

# Transcript

## WELCOME PARALEGALS!

by John Patrick Quigley

Our summer book display is for paralegals and paralegal students. In this article, we discuss some of these books and also paralegal classes and opportunities.

### Books for Paralegals

Two relatively new California publications in our collection discuss general paralegal activities, and are in loose-leaf format for frequent revision. LSI Legal Professional's Handbook, REF KFC77.L44, is the current successor to the venerable Legal Secretaries Handbook published by Legal Secretaries Incorporated. Its publication was taken over and its name changed by The Rutter Group, now a division of West. West's principal rival, LexisNexis, publishes California Paralegal's Guide, Floor 3 KFC77.M335. Neither publication is on their respective databases, Westlaw and California Law and Practice, but they may be added in the future. Both also have short descriptions of paralegal functions in

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## OCPLL and Legal Research Classes: A Match Made for Each Other

by Jan Williams

Teachers – are you looking to jump-start your legal research classes and motivate those less-than-enthusiastic students? Students – don't you wish that legal research could be just a little more fun? In both cases, a "field trip" to the Orange County Public Law Library may be just what you need. This article will explore the various materials and services offered by OCPLL and explain how they can benefit both teachers and students alike.

As a paralegal student, I was first introduced to OCPLL by my Legal Research instructor, and then again by the instructor in my Torts class. In both cases, my visits to the library proved to be a very eye-opening adventure into the world of legal research and ignited the passion that eventually

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## TO THE ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC LAW LIBRARY WEBPAGE AND BEYOND!

by Elizabeth Harmon

In case you haven't noticed, the Orange County Public Law Library has a whole new website - complete with an updated contemporary look using a cool shade of blue that is easy on the eye. It may be no surprise that the Webmaster who created these fresh, new webpages is the OCPLL's-own *Library Systems Librarian*. In the last 5 years he has designed many other websites, some of which have not been library related.

In an interview, after the Website was unveiled in February of this year, he explained that revamping the website was one of the main things he wanted to accomplish when he first arrived. With a go-ahead from the director and input from coworkers, he became the designer and the administrator – simply put, he says, "I do it all". Starting out, he wanted

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## Social Media for Lawyers?

by Jeanette Tang

"Is Zuckerberg killing Gutenberg?" This idea has become a common discussion topic in the world of information. With the advent of popular social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, the way in which we deal with information has changed. This fact not only is true for social information, but all types of information. A variety of subject matters have been shown to benefit from social media, and the law is no different.

There is a book available here at the Orange County Public Law Library published by the American Bar Association, called Social Media for Lawyers: The Next Frontier with the call number KF320 .A9 E44 2010, which highlights the ways in which lawyers can harness the power of social media to empower their own practices and understanding of the law. The book goes over topics such as the im-

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specific areas of the law.

Further specific information is given in other publications: Basic Administrative Law for Paralegals, Floor 4 KF5402.Z9A33 2003, Basic Bankruptcy Law for Paralegals, Floor 4 KF1524.B758 2011, Criminal Law for Paralegals, Floor 4 KF9219.3.M27 1994, Estate Planning and Probate for the Paralegal/Legal Assistant in California, Floor 3 KFC195.E8B2 2000, California Family Law for Paralegals, Floor 3 KFC115.Z9 W35 2005, Immigration Law for Paralegals, Floor 4 KF4819.3.C375 2007, Paralegal Guide to Qualified Pension Benefit Plans under ERISA, Floor 4 KF3512.L44 1997, Personal Injury Paralegal: Forms and Procedures, Floor 4 KF1257.W25 1993, The Paralegal's Role in the Real Estate Transaction in California, Floor 3 KFC77.5.L4S23 1999, Paralegal Guide to UCC Filing, Floor 4 KF1050.Z95GS8 1997, and Workers' Compensation (California Paralegal Practice Series), Floor 3 KFC592.E745 1994. A more complete list of books and websites can be found in a May 2012 Bibliography, temporarily available on a table next to our book display.

### **How to Become a Paralegal**

Education and other requirements, including continuing education, are in the California Business & Professions Code Sections 6450 & 6451. Schools that offer courses include Santa Ana College (714) 564-6750, UCI Extension (949) 824-5414, Bristol University in Anaheim, (714) 542-8086, Fremont College in Cerritos, (562) 809-5100, Fullerton College in Fullerton, (714) 992-7223, South Coast College in Orange, (714) 867-5009, and Westwood College in Anaheim, (714) 938-6181. Our library offers tours to classes and other groups. For information and a Tour Request Form, which can be filled out and e-mailed to us, Google: "Tours – Orange County Public Law Library".

