New Library signs aid in legal research

Anyone venturing into the Law section of the Sullivan Library should notice some helpful signs directing users to the various subsections of legal materials. Thanks to the cooperative efforts of Jennifer Gaither and Nick Riggs of The Institute for Legal Studies, Librarian Charles Brown and student Library Assistant Patrick John-son, three signs have been placed to identify the three primary divisions of legal materials available in the library.

Library is a researcher’s dream

The Sullivan Library is proud to have all the hardcopy materials needed to perform Kentucky state law research. These sources can be found under the “Kentucky Law Reference” sign, and include Kentucky statutes, rules and regulations, constitution, and case law. Under the “Federal Law Reference” sign, the Library also houses many volumes of material for federal law research. The federal materials include the case reporter set containing United States Supreme Court decisions and the multi-volume United States Code Annotated containing statutes passed by the U.S. Congress, as well as the U.S. Constitution. The Library also has a multitude of general law resources, which can be found under the “General Reference” sign.

Teamwork paid off

According to head librarian Charles Brown, “The new law section and signage showcases the library’s paralegal collections in a significantly enhanced and intuitively organized manner, which will make the materials much more accessible to the students and faculty. The most important aspect of this enhancement was the collegiality with which the librarians and faculty and students worked together for a common institutionally effective goal.”

Want to know more about the 2008 presidential election? Look no further! We have a multitude of materials about the presidential election process and the views of the top candidates seeking the highest office in the land. Most notable contributions in getting the display organized, arranged and set up came from Joe Price, Library Assistant, and Cissina Graff, SSA President.

But that’s not all!

In conjunction with the election display, SSPA held a voter registration drive that resulted in more than 200 new voters for the fall elections. One grateful student wrote in an email message, “Yes, I registered to vote. Thanks so much for the passion to get everyone that goes to Sullivan signed up to vote. It is greatly appreciated from someone who cares about people voting.”

SSPA plans to hold a mock presidential election on campus prior to Election Day, Tuesday November 4. It will be interesting to see how close the Sullivan vote comes to the outcome of the real thing!

Two Sullivan students awarded scholarships by the Louisville Association of Paralegals

Robin Justus, an evening division student in the Paralegal Studies post-baccalaureate certificate program, was recently awarded a scholarship by the Louisville Association of Paralegals (LAP). Upon notice of her selection to receive the LAP scholarship Robin commented, “... Hard work doesn’t always yield a reward, but when it does the treat is sweet. I am very grateful for the recognition and encouragement this scholarship has given me. I want to thank Nick Riggs, Director of Legal Studies, for putting my name forth for the scholarship. I really did need the boost, and I am most appreciative.”

Cissina Graff, a day division student in the Paralegal Studies associate degree program, was also awarded a scholarship by the LAP. Cissina likewise was very pleased to receive the scholarship. “It’s not about receiving a monetary amount. It’s the fact that only three people out of the entire city were chosen for this scholarship and I was one of them. That makes me very proud of myself,” she said. For Cissina, receiving the scholarship was another direct benefit of her decision to pursue her legal education at Sullivan. “The law is something that has always fascinated me. When I heard that Sullivan had a paralegal program that could be completed in 18 months I knew that Sullivan was the school for me,” Cissina added. Cissina is also the president of the Sullivan Student Paralegal Association.

Robin, Cissina, and Professor Nick Riggs attended the LAP luncheon meeting at which both students were given their scholarship checks. The meeting, held at The Jefferson Club in downtown Louisville, gave the recipients a chance to network with LAP officers and practicing paralegals from the local area. The LAP, which provides free membership to paralegal studies students, has close ties with the university. Many of its members and officers are graduates of The Institute for Legal Studies, the LAP president also serves as a member of Sullivan’s Legal Studies Advisory Board.

Your vote counts! Library gears up for the presidential election

An energetic group of Sullivan Paralegal students recently visited Frankfort, Kentucky, and enjoyed a tour of the state capitol. The field trip was sponsored by the Sullivan Student Paralegal Association (SSPA), which covered the cost of dinner and transportation for those on the trip.

During the tour of the capitol, students learned about the construction of the building, considered as one of the three most beautiful state capitols in the United States. Magnificent state statues of five prominent Americans with ties to Kentucky are in the capitol rotunda. Students were treated to a unique experience when they saw and heard oral arguments by attorneys before the Supreme Court of Kentucky. They were especially impressed by the oral setting and formal nature of the proceedings. Paralegal student Lee Ann Saunders, said, “Because I am not a native of Kentucky, I had no idea what a treasure we have in the State Capital. I was impressed with the air of dignity and beauty... Seeing the Kentucky Supreme Court in action helped remind me why it’s necessary for a paralegal to understand all the components of the law and made me more aware of how it all fits.”

Edie Henchey, a par-baccalaureate certificate Paralegal Studies student, was likewise impressed. “To tour the Capi- tol Building in Frankfort complete with its granite columns and bronze columns was a real eye opener. I liked the grandeur of the legislative area and the statues of famous Kentucky women. The Supreme Court experience defi- nitely put us in touch with the real world of the legal profession. You never like your new career is truly evolving.”

Get involved

SSPA provides many opportunities for you to participate in the paralegal career, and the development of leadership skills. Students interested in joining should contact Nick Riggs.