



Law Library Lights

A Law Librarians' Guide to Washington, D.C.

Ashley Matthews

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With lots of fun and free things to do, Washington, D.C. can be any visitor's dream destination – and it can be even more exciting for a law librarian. There's obviously no shortage of [historic monuments and buildings](#), and you could live here for years and still not have time to see every interesting thing in every [Smithsonian museum](#).¹

There are plenty of significant landmarks to take in, but did you know that this city's culture and events are just as unique as its most famous memorials? As a D.C. resident by way of Texas, I've learned most of these things over the course of many years living and working in this great city. I'm happy to share and explain a few District basics and fun stores that newbies might not know about!

D.C. Metro Etiquette

Washington, D.C. is one of the most walkable cities in the country, and most of the tourist-friendly destinations are easily accessible via public transportation. The Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority has a handy [Rider Guide](#) for people new to the Metro, but I'd like to share with you my top three unwritten rules of the rail. This is important!

► **When riding the escalator, walk on the left and stand on the right.** If you disregard this Golden Rule, you may get

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"Washington, DC, Skyline" by Ed Uthman; licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

pushed or tossed aside by rushing commuters. Make sure your luggage is on your side of the escalator so it doesn't get kicked or pushed.

▶ **Never take up two seats if the train is crowded.** This is a Metro faux pas, and you will quickly become everyone's least favorite passenger if you break this rule. If you have a heavy bag, place it on your lap or on the floor between your feet so someone else can sit down.

▶ **Always use headphones.** It's great to listen to your music or podcast while riding the train, but other people shouldn't have to as well! Keep it to yourself or risk death stares from strangers.

Be Aware of Quadrants

Navigating the city and understanding the dynamics of various D.C. neighborhoods can be tricky for newcomers. If you'll be using Lyft or Uber to get around the city, make sure you type in or select the correct quadrant. Washington,

D.C. is split into four different sections: Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast. All four quadrants are connected by the US Capitol Building. AALL 2019 attendees may spend more time in the Northwest quadrant, but all areas of Washington, D.C. are easily accessible by train, taxi, or rideshare. Washington D.C. streets are designed on a grid; streets running north and south are numbered, and streets running east and west are lettered. To learn more about our grid system, check out this article on [driving in D.C.](#) To get a better feel for what life is like in the four unique quadrants of D.C., take a look at this [Washington Post photo essay](#).

Books, Books, and More Books

While we know all too well that librarianship is about much more than books, most of us still can't walk past a bookstore without going in! Washington, D.C. is home to some of the best bookstores in the country. In addition to the more popular bookstores in the city (Politics & Prose,

Kramerbooks, Busboys & Poets) — detailed further by Megan Moltrup on [page 7](#) — you can also check out these hidden gems:

▶ [MahoganyBooks](#). Located in the historic Anacostia neighborhood, this bookstore is dedicated to literature “written for, by, or about people of the African Diaspora.” The shop also hosts community book events featuring African-American authors.

▶ [Idle Time Books](#). Surrounded by restaurants, this bookstore houses more than 50,000 used, rare, and out-of-print books. This is my favorite bookstore in the city because it’s nestled in the hustle and bustle of popular neighborhood [Adams Morgan](#).

▶ [The Lantern](#). An “eclectic treasure-trove” of books, maps, vinyl, and CDs. The staff is volunteer-only, and all profits support scholarships at Bryn Mawr College.

▶ [Second Story Books](#). This shop specializes in used and rare books, and they also have an in-house bookbinding service. I’ve found more than a couple of beautiful rare prints at their Sidewalk Sale!

Neighborhood Vintage Clothing & Record Stores

If you’re a librarian that still prefers to listen to vinyl records instead of streaming services, you’re in luck! Washington, D.C. boasts lots of little hubs for vinyl records that you could lose yourself in for hours:

▶ [Smash! Records](#). This little record shop in Adams Morgan has punk, reggae, and rock ‘n’ roll music on its shelves, including lots of books, zines, and vintage clothing.

▶ [Hill & Dale](#). They specialize in new releases, reissues, and repressed vinyl records, photos, and music posters. Conveniently located in the heart of Georgetown!

▶ [Songbyrd Music House & Record Cafe](#). This music house has a café with a full menu in addition to its record selection, including both used and new options. Songbyrd is also a performance venue with live music and DJs nearly every night.

▶ [Georgia Avenue Thrift Store](#). You’ll have to dig, but there are lots of treasures here! There’s also no metro nearby, so you may need to take a cab, Lyft, or Uber over to this neighborhood favorite.

▶ [Fia’s Fabulous Finds](#). This woman-owned consignment shop is full of hip and eclectic items! It’s located in the historic Petworth neighborhood, and is across the street from another charming bookstore ([Loyalty Bookstore](#); see [page 8](#)) and some of the best ice cream in the city ([Lulabelle’s Sweet Shop](#)).

Dining & Entertainment

As I mentioned, there’s never a shortage of free and/or fun things to do in Washington, D.C.! If anything, you may actually begin to feel overwhelmed at all your options. Not to fear – there are a variety of different curated lists highlighting the best that the city has to offer. [Cattleya Concepcion](#) lists five interesting eats for law librarians on [page 15](#). You can also check out these guides:

- ▶ [Official Washington, D.C. Summer Guide](#)
- ▶ [National Gallery of Art’s Jazz in the Garden](#)
- ▶ [The Washington Post’s Going Out Guide](#)
- ▶ [Thrillist’s Washington, D.C. Guide](#)
- ▶ [Free Tours by Foot Washington D.C. Tours](#)
- ▶ [Eater’s Guide to Dining in D.C.](#) ■

Notes

¹Editor’s Note: Check out [Andrea Muto’s](#) article on [page 11](#) for a list of great special exhibits in D.C.’s museums this summer!



