



# NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2010

Web Site: [clevelandlawlibrary.org](http://clevelandlawlibrary.org) • Email: [lawlib@clelaw.lib.oh.us](mailto:lawlib@clelaw.lib.oh.us) • Phone: (216) 861-5070 • Fax: (216) 861-1606

### **NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**



In honor of National Library Week, we will be serving complimentary bagels, muffins and juice from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2010. Please join us in celebrating the wealth of information and knowledge available at our Library. Upon request, we can provide a tour of our facility.

### **HISTORY IN THE MAKING AT THE LAW LIBRARY**

March is a historic month for many reasons,<sup>1</sup> but the Law Library made history of its own this March. On March 10th, the Cleveland Law Library Association executed an Agreement with Cuyahoga County's brand new Law Library Resources Board (hereinafter "CLLRB") to jointly provide a law library that will serve the collective needs of all of the following interest groups:



- the private bar
- county officials and their officers and employees
- municipal corporations and their officers and employees
- townships and their officers and employees,
- county courts and their judges and employees, and
- and members of the public.

This Agreement preserves your rights and privileges as members of the Law Library and ensures that the Law Library as a whole will have sufficient financing, personnel, books, databases, and other resources to support the practice of law and administration of justice in Cuyahoga County.

This monumental Agreement was preceded by a time of great uncertainty following the Ohio General Assembly's December 2008 enactment of HB 420. That bill created CLLRBs in each Ohio county and vested them with prospective authority beginning in 2010 to collect and spend all public funds which this Association used to receive from local speeding tickets and liquor fines. Like its counterparts throughout the state, Cuyahoga's CLLRB is also charged with coordinating and pre-approving this county's legal resource purchases, while the private Law Library Association continues to manage all private memberships.

Because Cuyahoga County's CLLRB was not appointed until December of 2009, it had a lot of work to do in a very short period of time. Cuyahoga County's CLLRB is chaired by Steve Wood, who is the retired Director of the Cleveland-Heights/University Heights Library. Steve and the other members of the CLLRB quickly assessed the situation through meetings with this Association's board and immediately developed a positive working relationship that resulted in a seamless transition for both entities. As a result, it is "business as usual" at the law library.

<sup>1</sup> 44 B.C. Julius Caesar assassinated; 1775-Patrick Henry's Give Me Liberty speech; 1781-Articles of Confederation; 1803-Ohio entered the Union; 1857-Dred Scott decision; 1876-Bell made the 1st telephone call; 1918-daylight savings time approved; 1931-Star Spangled Banner adopted; 1951-Rosenbergs convicted of espionage; and 1981-President Reagan shot.

### **LIBRARIAN APPOINTED TO CONSORTIUM OF CLLRBs**

Kathleen M. Sasala, Esq., who serves as the librarian, has been appointed by the Ohio State Bar Association to serve on the state-wide Consortium of CLLRBs. Her appointment will take effect in July 2010.



Many of you may be wondering

about WestlawNext, the online product that West Group and Thomson Reuters have launched as their new legal research platform. We had the opportunity to demo this new interface last week, even though it will not be made available to county law libraries for a long time. Because WestlawNext employs what appears to be a complex fee structure, West is initially offering and marketing this new platform to lawyers and law firms.

The best way to describe WestlawNext is to compare it with Google, where users type simple searches in a single search box on the toolbar and hit the “Enter” key to return a list of results. Compared to Westlaw.com, WestlawNext’s initial screen is very clean and stream-lined, encouraging users to choose a proper jurisdiction and craft a natural language query in a one-line search box at the top. Using a complex algorithm, WestlawNext then searches a core set of 12 databases or groups that include: cases; statutes and court rules; secondary sources; briefs, pleadings, motions and memoranda; jury verdicts and settlements; trial court orders; expert witness testimony; administrative documents; and news.

The results screen is split into three (3) vertical frames that organize information into logical categories. The left column displays the number of hits in each of the twelve (12) databases or groups mentioned above. The middle column displays the first few hits in summary format with search terms in highlighting. Finally, the right-hand column operates like ResultsPlus in recommending related resources users may want to explore. Users who either receive too many hits or want to refine their searches can narrow their results (without incurring additional search costs) by jurisdiction, date, or typical Westlaw.com fields such as court or judge. Users can also still browse results by document or search terms or change the order in which documents are displayed by date or relevance.

As it was explained to us, charges are incurred the first time users conduct a search, view a result, run a Keycite, print, or otherwise export their search results. Users can save results in folders for a full year without incurring additional viewing charges, and they will

eventually be able to share the full contents of these folders with others.

