in a secure climate-controlled environment at a state-supported institution where they would be well maintained and available to the public. Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Joe W. Sanders and UNO Chancellor Homer L. Hitt signed the transfer agreement in 1976. The transfer of records began in 1979 and was not completed until 2000.

One of the visuals used by Dr. Jumonville was a slide showing a page from the first Louisiana Supreme Court case, *Seguin v. Debon*, which was filed in March 1813 and assigned Docket Number 1. The suit involved a carpenter trying to recover the value of his labor and materials used in the repair of a ship that was lost in a hurricane while in the carpenter's possession. The Court found in favor of the ship owner, ruling that under civil law, if the work was destroyed before the item was returned to the owner, the workman had to bear the loss.

Because the case files usually contain the complete records from the trial courts, they sometime include maps, surveys, architectural drawings, photographs, correspondence, and in one instance,

two labels from competing coffee brands in a trademark dispute. The users of this fascinating and rich collection include: genealogists searching for information on ancestors who were party to a lawsuit; historians seeking information on particular issues or persons; writers of non-fiction and fiction historical works; and students and other researchers.

While the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Archives is the largest and most frequently used collection, the UNO Louisiana and Special Collections also contains 350 other collections of Louisiana materials, with an emphasis on New Orleans, encompassing such topics as the history of ethnic groups, business records, education, aviation, editorial cartoons, and the New Orleans Carnival. You can access these materials with the friendly assistance of the Louisiana and Special Collections staff members on the fourth floor of the library. The departmental telephone number is 504-280-6544, and their web site is <http://library.uno.edu/about/louisiana.html>. Don't wait until next year's American Archive Month to check them out! **δ**

Dr. Hugh Collins Receives Kenneth Palmer Award

Louisiana Judicial Administrator Dr. Hugh Collins, Ph. D., received the Kenneth R. Palmer Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his service to the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA). The award was presented by COSCA president J.D. Gingerich at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Conference of Chief Justices and COSCA. The Palmer Award is not presented annually, but, according to Gingerich, "is given on rare occa-

sions to honor one whose work exemplifies the very best of resoluteness and commitment to improving the administration of justice in our country."

Among many other professional organizations, Dr. Collins is a member of the Louisiana Court Administrators Association, the National Association for Court Management, and the Louisiana State/Federal Judicial Council. In addition, he is involved in the COSCA Court Statistics Project

and the Forum of the Advancement of Court Technology. Dr. Collins has received the National Center for State Courts' Distinguished Service Award, the American Judges Association's Glenn R. Winters Award, and has been inducted into the Warren E. Burger Society. The Kenneth R. Palmer Award is further evidence of Dr. Collins' pursuit of excellence in judicial administration. **δ**

PERIODICALS AND PERIODICAL RESEARCH IN THE LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA, PART II

by Katie Nachod

I wrote an article for the Spring issue of *De Novo* on the rich collection of over 1,000 periodical titles held by our library, highlighting interesting and diverse titles from academic law journals. Now I would like to focus on articles in a more specialized type of periodical, the state bar journal. I scan the new issues of all the periodical titles before they go to the shelf, and often I am amazed at the range of subject matter covered in bar journals. I would like to share just a sampling with you, hoping this will whet your appetite and entice you to explore our collection for more items of note.

One article that caught my eye recently was Donald Gaffney's "On the Passing of Law Firm Libraries" (43 *Arizona Attorney*, No. 11, p.16, July/August 2007). The author, a partner in a Phoenix firm whose practice is concentrated in bankruptcy, privacy, and electronic communications law, harks back to the days when the firm library was the place where all the tools needed for briefing and drafting were stored. In that environment, lawyers had conversations with one another and discussed pending cases. The advent of the computer changed the landscape dramatically. Law firm library paper collections were halved, and then halved again. Gaffney points out that no sane person would lament poring over heavy tomes with tiny print, or dragging those tomes to a distant photocopier. However, he does miss the intelligent discussion of work that fell by the wayside when lawyers switched to the isolation of tapping on a computer screen instead of making a trip to the library.

In the same issue, there is an article by Mira Radovich entitled "Donating Life: A Tale of Two Brothers" (43 *Arizona Attorney*, No. 11, p.18, July/August 2007).

