Holiday Party/Yankee Swap
January 12th

Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Open Bar 5:45 p.m.
Dinner 6:15 p.m.

6 CT Court Libraries Closing
Milford, Norwich and Willimantic are first 3 to be named...page 2

Dedication
This issue is dedicated to Lawrence Cheeseman, the original and only editor of SNELLA's Obiter Dicta since its first issue in 1982.

“Larry has worked tirelessly for SNELLA for longer than I can remember and has always delivered a top notch newsletter. I have big shoes to fill. Thanks Larry!”

Jeff Dowd

CONTENTS......
And Now A Word On Our Own Behalf................................................2
Congratulations to Darcy Kirk..............................................................3
Membership dues Invoice......................................................................4
Explaining the Mysteries of the Chapter Bylaws Revision Process...5
Holiday Party!..........................................................................................6
SNELLA Executive Board Minutes....................................................7-8
SNELLA Scholarship Fund....................................................................9
SNELLA Board List...............................................................................10
AALL Executive Board - What Are They Up to Anyway?...............11
Top 10 Additions/Enhancements to Lexis.com for 2009............12-14
Westlaw, Year-In-Review 2009..............................................................15-17
Google Scholar Opinions: An Initial Look.................................18-22
Interview with Lawrence Cheeseman...............................................23

Coming Up!
Holiday Party/Yankee Swap
January 12th
Board Meeting 5:00 p.m.
Open Bar 5:45 p.m.
Dinner 6:15 p.m.

Please pay SNELLA Memberships Dues by 12/31/09
AND NOW A WORD ON OUR OWN BEHALF

By Susan Davis

We all know the news concerning the closing of six courthouse law libraries in the state. We have read that these changes appear to be a “done deal.” We have been told that between early retirements and re-assignments, no present librarians in the system will lose their job. So my lament is not that any of you so employed will join the ranks of the unemployed, but that your very essential presence in the small courthouse libraries you now work in will be greatly missed.

Before I began my career as a law librarian, I did an internship at the Middletown Courthouse library under the tutelage of Larry Cheeseman and Jeff Dowd. The computer used by them was outdated. The printer was one of the last dot matrix ones I ever saw. Electronic resources?? We did have a Shepard’s system that was available for public use from a dedicated machine. And we had microfiche readers. We had somehow managed to secure one subscription to the Connecticut Law Tribune free of charge. Most books were updated. Some no longer were.

This was 1998. Those who worked in law firms were light years ahead. But under those two excellent librarians, the library was a great resource for not only the judges in the courthouse, the small law firm members, and solos, but most importantly, the only source of help for the pro-se’s. The main resource was not necessarily the books they could use, but the assistance and guidance furnished there. Even without all the bells and whistles, it was one great library.

Even working from the premise that much information is available free of charge online, many of those coming in do not know where to begin. While the courthouse librarians have developed excellent pathfinders for the public to use, without someone leading them to them, they will lose some usefulness. A drive from Bristol to New Britain, from Norwich to New London, or from Milford to New Haven is not always feasible for those representing themselves. For all users, the assistance of a knowledgeable reference librarian is invaluable.

The other issue is that there are many print resources that are simply not available online. Old Special Acts are an example of material often very essential to practitioners of municipal law who may even have extensive electronic resources at their disposal. Having a courthouse library nearby is essential to even many of the law firms with extensive collections, as not all essential material is available electronically. You courthouse librarians are essential hosts for welcoming, well run and greatly appreciated venues. But are the cuts necessary and the best that can be done now? Probably. But will not only the legal community but the general public suffer a great loss? You betcha.
Congratulations to Darcy Kirk!
Newly elected
Vice President and President-Elect
of AALL!
July 2010 - July 2011