### **Working as a Paralegal**

Practical advice can be found in The Independent Paralegal's Handbook, Floor 4 KF320.L437 2004. This easy to read paperback by the popular publisher, Nolo Press, can be found in the self-help section near the Reference Desk, with a circulating copy on the fourth floor. 

*To the Orange County Public Law Library and Beyond!*  
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to "Get something barebones and functional, refining it as I go along".

However, since he must divide his time amongst other network services duties, he incorporates other staff member's specific requests when making changes or improvements - in other words "as much as possible this is a partnership". As he clearly states, "The website is a work in progress...there will always be things that are added or deleted".


Work in progress or not, the new website is filled with user-friendly pull-down menus and "Quick Links" to help or direct a patron to find any number of the Library's databases; a myriad of government links; court forms; an array of information on the Library's services; and a *Newsletter* menu that features the current edition and past editions of the library's very own **Transcript**.

Other pull-down menus include:

Collection - contains the all-important Library Catalog, a New Books list from the last 5 months, and Book Sales information.

Reference Services – a hefty list of tools that include Databases, Librarian chat and email options, Government Links (State, Federal, & County), plus a Self-Help option.

Forms – Court Forms (coming soon!) and request forms for the Library conference rooms and Library tours.

About Us – another pull-down menu filled with useful facts about the Library's operation: Hours, Policies, the Board of Trustees, Public Meeting agendas, and so on. 


## Brave New World of Patent Law: The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act

by Kelsey Chrisley

**Raymond Hom**, Esq. VP, Patent Counsel, at Qualcomm, provided the attendees at the 4<sup>th</sup> All-California Joint Institute a very informative presentation on the *Brave New World of Patent Law*. Being a novice when it comes to patent law, I found his overview of the basics extremely helpful along with his comments on recent changes to the law. He shared some humorous examples of patented inventions, such as Method of Exercising a Cat (US Patent 5,443,036 Aug 22, 1995). Since Qualcomm is both the World's largest fabless (fabrication-less) semiconductor company and a leader in licensing wireless technologies, Mr. Hom is in a unique position to illustrate how the **Leahy- Smith America Invents Act (American Invents Act)** Public Law 112-29, influences the world of patent law.

Mr. Hom revealed the America Invents Act as the greatest fundamental change to the U.S. Patent laws since the Patent Act of 1952. (The American Invents Act becomes effective **March 16, 2013**) This act shifts the alignment of U.S. patent law to harmonize with the rest of the world. Under the Act, a patent is granted to the **first inventor to file instead of first to invent**. The Act makes changes to the conditions for patentability of **novelty** and **obviousness**. The Act also changes the **patent application process**, in order to assist the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to address its backlog.

Individuals and business will have to change their strategic mindset in order to protect and financially leverage their new process/product. Strategy considerations include:


- Make public a trade secret?
- Timing is critical from invention to filing
- Decision point for trade off: early filing date of patent versus need for refinements
- Change in the patent process may require serial filing of patent applications, thus increasing costs
- Request prioritized examination or supplemental examination by USPTO at a cost of \$4800 per request. Utilizing this process could accelerate grant process by one year. However, the final disposition may not necessarily be a patent grant.
- Post patent grant review may be filed by petition by non-owner. The review process may be used for a Covered Business Method patent
- Prior commercial use as a defense to charge an infringement. 

### *OCPLL and Legal Research* (Continued from page 1)

landed me here - initially as a library volunteer, then as a staff member. The combination of instructors' knowledge of the subject and the OCPLL reference librarians' vast experience proved to be extremely motivating and led to repeat visits by the majority of the class. If a person has not visited the library previously, the sheer volume of material available can be a bit intimidating. For this reason, OCPLL offers guided library tours. These tours are available free of charge to the public and can be scheduled in advance of your visit by calling the Public Services Department at (714) 834-3397. They are led by an experienced reference librarian and are an invaluable resource for anyone who has questions about the library's materials, services, procedures, and general information. After participating in a tour, finding your way around the library will be quite doable. OCPLL also provides maps and various "finding aids" so that patrons can guide themselves through our collection. The reference desk is always available to answer any questions one may have and to assist in any way we can. One of our most frequently used services is the free access to Westlaw and other databases on the Library's public computers. These sources, along with internet access to court websites, give a person all the tools he or she would require in order to research a wide range of legal topics.