From the Editor

Focus on D.C.: AALL Annual Meeting 2019

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It's difficult to believe that we've already come to the final issue of this volume of *Lights!* With the AALL Annual Meeting coming to our city this year, we decided to focus this issue on the D.C. metro area as seen through a law librarian lens: things to do, things to see, interesting history, and the like. We hope that both long-time locals as well as visitors to our city will find something new and fun within these pages and perhaps be inspired to set out on an adventure! (Be sure to also check out the Local Arrangements Committee's [Washington, D.C. Survival Guide!](#))

In this issue we open with "A Law Librarians' Guide to Washington D.C.", where Ashley Matthews gives some important tips for newcomers (like proper Metro etiquette; "[escaleftors](#)" beware!) as well as listing some fun hidden gems around town and a few interesting online guides to the city. Megan Moltrup writes up D.C.'s most popular independent bookstores in her article, "Books, Bubbly, and Brews." Cattleya Concepcion highlights five unusual law- or library-related places to drink and eat. Andrea Muto takes us on a tour of summer exhibits in D.C.-area museums that are passing through our



Submission Information

If you would like to write for *Law Library Lights*, contact Anne M. Guha at amg300@georgetown.edu. For information regarding submission deadlines and issue themes, visit the LLSDC website at www.llsdc.org.



From the Editor, Continued

city for a limited time only; she also provides us with a guide to exploring D.C.'s historical Shaw and U Street neighborhoods. Finally, Babak Zarin takes us along for a visit to Georgetown's cat café, Crumbs and Whiskers. In our columns, Jeff Gerhard writes about the new Carnegie Library Apple Store in Tech Talk, Savanna Nolan reviews the memoir of our Annual Meeting [keynote speaker](#), Prof. Shon Hopwood, and our Member Spotlight brings you the collected answers to this issue's Member Question: "What is your #1 not-to-be-missed thing (e.g., activity, attraction, event) that you always insist friends visiting D.C. during the summer should experience?"

For this issue, we also asked for articles on this year's Annual Meeting theme, "Capitalizing On Our Strengths." On this topic, Rachel Jorgensen writes about how academic law libraries are well-positioned to help students relax and de-stress during finals.

For my own contribution to this issue, I bring you a list of D.C.-area ghost tours. If the July heat is getting you down, maybe one of these chilling tours will help. (And if ghosts aren't your thing, I've also listed the "Wicked Georgetown" tour, an adults-only tour focused on historical scandals and tragedies rather than ghosts.)

This is, of course, my final issue as editor of *Lights*. It has been my pleasure to bring you this volume, and I am pleased to leave *Lights* in the incredibly capable hands of Jorge Juarez for Volume 63. My sincerest thanks to Jorge, to our columnists, Savanna and Jeff, and to all those who contributed to this volume of *Lights* for all their hard work! ■

Local Ghost Tours

Old Town Alexandria:

- ▶ [Nightly Spirits: Old Town Alexandria Ghost & Pub Tour](#)
- ▶ [Alexandria Colonial Tours: Ghost & Graveyard Tour](#)

Georgetown:

- ▶ [Fiat Luxe Tours: Haunted and Historic Georgetown](#)
- ▶ [DC by Foot: Ghosts of Georgetown Walking Tour](#)
- ▶ [DC by Foot: Wicked Georgetown](#)
(Not actually a ghost tour!)

White House / Lafayette Square:

- ▶ [Amerighost: Ghosts of Lafayette Park](#)
- ▶ [National Nightmares: Paranormal Park](#)
- ▶ [Nightly Spirits: White House Ghost & Pub Tour](#)
- ▶ [Washington Walks: The Most Haunted Houses Tour](#)

Capitol Hill:

- ▶ [Scary DC: Horror on the Hill & Haunted Pub Crawl Tours](#)
- ▶ [National Nightmares: Hill of Haunts Tour](#)
- ▶ [Amerighost: Capitol Hill Haunts Ghost Tour](#)



President's Column

Thanks & Final Thoughts

Emily Florio

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It is hard to believe I am writing my last President's column! My 1.5 years have gone by so quickly, and I am so proud of the work we've done as a chapter. As LLSDC members, we are very aware of our own camaraderie, experience, and knowledge, so it is exciting that we will have the opportunity to share it with the wider law library community when the AALL Annual Conference comes to the Walter E. Washington Convention Center from July 13-16. While the theme for this year's conference is Capitalizing On Our Strengths, I believe that we do just that regularly as a chapter. We will display and share these strengths with conference attendees through a LLSDC poster in the exhibit hall.

If you are attending the annual meeting, be sure to stop by to view the poster, or you can volunteer to "man the poster" throughout the conference! As with last year, we will be raffling off two free annual memberships - one for current members and one for a new non-member! We will also have some great LLSDC-themed swag that you won't want to miss! Our programming and educational events remain a highlight of our chapter. A few of this year's standouts are:

- ▶ Trivia Night- Battle of the Librarians
- ▶ Panel Discussion- Career Growth Stories, Anecdotes & Words of Wisdom
- ▶ Bridging All the Gaps: An Ongoing Discussion Across Library Types
- ▶ Legal Research Institute
- ▶ PLL-SIS: Promote Your Library
- ▶ PLL-SIS: PTAB Declarations
- ▶ Data-Driven Law Book Discussion
- ▶ Supreme Court Library and Building Tour

This year featured several technology enhancements for us, and I want to thank all our members (and listserv subscribers) who remained patient with us through the website and backend membership system upgrade, along with the listserv migration.

