



# 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 almost here and with it comes Sunshine Week events and the 2010 NOCALL Spring Institute. The Government Relations Committee and Vice President Shannon Burchard, with her Spring Institute Committee, have been working hard to put together fabulous educational and networking events. First up is the Sacramento Sunshine Week program on Wednesday, March 24 at Pacific McGeorge School of Law. This program, put on with SLA, CLA and CALTAC, presents an amazing panel of speakers along with a presentation of the National Sunshine Week Webcast from Washington, DC. The San Francisco Sunshine Week program will take place on Friday, March 26 immediately preceding the Spring Institute. The SF program, also put on with SLA, presents a great panel and broadcast of the National Webcast. Friday afternoon brings us the NOCALL 2010 Spring Institute, From Pillaging on the High Seas to Plundering the Net: Piracy on the Barbary Coast, March 26-27, 2010 at the Sir Francis Drake. Not only are the programs and speakers current and exciting, but the committee is planning a wonderful 30<sup>th</sup> "pearl" anniversary gala at Harry Denton's Starlight Room at the top of the hotel on Friday night. I hope you will all join us for this opportunity to learn and celebrate! Please see the NOCALL website for details and registration materials for all these events.

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Speaking of Spring Institutes, VP Shannon Burchard and I were fortunate to attend the SCALL Institute held in Ventura, CA, March 5-6, 2010, It's Not Easy Going Green: Lawyers and Librarians in Support of the Environment. We learned about current issues facing the "greening" of California on state and local levels as well as how to be proactive in greening our workplaces and libraries. The speakers were terrific and, as always, SCALL treated us with incredible hospitality. Thank you SCALL! We also took the opportunity to network with the SCALL and SANDALL Boards to begin investigating our next California joint-institute. More information on that will follow. I encourage NOCALL members to consider attending educational institutes held by our sister-chapters in California, SCALL and SANDALL. Not only do they offer high-quality programs within our state, making travel affordable, but they provide an invaluable opportunity to network with other California librarians who work on the same issues we do. It's a win-win opportunity!

More upcoming events include the May Annual Business Meeting, NOCALL participation at AALL in Denver, and the WESTPAC conference in San Francisco,



October 14-16, 2010. Our Education Committee is already in touch with WESTPAC to offer our services. We look forward to working with WESTPAC!

During my presidency I have had the good fortune to meet many NOCALL members at the meetings, educational events, and cocktail socials we've held. What an amazing group we are! Each member has so much to offer... knowledge, skills, ideas, and tons of personality. As a group

we certainly complement one another and we have a huge potential to succeed in so many ways. Have you been wondering how you can get involved? Take a look at the list of committees on the NOCALL web page. Each committee listing provides its charge, duties, and calendar of events. We need your skills and ideas to keep NOCALL fresh and exciting. Please consider volunteering for a committee today, I would love to work with you!

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## NOCALL News

The NOCALL News is published five times a year by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership.

The Northern California Association of Law Libraries assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by the contributors to the association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Northern California Association of Law Libraries.

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**MUSINGS FROM MARK**  
**Mark Mackler**  
**California Department of Justice**  
**San Francisco**

**AN EVENING WITH JEFFREY TOOBIN...**If you have never attended any City Arts & Lectures at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, you really owe it to yourself to do so. I recently heard Jeffrey Toobin talk with Roy Eisenhardt (who was a lawyer at Farella, Braun & Martel while I was Reference Librarian there) about our American system of justice, with a focus on the Supreme Court. For those of you who don't know Toobin, he is the legal correspondent for CNN and a staff writer for the New Yorker. He has written several books, most recently *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*.

Among the topics that he discussed during his presentation:

The Supreme Court is more of a political institution than you could ever imagine. The Court is enormously sensitive to which way the political winds blow. (By the way, when I was an undergraduate one of my professors-the late, great Howard Zinn-talked about this but I was not ready to give it much credibility.)

Term limits and age limits might be very good ideas for the Court to consider for itself, but don't hold your breath waiting for this to happen.