Fast Facts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Position:</th>
<th>Associate Dean for Library &amp; Technology &amp; Professor of Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked at Current Position Since</td>
<td>7/1/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked in Legal Information Profession Since</td>
<td>1/1/81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Vassar College, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLS Degree</td>
<td>Simmons College, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLB/JD</td>
<td>Boston College, 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Member</td>
<td>SNELLA, LLNE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AALL Profile (selected)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Date Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice President - Executive Board</td>
<td>7/14/10 - 7/26/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair - Recruitment to Law Librarianship Committee</td>
<td>7/29/09 - 7/13/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary - Executive Board</td>
<td>7/22/05 - 6/16/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Chair Joint Study Institute 2008 Planning Committee</td>
<td>2/1/07 - 9/30/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Liaison - Bylaws Committee</td>
<td>7/18/07 - 7/15/08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President - Law Librarians of New England</td>
<td>7/1/97 - 6/30/98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reminder: Dues for the 2010-2011 year are due as of December 31, 2010. Please fill out and return the invoice below, along with your check for $25 to SNELLA.

We look forward to another great year of fun get-togethers and informative events. And, as always, please remember to refer your friends to SNELLA. All in the library community are welcome.

INVOICE

SNELLA
Southern New England Law Librarians’ Association

Date       Please Make Check Payable to:
January 2010 Southern New England Law Librarians’ Association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Membership Dues from 01/10 to 12/10</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal $25.00

Balance Due $25.00

Please Remit to:
SNELLA
P.O. Box 2378
New Britain, CT 06050

Member's Title & Institution: __________________________________________________________

Mail Address: ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ______________________________________________________________

Email Address: ______________________________________________________________
EXPLAINING THE MYSTERIES OF THE CHAPTER BYLAWS REVISION PROCESS

By Mary Fuller

Last Spring, SNELLA members voted to adopt changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. The changes allow for balloting that is not dependent on regular mail and also bring our parliamentary authority in line with the parliamentary authority used by AALL. At the same time, the SNELLA Board made technical changes to incorporate the dues structure that was approved by the membership several years ago. Now that those tasks of revision and clean-up have been accomplished, you might be interested in the process that led to the desired end.

I first became aware of the discrepancy between the dues structure in place and the dues structure outlined in our governing documents when my term as president began in June 2008. I set for myself the modest goal of fixing the problem during my term. During the chapter leadership training held at the 2008 AALL Annual meeting, I learned that we would need to have any changes approved by the AALL Bylaws Committee. Although each AALL Chapter is an independent entity, the Bylaws Committee is charged with reviewing chapter bylaws when adopted or amended to be sure that there is no conflict with AALL's bylaws.

Last winter I started the ball rolling by getting the SNELLA Board's approval to update the dues provisions. Shortly thereafter, in a “while we're at it” moment, we decided to look at the question of how our balloting is accomplished. I drafted revised language with input from the SNELLA Board, and sent the revisions to Melissa Serfass, who was then the AALL Bylaws Committee chair. She and her committee decided that the changes to the dues structure were technical changes to incorporate what SNELLA had voted on previously, and could be approved by the SNELLA Board. On the other hand, they decided that the broadening of language regarding the distribution and return of ballots was a substantive change that would require a vote of the members. The SNELLA Board approved the changes, as did the AALL committee, with the final recommendation that we change the language regarding parliamentary procedure to say that we will use whatever authority AALL uses. With that last change made, the revisions went to you for approval, and the rest - as they say - is SNELLA history.

My very modest goal turned into a larger project than anticipated - why is that not a surprise? - but the result gives accurate information to anyone looking for information on our web page, and also allows us to streamline our balloting procedures in the future. Mission accomplished!
SNELLA HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Board Meeting at 5:00 - Open Bar at 5:45 - Dinner at 6:15
To participate in the gift swap, please bring a wrapped gift!

ESCA
WINE BAR & RESTAURANT
437 Main Street
Middletown, CT  06457

RSVP to Roseann Canny- Roseann.Canny@jud.ct.gov

$20.00 per person

Appetizer
roasted eggplant caponata bruschetta
or
tomato, basil, garlic & shaved parmesan bruschetta

Salad
house salad with a balsamic glaze

Entrees
spinach gnocchi
herb roasted breast of chicken
cider glazed salmon
braised beef short ribs

all entrees served with roasted potatoes,
spinach sauté & house made rolls

Dessert
assortment of cannoli & gelato
coffee, tea, soda included

Partially sponsored by WESTLAW
SNELLA Fall Board Minutes
Pepe and Hazard
October 28, 2009

Attendees
Roseann Canny, Jeff Dowd, Mary Fuller, Ellen Javor, Kathy Koller, Maryann Krivicky, Mary Ellen Lomax, Nancy Marcove, Sandee Molden

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM. President Nancy Marcove began with a report from Treasurer Theresa Baylock indicating Snella now has $5,000.00 in checking account funds and $13,000.00 in savings.