As we conclude the 2018-2019 year, I would like to thank the Executive Board members along with all the LLSDC volunteers who served this year. In addition, I would like to wish our new President, Kristina Alayan, and our new board a wonderful year filled with fun events and educational programming. And to our entire community — enjoy your summer, we hope to see you at AALL, and see you in the fall! ■

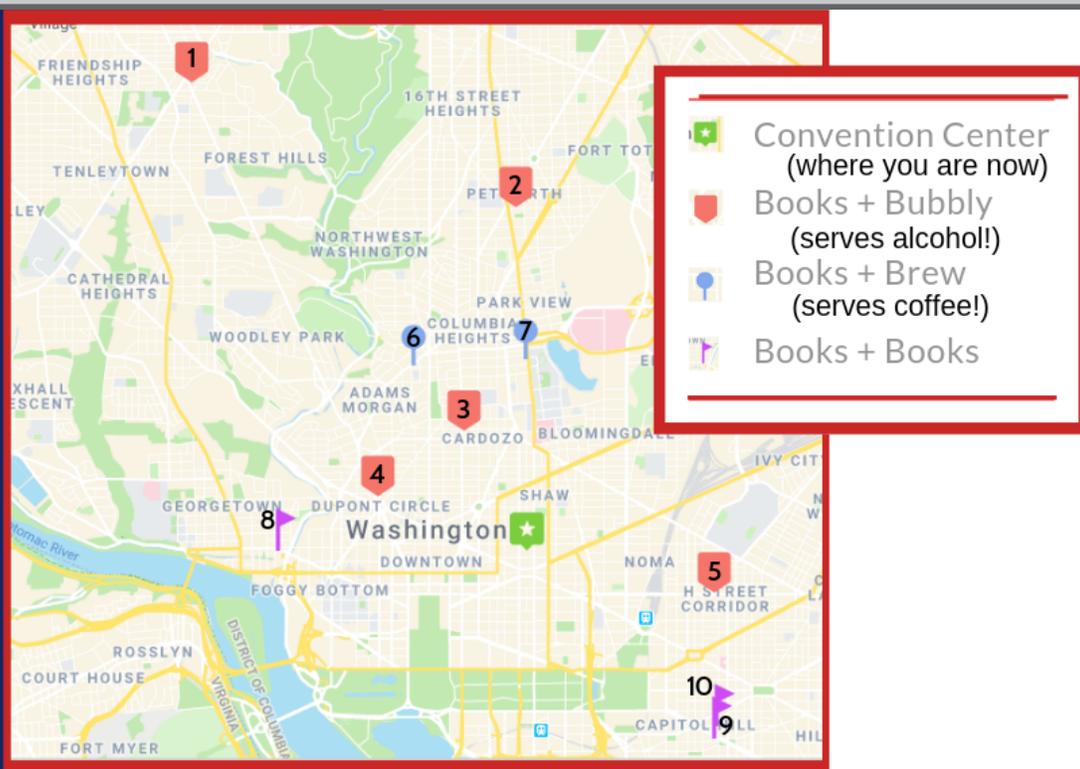


Books, Bubbly, and Brews: Bookstores Around The District

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Bookstores Around The District

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Politics & Prose
5015 Conn. Ave NW | 6. The Potter's House
1658 Columbia Rd NW |
| 2. Loyalty Bookstore
827 Upshur St NW | 7. Sankofa
2714 Georgia Ave NW |
| 3. Busboys & Poets
2021 14th St NW | 8. Bridge Street Books
2814 Penn. Ave NW |
| 4. Kramerbooks
1517 Conn. Ave NW | 9. East City Bookshop
645 Penn. Ave SE |
| 5. Solid State Books
600F H St NE | 10. Capitol Hill Books
657 C St SE |



Editor's Note: For a few more hidden gems in the D.C. area, check out the bookstores listed in Ashley Matthews' article on [page 2](#).

 *Writer's Note: This indicates a bookstore that has events regularly but did not yet have listings for events during the AALL conference (July 13th – July 16th 2019) at the time this article was written. Be sure to check their websites as new events are being added all the time!*

Washington, D.C. has a lot to offer. We have the Smithsonian museums, a couple of sports teams, and national monuments galore! We're also home to an assortment of independent bookstores. What's better than a killer bookstore, you ask? Many killer bookstores. The district is an area that has multiple bookstores, all with different focuses, offerings, and events. Whether you're in the city for the AALL conference or you live/work here, I have a list for you! I've laid out some of the area's bookstores into three categories: Books + Bubbly (they serve alcoholic drinks!), Books + Brew (places with great coffee), and Books + Books (they're focusing on their collection; what more can you ask for?).

It's important to note two things. One, this is not a comprehensive list. I'm highlighting some of my favorites as well as some that are on my own "to visit" list. Two, each place provides an incredible environment to shop, to learn, and to grow. I'm pointing out some of the "extras" they offer, but above all, these havens have an amazing selection of books of all kinds.

Books + Bubbly

1. [Politics and Prose](#) – @politicsprose 5015 Connecticut Avenue NW

Though Politics and Prose has [three locations](#) across D.C., we're going to focus on the Northwest location. This is where you'll find [The Den](#), located on the lower level. Happy hour is every weekday from 4-7; they have a selection of wine, beer, and cider. They also have sandwiches, coffee, tea, and what they refer to as Summer Sips (light, refreshing drinks, perfect for hot D.C. days). Across all of their locations, Politics and Prose has a jam-packed calendar of events. Their programming is almost always free, which is an added bonus!

July 14 - 5:00 pm

The Wharf location: Mike Reiss – "Springfield Confidential: Jokes, Secrets, and Outright Lies from a Lifetime Writing for The Simpsons"

2. [Loyalty Bookstore](#) - @loyaltybooks 827 Upshur St NW

Next door to Petworth Citizen (which Cattleya Concepcion discusses on [page 16](#)), you'll find Loyalty Bookstore. Formerly the location of Upshur Street Books, this new bookshop features an "expanded children's section, busy events schedule, and a highly curated inventory with an eye toward intersectional, feminist, and diverse literature across genre." They are currently working to expand their children's section.

3. Busboys and Poets – @busboysandpoets
2021 14th St NW

Named after Langston Hughes, Busboys and Poets is a place that celebrates art, culture and politics. Busboys has a whopping seven locations across the DMV area. Their first location on 14th St is the one that serves drinks and features the largest bookstore of all locations. From 4-7 p.m., you can enjoy their happy hour specials on food and drinks. If you want to eat/drink in the restaurant area, make sure to browse the bookstore while you wait. Pro tip: You can't bring books out of the store area unless you buy them!

