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NSU Law

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Director's Message

Lisa Smith-Butler, Assistant Dean & Director, Law Library & Technology Center & Associate Professor of Law

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Greetings,

There are a few short weeks left until exams begin.

To help you during this time, the Law Library & Technology Center will be open extended hours from December 3rd until December 19th. During this time, our hours will be from 7:00 a.m. until 1:00 a.m., nightly. We will also provide pizza at 5:00 p.m. on the atrium bridge on December 4th. We are coordinating this event with the SBA as part of their *Snack Crunch*.

Please see *Director's Message* on page 2

"Laws alone cannot secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty, there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population."
Albert Einstein

Law Library & Technology Center Extended Exam Hours

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

until

Friday, December 19, 2008

7:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. nightly

Director's Message con't.

As of December 3rd, study rooms will not be renewable without a wait of at least 15 minutes. This will provide everyone with an opportunity to use the study rooms. The Law Library Conference Room, when available, can also be used as a study room during exams. Looking for quiet nooks and crannies? I recommend the first floor copier room and the microforms room.

A list of "how to study" materials is also included in this newsletter. Please stop by the Circulation Desk to check these materials out.

If you plan to use your computer to take exams, make sure that your Windows updates are all completed before you take the exam. If you don't, your computer will run very slowly while you are taking your exam as your computer automatically tries to do its updates.

If your computer is running slow, has a virus, or is crotchety, stop by Computer Services with plenty of time to spare before your first exam so that they can check it out!

Make sure that you install the latest version of ExamSoft on your computer. Take the mock test to become comfortable with the software if you haven't used it before.

Download the exam before you come to take the final. Arrive at least fifteen minutes before your exam is scheduled to start.

Good luck and enjoy your holidays!

Dean Smith-Butler

Selected Bibliography of Materials for Exam Preparation

Alison Rosenberg, J.D./M.L.S. in Progress

Below are some study materials that are available in the library. Most are located on Reserve behind the Circulation Desk. A few older editions can be found in the general collection, i.e. the Stacks. To help you prepare for exams, we're happy to suggest materials. Please stop by the Reference Desk for assistance.

Begin by checking out old exams from NSU professors, available on the NSU Law Center's web page. Open your Internet browser to <http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu>. On the left hand side of the screen, click on **Faculty**. At the next screen, click on **Released Exams**.

Books that offer study tips include:

- Burkhart, Ann M. & Stein, Robert A. (2008). *Law School Success in a Nutshell: A Guide to Studying Law and Taking Law School Exams*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF283 .B872 2008. (On Reserve). *In a Nutshell* is a series of books that are well-organized and can clear up (some of) the confusion about law school. This book not only offers an overview of the law school experience; but also, there are chapters about different types of study aids and how to prepare for exams with sample exam questions and model answers.
- Calleros, Charles R. (2007). *Law School Exams: Preparing and Writing to Win*. Austin: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business/Aspen. KF283 .C35 2007. (On Reserve). This guide to exam preparation covers the major aspects of taking law school exams, including tackling essay and multiple-choice questions. There are suggestions on how to write sophisticated answers as well as model exam questions and responses. There is a helpful, in depth chapter on how to create course outlines.
- Hegland, Kenney F. (2008). *Introduction to the Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF273 .H43 2008. (On Reserve). Within this comprehensive introduction to achieving success in law school, there are several chapters devoted to developing your exam taking skills. For suggestions on how to improve your writing skills, be sure to browse the section on "Writing Law School Exams: The Only Skill Worth Having."

- Iijima, Ann L. (2007). *The Law Student's Pocket Mentor: From Surviving to Thriving*. Austin: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business/Aspen. KF283 .I35 2007. (On Reserve). This guide to the law school experience has some tips on how to prepare course outlines, take exams, and deal with your grades. The authors also offer insight on interviewing, building a resume, and creating a timeline for securing your first legal job.
- Munneke, Gary A. (2008). *How to Succeed in Law School*. Hauppauge, N.Y.: Barron's Educational Series. KF283 .M86 2008. (On Reserve). This guide offers stress management techniques to deal with test anxiety and other law school worries. There are detailed chapters on studying the law and taking exams.
- Noyes, Shana Connell. (2008). *Acing Your First Year of Law School: The Ten Steps to Success You Won't Learn In Class*. Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co. KF283 .N69 2008. (On Reserve). This guide focuses on how to learn effectively in your classes and how to polish your legal writing skills. A good portion of the book discusses outlining, preparing for exams, and writing exams. There are also suggestions on how to select appropriate study aids.
- Ramy, Herbert N. (2006). *Succeeding in Law School*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press. KF283 .R36 2006. (Study Guide Materials). This book contains advice on how to create course outlines, form study groups, and prepare for exams. There are suggestions for time management during exams and how to organize your study schedule.
- Whitebread, Charles H. (2008). *The Eight Secrets of Top Exam Performance in Law School: An Easy-to-Use, Step-by-Step Approach for Achieving Great Grades*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF283 .W48 2008. (Study Guide Materials). This guide is focused on exam success. The book addresses topics such as handling essay exams, issue spotting, organizing your answer, and responding to unusual exam formats. This is an informal, straightforward guide to strategizing on exams. There are 10 copies in the library, so come check them out (for 3 days).

