

FCIL NEWSLETTER

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law
Special Interest Section



Carnival, Custom, and Law

BY SALLY BROWN RICHARDSON
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It is well-known that once a year, everything in New Orleans stops for a few days (well, a couple of weeks, if we are being honest) and the entire city celebrates Mardi Gras. What is less known is how most of the city's Carnival traditions are directly rooted in law.

Law and Mardi Gras? As apocryphal as it may sound, you read that correctly. Mardi Gras – or Carnival, as it is referred to in many cultures – is filled with customs that find their roots in law. And thus, law and Mardi Gras go together like peanut butter and jelly, like salt and pepper, cream and sugar. Mardi Gras and property law are two peas in a purple, green, and gold pod.

Take, for example, the throwing of Mardi Gras beads and trinkets. Most parades have their special throw: the Muses parade throws glittered shoes, the Zulu parade throws glittered coconuts, the Tucks parade throws glittered toilet plungers . . . the list goes on and on and gets odder and odder. Whatever the glittered-item may be, the crowd goes wild when it is thrown. Question: when the coconut covered in glitter is thrown from a float in the Zulu parade, who owns the coconut? Answer: the person who catches it. Why? Because of the rule of capture.

Everyone remembers the foxes and the hounds from first year property law. The rule of capture as explained in *Pierson v. Post*, 3 Caines 1705 (N.Y. 1805), is alive and well when the first Mardi Gras parade begins to roll.

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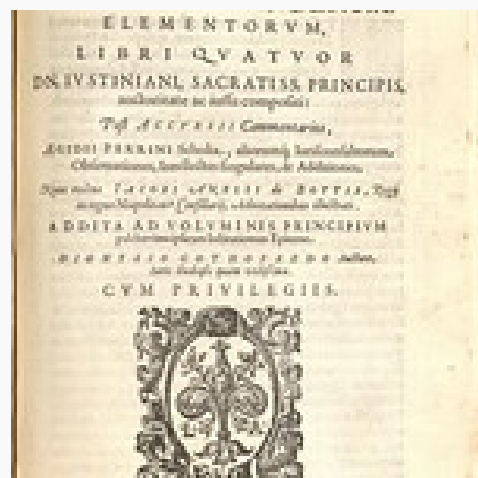
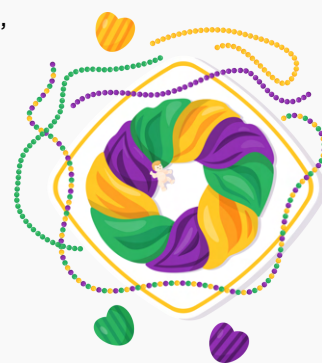
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Carnival, Custom, and Law

Under the rule of capture, he who captures owns, even if the capturer cuts off someone in hot pursuit. The same rule applies at Mardi Gras. The person who takes physical possession of the coconut owns the coconut, even if another member of the crowd was yelling, jumping up and down, and otherwise pursuing the coconut. It might be considered rude to intercept the coconut, thereby cutting off a reveler who is trying hard to take that coconut home, but recall the *Pierson* court noted that “[h]owever uncourteous or unkind the conduct” of the capturer is, the capturer is still the winner. *Id.* at 179.

Not only is the rule of capture a staple of New Orleans Mardi Gras culture, the law of finders is equally in play every Carnival season. Take the tradition of the King Cake. This delicious, cinnamon-flavored pastry is on every table during Mardi Gras. And anyone who has ever eaten a King Cake knows these delicacies contain inside of them a small, completely inedible, arguably hazardous, plastic baby. Ignoring the potential liability that comes with placing a choking hazard in the King Cake, the time-honored tradition is that the individual who bites into the baby becomes the owner of the King Cake baby. Why? The same reason the chimney sweep in the classic case *Armory v. Delamirie*, 93 ER 664, KB (1722), won the jewel, and why two centuries later the soldier in *Hannah v. Peel*, 1 K.B. 509 (1945), won the brooch: the law of finders. He who finds wins, so the finder of the baby wins the baby.



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Rule of capture? Law of finders? The well-trained legal eye might question how these classic common law doctrines apply in Louisiana, the sole civil law jurisdiction in the United States. Upon closer examination, though, it is unsurprising, given that the rule of capture and the law of finders—like many basic rules of common law property—are inspired by Roman Law. When the New York court in *Pierson* established the rule of capture for all future American law students to learn, what was the first source the court cited? Justinian’s Institutes. See *Pierson*, 3 Caines at 177. While the classic cases on the law of finders do not cite Roman sources, Roman law included provisions on treasure that are arguably mirrored in the common law of finders. For example, the Roman jurist Paulus wrote in Justinian’s Digest that for treasure, “what does not belong to another becomes the property of him who finds it.” J. Dig. 41.1.31.1. [Various [translations](#) are available.]