Although West’s attempt to offer a more Google-like search interface would be a good idea in a free environment like the Internet, natural language queries generally return a lot more results than more targeted searches librarians prefer to conduct and recommend for our patrons. Absent judicious filtering, review of a larger pool of results can translate into expensive searching that lawyers may not be able to pass on to clients. Even though we are fortunate to be able to offer our patrons free access to Westlaw.com under an unlimited monthly plan we purchase on their behalf, users who have to pay for their searches may not like natural language searching in a fee-based environment.

Time will certainly tell whether lawyers will migrate to the new search method on WestlawNext, but West has already realized that it needs to offer more advanced search techniques up front. The initial search box on WestlawNext allows users to employ proximity operators, Boolean search logic using the typical connectors, “and,” “or” and “not,” and other customary search features such as root expanders and wildcards. West also recently added an advanced search link to its home page that leads to a template for more targeted online searching.

After five (5) years in development, WestlawNext is a work-in-progress whose designers are making fluid changes on a regular basis. Although we will not be able to offer this product to our patrons for a while, we understand that West plans to create a patron-access plan that will allow us to offer a robust library of databases and delivery options that fit within our budget.

For additional information on WestlawNext, visit the following link: [West.Thomson.com/WestlawNext](http://West.Thomson.com/WestlawNext)



to Judge Rosemary Grdina Gold, who is the newest Judge on the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Bench. Judge Gold's background includes a domestic relations practice at Buckley King, after which she hung out her own shingle in family law for the last 8 years.



## NEW MEMBERS

Aycinena, Andrea	Manos, John M.
Boop, Gregory K.	McGraw, Brian R.
Budd, Ashley	Minahan, Kathleen
Bundy, Roger M.	Ndegwa, Teirra M.
Engle, David C.	Reulbach, John L.
Good, Jonathan A.	Seacrist, Susan M.
Greer, Jazmine R.	Smith, Victoria Nagy
Jackson, Jacqueline M.	Telep, Michael
Kostura, Sarah	Yoder, Kimberly
Lougovskaia, Elena N.	Zontini, J. Michael
Mandell, Ellen S.	

## THE LAW LIBRARY BLOG

Don't forget to subscribe to our blog, where you can read quick articles on new legal topics such as:

- PACER fees & access
- Federal District Court opinions
- OSBA forms



Our blog can be found at [http://suealtmeyer.typepad.com/cleveland\\_law\\_library\\_web/](http://suealtmeyer.typepad.com/cleveland_law_library_web/)

## HOME SWEET HOME



You may remember from our last report that the County was originally planning to charge the law library over \$375,000.00 in rent during 2010. Although we responded by creating and implementing a plan to consolidate the library's core collection into half of our space by the end of 2009, the Attorney General gave us a welcome reprieve on January 7th. In Opinion No. 2010-001, the Ohio AG stated that each County must provide and pay for space for its county law library. Thankfully, that opinion appears to have resolved the issue of space locally, and law library patrons continue to enjoy full use of traditional law library space on the 4th floor of the County Courthouse.

## SELECTED NEW ACQUISITIONS

- *12 Secrets Of Persuasive Argument* (ABA, 2009)
- *Alternative Clauses To Standard Construction Contracts* (Aspen, 2009)
- *Guardianships* (OSBA 2009)
- *Contract Law: An Advanced Master Class* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Lawyer Lobbyist: Working With Ohio's Government* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Identity Theft & Data Breach* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Fundamentals Of Corporate Governance* (ABA, 2009)
- *Building Your Million-Dollar Practice* (OSBA, 2009)
- *1st Annual Great Lakes Antitrust Institute Hot Topics In A New Age Of Antitrust Enforcement* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Facebook, Myspace... Social Networking: Legal Research, Background Checks & Law Firm Marketing* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Real Estate Litigation Handbook* (ABA, 2009)
- *Legal Implications Of Electronic Medical Records* (OSBA, 2009)
- *Health Care Law* (OSBA, 2009)



## DAYS THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED

The Law Library will be closed these days in 2010:



- Memorial Day, Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Independence Day, Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day, Monday, September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Columbus Day, Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>
- Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>
- Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>
- New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

## **CLEVELAND LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Cuyahoga County Courthouse  
1 W. Lakeside Avenue - Floor 4  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1078

## **CLEVELAND LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Cuyahoga County Courthouse  
1 West Lakeside Avenue-Floor 4  
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1078

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Fax: (216) 861-1606

Email: [lawlib@clelaw.lib.oh.us](mailto:lawlib@clelaw.lib.oh.us)

Home Page: [clevelandlawlibrary.org](http://clevelandlawlibrary.org)

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Scott E. Stewart - Stewart & DeChant  
Ronald Stansbury - Ulmer & Berne

### **Law Library Staff:**

Kathleen M. Sasala, Director  
Sharla Johnston, Circulation Services Librarian  
Eric Hess, Network Services Librarian  
Terri Faulhaber, Technical Services Librarian  
Leslie Hall, Business Manager