



Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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Alison Rosenberg, Editor
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Article of the Month

- Law School: Is There an App for That?

Alison Rosenberg

Book of the Month

URL/Website of the Month

Tech Tip of the Month

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LAW SCHOOL: IS THERE AN APP FOR THAT?

Alison Rosenberg
Reference and Electronic Services Librarian

As the weather begins to turn and the throes of winter are upon us, I thought I might discuss something light, well lightweight: mobile devices. Conveniently allowing us to exchange information within seconds, correcting our spelling and suggesting words for us as we type, and filling our spare time with entertainment, mobile devices are changing our lives.

At the Library and Information Technology Association's Top Tech Trends session, held at the American Library Association's annual conference, Maurice York, head of information technology at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, predicted that handheld gadgets will "'outstrip desktop and laptop computers as the dominant computing platform' within five years, a paradigm shift paralleling an industrywide movement toward cloud computing."¹ Indeed, this is an interesting forecast. Since once again, change is coming and not only that of the seasons, I will offer some examples of Web applications available for one of the many smartphone options, the iPhone. To discover how lawyers are using iPhones, consider subscribing to the RSS feed for iPhone J.D., a blog by attorney Jeff Richardson or [Social Media Law Student](#), a blog by Rex Gradeless. The following Web applications, affectionately known as "apps," represent just a few of the available library and law options.

OCLC has created a WorldCat Web application that allows you to locate items in nearby libraries. Once you find a library that has your item, you can call that library directly, find directions to it, and view a list of libraries that also have the item.

As it turns out, there is an app for law school called the Law School 100 by LawTV Inc., which ranks ABA-accredited law schools. Students who want to study using their iPhones can download the [barbri app](#), which allows them to review course

¹ Josh Hadro, *Top Tech Trends Include "Mobile" and Openness*, LIBRARY JOURNAL, Aug. 15, 2009, at 13.

materials for finals or the bar exam.

There are apps for legal dictionaries, rules of procedure, journals, news, and social networking. The ABA Journal's October issue presents a list of "70 sizzling apps" which have been designated "lawyer-friendly favorites" for the PC, PDA, and smartphone.

At the NSU Libraries, there have been several efforts to meet the new demand for information via mobile device. One such example can be found in NovaCat. When you search for items in NovaCat, you will now see the following link, "SEND DETAILS TO YOUR PHONE!" which allows you to send a text to your phone with an item's title, location, and call number. As long as you have a generous text messaging plan, it eliminates the need for scrap paper and prevents handwriting mishaps that leave you wondering whether that "S" is actually a "5." Give it a try!

TITLE John Paul Stevens and the Constitution : the search for balance / Robert Judd Sickels.

PUBLISHER University Park : Pennsylvania State University Press, c1988.

DESCRIPTION xi, 203 p. ; 24 cm.

LC SUBJECT HEADING/S Civil rights -- United States -- Cases.
Judicial review -- United States -- Cases.
Judicial opinions -- United States.
Stevens, John Paul, 1920-
Burris Collection.

[Permanent link to this record](#)

LOCATION	CALL NO
LAW LIBRARY Johnny C. Burris Collection 3rd Floor	KF213.S66 S56 1988



Book of the Month: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW STORIES

Edited by Michael C. Dorf

KF4549 .C658 2009 General Collection on the 2nd Floor

Review by Palmer Calabrese

Conceived of as a companion text to first-year constitutional law courses, the second edition of Constitutional Law Stories tells the tales behind landmark Supreme Court cases. In the book's introduction, editor Michael C. Dorf describes the difficulty inherent in the selection of "a mere fifteen of the hundreds of cases that comprise the constitutional law canon" as a "daunting challenge." Daunting as it may have been, the result of that whittling process is an interesting collection of stories behind cases that all first-year constitutional law students encounter. The editor points out that, in addition to the cases that are "justly celebrated" as triumphs of justice and legal reasoning, cases that were "poorly reasoned or morally obtuse" were essential to this

collection of stories so as to combat legal observers' penchant for rationalizing cases.

New to the second edition are chapters on *Bush v. Gore* and the *Guantanamo* cases. The editor explains that the saga of *Bush v. Gore* was not included in the first edition because at the time of the book's initial release, the case was still too fresh for an objective retelling. Included in the Guantanamo chapter is a synopsis of the events and executive decisions leading up to the novel treatment of the War on Terror's "enemy combatants," details of the cases of detainees whose backgrounds are as diverse as can be imagined, and a look at the lawyers who have become involved in the ordeal.