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Carnival, Custom, and Law

As Roman Law had concepts akin to the rule of capture and the law of finders, it is of no surprise that modern Louisiana law has similar corollaries. Under Louisiana Civil Code [article 3412](#), occupancy—or Louisiana’s version of the rule of capture—is defined as the “taking of possession of a corporeal movable that does not belong to anyone.” The article continues to state that ownership transfers to the occupant (i.e. the capturer) the moment he takes possession. Similarly, Louisiana Civil Code [article 3420](#) provides the rule for the ownership of things that are found: “One who finds a treasure in a thing that belongs to him or to no one acquires ownership of the treasure.”

Voila! Whether the parade runs in New Orleans, Louisiana or in Mobile, Alabama, the catcher of the coconut owns the coconut. And whether the King Cake baby is found in Baton Rouge or Birmingham, the finder goes home with it (and a full belly). Law is unquestionably in action when it comes to Mardi Gras traditions.

And lest you think these legal doctrines have only frivolous, albeit fun, application to Carnival, one only needs to read the case *NOLA Spice Designs, LLC v. Haydel Enterprises, Inc.*, [783 F.3d 527](#) (5th Cir. 2015), to recognize the monetary impact law can have on Mardi Gras. As Judge Stephen A. Higginson, writing for the panel in *NOLA Spice Designs*, begins the opinion, “This case concerns the intersection between intellectual property rights and a Mardi Gras tradition.” *Id.* at 534. The case involved the question of whether a local bakery could trademark the name “Mardi Gras bead dog.” The Fifth Circuit held, inter alia, the trademark had to be cancelled because “Mardi Gras bead dog” is a generic description, or alternatively, a descriptive term without secondary meaning. *Id.* at 547. While those of you from California to Maine may have no idea what a Mardi Gras bead dog is, suffice it to say that every child over the age of three in the city of New Orleans not only knows what a Mardi Gras bead dog is, but can also make one out of a strand of beads in under 15 seconds. Don’t take my word for it—read the entire opinion and you will discover that affidavits were submitted into evidence in the case specifically on the topic of children’s knowledge regarding bead dogs. See *id.* at 538. How much more intertwined can law and Mardi Gras get?

Law and Mardi Gras. They go together like birds of a feather. And that’s a good thing, for without law, who knows whether I would own the next strand of beads thrown my way. So as we say in New Orleans, *laissez les bons temps rouler*, and next time you are heading out to a Mardi Gras festivity, don’t forget to bring a hornbook with you for guidance on social norms.





From the Chair

BY CAITLIN HUNTER

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Welcome to a special Mardi Gras themed issue of the FCIL-SIS newsletter. I hope you'll enjoy the articles contributed by your colleagues and join us in celebrating the festival of Mardi Gras.

Awards

I also hope you'll join us in celebrating all your colleagues' contributions to FCIL-SIS and nominate your colleagues for FCIL-SIS awards:

- The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award honors a FCIL-SIS member who has made an outstanding contribution to our SIS in the areas of section activity and professional service.
- The Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award honors a FCIL-SIS member who has greatly contributed to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year. The winning "publications" may be print, digital, or electronic initiatives.
- The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award honors a FCIL-SIS member whose work furthers our mission, serves the entire FCIL-SIS, and inspires others to act.
- The Blog Post of the Year Award honors an AALL member who contributes an outstanding blog post for the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues, during the previous year.
- The Newsletter Article of the Year Award honors an FCIL-SIS member who contributes an outstanding article for the FCIL-SIS Newsletter during the previous year.
- The Interest Group/Committee Project of the Year Award honors the FCIL-SIS Interest Group and/or Committee that produces an outstanding project for the benefit of FCIL-SIS and/or AALL members during the previous year.

Please send your nominations by March 15, 2025, to any member of the Executive Committee: Caitlin Hunter (hunter@law.ucla.edu); Mike McArthur (michael.mcarthur@law.duke.edu); Meredith Capps (mcapps@bradley.com); or Renu Sagreiya (renu.sagreiya@pepperdine.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

Elections

I am pleased to announce that we have two wonderful candidates for this year's FCIL-SIS Executive Committee elections:

- Meredith Capps will be running for FCIL-SIS Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. I have had the good fortune of working with her in her current role as FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer and her previous role as co-chair of the FCIL-SIS Publicity Committee. I'm delighted that I will get to continue serving with her on the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee and I'm happy to know that I will be leaving the Chair position in good hands with Renu and Meredith.

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From the Chair

BY CAITLIN HUNTER

- Sue Silverman will be running for FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer. I've also had the good fortune of working with her in her current role as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. I'm so appreciative of the work that she and the rest of the DEI Committee have pursued to promote DEI within FCIL-SIS and to produce interesting, important webinars, including last year's "Dealing with Trauma from World Events" and the ongoing "What in the World is Happening..." series. I'm delighted that I will get to work with her on the Executive Committee.

