



## Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree, MLS

Like many Americans I've been caught up in a fascinating current events story - *Making a Murderer*. I binge watched this show and even though I tried to keep an open mind found myself getting angrier and angrier at the apparent injustice portrayed.

A law library plays an important role in the last episode of *Making a Murderer* as Steven Avery is out of appellate options and no longer entitled to a public defender. According to his girlfriend, he now spends his time in the law library working on proving his innocence.

The staff of the Franklin County Law Library has enjoyed discussing this series and has decided to hear what others in the central Ohio legal community have to say. We've just added a special Brown Bag Lunch Program on February 10 to discuss Steven Avery and the Netflix series.



### 10th District Court of Appeals

#### February's Brown Bag Lunch Program

Presiding Judge Julia Dorrian will discuss the many changes that have occurred in recent years with judges and administration, how panels and authors are selected, and offer advice on brief writing and oral arguments. Participants may receive one general CLE credit.

Join us **Wednesday, February 17, 2016, from 12:15 until 1:15**. Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Call or stop by the Circulation Desk to register. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch to the class. [See our flyer for more information.](#)

### Dissecting *Making a Murderer*

#### Special Brown Bag Lunch Program Just Added

Join Kelle Andrews, staff attorney to Judge Kim Brown and Christopher Shook, staff attorney to Judge Chris Brown to discuss Netflix's breakout series ***Making a Murderer***.



Are Steven Avery and Brendan Dassey guilty of murdering Theresa Halbach? Was the Manitowoc

County Prosecutor and Sheriff's Office corrupt? What additional evidence was missing from the documentary? What is reasonable doubt? What is the presumption of innocence? How reliable is scientific evidence?

Binge-watch the ten episode series this weekend and then bring your brown bag lunch and spend an hour debating the merits of the documentary with your colleagues. Join us **Wednesday, February 10, 2016, from 12:15 until 1:15**. Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Call or stop by the Circulation Desk to register.

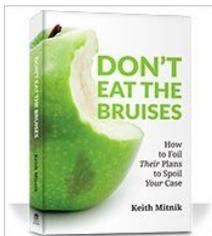
## Westlaw Training

### February Brown Bag Lunch Program

Westlaw has been a staple in the legal research arena for years. Their latest incarnation is WestlawNext. A new intuitive interface makes researching even easier than before.

Four classes will be offered at 10am, 11:30 am, 1 pm, and 2:30 pm. Class size is limited to 10 participants. Participants may receive one general CLE credit.

Join us **Wednesday, February 24, 2016**. Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Call or stop by the Circulation Desk to register. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch to the class.



## New Books

Minnie Ozbeytemur

Two new books that have been added to the collection in the last few months include ***Anderson's Ohio Personal Injury Litigation Manual*** and ***Ohio Criminal Law and Motor Vehicle Handbook***. *Anderson's Ohio Personal*

*Injury Litigation Manual* is full of useful information on topics such as motor vehicle negligence, product liability, government liability and medical malpractice. The book includes practice tips, checklists and warnings. Also a nice feature for this manual is that it cross-references to other personal injury treatises and forms books. The *Ohio Criminal Law and Motor Vehicle Handbook* includes the entire Title 29 but also contains other statutes covering motor vehicles. It also deals with the rules of evidence, criminal and juvenile procedure and controlled substances.

Additionally, ***Don't Eat the Bruises : How to Foil Their Plans to Spoil Your Case*** by Keith Mitnik was requested by a Law Library patron and recently added to the collection. This easy-to-read book provides you with practice advice on how to win a trial from opening remarks to closing remarks. This book is now available for checkout.

## Law Library History: Library Access in 1894

Jennifer D. Jones

On April 27, 1872, the Ohio legislature passed an act "To promote and encourage law library associations," which appropriated certain police court fines to law library associations provided an association was located in "a city of the first class" with a police court, the city had a population

between 50,000 and 150,000, and the association provided free use of books to judges and county officials (see *Laws of Ohio* volume 69, page 165). Later laws required county commissioners to provide space for the law library and appropriated additional funds from other courts. In time, the bulk of funding transferred from police courts to municipal courts.

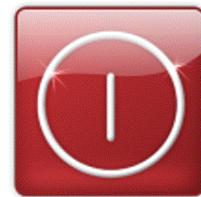
Although Ohio law libraries served the local courts as well as county officials, they did not become county agencies until 2010. Most of them - including the Franklin County Law Library - were established by private associations and originally charged membership fees to defray operating costs. When the Columbus Law Library Association (now known as the Franklin County Law Library) adopted its first constitution and bylaws in 1894, Article II required all members to buy a certificate of membership for \$50, pay annual dues, "own at least one share, subscribe to the Articles of Incorporation and have been regularly admitted to the practice of law." Several inflation calculators show that \$50 in 1894 is equivalent to over \$1,300 today, so membership was costly. However, for those seeking a bargain, memberships could be transferred from one attorney to another, and delinquent memberships could be sold.

While non-members were not completely denied access, their use was highly restricted under Article VI Section 1 of the Constitution of the Columbus Law Library Association, which specifically addresses use by non-members: "Any lawyer who has not been a member of the Bar for five years may use the Library on paying the current annual dues. This privilege shall not extend to any person who has been a member of the Franklin County Bar for three years." So, under the original rules established in 1894, any attorney wanting to use the Law Library had to pay at least the annual dues, but after five years in the Bar - or only three years in the Columbus Bar - attorneys either had to pay up and become members or lose their access.

Within just a few years, after the Columbus Law Library was well established and proving beneficial to attorneys and the courts, annual dues were waived. Then the constitution was amended in 1915 to reduce membership fees to \$10 (equivalent to approximately \$240 today). Also in 1915, Article VI Section 1 was changed to increase access: "All persons shall be entitled to use the books in the Library, subject to the library rules which may have been heretofore or shall hereafter be adopted by either the Association or the Trustees."

## Electronic Resources Added to Catalog

Rachel Dilley



Patrons of the Franklin County Law Library have access to thousands of electronic legal resources through databases such as HeinOnline and Fastcase. Until recently, users could not search the online catalog for these electronic journals, treatises, and handbooks to know whether the Law Library had access through its database subscriptions. Our new initiative to add electronic resources to the online catalog allows users to determine if a treatise or journal is available before making a trip to the Law Library. Catalog entries are being added weekly beginning with HeinOnline's Core U.S. Journals and Fastcase's Treatises. Legal databases are available to users on site at any of the Law Library's many computer terminals.

When searching the [Law Library's Online Catalog](#), items with the red icon indicate electronic resources available in the Law Library.

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