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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

Debbie Vaughn

College of Charleston, vaughnd@cofc.edu

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state profile, the **National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)** 2005 test scores, and county-by-county district profiles. Each of these district profiles gives the district mailing address, phone number and Website URL, as well as the number of schools. But the main value of the entries are the demographics like the number of teachers, male and female students, English language learners, those eligible for school lunches, student/teacher, student/counselor and student/librarian ratios, current spending by student, enrollment, number of diploma recipients, and high school drop out rate. After the district profiles are provided, rankings by district are given for the same demographic categories. Two separate indexes, one by school district and one by city are also provided.

Well focused and easy to use statistical sources on important issues like this are always of value. The *Comparative Guide to American Elementary & Secondary School, 2006*, should find a home in academic, as well as larger public libraries.

The *Legislative Branch of State Government People, Process, and Politics* (2006, 1-85109-761-9, \$95) is one of a three-volume series of handbooks from **ABC-CLIO** entitled *About State Governments*. Authored by **Thomas H. Little** and **David B Ogle**, this book offers the reader a thorough grounding in the role and function of state legislatures. Divided into six sections it begins by discusses the fundamentals of state legislatures, how they have developed, what they do, and the nature of their influence. The second section deals with the actual powers legislatures possess and how they make laws. The next three sections discuss structure and process, including leadership and hierarchy; elections, the people who serve and the nature of their work; and the political environment in which state legislatures function including their role with the federal system of government. The sixth and last section is perhaps the most useful from a reference standpoint in that it discusses the legislatures and general assemblies of each of the 50 states. Each individual entry describes the structure and membership, process, leadership, election pro-

cesses and key political factors unique to that state. It also gives the number of representatives and senators, as well as the phone number and Website address of the legislative body. The book ends with a helpful glossary, an annotated bibliography and a general index.

The *Legislative Branch of State Government People, Process, and Politics* provides a good deal of useful background information that students and other interested readers will appreciate. It is easy to use and full of facts and explanations. Taken with its companion volumes* it offers a uniquely comprehensive look at the lesser studied part of our federal system. Where budgets permit, high school, public and undergraduate libraries, should consider purchasing the whole series.

*The other two are *The Executive Branch of State Government People, Process, and Politics* (2006, 1851097716, \$95) edited by **Margaret R. Ferguson** and *The Judicial Branch of State Government People, Process, and Politics* (2006, 1851097511, \$95) edited by **Sean O. Hogan**. All three are also available as eBooks. For further information point your browser to: <http://www.abc-clio.com/products/browseseries.aspx?seriesid=50>.

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column editor **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor's Note: In this time of political campaigns and election matters, it can be beneficial to educate ourselves about legal matters such as affirmative action, copyright, contracts, and legal history. Three new **ATG** reviewers from the **Coleman Karesh Law Library** and the **University of South Carolina** offer insight into guides that highlight these very issues. **Terrye Conroy** explores **Greenwood Press's Affirmative Action Now**, which expounds upon various

college-related affirmative action topics. Copyright and contracts relating to genealogists, writers, and researchers are covered in **Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts**, reviewed by **David Lehmann**. **Stacy Etheredge** delves into historical legal documents in her review of the two-volume set **Prestatehood Legal Materials**. Warm welcomes and many thanks to **Terrye, David, and Stacy**. Happy reading, everyone! — **DV**

Beckman, James, A. Affirmative Action Now: A Guide for Students, Families, and Counselors. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006.
0313334153. 448 pages. \$55.00.

Reviewed by **Terrye Conroy, J.D., M.L.I.S.** (University of South Carolina, Coleman Karesh Law Library) <conroy@law.sc.edu>

James A. Beckman, Associate Professor of Law and Justice at the **University of Tampa** and editor of *Affirmative Action: An Encyclopedia* (Greenwood 2004), has created a helpful handbook for students, their parents, and counselors who wish to maximize the benefits of applying to colleges and universities that employ affirmative action in their admissions decisions. For college administrators, **Beckman** analyzes the guidelines provided by the **Supreme Court** for implementing a permissible affirmative action plan or program. For readers interested in gaining a better understanding of the subject, **Beckman** provides a fifty page primer, minus unnecessary legalese, on the proper use of affirmative action in higher edu-

cation as prescribed by the **Court** in its landmark 2003 affirmative action decisions, *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244 (2003) and *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306(2003).

Beckman begins with a review of the legal history and current status of affirmative action in higher education in the United States and concludes with predictions for its future. In between, he offers guidance to those affected by its implementation — minority students applying for admission to institutions of higher learning and those who will assist them along the way, namely their parents and counselors.

In his first four chapters **Beckman** addresses the current state of affirmative action, includ-

ing the legal parameters set by the **Supreme Court** and the various practices of colleges and universities in administering their affirmative action programs.

