

Law Winter Street Journal

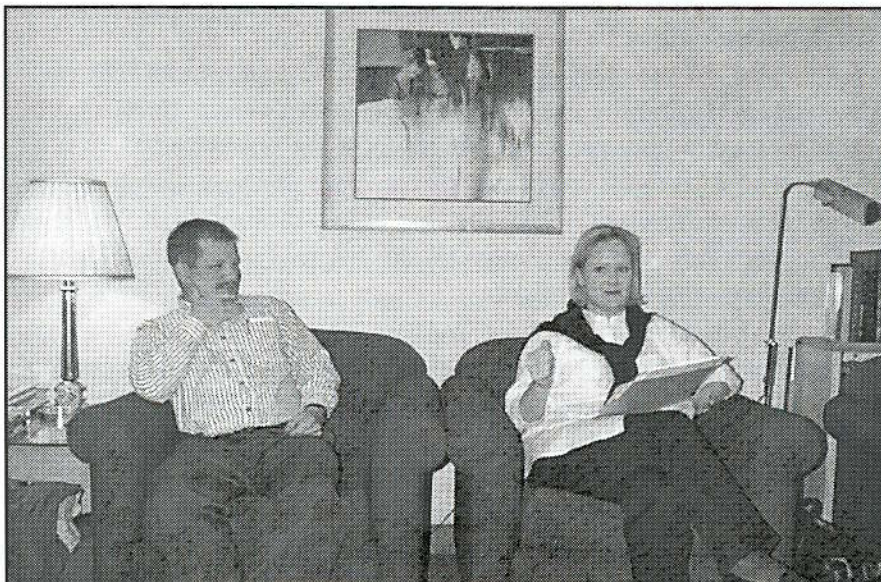
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OREGON LAW COMMISSION INVITES STUDENTS TO BECOME INVOLVED

The newly formed Oregon Law Commission, housed at the Willamette College of Law, recommends law reform, revision, and improvement to the Oregon Legislature while providing opportunities for student involvement in support of the Commission's work. For more on the Commission and on student involvement, see inside this issue of the Winter Street Law Journal.



In this photo, Willamette Law Students, Johnathan Clark, a research assistant for the Oregon Law Commission, and Deborah Trant, an extern for the Oregon Law Commission, describe their involvement with the Commission to faculty members earlier this month.

ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL LEXIS AND WESTLAW

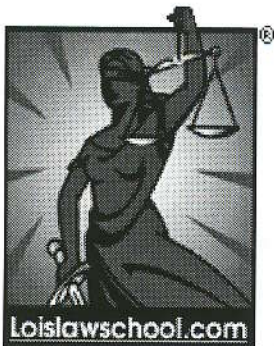
BY MARTHA RENICK

A common scenario unfolds. It is your first day on your new job. Your first assignment is to find an Oregon case quickly and you realize that the terms of the educational contracts with Lexis and Westlaw limit your use of those services.

Loislaw, **Academic Universe** and **LexisOne**, however, are good alternatives. **Loislaw** and **Academic Universe** are available through a subscription at Willamette for our students only, but **LexisOne** is available to the public at large.

Loislaw includes cases, statutes and administrative materials at low cost for lawyers and free to our students.

When using any service, knowing the dates of inclusion and the depth of coverage for each database is very important. **Loislaw** does not contain the retrospective case collection of either Lexis or Westlaw, but it does include U.S. Supreme Court cases from 1899 and state cases that reach back 50 to 100 years, depending on the state.



Loislaw offers a citation service called GlobalCite, which searches all of the databases and provides a list of documents that cite the document you are viewing. The results are hyperlinked so you can click and go to the full text of the citing case. **WARNING:** Do not confuse GlobalCite with the citation services Keycite on Westlaw or Shepard's on Lexis. There is no quality control with GlobalCite, no prior case history, and no treatment analyses. It is only an internal search engine, designed to find cases with the citation that you enter. Therefore, use it with caution.

Loislaw is available at our law library home page, under "Research — WUCLL Only." Please follow the instructions for registering and check with a reference librarian for the access code.

A completely free web based legal research service for attorneys is called **LexisOne**, available at our law library home page under "Other Law Sites."

lexisoneSM

LexisOne offers free access to cases that are not free on regular Lexis, but the cases only go back five years. Statutes, administrative materials and law reviews are not included.

LexisOne makes it easy for attorneys to use a credit card to access enhanced search results or Shepard's, so keep in mind that the free stuff is bait. Still, the free cases, thousands of free legal forms, and the well designed portal to other free legal databases on the Internet make **LexisOne** a very useful site for students and for lawyers with tight budgets.



