The official name for the Presidents Day holiday remains Washington’s Birthday, although Presidents Day is generally used to celebrate and honor any number of Chief Executives in our nation’s history. Regardless of which president(s) of the United States you wish to commemorate on the third Monday of February each year, one of the best electronic resources for information about our 44 presidents remains HeinOnline’s U. S. Presidential Library.

Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Public Papers of the Presidents, CFR Title 3 (Presidents), Weekly Compilation of the Presidential Documents [now known as Daily Compilation of the Presidential Documents, January 2009—Present], the Economic Report of the President, and other document sources relating to each presidential administration.

Messages and Papers of the Presidents is a 22-volume set that begins with President George Washington and ends with President Herbert Hoover. Annual, veto, and special messages for each of these administrations are found here. Public Papers of the Presidents begins with President Hoover and continues through the first term of President George W. Bush. Contained within are an assortment of messages and statements. Here, for example, are found presidential signing statements issued by our chief executives as they signed bills into law.

CFR Title 3, found within HeinOnline’s U. S. Presidential Library, contains all presidential documents required by the Federal Register Act to be published in the CFR, such as proclamations and executive orders, as well as all regulations promulgated by the Executive Office of the President.

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The Economic Report of the President is written annually by the Chairman of the President’s Council of Economic Advisors. It provides extensive information and statistics about the state of our nation’s economic health. The Economic Report of the President is required to be transmitted to Congress no later than ten days after the submission of the Budget of the United States Government. Supplementary reports containing additional or revised recommendations are sometimes issued to the Congress.

The Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents is issued every Monday through the Office of the Federal Register and contains statements, messages and other Presidential material released by the White House during the previous week. Texts of speeches, press conferences, press releases, executive orders, and other acts approved by the President are included. Beginning in January 2009, the Office of the Federal Register and the GPO began to provide more timely access to presidential documents, now appearing in the Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents.

HeinOnline is searchable through the Whittier Law School’s campus network and the Law School’s my.whittier Intranet.

The Whittier Law School Library recently upgraded its subscription to WilsonWeb Legal Periodicals database. Now you can access many of its articles in full-text format. Sight-impaired researchers will also find many of its articles are available as audio files. Whittier Law School Library’s subscription to WilsonWeb Legal Periodicals database is searchable through the campus network and the Law School’s my.whittier Intranet for WLS students, faculty, and staff.
The Centennial of Ronald Reagan

One hundred years ago, on February 6, 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born in the small town of Tampico, Illinois, and raised in nearby Dixon. He graduated from Eureka College with a bachelor's degree in economics and sociology. As a college student, Reagan was actively involved in student government and politics, campus theatre, and sports, primarily football and swimming. He also served as student body president at Eureka.

He worked as a lifeguard in 1926; a radio announcer in Davenport and Des Moines, Iowa from 1932 to 1937; and he was a veteran of the U.S. Army and Army Air Forces during World War II, where he and his military film unit helped produce over 400 training films for the Army Air Forces.

Reagan’s acting career began in 1937, following a screen test he took at Warner Brothers studio in Hollywood while traveling with the Chicago Cubs baseball team as an announcer for WHO radio in Des Moines. From his first screen credit as the star of Love is On the Air in 1937, to his famous role as George Gipp in Knute Rockne, All American in 1940, to his favorite role as a double-amputee in Kings Row in 1942, Ronald Reagan became a Hollywood star of some note before his military service in World War II.

We remember Ronald Reagan as an actor in B-grade films like Bedtime for Bonzo and Hellcats of the Navy, but just as he was active in campus politics as a college student, while an actor Reagan shifted into leadership roles in the political side of motion pictures, serving as a Screen Actors Guild board member and president during the 1940’s. At this time he was a registered Democrat. Reagan testified before the House Un-American Activities Committee during the Red Scare in the late 1940’s, and he offered the FBI names of persons in the Hollywood film industry he believed to be pro-communist. In the late 1950’s, Reagan became the host of the General Electric Theater and host and performer in Death Valley Days in the mid-1960’s.

Having switched his party affiliation in the early 1960’s, Reagan entered politics on the national level after serving as governor of California from 1966-1974, in between the terms of father and son Governors Edmund G. “Pat” Brown and Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr. He challenged President Gerald Ford for the Republican nomination for president of the United States in 1976, but narrowly lost the nomination to the unelected president. Returning in 1980 with the nomination of his party, Ronald Reagan defeated incumbent President Jimmy Carter in 1980 and former Vice President Walter Mondale in 1984, serving two terms as President of the United States from 1981-1989. Reagan died in 2005 at the age of 94; he is remembered by both his political opponents and supporters as a conservative, principled leader.