Please see [page 17](#) of this issue for Meredith's and Sue's candidate statements!

A huge thank you to Meredith and Sue for running- and a huge thank you also to our Nominating Committee for putting together such a great slate! I know how much work goes into identifying and recruiting candidates and I want to thank Alison Shea (co-chair), Traci Emerson Spackey (co-chair), Victoria Tokar, and David Isom for finding two fantastic candidates.

Bylaws Changes

This year, in addition to electing the new FCIL-SIS Executive Committee, you'll be asked to vote on two technical changes to the FCIL-SIS bylaws. Both changes impact [Article VI, Section 4](#), on the process of appointing new FCIL-SIS committee and interest group chairs. First, the current bylaws call for the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee to recruit and appoint committee chairs directly. However, since 2021, the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee has delegated this task to the FCIL-SIS Appointments Committee. As part of this year's elections, you'll be asked to approve the addition of a new sentence at the very end of Article VI, Section 4, officially authorizing this delegation. The sentence reads: The Executive Committee may delegate the process of recruiting and selecting Interest Groups leaders and Standing Committee chairs to an Appointments or Nominating Committee. Second, you'll be asked to vote on a minor change to the appointments timeline, to make it more flexible and consistent with actual FCIL-SIS practice. The current bylaws call for the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee to announce which committee chair and interest group chair terms are ending "by April 1, via the list and the newsletter, and request volunteers for the position to submit their names to the Committee by May 1." Because the newsletter is published in February, May, and October, as a practical matter this requires the Executive Committee to put out a call for new committee chairs in February, two months in advance of the April 1 deadline. Reviewing past newsletters indicates that the Executive Committee has done this exactly twice in FCIL-SIS' entire history!

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From the Chair

BY CAITLIN HUNTER

The proposed revisions will give the Appointments Committee more flexibility and allow them to publish a call for volunteers in either the February or May newsletter. The proposed revisions to the Article VI, Section 4 timeline read as follows:

Interest Groups leaders and Standing Committee chairs shall have two-year terms. ~~The Executive Committee will publicly announce which terms are ending by April 1, via the list and the newsletter, and request volunteers for the position to submit their names to the Committee by May 1. The Executive Committee will put out a call for volunteers to fill open positions at least once between February 1 and May 31, via both the FCIL-SIS listserv and FCIL-SIS newsletter. The call for volunteers shall specify a deadline for volunteers to submit their names. The deadline must be no sooner than two weeks after the initial call for volunteers and no later than June 15.~~ The Executive Committee can post the names to the SIS and request feedback from the SIS membership if they so desire. The Executive Committee will select and announce the new Interest Group leaders and Standing Committee chairs by ~~June 1~~ *the annual meeting*. Repeat terms will be permissible. ~~The Executive Committee will follow a similar procedure in filling temporary Interest Group leader or Standing Committee chair vacancies, but need not wait until April. If no volunteers are received to lead an Interest Group or chair a Standing Committee or if a temporary vacancy later arises, the Executive Committee may place additional calls for volunteers on the listserv (and, if convenient, in the newsletter) and need not wait until February.~~

Polls will be open from 3/24/2025 to 4/14/2025 to elect our new FCIL-SIS Executive Committee members and to vote on the proposed bylaws changes. Please keep an eye out for voting instructions in late March!

Please also consider this your first call to start thinking about volunteering for an FCIL-SIS Committee or Interest Group! I encourage you to look over the list of [FCIL-SIS Committees and Interest Groups](#) and identify committees that you might want to join. We especially welcome volunteers to fill the currently vacant chair positions for the Asian Law Interest Group and Electronic Research Interest Group. Please keep an eye out for the call for volunteers on the FCIL-SIS listserv later this spring and, until then, don't hesitate to email me at hunter@law.ucla.edu if you're interested in or have questions about volunteering.



Website Committee Highlights and Updates

The [FCIL-SIS website](#) provides a repository and archive for member-created content, and promotes ongoing FCIL-SIS activities. The Website Committee strives to maintain consistent, updated, and easily accessible information. We rely on individual members, interest groups, and committees to keep the information about ongoing activities current.

This year the [FCIL-SIS Website Committee](#) has updated several pages, including the [Continuing Education Committee](#), [FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians](#) and [BIOs](#), [Executive Committee](#), [Newsletter](#), and [International Visits Committee](#) pages. We invite you all to explore the content posted during 2024 and let us know of any updates, changes, or edits.

Those who couldn't attend the 2024 Annual Conference can visit the [Annual Meeting Programs](#) page, which is dedicated to archiving FCIL-related programming offered at the annual meeting, now including 2024. Members may also enjoy perusing the archived programs listed on the [Continuing Education](#) page. Those who are preparing to teach an FCIL-related course may find the [FCIL Syllabi and Course Materials Repository](#) helpful. For those looking to get involved, the [Committees and Groups](#) page lists all committee and interest groups, their respective chairs and co-chairs, and links to the related pages where members can learn more about the committees' and interest groups' activities and opportunities.