Ellen Javor gave an update on membership. She worked over the summer with Anne Myers to update the website to solicit current membership information. In addition, Ellen revised the various lists provided by Larry Cheeseman, Roseanne Shea, and Theresa Baylock. We now have 30 members. She indicated a need to drive up membership. President Nancy Marcove then opened discussion on how to begin a membership drive. She suggested contacting directors at various organizations to help publicize our organization, including the library school at Southern CT State University, the CT State Library, specifically the legislative law unit, as well as, the history and genealogy section, and the local paralegal schools. The need for a brochure was discussed next, but it was brought to the group’s attention that Snella might have a brochure from past years that could be updated. Dottie McCaughtry would be the contact person. Volunteers were called for to help revise the old brochure.

Next on the agenda was changing the date membership dues are payable. President Nancy Marcove suggested that dues would be payable in September rather than January, as is Snella policy now, thus giving members the benefit of a full year of activities to attend. She proposed that a new membership chair be elected each June, have the summer to review and correct membership lists, then begin mailing dues notices in September. Board members voted on this intent to amend the bylaws, it passed and the bylaw change will be presented to the AALL Bylaw Revision Committee for approval. Then all the members will vote for final approval. Nancy raised the idea of getting a PO Box for the Treasurer’s collection of dues, etc. in order to have mail coming in to one centralized location.

Discussion then turned to the Snella newsletter. It will be published in December, March and May. Nancy called for volunteers to submit articles. Discussion followed on whether the newsletter should be password protected. Motion was made to password protect the newsletter, its archives and the membership list. Previously, only our member list was password protected. All members moved to accept the motion to password protect the additional features.

Another item on the agenda was the concept of the "joint luncheon" which Snella has shared with LLNE during the annual AALL meeting. LLNE also has their annual board meeting during this luncheon and it has been noticed, very few Snella members attend. Snella members pay individually for the luncheon, then as a group, we have been required to subsidize the event as well. We have been paying a disproportionate amount for the benefit realized to our members. Nancy suggested this practice be discontinued and Snella withdraw support for the joint luncheon. Motion was made to this effect and carried. Snella members who also belong to LLNE will still be permitted to attend the luncheon.
Future Business

Nancy will begin working on plans for the post-holiday party and is open to suggestions for event locations. West will subsidize this party and CCH will plan to subsidize our end-of-the-year banquet. It will be necessary for the president to acknowledge their kindness at the dinner with a public announcement. There were no objections to this.

The Annual SNELLA Yankee Swap is January 12th at

Don’t Miss It!

RSVP Roseann Canny at Roseann.Canny@jud.ct.gov
SNELLA Scholarship Fund

December 2009

SNELLA encourages and supports its member’s interest and enthusiasm for further development and education in the field of legal librarianship by offering donations from its scholarship funds. The SNELLA General Scholarship Fund gives members the opportunity to attend national and regional programs and institutes. Since 1995 seventeen scholarships have been awarded. These monies have allowed members to attend the Annual AALL Convention, local and regional legal seminars and enroll in college and university courses.

In 2004 a second SNELLA Scholarship Committee Fund was formed in the memory of an extraordinary librarian, Barbara Karp. Barbara was an extremely dedicated and inspiring librarian. Scholarships from this fund are granted to members who would like to attend SNELLA sponsored and co-sponsored educational programs. Several Barbara Karp Scholarships have been awarded since the origination of this fund.

