

OBITER DICTUM

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LIBRARY HOURS

The library will be closed on Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.



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

LIBRARY VISITS INCREASE BY 7%



As counted by the electronic security gate, the number of trips people made into the LRC during the 2004-05 academic year was 322,583. This is an increase of 24,065 visits over 2003-04.

CLASS RESEARCH GUIDES



By this time, law faculty should have received and distributed the new "Find What You Need" guides that LRC librarians created for each Fall 2005 law class. These guides provide brief bibliographies of the major research sources related to each class's subject area. Both electronic and print formats are included.

If you have not received the guides for a class you teach, or if you would like to comment on the content of the guide or schedule a librarian to give a research lecture, please contact Head of Public Services John Adkins at extension 4766 or by e-mail at adkins@sandiego.edu.

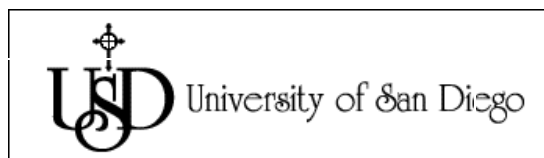
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT UNDERWAY



In observance of the 50th anniversary of the School of Law, an oral history project was initiated by the Legal Research Center to record the development and growth of legal education at USD. This historical record is created by recording interviews of long term members of the law school community on audiotape. The interviewees are asked to share their recollections about the early days of the law school. The interview tapes are transcribed, and the tapes and transcripts are preserved in the University Archives at Copley Library.

This oral history project has been named "Conversations in Legal Education: Oral Histories of the First Half-Century of the University of San

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ORAL HISTORY (cont.)



Diego School of Law.” Initial interviewees include Professors Carl Auerbach, Frank Engfelt, Grant Morris, and Joseph Darby. Transcription of these interviews is currently in progress. The next phase of the project will include the continuation of the interview process and the development of a Web site to make the interview contents accessible over the Internet.

Suggestions, questions, and comments about the oral history project should be directed to LRC Associate Director Ruth Levor at extension 4604 or by e-mail at rlevor@sandiego.edu.

LIBRARY RECORDS SUBPOENAED UNDER PATRIOT ACT



The FBI has used Section 505 of the USA PATRIOT Act to obtain electronic library records in Connecticut. Because the USA PATRIOT Act forbids disclosure of details surrounding such investigations, the name of the library is being kept confidential, though it is known to be a member of the American Library Association (ALA). At issue is the authority to subpoena library records using an administrative subpoena called a national security letter (NSL), which does not require a judge's approval. Records searched could include all the Web sites visited and all the e-mail sent and received by anyone who used the library's computers.

ALA Immediate Past President Carol Brey-Casiano expressed concern about the recent subpoena, “Despite the Justice Department’s repeated assertions that it has no interest in Americans’ reading records, this case again proves that the government is demanding patron information from America’s libraries.”



Two bills reauthorizing the USA PATRIOT Act have passed in the House and Senate and will go to conference next month. The Senate bill, S. 1389 (the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005), adds many of the safeguards for privacy of reading records that have been sought by ALA since the passage of the law, including tougher requirements for searching library records under Section 215 and opportunities to challenge an NSL as violating a constitutional or legal right and to challenge the gag order. The House Bill (H.R. 3199 – The USA PATRIOT and Terrorism Prevention Reauthorization Act of 2005) does not include improved reader privacy protections. *Suggested by Head of Electronic Services Owen Smith and taken mainly from the ALA Web site at <http://www.ala.org/Template.cfm?Section=News&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=102669>.*



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