

Bits & Bytes

February, 2007

Nota Bene

The Newsletter of the Rutgers Law Library

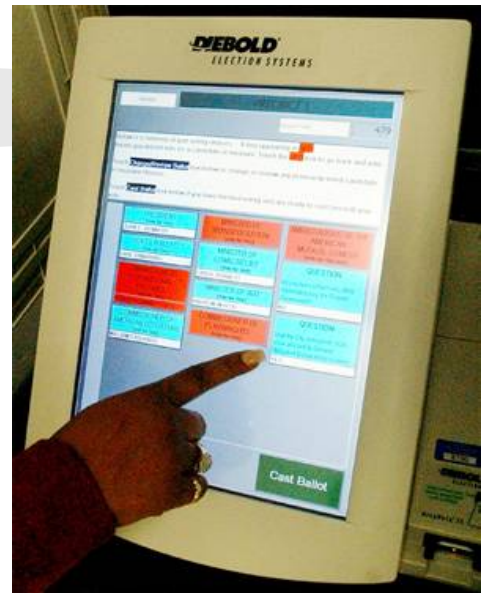
Electronic Voting: Will Your Vote Count?

Electronic voting is the topic for the first of this year's **Friends of the Rutgers Law Library** programs. On March 8, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., the library will present "Electronic Voting: Will Your Vote Count?" The program includes an outstanding panel of experts including Penny Venetis, Clinical Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Constitutional Litigation Clinic at Rutgers-Newark, Edward Felten, Professor of Computer Science and Public Affairs, Princeton University and Michelle Mulder, Counsel to Representative Rush Holt (12th District, NJ).

Problems with vote counting in the 2000 election prompted Congress to pass the Help American Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002. HAVA provided funds to help states modernize antiquated voting systems. As a result, many counties throughout the U.S. rushed to purchase computerized voting machines. Not everyone agrees that these computer systems offer an improvement and some, including our panelists, believe that they can be hacked easily and votes can be manipulated.

Prof. Venetis challenged the constitutionality of electronic voting machines and won a victory in the NJ Appellate Division. Prof. Felton has done extensive work on the vulnerabilities of the machines' software and hardware. Rep. Rush Holt has introduced legislation to mandate that all voting systems be subject to an independent audit through the requirement of a voter-verified paper ballot for every vote cast.

To RSVP for the March 8th program, email Elaine Giordano at: EGiordano@kinoy.rutgers.edu or Professor Carol Roehrenbeck at 973-353-3152.



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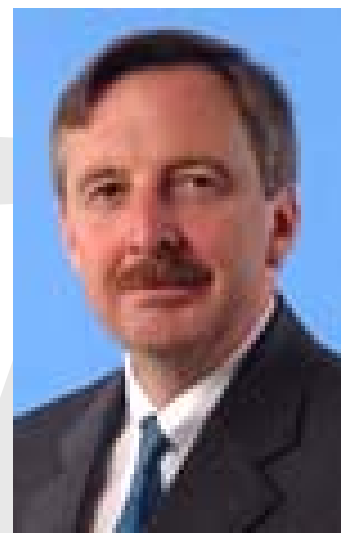
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Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Speaks at Law Library in April

Rutgers Law Library invites you to attend a special Friends of the Library event. Dr. Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany will join us to discuss "Germany and the European Union in 2007." Germany assumed the presidency of the European Union in January, 2007, and Dr. Heimsoeth is taking this opportunity to try to make Europe and the EU more visible. The Consul has planned a series of events in New York to carry out this purpose, and he has agreed to travel to Rutgers to expand this goal.

Dr. Heimsoeth has a distinguished background. He was born in India and spent his early years in New York where he attended P.S. 81 in the Bronx before continuing his studies in Europe and Germany. In 1979, he received his Diploma Political Sciences from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and his Ph.D in history in 1987. He has served in the Foreign Service since 1981 in diplomatic positions in Berlin, Brazil, the Baltic states, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Somalia.

Please join us for this exciting event. The lecture will take place on **April 19, 2007 from 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm.** in the Baker Trial Courtroom at Rutgers University Law School. RSVP to egiordano@kinoy.rutgers.edu or call Professor Carol Roehrenbeck at 973-353-3152.



Hans-Jürgen Heimsoeth

Hot Web Sites for Legal Research

Looking for someone? Try the following free sites:

- <http://www.Infobel.com/teldir/default.asp>
(Covers more than 216 countries)
- <http://www.zoominfo.com/>
(People and companies)
- <http://www.Martindale.com> (Attorneys)
- <http://lawyers.findlaw.com/> (Attorneys)

Looking for a patent? Try:

- <http://www.uspto.gov/main/patents.htm>
(Official Government site)
- <http://www.google.com/patents>
(USTPO data with Google search capability)

Library Coffee Bar

Last semester the Law Library established a new coffee bar at the Circulation Desk. The coffee bar is open whenever the CLJ Café is closed. We serve delicious Colombian coffee (decaf and regular) French vanilla roast and green and black teas. The coffee bar also sells an assortment of light snacks, including granola bars, cookies and goldfish crackers. Please stop by.