Radovich tells the story of James McGuire, who in early 2001 was about to graduate from the University of Arizona law school when he discovered through a routine physical for insurance coverage that he had a serious liver disease. As his health worsened over the next few years, he had to face the prospect of a liver transplant. Organs used in such transplants usually come from cadavers, and James learned that the waiting time for a liver averaged about 169 days for someone of his age (the wait time goes up for older patients.) Since such a delay was life-threatening, doctors suggested another option to James - a living donor transplantation. Because of the unique ability of the smaller lobe of the liver to regenerate, that portion of a living donor's liver can be removed and transplanted into a person suffering from liver disease. To make a long story short, James' brother Pernell, who practices bankruptcy and business law at a firm in Flagstaff, was a compatible donor. The surgery took place on April 17, 2006, and while there were some medical setbacks, both brothers are now healthy and back practicing law. One partner in James' firm said that he was impressed by James' courage, his fighting spirit, and his refusal to give up, all character traits desirable in an attorney. The article also provides quite a bit of medical and statistical information on organ donation.

While most of the articles in bar journals are geared to attorneys, one state bar journal recently published a theme issue devoted to the paralegal profession. One of the articles featured, written by Susan Mae McCabe, a paralegal program coordinator at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek is entitled "A Brief History of the Paralegal Profession" (86 *Michigan Bar Journal*, No. 7, p.18, July 2007). Ms. McCabe provides an overview of the origins of the paralegal profession,

of the role the ABA has played in the regulation of paralegals' education, training, and practice, and of the future that awaits those in this field. While the paralegal profession is still young, having begun about forty years ago, its members have become an integral part of the affordable and efficient delivery of legal services. Since paralegals are found in virtually every setting where legal issues arise, including private law firms, courts, government agencies, corporations, nonprofit agencies, consulting firms, legal employment agencies, and educational institutions, this article should be of interest to a wide range of readers.

I am very concerned with saving our planet from the ravages of pollution, global warming, and the excessive waste produced by our consumer-oriented lifestyles. Therefore, I was pleased to see an article in a Northwestern state bar journal entitled "The Case for Sustainability: Embracing Green Products and Practices" (67 *Oregon State Bar Bulletin*, No.5, p.17, February/March 2007). Author Janine Robben, a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1980, states that when Oregon law professor Robin Morris Collin began teaching the first law school course in the country on sustainability in 1993, the concept was quite new. Fourteen years later, an increasing number of Oregon lawyers are committed to promoting sustainability's concepts of reduced waste and increased use of environmentally-friendly products and services. Dick Roy, an attorney who in 1993 left his position as a managing partner in a large Portland law firm to work exclusively on environmental issues, points out that while most lawyers realize that the earth's degradation is a critical matter, their perception is that they don't

have the time to get involved in any meaningful way. Ms. Rodden refutes that notion, providing many things that lawyers and law firms can do without exorbitant effort or cost to contribute to sustainability. This sounds like a movement that should catch on everywhere.

Some bar journals have regular columns on topics of continuing interest to attorneys, like managing your practice, adhering to ethical standards, and writing effectively. Megan McAlpin, a Legal Research and Writing instructor at the University of Oregon School of Law, wrote a recent article on the latter topic, entitled "Writing With Clarity: Finding and Fixing the Passive Voice" (67 *Oregon State Bar Bulletin*, No.9, p.13, July 2007). As an English major in college and an editor for many years, I found this article to be an excellent exposition on a much-misunderstood aspect of grammar. Ms. McAlpin points out that many attorneys have had very long and successful careers without ever knowing the difference between the active and passive voice, but she illustrates how legal writing is improved by knowing the difference, and by using the passive voice only as a conscious decision in limited circumstances. She even provides three examples of where the passive voice can be an effective tool.

The articles described above represent a very small portion of the treasures you can find in state bar journals. Our library is unique within our city in that we have paper subscriptions to exactly half of the fifty state bar journals available. The library staff will be more than happy to assist you in searching within our excellent periodical collection.



