Welcome to the Law Library

by Rebekah Skiba

The Ave Maria Law Library “supports the mission of the school by providing a core research collection and a research environment that includes print and electronic formats.”

The Library is dedicated to serving the needs of the law school community. Students and faculty will find support for their academic endeavors through the depth of the library’s collection, access to a vast array of electronic resources, and support from dedicated staff.

Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the resources available to them through the Ave Maria School of Law library. Library staff are dedicated to ensuring that students learn how to conduct research utilizing both print and electronic tools. Students may seek individual assistance or attend one of the information sessions which are designed to make students aware of the rich resources available to them.

In addition, the library offers students a place for quiet study. Well-lit tables in the main reading room, study carrels, comfortable soft seating, and group study rooms provide students with many options. The library also hosts a computer lab which can be used to provide instruction on legal research sources and techniques.

We invite you to take advantage of the thousands of resources and materials available for you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, big or small. Alla Sullivan handles circulation questions at asullivant@avemarialaw.edu. Rebekah Skiba handles research and reference questions at reskiba@avemarialaw.edu. Ulysses Jaen, the Director of the Law Library, handles any and all questions at ujaen@avemarialaw.edu.

We hope to see you soon!

Spring Workshops
Check out the lineup for workshops this semester. We’re discussing time management and giving you the tools to essential Bluebooking.

Library Raffle
Would you like to win a study aid or supplement? Look for more information on this semester’s raffle and get the tools you’ll need for your chance to win!
WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:

Time Management
Come learn about how to manage your time most effectively while in law school and beyond.

Bluebooking 101
Do you struggle with the Bluebook? Come to this workshop to learn the Bluebook in plain English.

Learning Styles
Did you know that your learning style affects how well you grasp material presented in class based on how it is presented?

The Bar Exam
Did you know that the Library has numerous resources available to help with bar preparation? Come learn about the materials you can utilize to make bar preparation that much easier.

Spring Workshops
by Rebekah Skiba

Have you experienced our workshops before? Are you interested in new presentations of high quality? Do you want to give the library a chance this semester? Are developing your skills and increasing your knowledge base important to you? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then we hope to see you at the workshops this semester!

Topics
We are excited to offer four unique opportunities this semester, all of which we hope will improve your overall law school experience and legal development.

- Time Management
- Bluebooking 101
- Learning Styles
- The Bar Exam

Time Management
Join us for the inside scoop on surviving law school and succeeding in professional practice without tearing your hair out or abandoning all semblance of a life outside of work.

Ulysses Jaen, Director of the Law, will speak on how much your time is worth, comparing various cultures and analyzing what tactics work well and which ones should be avoided.

This workshop will cover tips for organization as well as how to balance your time in order to most efficiently and effectively utilize each day.

Bluebooking 101
Does the Bluebook scare you? Or maybe just confuse you? Then this workshop is for you. Join us as Rebekah Skiba draws from years of experience to elucidate and explain the finer points of the Bluebook system.

As an attorney or simply someone working in the legal system, you will likely encounter numerous writing projects throughout your career. While the argument and the law are absolutely the most vital aspects, it is still important to ensure your documents meet the technical requirements of the applicable court system.

This workshop will discuss the differences in citations “in text” and “in footnotes” as well as the beauty of short cites. In addition, it will address a few rules specifically, including Rule 18 (which covers electronic sources such as webpages, blogs, Twitter, and much more.)

Learning Styles
Did you know that there are three main types of learning styles? Auditory; Visual; Kinesthetic. Do you know which style you use most often or most effectively?

Figuring out what your style is can help you succeed in school and in life because it enables you to study and to learn in a manner that best suits your abilities.

Join us with guest speaker, Dr. Brett Brosseit, as we discuss the different learning styles and how students (and professionals) can use them to their advantage rather than
floundering through their daily lives, struggling to understand something in a way that doesn’t make sense to their learning style. This workshop will also cover habits to develop that will help you learn more effectively and give you more time to continue developing other aspects of your careers and lives.

The Bar Exam
Everyone knows that the Bar Exam looms at the end of law school. It is a mysterious thing that sits, waiting in the shadows, ready to pounce when you least expect (or right when you expect).

Ideally, a law student will keep the Bar Exam in the back of their mind throughout their years in law school. They will file their applications early and make sure that they have all of the required documentation. They will analyze the different bar preparation programs available and decide which one is best for them.

As most of you know, law school tends toward a less idealistic reality. Most of you will likely wait until your 3L year to decide where you’re taking the Bar Exam, and then you will scurry about trying to file everything on time.

You will also have to decide which bar preparation program you’re going to utilize. This decision can be difficult since the programs seem very similar and yet different.

