

ACLA Quarterly Meeting Minutes

15 October 2020

Presentation and Elections

Topic: ACLA-Fall Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Recording:

https://uncw.zoom.us/rec/share/nT_Uua56sAmJhcMGQH554kuNvKhJaeqYgKJSgGnn0_EfNEjwXVJV6jOuK1vFK6oe.desJtpHmFdnhkAlw

17 participants –

From UNCW Randall Library: Elisabeth Garner, Lisa Coats, Sarah Mueth, Chris Robinson, Melissa Raymer, John Osinski, Peter Fritzler, Stephanie Crowe, Suzanne Dickson

Virginia Sharp March (Onslow County Public Library)

From New Hanover County Public Library: Kristyn Saroff, Natasha Francois, Susan DeMarco
Kristyna Savard (NCCU), Joan, Tim Pinnick, Delandrus Seales

Presenter: **Natasha Francois** from New Hanover County Public Library Main / Law Library
Legal Resources



Legal Research
Basics.pptx

“I am not an attorney and I cannot give you legal advice”

“No, I cannot fill out any forms for you.”

Do not alter any legal forms for patrons.

The National Archives has *Declaration of Independence*, the *Constitution*, and the *Bill of Rights* documents digitized

United States Code is up to date on the **Office of the Law Revision Council** website.
Uscode.house.gov

Congress.gov under “Legislation” has bills for House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, etc.

Supreme Court of the United States website has the opinions on cases.

PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) is good if you do *not* have access to *WestLaw* or *Lexis-Nexis*, but you do have to create an account and you also need to have a sense of what you are looking for.

Findlaw and **Justia** are also good resources online.

Question from chat: What's the difference between the *Federal Register* v. *U.S. Code* v. *Code of Federal Regulations*? –Please see Natasha's PowerPoint for clarification on this question.

Federal Reporter and *South Eastern Reporter* in print take up A LOT of room! They have them in the basement downtown at NHCPL.

National Archives has the *Federal Register*

Government Publishing Office (GPO) has *Government Manual* and *Code of Federal Regulations*

White House website-whitehouse.gov

Department or Agency websites-examples: Dept. of Defense, Dept. of the Interior, Dept. of State

One-stop shopping: **govinfo.gov**

Secondary Sources for background information – encyclopedias, law reports, form books, *American Bar Association Journal*, *Lawyer's Weekly*, law review journals, etc.

NHCPL has *Westlaw Edge* and it can be searched by keyword (NF tells them literally search in the search bar by “whatever they are thinking”). Can be pared down from there.

GALE Legal Forms on the NHCPL website divorce forms are available, etc. they have some forms in the library. They also have “clinics” on topics such as divorce, property, etc.

Question from chat: “Just curious Natasha, what percentage of your patrons would you say are incarcerated?”

She gets many requests from people both IN and OUT of NHC because they search the web and see “public law library” and just direct their questions to her.

A few notes about the States – general statutes are on the **General Assembly** website:
<https://www.ncleg.gov/Laws/GeneralStatutes>

Elections:

Chair of ACLA: Virginia Sharp March (Onslow County Public Library Director)

Treasurer: Kristyn Saroff (NHCPL) will continue

Listserv Manager: Melissa Raymer (UNCW Randall Library) will continue

Co-Chair: no volunteers

Secretary: no volunteers

Webmaster: no volunteers

Will need to recruit and have another election in January's Quarterly Meeting.

Agenda:

- Brief Introduction statement by outgoing Chair, Elisabeth Garner
- Drawing held for two sets of Passes to the Cape Fear Museum
- Announcement about elections for new board members, being made at the conclusion of today's presentation
- Natasha Francois, Law Librarian for New Hanover County Public Library, presented on Free, Federal Legal Resources