Carol Billings

NEW BOOKS IN POPULAR READING

Desire Street: A True Story of Death and Deliverance in New Orleans

by
Jed Horne

Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Strug- gle For Control of the United States

Supreme Court
by
Jan Crawford Greenburg

No Ordinary Heroes: 8 Doctors, 30 Nurses, 7,000 Prisoners and a Category 5 Hurricane

by
Demaree Inglese
With Diana G. Gallagher

Path of Destruction: The Devastation of New Orleans and the Coming Age of Superstorms

by
John McQuaid
and
Mark Schleifstein

The Slaughterhouse Cases

by Carol Billings

The last issue of *De Novo* included an article about John A. Campbell, who sat on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1853 to 1861 before establishing a successful law practice in New Orleans. Although he lost one of the most famous cases ever decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, the position that Campbell argued is still debated by constitutional law scholars.

The three Slaughterhouse Cases, 83 U.S. (16 Wall.) 36 (1873), that ended up being heard by the high court were a consolidation of over 300 suits and injunctions into six cases brought in the New Orleans trial courts at the end of 1869 challenging an act passed by the state legislature in March. Act 118 of 1869 was entitled "An act to protect the health of the City of New Orleans, to locate the stock landings and slaughterhouses, and to incorporate The Crescent City Live-Stock Landing and Slaughter-House Company" The reasons for the passage of the act and for the opposition to it were a complicated set of issues involving public health, commerce, and politics. The legal arguments introduced by distinguished lawyers on both sides and the judicial response to them raised controversial questions about the right of American citizens to be protected from actions by state governments.

Sanitary conditions in nineteenth century New Orleans were frankly abominable. Sewage ran in the gutters, and the residue from the slaughter of livestock was left in backyards or dumped on to the streets and battures. The water supply was dangerously polluted. Following the horrific yellow fever epidemic of 1853 a Sanitary Commission had sought reform, only to be squelched by business interests. During the federal occupation of New Orleans General Benjamin

Butler carried on a major clean-up effort and ordered the enforcement of health regulations, but after the war unsanitary practices returned.

It was only reasonable that, in tune with public health efforts in other states, Louisiana lawmakers would take action to regulate the slaughterhouses. Nevertheless, the legislature sitting in 1869 was constituted by a majority of Republicans, a sizable number of whom were black. Both the election of young Republican Henry Clay Warmoth as governor and the ratification of the reform Constitution of 1868 had been made possible by black voters. The New Orleans businessmen and rural planters who had dominated government before the war were galled by the alliance of blacks and carpetbaggers that had gained control. Thus the old guard viewed actions of the legislature as corrupt.

Act 118, the Slaughterhouse Act, incorporated seventeen men into the Crescent City Live Stock Landing and Slaughterhouse Company, which would have "the sole and exclusive privilege" for 25 years of conducting the slaughtering business in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard parishes. The company was required to erect a slaughterhouse large enough to accommodate all butchers, who would be charged to operate there. Algiers Point on the west bank of the river, purchased for \$48,000, was the chosen site. This placed the slaughtering at a point below the intake pipes for the city's water supply. The company issued \$2,000,000 in stock, dividing half among the incorporators and offering the rest to the public. Randell Hunt and Christian Roselius, distinguished members of the law faculty of the University of Louisiana (the forerunner of Tulane), were hired to represent the company.

The Butchers Benevolent Asso-

ciation of New Orleans, incorporated in 1867 by French and German butchers, united with stock dealers in opposition to the act. The *Daily Picayune* newspaper, hostile to the Reconstruction government, served as chief antagonist, presenting considerable evidence that much of the company stock had been used to bribe the legislature. Three of the city's prominent law firms represented the butchers: Campbell, Spofford, and Campbell; Fellows and Mills; and Cotton and Levy.

Immediately dozens of suits opposing the act were filed, and numerous injunctions were imposed. Half a dozen actions were eventually appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court and ultimately to federal courts, where they were consolidated for decision as the "Slaughterhouse Cases." Opponents argued that the monopoly created by the Slaughterhouse Act had been achieved through bribery. Most importantly, they charged that the act violated the new Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which "secures to all protection from state legislation that involves the right of property, the most valuable of which is to labor freely in an honest avocation." They further argued that the act violated Congress's power to regulate interstate commerce. A group of stock dealers and butchers formed a rival slaughterhouse corporation to operate in St. Bernard Parish.