Come to this workshop to learn more about the materials and resources available to assist your bar preparation. The Law Library has numerous items geared specifically to bar preparation, and we encourage all of our graduated students to take advantage of them during their bar preparation.

In addition, you will learn more about the human resources available at Ave Maria, including Chris Buscaglia, the Director of Bar Preparation, who provides a wealth of knowledge, experience, and assistance as you begin your bar preparation. Whether you prefer additional seminars or the benefit of one-on-one office hours, we encourage you to take advantage of his presence here.

Conclusion
We hope that you join us for some or all of the workshops this semester. If there is a topic you’d like to see us cover, please let us know!

If you have any questions or comments, please stop by the library, shoot us an email at reskiba@avemarialaw.edu, or give us a call at (239) 687-5504.

We look forward to seeing you this semester! Good luck with all of your endeavors, and we hope that these workshops will make your law school experience and your professional careers simpler and smoother.

Print Is Not Dead
by Rebekah Skiba

Kindles . . . iPads . . . smartphones . . . the Cloud . . . there is an ever-increasing array of choices for viewing your electronic sources, and so many sources available in print are now available online. So why bother with the print? Why not save all those trees and just go electronic? Well, apart from the obvious, die-hard, book lover viewpoint that NOTHING will ever replace a real book in your hand, there are a few other options to consider.

For example, with legal research, I have often found it easier and faster to find items relevant to my topic when I scan the print Table of Contents of a series rather than running various Boolean searches through an online database. While the databases are definitely extremely useful due to their wealth of information, they can also be a beast to tame and cost you precious time and funds when you can find the same information for free by scanning through your local library’s books in print.

Speaking of the Cloud and all things electronic, what if the power goes out? And you’re running up against a deadline that’s expiring in just a few hours? Wouldn’t you like to have a print back-up nearby just in case? Or what if your server crashes, and you lose all your files? Wouldn’t it be nice to have the security of a printed copy?

Finally, back to that book lover opinion. There is nothing quite like holding a book in your hands and flipping through the pages manually. There’s a certain sense of wonder and anticipation as you seek to discover the precious information hopefully contained therein.

"Books don't crash, they don't get viruses and they don't need screen savers."
Library Tips
by Rebekah Skiba

Utilizing the Law Library may seem overwhelming at times based on the sheer amount of information available. We do have, after all, +250,000 titles in our collection. The vast majority of that collection exists electronically on dozens of different databases, all waiting for you to discover them.

→ **Remote Access.** Take advantage of the library’s numerous resources from anywhere with an internet connection. Simply sign in to your account at [www.encore.avemarialaw.edu](http://www.encore.avemarialaw.edu) using your last name and id number. Once you log in, you can access the vast majority of our materials.

→ **Bring your lunch.** The Library has a break room that is open to students, faculty, and staff. There is a fridge you can use to store your lunch or your midnight snacks.

→ **Digital Library.** Take advantage of 24 hour rental of LexisNexis study aids such as Q&As and the Understanding series from the comfort of your own home. Learn more by logging in at [http://avemaria.law.overdrive.com/](http://avemaria.law.overdrive.com/).

→ **Law in a Flash.** We have the entire Law in a Flash series of flashcards available for checkout at the library. Ask the Circulation Desk attendant for more information.

→ **Starting Your Own Practice.** We have many resources available to help aspiring solo and small firm practitioners with the finer points of starting their own business.

→ **Bar Preparation.** The Library has the latest materials in bar preparation for patron usage, including MBE questions and Bar specific materials. We invite all our graduates studying for the Bar Exam to take advantage of these resources.

At the end of the Spring 2016 semester, the Ave Law Library will hold a drawing for one lucky student to win a study aid. Participation in this exciting giveaway is simple. During the semester, the Library will conduct three separate scavenger hunts. These scavenger hunts will highlight various aspects of the Library resources and will occur at different points throughout the semester.

Students gain one entry to the drawing per scavenger hunt in which they participate (limit one entry per scavenger hunt). Students who successfully complete the scavenger hunt will receive an additional entry.

Library Raffle
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On the last day of class, the Library will place all the names in the jar and select one lucky winner.

Make sure to keep an eye out for more information on these scavenger hunts, and remember that the more you participate, the more chances you have!
21st Century Legal Tools & Resources

by Rebekah Skiba

In the age of internet and technology, a legal practitioner must develop their abilities to conduct research and perform their work within an ever-changing and evolving media. Sometimes the sheer amount of information available can be overwhelming, and all people in the legal profession should avoid data dump sites. A good lawyer learns how to sift through the mountains of data to find the information they need, and a great lawyer learns how to do so efficiently and effectively.