In chapter one **Beckman** examines the history of affirmative action in the U.S., focusing on the **Supreme Court's** decision in *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265 (1978), which approved the consideration of race as a factor, but prohibited the use of racial quotas in higher education admissions programs. In chapter two, **Beckman** analyzes the two currently controlling 2003 **Supreme Court** decisions in which the **Court** invalidated the use of race by the **University of Michigan** in its undergraduate plan (*Gratz v. Bollinger*), but upheld its graduate/law school affirmative action plan in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. He also addresses the **Court's** recognition of diversity in the classroom as a compelling government interest and its authorization of the consideration of race in admissions plans providing they are carefully designed to comply with the specific guidelines outlined by the **Court** in *Grutter*. In the third chapter, **Beckman** describes the reaction to the *Gratz* and *Grutter* decisions as ranging from opponents vowing to continue challenges to state affirmative action plans to institutions discontinuing their affirmative action plans to colleges revising their plans to be more holistic and individualized with added emphasis on evaluative mechanisms such as the student essays. Appendix A lists all four-year degree-granting

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by Mary Copley, MLS (VP Customer & Library Services) <maryc@mattmccoy.com>

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colleges in the U.S. and the degree to which they consider race in their admissions processes, along with minority enrollment data for each institution. Finally, in chapter four, **Beckman** describes the issues involved with "percentage plans" adopted by states such as California, Texas, and Florida that have banned affirmative action in higher education admissions in favor of guaranteeing graduates who place above a certain percentage in their graduating class admission to their state-supported colleges.

In chapters five through nine, **Beckman** offers advice to students and parents on utilizing affirmative action programs to maximize their potential for admission to the colleges of their choice. **Beckman** provides fifteen tips for better maneuvering through the affirmative action admissions process in chapter five and a six-step process for writing the convincing student essay in chapter six. Emphasizing the importance of student essays as a means for colleges to consider diversifying factors under today's affirmative action plans, he includes examples of successful ones utilizing varying approaches.

In chapter seven, **Beckman** discusses the option of applying to **HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)** and their attempts to achieve diversity in their student bodies. In chapter eight, he addresses the state of minority scholarships and financial aid programs since the *Gratz* and *Grutter* decisions, including as Appendix B, the U.S. Department of Education Guidelines on their permissibil-

ity. He describes affirmative action programs created to assist veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces in chapter nine and recommends additional resources for learning more about the admissions process and particular colleges and universities in Appendix C.

Beckman concludes by predicting the future of affirmative action in the U.S. (post *Gratz* and *Grutter*) to entail another landmark affirmative action decision by nine different members of the **Supreme Court**, in a country whose minority population will also be very different.

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers and Researchers.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2005. 0806317582. 119 pages. \$15.95.

Reviewed by **David Lehmann, J.D., M.I.L.S.** (University of South Carolina, Coleman Karesh Law Library) <lehmann@law.sc.edu>

Genealogy is not an area one traditionally associates with copyright issues. I mean, your family history is yours and your family's, right? Wrong! In the new technological age, copyright and contract legal issues have insinuated their way into all facets of life. This fact of life is made clear in *Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts: A Primer for Genealogists, Writers and Researchers*. **Sharon DeBartolo Carmack** discusses the impact of copyright and contract law on writers and researchers (generally) and genealogist authors (specifically).

This book explains how copyright law has now become a part of the fabric of our everyday lives. **Carmack** has done an excellent job of interpreting copyright law with its intricacies and vagaries and then describing the process in simple terms. She enumerates the common problem areas of copyright law and then intricately weaves these legal explanations into the study of genealogy. Additionally, **Carmack**

covers a variety of contract legal issues that authors seeking publication of their work will be confronted in seeking their goal. These legal concepts then are deftly applied to genealogist authors. The explanations are concise and accurate and are explained in terms that non-lawyers will easily understand. Moreover, examples are given to illustrate her points. The book is remarkably easy reading and even entertaining, given the two areas of law that she is tackling.

The book is divided contextually into two areas, as the title announces: copyright and contracts. The book is stylistically divided into nine chapters; four chapters on copyright and five chapters on contracts. These chapters cover the main points of the selected topic. The author has added a distinctive feature to all of her chapters. After her discussion of the law, she has added a closing subsection entitled "Applying

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It to Genealogy." This section has a series of pertinent questions about the chapter and applying the legal issues to genealogy fact-based situations. This section is an effective method of communicating the information to the reader in an every day occurrence, matter-of-fact manner.

The author's choices of topics for her chapters are strategically effective. In the copyright area, she starts with the basics. She then adds to this foundation with her chapters on points of interest to her target audience. Chapter two advances the basic copyright information with coverage of public domain, fair use, one of the bugaboos of copyright law, and seeking permission for copyrighted materials or materials where the copyright is unknown. Chapter three covers one of the most abused areas of copyright law in the Internet age; photographs, illustrations, maps, and images. These issues are of concern to every author. The concepts are clear

and the examples are part of one's everyday life problems. She gives Websites for "stock" images and photos. Chapter four completes the copyright portion of the book with the problems of "works for hire."

In the contract area, Carmack attacks the publication problems that authors might encounter with chapters on collaboration agreements, journal/magazine contracts, and book contracts. These chapters give step-by-step guidelines for evaluating and negotiating contract issues that every author who tries to publish is required to wade through in the publication obstacles course.