The opposing parties selected six actions—three on behalf of each side—to carry to various district courts for summary judgment. These decisions would then be appealed to the state Supreme Court. Further proceedings would be stayed until the Supreme Court's decision was handed down. On January 27 and 28 the case was argued before the court. Cotton,

Fellows, and Campbell spoke for the butchers and stock dealers, and Roselius and Hunt represented the company. The five justices called for in the 1868 Louisiana Constitution were all Republicans appointed by Governor Warmoth: James K. Taliaferro, Chief Justice John Ludeling, Rufus K. Howell, Williams W. Howe, and William G. Wyly. On April 11, 1869, the court issued its three-to-one decision. Chief Justice Ludeling wrote the opinion, with Howe and Taliaferro concurring. Wyly registered the lone dissent, and Howell did not participate. The court ruled that the legislature's act was a valid exercise of the state's police power and that it protected important public health interests. Ludeling wrote that the courts were not entitled to look beyond the legislature's motive in passing the act. The court accepted Hunt's argument "that the legislature, in its sphere, is supreme in all respects, save when restricted by the Constitution of the State or of the United States."

Amendment. Justice Bradley announced a shocking decision declaring the act unconstitutional. The Fourteenth Amendment, he wrote, "must be examined with more attention and care." He concluded that "[there] is no more sacred right of citizenship than the right to pursue unmolested a lawful employment in a lawful manner." Bradley recognized the right of the butchers and dealers to resume their businesses and enjoined the opposing parties from instituting new suits.

While the butchers' forces continued their legal battle, a new legislature was elected in November 1870 and overwhelmingly passed a bill abolishing the slaughterhouse company's monopoly. Governor Warmoth promptly vetoed the act, and strangely, the legislators chose not to override. Efforts at compromise began to succeed by 1871, and a number of butchers and livestock dealers joined the board of directors of the Cres-

determined by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court that would decide the Slaughterhouse Cases in 1873 was presided over by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase. Only Justice Nathan Clifford, a Democrat, had been on the bench before the war. The remaining members, seven Republicans and one Democrat, had been appointed by Lincoln and Grant. The arguments presented to them by John A. Campbell—that the rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment should apply to the butchers—appear liberal and progressive to the modern reader. Scholars who have studied the politics surrounding the case caution that Campbell's agenda was very likely to discredit the Reconstruction legislature that he considered corrupt. Nevertheless, he argued that not only was the Fourteenth Amendment intended to protect the civil rights of freed slaves, but

broader application. Justice Joseph Bradley contended that slaughtering could be restricted to certain locations, but not in monopoly-controlled slaughterhouses. The five-to-four holding favored the state, ruling that the Fourteenth Amendment was not intended to protect any rights of citizens against action by states unless the rights were specifically federal rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights or existing federal statutes.

The Slaughterhouse decision established one of the milestones in America's legal history. Although scholars continue vigorously to debate whether the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment was correct, the opinion has never been overruled. Readers who would like to learn more about the Slaughterhouse Cases can turn to a prize-winning book by Ronald M. Labbé, profes-

The Slaughterhouse decision established one of the milestones in America's legal history.

Under existing law when a state supreme court upheld a law challenged as inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution, the decision could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court on writ of error. The state court decision would be held in abeyance until the federal high court rendered its judgment. Thus soon afterwards U.S. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Bradley heard arguments concerning the effect of the writ of error. Bradley determined that jurisdiction over the cases must lie with the high court. A new flurry of suits and injunctions ensued, and a new legal front opened in the U.S. District Court. On June 6, J. Q. A. Fellows and John A. Campbell presented a lengthy petition arguing that the Slaughterhouse Act violated the rights protected by the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the new Fourteenth

cent City Company. A new slaughterhouse opened on the east bank of the river, and soon the west bank facility was abandoned. When a west bank butcher's suit to reopen the facility on his side of the river reached the state Supreme Court, he prevailed.

