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Tydbytes NSU Law

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Director's Message

Rob Hudson, Interim Director, Law Library & Technology
Center & Adjunct Professor of Law

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Greetings,

To our new Law Students let me extend an invitation to visit the NSU Law Library and Technology Center to discover the resources you need to succeed this academic year. For our returning Second and Third year students I hope you enjoyed your summer! I'd like to highlight a few changes but the same commitment to supporting your law studies utilizing the best collection, staff, librarians, and information technology.

Please see *Director's Message* on page 2

Law Library & Technology Center Hours

Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. – Midnight

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m. – Midnight

Hours vary during holidays, breaks and exam periods. Check out
our web site at

http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/library_tech//library/about/hours.cfm
or call (954) 262-6200 for special hours.

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Director's Message con't.

First, I am very happy to be writing to you as the new Interim Director of the Law Library and Technology Center. My previous role as the Head of Information Services & Adjunct Professor at NSU Law prepared me to fulfill our goals of making this the finest Law Library and ensuring your requests are met in a timely and professional manner. I know I can do that with the dedicated staff and services we are lucky to possess.

We continue to have Law Library hours designed to facilitate your use of the collection, or give you ample opportunity to ask questions of one of our nine Reference Librarians, or to have the Help Desk assist with a computer issue. Study rooms, copiers, and new printers are located throughout the Law Library. Additionally the Law Library & Technology Center extends hours during exams to cover late night study.

The Law Library boasts a new Facebook page that you should all discover as a source of Library and Technology news and updates. Post questions or comments and become a fan! Also the Law Library and Technology Center blog called Novalawcity provides continual updates on issues of interest to the NSU Law Community.

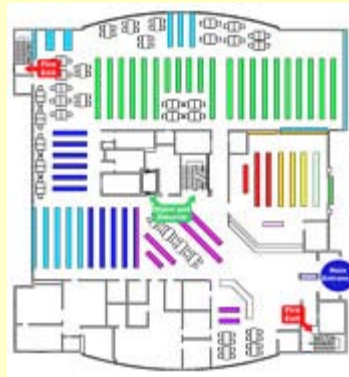
Excellent resources all law students should locate are the Study aids in the form of hornbooks, guides, and nutshells in Reserve behind the Circulation Desk, the extensive Florida Materials on the short shelves on the second floor, and Computer Service's Help Desk on the third floor or at telephone number 954-262-6199. Come to the Law Library and ask for a tour!

Again, I am delighted to welcome you. I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

Where Am I? Law Library & Technology Center Maps



[First Floor](#)



[Second Floor](#)



[Third Floor](#)

How Can I Find It?

Stop by the Reference Desk on the 2nd floor of the Law Library & Technology Center. Reference librarians, having an M.L.S. or a J.D. or both, can help guide you to the appropriate resource, be it a person, organization, book or URL. You can also reach them via email at referencedesk@nsu.law.nova.edu or call them at (954) 262-6201.

Research guides, bibliographies and power points are available on the Library's web site at http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/library_tech/library/publications/index.cfm .
Electronic databases are available at http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/library_tech/library/resources/index.cfm .

The Help Desk, located on the 3rd floor of the Law Library & Technology Center can help you resolve hardware and software concerns with your laptop. If you are having trouble connecting to the network, printing, or accessing email, stop by the Help Desk. You can also contact the Help Desk at help@nsu.law.nova.edu or call them at (954) 262-6199. Technology "How To" Guides are available at http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/library_tech/tech/help/tutorials.cfm .

We're here to help. Stop by the Circulation & Reference Desks.

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Resources to Help You Through the First Year of Law School

Deborah McGovern, Emerging Technologies & Reference & Instructional Services Librarian

- Burkhart, Ann M. & Stein, Robert A. (2008). *How to study law and take law exams in a nutshell*. St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company. KF283 .B872 2008. On Reserve. Though why anyone would want to study law and take exams in a nutshell is beyond me. But seriously, folks, this is one of the invaluable nutshell series, generally regarded as the place to start for quick and dirty introductions. It gives you a look-in at the various classes taught the first year, how to take exams, how to outline, all the basics.
- Darrow-Kleinhaus, Suzanne. (2007). *Mastering the law school exam: A practical blueprint for preparing and taking law school exams*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. On Reserve. This no-nonsense, labor-intensive approach to law school exams provides you the opportunity to practice writing exams and evaluate your efforts. As a modern approach to modern exams, it does not neglect the multiple choice exam. It introduces the IRAC (Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion) method of analysis and warns against following the method slavishly. Sample outlines are provided.
- Deaver, Jeff. (1984). *The complete law school companion: A system for success in America's most demanding post-graduate curriculum*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. KF283 .D4 1984. This book does a good job of taking some of the strangeness out of a student's first exposure to law school. Though it is somewhat dated, much of it is still relevant, and it takes on topics such as night school and getting enough sleep, in addition to providing basic nomenclature, a chapter on how to outline

and sample exams. See also the 2nd edition, from 1992, with a beefed-up section on exams.