July 16 – 5:00 pm

Takoma location: Jazz & Verse Open Mic hosted by Matt Gallant

4. Kramerbooks – @kramerbooks
1517 Connecticut Avenue NW

Kramerbooks & Afterwards Café has been a D.C. staple since 1976. They have delicious literary cocktails, like Fahrenheit 1517 (sweet & spicy margarita), along with beer and wine, breakfast and dessert, and everything in between. They have a wonderful selection of books with displays that are frequently updated and fun to look through. They also release a list of their best sellers every week so you can see what others are reading. I can almost guarantee that you're going to enjoy browsing and boozing here.

July 16 – 6:30 pm

Allison Levy for "House of Secrets"

5.  Solid State Books – @solidstatedc
600 H Street NE

This place is modern and sleek, and full of book options for every type of reader. If you're looking for a D.C.-themed gift, this is the place to be. So many book clubs are hosted here! Whether you're interested in Sci-Fi or Poetry, or you're a fiber artist that likes to read, they have a book club for you. They're also open to you hosting your very own book club there! Serving coffee, wine, beer, and some delicious snacks, this is another one stop shop. Happy hour is from 4-7 everyday, so stop by and get a beverage and a book!

Books + Brew

6. The Potter's House – @pottershousedc
1658 Columbia Rd NW

If you're looking for a strong sense of community in bookstore form, you've found it here. It's set up unlike any other bookstore I've been in. They have a technology-free zone and signs that encourage people to share larger tables with people they don't know, in keeping with their strong history (and continuing mission) of serving as a community space. Their breakfast and lunch selection is an added bonus to their organically-grown coffee, Counter Culture Coffee, which has a similar mission to the Potter's House. They're both working towards social change in any way that they can.

July 13 – 9 am

Saturday Morning Yoga



7. **Sankofa** – @sankofadc
2714 Georgia Ave NW

Sankofa has been around since 1998, bringing both books and films written by and about people of African descent to the D.C. area. Sankofa means “going back to our past in order to go forward.” Originally a film, this bookstore was founded by the film’s producers. Since then, this has become a place that brings programming and media to the Columbia Heights-Shaw area. In addition to their books and films, they have a wide offering of incredible food. Whether you’re interested in breakfast, a panini, or even a salad, they have it all. Their coffee and smoothies are the perfect complement to your book browsing experience.

July 14 – 2:00-7:00 pm
Vegan Cookout

Books + Books

8.  **Bridge Street Books** –
@bridgestbooks
2814 Pennsylvania Ave NW

The oldest operating independent bookstore in D.C. carries everything from cultural theory to small press publications to the New York Times bestsellers. It has a college bookstore vibe, but

that’s not a knock. The organization, along with the unique and expansive collections, is what really makes this place the shining gem that is.

9. **East City Bookshop** – @eastcitybookshop
645 Pennsylvania Ave SE

A fairly new bookstore to the area, opening in 2016, East City is place great for children and adults alike. It’s cozy and you feel like part of the family from the second you walk through the door. Their handwritten recommendations throughout the store are well-thought-out and give you an insight to books that you may not have heard of otherwise. They also have subscription boxes, so if you fall in love with the store, you can keep it in your life without living here.

July 15 – 6:30 pm
Linda Holmes – “Evvie Drake Starts Over”

10.  **Capitol Hill Books** – @caphillbooks
657 C Street SE

Not far from Capitol Hill you’ll find this used bookstore, which is busting at the seams with used books, rare books, and even some first editions. There’s a closet full of business books and amusing handwritten signs labelling the shelves (for example, one sign labels its shelf as follows: “North West (Pacific NW, NOT Kanye’s Kid!)”). ■

What's Happening in D.C. Museums: Check Out These Special Exhibitions

Andrea Muto

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How cool would it be to see Egyptian Queen Nefertari's sandals? Or to discover how Mary Ann Shadd Cary shaped the African American suffragist movement? Or to carefully feed a digital dinosaur? And to take a tour of the cottage where President Lincoln escaped D.C.'s summer heat? You can see and do all this and more, even if you've visited Washington, D.C. and made many of the museum rounds before! Scores of special exhibits are running while you're in town for AALL's annual conference – take a break and explore.

Several of the museums are located within a few blocks of the Convention Center or on the Mall. Be sure to check [Metro Trip Planner](#) for the closest stop to your museum of interest. Below you'll find a short list of exhibits that may fit your calendar in between AALL programs.

Smithsonian Museums

Even though James Smithson, the founding British donor of the Smithsonian Institution 173 years ago, never visited his namesake museums, you can and should take advantage of these D.C. gems - there are 17 to choose from and admission is free! In fact, three of the world's top 20 most

visited museums, according to [Theme Index and Museum Index](#), are Smithsonian museums in D.C.: the National Air and Space Museum (#5); the Museum of Natural History (#11); and the National Museum of American History (#19). For a full list of all exhibits currently on view at all 17 museums, see the Smithsonian's "[What's On](#)" calendar.

Smithsonian museums on the south side of the National Mall are generally accessible from the Convention Center by Metro (L'Enfant Plaza or Smithsonian); North-side Smithsonian museums are, too (Archives/Navy Memorial). If you're up to it (and D.C.'s heat and humidity is at bay), walking may also be an option.

▶ [National Museum of African American History & Culture](#). This is the newest Smithsonian – a must-see - located on the Mall in close view of the Washington Monument. You no longer need to reserve online timed tickets to enter; you can see a list of special exhibitions [here](#).

▶ [Natural History Museum](#). The Hall of Fossils has re-opened at the museum, giving you



“Scores of special exhibits are running while you’re in town for AALL’s annual conference – take a break and explore.”

the chance to view a 66 million-year-old T. rex skeleton, the world’s only “upside-down” dinosaur mount, and feed digital dinosaurs.

▶ [National Portrait Gallery](#). Just a few blocks away from the Convention Center, the Portrait Gallery unveiled President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama’s commissioned portraits in early 2018. While you visit, you can also view **“Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence,”** featuring photos of women and organizations of the suffrage movement, and **“Portraits of the World: Korea,”** showcasing feminist artist Yun Suknam.