Just when many people assumed that the controversy had come to an end, J. Q. A. Fellows of the butchers' legal team appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court to press on with three of the remaining cases. The butchers still contested the legality of the monopoly that required them to pay fees to practice their trade. The question remained whether the dispute was simply about the state's police power, or whether the application of the Fourteenth Amendment would have to be

also to protect all citizens from hostile actions by state government, including their right to conduct business.

The opinion of the court, written by Samuel Freeman Miller and announced on April 14, 1873, stated that Louisiana was within its police powers to protect the public health by establishing a monopoly slaughterhouse. The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments, it explained, applied only to former slaves. The butchers could still conduct business, but only in the slaughterhouse designated by the state as long as the rate charged was fair. Justices Stephen Field and Noah Swayne in their dissents argued that the Fourteenth Amendment should have a

sor of history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Jonathan Lurie, professor of history at Rutgers University in Newark. *The Slaughterhouse Cases: Regulation, Reconstruction, and the Fourteenth Amendment* (Univ. Press of Kansas) 2003, is remarkably thorough in its exploration and explanation of the legal, political, and medical circumstances that existed in the post Civil War period. The book is in the collection of the Law Library of Louisiana. 8





Jennifer Creevy

The Yale Book of Quotations

by Jennifer Creevy

“I have always depended on the kindness of strangers”

— Tennessee Williams,

A Streetcar Named Desire, 1947

It may seem a little unimaginative beginning an article about a book of quotations with a quotation, especially with such a familiar quote, but most readers are probably not aware that there is an earlier version of this quote by W. Somerset Maugham: “You cannot imagine the kindness I’ve received at the hands of perfect strangers” (*The Narrow Corner*, 1932). This is one of the many surprises contained in the new *Yale Book of Quotations*, published by the Yale University Press in 2006, to much critical acclaim. Compiled by Fred Shapiro, associate librarian at Yale Law School, the project took six years and thousands of sources to complete. At 1067 pages, the quotations range from the classical to modern, from Martin Luther to Bart Simpson.

Mr. Shapiro has been collecting quotations his entire adult life.

As a player on the MIT tiddlywinks team, he became interested in the origins of the word “tiddlywinks.” He traced the provenance of the word to an earlier source than the one offered by the *Oxford English Dictionary*. Thus began his second career of researching the origins of quotations.

Although arranged alphabetically by quotation author, *The Yale Book of Quotations* differs from other quotation compilations. Because of the scholarly methods used to attribute quotations to the correct source, some well-known quotations are revealed to have different authors than previously believed. Take for instance the oft-quoted “A man’s gotta do what a man’s gotta do.” Everyone knows that John Wayne growled this immortal line while sitting astride a horse, right? Mr. Shapiro shows that it was written by John Steinbeck and uttered by a character in the *Grapes of Wrath*: “I know this - a man got to do what he got to do.” Mr. Shapiro used databases such as

JSTOR and LexisNexis; he also used a network of reference librarians known as Stumpers (now Project Wombat). With these new technologies, he was able to trace the origins of quotes further back in time. Besides discovering earlier citations for quotations, Mr. Shapiro collected more American and more pop culture references than *Bartlett’s* or the *Oxford Book of Quotations*. Included in this volume are lyrics from rock songs, catchphrases from television shows, and legendary quotes from sports figures.

Open the book to any page and you’re likely to find a familiar quotation. The quote may not belong to its expected source, but one can be sure that Mr. Shapiro has researched the origin as far back as humanly (and technologically) possible. Thanks to Mr. Shapiro, locating the correct author of a quote has become more interesting than ever!

The Yale Book of Quotations is shelved in the Law Library at Ref. PN 6081 .Y35 2006. **δ**



Miriam Childs

Link Rot 101

by Miriam Childs

What is “link rot?” Link rot happens when the URL to a web site referenced in a scholarly work ceases to exist, so that when a researcher attempts to access the link, the information is no longer there. Researchers and scholars have discovered that web references are inaccessible after a few years, if not well before then. This is a particularly critical consideration since the practice of referencing web sources has become common to all areas of scholarship, including law review articles. Internet references are also increasingly found in court opinions, both state and federal. Disappearing links in court opinions could eventually lead to legal

research difficulties.

