

Scholarly Commons @ UNLV Boyd Law

Student Organizations

William S. Boyd School of Law: The First 20
Years

2-2004

SBA DICTA February 2004

Wiener-Rogers Law Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- William S. Boyd School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholars.law.unlv.edu/boyd20years_stud_orgs

Recommended Citation

Wiener-Rogers Law Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas -- William S. Boyd School of Law, "SBA DICTA February 2004" (2004). *Student Organizations* . 2.
https://scholars.law.unlv.edu/boyd20years_stud_orgs/2

This Article is brought to you by the Scholarly Commons @ UNLV Boyd Law, an institutional repository administered by the Wiener-Rogers Law Library at the William S. Boyd School of Law. For more information, please contact youngwoo.ban@unlv.edu.

The Official Newsletter of the Student Bar Association
not an official publication of University of Nevada at Las Vegas

DICTA

February 2004

The Grim Realities of Textbooks

Worst Jobs
Laptop Lapses
Scratch n Sniff Directory
of Support Staff
Haiku

INSIDE!

Research Assistants Exposed



IMSI

CORRECTIONS

In the November 2003 edition, the cover incorrectly stated "Special Offer. . . Librarians Gone Wild." This was a lapse of judgment, and such verbiage should never have been published. It should have read, "Special Offer, Law Librarians Gone Wild." Dicta regrets this error and apologizes if anyone was offended.

Also, the cover indicated, "Trials of the Semester." However, all the mugshots on the cover were either Males or Michael Jackson. Dicta regrets that Martha Stewart was not included in the cover. Such gender discrimination was not intended.



Computers are just like automobiles in that the newer ones are better and they both create job security for those who know how to fix them. The support staff at the Boyd School of Law led by Donald Castle is here to help you with your problems. However, not all students are able to

determine which problems can be solved by Donald and which problems must be taken elsewhere.

For example, if you are having trouble getting your licensed version of Microsoft Word to correctly install, see Donald. On the other hand, if you are having trouble getting your pirated copy of Return of the King to play on your DVD drive, do not.

Similarly, if you are having trouble getting SoftTest to install on your laptop, ask Donald for help. However, if you are having trouble viewing the Paris Hilton video on full screen, do not waste Donald's time.

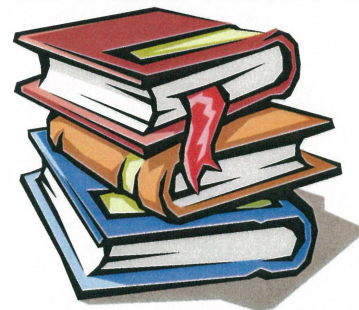
If you cannot access the internet from any of the ports at school, please send Donald an email. But if you are having trouble hosting pictures of multi-carbureted bongos for your E-Bay auctions, you must bother someone else.

If you are not sure which anti-virus software is compatible with your operating system, drop by Donald's office. If you think you may have picked up a virus from a dental student while being examined in the library, you may want to drop by Student Health Services.

Textbooks, Supplements, and the Economic Realities of the Used Textbook Market

By Colt Dodrill

Law school is the holy grail of marketing. Between study aids, bar exam preparation services, student organizations, the rebel recycling fees, graduation fees, and everything else, unless one of your parents' names end in M.D. or Esquire, your budget is tighter than airport security. Therefore, as a service, Dicta offers this advise regarding the purchase and sale of school textbooks.



Textbooks come in many sizes and shapes. In addition to the textbook, many courses require additional material such as supplements, statutes, suggested readings, and the like. It is imperative that students know and understand the difference. A casebook is a book where some professor or professors copied about a thousand cases from the internet, vetted them,

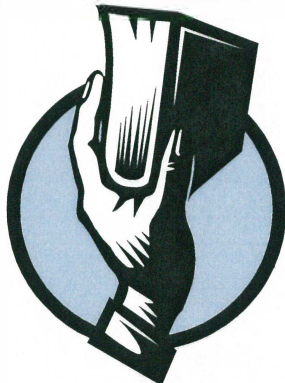
jotted down a few notes, and voila: you are out 90 bones and she just made another Lexus payment.

