

2017 JOINT SPRING MEETING

**GROUP LEGAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION
SOLO, SMALL FIRM, AND GENERAL PRACTICE DIVISION
STANDING COMMITTEE ON GROUP & PREPAID LEGAL SERVICES
MAY 18-20, 2017
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

FREE LEGAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017
1:00 - 2:00**

PRESENTER: MICHAEL J. MASLANKA



Michael J. Maslanka
Sacks, Goreczny, Maslanka & Costello, PC
Chicago, IL

Michael J. Maslanka is an attorney in the full-service downtown Chicago, Illinois law firm of Sacks, Goreczny, Maslanka & Costello, P.C. Michael is a graduate of Brother Rice High School (Chicago, IL), Saint Xavier College (now known as Saint Xavier University) (Chicago, IL), and Southern Illinois University School of Law (Carbondale, IL). He has been licensed to practice law in Illinois since 1984, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

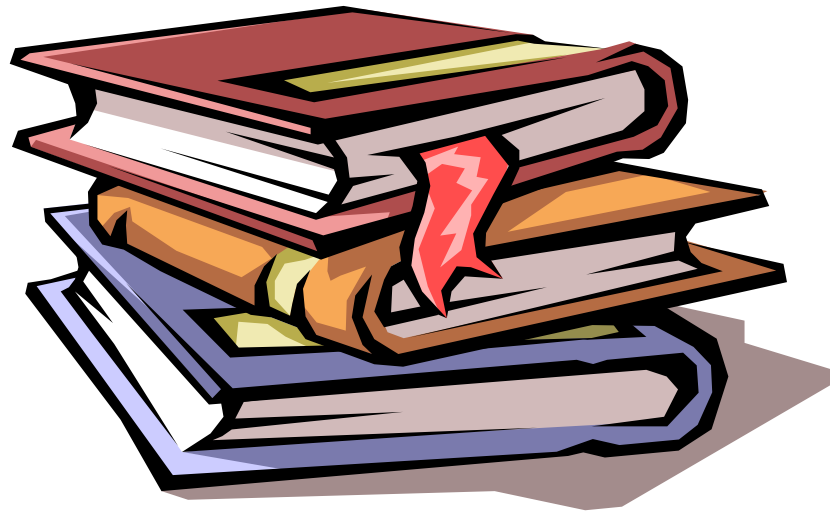
He is a member of the following associations: American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, and the Illinois Real Estate Lawyers Association. He is a Fellow of the Illinois Bar Foundation, and has been actively involved in the work of the Illinois State Bar Association for over 27 years, and is a member of the Human Rights Section Council, and the Real Estate Law Section Council. He is a member of, and a Past President of, Group Legal Services Association (formerly API), and a former member of an American Bar Association Standing Committee. He also serves as a mentor for many GLSA members.

Michael has co-authored articles which were published in law journals. He has spoken at many Continuing Legal Education seminars, been quoted in the L.A. Times and in several law journal articles, and authors many legal articles for newsletters, a trade association, and a title insurance company. Michael was a guest speaker on a cable television program, and is a member of the St. Xavier University Estate Planning Advisory Council. He also is a tutor at a public library for those who have English as a second language.

Over 32 years, Michael has represented hundreds of clients, including laborers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals, in a wide variety of cases. He is fluent in Spanish. He has received dozens of recommendations and endorsements. Over his career he has

represented clients in the Illinois Appellate Court, successfully pursued political asylum for a Haitian national, defended consumers' rights, settled many claims, including against Unicare, effected reimbursement for a client from a car dealer in a fraudulent sale transaction, pursued penalties from governing state agencies against defendants, and helped a parent in one case collect over \$25,000.00 lump sum in past-due child support and expenses. Michael won a 5-day probate trial regarding a revocable living trust, which favorable decision became final after almost 2 years of appellate court challenge, including in the Illinois Supreme Court.

Finally, Michael has been making *pro bono* in-home and nursing center visits for many years, to veterans, seniors, and disabled clients in Chicago and the suburbs.