The ease of locating information on the Internet has fueled the link rot phenomenon. Though the Internet can and does provide reliable, solid information, a large percentage is opinionated or ephemeral. Rule 18.2 of *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (18th ed., 2005) states “An Internet citation should only be provided when (1) the source is unavailable in a traditional printed format or on a widely available commercial database; or (2) the source is available in a traditional printed format, but the content of the Internet source is identical to that of

the printed version and a parallel citation to the Internet (introduced by the explanatory phrase ‘available at’) will substantially improve access to the source cited.”

Generally, the use of web sites as references, except as proscribed by *Bluebook* rule 18.2, should be avoided. Before deciding to use a web site as a reference, consider the following. First, evaluate the website’s stability. How likely is the site to exist in six months to a year? Federal government agencies use PURLs, or persistent uniform resource locators, so that the link doesn’t change.

continued on next page

Link Rot

The Internet Archive, containing archived web pages, also has permanent URLs. Nearly everything else is subject to change or loss. Second, evaluate the site's authoritativeness, just as with print resources. Wikipedia is perceived as a resource containing a vast

wealth of information. However, recent news reports have described how easily Wikipedia's articles can be altered, not to mention the factor of bias. Third, attempt to verify information on the web site using other resources. The website shouldn't be the only

place the information appears. If a web resource must be used, the information should be printed out to ensure its availability in the future. Until Internet governing bodies develop standards to combat the link rot problem, links will continue to migrate or disappear. δ

Thomas Semmes

by Georgia Chadwick

In honor of Carol Billings' retirement as director, local attorney and founding member of the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society, Harry S. Hardin, III, donated an 1872 volume of Charles Demolombe's *Cours de Code Napoléon*. Demolombe was described as one of the ablest commentators on the *Code Napoléon* by United States Supreme Court Justice Joseph P. Bradley in the opinion *Jackson v. Ludeling*, 99 U.S. 513 (1878). Justice Bradley looked to Demolombe and other French scholars to settle an uncertainty regarding legal interpretation in the case. Consisting of treatises on separate civil law topics, Demolombe's thirty-one volume work was published in France in numerous editions from 1845-1896. The particular volume we have received is a special addition to our collection, because it bears the signature of Thomas Jenkins Semmes, whose bust is displayed just outside our court room. It is written in French and is entitled *Traité des Donations Entre-Vifs et des Testaments*, translated as *Treatise on Donations and Testaments*.

Thomas Jenkins Semmes was a distinguished nineteenth century attorney, politician and law professor. He was born in Washington, D. C., in 1824 to Raphael Semmes and Matilda Jenkins Semmes. After graduating with honors from Georgetown College in 1842, Semmes studied law for a year in the office of Georgetown lawyer Clement Cox, and

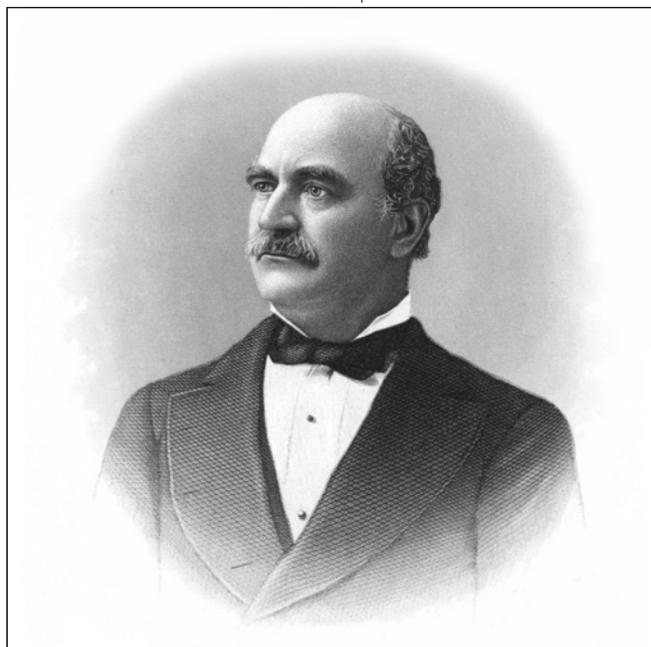
then entered Harvard Law School. He received his law degree in 1845 and returned to Washington, D.C., to practice law. He had a great interest in entering the field of public affairs and chose to move to New Orleans in late 1850. Semmes was elected to the Democratic Central Committee in 1855, and in that same year was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. He later served as a member of the Louisiana Constitutional Conventions of 1879 and 1898.