▶ [National Museum of American History](#). This museum is currently featuring **“Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII,”** which marks the 75th anniversary of Japanese Americans’ detention and imprisonment during the war, and **“Modern Medicine and the Great War,”** tracing the ways medicine was applied on the battlefield, and advances in procedures and technologies during WWI.

▶ [National Museum of African Art](#). (Next door to the Hirshhorn Museum). The museum is featuring **“Good as Gold: Fashioning Senegalese Women,”** which examines the production and circulation of gold in Senegal. Another exhibit, **“Striking Iron,”** displays 225

blacksmith works from the African continent. Be sure to explore the museum’s outdoor garden.

▶ [Hirshhorn Museum](#). (Next door to the Museum of African Art). Two exhibits on view are Argentinian artist Rirkrit Tiravanija’s **“Who’s Afraid of Red, Yellow and Green”** and Italian artist Enrico David’s **“Gradations of Slow Release.”** The museum’s outdoor sculpture garden is always worth a visit, too - the [1992 Dodge Spirit](#) crushed under the weight of a 9-ton volcanic boulder with googly eyes is but one interesting attraction.

Other (Free) Special Exhibits:

▶ [Library of Congress](#). Culminating 100 years ago in the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, this LOC exhibit chronicles how women a century ago persisted in **“Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote.”** This exhibit also features **“More to the Movement,”** tracing women of color’s participation in, and sometimes exclusion, from suffragist activities. (Metro station: Union Station)

▶ [National Archives](#). **“Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote”** features documents and photos from the suffragist movement. (Metro station: Archives/Navy Memorial)

▶ [Congressional Cemetery](#). Well, no special exhibit here, but near Capitol Hill, this is one historic site you may have never visited. Where else can you find the grave of the first director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, or the gravesite of Daniel Rapine, Washington’s second mayor, who is recognized for owning a bookstore that is the first recorded retail outlet selling beer in the District? The cemetery is full of



many other notables – from Congress, the Civil Rights movement, and more – check out the [cemetery's audio tour](#). Local residents also use the grounds to walk their dogs – fees are used to support cemetery maintenance.

▶ [The National Building Museum](#), only blocks away from the Convention Center, is a beautiful space in its own right. It has a vast open atrium floor that will feature “**Lawn**,” a sloping, green, summertime space built on scaffolding, with daily activities and programs. A ticket is required for admission to the Lawn, but get a peek of the soaring building space by just entering and looking around.

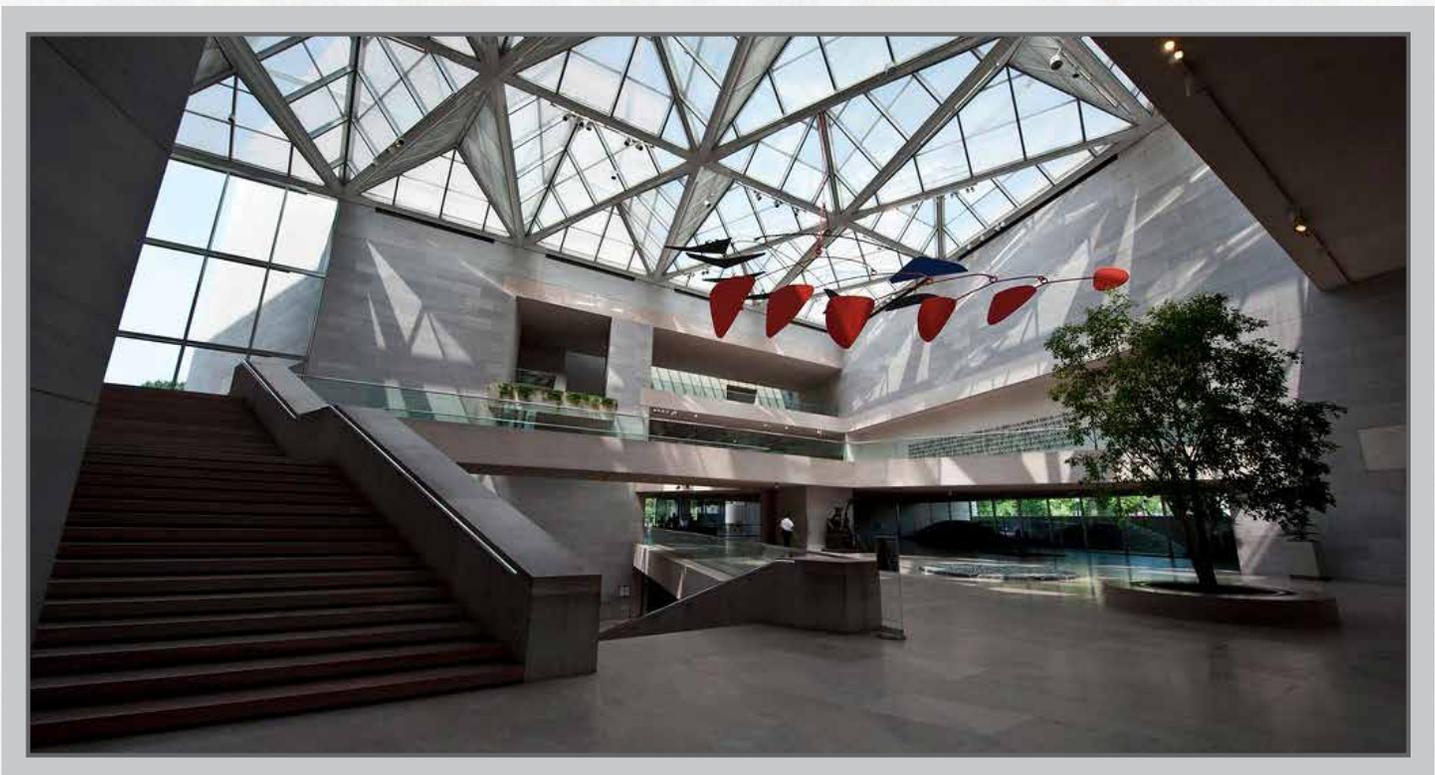
▶ [National Gallery of Art – East Building](#). The East Building was the architect I.M. Pei's design and is well worth exploring even if you've already visited for the art. This time, focus on the remodeled space, which the [Washington](#)

[Post](#) calls “**celestial**.” Pei recently passed away, so this might be a great time to pay homage.

