

ADVANCED LEGAL RESEARCH COURSES: AN UPDATE

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I was surprised to discover that Professor Blair Kauffman's article on advanced legal research courses was published over six years ago!¹ Time marches on! And a great deal has changed in legal research during these few years. With e-mail and the law-lib listserv at my disposal, I decided to see if I could update the information contained in that article for a presentation I was to make at the 1992 University of Puget Sound Legal Writing Institute. Had there been an increase in the number of legal research courses offered to second- and third-year students?

Professor Kauffman discovered in his research that in 1985-86, twenty-seven law schools had one or more advanced legal research courses scheduled.² Another forty schools had such a course under consideration.³ An unscientific survey that I conducted in June 1992⁴ identified at least fifty-two law schools with advanced legal research courses and another thirty-six that had taught such a course sometime in the past two years or were considering offering such a course. In short, a total of eighty-eight American law schools are offering or plan to offer one or more courses on advanced legal research.

The number of advanced legal research courses actually being offered has at least doubled in seven years! However, the total number of those law schools offering or thinking of offering such courses has not doubled (sixty-seven in 1985-86; eighty-eight in 1991-92). Though a complete survey has not been done, the preliminary data shows that over one hundred and twenty law schools have not yet added an advanced legal research course. Among the reasons for this might be salary, availability of a good teacher, constraints of the traditional law school curriculum, faculty who do not consider legal research an intellectual pursuit, lack of time, and many other such considerations.

The fact is that in 1992-93, more law students will have an opportunity to enroll in an upper level legal research course than in 1985-86. While this is a favorable trend, we do not

begin to offer this opportunity as broadly as I think most law librarians would like. And while many law firm librarians have accepted the challenge of educating and training clerks and associates in legal research skills, the fact of the matter is that the more research instruction we do well in law schools, the better.

Advanced Legal Research Courses in American Law Schools

Beginning with the survey published by Blair Kauffman in 1986 (6 Legal Reference Services Quarterly 123 (1986)), I have added schools surveyed by West Publishing Company in 1990, and those who responded to a message I put over the law librarians' bulletin board in late June 1992. I expect this number to be conservative.

Of the eighty-eight schools, fifty-two (*) are confirmed to be currently offering at least one advanced legal research course per year, twenty-two (!) were offering such a course as of two years ago, and fourteen (\$) plan to add such a course in the future.

The law schools identified are the following:

Arizona !
 Arizona State !
 Arkansas - Little Rock \$
 Boston College *
 Boston University \$
 Brigham Young *
 Brooklyn \$
 California at Berkeley *
 Capital \$
 Cardozo !
 Case Western Reserve *
 Chicago-Kent *
 Cleveland State *
 Colorado *
 Connecticut !
 Cooley *
 Creighton !
 Denver !
 Dickinson !
 Drake !
 Duke *
 Franklin Pierce !
 George Mason \$
 Georgetown *
 George Washington \$
 Georgia State *
 Golden Gate !
 Hamline *

Harvard *
 Houston *
 Indiana-Bloomington !
 John Marshall !
 Kansas !
 Lewis and Clark *
 Louisville \$
 Loyola, Chicago *
 McGeorge !
 Marquette *
 Maryland *
 Mercer *
 Miami *
 Michigan !
 Minnesota *
 Mississippi \$
 Mississippi College *
 Missouri-Columbia *
 Missouri-Kansas City !
 Montana !
 New Mexico !
 New York Law School *
 SUNY at Buffalo *
 North Dakota *
 Northern Illinois *
 Northwestern *
 Notre Dame *
 Ohio State *
 Oklahoma !
 Pennsylvania *
 Pepperdine \$
 Pittsburgh *
 Puget Sound *
 Regent \$
 Richmond \$
 San Francisco \$
 South Carolina *
 South Dakota *
 Southern California *
 Southern Illinois *
 Southern Methodist *
 St. Thomas *
 Stetson *
 Suffolk *
 Syracuse !
 Texas *
 Touro \$
 Tulsa !
 Utah *
 Valparaiso *
 Vermont *
 Wake Forest !
 Washburn *
 Washington *
 Washington and Lee *
 Western New England \$

Willamette *
 William and Mary *
 Wyoming *
 Yale *

- ¹ Kauffman, "Advanced Legal Research Courses: A New Trend in American Legal Education," 6 *Leg. Ref. Servs. Q.* 123-139 (1986).
- ² *Id.* at 123.
- ³ *Id.* at 123.
- ⁴ Includes schools surveyed by West Publishing Co. in 1990 and schools that responded to a message put over the law-lib listserv in late June 1992. ♦

SURVEYS ON HOW ATTORNEYS DO LEGAL RESEARCH

COMPILED BY PENNY A. HAZELTON

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