**“RESEARCH RESOURCES AT
THE RIGHT PRICE...\$0!”**

**2017 GLSA ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA



WELCOME TO GLSA MEMBERS,
ABA MEMBERS, TRUSTEES,
PROVIDERS, ADMINISTRATORS,
ATTENDEES, ... WELL, JUST TO
EVERYONE!

BY: ATTORNEY

MICHAEL J. MASLANKA

SACKS, GORECZNY, MASLANKA &
COSTELLO, P.C.

79 W. MONROE ST.

SUITE 912

CHICAGO, IL 60603

312 641 2424

FAX 312 641 1054

(PAST GLSA/API BOARD PRESIDENT)

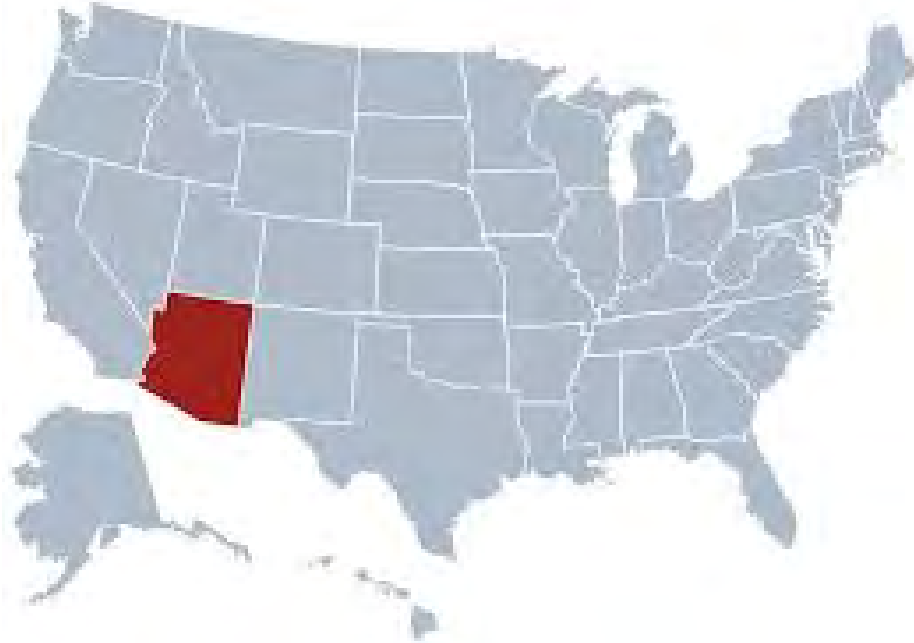
WWW.SGMCLEGAL.COM

MAY 18, 2017

GLAD YOU'RE HERE



**SOME QUIZZES ALONG THE WAY.
MANY ARE ARIZONA-
RELATED...HINT HINT.**



LET'S
BEGIN

LET'S DISCUSS THAT
4 LETTER WORD
THAT BEGINS WITH
'F' THAT WE ALL
KNOW SO WELL!!

FREE



GROUP AND PREPAID LEGAL SERVICE PLAN PROVIDERS

ON A BUDGET? REDUCE COSTS?
MORE PROFIT?

TRUSTEES/ADMINISTRATORS
LIKE EFFICIENCY!



FREE LEGAL RESEARCH

FOR ALL, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR
NEWER ATTORNEYS AND
ATTORNEYS NEW TO GROUP AND
PREPAID LEGAL SERVICE PLANS



COMPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLEMENT

I.E.

LEXIS, WESTLAW, LOISLAW, ETC.

ISBA, “STEIDENHAMMER-
SYNDROME,” AND ETHICS



THE GOAL??

FIND A FEW NEW USEFUL SITES
BEFORE YOU GO

QUIZ 1

JUST A SIMPLE DEFINITION

- <http://dictionary.law.com/>
- COURT OPINIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS CONTINUE TO INCLUDE DEFINITIONS OF WORDS FROM WEBSTER'S AND BLACK'S, ETC.
- i.e. INTEREST OR UNDUE HARDSHIP IN BANKRUPTCY



DISCLAIMER 1

A SAMPLING OF SITES ONLY

NO GUARANTEES OR
WARRANTIES, BUT....