Our Library’s collection of books by and about President Ronald Reagan, and the major issues of his two terms as president, are numerous and listed below.

Selected Bibliography


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As they do every winter, law librarians from all over southern California met at the annual Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL) Institute. This year’s educational program was held in the heart of wine country at the Temecula Creek Inn in Temecula, California, on March 18-19, 2011. The theme was “Let the Sunshine In: Public Agency Law & Practice.” The organizer of this year’s event was Mark Gediman, Librarian at Best Best & Krieger LLP. Mark is also the current Vice President/President-Elect of SCALL. Programs included speakers who are county and city public officials and lawyers engaged in public agency law practices. Attendees were primarily law librarians from academic, county, and private law firm libraries. Special VIP guest was American Association of Law Libraries President Joyce Janto.

Mary Alice Baish was appointed by Public Printer William J. Boarman to be Assistant Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents. Her appointment was announced on January 20, 2011. The Superintendent of Documents is the chief administrator of the Federal Depository Library Program, a nationwide program in which all types of libraries—including Whittier Law School Library—participate. Whittier Law School receives about eight percent of all publicly-available federal documents primarily on law and law-related topics. Mary Alice is the second-ranked federal official in charge of the U.S. Government Printing Office, the world’s largest publisher of federal government information in print and electronic formats. Before she became Assistant Public Printer and Superintendent of Documents, Mary Alice had served since 1995 as the Director of Government Relations for the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the national law library association. In that position, Mary Alice promoted AALL positions on open government initiatives. She had also served as government documents librarian at American University and Seton Hall University. She holds an MLIS degree from Rutgers and a M. Ed. Degree from SUNY Buffalo.
Hey, man, I’m only a little bit high!

California became the first state to decriminalize marijuana with the passage of SB 1449. Possession of less than 28.5 grams (about one ounce) of marijuana is now an infraction punishable by a fine of not more than $100. While the penalties have remained the same since last year, the infraction no longer results in a criminal record. Since possession of a small amount of marijuana in California is no longer a misdemeanor, a person charged with possession of about an ounce of marijuana can no longer request a jury trial or be represented by a public defender.

Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the bill into law on October 1, 2010, stating that “the courts cannot afford to expend limited resources prosecuting a crime that carries the same punishment as a traffic ticket.” By a margin of ten percentage points, voters rejected a November 2010 ballot measure that would have legalized marijuana.

All I know for sure is that after my Google search on this topic, all sorts of ads for cupcakes and other sweets started showing up (no joke!). And, yes, they did look awfully good.

(SB 1449 Leno. Dem., San Francisco)

Electronic mail, electronic gambling, now...electronic cigarettes?

Advertised as “cigarettes without the smoke,” electronic cigarettes deliver a vaporized liquid containing nicotine to the user. The vapor comes in many different flavors, such as vanilla, chocolate, coffee, mint and strawberry. They often look like ball point pens as well as traditional cigarettes. Electronic cigarettes are battery-operated and cost between $40 and $70. Before SB 882, there were no restrictions on who could purchase them. The new law forbids sales to minors in order to be consistent with conventional cigarettes and tobacco products.

The penalty for a first violation is a $200 fine, $500 for a second offense, with a maximum of $1,000 for a third offense.

Legislation to ban all battery-powered cigarettes was passed last year by the California legislature but was vetoed by former Governor Schwarzenegger (SB 400). The governor stated that he could not “sign a measure that also declares them a federally regulated drug when the matter is currently being decided through pending litigation.” The federal legal status of electronic cigarettes is in legal limbo since a federal judge ruled that electronic cigarettes are alternatives to regular cigarettes and, therefore, they do not fall within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(SB 882 Corbett. Dem., San Leandro)

Share your ride during law school class?

Do you have a cute little Mini Cooper just sitting idle, having no fun? Does your Boxster convertible sit forlornly, top up, on a beautiful, sunny day? Are you first on your block to have a Fiat 500? Is your pickup truck at the curb sitting empty and useless while others labor?

Well, with the passage of AB 1871, you can now rent out your car or truck without voiding your personal insurance policy. This means that you may share your vehicle with car sharing services without having to buy commercial insurance. The average car sits parked more than 90 percent of the time. Car sharing services such as Zip Car have been around for at least a decade. They work best in compact cities like San Francisco and New York, as well as on college campuses. With the popularity of social networking sites, and the ability of people to connect frequently with technology, automobile usage is expected to decrease. Some observers see a growing market for car sharing and opportunities for some to give up their cars if they have other options like subways, buses, and car sharing.