Sorting through data requires tools. Oftentimes, the first tool that comes to a lawyer’s mind is a paid database. While those databases can be immensely useful, they can also be money pits and scarcely navigable mazes of information. A great lawyer will know how to search effectively within those databases and also what alternative resources are available that may cut down on time or cost.

Here at the Ave Maria School of Law Library, we have many different resources available, each with its own particular importance. A few of the most useful include:

HeinOnline
A collection of legal resources including over 40 million pages in PDF format, HeinOnline offers titles including the Law Journal Library, English Reports, American Law Institute Library, and many others. This resource syncs with FastCase for immediate case and statute access direct from whichever document you’re reading in HeinOnline. You can access law review articles, statutes, legislative history, legal jurisprudence, treaties, and much more!

CALI
A consortium of over 170 law schools which offers over 800 computer-based legal tutorials for use by law students at member institutions, CALI can be immensely useful when studying for classes or exams. Their easy-to-use lessons provide in-depth analysis and instruction on all areas of law, including all of the MBE topics.

You can also access several books available for free download from the CALI website. These include further instruction and explanation about various topics of law.

For more information on how to access CALI if you haven’t already created your account, please stop by the front desk for assistance!

Law360
Keeping on top of what’s happening in the legal world can be difficult, if not impossible, to do on your own.

Law 360 provides: (1) Nonstop coverage of high-stakes litigation across 43 practices; (2) Real-time tracking and reports on 20,000+ companies, firms and industries; (3) In-depth expert analysis from high-profile attorneys at top firms.

Federal Register
The Office of the Federal Register posts this unofficial, HTML (XML-based) edition of the Federal Register on FederalRegister.gov to overcome the technical limitations of the official PDF edition and to demonstrate how an alternate version can effectively convey regulatory information to the public. This HTML version is presented in a unique web journal format known as “Federal Register 2.0,” or “FR2.”

You can access this site here:
www.federalregister.gov.

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

You can access this site here: www.ecfr.gov.

Online Sunshine
This is the go-to site for all laws Florida. It provides all of the Florida statutes and the constitution in a searchable format as well as legislative and historical information.

You can access this site here: www.leg.state.fl.us.

Databases A-Z
The Databases A-Z list reflects the online databases to which the Law Library subscribes so that our faculty and students have access to the most up-to-date resources possible. For assistance in using any of the options on the Databases A-Z list, contact us at librarian@avemarialaw.edu or (239) 687-5504.

LexisNexis Digital Library
Providing access to LexisNexis publications in eBook form, items may be borrowed digitally for twenty-four hours. Publications hosted on our LexisNexis Digital Library platform update automatically when a new release becomes available. Our library also includes the “Understanding” and “Questions & Answers” series.

Encore Catalog
Our library catalog may be accessed at http://encore.avemarialaw.edu. From the "Advanced Search" page, you may limit your search to certain formats (e.g. print or DVD) or to certain locations (e.g. Reserve or General Collection). When you retrieve a record, you will see location, call number, and status data. The location indicates where in the library the item is held; the call number tells you the Library of Congress call number assigned to that book within that section of the library; and the status indicates whether the book is checked out or available. If an item is checked out, the due date will be listed.
You can find us on Facebook at Ave Maria Law Library (www.facebook.com/LEGALLAB).

The Library utilizes the Facebook page to share our blog posts on research, studying, new materials, and much more. Posts on the Facebook page also include relevant news in the legal world, such as articles on the newest changes in the law and other items that we find relevant for our students.

You can find us on Twitter @AMSL_Library.

The Library utilizes Twitter to share updates as well as keep in touch with the immediate happenings in the legal world by following various legal accounts and sharing that information with patrons via Twitter and other social media platforms.

You can find us on Instagram at LegalLibrarian34119.

The Library shares images on a frequent basis highlighting our beautiful campus, the resources available, and events happening in the library.

You can find us on Blogger at Law Library (www.lawlibrary2014.blogspot.com).

The Library blog offers a valuable means of providing our patrons with information, tips, study aids, and access to new materials.

Post topics vary, including discussions of time management in law school, tips and information on learning styles, and positive reinforcement of morale as well as highlights of library materials, including our research guides and new databases and print materials acquired.

You can follow Ave Maria School of Law on LinkedIn at Ave Maria School of Law (https://www.linkedin.com/company/ave-maria-school-of-law?trk=top_nav_home).

The LinkedIn page shares news and information of happenings at the law school, including upcoming CLEs and news about faculty achievements.

You can find us on Pinterest at Ave Maria Law Library (www.pinterest.com/avemarialawlibr).

Find inspirational quotes, law school humor, useful charts, professional advice, and much more.