DISCLAIMER 2

THE VIEWS HEREIN ARE NOT OF
GLSA OR API OR ABA BUT OF MJM,
AND NO SITES ARE ENDORSED



DISCLAIMER 3

NOT LEGAL ADVICE, GUIDANCE,
OR COUNSEL, JUST INFORMATION
FROM A SPEAKER WHO HAD A
LOT OF FREE TIME TO DO THIS
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION.



FLEXIBILITY AND TIME SAVING SITES

YOU, YOUR PARALEGAL,
SECRETARY, AND LAW CLERK
CAN NAVIGATE AND RESEARCH



LAW SCHOOLS

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW LISTSERV

U.S. SUPREME COURT CASES SUMMARIES +
UPDATES (SAME DAY OR NEXT DAY)

TO SUBSCRIBE:

[http://lists.willamette.edu/mailman/listinfo/wlo-
ussc/](http://lists.willamette.edu/mailman/listinfo/wlo-
<u>ussc/</u>)



LAW SCHOOLS

-CORNELL

LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTE

<http://www.law.cornell.edu>

INCLUDES WORLD LAW



LAW SCHOOLS

-SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

<http://www.law.siu.edu/lawlib/>

LAW SCHOOLS

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL AND
COLORADO LAW SCHOOL
PROJECT

<http://altlaw.org/v1/search/advanced>

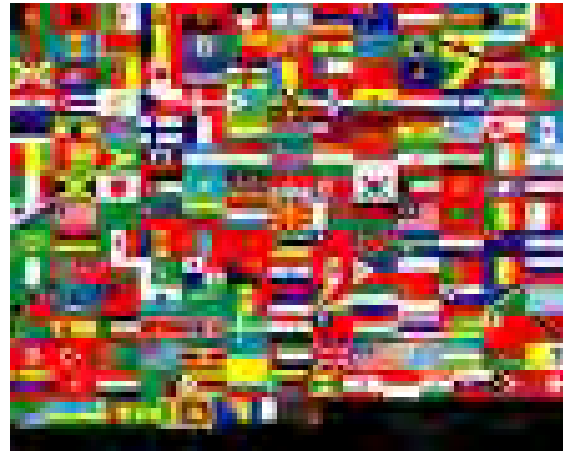
FEDERAL CASE SEARCH (LIKE
LEXIS OR WESTLAW)

LAW SCHOOLS

-UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
1 SITE TO 100 MORE SITES FOR
RESEARCH

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/research/research.html#uscts/>

-OTHERS



LAW SCHOOLS

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

<http://www.washlaw.edu/forint/forintmain.html>

FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL
LAW, ETC.



LAW SCHOOLS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/statelaw

CASES, NEWSPAPERS, LIBRARIES

TIP: YOUR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
SAYS THERE IS AN EXTRA CHARGE
FOR A CASE...\$\$\$\$\$

GO TO GOOGLE, YAHOO,
MOZILLA, ETC. AND PUT IN SAME
CRITERIA...RESULT COULD BE
FREE. MY EXAMPLE:

In re MARRIAGE OF TAMI BLUME



LAW LIBRARY

<http://www.lectlaw.com/>



PUBLIC LIBRARIES

ACCESS TO WESTLAW, LEXIS, ETC.

-PIERCE COUNTY (WA) LAW LIBRARY

-ST. PAUL (MN) PUBLIC LIBRARY

-MOST COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

UNION GROUP AND PREPAID LEGAL SERVICE PLANS+

**TEACHERS, POLICE, FIRE
LOCALS**

HOTEL/RESTAURANT LOCALS

PLUMBERS LOCALS

HOMEOWNERS

EAP, ETC.



WHAT DO YOUR LEGAL PLANS COVER?

EVERYTHING FROM A-Z?
ADOPTION TO ZONING?

QUIZ.....

