



OBITER DICTUM

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LIBRARY HOURS

Despite the fact that Wednesday, March 21, is the first day of spring and the Mexican holiday celebrating the birthday of national hero President Benito Juarez, the library will be open for its normal hours.



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

SAVE THE DAY



The Energy Policy Act of 2005 at 15 U.S.C. 260a (a) has given us an extra month of daylight saving time. On Sunday, March 11, at 2:00 A.M., we "spring forward," which we did not do last year until April 2. For an entertaining collection of information about time changes, go to <http://www.energy.ca.gov/daylightsaving.html>, the California Energy Commission's page about SAVING TIME, SAVING ENERGY: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME, ITS HISTORY AND WHY WE USE IT. The site includes a DST timetable, going back to 1990 and projecting forward to 2015. *Suggested by Sushila Selness, Head of Collection Services.*

IN THE LIBRARY, RULES ARE RULES!

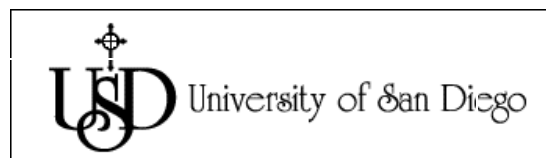


Usually, law librarians facilitate public access to the legal system, but in *Phillips v. Hust*, No. 04-36021, 2007 WL 446593 (9th Cir. Feb. 13, 2007), the Court ruled that the arbitrary denial by prison officials of access to resources that the prison routinely made available to inmates for the preparation of legal documents constitutes a denial of an inmate's right of access to the courts where it results in the loss of a legal claim. At issue was the use of a comb-binding machine needed by the plaintiff to bind a brief. Evidence in the record shows that the prisoner was arbitrarily refused use of the machine by the prison librarian.

This is indeed a rare blight on our profession! However, it should be noted that

Phillips and Hust had a history of strained relations resulting from an incident in which Phillips, in violation of prison policy, used a prison typewriter to draft a letter to the West Group to inquire

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LIBRARY RULES
(cont.)



about some advance sheets missing from the library's collection. Misinterpreting Phillips's letter as a request for replacement advance sheets, West mailed duplicates to the prison library. Hust initiated disciplinary proceedings against Phillips ...

Id. at *2.

And they think *we're* strict about library rules! *Suggested by Margaret McDonald, Technical Services Librarian.*

**FINDING
RESEARCH
GUIDES**



Cornell Law Library is pleased to announce its new Legal Research Engine available at

<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/guides/researchengine.asp>.

This specialized search engine helps users easily find authoritative online legal research guides on every subject. It searches approximately 20 different web sites that either prolifically publish guides or index and link to guides. The number of web sites searched was deliberately kept small to keep search results manageable and focused. You can also add it to your Google home page.



Women's History Month

**HONORING
WOMEN
LAWYERS**



Among this March's National Women's History Project honorees for Women's History Month are two attorneys. Martha Wright Griffiths was the wife in the first married couple to graduate from the University of Michigan law school in 1940. In 1954, she became the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. Congress from Michigan. She was re-elected nine times and served through 1974. Her crowning legislative achievements were her successful advocacy for the inclusion of women in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the passage by Congress of the Equal Rights Amendment (the ERA subsequently fell three states short of ratification).



Constance Baker Motley's pioneering career as a civil rights lawyer, lawmaker, and judge spanned six decades and was highlighted by numerous historic achievements, including becoming the first African American woman accepted at Columbia Law School, the first African American woman elected to the New York Senate, the first woman and the first black woman to hold the position of Manhattan Borough President, and the first African American woman appointed to serve as a federal district judge.

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