In 1858, President Buchanan appointed Semmes United States Attorney at New Orleans, a position he resigned from in 1859 to run for state Attorney General. He won that election and served Louisiana in that capacity from 1860 until early 1861, when as a strong advocate of secession, he was elected to the state convention that passed the secession ordinance in 1861. He served in the Confederate Senate from 1862 to 1865. After the fall of Richmond, Semmes was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson for his Confederate loyalty and returned to New Orleans to practice law with Robert Mott.

Semmes later became a professor of law at the University of Louisiana, the forerunner of Tulane University. Semmes taught civil law from 1873 to 1879 and common law from 1879 until his sudden death from heart failure at his home on June 23, 1899. The book donated by

Mr. Hardin was signed by Thomas Semmes in 1875 when he was Professor of Civil Law.

Semmes was a leader in the New Orleans legal community and in the national arena as well. In 1886 Semmes served a term as president of the American Bar Association. There was speculation that he would be appointed to the bench of the United States Supreme Court in 1888, but President Cleveland chose a member of his cabinet instead. The Law Library is very pleased to add to our collection this book once owned by Thomas Semmes. It will be preserved in our Rare Book Room. δ



An engraving of Thomas Semmes from *Representative Men of the South* (1880), a volume in the Law Library's rare book collection.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE FRENCH QUARTER MODEL HERE

If you have not yet seen the wonderful model of the French Quarter that we are showcasing in our newly opened museum, time is running out. The 1:87 scale model of the French Quarter as it was in 1915 was created by three Frenchmen who came to New Orleans in the 1950s, fell in love with the place, and went back to Paris and spent the next 24 years working on this gem. You can see D.H. Holmes, Maison Blanche, Solari's, K&B, Woolworth's, Krauss, and many more things that are long gone from our city. The French government donated the model to the Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC) as a gift to the people of *Nouvelle Orléans*, and we have been the willing caretakers of it until a planned expansion at HNOC's Williams Research Center on Chartres Street is completed. You can visit the museum, which is on the first floor of the Louisiana Supreme Court building, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Head of Public Services attends Teaching the Teachers Conference

by Marie Erickson

From October 18-20, I attended the Teaching the Teachers: Effective Instruction in Legal Research conference at the Law School of the University of Texas, Austin. Although I've taught legal research to law, MLS, and paralegal students for years, I learned several new teaching techniques that I'll soon be trying out on my students.

For instance, those who teach CLE classes will appreciate the hints for getting all the students off the last row. If you can move the furniture, arrange the seats in a 3/4 circle, which gets rid of the back row. If you can't move the furniture, tell the students you are hard of hearing so you have to have

them sit in the front rows.

There were presenters at the conference who taught in other disciplines. Teaching, regardless of subject or students, does rest on a few core principals, and a fresh perspective can often be very helpful. Some of the best teaching techniques came from a criminal defense lawyer who runs the law school's clinic.

Bryan Garner's presentation was the highlight of the conference. Mr. Garner is the author of *The Elements of Legal Style*, *The Winning Brief* and many other books on legal writing. He also lectures on legal writing all over the country. If you yawn at the thought of an 8-hour legal writing presentation, yawn no more. Mr. Garner is an excellent speaker and his

course would arguably be of great use to any lawyer who wants to improve his or her writing skills. Please search our catalog for a list of Mr. Garner's books in the library's collection.

No visit to Austin is complete without a sampling of Austin's food and music scene. Even if some of the participants weren't up to clubbing all night, they were still able to enjoy Austin food and music at every, breakfast, lunch, reception, and dinner during the conference. Kudos to Roy M. Mersky, Harry M. Reasoner Regents Chair in Law and Director of Research, Jamail Center for Legal Research, Tarlton Law Library, for organizing such a useful and enjoyable conference. 8