We, the Committee, welcome all SNELLA members to apply for grants to further their education, knowledge and skills in legal librarianship. Please visit the SNELLA website at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/snella/ to view the SNELLA Scholarship Committee Guidelines and Application Form. A completed application form may be emailed to smolden@cohenandwolf.com, or faxed to 203 337-5546 or mailed to Sandee Molden, Cohen and Wolf, P.C., 1115 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

—Sandee Molden—
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officer</th>
<th>Name &amp; Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Nancy Marcove</td>
<td>860 275-8200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President/President Elect</td>
<td>Roseann Canny</td>
<td>860 898-4955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kathleen Koller</td>
<td>203 898-4955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Theresa Baylock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chair</td>
<td>Ellen Javor</td>
<td>860 608-9946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>MaryAnn Krivicky</td>
<td>203 579-7244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member at Large</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Lomax-Bellare</td>
<td>203 582-3304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Mary Fuller</td>
<td>203 591-3338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>Lori Lantos</td>
<td>860 524-7012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ratiya Ruangsuwana</td>
<td>203 288-0875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Jeffrey Dowd</td>
<td>860 343-6560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee</td>
<td>Maggie Hobden</td>
<td>860 240-2816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marjorie Lander</td>
<td>877 232-0571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement Committee</td>
<td>see President</td>
<td>see President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>Anne Myers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Dottie McCaughty</td>
<td>860 429-7637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBA/AALLI Liaison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Committee</td>
<td>Sandee Molden</td>
<td>203 337-5546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE AALL EXECUTIVE BOARD – WHAT ARE THEY UP TO ANYWAY?
By Chris Graesser, Brown Rudnick, LLP, Hartford

To many librarians, AALL members and non-members alike, the AALL Executive Boards may seem like a remote entity that has little impact and affords few benefits to the librarian on the street. In fact, the Board works hard to make sure law librarians get the most out of their association and the Board’s actions reach far beyond members to further the interest of all law librarians and the legal community.

SNELLA has had representation on the Board for several years. UConn’s Darcy Kirk was Secretary and has just been elected Vice-President. I am in the middle of a three year term as Board member.

One issue that is near and dear to librarians’ hearts is vendor relations. While it is pretty much impossible to dictate pricing through boycotts or other actions that could be construed as unfair trade practice, the board has taken action on another sore point, the Price Index. Last year, the board voted to decline the sponsorship of any vendor that did not participate in the Price Index. Sponsorship includes all program and meeting events with AALL’s (including SIS’s and committees) name on it. Vendors could still exhibit and contribute to scholarships.

One vendor held out and was noticeably absent from the list of sponsors at the Annual Meeting, something that was discussed by members at length during and after the meeting. This fall, that vendor agreed to start contributing data to the Index. We hope that this will help our members make informed decisions and develop more accurate budgets going forward.

Currently the board is focused on AALL’s Strategic Directions for 2010 – 2013. This planning process couldn’t have come at a more tumultuous time for law librarians, as we face a sea change in the legal profession. Law firms have seen historic contractions and many of our colleagues have been laid off. Government and non-profit libraries have dealt with tight budgets for years, but are now seeing the possibility of libraries closing altogether. Law schools may see an initial increase of enrollment, but with many firms reducing their workforce indefinitely, enrollments may subside as well.

The board has been listening to members over the past six months, talking to attendees at the Annual Meeting, providing a blog for members, and surveying chapters, sections, committees and caucuses. We are using that feedback as the basis for our plan.

Issues that have come up most frequently among members are:

- Professional education opportunities
- Keeping up with technology developments
- Promoting the value of law librarians
- Addressing economic challenges to librarians and libraries
- Educating vendors on the budget concerns of law libraries

If you are an AALL member, you will see announcements in the spring regarding the progress of our strategic planning process. It may seem a little dry, but it will be crucial to the standing of all law librarians. Comments are always welcome.
When Nancy Marcove approached me and asked me to put together a list of my top 10 favorite enhancements to lexis.com® in 2009, I thought I can do this! Well it wasn’t as easy as I thought because we added so many terrific sources and enhancements during 2009; I had to start eliminating some to come up with my top 10. So, here goes…and, these are not in any special order.