Other chapters tell the stories of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Lochner v. New York*, *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, and the curious case of *Employment Division v. Smith*, from which the reader learns that the religious exemption for drug consumption came before – and was quashed by – the Supreme Court, not due to any desire by the parties involved to have "the Court redraw the system of religious freedom," but from "the most obscure of circumstances: an administrative challenge to a decision denying unemployment benefits to alcohol and drug abuse counselors." The cast of characters in this true-life tale include a recovering alcoholic counselor who discovered peyote "sweat lodge" rituals through a recovery center where he was employed (rather than through any sort of Native American rearing – Al Smith was sent away by his Klamath mother to a strict Catholic boarding school at the age of seven), a state attorney general whose recent brush with a murderous cult had left him determined to defeat any attempt to legitimize fringe practices, and a legal aid attorney whose inexperience before any sort of federal appellate court did not prevent her from making clever arguments before the Supreme Court (a feat whose performance today would likely strike Justice Scalia as evidence of the waste of great minds on the legal profession).

Michael C. Dorf is the Robert S. Stevens Professor of Law at Cornell Law School.

URL/Website of the Month: U.S. Food & Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov/>

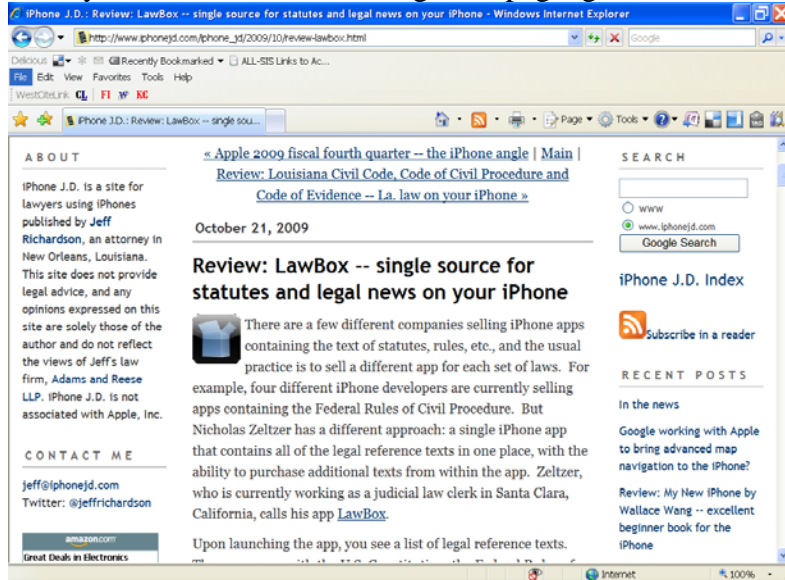
Trick or Treat? One way to find out if the Halloween bounty you are about to enjoy is in fact contaminated or likely to cause an illness is to visit the FDA's Website where you can read about recalls, market withdrawals, and safety alerts. Visit <http://www.foodsafety.gov/>, a service of the FDA and USDA, for Halloween safety tips or take a moment to view advice for consumers which highlights the dangers of novelty makeup and decorative contact lenses. Happy Halloween!

This month's suggestion courtesy of Alison Rosenberg, Reference and Electronic Services Librarian.

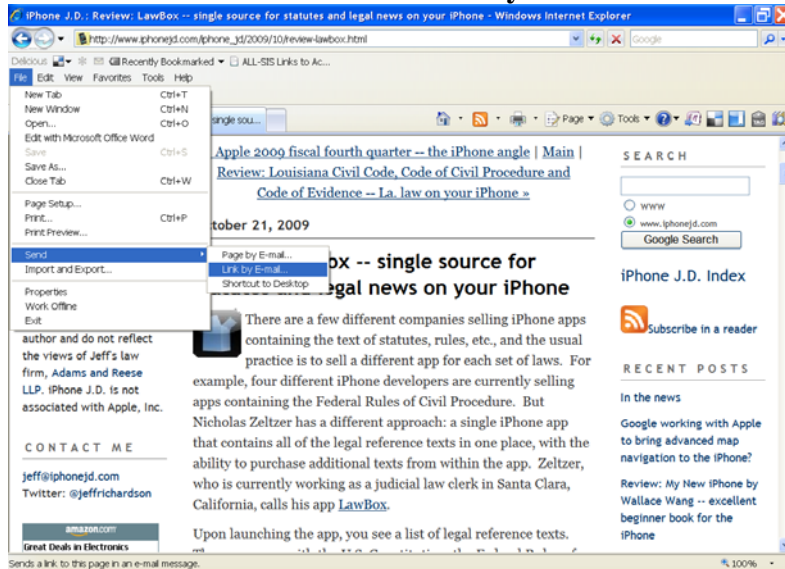
Tech Tip of the Month: Send Link by E-mail