Designing an approach to updating the [History](#) pages of the FCIL-SIS website is still on the agenda. If you are interested in preserving the history of the FCIL-SIS, this could be an opportunity for you. Would you be interested in adding to the collection of [Oral Histories](#) of interviews with FCIL-SIS members or updating the [FCIL-SIS Timeline](#)? We are hoping to gather a small group of volunteers to work on this portion of the website. If you are interested, please let us know!

As always, please send your proposals for additional content, edits, deletions, or questions to the Website Committee Co-chairs: Charlotte Daugherty (cndaugherty@berkeley.edu) and Lucie Olejnikova (lucie.olejnikova@yale.edu).





Editor's Corner

The special theme for this issue is inspired from the Mardi Gras or Carnival celebrations in my hometown of New Orleans. Mardi Gras is technically a single day (the Tuesday before Lent aka Fat Tuesday). In Louisiana at least, the term is often used to describe the entire Carnival season - which in New Orleans is typically considered Twelfth Night (January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany) to Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent.

Oxford English Dictionary can provide us some more authoritative context here:

“**carnival** - noun -

1.b Public celebrations, entertainments, or festivities of the sort associated with the period immediately before Lent . . . , typically involving events such as parades and the wearing of elaborate costumes or masks; a celebration of this type. Now frequently spec.: a type of public celebration incorporating or taking the form of a procession or parade accompanied by music and dancing and often featuring highly decorated floats and performers wearing flamboyant costumes.

During the Renaissance, Venice was particularly famous for its carnival celebrations; the carnival tradition is now especially associated with Latin America and the Caribbean, having been introduced to the Americas by colonial settlers from Spain, Portugal, and France. Famous carnivals are held annually in Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans, and Trinidad and Tobago, and similar celebrations take place worldwide, both in the period before Lent and now also at other times of year.

While to some the term “Mardi Gras” may conjure visions of crowded streets full of drunken revelers, the history and impact of the Carnival season is extensive - “Mardi Gras” is far from a singular, U.S. experience, and it is not based around drunk tourists. Yes, you will find some people enjoying the revelry if you attend a celebration anywhere in the world; but in actuality it is part of a larger history dating back to at least the 1500s, and the traditions of Carnival are spread throughout the world.

We are grateful to have two special contributors for this issue on different Mardi Gras traditions. This issue begins with a discussion from Professor Sally Brown Richardson, Tulane Law professor, on the application of property law during Mardi Gras in New Orleans. While it may seem incongruous, Sally outlines how law plays a role in these occasions, whether we realize it or not: Capture - Treasure - Finders (and trademarks!) - Oh my! Sally is an engaging writer and an excellent professor who updated this piece just for us. We are also so grateful to have a piece from Esther Bélanger, Manager of Knowledge Services at Fasken for Quebec region and Past President Association des bibliothèques de droit de Montréal/Montreal Association of Law Libraries. Esther explores the history and special events during the Carnaval de Québec. In particular, she has convinced me that I could enjoy visiting Canada during February weather. I hope you enjoy both pieces as much as I did!

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Editor's Corner

Mardi Gras is also time for one of my favorite treats - King Cake! For an overview of this delicious treat and its other cultural counterparts (the [galette des rois](#) or [rosca de reyes](#)), see this NPR [article](#) from 2012. While it is more common in NOLA to buy your cake from a competitive line-up of bakeries, here is our [family recipe](#) if you want to make a project cake at home.

At the end of this issue, I've compiled an incredibly incomplete, uncurated bibliography on Mardi Gras and Carnival traditions. Truly, the word bibliography is too generous to describe the methodology I used to collect works. Nevertheless, it provides a starting point for anyone interested in the topic and illustrates the geographic and subject-matter scope of works relating to Carnival - everything from sociology to history to gender to law to race to colonization to... well, you get it.

*Laissez les bons temps
rouler -
JK*

Resource Reviews: The Global Nationality Laws Database - Global Citizenship Observatory (Globalcit)

*Part of a series of reviews prepared by the
Electronic Research Interest Group*

BY JUAN-ANDRÉS FUENTES

The Global Citizenship Observatory (Globalcit), a network formed by the Global Governance Programme at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies (European University Institute), the University of Edinburgh, and the Maastricht Center for Citizenship, Migration, and Development, has made freely available a range of databases, indicators, country profiles, and special reports focusing on citizenship status and electoral rights.

Among the databases created are the International Legal Norms Database, the Citizenship Case Law Database, and the National Electoral Laws Database. For this review, we will focus our analysis on the [Global Nationality Laws Database](#), an electronic resource that compiles thematically related laws, constitutional provisions, bilateral agreements, and government decrees.

