# LPSS NEWS

Law and Political Science Section, Association of College and Research Libraries Volume 15, Number 1, Fall 1999

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## ALA MIDWINTER SAN ANTONIO **TENTATIVE** MEETING **SCHEDULE**

\*\*PLEASE CHECK THE ALA WEB SITE FOR FINAL SCHEDULE\*

HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/EVENTS

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

5:00-7:00 PM LPSS SOCIAL/HAPPY HOUR PLEASE COME AND MEET US!

# SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

1:00 - 4:00 PM LPSS ALL COMMITTEE **MEETING & GENERAL** MEMBERSHIP MEETING

# SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM MARTA LANGE/CQ AWARD COMMITTEE

CLOSED MEETING FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY.

> 2:00 - 5:30 PMLIBRARY INSTRUCTION **DISCUSSION GROUP**

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### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

A few years ago I joined LPSS at the suggestion of a colleague. Since I had previously only been active in serials and acquisitions groups, it was quite a change for me to work with people who discussed and presented programs on law and political science! From the beginning I was welcomed by the members and encouraged to be active in the Section. LPSS is a friendly and sociable group of people who are very concerned about not only the Section's activities, but also about ACRL, ALA and AALL. I encourage all LPSS members, but especially those who have not quite bund their niche at ALA, to be involved with the Section, at the committee and the section level, as a way to meet energetic librarians and to make a contribution to the success of LPSS and ALA. Please contact Jan Lewis, lewisja@mail.ecu.edu, to volunteer for a committee.

> Marifran Bustion, LPSS Chair marifran@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu

### PAST CHAIR'S MESSAGE

A great big thank you goes to all of the LPSS members who were active in LPSS during this past year, when I chaired the Section. I particularly want to thank Cathy Doyle and Stephen Stillwell who helped guide me through the ALA/ACRL bureaucratic maze. I also want to thank the LPSS Program Planning Committee for the informative and well-attended program in New Orleans. It was a pleasure to work with Committee members: Gabrielle Carr, Mary Reddick, Linda Johnson, Thomas Mann, Barbara Norelli, Elka Tenner, and Diann Weatherly. I hope all LPSS members will support Marifran Bustion, Chair, and Janice Lewis, Vice Chair, as they lead LPSS into the new millennium.

Paula Popma, Past Chair

### FIND OUT ALL ABOUT US AT THE LPSS WEB SITE

http://facstaff.uww.edu/hansenc/lpss.htm

Or, go to the ACRL Web site http://www.ala.org/acrl.html and click on LPSS under Sections.

A big **THANK YOU** to Catherine Hansen for doing this in her "spare time"

### **Share Your Expertise: Be a Mentor**

Are you looking for a way to be more active in LPSS? Volunteer to be a mentor through our virtual mentoring program on the LPSS web page. Help fellow LPSS members with specific questions that are within your subject area of expertise.

- collection development and product evaluation issues
- difficult reference questions
- library instruction techniques
- web wizardry

The complexity and variety of our jobs make the sky the limit. So far, we have mentors for legislative materials, law-related videotapes, and international statistics. We need **many** more volunteers to make this program work. Please send me an email with your area of expertise so that we can add you to the list. Thanks in advance for participating in this worthwhile program.

#### CONTACT:

Catherine Hansen Chair, Membership Committee hansenc@UWWVAX.UWW.EDU

### **ROSTER OF LPSS COMMITTEES, 1999-2000**

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Chair: Marifran Bustion, 2001 Vice Chair/Chair elect: Jan Lewis, 2002 Past Chair: Paula Popma, 2000 Secretary: Gabrielle Carr, 2001

Member-at-large: Catherine Hansen, 2000 Member-at-large: Madison Mosley, 2001

### LIBRARY INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Chair: Christine Angolia, 1999 Walt Lessun, 2001 Dottie Marcinko, 2001 John Stemmer, , 2000 Lisa Stimatz, 2000 Paul Vermouth, 2001 Elizabeth Williams, 2000

