



# NOCALL *News*

Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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## President's Message

Spring is finally here! Time to welcome our newly-elected Board members: Vice-President/President-Elect Shannon Burchard from the University of San Francisco School of Law Dorraine Zief Law Library; Secretary Tibisay Boggio-Turner from Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP in San Francisco; Treasurer Mark Estes of the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library; and Board Members-at-large Jean Willis of the Sacramento County Public Law Library and Kathy Skinner of Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco. Thanks again to Holly Riccio and our wonderful Nominations Committee for finding such outstanding candidates! I'm sure they'll do a fantastic job!

It is also time to RSVP for the May Business Meeting, if you haven't already. The deadline is May 15th. We are trying something different this year: the luncheon, sponsored by a generous contribution from Thomson/West, will be at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel on Powell Street in San Francisco. A no-host bar begins at 11:30 a.m., lunch is from noon to 1 p.m., and a short program featuring the swearing-in of officers and presentation of awards, including the Professional Achievement Award, begins at 12:30 p.m. A registration form with menu selections and a map with parking directions for the Sir Francis Drake are available at our website, [www.nocall.org](http://www.nocall.org).

I would also like to congratulate the recipients of NOCALL Grants to attend AALL in Washington, D.C. July 25th through 28th. Those grant recipients are: Ellen Platt, of Santa Clara University, Heafey Law Library; Diane Rodriguez, of Hassard Bonnington LLP in San Francisco; and Mark Mackler of the Office of the Attorney General Law Library in San Francisco. Jocelyn Stilwell of Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott, LLP in San Francisco received the "newer member" AALL Full Registration Grant, and Susan Menagh of Merced County Law Library received a grant to attend the Spring Institute. Our Grants Committee, led by Teresa Dippery, deserves a big round of applause for a job well done!

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I'm really looking forward to the March 25th Sunshine Week Program, "Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government." Sunshine Week is a national initiative about the importance of open government and the freedom of information. Michele Finerty, our GRC Chair, has arranged a joint presentation hosted by the NOCALL GRC and the SLA Sierra-Nevada Region at Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Gordon D. Schaber Library. The program features two parts: a national web cast from Washington, D.C., and a lunchtime panel of local speakers. The program begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and a Continental Breakfast. From 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. a panel of experts from around the country will kick off a lively discussion from Washington, D.C. about open government and secrecy – the problems, the impact on communities, and what the public can do. After a break from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m., there will be a lunchtime panel of local experts who are active in furthering open government, including Terry Francke and Andrew McIntosh. Terry Francke is General Counsel and Founder, Californians Aware, a non-profit organization established to help journalists and others keep Californians aware of what they need to know to hold government and other powerful institutions accountable for their actions. Mr. Francke has an extensive background in actively promoting

open government to the citizens of California. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Francke served as general counsel to the California First Amendment Coalition; was legal counsel for the California Newspaper Publishers Association; taught journalism law at Stanford's Department of Communication; and served as expert contributor to the 1994 major revisions to the Brown Act, and to the 2004 ballot proposition making open government a basic right of citizens under the California Constitution. Andrew McIntosh, a native of Canada, is the three-time winner of that country's highest journalism honor, the National Newspaper Award. He is currently a senior writer at The Sacramento Bee, where he serves as a public records and FOIA specialist. Among the honors awarded to Mr. McIntosh, he received the 2007 Society of Professional Journalists Excellence in Investigative Reporting for a five-part series on defects in the state's licensing for paramedics and emergency medical technicians. The series was picked up by CBS and NBC news, as well as the LA Times, and it led to the passage of new state law in 2008. His investigative series on the deaths and thousands of injuries caused by air-powered nail gun design flaws made him a finalist for Washington DC-based Understanding Government's Preventive Journalism Award in 2008. Thanks, Michele, for organizing such a fantastic program! I can't wait!

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### NOCALL News

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## MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler  
California Department of Justice  
San Francisco

**What Is This Mysterious Thing Called a Digest?...** A legal assistant came to me with a great question, and I should have known the answer. She had a California case, hot off Westlaw, in hand. Her question was about the Key numbers relating to the case. Why, she asked, do the Key numbers in the Westlaw version have no relationship to the Key numbers in the print version of West's California Digest 2d?

First thing I did, I got rid of the patron and told her that I'd come by her office as soon as I figured it out! (Thanks, Bob Berring.) Then I checked the print Digest. Sure enough, she was right. The California Digest 2d for that Topic (Prisons) was totally different from Westlaw's Key numbers. I was stumped and called a Westlaw Reference Attorney. It took me a while to clearly explain what my question was all about. Finally, the Reference Attorney "got" it. She asked for time to consult with her colleagues. After a few minutes, she came back on the line. "Oh, sorry for the delay. I don't think I've ever seen a print version of a Digest." Arghh! I felt sooooo old! The answer: West had renumbered the Westlaw Key numbers three weeks before I made my inquiry.

**Ask a Librarian...**I've often written about how the public is able to pick us out in the streets regardless of where we are. Recently, I was walking through Civic Center Plaza and a nice lady came up and began speaking to me in Spanish. I asked her to try English, and she did. Her question: How can I find the Consulate of El Salvador? I walked her over to the Main Library and directed her to the reference librarians. Another satisfied customer.