Spring Semester Coffee Bar Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 pm - 11:00 p.m.
Friday: 3:00 p.m - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday: Noon - 11:00 pm

Three Courses to Sharpen Your Legal Research Skills

The library now offers three options for advanced legal research. A two-credit advanced legal research seminar offered by library director Professor Carol Roehrenbeck covers the full spectrum of legal research, including print and electronic research and specialty topics such as tax and administrative law. The seminar is offered every spring and gives each student an opportunity to create a research pathfinder on a topic of interest.

A new offering this semester is foreign and international legal research, a one-credit course offered over four Saturdays. Taught by library faculty members Molly Brownfield and Dennis Kim-Prieto, the class provides students with a solid introduction to researching this field using free and proprietary electronic resources and print materials within the library. The class will examine how to find and evaluate sources, research treaties, find documents of intergovernmental organizations, and address research strategies for special topics such as intellectual property and human rights law.

A third option for deepening your legal research skills is a one-credit course on statutory and legislative history research, taught by Carol Roehrenbeck and Susan Lyons. Technically a summer class, the course is offered on three days in May after the end of spring finals. The class will cover federal, New Jersey and New York statutory research. Students will study the theory and methodology of performing legislative research and compiling legislative histories and learn how to use legislative research as a tool for legal advocacy.

Whether you are preparing for your first summer job or getting ready to graduate, these classes can help you smooth the transition from law school to legal practice.

Library Hours:

Mon—Thu: 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. — 10:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.— 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: Noon — 11:00 p.m.

Contact us:

- Reference.....(973) 353-5676
- Circulation(973) 353-5677
- Web.....<http://law-library.rutgers.edu>

Library Research Grant

Librarians Molly Brownfield and Dennis Kim-Prieto have been awarded a research grant from Aspen publishing to study instruments that measure the information skills of law students. Brownfield and Kim-Prieto plan to administer a standardized assessment test that has been widely used to study how college students acquire and use information.

The test has not been administered before in a law school setting and the researchers hope to determine its adequacy for assessment of information skills in a law students. Ultimately they hope to design a customized assessment test tailored to measure the research skills and abilities of law students.

Money from the grant will be used to recruit student volunteers to take the standardized assessment test. Brownfield and Kim-Prieto plan to begin testing this spring and conclude their field testing in the fall.

Selected New Books in the Library

Aharon Barak, **The Judge in a Democracy** (Princeton University Press, 2006)

CALL# K 2146.B3713. The author is President of the Supreme Court of Israel. "Barak's vigorous support of 'purposive interpretation' . . . contrasts sharply with the influential 'originalism' advocated by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia."

Virginia A. Hettinger, Stefanie A. Lindquist, & Wendy L. Martinek, **Judging on a Collegial Court: Influences on Federal Appellate Decision Making** (University of Virginia Press, 2006)

CALL# KF 8750.H48. The authors, all political science professors, focus "on the behavioral aspects of disagreement within a panel and between the levels of the federal judicial hierarchy" and "reveal the impact of individual attitudes or preferences on judicial decision making . . ."

Randall P. Bezanson, **How Free Can Religion Be?** (University of Illinois Press, 2006)

CALL# KF 4865.B49. ". . . discusses eight provocative Supreme Court decisions to track the evolution of Free Exercise and Establishment Clause doctrine . . . Using transcripts of oral arguments . . . accompanied by his own editorial narration, he engages readers in a revealing Socratic discussion . . ." Author is a law professor at University of Iowa.

Trevor Parry-Giles, **The Character of Justice: Rhetoric, Law, and Politics in the Supreme Court Confirmation Process** (Michigan State University Press, 2006) CALL# KF 8742.P3345.

". . . examines some controversial and ideologically meaningful Supreme Court nominations from 1916 through 1987. . . ." Author is a professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland.

William H. Colby, **Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America** (American Management Association, 2006) CALL# R 726.C637. "The author is the lawyer who represented the family of Nancy Cruzan in the first right-to-die case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court."

John Fabian Witt, **Patriots and Cosmopolitans: Hidden Histories of American Law** (Harvard University Press, 2007) CALL# KF 353.W58. ". . . illuminates the legal and constitutional foundations of American nationhood through the little-known stories of five patriots and critics" (Founding Father James Wilson, South Carolina freedman Elias Hill, Greenwich Village radical Crystal Eastman, Harvard Law Dean Roscoe Pound, and trial lawyer Melvin Belli.)

Sanford Levinson, **Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (and how we the people can correct it)** (Oxford University Press, 2006)

CALL# KF 4552.L484. Author, law professor at University of Texas, questions the President's veto power, the possibility of election as President without a majority of the popular vote, and other provisions which "promote either unjust or ineffective government."

William Thomas Allison, **Military Justice in Vietnam: The Rule of Law in an American War** (University Press of Kansas, 2006). CALL# KF 7620.A949. History professor depicts ". . . a transitional period in the history of the Uniform Code of Military Justice . . ."

Linda Bosniak, **The Citizen and the Alien: Dilemmas of Contemporary Membership** (Princeton University Press, 2006). CALL# K 3224.B67. Rutgers-Camden law professor examines "alienage and alienage law in all of its complexities . . . explores the dilemmas of inclusion and exclusion inherent in the practices and institutions of citizenship in liberal democratic societies . . ."

Victor Goldberg, **Framing Contract Law: An Economic Perspective** (Harvard University Press, 2006). CALL# KF 889.G65. Examines major contract cases to show that "had the court (and the litigators) understood the economic context, the analysis and results would have been very different."

Note: All descriptions from book jackets