How well-known is the source?

This resource has significant potential. As a database featuring a substantial amount of high-quality information, it deserves greater attention from government officials, researchers, and the public. Increased recognition of its value could lead to broader utilization.



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Resource Reviews: Globalcit

How accessible is it?

The Global Nationality Laws Database is easily accessible because it is free to use, does not require creating a personal account, has an English-language interface, and is compatible to use on cellphones and desktops.

In addition, the website has high-resolution quality, loads quickly to provide fast search results, and is ranked first in search results on the most popular search engines.

How authoritative is it?

The database was created and is maintained by respected European research institutions, making it highly authoritative.

How comprehensive is it, in terms of its contents?

A positive aspect of the database is that its content includes materials dating back to 1985 and covers 177 countries.

How easy-to-use (user-friendly) is it?

The database is user-friendly, allowing searches to be performed using keywords and enabling the selection of multiple countries at the same time. These countries are easy to find, as they are organized by geographical location. However, the number of search results is lower when performing the same search on a cellphone compared to a desktop.

How useful is it in terms of its ability to answer both common and rare (difficult-to-find) questions?

This is the perfect resource for finding legislation on the topic as it was originally passed. Furthermore, as the database contains information from such a vast number of countries, it would be ideal to have the interface available in some of the most spoken languages and to allow searches to be performed in those languages.

How current (up-to-date) is it?

After conducting a few sample searches, it seems that the content may not always fully reflect the latest amendments or current legislation on a particular topic. A note to clarify this would be helpful.

Final Words

In times when international conflicts and economic crises shake the world, causing internal displacements, relocations to neighboring countries, and the establishment of national and regional policies to regulate the influx of migrants—whether to facilitate the lives of new residents or to deport them to their countries of origin—it is essential to have various resources available to gain a complete understanding of citizenship laws globally. One such resource is the Global Nationality Laws Database.



Brief profile on the Carnaval de Québec and Mardi Gras/Carnival traditions

BY ESTHER BÉLANGER, MLIS

*Manager of Knowledge Services at Fasken for Quebec region
Past President Montreal Association of Law Libraries*

The Carnaval de Québec has a rich history dating back to the late 19th century. It was initially conceived in 1894 as a means for the residents of Quebec City to find joy and warmth amidst the harsh winter conditions. However, the Carnival faced interruptions due to significant global events such as the two World Wars and the Great Depression of 1929.

The modern version of the Carnival began in 1954 when a group of businesspeople sought to boost the economic development of Quebec City's Old Capital. They revived the winter festivities and introduced Bonhomme as the event's mascot. The first official edition of the Québec Winter Carnival took place in 1955 and quickly became a significant attraction for locals and tourists alike, cementing its status as a cornerstone of Quebec's winter tourism industry.



Le carnet de Bonhomme - Carnaval de Québec

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Carnaval de Québec

When I was young, in the 80s, seven lucky ladies - fancily called duchesses by the Carnival organizers - were picked to represent the seven districts of the Québec region. These duchesses had to be single and were chosen mainly for their good looks. Imagine a beauty pageant but with more snow and fewer bikinis. They had to take courses in diction and etiquette, and attend endless fitting sessions to make sure they were always dressed to impress.



[© Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec/Jules Rochon\(Retour des Duchesses au Carnaval d'hiver de la ville de Québec - RCI / Français\)](#)

One of these duchesses would be crowned Carnival Queen through a random draw, which happened after they sold a bunch of candles in their neighborhoods. (Side note: the candle sales were a fundraising campaign for several good causes.) The Carnival Ball and the crowning of the Carnival Queen were the highlights of the celebration.

However, already in the 1970s and 80s, this “personality contest” was criticized by the feminist movement and by some sponsors who found it sexist. The tradition of the duchesses was (finally!!) discontinued in 1996 but was revived in 2014 to mark the 60th official edition of the Carnaval de Québec Carnival Traditions.

The Carnival is a blend of various traditions and symbols, each contributing to its unique charm and enduring appeal.

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Carnaval de Québec

Arrow Sash: This colorful belt, integral to the Carnival's attire, has historical significance. In the 19th century, it was used to secure coats and provide back support. The arrow sash is a blend of Native American and French-Canadian weaving techniques and remains a unique symbol of Quebec's cultural heritage.

Trumpet: The Carnival trumpet, known for its loud sound of up to 114 decibels, is a staple at the Night Parade, adding to the festive atmosphere. When we were teenagers and we participated in the last parade, you could see the next day the ravages of the trumpet, we all had bruised mouths...