She finishes her book with two chapters that fit together nicely. The first of these last chapters explores electronic contracts, an area where copyright and contracts interact on a new level. The final chapter in the book is on self-publication and the issues involved in this avenue of publication and flows smoothly from the previous chapter.

Carmack's Guide to Copyright and Contracts is an excellent elementary textbook on the issues

that confront authors and writers in their chosen field. It accomplishes its goal of educating writers and researchers in the problem areas of copyright and gives solid negotiating pointers for publishing contracts. The information is especially pertinent to its target audience, genealogists. It concisely covers everyday problems and is a great general information tool to alert authors to problem areas and give them general guidance on avoiding some of the pitfalls. This book covers in detail areas that frustrate and confuse every writer. It is a valuable contribution for the *littérateur* and should be read and reread. It should be kept in any author's desk as a reminder that copyright is a pervasive issue in any writing or publication endeavor and its tenets must be understood and be continually monitored to avoid legal and financial catastrophes.

Chiorazzi, Michael and Marguerite Most, eds. *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia*. 2 vol. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2006. 0789020564. 1500 pages. \$149.95.

Reviewed by **Stacy Etheredge, J.D., M.L.I.S.** (Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law) <etheredg@law.sc.edu>

Anyone interested in the legal history of the United States should be ecstatic to learn about the recent publication of *Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia*. The two-volume set, beautifully rendered by Haworth Press, fills what had been a major gap in legal and historical bibliography. The goal of the book is to provide detailed information about the legal materials in use in every state *before* they became states, and in this regard it succeeds admirably.

The two-volume set is the end product of a unique project overseen by editors **Michael Chiorazzi**, Director of the Law Library and Professor of Law at the **James E. Rogers College of Law** at the **University of Arizona**, and **Marguerite Most**, Collection Development and Legal Information Librarian and Lecturer in Law at **Boston College Law Library**. **Chiorazzi and Most** recognized the fact that law librarians, by the very nature of their jobs, generally attain an admirable level of research expertise in the legal history of their home states. They asked law librarians across the country to participate in the development of a legal reference tool focused specifically on prestatehood history and as a result almost all of

the individual state chapters are written by law librarians from those states (with an occasional archivist or legal historian thrown in).

Each state's chapter encompasses not only the constitutional, executive, legislative, judicial, and secondary source materials one would expect to see but also can include references to more creative lines of inquiry, such as manuscript materials, local state museums, and theses and dissertations. To test the book's effectiveness I decided to first read the chapter from the state I now live in (South Carolina) as I have a fairly extensive knowledge of the legal history materials that should be covered. After that I read the chapter for a state for which I had a small amount of legal history knowledge (Washington) and then a state where I had no legal history knowledge whatsoever (Arizona). I was not disappointed by any of the chapters; the South Carolina chapter mentioned the materials I expected to be covered, the Washington chapter covered what little I knew and then lead me in new directions, and the Arizona chapter left me with the feeling that I now had an excellent background with which to begin my research.

Guidelines for writing the chapters were left to the devices of the different authors involved

and thus there are basically 52 different styles and approaches. Although this method provides a distinctive freshness to the book as a whole it ironically also leads to its major weakness, as the inconsistency and unevenness among chapters can oftentimes be distracting or even disconcerting. For example, chapters vary considerably in length and some are long narrative essays while others are basically straight bibliographies. The bibliographies themselves can fluctuate between being selective, exhaustive, annotated, and unannotated. Some chapters might list Websites, while others might not. However, this may very well be a moot point as the average researcher consulting the set will most likely be interested in one state only and will neither notice nor be bothered by any inconsistencies.

Prestatehood Legal Materials is a remarkable, one-of-a-kind book as there is currently no other compilation or reference work similar to it. It would be a valuable addition to all university and law school library collections as well as the personal bookshelf of anyone interested in the legal history of the United States.

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dream up to ask him to do. Please thank them all when you see them!

And speaking of assistance, I can't leave out **Beth Bernhardt** <beth_bernhardt@uncg.edu> who has been a brick in helping to put the Conference program together, contacting speakers, keeping track of the schedule, assigning rooms for the papers, etc., etc. Thanks to **Beth** for her persever-

ance and, most especially, her good humor!

It's official: **Serials Solutions** has launched **Vivisimo**, its new results clustering feature. More than 30 libraries have implemented it already. **Serials Solutions** launched the new **Results Clustering** feature for its **Central Search** federated search service. Researchers can now quickly identify the resources relevant to their areas of interest. **Serials Solutions'** Web-hosted model requires no local software loading, making implementation of **Result Clustering** effortless for the library. Results Clustering integrates the **Vivisimo Clus-**

tering Engine with Serials Solutions Central Search. **Serials Solutions** is offering the feature free to all **Central Search** subscribers. No software or hardware installation is required. Clustering can be deployed by libraries with virtually no effort. As with all **Central Search** user interface features, results clustering is customizable. www.serialssolutions.com/webinarlist.asp or request a free demonstration by vivisimo.com www.il.proquest.com.

And — Attention!!!! — here are some **job**
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