Of course, any article regarding legal research would not be complete without a few recommendations of books to help you get started. For the beginning researcher (and those who need to refresh their memories), I suggest [Legal Research in a Nutshell](#) by Cohen/Olson (KF240.C54) and [Legal Research: How to Find & Understand the Law](#) by Elias/Nolo Press (KF240.L417). Both are easy to understand, user-friendly, and guide the reader through research techniques that utilize both on-line and print materials. Additionally, the Nutshell series addresses many various topics of law and the books are readily available.

Students and teachers of the law might benefit from [Foundations of Legal Research & Writing](#) by Bast/Hawkins (KF240.B27). This is a more in-depth, textbook-style publication that could also be used for classroom curriculum in paralegal and law school classes.

Whatever your reason may be for doing legal research, you can see that OCPLL is indeed your partner in educating, motivating, and assisting you in your endeavors. Whether you are a student, a teacher, or a member of the general public, we are ready and able to help you navigate those murky waters with confidence, satisfaction, and pride in your work. OCPLL and you truly are a match made for each other! 

by Lu Nguyen



**Q** I would like to find a website that contains information about filing for a divorce.

**A** Helpful information can be found at the Orange County Superior Court's website on dissolution:

<http://www.occourts.org/directory/family/dissolution.html>

AND at the Judicial Council of California's website on dissolution:

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-divorce.htm>

Both sites include procedural information and links to forms.




*Social Media for Lawyers?*  
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portance of using social media, the myths surrounding social media and the law, how to implement social media, ethical and legal issues surrounding social media, and much, much more.

Since most individuals are familiar with Facebook and Twitter, I will not be discussing those. Instead, I will focus on social media sites that although may not be as popular, they are just as important to the legal field. One such site is [www.lawlink.com](http://www.lawlink.com). Put out by the San Francisco Bar Association, LawLink is ideal for information sharing and networking among attorneys. And if you enjoy document sharing than you are in luck because that is popular here. Just be prepared to prove that you are a legal professional, because authenticity is checked upon entry into the site. Another popular legal media site is [www.legalonramp.com](http://www.legalonramp.com) where collaboration is the focus. LegalOnRamp makes it a point that they want their members collaborating on different legal subject matters. Applicants of LegalOnRamp must explain what they can bring to the community upon applying. This requirement makes LegalOnRamp a very dynamic and informative community with lawyers from over 40 countries participating in the service.

Lastly, I will go over [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu). Academia is a research-networking site started by a student at Oxford University, with the ambition of furthering the world's academic research. Members of the site can share work in their respective fields of study as well as follow other academics they are interested in. And although this is a general research site it has many academics that have a concentration in the law, making this site an invaluable resource for cutting edge legal concepts.

Like many things on the Internet, social media has been deemed an unreliable source of information. This is due to the fact that many believe that Internet sources cannot be verified. As with all information, including information coming from books, the skilled researcher goes through a process of verifying the information. Such a process can be looking at the author, subject matter, and publisher to name a few. The process for verifying online sources of information is very similar, except now one would have to verify the website or other digital format from which it came.

Social media, although still relatively new, deserves a second look when it comes to legal information. The popularity of social media has shown that more and more people are living in an online world where they are inclined to share their information on the Internet. This is further supported by the fact that digitally born information is beginning to take over non-digital forms of information, and will continue to do so in the coming years. With that said, social media can be a source for legal information and deserves to be a part of any legal researchers repertoire. 

## Change in Library Hours

**By Maryruth Storer,  
Law Library Director**

Effective June 1, 2012, the Law Library is closing at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Our new hours are:

Monday – Thursday	8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

California's county law libraries are experiencing a steep decline in their income, as the number of paid civil court filing fees are down. OCPLL has operated at a deficit during the current fiscal year and initial projections for FY2012-13 indicated a deficit near \$600,000.

Library usage for legal research was low after 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Reducing our hours is one of the steps taken to reduce the anticipated deficit, along with severe reductions in collection purchases, general operating expenses and staffing. We regret that these actions are necessary under current economic conditions.



## Looking at the Web

### Paralegal & Self-Help Websites

by Mora Prestinary

California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA) [www.caparalegal.org](http://www.caparalegal.org)  
 California Association of Legal Documents Assistants [www.calda.org](http://www.calda.org)  
 Legal Resources [www.paralegals.org/LegalResources/home.html](http://www.paralegals.org/LegalResources/home.html)  
 -Maintained by the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) to assist all legal professionals in their Internet research.

National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) [nala.org](http://nala.org)

National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) [www.paralegals.org/index2.html](http://www.paralegals.org/index2.html)

-Includes links to legal resources, career center, membership, professional development and Continuing Legal Education.