▶ [National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden](#). This outdoor display of modern sculpture is next door to the National Gallery of Art's West Wing building and is a calm green space that is well worth the visit. It includes works by [Alexander Calder](#), [Roy Lichtenstein](#), and [my favorite stainless steel tree by Roxy Pain](#). If you're here on Friday, July 12, there is a free concert by [Elikeh](#) (African fusion jazz).

Entry Fee Required:

▶ [The Newseum](#) is recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn protests with “**Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBTQ Rights Movement**.” Outside the Newseum, you can browse dozens of the current day's newspaper front pages from across the country. Online, you can view [835 front pages](#) daily as well.



*National Gallery of Art – East Building.
Photo by US Department of State; licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#)*

- ▶ [The National Geographic Museum](#) recently opened **“Queens of Egypt,”** an exhibition of 300 objects from the tombs from Egypt’s Valley of the Queens. A [Washington Post](#) reporter writes that this exhibit will “blow your sandals off” with a display dedicated to an Egyptian queen you’ve never heard of – Nefertari, the first wife of pharaoh Ramses II. (Metro station: Farragut North)

- ▶ [The National Museum of Women in the Arts](#) is featuring German sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard’s **“The Contour of Feeling”** and an exhibit by Mexican sculptor and visual artist Betsabeé Romero, whose works are on view outdoors as part of the New York Avenue Sculpture Project, a public art space. The Museum’s building is a beautiful marble structure in Renaissance style. (Metro station: Metro Center or Gallery Place-Chinatown)

- ▶ [The Phillips Collection](#) is just off of DuPont Circle (be sure to spend a few moments people-watching on one of the Circle’s benches). At the art gallery, view **“Earth Songs for a Night Sky”** by the Indian artist Ranjani Shettar, who works with traditional materials and techniques to produce hand-carved wood sculptures, as well as a multi-part piece that wraps up the gallery walls. (Metro station: DuPont Circle)

- ▶ [The International Spy Museum](#) recently moved to a larger, more spacious location built for \$162 million in private donations. Sure, there’s James Bond-type intrigue, but the [New York Times](#) calls the new Spy Museum “rich with historical artifacts, interactive quizzes and original short films,” as well as facing “the most painful and divisive episodes in the recent history of American spying.” (Metro station: L’Enfant Plaza)

- ▶ [The National Law Enforcement Museum](#) is another new addition to D.C., having opened in late 2018. Interactive exhibits such as a decision-making training simulator, immersive forensics evidence gathering, and 911 dispatch are meant to recreate the daily training and work life of the police. (Metro station: Judiciary Square. The museum is also walkable from Gallery Place.)

- ▶ [The Textile Museum](#) is housed at George Washington University and features the new **“Beaded Prayers Project,”** in which you can contribute your own creation to what the artist calls a “community driven art installation.” Interactive **“Textiles 101”** displays also allow visitors to explore fiber, structure, color and creative choices that influence textile design. (Metro station: Foggy Bottom/GW)

- ▶ [President Woodrow Wilson’s house](#) is the home that the President retired to after leaving the White House in 1921. It is situated in the Embassy Row/Kalorama area (where President and Mrs. Obama now live). (Metro stations: DuPont Circle or Woodley Park; then walk or taxi/ride share.)

- ▶ [President Lincoln’s Cottage](#) was the President’s summer escape from D.C.’s heat, humidity and, of course, politics. Lincoln could sometimes be seen riding his horse through D.C. streets on his way there with a small entourage from the White House. A special exhibit running at the cottage is **“American by Belief,”** which details Lincoln’s and the Republican Party’s immigration platform, culminating in his signing into law “An Act to Encourage Immigration.” (From the Convention Center, it is probably easiest and fastest to taxi/ride share to the Cottage.) ■



Five Places for Law Librarians to Eat and Drink in Washington, D.C.

Cattleya M. Concepcion

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Eating and drinking are not just for the stomach. Feed your soul and your brain too at these five places in the District that offer a taste of books, law, and politics.

1. **Supreme Court Cafeteria** 1 First Street NE; supremecourt.gov

The Supreme Court cafeteria serves up menu staples like hamburgers and chicken tenders, but



The U.S. Supreme Court. Photo by US Department of State; licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/).

in the words of Justice Elena Kagan, “it’s not a very good cafeteria.” A *Washington Post* review even declared the food “unconstitutional.” Then why go? The cafeteria runs under the supervision of the Junior Justice, who heads the Court’s cafeteria committee. The committee operates by consensus, which is perhaps one reason why the food remains mediocre. “[T]he most difficult challenge was to . . . satisfy many different cafeteria users with many different tastes,” explained Justice Stephen Breyer of his years as the committee chair. If you must eat before strolling through the public exhibitions or viewing the Courtroom, opt for a cold treat from the cafeteria’s frozen yogurt machine. Justice Kagan successfully added the machine during her time on the cafeteria committee.

2. **Martin’s Tavern** 1264 Wisconsin Avenue NW; martinstavern.com

This D.C. institution first opened its doors in 1933. While known today for hosting every U.S. president from Harry S. Truman to George W. Bush, it is most famous for a summer evening in 1953 when John F. Kennedy dined there. Taste a bit of history and romance by eating at the booth where the then-

senator proposed to Jacqueline Bouvier. A brass plaque marks booth number three as the “Proposal Booth” of the 35th president. Skeptical of the story’s veracity? The story of the proposal was more legend than fact for many years, but then in 2015 an eyewitness came forward to describe the night. “After the senator proposed, and she accepted, the news ran through the restaurant,” the witness remembered.