### MARTA LANGE/CQ AWARD COMMITTEE

Chair: Merle Slyhoff, 2000 Kelly Janousek, 2001 Sue Parker, 2001 Karen Rupp-Serrano, 2000 Marian Shaaban, 2001

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Chair: Catherine Hansen, 2000 Gerri Foudy, 2000 Kathleen Fountain, 2001 Michael Jackson, 2001 Suping Lu, 2000 Madison Mosley, 2001 Nancy Sosnik, 2000

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1999 Elections)**

Chair: Ron Heckart, 2000 Cathy Doyle, 2000 Rosemary Allen Little, 2001

### Rosellary Aller Little, 2001

# PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE (ALA CONFERENCE 2000)

Chair: Merle Slyhoff Mercedes Benitez-Sharpless Marilyn Bodnar Barbara Norelli Sue Parker

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair: Catherine Hansen Mae Clark, 2000 Marta Deyrup, 2001 Jean Porter, 2001 Theresa Trost, 2001 Lucia Snowhill, Newsletter Editor

### **REVIEW AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chair: Stephen Stillwell, 2000 Dennis Lambert, 2000 Paula Popma, 2001 Connie Salyers, 2001 Judy Solberg, 2000

## VENDOR/PUBLISHER LIAISON & REVIEW COMMITTEE

Chair: Atifa R. Rawan, 2000 David Armond, 2000 Gerri Foudy, 2000 Carrie Ottow, 2001 Karen Rupp-Serrano, 2000

# LPSS PROGRAM 1999 Annual Conference in New Orleans.

After 2 years of planning and work by the Program Planning Committee, the presentation of "*The Politics of Scholarly Communication in the New Millennium*" was a success.

The Co-Chairs (Gabrielle Carr and Mary Reddick) coordinated the efforts of the Committee members (Linda Johnson, Tom Mann, Barbara Norelli, Elka Tenner, and Dianne Weatherly) as they developed the program theme and made arrangements with the speakers. Gabriella also arranged for the ARL Office of Scholarly Communication to co-sponsor the program. Paula Popma guided the Committee through the administrative procedures and obtained funding.

The program featured presentations by four speakers, followed by a question and answer period with the audience. The panelists were Paul Gehrman, University Librarian at Vanderbilt University, Jerry Goldman, Associate Professor (now Full Professor) at Northwestern University, Paul Kesaris, Senior Vice President Editorial at Congressional Information Services, and John Unsworth, Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia. The moderator was Kenneth Frazier, Director of Libraries at the University of Wisconsin.

From their individual perspectives on the topic, the panelists described the impact of innovative applications of new technology in publishing and scholarly communication. They all predicted a continuation of this trend and urged a dynamic response from the scholarly community. The importance of the library in these developments was emphasized, and the audience was eager to join in the open discussion period.

Summaries of the program are available in the ALA Annual Conference Program Guide; ALA Cognotes, (Monday - June 28, 1999), p. 6; and College & Research & Libraries News (September 1999), p. 622-3. A verbatim recording (2 standard audio cassettes, No. ALA 923) of the entire program is available for \$26.00 from Teach 'Em, 160 East Illinois Street, Suite 300, Chicago, Illinois 60611; phone 1-800-225-3775; email: teach'em@bonus-books.com

Tom Mann Member, 1999 Program Committee

# DRAFT MINUTES ACRL LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE SECTION

Executive Committee Meeting
ALA Annual Conference
New Orleans, LA June 26, 1999

### Introductions

Paula Popma, LPSS Chair, welcomed all to the membership meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.

**Minutes** from the Midwinter Conference were approved.

### Committee nominations

Marifran Bustion, incoming LPSS Chair, is working on committee appointments, and welcomes more volunteers.