Orange County Paralegal Association (OCPA) [www.ocparalegal.org](http://www.ocparalegal.org)

#### Self-Help:

##### Forms:

Local Court forms, OC Superior Court

[www.occourts.org/forms/forms.html](http://www.occourts.org/forms/forms.html)

Judicial Council forms (used state-wide)

[www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm)

I-CAN! LEGAL - free online application

[www.icandocs.org/ca](http://www.icandocs.org/ca)

that assists in filling out court forms

Pleading Paper

[www.occourts.org/forms/local/l930.pdf](http://www.occourts.org/forms/local/l930.pdf)

The following have information on: Civil, Criminal, Family Law, Infractions (Non-Traffic), Juvenile, Landlord/Tenant, Name Change, Probate, Restraining Orders, Small Claims, Traffic.

#### California Courts Self-Help

English [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm)

Spanish [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=es](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm?rdeLocaleAttr=es)

**OC Superior Court Self-Help** [www.occourts.org/self-help/index.html](http://www.occourts.org/self-help/index.html)

**How to Clean Up Your Criminal Record** [www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-criminallaw.htm?deLocaleAttr=en](http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-criminallaw.htm?deLocaleAttr=en)

**Orange County Public Defender "New Leaf Program"** [www.pubdef.ocgov.com/newleaf.htm](http://www.pubdef.ocgov.com/newleaf.htm)

#### Reference Services, Databases & Information

**Ask a Librarian** - Email reference with OCPLL Librarians. [www.ocpll.org](http://www.ocpll.org)

**AskNow** - Live online chat reference staffed by California county law librarians. Access via OCPLL's homepage at [www.ocpll.org](http://www.ocpll.org)

**California Bar Association Pamphlets.** Most pamphlets are available for downloading in English & Spanish. Click on title to see download options. [www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/Pamphlets.aspx)

**EBSCO Legal Information Reference Center** (database) [www.ocpll.org/databases.html](http://www.ocpll.org/databases.html) Follow onscreen directions to log in. Includes full text of most of the popular Nolo Press publications.

**Learn About the Law** [public.findlaw.com](http://public.findlaw.com)

**Nolo Free Legal Information** - free articles on a wide variety of legal topics. [www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia](http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia)



# WHAT'S GOING ON @ the Library

by Molly Solazzo



## Database Focus

### Now Available!

**WestlawNext:**  
Same content as "classic" Westlaw but with easy to use Tabbed content features, and an across-the-board search engine. Downloading is limited. User guides available in the computer area.



### Still Available!

"Classic" Westlaw



Both databases are accessible from the library's public computer terminals. Ask at Reference for assistance.

## **DO YOU NEED AN INTERLIBRARY LOAN? FAQS ABOUT OUR ILL SERVICE**

By Tricia Trujillo

What is an InterLibrary Loan (ILL)? When you need a specific research item that you can't find here in our library, our Reference Technician can try borrow it from another library. Here are some basic FAQs about our ILL service:

**WHO:** Available to all Library patrons with an active account/membership with OCPLL.

**WHAT:** Books, periodicals, etc., are usually available for ILL. Special materials, like microfiche or highly used non-circulating items, are only loaned out on lending library's management approval.

**WHEN:** After you make a request, it is researched and a lending library identified. A request is sent and it takes about a week or two before the item is received at OCPLL. The library loaning the item will set the due date, so this can vary. Of course, photocopies may be faxed or scanned and sent via email in a day.

**WHERE:** Most libraries follow the ILL policy of restricting use of the loaned item to the premises of the borrowing library. This means that you may only use the item in the Law library.

**COST:** Free!

Have any questions or wish to use the ILL service? Please call Tricia, Reference Technician, at (714)834-3011 or email to [trujillo@ocpll.org](mailto:trujillo@ocpll.org).

## Ongoing Workshops at the Law Library

### **Clean Up Your Criminal Record**

Every 2d and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2 pm.

You must check-in at 2 pm to be admitted and you must bring your California criminal record(s) from the Court(s) in which convicted, OR, your California Dept. of Justice Rap Sheet; if necessary your own interpreter.

#### Please Note:

"How to Answer an Unlawful Detainer" workshop formerly held at the Library is now offered at the Superior Court Self-Help Center (West Justice Center)

Library

Closed:

July 4th



<b>Monday-Thursday</b>	<b>8 am - 6 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8 am - 5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9 am - 5 pm</b>

**515 North Flower Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92703  
Civic Center Plaza, Building 32  
Tel: (714) 834-3397**

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

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