WHAT GRAMMATICAL TERM
IS IT?

**“EVERYTHING BUT THE
KITCHEN SINK?”**

STATE AND FEDERAL COURT OPINIONS

- <https://www.courtlistener.com/>
- GOOD FOR OPINIONS. SHEPARD'S TOOL IS.....

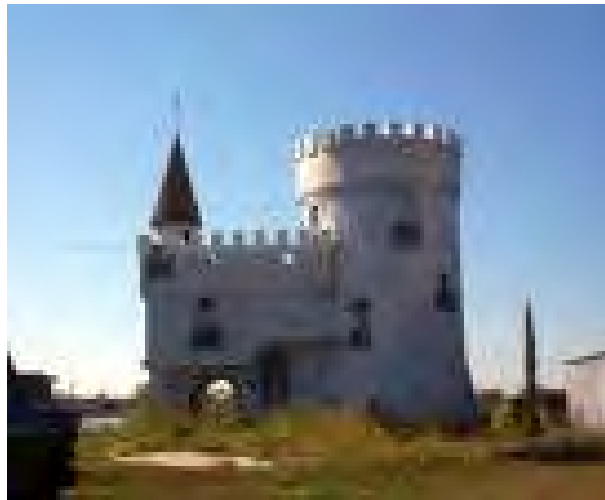


REAL ESTATE

TITLE COMPANIES,
UNDERWRITERS, PRIVATE
CORPORATIONS

www.thelegaldescription.com

<http://www.thefund.com/portal/about/>



REAL ESTATE

FHA+

<https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>

ARTICLES, RULES, REGULATIONS,
AND MORE

REAL ESTATE

AMERICAN LAND TITLE
ASSOCIATION

ALTA

<http://www.alta.org>

TITLE INSURANCE AND RELATED
ISSUES AND LINKS



REAL ESTATE

www.respanews.com

OCTOBER RESEARCH
CORPORATION

HAS LIBRARY AND OFFERS
NEWSLETTER, CASELAW, ETC.



IMMIGRATION

<http://www.ilw.com/>

IMMIGRATION

<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/virtual-law-library>

VIRTUAL LAW LIBRARY
FEDERAL REGISTER, BOARD OF
IMMIGRATION APPEALS CASES,
AND MUCH MORE

IMMIGRATION

NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW
CENTER

<http://www.nilc.org/>

IMMIGRATION

<http://www.immigration.com>

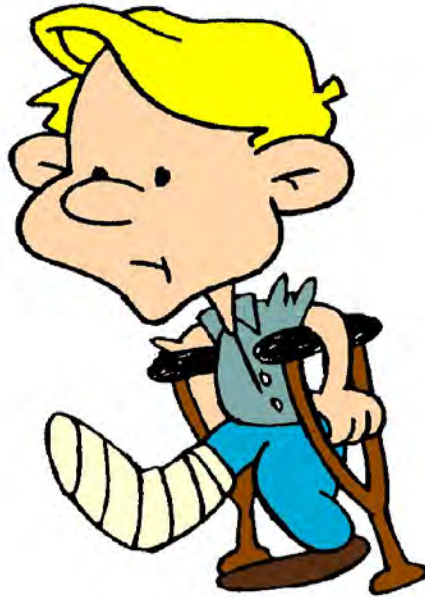
ARTICLES, LINKS, AND PRACTICE
UPDATES



“TIRED AND POOR”
POVERTY LAW

<http://www.povertylaw.org/>

**CASES AND ARTICLES RELEVANT
TO ISSUES CONCERNING LOW-
INCOME CLIENTS**



INJURY LAW

<http://www.hurt911.org/>

INJURY LIBRARY: VERDICT
REPORTS, EXPERTS, MEDICAL
LITIGATION, ETC.



QUIZ: WHAT make ?

WHAT model ?

WHAT year ?



TRAFFIC

<http://www.iihs.org/>

**INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR
HIGHWAY SAFETY
CASES, LAWS, ARTICLES, ETC.**

RESEARCH TIP!!