### LIAISON REPORTS

**GODORT**: Our liaison is unable to attend our meeting, so her report will be e-mailed after the conference.

AALL (Merle Slyhoff)

**AALL** (Merle Slyhoff)

The Access to Government Information Committee is working with courts on access to information. The Shared Legal Capability Committee is working jointly with ALA and others on policy issues. The AALL annual conference begins July 17 in Washington, DC. The conference features VIP programs and outreach to the American Bar Association Judicial Division. AALL will soon issue new FTC guidelines for the legal publishing industry that will include electronic formats. Other issues being considered by AALL are copyright, digital access and licensing, and access to government information.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Library Instruction** (Christine Angolia)

The Library Instruction Discussion Group had a very lively session at the midwinter conference about intergration of print and electronic resources in instruction. Topics for next year's discussion group will be "Is the instruction workshop dead?" and will include issues such as marketing strategies, web tutorials, etc. The committee has completed a pathfinder for the program at this conference, which is on the LPSS web page and will be distributed in print at tomorrow's program. The committee has also discussed a pathfinder for the annual conference in 2000.

### Marta Lange/CQ Award Committee

(Ron Heckart)

The luncheon held before the All Committee Meeting was very successful, and served as a good opportunity to recruit and welcome new members to LPSS. The committee will write down procedures for the luncheon to ease next year's planning. A thank you letter will be sent to CQ.

### **Membership** (Catherine Hansen)

Survey responses have been very low, so the committee is considering putting one question a month on the listsery to encourage a higher response rate. A request for printing of brochures in 2001 is needed by ACRL by December 18th. Actual revisions to the brochure will be determined closer to the printing date. The membership committee encourages all current members to try to recruit one new member each. Paula Popma reported that a proposal has been submitted to ACRL that asks ACRL to loan up to \$1500 to a section that needs to make a large deposit many months in advance of the midwinter or annual conferences for a social event. The ACRL Board is to consider the proposal at a future conference. t was noted that the CQ/Marta Lange luncheon and the Friday night social serve as social events for LPSS. It was also suggested that we target library schools and sponsor programs at ACRL chapter meetings to make the section more visible. It was also noted that the program for mentoring, raised at the midwinter conference, would help increase membership.

### **1999 Nominating Committee** (Cathy Doyle)

Cathy reported election results: Jan Lewis, Vice Chair-Chair Elect; Gabrielle Carr, Secretary; and Madison Mosley, Member-at-Large.

### **2000 Nominating Committee** (Ron Heckart)

The 2000 electon slate is already set. Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Barbara Norelli

Lisa Stimatz

Gwendolyn Halfard Member at Large:

Dennis Lambert

### **1999 Program Committee** (Gabrielle Carr) **1999 Program Committee** (Gabrielle Carr)

"Politics of Scholarly This vear's program. Communication" has been selected by Library Journal as a red star program, and will be taped. **22000 Puts granth Cathrimittee Wilerbee Sawarifa**ble at the The proposed topic for the 2000 program is "Legal Web Sites: Not Just for Lawyers". The program will be a panel discussion on finding, using, and evaluating legal web sites for all levels of users. It is expected that speakers will be readily available in Chicago, so the budget request for the program is quite low: \$302 and an internet hook-up. It was noted that BRASS is doing a program on business legal resources, and has asked LPSS to co-sponsor

that program. It was suggested that BRASS and GODORT be asked to co-sponsor the LPSS program.

### **Publications** (Michael Jackson)

Both the newsletter and web site are working well. and minor changes were suggested for both. A committee volunteer form will be added to the web site. Catherine Hansen will remain webmaster, and Lucia Snowhill will remain newsletter editor. The next newsletter deadline is October 18th.

### Review and Planning (Cathy Doyle)

The committee suggested ways to welcome new members: Make an announcement at the beginning of the All Committee Meeting welcoming members and explaining the committee table set-up: announce the all committee meeting and general membership meeting at the CQ luncheon, inviting all to attend. The committee also recommends putting the LPSS policy and procedure manual on our web site.

There was discussion of web site review by ALA. ALA is drafting a policy for reviewing section web sites and what to do if an ALA web site content or link is challenged. A task force will be completing a report for consideration by ALA Council at the midwinter meeting. It is being suggested that all ALA related web sites be housed at the ALA web site.

ACRL is drafting a new strategic plan. Stephen Stillwell will post the draft plan on the LPSS listserv for comment. Responses to the ACRL Board are due September 15th.