- Delaney, John. (1982). *How to do your best on law school exams*. New York: Self-published. On Reserve. This book points out the disconnect that can occur between students who do well in classroom work and poorly on law school exams. The author attributes this to the fact that exam-taking is not taught in law school, a fact which he terms "atrocious pedagogy." He sets out to rectify this situation. He is honest about the fact that, rather than learning about criminal law, you, as a student, are learning about criminal law *as taught by your specific professor*. Provides sample fact patterns for students to analyze, as well as "A," mediocre, and poor answers. See also 2nd edition, 1988.
- Dernbach, John C. (2001). *A practical guide to writing law school essay exams*. Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman Publications. KF283 .D47 2001. Clearly lays out the important steps involved in preparing to write an essay exam question. Identifies problem areas. Presents and analyzes various sample essays, pointing out shortcomings and good points.
- Falcon, A. (1998). *Planet law school: what you need to know (before you go)... but didn't know to ask*. Honolulu, HA: Fine Print Press, Ltd. KF283 .F35 1998. This book purports to give the beginning law student all the insider's tips and tricks for excelling in law school. It's all about figuring the angles and adopts a very competitive, non-collaborative approach. Since I am a collaborative type, I will share with you the fact that the heart of the examsmanship chapter is on pages 84-88.
- Frank, Steven J. (1992). *Learning the law: Success in law school and beyond*. NY: Carol Publishing Group. KF283 .F73 1992, This book performs the useful function of acting as an introduction to the patterns of thought and analysis that seem so foreign, and so intimidating, to the student beginning law school.
- Gillers, Stephen. (1997). *Looking at law school: A student guide from the Society of American Law Teachers*. New York: Penguin Books. KF283 .L66 1997. The most useful portions of this book are the chapters that elucidate the background and philosophy underpinning the law taught during the first year of law school.

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- Good, Stephanie R. (2004). *Law school 101: Survival techniques from pre-law to life as an attorney*. Naperville, IL: Sphinx Publishing. KF283 .G66 2004. As the title says, this book presents techniques, rather than formulae, for such things as outlining and writing exams.
- Hegland, Kenney. (2000). *Introduction to the study and practice of law in a nutshell*. (3rd ed.). KF273 .H43 2000. You will find, during your time in law school, that these cheerful little books can be your friends. This book is an easy read, and in a couple of sessions you can demystify much that 1L's find puzzling and threatening about the law school experience.
- Hirshman, L. (1999). *A woman's guide to law school*. New York: Penguin Books. KF283 .H57 1999. The author believes that a good law school for the male student may not necessarily be the same as a good law school for the female student. She examines the qualities of the type of school where women succeed. Since nearly a decade has passed since the book was written, her numbers on which schools are woman-friendly may no longer be relevant .
- Iljima, Ann L. (2007). *The law student's pocket mentor: From surviving to thriving*. Austin, TX: Wolters Kluwer Law & Business. KF283 .I35 2007. On Reserve. This friendly little book is easy to hold, and avoids the repellent aspect of being just another long, heavy, densely written law school tome. Each chapter, from *Preparing for Law School* to *Your First Law Job*, begins with a checklist of items the author has selected as important for that aspect of the law school experience. There are study schedules, methods for choosing classes, case-briefing advice, and a chapter which considers the emotional impact of law school. This is an easy read, and packed with useful advice.
- McFadden, Patrick M. (2001). *A student's guide to legal analysis: Thinking like a lawyer*. Gaithersburg, NY: Aspen Law and Business. KF283 .M396 2001. Ah, the Holy Grail of law school - thinking like a lawyer. This book maintains that there are only three legal questions: 1. Is there a law? 2. Has it been violated? 3. What will be done about it? The author contends that legal analysis that answers these three questions will get you through law school, and through a career as a lawyer. Well, maybe. Fortunately, the author has included a great deal

of structural analysis of the law, the bones, so to speak, which can be really helpful.