(AB 1871 Jones. Dem., Sacramento)

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AB 585 was signed into law to prevent the names and likenesses of soldiers killed in battle from being used by anti-war protestors. Some of the protestors sell T-shirts, buttons and posters with the names and photos of fallen soldiers. The controversy originated when an Arizona businessman sold T-shirts with the full names of dead soldiers in alphabetical order.

Specifically, this bill amends the California Civil Code to extend the rights of publicity to people who become “personalities” because of their deaths. The law “protects fallen service members’ names, likenesses, and other characteristics from being used on merchandise for sale without the consent of relatives of that service member.”

Similar laws have been passed in a handful of states, and there is similar proposed legislation at the federal level. Opponents of the law state they should have a First Amendment right to political speech. They say they should be able to remind people about the deaths of the soldiers who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill does not prevent the use of images and names of the soldiers when used for news broadcasts and stories.

The law extends the right of publicity after death, instead of extending the right to privacy after death. Therefore, it gives families of deceased soldiers property rights over their images for 70 years after their deaths.

(AB 585 Cook. Rep., Yucca Valley)
Farewell, Whittier Law Library Student Assistants!

Five Whittier Law School students who work in the Law Library will be graduating at the end of the semester. They have spent considerable time with us; through their work here, they have actively supported the efforts of the librarians and library assistants to make the Law Library a richer resource, an inviting place in which to research and study. Good luck and best wishes to each of them!

**Celia Cho**

Celia is a third-year law student who came to California in 2008 after working as an audio engineer in Miami. She also spent time working as a legal secretary and a personal trainer. She started as a Library assistant after her first year and expressed her appreciation for the flexibility of her work schedule and the nice people at the Library. Her favorite classes have been Trademark and Copyright, Torts, and especially International Animal Rights Law, which was part of her Summer Abroad experience in France in 2009. After she graduates and conquers the California bar exam, she hopes to find work as an intellectual property lawyer, and she’d also like to do animal welfare work.

**Lauren Cross**

Before beginning her legal studies, Lauren obtained a bachelor’s degree in business with an emphasis upon marketing from Arizona State University. At Whittier Law School she is taking the general coursework range to obtain her Juris Doctor degree. As the most valuable feature of working in the library, she cites gaining a greater acquaintance with the various legal practice guides used by attorneys which are kept in our Reserve collection. After graduating she plans to move to Los Angeles and aspires to work as an attorney for one of the Hollywood studios—either as an attorney for business or productions within the company’s overall operations.

**Amber Felix**

Prior to coming to law school, Amber obtained her bachelor’s degree in political science at Humboldt State University. Here at Whittier Law School she is taking the general range of coursework needed for the J.D. degree. Amber cites the ability to meet a range of the law school’s full-time staff and even gaining a greater degree of acquaintance with the faculty as the primary assets to working in the library. She plans to become a criminal defense attorney upon finishing law school and passing the bar examination.

**Ritzi Lam**

Ritzi obtained a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UC Santa Cruz prior to beginning her studies here at Whittier Law School. She is likewise taking the general range of coursework needed for obtaining the J.D. degree. As the primary value of working in the library, she cites becoming familiar with legal practice guides and with items shelved in our Reserve collection as key materials used by attorneys in practice. Her plans subsequent to law school as an attorney entail specific practice in the areas of business, corporate, and intellectual property law.

**Kristi Trafton**

Kristi received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Maine (her native state) before coming westward to Whittier Law School. Her area of concentration within her legal studies is business law. Kristi states that becoming familiar with attorney practice guides has been her primary gain from working for the law library. She will become a new mother shortly and will defer taking the bar examination until next February.
Library Staff News of Note...

Associate Dean for Library and Information Services J. Denny Haythorn attended the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) annual meeting in San Francisco, held January 5-7, 2011.

Acquisitions/Documents Assistant Petrina Walker starred in Scrooge & Marley...Together Again at The Mysterium Theatre in Santa Ana, November 18-December 19, 2010. Serials/Government Documents Librarian Margot McLaren and Public Services Librarian John O’Donnell were in the audience during one of the performances.

Our very own WLS Library Student Assistant Argie Vasilakos gave birth to a beautiful baby boy named Apostolos on January 24, 2011. Both mother and child are doing well.


The staff of the Whittier Law School Law Library offer their sincere condolences to Associate Director Hugh J. Treacy, editor of this newsletter, on the passing of Hugh’s father on March 24, 2011.

Library Hours
Spring Semester

Monday—Thursday
8:00 am—12:00 am

Friday
8:00 am—10:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am—8:00 pm

Sunday
10:00 am—12:00 am