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University of New Hampshire School of Law Library

Compiled by Susan Zago

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The University of New Hampshire School of Law Library is located in the state capital, Concord, New Hampshire and is the only academic law library in the state.

The history of the University of New Hampshire School of Law is marked by a continuous effort to provide hands-on legal education in a small, intimate environment. It was founded in 1973, as Franklin Pierce Law Center, partly in reaction to two perceived shortcomings in US legal education: its failure to effectively teach professional skills and its neglect of intellectual property law—then an obscure specialty and now recognized as an essential engine to economic development. Robert Rines, and Robert Viles, founded the Franklin Pierce Law Center to train lawyers with a practice based approach. Their vision was that Franklin Pierce Law Center would promote IP as an engine of global innovation, growth and public interest and provide excellent general legal education, a belief in serving the public interest and teaching the students practice skills. Almost 40 years later, the school continues to provide students from all over the world with the most innovative programs in legal education. In 2010 the Franklin Pierce Law Center started the process to affiliate with the University of New Hampshire and in 2013 we are moving toward completing the formal merger but will remain on our separate campus in Concord.

The Law Library is a central, active, responsive force in the educational life of the law school. The Law Library is made up of a general legal collection and a specialized Intellectual Property Library within the Law Library. The Law Library comprises three floors of the Law School. The ground floor of the Library houses study areas, the main print collection, two law review offices, the Online Training Center, six group study rooms, a printer/photocopier area, a microform room, a periodical room and a café study area adjacent to the Jury Box Café. The Law Library's main entrance is on the second floor as well as the circulation desk and reserve collections, reference collection, staff offices, study tables, an area with public access computers and the Kenison Room for meetings and rare books. The Intellectual Property Library occupies most of the third floor which also includes offices, study space and a collection of historic patent models.

The IP Library is the only academic IP Library in the United States. The IP Librarian has developed a comprehensive collection that contains materials from news to scholarly treatises to practice materials. The general legal collection offers domestic legal materials to support the law school's curricular and clinical needs and provides targeted collections in Social Justice, E-commerce and Technology, International Criminal Law and Justice and an extensive collection of New Hampshire legal materials. We are continuing to develop collections in these areas and are adding materials to support the launching of two new institutes this year, the Warren Rudman Center for Justice, Leadership and Public Policy and The Sports and Entertainment Law Institute.

The library staff provides full service support and instruction for JD, MIP and LLM students guided by the faculty approved Informational Literacy Plan detailing legal research instruction throughout the curriculum and administered by the librarians who have a long-standing tradition of research instruction. For nearly three decades, dual degree librarians have taught a two credit, required first year, first semester legal research course designed to introduce students to the primary and secondary sources of U.S. law in both print and electronic formats. Librarians also teach elective research courses for credit. Examples of these courses include: Advanced Legal Research Course, International Legal Research and Mining Patent Data course on patent searching. We are also offering a Legal Research and Information Literacy course tailored to our graduate students. Librarians also share their skills and expertise by providing tailored research sessions for a variety of doctrinal classes.

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The University of New Hampshire School of Law Library has been a selective Federal depository library since 1973 and is one of nine depository libraries in the State of New Hampshire. In addition, the Law Library is designated as a Patent and Trademark Research Center (PTRC). The mission of a PTRC is to disseminate patent and trademark information and support the public's diverse intellectual property needs. Training and research instruction for members of the public interested in searching patent and trademarks is provided by our Intellectual Property Librarian.

The librarians provide various traditional services to our faculty, staff and students such as interlibrary loan, reference, faculty liaison services, collection development and subject area LibGuides. We also have worked to help develop a community environment within the library. We celebrate National Library Week where we intertwine a bit of fun around exams and educate our users about the importance of libraries at the same time.

In addition to our print collections, the librarians maintain our web pages to provide access to a variety of general and specialized legal databases as well as open web resources and research pathfinders using LibGuides. The librarians also maintain a library blog and Facebook page. The IP Librarian creates and maintains the internationally acclaimed, IP Mall and IP Twitter feed. The IP Mall is an open access, unique digital collection of hosted IP content and IP links to materials on copyright, patent, trademark, licensing, etc. You can visit the IP Mall at <http://ipmall.info/>

If you would like more information about the University of New Hampshire School of Law Library, please visit us at <http://library.law.unh.edu/Home>

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About the Compiler:

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