1 - *Shepard's® Citations for Statutes (Federal and State)* has been enhanced providing one comprehensive report with the following:
   - **Summary** section highlighting sources that provide analysis of the statute and not just where the statute is cited
   - **Special Statute Signal**, a red exclamation point letting you know immediately if there might be negative impact to the statute
   - **Pending Legislation Link** providing information about legislation that has been introduced but not yet signed into law
   - **Greater Statute Depth** providing the ability to look at the statute down to the subsection or lower level

2 – **Expert Witness (IDEX®) content** has been added to lexis.com through a new section on the Legal Tab – Expert Witness Analysis, Jury Verdicts and Settlements providing easy access to the sources available through lexis.com for information about expert witnesses – yours and opposing counsel’s. This source includes information on over 220,000 experts.
   - **Deposition Transcripts** from IDEX are full-text searchable and there are currently over 80,000 available with more being added regularly. The PDF image is also available for those who need the official image.
   - **Curricula Vitae** from IDEX are also available for full-text searching with more being added regularly.
   - **Verdicts and Settlements** from IDEX provide a wealth of information about cases where a jury rendered a verdict or the case was settled. Currently there are over 1 million verdicts and settlements with more being added regularly.

3 – **Related Content** is a recently added feature for cases that surfaces relevant related content that provides additional analysis.
   - **Court Documents** like briefs, pleadings, motions and dockets are listed if they are available through lexis.com.
   - **Issue Analysis** provides links to analytical sources including ALR®, Am Jur®, State Jurisprudences, Matthew Bender®, BNA®, and Law Reviews.
• **Document Outline** provides the ability to quickly navigate from section to section of a decision.

4 – **Area of Law – Foreign Laws & Legal Sources** replaces the old selection path Find Laws by Country or Region. Additional legal content has been added for about 151 countries. Don’t forget to also check the News & Business Tab for Country & Region (excluding the U.S.) for news and company information by country.

5 – **Public Records** through *lexis.com* are continually being enhanced and new sources added. Some of my favorites are:

  - **Alternate Phone Numbers** where you can find unlisted phone numbers, listed phone numbers and cell phone numbers.
  - **Fictitious Business Names** where you can find “doing business as” company information.

6 – **Semantic Search** is an intelligent searching option that enhances queries to return additional related search terms. The searcher still controls the search through deciding which suggested terms to use and weighting them according to the importance to the search. Semantic Search is an optional way for formulating searches when searching patents and prior art content through *lexis.com* and LexisNexis® TotalPatent™. The results are returned in relevancy order so it is easy to quickly find the most relevant patents or articles.

7 – **CourtLink® Complaint based Alerts** providing the ability to set up Alerts and search the full-text of complaints as they are filed in Federal civil cases for the language that the searcher provides. This full-text searching of complaints provides better, more relevant Alert results with less time spend reading through dockets and complaints to find the pertinent language that meets the needs of the attorney. The full-text of the complaint is provided with the Alert results with the search terms easily found when hovering over the complaint on the list of results.

8 - **Lexis® Web** is a legal-specific search engine that retrieves free Web content from legal sites validated by LexisNexis® attorney-editors and offers filtering tools to help reduce research time when using the Internet. This search capability can be found at [http://lexisweb.com/](http://lexisweb.com/).
9 – Legislative Impact® and Regulatory Impact® Reports are now available for Federal Legislation and all 50 States.

• Legislative Impact Reports track how, where and when laws interact with one another providing a clearly formatted chart showing what legislation was amended by a law, what amendments there have been to a law, and what legislation is pending that will amend a law if and when it is signed into law.

• Regulatory Impact Reports perform the same cross-referencing for state and federal regulations providing information about which sections of existing regulations will be affected by proposed regulations and what pending regulations are awaiting action as a proposed regulation.

10 – Area of Law – Financial Crisis Litigation surfaces content that will provide easy access to key sources that will help you conduct research in this hot area. Brought together are the cases, briefs, motions, pleadings, analytical sources and news content that are relevant to attorneys who need to conduct research in this area. For the News sources you will find Mega News group files with LexisNexis® SmartIndexing Technology™ terms applied to assist in finding relevant news coverage, for example, Mega News, Financial Crisis Bailout.

Hopefully, you were aware of most if not all of these enhancements/additions and agree with me that this is just a fraction of the items I could have listed.

