

OBITER DICTUM

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 8
MARCH 1, 2004

LIBRARY HOURS



The library will operate on a normal schedule during law school Spring Recess, March 15 through March 19.

For details, check the Legal Research Center web site at <http://www.sandiego.edu/lrc/hours.html>.

PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF US

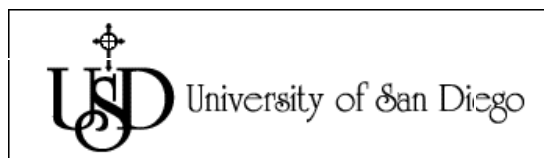


This month, LRC patrons have a unique opportunity to win valuable prizes by taking a quick survey about how well the law library meets their needs. The survey, which is called "LibQUAL+," was developed by the Association of Research Libraries. The LRC is participating as a member of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Law Libraries Consortium.

The survey is available online, and completing it is simple and takes only a few minutes. Just go to <http://survey.libqual.org/index.cfm?ID=753633> (the link is available on the LRC home page), and fill out the questionnaire. Survey answers are confidential; the questionnaires go directly to LibQUAL+, and any identifying information is removed before they share the results with the LRC. At the end of the survey, there will be a random electronic drawing; participants can win either the grand prize of a Personal Digital Assistant or one of five \$50 cash prizes (only one entry per person is permitted).

Law faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to use this means for giving feedback about law library service. Our ABA self-study report and site inspection visit are just around the corner, and the accreditation team will be investigating what we have done to obtain user assessment. We are hoping for wide patron participation to provide us with valuable insights into how we can best support legal study and research.

The newsletter section of OBITER DICTUM may be found at <http://www.SanDiego.edu/lrc/obiter.html>



LRC GOES WIRELESS

The LRC now offers wireless 54 Mbs Internet access in the Reading Room and Information Services area for USD faculty, staff, and students. Virtually any wireless card will work. Patrons who have Ethernet cards that require wired links can still use any of the hundreds of wired Internet connections that are available at LRC study carrels. Please contact the Electronic Services Office in LRC 121 or at x4759 or osmith@SanDiego.edu with any questions. *Submitted by Owen Smith, Head of Electronic Services.*

COURSE PACKS & COPYRIGHT

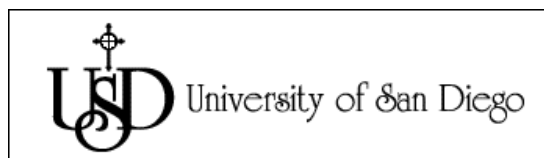
KB Books, a small bookseller with stores near San Diego State U., San Diego City College, and Mesa College, has been sued by several publishers, including Harvard Business School Publishing, The New York Times, Elsevier, and John Wiley & Sons, for failing to seek copyright permission to include copied materials from articles and books in course packs. The lawsuit and two other similar suits filed recently were coordinated by the Copyright Clearance Center, which licenses materials and collects copyright fees for authors and publishers. The San Diego Union-Tribune, *Illegal Copying Alleged in Lawsuit* (Jan. 27, 2004), available at 2004 WL 58981517.

At USD, faculty are encouraged to use the Campus Bookstore's course pack service to ensure that copyright clearance is properly obtained. Because obtaining clearance is a time-consuming process, the Bookstore requests that course packs be ordered at the same time that textbook orders are due. In addition, it is vital that the source of all copied material, including material printed from LexisNexis©, Westlaw©, and other electronic sources, be clearly and fully identified to expedite the clearance process. For details about ordering course packs, go to <http://www.usdbookstore.com/>, and click on the [Faculty Information](#) link at the top of the page or under "MERCHANDISE" on the left side of the page.

BLACKMUN PAPERS OPEN TO PUBLIC

On March 4, the fifth anniversary of the death of Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun, the Library of Congress will release the over 503,800 items in its collection of the late jurist's papers. Included among the 1,576 boxes to be made available will be case files, videotaped oral history interviews, notes exchanged between the justices, law school notebooks, diaries, materials for speeches, and correspondence. The Library has prepared a 362-page finding aid to the collection, which may be previewed at <http://www.thememoryhole.org/legal/blackmun-finding-aid.htm>.

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