

LIBRARY HOURS



The library will remain open on Presidents Day, Monday, February 18.

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

WHERE DID THAT LAW GO?



Many states lack the resources to ensure that the information they produce in digital form only, such as legislative records, court case files and executive agency records, is preserved for long-term access. The Library of Congress has taken a collaborative approach to the collection and preservation of digital information in order to remain relevant and useful to Congress and its constituents in the digital age. The LOC 's National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/library/> is an initiative to catalyze collaborative efforts to preserve important state government information in digital form. The projects will collect several significant categories of digital information such as geospatial data, legislative records, court case files, Web-based publications and executive agency records. Each project will also work to share tools, services, and best practices to help every state make progress in managing its digital heritage. The goal of the program is to develop a national strategy to collect, archive, and preserve the growing amounts of digital content for current and future generations.

HEARINGS ON DEMAND



Major Congressional hearings are often transcribed in real-time by commercial vendors, but those are copyrighted works that are only available to those who pay for them. Up until now, it took more than six months for public-domain transcripts of most hearings to become available. They had to work their way through an arduous proofing and approval process before finally being published by the Government Printing Office. Now, without any formal announcement, Henry Waxman's House Oversight Committee <http://oversight.house.gov/hearings.asp> has started Web-publishing the preliminary transcripts of its hearings prepared by official stenographers as soon as they are available -- typically within a few days of the hearing.

**THE MAKING
OF MODERN
PROBATE LAW**

Our wonderful new online collection “The Making of Modern Law” can amuse as well as instruct and inform. A keyword search for legal humor on the SALLY catalog yielded the record for “**Legal Life and Humour [electronic resource].**” A click on the link *Connect to full text online* led to the citation for the hard copy of this 1914 English work held in the Harvard Law School Library. More clicks and you have the table of contents and clear images that easily convert to PDF for downloading. The example below is from *CHAPTER XII HUMOURS OF FAMOUS LAWYERS’ WILLS AMUSING BEQUESTS OF SPITEFUL TESTATORS* “*The lawyer is a gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies — and keeps it to himself.*” — Lord Brougham.



But what is to be said of a lawyer who draws up his own will, and makes such a hash of it that costly litigation follows. Many are the suggestions made as to the cause of these remarkable circumstances. One suggestion is that lawyers love a joke as much as anyone, and better, because their profession is so dry, and a bit of humour is like a ray of sunshine to their hearts. Therefore they make an imperfect will as a last joke on their profession.

Another suggestion is that some lawyers deliberately choose to leave a will in such a way that it is bound to come before the Courts, and so get settled certain points which the deceased thought strongly ought to be settled. Which is certainly hard lines on the relatives and beneficiaries. They see the estate slowly vanishing in law costs, and enriching the brother lawyers of the deceased.

As a matter of fact, however, there is an actual case on record of a lawyer who purposely framed his will so that its ambiguity should give rise to several fine legal questions that he had never been able to answer. This was Sir John Maynard, King’s Sergeant in the reign of Charles II. His object was attained, for so many disputes arose among his heirs, that eventually a special Act of Parliament was passed disposing of his property.

**PRIMARY
SOURCES**



Got the election bug? You can find the official California Voter Information Guide in the California Room at KFC710 .A78. For a breakdown of voting results in the infamous 2000 presidential primary, take a look at STATEMENT OF VOTE at KFC710 .A152 2000, and for some early 20th-century views of the topic, check out LOUISE OVERACKER, *THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY*/JK522 .O8 1974 (a reprint of the 1926 edition) and J. T. SALTER, ED., *THE DIRECT PRIMARY*/K1 .A4 no. 195 1923 from the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.