Thanks you Nancy for asking me to put this list together for the SNELLA members. I look forward to working with all of you in 2010.
During 2009, West made a number of improvements to Westlaw’s content and functionality. This recap will highlight the top nine, or depending on how you’re counting, twelve. For the last few years West has been experimenting with a new, user-directed method for identifying content to be added to Westlaw. This method was first applied to litigation materials and this year it was expanded to patent materials. The patent law initiative dubbed “Westlaw Patents” led to a number of new databases and the creation of several tools.

At the same time, the litigation materials project continues to generate new tools, including this year’s Judicial Reversal Reports.

We did some digging in the crates and unearthed, in our crates, historical treatises for the Rise of American Law database, and in the GPO’s crates, a few thousand federal legislative histories.

**Westlaw Patents**

The first new content added to Westlaw under the Westlaw Patents rubric was the U.S. Patent File Histories (US-PAT-HISTORY) database, added in February. US-PAT-HISTORY contains the largest online portfolio of U.S. patent file histories available, including related office actions, correspondence, and exhibits. Patent file histories are available for selected U.S. patents, with an emphasis on patents that are commonly requested or litigated. Documents are exact PDF images, with handwritten comments and time stamps intact. Approximately 87,000 complete U.S. patent file histories are now available on Westlaw; approximately 500,000 additional patent histories, in which only the original and final claims are compared, will be added soon.

Westlaw Patents also contains tools for analyzing patent file histories, including:

- **Graphical view of the U.S. patent family tree**: With a single click, you can display a visual representation of the connections between multiple patents.

- **Claims version comparator**: You can display the original, amended, and final versions of patent claims. Deletions and additions are shown in color-coded text so you can easily compare versions and instantly spot the changes.

- **Graphical view of patent claims**: With a single click, you can display an easy-to-read, visual representation of the evolution of the claims in the patent you are viewing.

In March, the MARKMAN-ORDERS database added a collection of orders in which a federal district court construes the meaning of key patent claim terms (a “Markman Order”). Like any other federal district court case, a Markman Order contains a ResultsPlus list, KeyCite information, links to related filings. And as part of Westlaw Patents, the same Markman Order may also contain links for each underlying patent, providing quick access to:

- the underlying patent document and attachments
- U.S. patent family tree
- patent file history
- office actions and related history
• claims versions

In September, a large number of records from foreign patent offices, including the European, French, German, and U.K. patent offices were added to Westlaw.

Judicial Reports
In August, Westlaw released two new tools for analyzing documents written by judges.

Judicial Motion Report
The Judicial Motion Report gathers the motion history of a particular U.S. district court or bankruptcy judge and analyzes that history according to motion type (11 motion types are available), case type, role of the filing party, and other filters you designate. At any level of the analysis, you can click “Judicial Motion List” in the left frame to retrieve a tailored list of links to full-text motions, rulings, and dockets.

Judicial Reversal Report
A Judicial Reversal Report analyzes either of the following:

• a trial judge’s record of reversals, and other dispositions on appeal

• an appellate judge’s record of deciding appeals from lower courts, as well as the appellate judge’s own record on appeal

Like the Judicial Motion Report, a Judicial Reversal Report can be filtered by any of several categories. You can click “Appellate Document List” at any level of the report for links to documents cited at that level.

Other New Databases
The Rise of American Law (ROAL)
This collection contains treatises, dictionaries, practice guides, and other materials published by West and other publishers that have aligned with West over the years, including Lawyers Coop, Bancroft-Whitney, Banks-Baldwin, Clark Boardman Callaghan, and Witkin. The collection consists of materials published between 1843 and 1970, largely from the first half of the 20th century. More than 400 titles—with almost 1,700 volumes and over 1.5 million pages—are included.

PeopleMap
A new tool that helps you quickly find relevant information about people and their connections. Thorough cross-referencing helps you quickly discover relationships between people, their assets and other public information, and other individuals. PeopleMap draws information from 35 different databases, including business records, voter registrations, political donations, real property transactions and tax assessments, stock ownership, motor vehicle and boat ownership, unclaimed assets, criminal records, professional licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, liens, court dockets, marriage and divorce records, legal filings, and bankruptcy filings.
State Employee Relations Boards

Eighteen employee relations board databases were released on Westlaw in February. In addition to the Multistate Labor Relations Administrative Decisions database (MLB-ADMIN), 17 databases specific to the following jurisdictions were released: Alaska, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Oregon. The identifier for each is XXLB-ADMIN, where XX is the jurisdiction's two-letter postal abbreviation.