### Vendor/Publisher (Atifa Rawan)

The committee is looking for new ways to communicate with vendors and publishers. They will be asking CIS to come to the midwinter meeting to discuss products with us, and the committee will be developing a list of publishers to invite to future meetings to discuss such initiatives as CIAO, Matthew Bender, and SPARC. The committee is also submitting several short articles and reviews about legal resources and CIS Congressional Universe for the next newsletter. The committee is also beginning to develop a list of full text law and political science journals. It was suggested that reviews be mounted on the LPSS web site.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Paula Popma reported that the new business items had already been covered by committee reports: ACRL's new strategic plan, ALA web site policy, and advance funding for section membership

Stephen Stillwell reported that the ACRL Bylaws Committee had approved our bylaws changes, and

### If I only read one legal research manual . . . ?

Providing reference service for patrons interested in legal research can be overwhelming. The frequency of law related questions seems to be inversely proportionate to the complexity of the questions asked. Because legal reference sources are so expensive, the challenge is intensified by limited, outdated, or incomplete holdings in all but the best-funded college and research libraries. Even with the advent of "free" World Wide Web resources, rarely can a non-law school library afford to devote a full-time position to answering law-related queries.

Most commonly, the subject specialty of law is added to a political or social science librarian's collection development and reference duties. Though it is a logical fit when seen through the "pieceful" simplicity of Maxwell Taylor's scientific management, librarians fitted with such compound titles know better. Mastering legal reference takes prolonged, intensive effort, often spanning an entire career.

Realizing that few quick fixes actually cost less than their slower alternatives, there is still a need to develop fundamental legal research skills. I've tried to answer the question, "If I only read one legal research book, which one should it be?" by reviewing five legal research manuals.

The first is Bob Berring's Finding the Law. Berring explains in the foreword that *Finding* is "designed more as a teaching tool than a bibliographic resource." (Berring, iii). It is heavy on the history of legal education as well as the history of the legal publishing industry. Through eleven chapters, Berring follows a pattern of identifying sources usually with detailed historical background, describing their typical application—often with specific examples, warning about traditional pitfalls, and concluding with a chapter summary. Finding has two appendixes, one covering research guides for specific states and one listing sources for U.S. administrative agencies. Two chapters, one on constitutional law and one on secondary legal sources, are especially useful in a prelaw/undergraduate law environment.

Berring's prose is enjoyable. His detailed account of the development of the U.S. legal publishing industry captures your interest when the subject

matter might otherwise be too dry to bear. There are, however, two primary weaknesses. The first is scant treatment of internet legal resources. This will no doubt be remedied when the muchanticipated eleventh edition is released. The second weakness is probably only my own sensitivity to Berring's deference for West Publishing's resources. It seems that West publications were always discussed before their competitors and then used as the standard for comparison. This tendency became more obvious after reading another West legal research manual.

Legal Research 6<sup>th</sup> ed., by Cohen and Olson is one of West's Nutshell series. It clearly departs from Finding in the order that it discusses sources. As with Finding, Legal Research introduces, explains, and summarizes the use of each source presented. It also starts, after initial introductions, with case law's relationship to legal research. There is less detailed discussion of the legal publishing industry and chapters tend to be much shorter than Coverage is thorough and Legal Berring's. Research is the only source out of the five that devotes a significant amount of time to foreign and international legal research—the last four chapters treat various non-U.S. legal resources. Cohen and Olson mention the internet, but no URL's are provided.

Christopher and Jill Wren's The Legal Research Manual: A Game Plan for Legal Research and Analysis, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., is used by a number of law schools' first-year research and writing programs. The authors attempt to distinguish their approach from others by "explaining to the reader when to use which type of law book and then how to use it." (Wren, vi). The result is a work that is focused heavily on how legal research fits into the legal process as a whole. While this does prevent the tedium that comes from discussing endless volumes of legal resources, it will not be as satisfying to a librarian as it may be to a law student. Librarians' familiarity and currency with references sources, generally, is more important than their ability to win cases. For this reason the Wrens' preference to relegate the full treatments of "how" to use sources to one of 36 appendixes is unsettling.