- Miller, Robert H. (2004). *Law school confidential a complete guide to the law school experience: By students, for students*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin. KF283 .M55 2004. As advertised, this book provides a look inside the minds of your fellow classmates and those all-important beings, your professors. It's more a preparation for the mind games played in law school than a how-to.
- Mitchell, Evangeline M. (2006). *The African American law school survival guide: Information, advice, and strategies to prepare you for the challenges of the law school experience*. Houston, TX: Hope's Promise Publishing. Kf283 .M58 2006. Something that should be read *before* you arrive at law school. Exhaustive and largely helpful information - the bullet points from each chapter are repeated at the front of the book, where they can be read through in order, without the explanatory material that accompanies them in the chapters. Didactic manner, and many subjects extraneous to basic understanding and skills are covered in this sprawling (650+ pages) book.
- Munneke, Gary A. (1989). *Barron's how to succeed in law school: Get a head start in coping with the fast-paced law school environment*. New York: Barron's. KF283 .M86 2001. This book is not well-organized, and therefore may end by increasing, rather than decreasing, its hapless reader's confusion.
- Noyes, Shana C. & Noyes, Henry S. (2008). *Acing your first year of law school: The ten steps to success you won't learn in class*. Littleton, CO: Fred B. Rothman & Co. KF283 .N69 2008. On Reserve. A meat and potatoes guide, which covers the basic ten points for succeeding in law school in a no-nonsense manner. The whole book is only a little over one hundred pages long - less than a night's case reading in law school. Each chapter ends with a Dicta Column, basically a list of things you're going to worry about as a neophyte that aren't worth it.
- Ramy, Herbert N. (2006). *Succeeding in law school*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press. On Reserve. This book is so complete, it's actually like a condensed version of the first year of law school. What is probably one of the most helpful bits of information appears on the first

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page of the introduction - "The key to performing well in college and high school is memorization. In contrast, in law school we reward your ability to think independently, critically and actively." Overall mood: grimly earnest, this author thinks law school is very hard and scary.

- Roth, George. (1991). *Slaying the law school dragon: How to survive - and thrive - in first-year law school*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. KF283 .R68 1991. On Reserve. The author is not a traditionalist, and presents his own methods for preparing for law school and studying for class, methods that require more reading and less writing than traditional case-briefing methods. He provides a look at the common law background of present-day law, demystifying some of those mysterious writs and covenants and trespasses. His methods may work well for the visual learner, but I would be hesitant to recommend them for everyone.
- Schwartz, Michael H. (2005). *Expert learning for law students*. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press. KF283 .S354 2008. On Reserve. This book draws on findings about expert learners and tailors those findings to the process of learning the law. A promising approach for learners faced with an unwieldy mass of new material, if they can focus on the tightly-written prose in this book. Relates the process of expert learning to each of the major areas of law taught in first year.
- Stopus, Ruta K. & Taylor, Charlotte D. (2001). *Bridging the gap between college and law school: Strategies for Success*. KF283 .S75 2001. This useful book is based on the premise that the reader will remember how they succeeded in college, and will appreciate being told how law school differs. Workmanlike presentation, and should offer consolation to the beleaguered 1L who wants to know *why* law school's torments are being visited on them. Goes an extra step, beyond note-taking and outlining, and advises flowcharting for exam prep.
- Whitebread, Charles H. (2008). *Top eight secrets of top exam performance in law school*. St. Paul, MN: Thomson/West. KF283 .W48 2008. Study Guide Materials. This very compact exam-taking coach is, surprisingly, presented in large type, a useful corrective for the eye strain that typically afflicts the first-year student. The eight secrets, each presented in a separate chapter, include flawless issue spotting, organizing for maximum points, and what your professor will test on an

exam. You know you're in good hands when the author warns you never to decide exam issues unequivocally one way or the other. See the chapter on hidden traps to learn why.

Online Sources

- **Law.com Top Ten Law School Survival Skills** by Lois Schwartz August 19, 2002 <http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1029171632855> Ten pieces of advice, not a how-to do but a how to succeed.
- **Princeton Law Review's About Law School** at <http://www.princetonreview.com/opinionAdvice.aspx?type=law&uidbadge=%07>
- **Thomson West Law School Life** <http://lawschool.westlaw.com/shared/marketinfodisplay.asp?code=so&id=2&subpage=3>

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