A supplement is a shortened version of a textbook usually to update a recently published casebook. Statute books are copies of statutes and regulations germane to a particular area of practice. A hornbook is a small treatise which summarizes the black letter law of a particular area of practice without making you go through the rote exercises of reading a court opinion. Professors often suggest other readings to go along with the course; the key to making a purchase or sale decision is knowing the extent such material will be covered in class.

The first rule of buying and selling textbooks is balancing the potential money saved with the time invested. For example, if it takes you four hours to shop around days and you only saved \$50, you probably got the short end of that stick if you make more than \$12.50 an hour. The bookstore on any particular campus (not necessarily UNLV, wink wink) usually has the highest prices. However, it is also the most time-efficient as long as you do not buy them the

first week of class when its packed.

The second rule is to know beforehand which books you plan to keep and which ones you do not. If you do not plan on keeping the book, then you do not need to pay extra for a book in better condition. As a general rule Hornbooks are keepers and everything else will have as much value to your law practice as a Betamax.



Like a white house intern, the value of your textbook will go down quickly. Therefore, it is best to buy used. The student bookstore usually does not stock enough used books to fill demand, so those wishing to save a buck or two must look elsewhere.

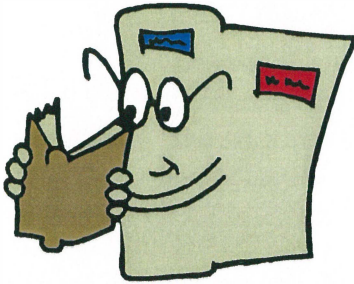
Online resellers such as Ebay, Half.com or Amazon usually have most law texts in stock. The savvy student can copy from the online book list and quickly paste into the store's website. Within an hour, the student with 4 to 5 classes can have all her

books on the way. If this is done as soon as the book list is posted, the books will usually arrive well before the start of the semester. Of course, your mileage may vary, and Dicta assumes no liability for those books lost in the mail.

Knowing the first and second rules allows the thrifty law student to follow the third rule: beg and borrow for books. Please do not steal, you may be hanged. Swapping out one book for another with another student saves two people money. It also eliminates the demand for certain books, which either saves trees or allows the publishers more resources to print Al Franken books.

Remember the supplements and statutes? Here is where you can save a buck or two. If the supplement is just cases and the final is not modified closed book, just find somebody who bought the supplement, borrow it, and print it on one of them online legal research sites. Chances are you will only need 3 or 4 cases a semester, and that's not worth \$30 to \$40. Also, share the books that will not be discussed every day. You will be surprised how much your textbook dollar can go when you go fourthsies with your

friends. The same goes with statutes. However, thriftiness is trumped by scholarship, so if you can use the text for the final, buy it.



Also, for the super cheap (you know who you are) try buying an earlier edition. You may have to manually print some newer cases, but if most of the text is the same, you can plenty of money. In fact, you should be able to make over a dozen 20-minute calls to Carrot Top with your savings. Also, unless you are saving up for an espresso machine, you may be able to use your points from online computer research outfits to buy your book. Then when you sell it, it becomes cash for next semester's books.

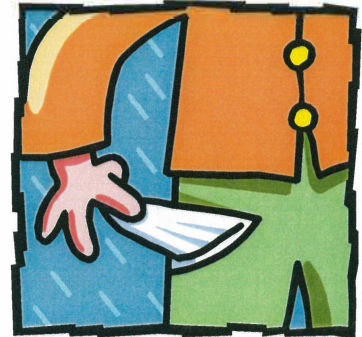
So now that you know how to get a better deal on a textbook, how do you sell it? Please, do not take it to the bookstore, you will barely get enough for a Clark bar and a stick of gum, but not enough to buy a textbook. First, get to know students a year or two behind you. They make great dumping

grounds. Also, they ask things like, "What class do you think I should take?" If you have the books for Underwater Statutory Conflicts of International Pacts, you can say, "you should take Underwater Statutory Conflicts of International Pacts, the professor is awesome." The other student will be all, "really?" Then you go, "yeah, oh, if you take the class, I can get you the books pretty cheap." Even if you let her borrow the book, everybody wins.