Bonhomme Carnaval: Bonhomme Carnaval is the beloved and iconic figurehead of the Carnaval de Québec. This cheerful snowman, adorned with a red tuque and arrow sash, represents the spirit and joy of winter. He first appeared publicly on January 9, 1955, and was given the Keys to the City by the mayor of Quebec City, a tradition that continues to this day. Bonhomme is not just a static figure but a dynamic character who actively participates in the festivities. Unlike the European tradition where an effigy is burned at the end of the carnival, Bonhomme simply departs at the end of the celebrations, only to return rejuvenated the following year. His origins are somewhat mysterious, but he is credited with bringing the Carnival to life and embodying the festive spirit of Quebecers.



Billetterie et produits dérivés - Carnaval de Québec



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Carnaval de Québec

Best and most impressive activities:

Ice Palace: The Ice Palace is an iconic location in Quebec City, Canada. It is a grand ice castle entirely constructed from ice blocks, erected in Old Quebec. The palace typically consists of several sections, each offering a different experience for visitors.

Did you know that a single ice block weighs 300 lbs (136 kg), and it takes approximately 2,800 blocks to build the Palace?

Ice Canoe Race: The Ice Canoe Race is one of the Carnival's most thrilling events. A flagship activity, the Ice Canoe Race takes place on the frozen waters of the St. Lawrence River, where dozens of teams compete in four categories: Open Elite, Women's Elite, Mixed Elite, and Sport. In 2025, the Carnival will celebrate the 70th anniversary of this race, where athletes navigate the icy waters of the Saint-Lawrence River. Spectators can watch from specific wharves at the Port of Québec.



Our must-visit attractions - Carnaval de Québec

The Snow Bath: The Snow Bath is one of the most popular activities at the Quebec Carnival. The activity involves taking a snow bath outdoors while wearing a swimsuit and snow boots.

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Carnaval de Québec

Hockey Pee-Wee: The Quebec City International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament, celebrating its 65th anniversary this year!

Abseiling on the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac: This event is new and is already sold out for 2025, highlighting its popularity.



Descente en rappel sure le Fairmont le Château Frontenac

Live Snow Sculpture: Talented sculptors create stunning snow sculptures, showcasing their artistry and adding to the Carnival's enchanting ambiance. Simply magical, my favorites since I was a child!

The Night Parades: The Night Parades are colorful and festive spectacles that provide a unique opportunity to celebrate Quebec's culture and winter in the company of thousands of people.

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Carnaval de Québec



Photos Carnaval - Carnaval de Québec CDQ2018 ©fredphotovideo MG 5434-min

Finally, the Carnaval de Québec is a vibrant celebration of winter, deeply rooted in the history and culture of Quebec City. There is no doubt that this festival has something to dazzle no matter what age you are - there were over 100 different activities from February 7 to 16! Start planning for next year: [Programmation du Carnaval de Québec 2026](#).



About the Carnival - Carnaval de Québec



FCIL-SIS Candidate Statement: Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Meredith Capps is the Research Services Manager at Bradley Arant Boult Cumming LLP in Nashville, TN. Prior to joining Bradley in 2023, Meredith was the Foreign & International Law Librarian and the Head of Faculty Services at the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library at Vanderbilt University Law School for six years, and in 2024 served as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Transnational Legal Research. Before working at Vanderbilt, she was the Faculty Services Librarian at George Mason University Law Library, and before becoming a librarian, she practiced law as an associate attorney in the Investigations & White Collar practice group at Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C.



Meredith is currently serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the FCIL-SIS, and previously served as co-chair of the FCIL-SIS’s Appointments Committee and its Publicity Committee, in the latter role administering the SIS’s blog. She is also currently serving in a three-year term as Member-at-Large in the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. She was the 2022-2023 chair of the ALL-SIS Faculty Services Committee, a 2022 AALL Leadership Academy Fellow, and has served on the AALL Scholarship Jury, AALL Annual Meeting Award Grant Jury, the RIPS-SIS Legal Research Competency and Research Instruction Committees, and the PLLIP-SIS Continuing Education Committee.

FCIL-SIS Candidate Statement: Secretary/Treasurer

Sue Silverman is a reference librarian and adjunct professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. She received her J.D. from NYU School of Law and her B.A. from NYU. Prior to joining Brooklyn Law School, she practiced commercial litigation in New York. For the past two years, she has served as chair of the FCIL-SIS DEI Committee, where she worked with other FCIL-SIS members to host webinars on diverse topics of interest to the FCIL-SIS community, and to strengthen diversity processes and initiatives within FCIL-SIS.





FCIL-SIS Member Recent Publications Roundup

Our SIS is fortunate to include in its ranks exceptionally talented and enthusiastic writers. With this feature, we are happy to spread the word of their recent publications.

Journal Articles

Marci Hoffman, [In Memoriam: Thomas H. Reynolds \(1935–2022\)](#), 52 Int’l J. Legal Info. 108 (2025).