Federal Legislative Histories

FED-LH now contains compiled histories for almost 9,400 public laws, some going all the way back to 1954. (FED-LH is expected to contain 20,000 public laws by 2010.)
GOOGLE SCHOLAR OPINIONS: AN INITIAL LOOK

BY Chris Roy

Google Scholar’s (http://scholar.google.com) first attempt at making case law available to everyone with an Internet connection is currently the most polished and user-friendly free case law initiative. But even with the ability to search across an impressive collection of state and federal case law, Scholar won’t be directly competing with Westlaw, Lexis, or Loislaw with this iteration of its legal opinions search. Moreover, it’s likely that Scholar isn’t trying to compete with the major legal research databases.

To begin with, Scholar offers a way to search opinions, not statutes, regulations or other primary law documents, which means there are no hyperlinks to statutes or regulations in the text of the opinions. The lack of advance search operators don’t allow you to restrict and fine-tune your search to the level often required. And figuring out the scope and currency of the database takes work when it shouldn’t.

On the other hand, I’ve found the relevancy of the top results to be outstanding, which is Google’s specialty. The internal hyperlinks to and from footnotes work well. You can bookmark a search and rerun it anytime you choose. You can easily send links to cases via email or chat. The search is fast and saves time, especially when you know ahead of time what you need to retrieve. And its citator, while very different than traditional citation services, offers unique benefits, including citations to titles in Google Books. One thing missing that would seem easy for Google to provide is the ability to save opinions to one’s personal library without employing a separate service such as Evernote. Google Books allows a user to save books in a personal library, and Scholar should be no different with opinions.

Below is an overview of coverage for Connecticut and federal case law that is currently available (this is not a complete list) and some tips on using Scholar. I’ve included screen shots to illustrate various points.

What's Included?

Connecticut Case Law

Connecticut Reports – 1950 (volume 136) forward
Connecticut Appellate Reports – 1983 (volume 1) forward
Connecticut Supplement – 2003 (volume 49) forward

Federal Case Law

U.S. Supreme Court Opinions
Federal Reporter 2d and 3d
Federal Supplement 1st and 2d
Bankruptcy Reporter
What's Not Included?

Connecticut unreported decisions
Federal Claims Reporter
Federal Rules Decisions Reporter

(Note: Some reporters that are not included in the database as full-text still appear as citations. Make sure that the pull-down menu option for “include citations” is chosen. You do this because Scholar will still provide a list of documents that have cited an opinion even when the full-text is not available for the cited opinion.)

How Current Is It?

I noticed that when Scholar launched its legal opinions search (November 17, 2009), the October and November 2009 Connecticut opinions were not in the database. On Wednesday, December 2, I checked again and found that the Scholar had been updated through the mid-November Connecticut opinions. It appears Google Scholar will stay current, although not as current as Westlaw, Lexis, Loislaw, or the Connecticut Judicial Branch advance release opinions page. If you need an opinion released in the previous two weeks, it will likely not be there.
Basic Search

To search all of the available opinions, simply click the radio button for “Legal opinions and journals.”

![Google Scholar](https://www.google.com/scholar)

**Advance Search**

Go to the “Advance Scholar Search” page and scroll to the bottom to choose your jurisdiction.

**Legal opinions and journals**

- Search all legal opinions and journals.
- Search only US federal court opinions.
- Search only court opinions from the following states:
  - Alabama
  - Florida
  - Louisiana
  - Nebraska
  - Colorado
  - Connecticut
  - Delaware
  - Dist. of Columbia
  - Alaska
  - Georgia
  - Maine
  - Nevada
  - Idaho
  - Hawaii
  - Maryland
  - New Hampshire
  - Illinois
  - Michigan
  - New Jersey
  - Massachusetts
  - New Mexico
  - North Carolina
  - New York
  - North Dakota
  - North Carolina
  - Ohio
  - South Carolina
  - Oklahoma
  - Pennslyvania
  - South Dakota
  - Oregon
  - Rhode Island
  - South Dakota
  - Pennsylvania
  - Tennessee
  - Vermont
  - Washington
  - Virginia
  - Wisconsin
  - Wyoming