Chief Justice Robert's political objectives are strongly held, ideologically driven, and barely hidden.

The issue of religious seats (the "Jewish seat," the "Catholic seat," etc.) is pretty much irrelevant today.

Don't count on the Court granting cert for the Proposition 8 case. And if it does grant cert, look for Prop 8 to be upheld.

The Court is usually 25 years behind the curve when it comes to issues of social change.

Obama's next choice for the Court: Elena Kagan.

**BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY IS...**Did you read about the Nebraska bank robber who became an accomplished Supreme Court practitioner? Shon Hopwood knocked over five rural banks between 1997 and 1998, and got ten years in Federal prison at Pekin, Illinois, for his efforts. In 2002, Hopwood prepared a Supreme Court petition for cert on behalf of a fellow prisoner. That year,

the Court received 7,209 petitions, and agreed to hear just four of them. One was *Fellers v. United States*. Fellers had been convicted of a drug conspiracy. In his defense, he claimed that the police had crossed constitutional lines in questioning him. Referring to the petition for cert, former United States Solicitor General Seth Waxman said, "It was probably one of the best cert petitions I have ever read." The inmate won 9-0.

In 2005, the Court granted a second petition for cert prepared by Hopwood. Hopwood also helped inmates from Indiana, Michigan and Nebraska get sentence reductions from lower courts.

Hopwood freely admits that "In 2000, I couldn't have named a right in the Bill of Rights." So what caused this extraordinary change to come about? "The law library changed my life. I kind of flourished there. I didn't want prison to be my destiny. When your life gets tipped over and spilled out, you have to make some changes."

Hopwood hopes to apply to law school next year. Richard Friedman, a law professor at the University of Michigan who worked with Hopwood on the briefs for a recent Supreme Court case, said that he had already talked with the admissions office there about saving a spot for Hopwood.

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**PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW**  
**By Elisabeth McKechnie and Susan Llano**  
**U.C. Davis Law Library**

**"Tasini Case Revived by Supreme Court"** by Andrew Albanese, **Publisher's Weekly**, March 4, 2010.  
[http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/451840-Tasini\\_Case\\_Revived\\_By\\_Supreme\\_Court.php?nid=2286&source=title&rid=17061849](http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/451840-Tasini_Case_Revived_By_Supreme_Court.php?nid=2286&source=title&rid=17061849)

Tasini v. New York Times, a case involving whether electronic information aggregators can use work of free-lance writers without compensating them. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals had formerly voided a 2005 settlement but the U.S. Supreme Court has reversed the Second Circuit Court and returned the case to the appellate level. Publisher's weekly discusses this leading case and likely result of the Supreme Court's action.

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“The Web Guide for the New Economy” by Marcus P. Zillman, LLRX, March 7, 2010.  
<http://www.llrx.com/features/webguideneweconomy.htm>

This is an annotated bibliography listing online resources for those researching the New Economy. It is constantly updated by Subject Tracer™ to keep the bibliography current. It includes links to such sources as the American Economic Alert—Trade News and Opinions, the Beige Book, published by the Federal Reserve, SubsidyScope and a wide variety of economic sites both governmental and think-tank supported. If you need to know where the money is, this bibliography will help.

“Google Can Now Say No to ‘Raw Fish Shoes’ in 52 Languages” by Miguel Helft, *New York Times*, Mar 9, 2010, p.A1.

This is an interesting article on Google’s free translation service, “Google Translate”. The title of the article refers to an incident in 2004 that first got one of Google’s founders interested in developing a translation service. An e-mail message from a South Korean fan of Google was run through an automated translation service and came back with the message, “The sliced raw fish shoes it wishes. Google green onion thing.” What? Google thought it could do better and six years later, Google Translate service handles 52 languages and lots of traffic. Although the author admits the service has its limitations, one can usually use it to get the gist of an article. He explains why Google is excelling in this area where other automated translation services are struggling.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* has a good pull-out section in its Feb 5<sup>th</sup> issue. The *Chronicle Review Supplement* is called “Distraction and the Data Deluge” and includes articles such as “Divided Attention,” “Appraising Information Abundance” and “Our Digitally Undying Memories.” Available electronically at <http://chronicle.com/article/Our-Digitally-Undying-Memories/63747/>

Also, check out Paul Lomio’s blog entry for Legal Research Plus on March 9, 2010, “[Judge says: Keep this opinion out of Westlaw and LEXIS.](#)” He talks about a case he found while docket searching where the judge specifically states that he does not want a case included in Westlaw or Lexis. Hmmmm. Can it be that simple? Read Paul Lomio’s blog entry.

