

# NOCALL News

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

## I'll be seeing you soon!

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

It seems we're finally getting back to normal. Mask mandates are being lifted, downtown SF is no longer a ghost town, reservations are getting harder to come by, and the smell of movie theater popcorn permeates the Metreon again. I've ventured into museums, bookstores, and even a mega Target and did not run away each time someone got too close. Although it still feels 'wrong' to see people's faces, seeing their smiles is oh, so nice.

And the exciting news is, NOCALL is coming back to life!

Our next event is the Spring Institute which will be held via Zoom. The Institute takes a lot of time and effort to plan and, at the time, a virtual event was the safest way to go. Jeremy has scheduled a full day of sessions for us. Keep an eye out for the announcement email via the listserv.

On Wednesday, May 25th, we have our next Business Meeting. This meeting will be held virtually but hopefully it's the last one we Zoom. The guest speakers will be Steven Medley and Angela Gonzalez-Curci from Wilson Sonsini. They will talk to us about analytics in CI, how these skills have helped to advance their careers and the impact they are having in law libraries. Additionally, at the end of the meeting we will swear in the new NOCALL Board. I really hope you will join us to welcome them.

June is NOCALL membership renewal time. I know the past couple of years have seen lots of budget cuts and some of us are paying membership costs out of pocket. If you find it difficult to pay this year's dues, please to reach out to [us](#) before cancelling altogether; we will make it work somehow. Don't forget we offer discounted rates as well as rates for unemployed and retired members.

Then it's off to Denver in mid-July for AALL. I'm super excited for this conference because it's my first time attending in-person. SCALL is hosting the Pacific Chapters Joint Reception and we will also have a small NOCALL get-together at some point. Details will be shared via the listserv as we get closer to the event date, but please keep an eye out for an informal survey next week to gauge attendance.

In late July/early August, we will host our ~~40th~~ 42nd Anniversary Party, long postponed due to COVID. Still mulling ideas but top ones under consideration are: mini golf at [Stagecoach Greens](#) followed by grub at [Spark Social SF](#), a class/tour of [Dandelion Chocolate Factory](#) (provided they reopen), or wine tasting & nibbles at [Dashe Cellars](#). Keep an eye out for a survey via the listserv in May.



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## In This Issue

I'll be seeing you soon! .....	1
Legal Tech Recap .....	2
Professional Reading in Review .....	3
Happy Spring from the San Mateo County Law Library .....	4
Spotlight on... Steven Frankenstein ...	6

Finally in September Jeremy will host his first Business Meeting as President. We still have a credit at Marine's Memorial and hopefully we can have the meeting in person instead of zoom.

In the meantime, I'm back at Embarcadero 3 a few days a week. If anyone is interested in hitting Novela on a Friday after work (the [Josephine March](#) is amazing) or grabbing a lunch bite at Green Bar, drop me a line.

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## Legal Tech Recap

Kristie Chamorro, UC Berkeley Law Library

Greetings, NOCALLers! For this edition, I've included updates on some of the regular legal tech players, along with news on a few new platforms/products. As always, if you have any suggestions or legal tech topics you would like to see covered, please let me know!

### BriefCatch

BriefCatch, a "one-of-a-kind editing tool" used by Supreme Court Justices (as stated on its [website](#)), was recently [in the news](#) for securing a patent covering its AI system for editing legal documents. Bob Ambrogi ([LawSites](#) blog) included BriefCatch as one of the [10 latest additions](#) to his new [LawNext Legal Technology Directory](#).

### Docket Alarm/Fastcase

In early March, [Docket Alarm](#) by Fastcase [announced](#) a major software update that adds analytics for tracking motion timelines and outcomes in federal courts. In a

[March Dewey B Strategic post](#), Jean O'Grady reviewed the new features. Ambrogi also [reported](#) on the platform upgrade.

### HeinOnline

HeinOnline [announced](#) the release of the second edition of its [Multinational Sources Compared: A Subject and Jurisdiction Index](#), which includes new subjects and updated database tools.

In a recent [Tip of the Week](#), the HeinOnline team highlighted the [U.S. Congressional Serial Set](#), including a video tutorial and summary of how to use the Serial Set Lookup Tools to find content.

### Google

Google recently [highlighted](#) a suite of tools, including [Fact Check Explorer](#) and a new "highly cited" label in Google search results, aimed at combating misinformation. A number of blogs reported on these tools, including [beSpecific](#) and [Ars Technica](#).

Google is also [rolling out](#) a new appointment scheduling feature to selected Workspace accounts that will compete with [Calendly](#) and Doodle Poll's [Booking Page](#).

A recent [PCWorld post](#) reported that Google is bringing Google Meet video calls directly into Docs, Sheets, and Slides in mid-April.

### Legaltech Hub

[Legaltech Hub](#) announced a redesign and new content, including an expanded directory that now includes service offerings for technology implementation and an increased scope of its legal research category. O'Grady [covered](#) the launch.

