

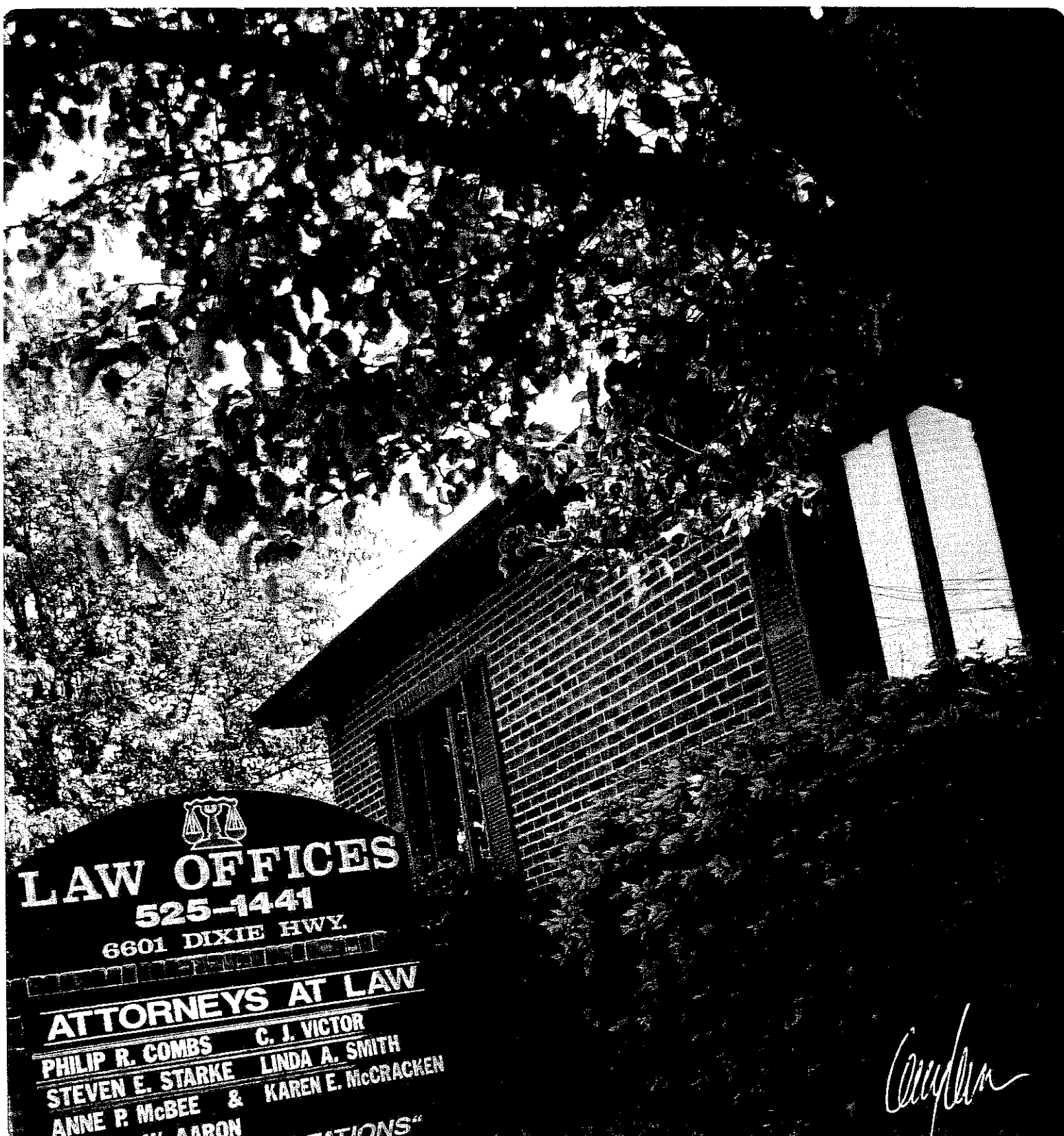
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CHASE LIBRARY NEWS

MINING THE GOLD: FINDING KENTUCKY INFORMATION

by Carol Furnish - Assistant Director for Instruction/Professor of Law Library Services - Chase Law

Why bother with the books? I thought everything was on the web? I frequently hear these grumblings from students taking the Legal Research class. I emphasize that books are still a viable method of research and many times books offer a more comprehensive answer to a legal issue. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out "[A] lawyer without books would be like a workman without tools."

This column introduces you to methods of locating Kentucky practice materials and highlights some little known resources. The Chase Law Library maintains an extensive collection of Kentucky practice materials, so please feel free to browse our collection. The Reference Librarians can also help you find information in the library.

The Ultimate Research Tool:

The Kentucky Legal Research Manual is a one stop shop for Kentucky legal information. The manual is published by University of Kentucky, Office of Continuing Legal Education and the 3rd edition will be released this fall. The Kentucky Legal Research Manual includes a compendium of Kentucky practice books. The reference librarians often refer to this manual when asked to find a book on divorce or for help with a worker's compensation issue. The manual lists the major publications in several areas of law from administrative issues to wrongful death. The manual focuses on resources from traditional publishers such as West Group, Lexis Law Publishing, and National Business Institute; plus materials published in conjunction with the Kentucky CLE programs.

The Kentucky Legal Research Manual can be used as a primer on legal research devoting chapters to the judicial system, case law research, administrative law, the legislative process, the Kentucky Revised Statutes and Kentucky legal history. The Kentucky Legal Research Manual lists the core legal web sites for Kentucky, explains the rules of citation for Kentucky materials and provides an overview of online resources found via LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Little Known Sources:

The Kentucky Legislative Research Commission (LRC) authors a series of research reports and informational bulletins dealing with public policy concerns. Many of the titles are intended as an overview of state and local government. The publications are offered for free or at a minimal cost and are updated to reflect any new developments. The LRC studies include references to case decisions, sections of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Kentucky Attorney General Opinions and additional readings. Sample titles include:

A Citizen's Guide to the Kentucky Constitution. Reviews the governmental authority of the three branches of government and

summarizes the constitutional provisions on taxation, local government, corporations and education.

County Government in Kentucky. Summarizes the operations of county government and reviews the historic development of county government.

Duties of Elected County Officials. Provides an in depth review of the powers and duties of elected county officials including: county judge/executive, justices of the peace/county commissioners, county attorney, county clerk, property valuation administrator, sheriff, jailer, coroner, constable and county surveyor.

The Executive Branch of Kentucky State Government. Offers an introduction to state government and highlights the functions and duties of the various state boards, agencies and commissions.

Kentucky Administrative Regulations. Summarizes the administrative regulation process and reviews how to use the Kentucky Administrative Regulations Service and the Administrative Register. The guide addresses questions concerning drafting requirements, public hearings, effective dates and deadlines.

Kentucky Municipal Statutory Law. Provides an overview of city government and describes the duties of city officials. This guide is much easier read to information found primarily in the Kentucky Revised Statutes. Sample topics include classification of cities, the power of home rule, taxing powers and special urban-county forms of government.

Using Our Online Catalog:

You can search the online catalog, NKUIRE, to find Kentucky practice books. The NKUIRE web site address is <http://nku.kyvl.org/> and be sure to select the "Advanced Search" option. You can enter your key search terms to retrieve a list of books on your topic.

The Human Approach:

You are welcome to contact the Reference Department if you encounter difficulties. The reference librarians can offer suggestions as to print and web based resources that may address your issue. The Reference Desk Number is (859) 572-5396.

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