Even with the reproduction of the ABA's excellent pamphlet introducing civil procedure and a fast

moving chapter on using Shepard's, *The Legal Research Manual* is less fulfilling than the other manuals reviewed. This is likely less a commentary on the Wrens' ability than on their intended audience. If you have a law related background, this may be the work for you. If you are familiar with the sources discussed and legal education's prejudice towards relating all research back to a specific legal problem, then the brisk treatment of the minutia of legal research shouldn't be troublesome.

Christina Kunz, et al.'s *The Process of Legal Research*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., provides a more satisfying law-student-oriented legal research manual. Like the Wrens, Kunz attempts to relate legal research to a practice setting. In fact, she relates it all back to the "Canoga" case—introducing the uninitiated to the famous/infamous law school hypothetical. What saves this book from the pitfalls of Wren is an almost obsessive devotion to structure.

Not only is there an introduction and summary included in each chapter, there is also a flow chart that relates back to the initial discussion of the context of legal research. The chapters are much more thorough than the Wrens, and Kunz's more recent publication date allows her to address the advent of various media types for each source—including limited discussion of internet sources.

Two other features of The Process stand out. The first is really a minor preference. There are exercises in the final section of the book, "Research Situations and Problem Sets," which allow you to test your legal research ability-though I would recommend ordering the instructor's edition, if possible, so you can verify your work. The second feature that stands out is Kunz's decision to start with secondary legal resources instead of case law. Though where to start is largely a matter of opinion, beginning with secondary sources will likely be more familiar and comfortable to librarians than jumping right into case reporting. The only major downside to Kunz is the length of the work. It is the longest of the five volumes reviewed.

The final book reviewed is possibly the best for librarians with any combination of limited exposure to legal resources or a small to nonexistent law collections. Nolo Press' Legal Research: Online and in the Library was actually a bundling of their established title Legal Research: How to Find & Understand the Law with a CD-ROM with 4000+ URLs. Though a good number of the URLs listed on the CD have moved, most are redirected and artfully serve as an impressive set of primary and secondary legal resources. Because these sources are more widely available to most librarians, the CD dramatically extends any law-related collection.

Nolo has carved out a niche in the legal publishing market as a kind of the Bob Villa of practice materials. The authors assume that the audience will be diverse, literate, and capable of understanding almost any legal theory. The text is full of examples and simple step-by-step instructions that walk readers through the research process. It has exercises that help assess what you picked up and what you missed from the discussion. It goes far beyond any other work in teaching about internet resources and providing URLs to specific legal material.

Whatever the virtue of simplifying legal research, there is the danger of oversimplification. *Online and in the Library* is so artfully presented that it may give librarians inflated assessments of their understanding of the law.

This is best illustrated with the treatment of Shepardizing state law cases. My concern was sparked by the use of a fictitious case cite, "112 Cal. Rptr. 456." (Elias, 10/3). There is no case that starts on this page making Shepardizing the case The chapter impossible. became disconcerting when it suggested that only one of the parallel citations needs to be reviewed when Shepardizing a state case. Without giving away any of the joys of tracing case treatment, it is enough to say that cases can be reported in either an official state reporter or a West regional reporter. This often leads to multiple or parallel citations. Shepard's for the regional reporters track the citation of your state throughout all fifty states. The specific state *Shepard's* only includes citations within the specific state courts. The hazard in not looking at both citations is that you may miss a strong argument that another jurisdiction has proffered. In court this can be costly, especially if the other side can use the argument against you. If, however, your patron is an undergraduate student doing a research paper on gun control, it probably won't matter.

This huge difference in how legal research is ultimately used explains why, after five years in a law library, it becomes increasingly difficult to answer the question of which legal research manual to read. There is no dearth of good legal research books. But the answer varies more with the inquirer's motivation than any author's ability. The breadth of questions librarians try to prepare for makes a precise answer almost impossible. The best bet is to pick one of these five, read it, ask the question again, and pick another.

David Armond
Howard W. Hunter Law Library
Brigham Young University

#### Sources

Berring, Robert. Finding the Law. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. West Publishing Co, St. Paul: 1995.

Cohen, Morris L. and Olson, Kent C. Legal Research in a Nutshell. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. West Publishing Co, St. Paul: 1996.