Second, if you cannot sell the book first-hand, sell it through the internet. This may be the same site from which you bought the book. Here are some helpful tips: First, sell the book quick. Professors are quick to come out with revised editions, usually in conjunction with putting children through college or wanting to buy a second home. Immediately after the final exam, log on and list the book. You may find that you have sold it by the time you get home. Second, sweeten the pot. You may be able to charge a premium if you kept the book in good shape. School books should not be marked. If something is important, just retype it in your notes or write it on your notepad. You will

remember it better that way. Besides, if you are rereading the textbook when you study, you need to learn how to take better notes anyway.

You may also include a CD of your notes, someone else's notes, your outline, someone else's outline, written assignments, and anything else you think may make your book more marketable. Of course, you would not include copyrighted materials or anything written by a professor. If you play your cards right, you may even be able to sell the book for more than you paid for it.



If you bought an older edition, be prepared to eat it after the semester. However, even if you cannot resell it, your per semester cost for the book may still be lower than if you bought a new edition and sold it used.

Third, do not be so quick to dump the book if you still have classes to take. Many sequels classes use the same book as the original. Con Law I, for

example, may use the same book as Con Law II depending on the professor. IP I and II use the same book as do Bus Orgs I and II. Even if you do not like the class or the professor, the sequel class is worth taking on the principle that you got out of buying a book. The less books you have to buy, the lower your costs.

Next month: How to save money on graduation announcements and beer.

HAIKU



Its been three long years
Will I ever see the day?
My graduation

Bar application
When did I do what to whom?
You must be joking

Eighty-Six credits
My writing requirement
And thirty dollars

Someone stole my books
Busted open my locker
You mother@&*!%\$#

If I pass the bar
I will stand on the corner
Sign: Will sue for food

Five passport photos
Two copies of all the forms
Check for five-fifty

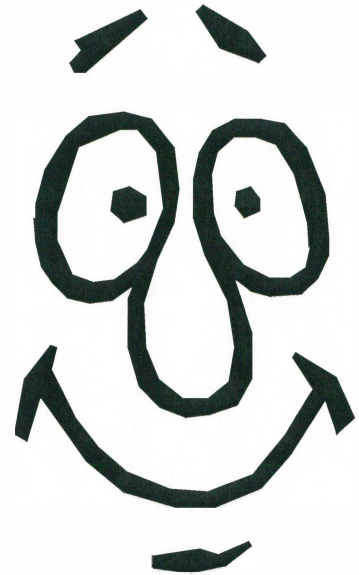
TOP TEN

10

From the home office in Eagle, Colorado, here are the top ten worst jobs to get out of law school:

10. Wardrobe consultant for Janet Jackson.
9. Clerk for the Honorable Seven Eleven.
8. Limousine driver for Jayson Williams.
7. Housekeeper for Rush Limbaugh.
6. Personal shopper for Winona Ryder.
5. Dicta editor.
4. Speech writer for Howard Dean
3. Lab rat for tobacco company.
2. Judicial law clerk.
1. Attorney.

PICTURE YOUR FACE HERE!



We are looking for volunteers to submit articles on the following subjects: The Myth of the "Quiet Lounge," Guide to Cheap Eats at Law School, or Ten Things to do in the Law Library Besides Read. If you have something else you would like to write, please put a copy in box 165 or email dodrill@unlv.nevada.edu.

[editor's note: Unless this editor fails Immigration Law, this will be his last semester of Dicta. We encourage all students to contribute. As of this date we have published all contributions. This may give you an opportunity to take over the helm of this puppy next fall.]