3. **Federalist Pig** 1654 Columbia Road NW; federalistpig.com

While some restaurants become famous because a U.S. president ate there, Federalist Pig has become known as a restaurant where a fictional president would have loved to eat. On the Netflix show *House of Cards*, then-House Majority Whip Frank Underwood was a regular at the fictional Freddy’s BBQ Joint. By the time that Underwood made it to the White House, Freddy’s had met its demise—and then the fictional president met his. A former Underwood staffer picked up the search for good barbecue in the show’s final season. “I’ve been told it’s the next best thing to Freddy’s,” the staffer said over a basket of ribs from Federalist Pig.

4. **Madison Café at the Library of Congress** 101 Independence Avenue SE; loc.gov

No visit to the nation’s capital is complete without a visit to the Library of Congress. Well-trodden highlights in the world’s largest library include the Main Reading Room and the exhibition of [Thomas Jefferson’s Library](#). A lesser-known curiosity is the tunnel system under the Library’s three buildings that connect to the U.S. Capitol complex. After touring the Library’s highlights in the Thomas Jefferson Building, travel underground through a tunnel to the James Madison Memorial Building. Madison Café, the main cafeteria of the Library of Congress, sits at the top on the sixth floor. The cafeteria offers a varied menu, with

selections ranging from a grill station to a sushi bar, and it all tastes better while enjoying panoramic views of the city.

5. **Reading Room at Petworth Citizen** 829 Upshur Street NW; petworthcitizen.com

If you’ve ever thought that a library’s reading room would make a great setting for a dimly-lit speakeasy for book lovers, then head over to the Reading Room. Every weekend a cozy, library-themed space in the back of Petworth Citizen presents a Literary Cocktails series dedicated to an author. Sip a creative cocktail—previous menus have been inspired by books like Ta-Nehisi Coates’s *Between the World and Me* and Celeste Ng’s *Little Fires Everywhere*—while surrounded by shelves filled with thousands of books. There might be just one flaw in an otherwise perfect setting for librarians: the books are organized by color, not call number. ■

Notes

Jess Bravin, *Supreme Court’s Junior Justice Has to Run the Cafeteria. Don’t Eat There*, WALL ST. J., July 20, 2017, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-courts-junior-justice-has-to-run-the-cafeteria-dont-eat-there-1500567608>.

Emily Heil, *JFK’s Proposal to Jackie at Martin’s Tavern Is “Legend” No More*, WASH. POST, June 23, 2015, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/pb/news/reliable-source/wp/2015/06/23/jfks-proposal-to-jackie-at-martins-tavern-is-legend-no-more>.

Becky Krystal, *How Federal Government Cafeterias Stack Up: Supreme Court Cafeteria*, WASH. POST, July 14, 2010, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/13/AR2010071301514.html>.

Lavanya Ramanathan, *D.C.’s Best Bar for Bookish Types Is Inside Petworth Citizen*, WASH. POST, Feb. 18, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/a-bar-for-bookish-people-only-in-dc/2016/02/18/5351cb9e-ce81-11e5-b2bc-988409ee911b_story.html.

Jessica Sidman, *How DC Barbecue Joint Federalist Pig Ended Up on “House of Cards,”* WASH-INGTONIAN, Nov. 5, 2018, <https://www.washingtonian.com/2018/11/05/how-dc-barbecue-joint-federalist-pig-ended-up-on-house-of-cards/>.



Leave the Convention Center (Not Far) Behind — Explore Shaw and U Street Neighborhoods

Andrea Muto

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You've visited Washington D.C. a time or two. You've toured the Capitol, the Mall, and Arlington Cemetery, and you've seen the monuments, by day and by night. You're looking to explore a little more during AALL's annual meeting. Don't forget D.C. is much more than the nation's capital – the city's neighborhoods are rich in history and culture. Walk just a few blocks from the Convention Center or hitch a ride on the Metro; a couple of stops away are two of D.C.'s most interesting neighborhoods – Shaw and the U Street Corridor.

Both Shaw and U Street played a pivotal role in D.C.'s cultural and economic development, especially for the black community during the early and mid-1900s in Washington. Duke Ellington was born here; Cab Calloway and Aretha Franklin played here; Howard University thrives here; and

iconic Howard and Lincoln theater performances still energize the two neighborhoods' arts scenes.

Both Shaw and U Street have undergone changes over the past several decades in an area that was once the epicenter of the 1968 riots after Martin Luther King's assassination - 13 people died and scores of business and homes burned. Among the many gentrifying D.C. neighborhoods, Shaw and U Street development marks, and some say scars, both corridors that once were the heart of black culture in America.

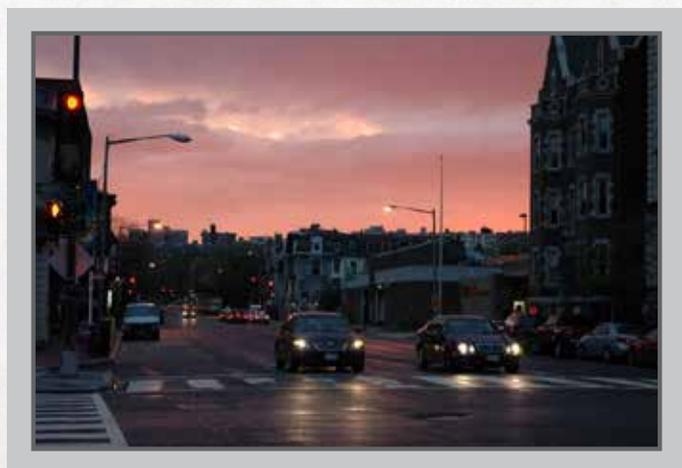
Here are a few tips when you visit:

Metro: from the Convention Center, take the Green line or Yellow line (direction Greenbelt) to Shaw or U Street/African American Civil War Memorial/Cardozo. Use [Metro's Trip Planner](#) for train/bus schedules.



U St in 1968.

(Darrel Crain Collection / D.C. Public Library)



U Street in 2009.

Photo by vincentgallegos; licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](#).



