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New faculty publications exhibit

Many of you have probably already seen the new faculty publications display in the two cabinets next to the library entrance. It is still a work in progress, but when we are done gathering materials to fill the exhibit, it will give viewers an idea of the variety of scholarship that our faculty have engaged in over the last few years. The exhibit will be a permanent feature, with the contents rotating to reflect new activity.

If anyone has any questions or comments regarding our new faculty exhibit, contact Brendan Starkey.

Computer lab renovations

The law school computer lab is currently being renovated to make better use of the space. Three new computer work stations are being added, and the counter and printers are being moved to improve work flow. It will now be easier for students to retrieve printouts, use the copy service, and access the computers.

CD Law Web issues new password

CD Law Web contains a diverse collection of primary Washington legal materials at the state and local level available to currently enrolled Seattle University School of Law students. CD Law Web is accessible via password. There is one password for the entire school. To comply with the terms of our license agreement and to prevent misuse of the password, it is reissued twice a year. If you haven't already been notified via e-mail of the new password, contact a reference librarian at the reference desk.

Professional activities

Kristin Cheney, Acting Director, was recently selected to participate as a member of the March 2001 ABA Site Evaluation Team visiting University of Dayton Law School.

On December 13, Kristin Cheney and Kara Phillips attended a UW-hosted teleconference on "The Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA)" sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries, Association of Law Libraries, the Special Libraries Association, and the Medical Library Association. UCITA is a proposed state law that seeks to create a unified approach to the licensing of information and software. Discussion following the video portion of the conference focused on the possible implications for higher education and libraries if this Act passes.

Library hosts Law Librarians of Puget Sound

The Law Librarians of Puget Sound (LLOPS) met in the second floor lobby of Sullivan Hall.
will be reduced to three and will be reducing evening hours on Thursdays until a new librarian joins the team:

Mon.-Wed.  
8:30am-8pm  

Thurs. & Fri.  
8:30am-4:30pm  

Sun.  
1-5pm

Comments and suggestions from State, county, firm, and academic law librarians were excited to see the new building. Tours of the library and the school's growing art collection were offered to those who wanted a closer look.

"New and Notable" library materials

New "Starting Points"

The law librarians have added new Starting Points to their series of web-based library research guides:

- Civil Procedure
- Copyright Law
- Individual Employee Rights
- International Law
- Primary Sources

These and the other Starting Points can be accessed from THEO by selecting "SU Law Research Starting Points" under the "Library Information" pull-down menu.

Check out the New and Notable page to see new resources we think might be of particular interest to our users. The page includes synopses, information on the authors, and links to available reviews of the titles shown above.

For all of our recent acquisitions, see the New Bookshelf page.

Site checking

Some web sites of interest:

- A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873

  The complete text of vital historical documents online, courtesy of the Library of Congress. Included are digital versions of the Journals of the Continental Congress, House and Senate Journals, congressional debates, the Statutes at Large, and much more. Researchers can choose to view the text in quick-loading readable HTML or view actual images of the pages in either GIF or high-quality TIFF format. A search engine allows full-text searching of all the documents, as well as the option to limit by Congress, session, chamber, and title.

- The United States Code

  This has been available from GPO for quite some time, but a new interface allows users to browse for the first time without having to go to private sites. The search engine is still awkward, but if one is set on using the official U.S. government online version, the addition of browse capability is a big improvement.
the faculty are welcomed.

Newsletter compiled by Suzanne Harvey and Brendan Starkey.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Brendan Starkey, editor.

As society struggles to cope with the many repercussions of assisted life and death, the evening news is filled with stories of legal battles over frozen embryos and the possible prosecution of doctors for their patients' suicides. Using an "institutional" approach as an alternative to the prevailing "rights" based analysis of problems in law and medicine, this study explains why society should resist the tendency to look to science and law for a resolution of intimate matters, such as how our children are born and how we die. Palmer's institutional approach demonstrates that legislative analysis is often more important than judicial analysis when it comes to issues raised by new reproductive technologies and physician-assisted suicide. A reliance on individual rights alone for answers to the complex ethical questions that result from society's faith in scientific progress and science's close alliance with medicine will be insufficient and ill-advised.

Larry I. Palmer is Professor of Law at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York, where he has taught courses on law and medicine for many years. He is the author of *Law, Medicine, and Social Justice* (1989) and numerous journal articles dealing with law, medicine, and policy. He is executive producer and author of the study guide for the award-winning educational video, *Susceptible to Kindness: Miss Evers' Boys and the Tuskegee Syphilis Study* (1994).