## NOCALL NEWS: WHAT ARE YOU READING? Nora Levine

I’m currently reading **THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF KAVALIER & CLAY** by Berkeley author Michael Chabon. Of course everyone knows this book, but comic books, World War II, and boys coming of age stories are just not my type of reading. One day, there it was on the discount table at my local book store, and since I had loved **THE YIDDISH POLICEMAN’S UNION**, how could I say no. It had all that critical acclaim, there had to be something in it. The book started very slowly. Clay is a Jewish boy living in New York during the war, trying to be tougher than he really is, and the story is more depressing than it is interesting. The scene then shifts to Eastern Europe at the same time. Kavalier is Clay’s cousin who is trying to become an escape artist. This section is a little more interesting than the first, but even more depressing. The scenes in New York, after they meet, and when Clay tells Kavalier about comic books, are funny and fascinating. According to Clay, the reason Batman is better than Superman is “the why” -- why does this cardboard superhero do what he does? There are surrealist artists, there are radio actors, there is Orson Wells – so much art and entertainment in one place at a moment in time -- influencing the two young men and what they go on to create.

---*Cynthia Berglez*

### SHOOT THE MOON, by Billie Letts.

This was a fascinating tale about Mark Albright, a Beverly Hills veterinarian-to-the-stars’ pets, who finds out that he was adopted, a secret the only parents he knew kept from him while they were alive. Mark then goes to the town where he was born to meet and talk to his birth mother and find out about his father. He uncovers a town mystery about his mother’s situation and his disappearance 30 years ago from De Clare, Oklahoma. He slowly works to unravel that mystery by research and talking with many in the town. The characters are charming and seem very authentic. The story is very intriguing as Albright, nee Nicky Jack Hargrove, discovers his heritage.

### WHEN THE RIVERS RAN RED; AN AMAZING STORY OF COURAGE AND TRIUMPH IN AMERICA’S WINE COUNTRY, by Vivienne Sosnowski.

A riveting account of the development of the wine business in Napa and Sonoma valleys, which started in the 1800’s when Italian families settled there. Wine was a part of their European heritage which they continued when they migrated to California. These farmers worked hard, enjoyed the harvests of crops and winemaking and became successful. However, they were in denial about the coming of prohibition, i.e., they never thought it would happen. But

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the ‘Drys’ won over the ‘Wets’ and it came to pass. Ms. Sosnowski covers the political and personal sagas behind the days of prohibition—how some wineries were used by bootleggers while others were left dormant. Some vineyard owners and others interested in profit devised numerous plans to outsmart the government agents. These plots brought in new criminal elements to the valleys which were not welcome by the hardworking immigrant families. This is a very detailed and footnoted historical study of the development of the wine industry and how it survived during the years before and during prohibition. It has extensive footnotes to newspapers and interviews. It is also a story of the lives of the families affected by the government program and a very interesting read.

---Lauri Flynn

**THE LAST TIME I WAS ME**, by Cathy Lamb.

Reading this book has been an interesting journey. Having recently finished **JULIA’S CHOCOLATES**, I had high expectations. I read the first part and was not impressed, but continued to read and suddenly became engaged. I like “Julia’s Chocolates” better, but I am also enjoying this book.

I thought the events that happen to Jeanne were a little bit fantastic, as in “how can that possibly happen?” As the book wears on, I see the point (at least the point for me!), which is that life is a process and sometimes getting through a process is not easy and there are setbacks. I really like the characters. One commonality in the two books I have read by Cathy Lamb is that there are really jerky men and really good men. I am glad that she balances that out.

**THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET**, by Brian Selznick.

I bought this book as a 2008 Christmas gift for a favorite child. It has been sitting on his shelf for a year. Once we finished “The Amber Spyglass,” I thought it would be a good time to start it. He was reluctant, but quickly became intrigued. The drawings are truly wonderful, but don’t make it easy to read a child to sleep.

This book really tells the story of a child’s resilience, curiosity and determination. It also shows the flexibility of children’s minds.

---Jaye Lapachet

*Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP*

**THE YEARS OF RICE AND SALT**, by Kim Stanley Robinson.

Set about 1400 AD, the Black Death has wiped out 99% of the population of Europe. Follow the history of the world without the European or Christian influence. Very interesting.

**RULED BRITANNIA**, by Harry Turtledove.

Set in Shakespeare’s time (about 1600), but in an England ruled by Spain whose Armada wasn’t destroyed. William Shakespeare is a new playwright who becomes involved in a plot to overthrow the Spanish.

---Ellen Platt

*Santa Clara University Law Library*

**OUTLANDER**, by Diana Gabaldon.

The first in a series of seven novels, **OUTLANDER** skillfully weaves European history, romance, and time travel to create a thoroughly enjoyable and engrossing reading experience. Set primarily in 18th century Scotland, Claire Beauchamp, a former WWII combat nurse, is enjoying a second honeymoon with her husband (a former British intelligence officer) in Scotland when she is ignominiously transported through an ancient stone formation 200 years back to the time period of her husband’s disreputable ancestor, Captain John Randall. Thrust into the midst of growing political tensions between Scotland and England, and suspected as a spy by both her Scottish protectors and the English dragoons who seek her capture, she must navigate her way back to the stones and her husband without revealing her secret. Regarded as a Sassenach - an outlander - by her Scottish allies, Claire finds herself caught between the cunning MacKenzie clan, the young Scots warrior called James Fraser, and her husband’s iniquitous ancestor, “Black Jack” Randall. The engaging plot will capture your interest; the extensive research, the detailed descriptions, the clever dialogue, and the never-ending suspense will keep you reading well into the wee hours of the morning. My favorite aspect of the novel- and of the series- is Claire’s continual effort to find peace with her circumstances and the two lives that she has led; despite the happiness she has found in both, a sense of guilt remains and will forever shape the decisions she will make.

---Jen Richter

*Sacramento County Public Law Library*

Highly recommend **THE FAMILY: THE SECRET FUNDAMENTALISM AT THE HEART OF AMERICAN POWER**, by Jeff Sharlet. Provides an interesting look into the “powers behind the throne.” I’m also enjoying **A TIGHT LIE** by Don Dahler about a pro golfer cum private investigator with a law degree solving a string of murders in LA. This loving depiction of the famous Bel Air golf course is fun without being too tedious for the golf-phobic. Finally, there’s **DEATH IN THE GARDEN** by Elizabeth Ironside. Helena, a type-A London solicitor, learns about a Great Uncle who was murdered 60 years ago. At first it looks like her beloved Great Aunt Diana was guilty, but was she?

---Jean Willis

*Sacramento Law Library*



## How to Make Ethical and Winning Use Of California Legislative History



1 Hour Ethics MCLE  
By Carolina C. Rose, J.D., President  
Legislative Research, Inc.

The Alameda County Law Library, as part of its Annual Bernard E. Witkin Symposium, is presenting Carolina C. Rose, *How to Make Ethical and Winning Use of California Legislative History*, on May 11, 2010.

If you missed her presentation at the Sacramento County Public Law Library, you won't want to miss it again. She is a dynamic and vivacious speaker and makes the topic come alive. For more details and registration form, see

<http://www.acgov.org/law/WitkinFlyerFinal.pdf>

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Congratulations to the winners of the NOCALL Election!

Vice President/President Elect: Holly Riccio

Treasurer: Claudia Cook

Member at Large: Sharon Borbon

Member at Large: Chuck Marcus



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

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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