FIRST YEAR COURSES

In addition to the above general materials, there are also additional resources that are subject specific. Many are from the *Examples and Explanations* and *In a Nutshell* series. Listed below are some helpful titles:

- **Examples and Explanations Series**
 - Blum, Brian A. (2007). *Contracts: Examples & Explanations*. New York: Aspen Publishers. KF801 .B58 2007. (Study Guide Materials).
 - Glannon, Joseph W. (2005). *The Law of Torts: Examples and Explanations*. New York: Aspen Publishers. KF1250.Z9 G58 2005. (Study Guide Materials).
 - Ides, Allan & May, Christopher N. (2007). *Constitutional Law—Individual Rights: Examples and Explanations*. New York: Aspen Publishers, Inc. KF4749 .I34 2007. (Study Guide Materials).
 - Singer, Richard G. & La Fond, John Q. (2007). *Criminal Law: Examples and Explanations*. New York, NY: Aspen Publishers. KF9219.3 .S54 2007. (Study Guide Materials).
- **In a Nutshell Series**
 - Barron, Jerome A. (2005). *Constitutional Law in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West Group. KF4550.Z9 B35 2005. (On Reserve).
 - Kionka, Edward J. (2005). *Torts in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF1250.Z9 K53 2005. (On Reserve).
 - Loewy, Arnold H. (2003). *Criminal Law in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: West Group. KF9219.3 .L64 2003. (On Reserve).
 - Rohwer, Claude D. & Skrocki, Anthony M. (2006). *Contracts in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF801.Z9 R62 2006. (On Reserve).

CALI LESSON

Finally, there is a CALI lesson on exam taking, created by two NSU Law faculty members. Remember to have your CALI password ready, and click on the link below.

- Brown, Ronald B. & Grohman, Joe. (2005). *Exam Taking Skills, Outline and Advice for Law Students*. Minneapolis, MN: Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction.
<http://www2.cali.org/index.php?fuseaction=lessons.lessondetail&lid=lcs03p2>.

In Memoriam for Sheryl Perry Womack

Mary Paige Smith, Associate Director for Technical Services



Sheryl Perry Womack, Serials and Bindery Coordinator at the NSU Law Library and Technology Center, succumbed to cancer on September 29, 2008. For most of the 15 years I've been at the LLTC, she was a member of the Technical Services department. Because Sheryl worked at NSU for over 25 years, she touched the lives of many co-workers. We all remember Sheryl as quiet, friendly, intelligent, hard-working, and always willing to help others; in short, a perfect workmate.

Each of us has our special memories of Sheryl. Some of us remember the banana pudding she would bring to staff parties; it was her mother's recipe, she said. Some of us remember how much she loved singing in her church choir. All of us remember how much Sheryl loved her family. She kept many family photos at her desk, and told us proudly of their accomplishments. And when she found out that she was sick, we all remember how determined she was not to let her illness interfere with her life. She didn't feel any self-pity, or ask for any special treatment. She just came to work, and did her job, for as long as she was able.

When she was no longer able to come to work, and had used up all her leave, our director, Lisa Smith-Butler, put out a call to the Law Center staff, asking for sick leave donations. Sheryl was so loved and respected by her co-workers that she received more donations than she could use, and Human Resources had to turn some of the offers down.

Like everyone else who knew and loved Sheryl, those of us who worked with her wanted to believe that she would recover, that she would come back to work, and that things would return to "normal". Sadly, that didn't happen. We have lost a wonderful friend. In our grief, we take comfort in the knowledge that Sheryl is no longer suffering. She is at peace, and for that we are all thankful. We were all blessed to share part of our lives with Sheryl, and she will always live on in our hearts.

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