- CHARACTER SENSITIVE
- EXAMPLES:
- JUDGMENT/JUDGEMENT
- AGREEMENT: PRENUPTIAL/PRE-NUPTIAL/PREMARITAL/PRE-MARITAL/ANTENUPTIAL/ANTE-NUPTIAL (6 TERMS – 1 CONCEPT)
- MUST THINK INCLUSIVELY AT ALL TIMES



FAMILY LAW

S.P.A.R.C. NOT FOR PROFIT
ADVOCACY GROUP

ARTICLES GALORE, FORUMS,
CASELAW SEARCH

LEADS TO MANY OTHER SITES

<http://www.deltabravo.net/custody/caselaw.php>



REMEMBER THE GOAL

A FEW USEFUL SITES



BANKRUPTCY

www.abiworld.org

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY
INSTITUTE

(a research and education group)

CODE, RULES, ARTICLES, MORE



BANKRUPTCY

<http://www.bankruptcylawnetwork.com/>

BANKRUPTCY LAW NETWORK

ARTICLES



CRIMINAL LAW

LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER BY
CRIMELYNX

<http://www.crimelynx.com/research.html>

STATUTES, CODES, CASES, MORE
LINKS



ERISA

<http://www.freeerisa.com/>

WITH LABOR LAW LIBRARY AND
NLRB CASES
(RETIREEES, BENEFITS)



EMPLOYMENT LAW

ARTICLES, CASES, NEWSLETTERS,
LISTSERVS, AND MORE

<http://www.elinfonet.com/>



ELDER LAW

<http://www.elderlawanswers.com>

INCLUDES STATE SPECIFIC
ARTICLES



ELDER LAW

<http://www.tn-elderlaw.com/>

NEWSLETTER, WITH FAMILY
EDUCATION CENTER



<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/default.asp>

**CENTERS FOR MEDICARE &
MEDICAID SERVICES
REGULATIONS AND RESEARCH
U.S. DEPT. HHS**



CONSUMER PROTECTION

<http://consumeraffairs.com/>

NEWSLETTERS, RESOURCES,
ARTICLES, CURRENT TRENDS,
AND GUIDES



CONSUMER PROTECTION

<https://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/bureaus-offices/bureau-consumer-protection>

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION



CONSUMER PROTECTION

<http://americaswatchdog.com/>

ADVOCACY GROUP
HOMEOWNER ISSUES, ETC.

QUIZ

SPORTS TEAMS?





MUNICIPAL CODES

<http://amlegal.com/library/>

<http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/>

MUNICIPAL CODES

DOG AT LARGE?

TRAFFIC?

CURFEW?

www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codes

WWW.MUNICODE.COM



GOVERNMENT SITES

FEDERAL

STATE

LOCAL

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE
BRANCHES



QUIZ

WHICH BAR ASSOCIATION?



BAR ASSOCIATIONS

MANDATORY?

VOLUNTARY?

CHECK OUT NEIGHBOR STATES
OR SPECIALTY BARS



BAR ASSOCIATIONS

CASE DIGESTS

PRACTICE UPDATES

LISTSERVS – TOPICAL

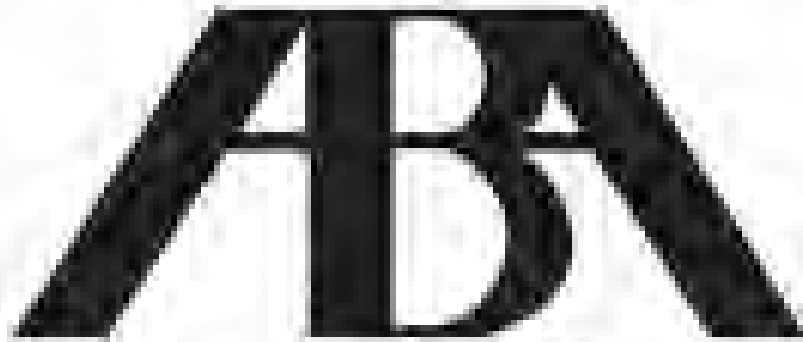
SUBSCRIBE



BAR ASSOCIATIONS

CHICAGO BAR

FREE WESTLAW ONSITE, ETC.



