

## THE TOP 10 ANSWERS, PLEASE

BY KELLY BROWNE

*Kelly Browne is Head of Reference Services at the University of Connecticut School of Law Library in Hartford.*

Dear Kelly,

Greetings. I just finished reading your article ("The Top 10 Things Firm Librarians Wish Summer Associates Knew") in the Spring 2000 issue of *Perspectives*. I enjoyed reading this piece and was relieved to see that I'm not the only librarian who thinks law students (and attorneys) should understand the difference between statutes and regulations!

Anyway, I took the quiz included in your article (in the Appendix) and, I'm embarrassed to admit, I do not know all the answers. I am wondering whether you have a set of answers to go with the quiz.

Thanks very much,

Liz Larson

Reference Librarian  
Indiana University School of Law

Dear Liz,

I didn't really have a key when I first gave the pre-test at our bridge-the-gap session. Grading the pre-test was the substance of the whole hour-long class; each question was just a springboard for discussion. But (now *I'm* embarrassed to admit) you are not the first law librarian to tell me he or she didn't know all the answers, so it appears that publishing a key is in order. The easy answers, and summaries of the discussions the answers generated, are as follows:

1. A search on Westlaw® costs:
  - a) Approximately \$4 per minute
  - b) Depends whether pricing plan is flat rate, transactional, or hourly
  - c) Depends on which database you run the search in

d) All of the above

ANSWER: d) All of the above. We handed out a comparison of LEXIS® and Westlaw prices for common searches, briefly explained transactional and time-based pricing, and told them to find out what their firm's pricing plan was in their first three days on the job (as suggested by the number 10 top thing firm librarians wished summer associates knew).

2. A reference to 85 Lab. L. Rep. (CCH) 187 is a reference to a:

- a) Page number
- b) Headnote number
- c) Paragraph number
- d) None of the above

ANSWER: c) Paragraph number. We passed out a research guide on looseleaf services, briefly explained how to use them, and told them what great resources they were for certain areas of the law (as per number 9 in the original top 10 list).

3. Before you leave the assigning attorney's office, you should know the following about your assignment:

- a) How much time to spend on it
- b) What format it should be in
- c) When it is due
- d) Whether you can use LEXIS or Westlaw
- e) Which jurisdiction controls
- f) All of the above

ANSWER: f) All of the above. We distributed a sample assignment sheet and legal research evaluation form, "Checklist of Basic Legal Research Sources," from a local firm and a handout titled "Research Strategy." We discussed the fact that although it is sometimes hard to ask the assigning attorney questions, it is necessary and appropriate (as per number 7).

4. Your best friend in a law firm is:

- a) The other summer associates
- b) The hiring committee
- c) Your senior associate mentor
- d) The librarian(s)

ANSWER: d) The librarians, of course (as per number 6). We handed out a copy of the original "Top 10" article to prove it. We also mentioned number 8 at this point, to remind them that saying "thank you" goes a long way.

5. The *Federal Register* is to the *Code of Federal Regulations* what the:

- a) *Statutes at Large* is to the U.S.C.
- b) GSCA is to the Conn. Pub. Acts
- c) Conn. Agencies Regs. is to the Conn. L.J.
- d) None of the above

ANSWER: a) *Statutes at Large* is to the U.S.C. We discussed how statutes and regulations are passed and codified. We handed out a research guide on federal administrative law (as per number 1).

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1. Final Connecticut state agency regulations first appear in/on:

- a) *Connecticut Law Journal*
- b) *Connecticut Law Tribune*
- c) *Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies*
- d) Westlaw and/or LEXIS

ANSWER: b) *Connecticut Law Tribune*. This is, of course, peculiar to each state. We distributed research guides on Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York legal material because most of our students end up practicing in these states. The point of this question is to share information about your own state's administrative code (as per number 5).

2. Match the following items of legislative history with the sources in which they appear:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a) Hearings                 | 1) <i>U.S. Code Congressional &amp; Administrative News</i> <sup>®</sup> |
| b) Floor debates            | 2) CIS microfiche  |
| c) House and Senate reports | 3) <i>Congressional Record</i>   |

ANSWER: a=2; b=3; c=1 and 2. We distributed a research guide on legislative history and discussed how a bill becomes a law in the federal system. We discussed how researchers should be familiar with their own state's legislative history process (as per number 5).

3. The best place to do research on Connecticut state legislative history is:

- a) UConn School of Law Library
- b) The Internet
- c) The Connecticut State Library
- d) LEXIS and/or Westlaw

ANSWER: c) The Connecticut State Library. It has everything in print; the University of Connecticut Law Library only has fiche back to 1985. Again, this is local information, but it led into a lively discussion about the relative value of the various sources and formats (as per number 4).

4. If you were stranded on a desert island but knew you were going to have to appear in a Connecticut state court tomorrow (a magic carpet will transport you there and back after your appearance) and could only choose one set of books to have with you, would it be:

- a) West's Connecticut Practice Series
- b) Connecticut Practice Book Annotated, with Forms
- c) Official Connecticut Practice Book
- d) Connecticut Legal Forms

ANSWER: a) West's Connecticut Practice Series. This is a personal choice. The point is to remind researchers of the importance of jurisdiction-specific practice materials (as per number 3).

5. Federal administrative decisions can be found in/on:

- a) LEXIS and/or Westlaw
- b) The Internet
- c) Official agency reporters
- d) Commercial reporters

ANSWER: This is a trick question because it depends on the agency. But this question is a springboard to an extended discussion about how agencies issue decisions in general (as per number 2).

I bet you did better than you thought you did!

Kelly

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