

NEW FACULTY

Ed Edmonds

HOME TO BUILD A LIBRARY

On a recent walk around the campus, Ed Edmonds, the newly-appointed associate dean of library services for the Law School, stopped in front of Dillon Hall. To his wife, Brigid, he remarked: "This is where your father lived on campus." That Brigid's father, Thomas Garvey, had lived in Dillon more than 70 years ago and was the first of many of her relatives to attend the University struck Ed as a reminder of how returning to the University of Notre Dame is a happy homecoming for both of them.

Edmonds has returned to the University to help the Law School build its new library. He brings with him a personal history of the University as well as personal experience building law libraries, two wonderful qualifications for this new member of the Law School community.

Edmonds graduated from Notre Dame in 1973 as a history major. Although more than 30 years have passed since he was a member of the University, his time as an undergraduate decided the course of his professional career that would return him here.

One of Edmonds' classes during his senior year was held in a Hesburgh Library basement classroom: a seminar on American history during the Revolutionary War taught by Prof. Marshall Smelser. It was Smelser who helped Edmonds form a plan to study librarianship and law. (Interestingly Smelser also influenced another of Edmonds' passions: sports. Smelser wrote the influential *The Life that Ruth Built: A Biography*.)

That Edmonds would decide to pursue a career that blended law and library services in the early 1970s was fortuitous, as the staffing of law libraries was beginning to reflect the need for people whose careers included training in the law.

The early 1970s were a transition time for law libraries. Through the early 1960s, law libraries were run by librarians who had no formal legal training. Yet the need for specialized law library collections continued to grow. Indeed, at the 1973 annual convention of the American Association of Law Libraries, a resolution adopted by the membership during the opening session reflects this growing specialization, acknowledging the "increasing complexities and responsibilities of the law library profession" (*Gateway Gazette, Centennial Edition* 2006).

To prepare himself for a life of the law and libraries, Edmonds first completed an MLS at the University of Maryland College of Library and Information Services in 1974. To study law, he looked for a law school at which he could both study law and gain experience working in a law library. To do so, he enrolled in the



University of Toledo Law School's part-time program and began working at its library as the head of the circulation department under the direction of Janet Wallin, the first of many who would offer him solid instruction in the world of law libraries.

Ed's first job after graduating from Toledo was with William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law; he was the first non-director on the staff

to have both a library and law degree. The move to Virginia was a happy one for two reasons: one, it brought him closer to his family, who lived in Northern Virginia. Second, the move allowed him to gain experience building a new law library. He would remain at William and Mary for 10 years, from 1978 until 1988.

When he arrived at William and Mary, the School of Law was housed in four buildings and its library collection in three. About two-thirds of the collection was in one of the law school's buildings; the remaining one-third, primarily the tax and international and foreign law collection, was located in a dorm basement. Under the guidance of his second mentor, Caroline Heriot, Edmonds learned to consider both the philosophy of organizing a law library's collection as well as the practical considerations of packing, moving, and setting up library services and collections in a new building.

Until the late 1960s, law libraries had no schedule from the Library of Congress by which they could classify books. Because of this lack of a specific system, large sets of law material were left without call numbers. To arrange this material, reporters like *United States Reports* and *West's Supreme Court Reporter* were grouped together because they all contained decisions of the United States Supreme Court while other sets, like the *West* regional reporters, were shelved together in alphabetical order (e.g., *Atlantic Reporter*, *California Reporter*). Periodicals and loose-leaf services were shelved alphabetically by title.



Professor Heriot's arrival brought a change in course at William and Mary. Professor Charles Whitehead had implemented a new classification system to bring order to the William and Mary collection. He had implemented the Colon System, a scheme devised by Shiyali Ramamrita Ranganathan (1872-1972), which was gaining international appeal. The Colon System, just as other classification schemes, starts with a number of main classes (42), which represent the fields of knowledge. Each class is broken down into its basic elements, grouped together by common attributes, called facets (<http://www.innvista.com/society/education/info/classif.htm>). The scheme involves the assignment of punctuation marks to organize materials, thus cutting across language and alphabetical barriers. Unfortunately, the system did not catch hold in the United States and Professor Heriot worked with cataloger Sue Welch to reclassify the majority of the collection to the Library of Congress classification system.

This era of law librarianship was highlighted by the professionalization of cataloging with the emergence of professional catalogers hired expressly for the purpose of organizing law library collections. Of even greater importance during this period was the creation of the Ohio College Library Center (OCLC). Under the leadership of founder Frederick G. Kilgour, the concept of sharing bibliographic records and the work involved in creating those records revolutionized cataloging. In 1981, the expanding system changed its name to the Online

Computer Library Center, Inc. OCLC is now a dominant world system that provides service to more than 55,000 libraries in more than 110 countries (<http://www.oclc.org/about/history/default.htm>).