**It's Not All About Money...** "We did not think necessarily we could make money. We just feel this is part of our core mission. There is fantastic information in books. Often when I do a search, what is in the book is miles ahead of what I find on a website." (Google founder Sergey Brin on the company's book-scanning project.)

## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

By Elisabeth McKechnie and Susan Llano  
U.C. Davis Law Library

**"Twitter for Libraries (and Librarians)"** by Sarah Milstein, *Online*, v.33, no.2 Mar/April 2009, pp.34-5, available online for a fee at <http://www.onlinemag.net>.

Milstein's article suggests that the brevity of messages and the ease of user contact that Twitter provides can enable libraries to communicate more closely with their users. She describes how various libraries have made effective use of the "twitterverse," some libraries sending fairly mundane messages, i.e. "Access to EBSCO through wireless is down" or advertising library workshops, providing links to online archives and giving tips on sending messages to a reference librarian. She also includes a section on "twittiquette" for institutions who are new to using Twitter.

**"Metadata-What is it and What are my Ethical Duties?"** by Jim Calloway, *LLRX*, January 5, 2009, <http://llrx.com/node/2130/print>

The fact that using the computer delete key doesn't necessarily mean that the text is truly deleted is an attorney and librarian nightmare. Any document sent electronically to another party may contain metadata, earlier drafts of the document, notes and privileged information which could be disastrous to your client's case. The article discusses ethical issues surrounding metadata, including sending metadata and reading the other party's metadata. To keep from inadvertently sending metadata, the author suggests sending the document in PDF format rather than Word, WordPerfect, Excel or PowerPoint and gives other advice on how to avoid Metadata disasters.

**"Implementing Federated Search at the University of Wyoming"** by Michael L. Nelson, Mary Ann Harlow and Cassandra Kvenild, *Online*, v. 33, no.2, Mar/April 2009, available online for a fee at <http://www.onlinemag.net>.

The University of Wyoming recently began the process of implementing "Central Search," a federated search tool provided by Serial Solutions (a ProQuest company), to dovetail with their existing Serials Solutions software. The catalog ultimately was to cover traditional abstracting/indexing databases as well as consortial databases owned by the UW. With the vendor's help, UW was able

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to customize the front end to make it user-friendly for its intended audience (undergrads). The author ends with recommendations and advice for any library considering this kind of upgrade. She makes it sound easy. This article will be useful to any library considering an OPAC revamp of this kind.

**“Study Offers New Test of Potential Lawyers”** by Jonathan D. Glater, **New York Times**, March 11, 2009, p.A22, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/11/education/11lsat.html>.

This article reports on a study conducted by Berkeley professors who were trying to find a better way, rather than the traditional LSAT, to predict success in the legal field. While the LSAT supposedly measures how well a student will do in law school, the new test hopes to do more than that and predict a person’s success as a lawyer. Read the entire report here: <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/files/LSACREPORTfinal-12.pdf>

**“all the depressing info we could find on your future, all in one place.”** by brian lauter (sic), March 11, 2009, The Shark. <http://theshark.typepad.com/weblog/2009/03/all-the-depressing-info-we-could-find-on-your-future-all-in-one-place.html>

The law school blog, The Shark, has compiled a list of law firms which are cutting costs by rescinding offers to 3L’s and trimming their summer associate programs. The list, currently covering 60+ law firms and DA offices, has been updated twice since its original posting in March. It details the extent of cutbacks, law students affected, and sources for the information posted.

NOCALL has made a contribution to the Women’s Cancer Research Center in memory of Greg Fite’s wife, Leigh Donley

**THERE’S STILL TIME!  
NOCALL SPRING INSTITUTE  
APRIL 24-25,**

**Registration Deadline – \$115 (\$125 for non-members, \$50 for students/retired/unemployed members) registered/postmarked by April 10, 2009**

**Late Fee – \$125 registered/postmarked after April 10, 2009**

The 2009 NOCALL Spring Institute in fabulous San Francisco! Our theme: **Clearing the Economic Fog: Understanding the Issues & Moving Forward in the Economic Crisis**. The Spring Institute will include substantive and research programs on the mortgage crisis, bankruptcy, using competitive intelligence to keep up with it all and predict the Next Big Thing, and much more! We will also have networking opportunities and a visit from AALL Board Member David Mao of the Library of Congress. We’ve got an excellent rate at the Hotel Whitcomb, so plan to stay the weekend. More details soon. Hope to see you all there!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The names of members who have joined NOCALL since publication of the 2008-2009/2009-2010 NOCALL Directory and since the last newsletter are listed below as well as changes and corrections for continuing members. Any corrections changes or additions to the Directory should be sent to:

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*Hopefully, by the time you read this, you will have received the March 2009 directory supplement.  
 That's my goal anyway.*

### NEW MEMBERS

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### CONTINUING MEMBERS

**\*\*Changes are noted in bold.**

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\*\*\*Jessica's listing is OK in the alphabetical list, but she's mistakenly listed under Morgan Lewis instead of Morrison & Foerster in the affiliation section. Sorry Jessica!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details, see <http://www.nocall.org/calendar.html>