## 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.

## Lexis

[LexisNexis Legal & Professional](#) recently [unveiled](#) a new API Developer Portal that enables legal departments and law firms to integrate content and analytics from LexisNexis products, including [Lexis+](#), [CourtLink](#), [Context](#) and [State Net](#), into their existing systems. In March, Ambrogi [reported](#) that the API Developer Portal is “[p]otentially one of the biggest legal tech stories” to come out of the 2022 [Legalweek](#) conference.

## Map Engine

[Map Engine](#), an application that enables users to easily create interactive maps to visualize and share surveys of law, regulations, or other data, released a major update that expands its map templates (which currently cover the U.S. states and territories) to include Canada, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

## Microsoft

PC World [covered](#) Microsoft’s recent integration of live and pre-recorded video into PowerPoint presentations, explaining that Microsoft is merging PowerPoint Cameo with its Recording Studio function. Users will now have more ways to add in video as a part of live and on-demand presentations.

## Thomson Reuter

Thomson Reuters released updated features to [Reuters Legal News](#) (RLN), including customizable reading and alerting tools. In February, Ambrogi [explained](#) how users can follow topics and entities with RLN and [O’Grady reported](#) on the updates and clarified the differences between RLN and [Westlaw Today](#).

## VoxGov

[VoxGov](#), which [O’Grady has described](#) as “a goldmine of hidden U.S. government insight and trends,” recently released new features and content sets, including interactive result tagging and a data filter for identifying images and statistics.

## Things You Should Check Out

In February, Ambrogi [announced](#) the launch of the [LawNext Legal Technology Directory](#), which he hopes “will become the most trusted source of legal tech products in the market.” In March, Ambrogi [featured](#) the latest products that have been added to the directory, including [ContractWorks](#), [rulings.law](#), and [Rowan Patents](#).

[KanbanFlow](#) is a web-based organizational tool that utilizes the [kanban](#) system for organizing information and time management. The [AALL PEGA-SIS blog](#) recently reviewed KanbanFlow, and it was featured during the [2022 NELLCO Symposium](#) as an efficient way to manage cross-department projects.

If you are interested in legal data, you should check out Sarah Sutherland’s new book, [Legal Data and Information in Practice: How Data and the Law Interact](#). Sutherland recently joined the hosts of [Three Geeks and a Law Blog](#) to discuss how the legal industry is leveraging data within its organizations.

Finally, a handy Zoom tip recently caught my eye. If you want to test your internet connection and make sure your microphone, camera, and speakers are working properly before you join a meeting, try [Zoom’s test meeting](#) feature.

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## Professional Reading in Review

Elisabeth McKechnie and Kristin Brandt,  
U.C. Davis Law Library

**“Viewed as Equals’: The Impacts of Library Organizational Cultures and Management on Library Staff Morale,”** by Ann Glusker, Celia Emmelhainz, Natalia Estrada and Bonita Dyess, *Journal of Library Administration*, Vol. 62, No. 2, 2022, pp. 153-189

Although previous studies have examined librarian morale, less attention has been paid to library staff. This study examined factors impacting morale of staff, defined as library employees in positions without the title “librarian” and which do not require an MLIS degree. The authors found that morale depended on workplace attributes such as the ability to progress, workload, respect, and funding. Staff who reported high morale felt supported by and connected with an immediate supervisor. Staff also responded positively to transparent communication on the part of supervisors, as well as support for staff growth and autonomy. Low morale was reported by staff who worked in toxic settings or were micromanaged by supervisors. A key finding was the importance of respect, regardless of position. As one participant put it, librarians should “fill their own damn copier trays.”

**“Using an Evaluation Grid to Holistically Assess Library Databases”** by Summer Durrant, *Collection Management*, Vol. 47, No. 1, 2022, pages 20-36, available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01462679.2021.1958723>

Librarians of all types often have to decide which online resources need to be cancelled because of high cost or lack of use. This concept is summarized as Cost Per Use or CPU. The librarians of Mary Washington University have come up with a better way of evaluating the multiple databases against each other when costs must be cut: an Evaluation Grid. As described in the article (with an example grid attached as an appendix) online resources can be evaluated for cost, ease of use, alignment to curriculum and vendor response among other details. Each resource is scored according to 20 total metrics with a possible high of 100 points. Those which scored at or below the 10th percentile (51 points or fewer) were actively investigated for potential cancellation. The two factors in which products missed the most points were CPU, followed by content and then curriculum alignment. The librarians found that this transparent method of comparison made it easier to explain a cancellation to faculty and students. While the method was created to support academic librarians, there is no reason it couldn't also be used for any library with multiple similar databases.

**“West Key Number System Keeps Adapting--Newest Renovation: Evidence”** by Mary Whisner, *Gallagher Blogs*, Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Available at <http://gallagherlawlibrary.blogspot.com/2022/03/west-key-number-system-keeps-adapting.html>

Westlaw's Key Number System, a perennial librarian favorite, has had a recent rework. This was originally announced via the Thomson Reuters Information Management Consultant Newsletter (unavailable online but very informative, it's free, you should subscribe via your rep!). This article focuses on adaptations made in response to changes in the law and technology. For example, Evidence has been completely reworked and renumbered. The old numbers still work but the new numbers do too. They even reflect current technology by adding a headnote for "hearsay issues with respect to emails, text messages, and social media posts." Far from being an outdated remnant of the pre-electronic age, the Key Numbers are still relevant today.