Juan-Andrés Fuentes, [“Humanitarian Corridors”: A Legal Scheme to Deter Venezuelans from Entering Ecuador?](#), 51 Int’l J. Legal Info. 158 (2024).

Julienne E. Grant, Iryna Shopina, Larysa Brych and Anatolii Movchan, [Under Siege: A Brief Glimpse of Legal Education and the Rule of Law in Ukraine](#), 51 Int’l J. Legal Info. 216 (2024).

Meredith A. Capps, [Book Review \[International Investment Law. Arnaud de Nanteuil\]](#), 51 Int’l J. Legal Info. 228 (2024).

Spectrum

Havilah Steinman Bakken, Aamir Abdullah, Rachel Evans, Valerie Horton & Jason Tubinis, [Communication Styles & Emotional Intelligence: How AI Can Assist Your Asynchronous Messages](#), 29 AALL: Spectrum, Nov. / Dec. 2024, at 22.

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GlobaLex Articles

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Don Ford, [Researching Canon Law](#)

Julienne E. Grant, [Researching Comparative Constitutional Law](#)

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Blog Posts

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Chelsey McKimmy, [AALL 2024 Recap - FCIL "Cools Tools" Pt. 3 - Arbitration Tools \(Jus Mundi\)](#)

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Lucie Olejnikova, [GlobaLex September/October 2024 Issue is Live](#)

Jonathan Pratter, [From the Reference Desk: Some Good Websites for FCIL Research](#)

Loren Turner, [AALL Recap - FCIL Cool Tools Pt. 4\(2\) - DeepL](#)

Loren Turner, [AALL Recap - FCIL Cool Tools Pt. 4\(1\) - DeepL](#)

*Editor's Note: Have you recently published?
We would love to highlight it in our Recent
Member Publications.*

*Send your information to [Jingwei Zhang](#) for
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FCIL-SIS FCIL-SIS International Visits Committee

Foreign Library Visits & Exchanges Survey

FCIL has long recognized the need among our members to gain experience in working with foreign legal information sources and to develop personal and professional relationships with law librarians around the world.

In the past the FCIL International Visits Committee has had a list of opportunities for visits and exchanges and is currently in the process of updating it. If your library or libraries that you know about are interested in hosting visits or exchanges with librarians and library students from other countries, please complete this [survey](#).

If you have any question or concerns, please contact David McFadden, FCIL International Visits Committee Chair at dmcfadden@swlaw.edu.

Thanks again for your interest.

Overview of the Online International Human Rights Research Guide

Juan-Andrés Fuentes

This resource is tailored for legal scholars, students, and practitioners exploring the field of human rights law. It provides a comprehensive overview of key topics, including major regional and global human rights conventions, case law from international and regional courts, and United Nations mechanisms for implementing and enforcing human rights standards. Additionally, it features human rights reports prepared by governments, international organizations, and NGOs, offering valuable insights for research.

The guide simplifies the process of exploring this complex area of law by recommending some trusted reference materials and providing direct access to authoritative databases—both free and subscription-based resources. It also links to additional research guides, to support in-depth and effective research. Whether you're examining procedural frameworks or exploring specific human rights topics, this guide serves as a reliable and essential resource.

Explore this robust resource to deepen your understanding of human rights law and enhance your research journey. Access the guide here: [International Human Rights Research Guide](#).