Elias, Stephen and Portman, Janet. Legal Research Online and in the Library. Nolo Press, Berkeley: 1998.

Kunz , Christina et al. *The Process of Legal Research*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Little Brown and Company, Boston: 1996.

Wren, Christopher and Wren, Jill. *The Legal Research Manual: A Game Plan for Legal Research and Analysis*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. A-R Editions, Inc., Madison: 1986.

## Political Science and the Law: Thoughts in search of a nexus

A few years ago a caller to the reference desk wanted information on the twenty-fifth amendment to the United States Constitution. I searched the collection and found several monographs on the other amendments but not many on this particular one. I inquired of our law library director, an expert in legal bibliography, as to why we had so few titles on that specific amendment. His reply was that this amendment concerned a political rather than a I began to wonder about the legal issue. distinction. My membership in LPSS has served to increase my wonder about this distinction and has forced me to develop some type of rational differentiation to satisfy my mind. Perhaps my thoughts will start a lively debate among our members on this topic.

The discipline of political science has gone through a period of self scrutiny in search of a definition for itself. I was captured by the essay on political science in the *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. It seems the field has developed from a collection of schools of thought from other disciplines to one with a research base of its own. Schools of thought in the field have run from a study of governmental institutions as the base to a concentration on the making of public policy as the main area of emphasis.

It appears to me that the study of the law is really a sub-field within the political science arena. Were we to approach political science from the study of governmental institutions, we would have to address legislatures, courts and governmental agencies and the pronouncements emanating from them. The statues, cases and rules these agencies issue lead us without fail into the domain of the law. Likewise, in the study of the making of public policy, we cannot ignore the rule of the legislatures and governmental agencies. To a lesser extent, perhaps not so lesser, the courts, too impact the making of public policy. Thus, it matters not which school of inquiry we take in the study of political sciences because each leads to primary law.

The nexus between political science and the law becomes clearer when we look at the sub-field of "public law". Public law, according to the *Encyclopedia*, "examines the way in which a system validates binding decisions according to legal criteria, thereby contributing to their acceptability as authoritative in a system" (v.11-12-page 289). This sounds exactly like an operationalized definition of the principle of *stare decisis*. In fact, the Encyclopedia states public caw to be a core field of political science.

While scholar-librarians in both field will argue vehemently that the two fields are distinct, I see an intersection of a greater proportion than I initially imagined. I see the law as a sub-field of political science—the field dedicated to the study of the making of public policy.

Madison Mosley, Jr. Law Library Stetson University College of Law

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### MARTA LANGE/CQ AWARD: MAKE A NOMINATION!

The Marta Lange/CQ Award recognizes an academic or law librarian who, through research, other creative activity, or service to the profession, makes distinguished contributions to bibliography and information service in law or political science. This award honors Marta Lange, 1990/91 ACRL Law and Political Science Section (LPSS) Chair, whose exceptional talents as a leader were enhanced by a wonderful collegial spirit. Her bright career was an inspiration to others and a model of professional service.

**AWARD**: \$1,000 and a plaque donated by Congressional Quarterly, Inc. The jury is the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Award Committee.

CRITERIA: Nominees should have achieved distinction in one or more of the following areas:

- Planning and implementing a model bibliography/information services program in a law or political science library;
- A history of contributions to the filed through research, publications, and other activities displaying active participation in the advancement of law/political science librarianship.
- Service to the profession through ACRL or related regional and national organizations.
- Promotion or development of an education program for law and political science librarianship that has served as a model for other courses and programs.

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE**: Nominations should include a letter of nomination including your name, address, and phone numbers as well as the name and address of the nominee; a narrative supporting the nomination; and a current vita. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Send 5 copies to the LPSS Marta Lange/CQ Award Committee Chair:

Merle Slyhoff, University of Pennsylvania, Biddle Law Library, 3460 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215)898-9013 (voice), (215)898-6619 (fax) mslyhoff@law.upenn.edu

\*\*\*\*\* DEADLINE, DECEMBER 3, 1999\*\*\*\*\*\*