**Defending Liberty
Pursuing Justice**

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

LEGAL RESEARCH JUMPSTATION

http://www.americanbar.org/groups/departments_offices/legal_technology_resources.html

**RESEARCH, STATISTICS, NEWS,
TECHNOLOGY, ARTICLES, ETHICS, ETC.**



NYSBA

FREE LOISLAW TO MEMBERS

<http://www.fastcase.com/loislaw/>

ATTORNEY REGULATORY AGENCIES

ETHICAL OPINIONS AND DECISIONS



**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

FASTCASE

BENEFIT

FREE TO ISBA MEMBERS

<http://www.isba.org/fastcase/gate.asp>

RAT CASE



FASTCASE ISBA
3 ILLINOIS AND 2 NEW YORK
CASES



THE FLORIDA BAR

FREE FASTCASE FLORIDA
CASELAW

LEGAL AID

ARTICLES, REFRESHER TIPS,
OTHER RESOURCES

“I HAVEN’T DONE THAT IN
AWHILE!”

OR

THE PLAN EXPANDED ITS
COVERAGE AREAS

<http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/>



LEGAL AID

ARTICLES, FORMS, VIDEOS, ETC.

www.illinoisprobono.org

PLAN EXPANSION

I.E. EXPUNGEMENTS



NEWSPAPERS

JANUARY 1 AND JULY 1
AND
SUMMARIES

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL



NEWSPAPERS

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

ARTICLES

LEADS TO OTHER SITES

<http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/index.jsp>



COURTS WEBSITES

FEDERAL AND STATE

JUDICIAL BRANCH



COMMERCIAL SITES
FREE LIMITED RESEARCH
LAWYERS.COM

<http://research.lawyers.com/areas-of-law.html>

SOME ARTICLES

COMMERCIAL SITES

<http://www.ilrg.com/index.html>

CODES, LAW JOURNALS, LAW
SCHOOLS, ARTICLES, MISC.

Internet Legal Research Group

COMMERCIAL SITES

AMERICAN LAW SOURCES
ON-LINE

<http://www.lawsource.com/also/>

LAW JOURNALS AND A LOT MORE

Includes some international law!

COMMERCIAL SITES

<http://www.justia.com/>

CASES, CODES, FORMS, BLOGS,
PODCASTS, ARTICLES, AND MUCH
MORE

COMMERCIAL SITES

<http://www.lawyertool.com/>

LEADS TO

550 FREE LEGAL RELATED
DATABASES, INCLUDING
INTERNATIONAL CASES

COMMERCIAL SITES

SITE LEADS TO MANY HELPFUL
SITES...LEGAL AND NON-
LEGAL...AS OPPOSED TO
ILLEGAL!

LAW, SPORTS, NEWS

<http://lawyrexpress.com/>

PRIVATE SITES

<http://www.urban.org/>

URBAN INSTITUTE

NEED STATISTICS?

MITIGATION?

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

PRIVATE SITES

REDRESS, INC.

NOT FOR PROFIT CORP.

LEADS TO MANY OTHER

RESEARCH SITES

<http://www.redressinc.org/LegalResearch.html>

PRIVATE SITES

<http://public.resource.org/>

FIND MANY CASES IF YOU CAN
WITHOUT USING CASE NAMES
AND JUST NUMBERS OR DATES

FINDLAW AND LEXISONE

<http://library.findlaw.com>

<http://www.lexisone.com>

REGISTER AND FREE

REGISTER AND COST

JUST FREE, FINDLAW, THOMSON

LEGAL NEWS, NEWSLETTERS, AND MORE.

FREE FOR REGISTERED USERS

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF LAW

**“one of the world's largest free law
libraries”**

THEY CLAIM

BY FASTCASE

<http://www.plol.org/Pages/Search.aspx>



FACTS RESEARCH

MYSFACE

FACEBOOK

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

MORE

I.E. CHILD SUPPORT SIDE JOBS



WHAT?
WHERE ?