**“The Passing of the Pneumatic Tube System of the Law Library-Picture of the Week”** by Margaret Wood, *In Custodia Legis, Law Librarians of Congress*, Tuesday, March 18, 2022. Available at <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2022/03/the-passing-of-the-pneumatic-tube-system-in-the-law-library-picture-of-the-week/>

Another Law Library of Congress tradition bites the dust due to time and COVID. The pneumatic tube system, formerly used by the public to request materials, has finally been closed down and bricked up. This short piece describes the history of this nifty system, which was often demonstrated to tourists and small children. Alas, over time it dwindled in use until the 2020 COVID closure finally killed it.

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## Happy Spring from the San Mateo County Law Library

Marcia Woods, San Mateo County Law Library

The San Mateo County Law Library is located at 710 Hamilton Street in Redwood City, California. We have been serving attorneys and the public since 1916. We have a staff of 5, and our Director is Caroline Bracco.

We are happy to announce we are back for in-person services with no restrictions from 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday–Friday!!

It has been a challenging 2 years since March 2020 when COVID-19 caused us to close our doors. Despite a few months of operating remotely by telephone and emails, and, at times, by appointments and curbside services, we were still able to provide assistance during that time to more than 1,500 patrons. Our Community Law Night which provides 20 minute consultations with local attorneys once a month continued by telephone, as did the Consumer Law Clinic. Students from Canada College's Paralegal Program used the Library for research on some Saturdays, and we continued our intern program with Skyline College's Paralegal Program, although sometimes remotely. It was amazing to think of new ways to still reach out and help people with their legal problems, as well as providing support to attorneys who were endeavoring to keep working.

Now we have a new website which we invite everyone to visit at [smclawlibrary.org](http://smclawlibrary.org), and we are expanding our programs to bring them back to pre-pandemic levels.

Community Law Night will continue by telephone once a month, providing free legal advice for 20 minutes from local attorneys on Family Law, Probate, and Civil Law questions. The Consumer Law and Debt Clinic provided by Bay Area Legal Aid will return to in-person appointments at the Law Library, as well as telephone appointments on the first Wednesday of each month. This is a very popular program which allows patrons to consult with Legal Aid attorneys on subjects like debt collection, fair credit reporting, wage garnishment, and other consumer legal issues.

We continue to offer in-person help for patrons with Expungements to clear their records of past convictions that may be hindering their search for a job or entrance to schools, and there is a video tutorial on Expungements on our website for people who cannot come into the Library.

We also help people in-person to complete Vacating Default Judgments from traffic tickets. This has become quite a necessity since many people missed their court appearances during COVID, and received Default Judgments for non-appearance due to no fault of their own. When the Traffic Court was closed in South San Francisco, we actually provided a Traffic Clinic there, one day a week, to help people fill out paperwork to submit to the Clerk to clear their records.

We are very pleased to be able to offer full services to all of our patrons again!



# Steven Frankenstein

Morrison & Foerster

## **How did you choose law librarianship as a career?**

Absolute truth: I needed a job and answered an ad in the *New York Times*.

## **If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?**

I'm not sure if they are the most likely, but journalist and congressional staffer are careers I could see myself having entered. In an ideal world I would have been a history professor.

## **Who or what has had the greatest impact on your law librarian career?**

Early in my career my then boss, Douglas Cinque, really encouraged me to dig into M&A and securities research, including reading the kinds of materials an associate would use to educate themselves. That made the work more interesting, and set the foundation for a long-standing specialty in those and related areas.

## **What was the last book you read that you really enjoyed and why?**

*Wagnerism: Art and Politics in the Shadow of Music* by Alex Ross. I don't even know why I even picked this up, since I have almost no knowledge of Wagner's music, but it is a fascinating book. Ross brings out the myriad ways in which Wagner's music and writings affected culture over many generations, and how he was embraced by elements of the right and the left, anti-Semites and Jews, reactionaries and modernists, etc.

## **Which 3 books made the biggest impression on you? How did they do so?**

*World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America and the Life They Found and Made* by Irving Howe – when I was in high school my grandfather gave me a copy of this mammoth history of the Jewish Lower East Side. While Howe greatly respects that world, he also gives a fuller, less sentimental picture of life there.

*The Politics of Cultural Despair* by Fritz Stern – when I read this in college I don't think I had any idea that Nazism had intellectual underpinnings. Stern analyzes this through a detailed consideration of three German nationalist thinkers, who shared a sense of pessimism and decline.

*The Crying of Lot 49* by Thomas Pynchon – a short comic novel published in 1966 that seems to perfectly capture a moment in time when American life is becoming unhinged. It's equally hysterically funny, foreboding and sad. California house-wife Oedipa Maas returns from a Tupperware party to a fateful piece of mail which will embroil her in a web of inter-locking conspiracies ... or does she just meet a bunch of deluded people?

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