Edmonds was finding himself immersed in a world that was experiencing rapid change: the professionalizing of staff, historic expansions of collections, the need to determine future shelving capacity, the infancy of Lexis/Westlaw, and the meaning that these services would have for law libraries. He would use the knowledge that he gained through his experience at William and Mary—on the design of business and science library branches and on the building committee for the expansion of the Swen Library—to help guide construction of the new building for Loyola Law School in New Orleans, where he served from 1988 until 2000 and at the University of St. Thomas Law School in Minneapolis, where he served on the building committee and worked from 2000 until 2006. His resulting expertise includes meeting the challenge of hiring professional staff, developing collections, and participating in the oversight of a law school and library.

And now that he has come home to Notre Dame, he is in the position of guiding Notre Dame's Law School in the planning and ultimate construction of its new library.

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So, how does one decide the layout of a law library? For Edmonds, a law school's mission should form the genesis of this determination. At Notre Dame, the mission of the Law School is to continue its tradition as a premier, Catholic law school, and part of this mission emphasizes the importance of studying law in a community environment. With this principle in mind, Edmonds envisions the library to be a place in which people want to study and complete research, despite the fact that today's technology makes doing so anywhere possible. Edmonds believes that a law library should both honor the tradition of collections but also prepare students for the possibility of practice in one of the many firms that are moving print collections toward electronic access.

In essence, "I'm interested in balance," Edmonds says as he talks about print and electronic resources. While some new law libraries lean heavily toward digital/electronic information, he believes that the soon-to-be renovated Notre Dame Law School library should seek to incorporate both print and non-print resources, suitable for the needs of its community of resident scholars and students.

When this builder of libraries is not involved in the articulation of a new library, he finds interest in the world of sports law. In addition to serving as associate dean for library and information technology and director of the Kresge Law Library, Edmonds will be a professor of law, offering courses in sports law, an area of research that also dates back to his undergraduate days at Notre Dame, during which he served as a student manager of various teams as a freshman and sophomore and as a sports news broadcaster for WSND, the student radio station. (While he did some play-by-play, WSND leader and 1972 graduate, Joe Garagiola Jr., did far more.)

Even the study of sports law has changed during Edmonds' professional career. When he offered to teach sports law at the College of William and Mary, the curriculum committee approved a sports and entertainment law topics course. During the first year, Edmonds taught 90 percent sports and 10 percent entertainment topics. The 90 percent covered traditional topics such as contracts, labor relations, antitrust, and torts; the 10 percent covered the right of publicity, a doctrine dating from a 1950s case involving Topps baseball cards. Today, sports law courses are often divided into professional versus amateur issues.

Edmonds' area of strongest interest is baseball and labor issues, particularly the *Flood* and *Toolson* cases that followed, by several decades, the *Federal Baseball* case in creating baseball antitrust

exemption. He has worked on legislative histories of boxing and the Curt Flood Act, two sets that are part of a sports law legislative history series. With his coauthor Bill Manz of St. John's University, Edmonds expects to have two new additions to this series published this year, one on the federal sports agents act (SPARTA) and one on franchise relocation. He is also currently working on baseball salary arbitration. He is also fascinated, of course, by college football. He looks forward to teaching a sports law class while at Notre Dame.

With his family history of the University, experience overseeing the construction of law libraries, and his interest in all things sports, Ed Edmonds is a wonderful addition to the Law School community!

J.D. 1978 **University of Toledo College of Law**
Research Editor,
The University of Toledo Law Review

MLS 1974 **University of Maryland**
College of Library and Information Services

B.A. 1973 **University of Notre Dame**

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Co-editor with William Manz, *Congress and Boxing: A Legislative History, 1960–2003* (William S. Hein & Co., 2005). Volume One includes "Congress Finally Lands a One-Two Combination: A Legislative History of the Professional Boxing Safety Act of 1996 and the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act."

Coauthor, *Theater Law: Cases and Materials* (Carolina Academic Press, 2004).

"Architecture Series: The Intellectual Hub of a New Law School: The Schoenecker Law Library Built for the University of St. Thomas School of Law" 8 *AALL Spectrum* 16 (May 2004).

"Cornering the Market: The Yankees and the Interplay of Labor and Antitrust Laws," Chapter 18, *Courting the Yankees: Legal Essays on the Bronx Bombers*, Ertie Ward, ed., (Carolina Academic Press, 2003).

"The University of St. Thomas Law Library: A New Library for a New Era in Legal Education," 13 *Trends in Law Library Management & Technology* 5, No. 2 (2002).