A third alternative to traditional Westlaw and Lexis is **Academic Universe**. Available through our home page at "Research-WUCL Only," **Academic Universe** is a reformulation of the Lexis-Nexis service for marketing to universities and colleges. It includes the complete databases of cases that appear in traditional Lexis, and a wealth of secondary sources as well, including law journals and general news. **Academic Universe** is the most comprehensive of the three services listed in this article.

TECHNOLOGY IS DRAMATICALLY CHANGING THE LAW OFFICE!

BY MARY UNRUH

We constantly hear how technology, especially the Internet, is changing legal education and the law profession. What do these technological changes mean to law students, and what can they expect in the real world after they leave law school?

To get some insights I spent a day with LaJean Humphries, the librarian at the Portland office of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt. Schwabe is one of the largest firms in the Northwest, with Oregon offices in Bend and Portland, as well as offices in Seattle and Vancouver WA.

Ms. Humphries does much of her work on the Web. The firm has an Intranet called "SchwabeNet," so communication within the firm is very efficient. Each attorney has a desktop pc, and some of the litigators have laptops with docking stations at their desk. The firm uses a Novell network, which will be upgraded to NT by the end of the year. The attorneys use MS Word for word processing and Outlook Exchange for email. The firm has purchased various products, all available online to each attorney.



Attorneys at Schwabe use Lexis, including the account software for billing breakdowns. LaJean indicates that this is handy to check on the efficient use of Lexis by summer clerks. (It might be noted that while Schwabe has chosen to go with a flat rate from Lexis, Stoel Rives, another large Portland firm, has a flat rate with Westlaw.)

Ms. Humphries tracks Oregon bills for the attorneys, using Capital OnRamp. She tracked about 2000 bills during the last session, and she gives attorneys daily updated reports on the status of bills. Ms. Humphries uses OJIN (Oregon Judicial Information Network) and CourtLink for tracking Oregon cases online.

The firm librarian welcomes new staff with an orientation program, which she does about three times per year. She assures attendance and attention with a variety of prizes for correct answers. (She picks up these freebies from vendors at national and regional conferences.) Ms. Humphries uses Lexis' Practice Pages to do training/orientation. As mentioned, she manages time and billing which is sent to each attorney weekly.

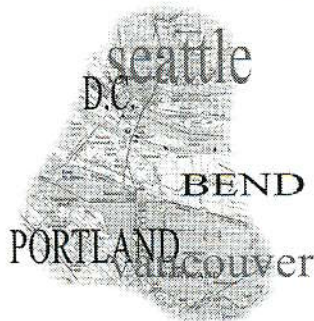
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Ms. Humphries indicated that one basic problem with new attorneys is that they are often unclear on what an assignment actually entails, resulting in time wasted. She suggests asking questions to be clear on the assignment, and finding out the time and money parameters. Only then should the research begin. According to Ms. Humphries, there has been improvement in the ability of new attorneys to do research, especially electronic research. Ms. Humphries offers writing classes about once a month because some new attorneys are lacking good writing skills.

Technology has spawned a new phenomenon: the tele-commuting attorney. Several in the firm are now in the office only occasionally, or not at all. Schwabe has strict rules for tele-commuters. Network software must be in place to connect from home, and separate office space is mandatory.

Schwabe locations



Other changes in the future will be greater integration of the many programs attorneys use. Ms. Humphries envisions the desktop will provide one stop legal shopping in the next few years. IntraNets within firms are expanding quickly and offer secure communication among the firm's offices. Electronic court filing will also have a huge impact. This is just emerging in Oregon courts, but has been statutorily mandated in Colorado and New Jersey. E-filing will dramatically change the way cases are handled from the beginning of the process through their conclusion, including automated client intake, online form preparation, court calendaring, case status and notification.

The lawyer who is proficient in using online sources, able to create online data and links, and has the flexibility and willingness to use new tools will be the greatest asset to the organization. Law school is the time to learn this.



OREGON LAW COMMISSION HELPS KEEP LAWS IN GOOD REPAIR

BY TIM KELLY

The Oregon Law Commission, created by the 1997 Legislative Assembly and funded in 2000, proposes new or more effective ways of administering the law, eliminating defects, and consolidating, codifying or revising the law.

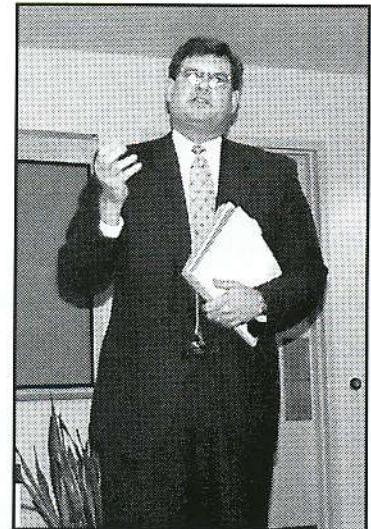
Members of the Commission include the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, the Attorney General, lawyers, legislators, and the deans or representatives of the three Oregon law schools, including law professors. From Willamette, Professor Hans Linde and Dean Symeon Symeonides act as Commissioners.