MILITARY STATUS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

<https://www.defense.gov/Resources/Contact-DoD>

QUIZ

WHAT FAMOUS CASE WAS
DECIDED ON MAY 17
63 YEARS AGO?

FEDERAL RESOURCE

U S GOVERNMENT PRINTING
OFFICE

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/>

DOCUMENTS FROM ALL 3
BRANCHES



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

www.loc.gov/law/help

MORE THAN JUST LEGAL
RESEARCH
AND GLIN (GLOBAL) DATABASE

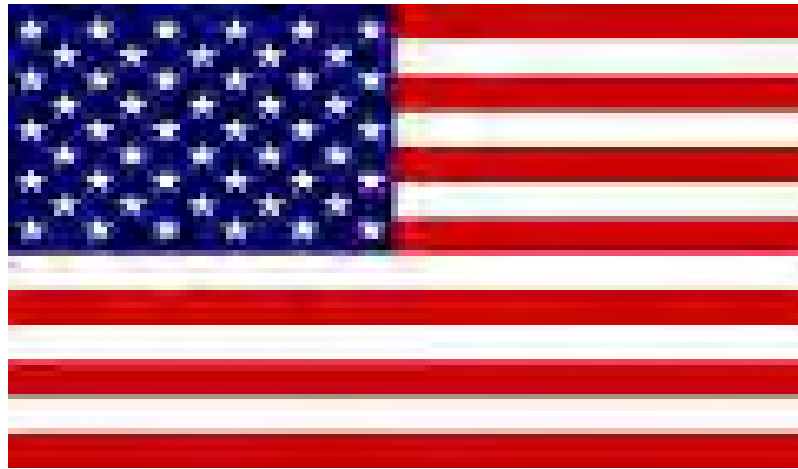


NEVER TOO OLD.../QUIZ

THE LAW, THAT IS.

HILL V. MCDONOUGH

IN 2006 THE U. S. SUPREME COURT SAID A SECTION OF THE 1871 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT WAS VIABLE FOR INMATES' CLAIMS – WHAT ISSUE?



U.S. LAW

www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html

www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode

[http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.
shtml](http://uscode.house.gov/search/criteria.shtml)



ALERTS

GOOGLE, (<https://scholar.google.com>),
YAHOO, LEXISONE,
NEWSPAPERS, MORE
I.E. PREPAID LEGAL, CONAGRA,
T.B.E. (FIRST IMPRESSION CASE)



MISC. SITES

LAW AND TECHNOLOGY
RESOURCES, INCLUDES ETHICS
RESEARCH

CONFLICTS?

LLRX – WEB JOURNAL

<http://www.llrx.com>

QUIZ

**HOCKEY TEAM IN
ARIZONA? ...if not
previously answered**



CANADIAN LAW SOURCES

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL LISTS SITES
TO SEARCH

[http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/
research/guides/international/canada/index.ph
p#CaseLaw](http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/services/research/guides/international/canada/index.php#CaseLaw)

CANADIAN LAW SOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL

[http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/index.epl?
lang=en](http://www.lexum.umontreal.ca/index.epl?lang=en)

CANADIAN LAW SOURCES

HAUSER GLOBAL LAW SCHOOL
PROGRAM

[http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/
Canada.htm](http://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Canada.htm)



MEXICAN LAW SOURCES

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL
OF LAW

<http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu>



INFORMATION OVERLOAD

TAKE A FEW SITES

LIMIT INTAKE

(NOT MEDICAL ADVICE)

UNPRODUCTIVE

\$ FREE, BUT...

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR...?



AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

WHAT DO YOU USE THAT'S
USEFUL AND FREE?

IF YOU AREN'T A
MEMBER OF GLSA
YET, WHY NOT?

Thank

You



TO

**TORI JO AND RAMON FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS AND CRITIQUES**



TIME TO GO. THANK YOU!

HAPPY “FREE” RESEARCHING!

SEE YOU IN 2018!

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