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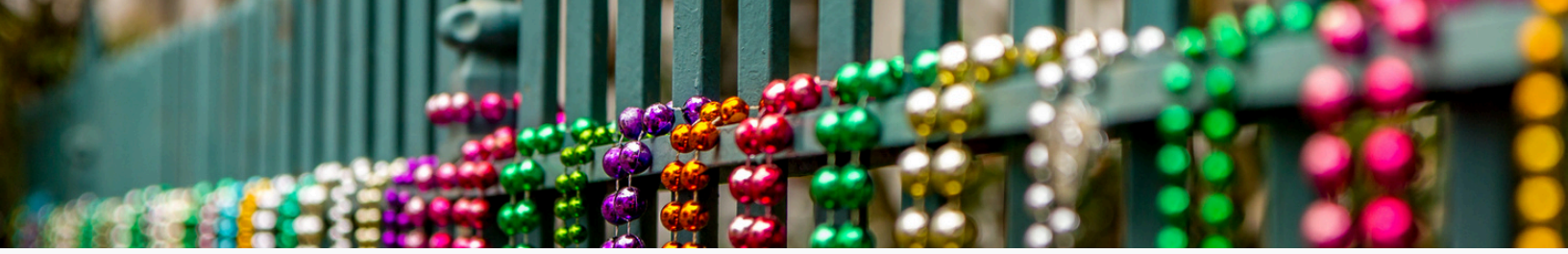
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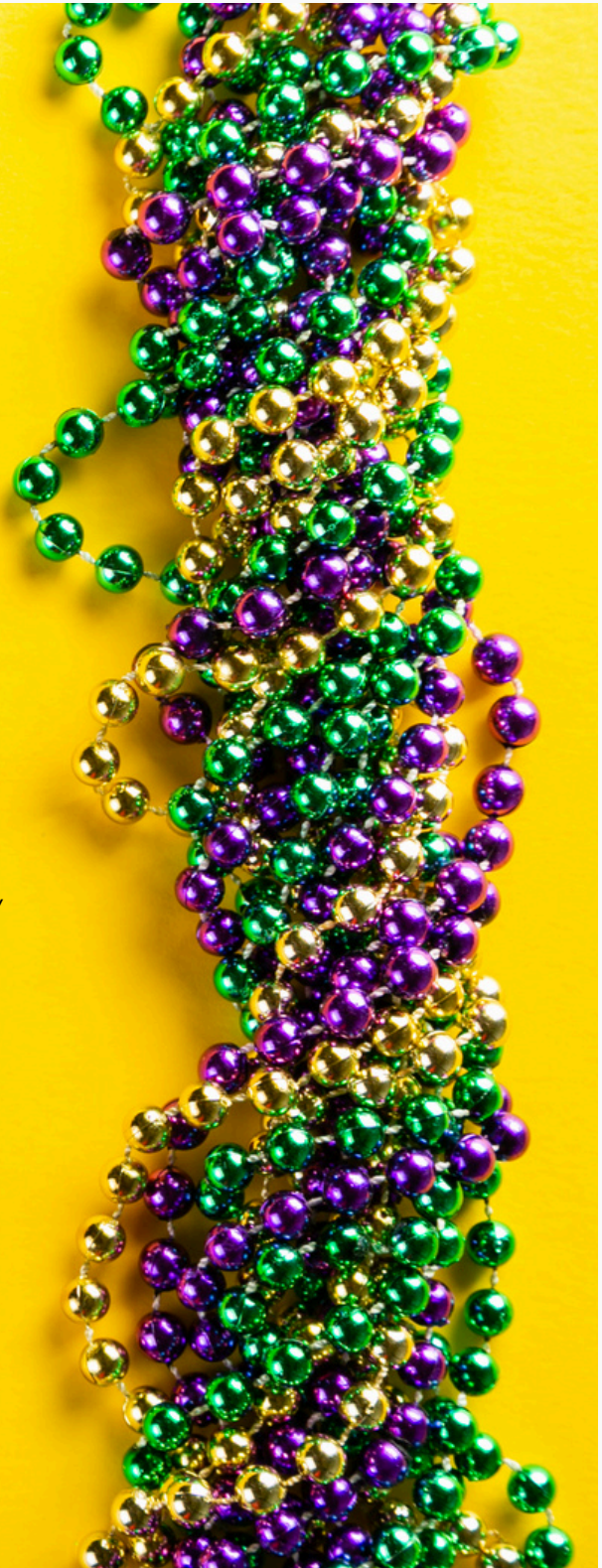
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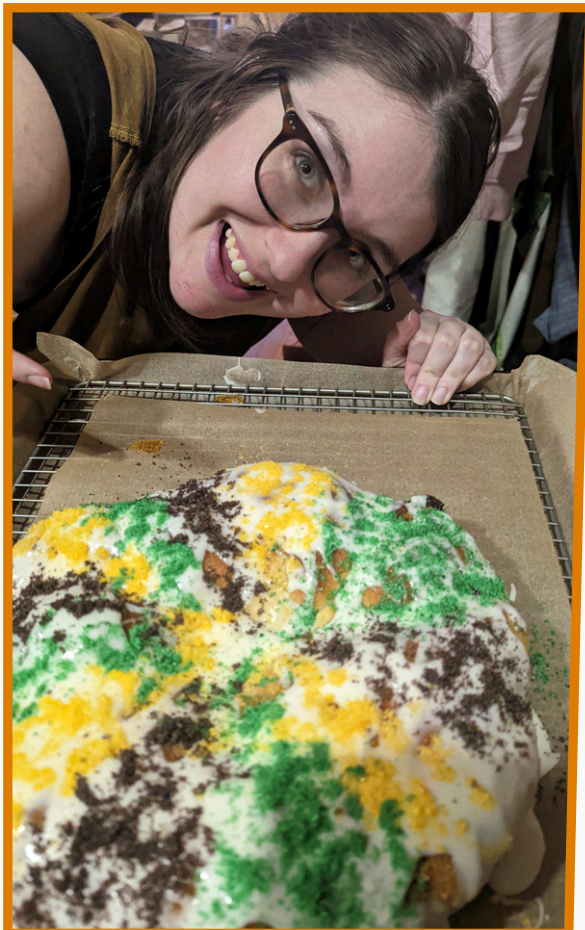




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My never-ending search for the perfect King Cake recipe.

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