The Oregon Law Commission has a unique relationship with the Willamette University College of Law. In addition to the Commission being housed at Willamette, many of the commissioners, officers, staff and student assistants are from the Willamette University College of Law.

Dave Kenagy, Willamette Law School's Associate Dean for Administration, acts as the Commission's Executive Director. Michelle Mhoon, a '97 graduate of Willamette College of Law and Shirley Gunter, an administrative assistant at the law school, perform as the Commission's Assistant to the Executive Director and the Commission's Administrative Assistant, respectively.

Subject areas under study by the Oregon Law Commission include: conflict of laws, juvenile code revision, spousal elective shares, judgments and garnishments, civil rights, the definition of "public body," judicial review of government actions, and statutes of limitations.

The Conflict of Laws work group includes Professor James Nafziger, Professor Hans Linde and Dean Symeonides. Dean Symeonides also contributes to the Elective Shares/Community Property work group.



Pictured here from left to right are Bill Taylor, Judiciary Commission Counsel, Michelle Mhoon, Assistant to the Executive Director, Jeff Carter, Commissioner, and Dave Kenagy, Executive Director.

WILLAMETTE LAW STUDENTS COMMENT ON THEIR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE OREGON LAW COMMISSION

The Willamette student externs and research assistants for the Oregon Law Commission spoke at a recent Willamette Law School faculty meeting and made these comments:

"Most interesting for me was an assignment from Hans Linde on the ownership of the disputed 9,000 year old Kennewick remains. I helped research the issue of standing by individuals with a non-economic interest." — Deborah Trant, Student Extern.

"In my work for the juvenile law group, I enjoyed writing comments to the rules as to changes of text and reasons for those rules."
— Johnathan Clark, Research Assistant

"It was exciting to help fix legislation, write legal reports, and meet with legislators."
— Mike Hallinan, Research Assistant

"I found it insightful and good to see reform for areas of law that were not working. Law is dynamic and not static."
— Mike Hamilton, Student Extern

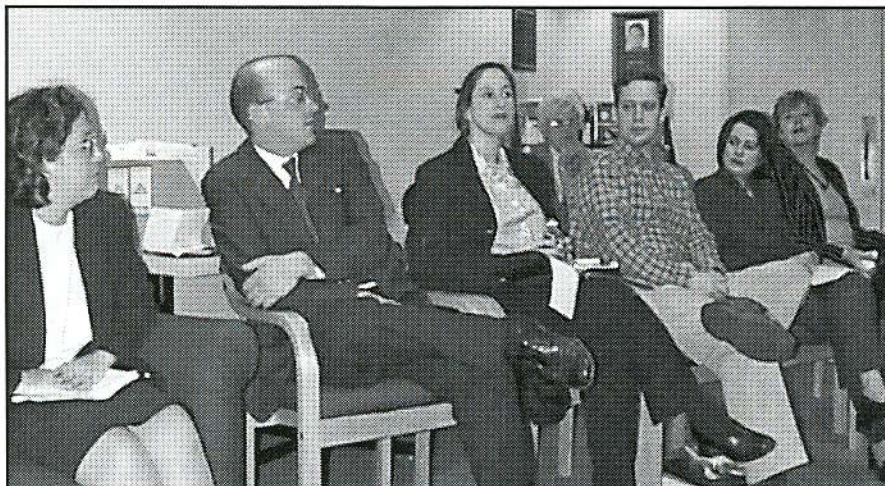
"I helped research the issue of independent contractors related to garnishments, and I helped locate other law reform commission web sites around the world to add links to our website." — Liz Vohland, Research Assistant

"This whole process has increased the exposure of Willamette as to what the students and professors can do for the Commission."
— Owen Van Fluc, Research Assistant

"In my work on the issue of juvenile court procedures, I enjoyed combining legal and legislative skills while improving my writing and analytical skills at the same time." — Nicole Brugato, Student Extern

Please visit the Oregon Law Commission website at: www.willamette.edu.wucl/oregonlawcommission.

Students may contact Michelle Moon for information on becoming involved with the Oregon Law Commission at: mmhoon@willamette.edu.



*Pictured seated from the left:
Nicole Brugato, Michael Hamilton,
Liz Vohland, Michael Hallinan,
Michelle Mhoon, and Professor
Kathy Graham.*