You can send an email from your browser with a link to the Web page you are viewing. Here is how it works:

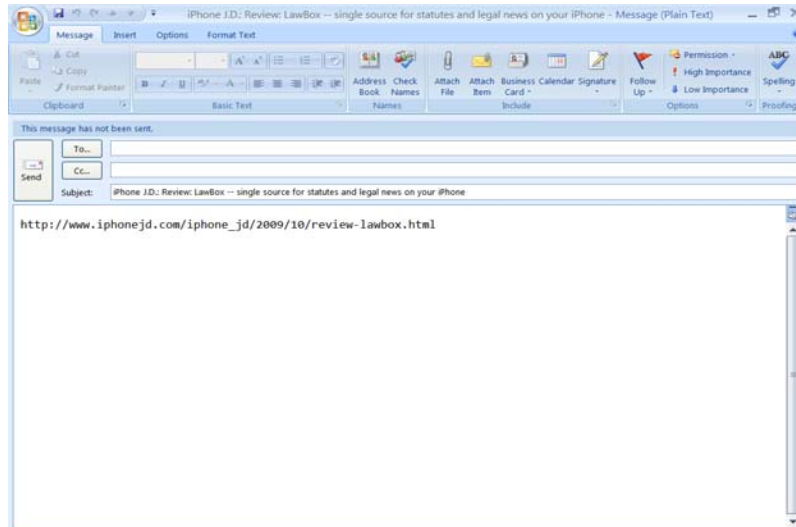
Once you discover an interesting Web page, go to the **File** menu.



Scroll down to **Send** and select **Link by E-mail**.



Momentarily, an email will appear containing the link to your Web page in the body and the title of your Web page in the subject line.



This month's suggestion courtesy of Donna Struthers, Assistant Head of Technical Services for Cataloging and Database Management.

Faculty & Staff Publications:

Richard Grosso: His article *The Public Interest Perspective on SB 360* was published in *Perspectives on the 2009 Growth Management Legislation*, 83 FLA. B.J. 20 (2009).

Joel Mintz: A 2009 update to his treatise, *State and Local Government Environmental Liability* (1996), was published by Thomson West.

Presentations, Appearances, Interviews, Honors, Accomplishments and Citations:

Heather Baxter: She presented, with Jane Cross and Elena Langan, *The Art of the Steal: Sharing Teaching Materials with Colleagues - A Lesson in Evolution and Design*, at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference hosted by Stetson University College of Law.

Jane Cross: She presented, with Heather Baxter and Elena Langan, *The Art of the Steal: Sharing Teaching Materials with Colleagues - A Lesson in Evolution and Design*, at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference hosted by Stetson University College of Law.

Olympia Duhart: She contributed a posting to the NAACP Legal Defense blog available at <http://www.thedefendersonline.com/>.

Elena Langan: She presented, with Heather Baxter and Jane Cross, *The*

Art of the Steal: Sharing Teaching Materials with Colleagues - A Lesson in Evolution and Design, at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference hosted by Stetson University College of Law.

Joel Mintz: He interviewed eleven present and former officials at the EPA and the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and San Francisco in preparation for drafting a second edition of *Enforcement at the EPA: High Stakes and Hard Choices* (University of Texas Press, 1995).

His piece regarding environmental enforcement was posted on The Center for Progressive Reform's Website, www.progressivereform.org, as part of its *Perspective Series*.

His book review of *Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration: five case studies from the United States*, edited by Mary Doyle and Cynthia A. Drew, has been accepted for publication by the journal *Environmental Law*.

He accepted an invitation to speak next summer at the SEALS conference in West Palm Beach, Florida, on a panel on climate change adaptation and the law.

Anthony Niedwiecki: He was awarded the Trailblazer Award by American Veterans for Equal Rights for his work in trying to change the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Jim Wilets: He gave a presentation at NSU's Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution on *Human Rights Challenges in Africa*.

He gave a presentation at Boston University on his paper, *From Divergence to Convergence? A Comparative and International Law Analysis of LGBTI Rights in the Context of Race and Post-Colonialism*, which has been accepted for publication by the Boston University Public Interest Law Journal.

He gave a presentation at FAU's Peace Studies Conference on the *Legacy of 1989 and the European Union*.

He presented a paper at the LatCrit Conference in Washington, D.C. , on a theory for reparations that proposed a legal theory for reparations based on violations of international law.