*Search Scholar*
Advance Search Operators

Scholar offers very basic advance search operators:

- "+" operator to include common words
- "-" operator to exclude words
- " " phrase searching with quotes
- "OR" operator to return results with either search term
- "Intitle:" operator to return results that have the search term in the title

Here's an example of an "intitle" search:

![Google Scholar search results]

**Doe v. Roe** - How cited
246 Conn. 652, 717 A. 2d 706 - Conn: Supreme Court, 1998 - Google Scholar

The narrow question presented by this appeal is whether the Superior Court has subject matter jurisdiction to render judgment in accordance with an agreement that includes a promise by a surrogate mother to consent to the termination of her parental rights in Probate Court. The ...

Cited by 36 - Related articles - Import into BibTeX

**Collard & Roe, PC v. Klein** - How cited
72 Conn. App. 683 - Conn: Appellate Court, 2002 - Google Scholar

These appeals and cross appeals arise out of several complex and interrelated cases. The origin of the disputes lies in the short-lived merger of two law firms specializing in intellectual property law. Collard and Roe, a New York firm, and Klein & Vibber, PC (Klein & Vibber), a ...

Cited by 5 - Related articles - Import into BibTeX

"How Cited" Tab

The "How Cited" page for each case can be a powerful research tool. I wouldn’t recommend it as a traditional citator to verify whether or not a case is still good law. However, Scholar’s citator brings together citing law review articles, books, and cases and offers direct access to many – but not all – of the articles, including direct links to articles published on university websites. Further, if you have access to HeinOnline or other subscription services, Scholar’s citator is a convenient and quick (direct URLs are provided) way to discover and retrieve articles. As you can see below, Scholar pulls quotes from the citing documents to better illustrate how those documents cite your case.
In Summary

As a basic primary law research tool, Scholar still lacks statutes, regulations, unreported decisions, integrated document delivery functionality, advanced search operators, and scope information. I’ve also found more than one instance where appellate opinions that should have been included were missing. However, Scholar’s opinions search is a remarkable improvement compared to the previously existing options for finding free case law. Scholar is a handy website for quickly retrieving a case and sharing it (printing, emailing, blogging, etc.). And its “how cited” functionality and relevance rankings make it a valuable research tool that shouldn’t be ignored.

NUMBER OF YEARS AS A LAW LIBRARIAN: 41

PLACES WORKED:
- Cahill, Gordon & Reindel - New York, NY
- NY State Supreme Court Library
  Brooklyn, NY
- Webster & Sheffield - New York, NY
- CT Judicial Branch - Supervising Law
- Librarian for Districts of Tolland, Windham, New London, Middlesex & New Britain

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:
I have been a chapter newsletter editor for 30 years:
- LLAGNY's Law Lines 1976-1983
- Jurisdocs 1978-1983
- SNELLA - sole editor since inception in 1982, past president and regular instructor of Legal Research Course

BOOKS WRITTEN: Several including, Co-author of Connecticut Legal Research Guide.

AWARDS: Selected as a Judicial Hero by the Connecticut Law Tribune for my work on the CLIPS Project (Connecticut Legal Information Pathfinder Series)

LEGACY: Over 2,000 pages of pathfinders concerning Connecticut law accessible to all on the Judicial Branch Law Libraries' website.

LITTLE KNOWN FACT: I was a life guard for 3 summers at a lake. One day a child was missing so I ordered everyone out of the water. My quick thinking helped locate the child.

PETS: A border collie named Ernie and a tuxedo cat named Mr. T. who refuses to be herded by Ernie.

FAVORITE QUOTE: “All light is valuable on a darken path.” - DeQuincy
Calender

January 12th, 2010
Holiday Party & Yankee Swap
Board Meeting

March 9th, 2010
Submissions for next newsletter due

Jeffrey Dowd - Editor
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Law Library at Middletown
Room 208, 1 Court Street
Middletown, CT 06457

First Class Mail