



February 1, 2017

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree

Most people associate February with love. Here in the law library, we've put our own ironic twist on the month. Our display for February is entitled **Breaking Up is Hard to Do** and features selections from our collection on termination of marriage.

The law library answered a total of 8100 reference questions in 2016. 2500 (31%) of those questions had to do with family law, including termination of marriage. On average we answer more than 200 questions a month on family law. It is the second highest topic we tackle in the law library after landlord/tenant, which accounts for 33% of our questions.

One question we get repeatedly is whether someone can obtain an annulment or not. Our staff is very versed in referring patrons to the six causes for annulment as listed in [ORC 3105.31](#). Often, though, patrons are disappointed that length of marriage (or lack thereof) is not a cause.

I hope each of you has a **lovely** February. Spring will be here soon!



Retirement for Lawyers

February's Brown Bag Lunch Program

Virginia Macali will discuss how the definition of retirement is changing, success factors in retirement for attorneys, and the model for transition.

Join us **Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 12:15 pm**. Reservations are mandatory; register by calling or visiting the law library. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch. Participants may receive one general CLE credit. [See our flyer for more information.](#)



WestlawNext Training

February's Brown Bag Lunch Program

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

Three classes will be offered on **Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 11:30, 1:00, and 2:30**.

Class size is limited to 6 participants. Reservations are mandatory; register by calling or visiting the law library. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch. Participants may receive one general CLE credit.

Law Library History: Librarian Rudolph C. Wittenmeier

Jennifer Jones

In 1920, the Board of Directors of the Columbus Law Library Association elected Rudolph C.

Wittenmeier as successor to Librarian Charles T. Keech, who had passed away. Mr. Wittenmeier served as the Association's second librarian and, aside from his brief annual reports in the minutes, the library's records contain little information about him.

A Rudolph Wittenmeier - presumably the same one-is named in the *Annual Report of the Auditor of State* for 1920 ([digital version on Google Books](#)). There he is listed as an assistant librarian/clerk for the Ohio Supreme Court Law Library, where his salary was \$1,200.00 per year. This is the same year Rudolph Wittenmeier began working for the Columbus Law Library Association, where the common pleas court set and paid his salary. This means the library has no records to indicate whether Mr. Wittenmeier's new position paid better than his previous one. However, the records do indicate Mr. Wittenmeier's salary was reduced in 1937 and the board hoped to meet with the commissioners to restore the pay cuts.

Prior to 1920, a Rudolph C. Wittenmeier is listed in the *Journal of the House of Representatives* ([digital version on Google Books](#)) as a doorkeeper for the Ohio House in 1914. Also, based on Mr. Wittenmeier's death certificate ([available here](#)), his father was Frederick, a German immigrant who became a prominent Ohio contractor (see [Franklin County at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century](#) on Google Books). Mr. Wittenmeier assisted in his father's business, Wittenmeier Stone Company.

Most of Mr. Wittenmeier's annual reports in the law library's minute book are brief statements of the number of books added to the collection and the total number of books in the library. However, a few entries show he took on significant tasks to improve the law library. For example, he prepared the first card-indexed catalogue in 1922; at that time, the library contained about 13,000 volumes. He was also instructed to publish a catalogue in 1928, when the library's collection numbered nearly 16,000 volumes. Later, in the 1940s, book maintenance was a concern for him. On three different occasions, he reported that a "preparation" had been applied to the books to eradicate roaches. However, in 1946, he reported the following: "During the war period a more or less lull in the use of the books in the Library leaves them in a first class condition and will not necessitate any repairs to the books in the immediate future."

Librarian Rudolph C. Wittenmeier retained his position with the Columbus Law Library Association until his death in July of 1947. While the board did not name Mr. Wittenmeier's successor until November, they did meet to discuss the matter only one week after Mr. Wittenmeier's death. At this meeting, members of the Columbus Bar Association expressed the CBA's desires concerning the qualifications of Mr. Wittenmeier's eventual successor. Perhaps the CBA was hoping for a more qualified individual, or perhaps they just wanted to continue the same quality of service Mr. Wittenmeier had offered. Either way, his accomplishments in cataloguing thousands of resources- and ridding the books of roaches-are appreciated.

Judgment Collection Correction

In last month's newsletter, we highlighted the book **Ohio Creditor's Rights Manual**. We incorrectly attributed that book to John Botti. **Ohio Creditor's Rights Manual** was actually written by local attorney James P. Botti. We apologize for our error.

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