Read a review from the *Cornell Daily Sun* (LEXIS password required)

Logos, trademarks, national insignia, brand names, celebrity images, design patents, and advertising texts are vibrant signs in a consumer culture governed by a regime of intellectual property laws. In The Cultural Life of Intellectual Properties, professor of law and cultural anthropologist Rosemary J. Coombe brings an illuminating ethnographic approach to an analysis of authorship and the role law plays in shaping the various meanings that animate these protected properties in the public sphere.

Although such artifacts are ubiquitous in contemporary culture, little attention has been paid to the impact of intellectual property law in everyday life or to how ownership of specific intellectual properties is determined and exercised. Drawing on a wide range of cases, disputes, and local struggles, Coombe examines these issues and dismantles the legal assumption that the meaning and value of a text or image is produced exclusively by an individual author or that authorship has a single point of origin. In the process, she examines controversies that include the service of turbanned Sikhs in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the use of the term Olympic in reference to the proposed gay Olympic Games. Other chapters discuss the appropriation of such celebrity images as the Marx brothers, Judy Garland, Dolly Parton, James Dean, and Luke Skywalker; the conflict over team names such as the Washington Redskins; and the opposition of indigenous peoples to stereotypical Native American insignia proffered by the entertainment industry. Ultimately, she makes a case for redefining the political in commodified cultural environments.

Rosemary J. Coombe is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Toronto.

Read a review: 24 Law & Soc. Inquiry 575 (WESTLAW password required)


Despite the apparent progress in women's legal status, the law retains a profoundly male bias, and as such contributes to the pervasive violence and injustice against women.

In A Law of Her Own, the authors propose to radically change law's fundamental paradigm by introducing a "reasonable woman standard" for measuring men's behavior. Advocating that courts apply this standard to the conduct of men-and women-in legal settings where women are overwhelmingly the injured parties, the authors seek to eliminate the victimization and objectification of women by dismantling part of the legal structure that supports their subordination.

A woman-based legal standard-focusing on respect for bodily integrity, agency, and autonomy-would help rectify the imbalance in how society and its legal system view sexual and gender-based harassment, rape, stalking, battery, domestic
imprisonment, violence, and death.

Examining the bias of the existing "reasonable person" standard through analysis of various court cases and judicial decisions, A Law of Her Own aims to balance the law to incorporate women's values surrounding sex and violence.

Caroline Forell is Professor of Law at the University of Oregon. Donna Matthews is an attorney in private practice in Oregon.

Read a discussion of the issue in Newsweek (available on LEXIS and WESTLAW, passwords required)


Are jury verdicts in business trials influenced less by a corporation's negligence than by sympathy for the plaintiffs, prejudice against business, and a belief in the corporation's "deep pockets"? Many members of the public and corporate executives believe that this is so, and they feel that the jury's decision making presents serious problems for American business competitiveness and its justice system. This book—the first to provide a systematic account of how juries make decisions in typical business cases—shows that these assumptions are false or exaggerated. Drawing on interviews with civil jurors, experiments with mock jurors, and public opinion polling, Valerie P. Hans explores how jurors determine whether businesses should be held responsible for an injury. She finds that many civil jurors, rather than being overly sympathetic to plaintiffs who bring civil lawsuits, are often hostile to them, that there are only occasional instances of anti-business prejudice, and that there is no evidence of the deep-pockets hypothesis. Hans concludes that jurors do treat businesses differently than individuals, but this is because the public has higher expectations of corporations and more rigorous standards for their conduct.

Valerie P. Hans is professor in the department of sociology and criminal justice at the University of Delaware.

Read a review in The Dallas Morning News (available on WESTLAW and LEXIS, passwords required)


Leading constitutional scholar and civil rights lawyer David Cole conclusively shows that, despite a veneer of neutrality, race and class-based double standards operate in virtually every criminal justice setting, from police behavior, to jury selection, to sentencing. Cole, a professor at Georgetown University Law Center and a leading thinker on constitutional law, argues that our system depends on these double standards to operate; such disparities allow the privileged to enjoy constitutional protections from police power without paying the costs associated with extending those protections across the board to minorities and the poor.
The double standards themselves inflict even greater costs on society, Cole argues, by compromising the legitimacy of the criminal justice system, and by exacerbating racial divisions nationally. The most potent force in the war against crime is the perceived legitimacy of criminal law, so if large segments of our population lack faith in the system's fairness, the system is bound to fail. Each chapter includes specific suggestions for moving beyond the double standards we have tolerated, and the book concludes with a powerful argument for rebuilding the sense of community that is so essential to a safe and healthy society.

David Cole is a professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Read a review in BOOKS-ON-LAW