



Cincinnati Law Library News

A Monthly Newsletter from the Cincinnati Law Library Association

March 2007

Get Practical: New ALI-ABA Partnership Starts in April

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David Whelan, Law Librarian

Your practice requires you to have access to as much information as possible. While the Law Library is the obvious source for much of your legal research, we pride ourselves on our practical value to your practice. To that end, we have negotiated a one-of-a-kind member benefit with ALI-ABA, a nationally known CLE provider and publisher. ALI-ABA has selected our Law Library as their first pilot program for a partnership of this nature.

Practical Lawyer & CLE Materials

Starting in April 2007, solos and firm Law Library Association members will receive 24 hour access to two ALI-ABA resources:

- the Practical Lawyer
- Business Law Course Materials Journal

Both resources will include current content as well as the last 6 years of archived materials. They are a subset of the Law Library's in-house subscription to the ALI-ABA Direct to Library database. When you visit the

Law Library, you can access the Practical Litigator and other *Practical* publications as well as books, forms, and CLE materials from the other substantive areas of the ALI-ABA library.

Live and Web CLE

The Law Library will also be a provider of quarterly ALI-ABA CLE courses. These seminars are often multi-day and include a live, interactive broadcast from a national location. The Law Library will be one of those locations, and members of the Association will receive discounts on seminar registration by attending the CLE at the Law Library.

Additionally, the Law Library and ALI-ABA will have a Web site accessible to our members, where you can purchase on-demand Web-based CLE and other ALI-ABA books.

Get Practical!

Look for the new link on our members-only pages starting in April! Try out the new content and let us know how we can increase the value of your membership!

The Cincinnati Law Library Association

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Visit Your Clients Behind Bars with Video Conferencing

David Whelan, Law Librarian

A fundamental benefit of technology is using it to communicate with your clients. Whether you choose e-mail, mail-merged form letters, or a calendar "tickler" system to keep your clients informed, technology can help. Now video-conferencing technology can assist you in meeting with your clients

who are behind bars. It is not ideal for all clients, and should not be used for confidential discussions, but can help you meet with your client more regularly without necessitating a drive across the state to see them.

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The right connections make all the difference.

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Visit Your Clients, continued from page 1

The Law Library has a state-of-the-art videoconferencing system that can connect to other systems anywhere accessible to the Internet. The Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections has videoconferencing equipment in all but one of its facilities. A prisoner is led into the room with the videoconferencing camera and screen, and the system makes a call to the Law Library. Our videoconferencing system answers, and your client appears on the screen.

In our first test – calling a prisoner detained at the Madison Correctional Institution – showed both the benefits and the differences in using technology. While the video was essentially in real-time, the attorney and client had to get used to speaking as if they were on a telephone, because otherwise the audio overlapped and neither could be heard. The ability to see the other person speaking, however, helped each side to get used to this new way of interacting.

How Can You Do It?

The technology is not the challenge in meeting with your client. Instead, the scheduling poses the only real obstacle. So here's a quick guide to

CLE @ the Law Library: LexisNexis

Do you use the Law Library's LexisNexis subscription and wish you could find information more quickly or navigate Shepard's more easily? Come down to the Law Library on **Friday, March 23** for 2 free CLE classes at the Law Library on LexisNexis. A LexisNexis trainer will provide a **basic course from 9am to 10am** and an **advanced course from 10:30 to 11:30**. Both courses are approved for 1 hour of general CLE credit.



setting up your virtual client visits:

1. Call Madonna at the Law Library to **make sure our equipment is available** on the day you need it (946-5300). She will block off the time you request.

2. **Call the correctional institution** and confirm that they have videoconferencing, and the time they can move your prisoner to the room where it is located. You should do this as far in advance as possible. You can find contact numbers at the DRC's Web site:

<http://www.drc.state.oh.us/web/prisprog.htm>

We are not aware of any institutions that refuse videoconferencing access to prisoners but you may find that certain institutions do not support this service, despite having the technology.

3. Once you have the time scheduled with the institution, call Madonna back at the Law Library and confirm the time, and we will **schedule the call with the DRC's videoconferencing** administrators.

Videoconferencing can be an effective and time-efficient way to improve your communication with your clients who are seeking post-conviction relief. If you have any questions or would like to see the Law Library's videoconferencing equipment tested, please call David Whelan or Julie Koehne at 946-5300.

Member Benefits

All members have access to the following valuable resources and services:

Circulation privileges to borrow from over 40,000 print volumes for **up to 6 weeks** at a time

Access to extensive electronic databases from the Law Library, including **LexisNexis, Shepards', CCH Omnitax, CCH Human Resources Group, and CCH Business Group** resources, **Hein Online Law Journals** and **Federal Register**, and over 70 **Aspen / LOISLaw** treatises in 16 substantive areas

Wireless network throughout the Law Library

Polycom **videoconferencing**

5 meeting rooms with speaker phones

Professional **reference service** by our law librarians, available via e-mail, telephone, and in person;

Free **document delivery** by fax or e-mail of print and electronic materials

Inexpensive **CLE seminars** throughout the year, on legal research and substantive topics

In addition, solos and members whose firm has a membership have **24 hour remote access** to Fastcase.com case law and Aspen/LOISLaw treatises

Ohio Supreme Court: Faster, Larger, LIVE!

Want pointers on excellent courtroom delivery? Following a case that is on appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court? Now you can use your Law Library membership to watch oral arguments before the Court without traveling to Columbus!

The Ohio Supreme Court has been delivering its oral arguments over the Web using streaming video. This enables anyone to go to the Court's Web site and either watch the oral arguments live or watch them later from the Court's archive of arguments.

But who wants to watch on a computer screen and over what may be a slow Internet connection?

Faster, Faster - & Free Coffee!

Enter the Law Library. We are projecting the oral arguments, live, onto a large screen to make it easier to see, and we are using a high-bandwidth T1 to make sure the video is as fast and in "real time" as possible. Now you can

come down to the Law Library, get away from the phone and e-mail, grab a cup of coffee and watch the arguments.

Following a particular case? Find out when it is scheduled for argument at the Clerk of Court's calendar: http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Clerk_of_Court/calendar/default.asp.



The next Supreme Court oral argument broadcasts will be on April 3rd and 4th. We will broadcast from 9am until the arguments end, usually between 11:30 and noon.

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