Walking tours:

- ▶ [Travel Channel's U Street Tour](#)
- ▶ [Cultural Tourism D.C. Shaw Tour](#); follow tour markers along the Shaw heritage trail [here](#)
- ▶ [Self-guided tours of U Street, Shaw and Logan Circle](#)
- ▶ [Ten Things to See and Do in Shaw](#)
- ▶ [Shaw and Logan Circle Guide](#)

Short and select links to learn more:

From WAMU, D.C.'s public radio:

- ▶ [When Washington Burned: Reflections on 1968](#)
- ▶ [Old Confronts New in a Gentrifying D.C. Neighborhood](#)
- ▶ [On the Front Lines of Gentrification in D.C.](#)

From the Washington Post:

- ▶ [1968 Riots: Four Days That Reshaped Washington D.C.](#)
- ▶ [In Segregated D.C., Few Officials Feared Rioting. They Had Not Considered the Suffering of Black Residents](#)
- ▶ [We Haven't Addressed the Causes of the 1968 D.C. Riots – Which Means They Could Happen Again](#)
- ▶ [Marion Barry's Washington: Snapshots of the City the Former Mayor Left Behind](#)

From the Washingtonian Magazine:

- ▶ [The Forgotten History of U Street](#)
- ▶ [9 Best Places to Shop Around U Street and Shaw](#)
- ▶ [Dining Out on U Street and Shaw](#)

My personal favorites around the U Street neighborhood:

To explore:

- ▶ Malcolm X (Meridian Hill) Park. Around 3 p.m. on Sundays, a free and impromptu drumming circle assembles in the park near the Joan d'Arc statue you'll find near the park overlook – it is a must see and hear.
- ▶ Howard and Lincoln Theaters (take a tour or see a performance)

- ▶ U Street/14th Street intersection (the heart of the 1968 riots and the site of Mayor Marion Barry's revitalization of the neighborhood with the Reeves Center, a government building complex built in the mid-80s)
- ▶ A walk from U Street south down 14th Street anytime of the day or preferably evening – I promise you won't be bored! (I'm not the clubbing type anymore, but if you are, be sure to Google U Street and Shaw clubs – including the legendary 9:30 Club or Black Cat)

To eat around U Street/14th:

- ▶ Ben's Chili Bowl (a U Street legend)
- ▶ Busboys and Poets on 14th (a bookstore where you can also grab lunch, brunch or dinner) (See Megan Moltrup's article on [page 7](#) for more on this local favorite!)
- ▶ Fainting Goat (lunch, brunch, dinner or cocktails)
- ▶ El Centro or Ted's Bulletin (brunch)
- ▶ Franklin Hall (craft beers, rosé on tap and games)
- ▶ Florida Avenue Grill (opened in 1944, a neighborhood mainstay)

Night-time Entertainment Venues:

- ▶ Lincoln Theater: <https://www.thelincolndc.com/>
- ▶ Howard Theater: <http://thehowardtheatre.com/>
- ▶ Studio Theater: <https://www.studiotheatre.org/>
- ▶ 9:30 Club: <https://www.930.com/>
- ▶ Black Cat Club: <http://www.blackcatdc.com/>

Not too far from U Street/Shaw:

- Logan Circle.** You may already be familiar with DuPont Circle (still interesting), but Logan Circle is saturated with history and huge mansions that tell the lesser-known stories of this part of D.C. Check it out:
- ▶ [Walk Back in Time in Logan Circle's Historic Neighborhood](#)
 - ▶ [Find Hot Restaurants, Hip Decor, Shops and Performance Venues Among Historic Architecture](#)
 - ▶ Additional guides from [WeLoveDC](#) and the [National Park Service](#) ■



It's the Little Things that Count: Helping Your Students De-Stress During Finals

Rachel Jorgensen

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Editor's Note: This article was written on the theme of the 2019 AALL Annual Meeting, Capitalizing on Our Strengths.

A [recent article on law student stress](#), published in the *ABA Journal*, reported on the results of a Kaplan Bar Review survey. [This survey](#) found only 29% of law school graduates thought their schools provided sufficient opportunities and services to help manage stress. The ABA currently has a [mental health initiative](#) that provides resources to law students and law schools, including the website [LawLifeline](#), which provides information to students on mental health services available. Students at law schools have founded organizations and clubs to address student mental health, such as Marquette University Law School's Organization for Student Wellbeing and UCI Law's Mental Health in Law Society.

These studies and resources focus on the larger picture – comprehensive programs to provide resources and strategies for improving and maintaining mental health while in law school, such as counseling, addiction-recovery services, and stress management.

As librarians, we get a first-hand look at how stress, particularly during finals week, affects our students. Comprehensive stress-reduction and mental health programs rarely fall within the purview of the library; however, this does not preclude librarians and law libraries from providing opportunities for students to relieve stress in

healthy and entertaining ways. In fact, law libraries use a variety of things to provide a bit of respite during finals.

In 2011, Julian Aiken, law librarian at Yale University, decided to bring her dog Monty to work to give students the opportunity to [“check out” the pup for play dates](#). The use of therapy dogs by law libraries has spread since – the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Boston College, and Indiana University McKinney School of Law, to name a few, have brought in therapy animals during exams for stress relief.

Though the law library here at Georgetown hasn't developed a pet therapy program for finals, we have made an effort over the past two years to provide stress relieving activities during finals. We started small, setting up a table for a jigsaw puzzle for the spring 2017 exam period. It was a success! Students completed four 1000-piece puzzles during the exam period. We decided to make it a tradition and provided puzzles again for the spring 2018 exam period; this proved a pivotal year in that we identified the outer limit of puzzle interest – a 2000-piece Star Wars puzzle was left unfinished.

While the puzzles have been a success (students mentioned how much they liked them on our annual student survey), we decided to expand





The stand, made out of taped together cardboard and wrapping paper. Signs made in Word.



The book we used for the flower making station. It included simple designs that didn't take a lot of time to create.

the selection of stress-relieving opportunities for the spring 2019 exam period to include origami and giveaway plastic animal toys. As with all good ideas, we got this one from another librarian, Sangeeta Pal, Access Services Librarian at the UCLA Law Library. In a post on the Academic Law Libraries SIS discussion board, she described the popularity of these two programs at her library.

We set up two tables in our 5th floor atrium, which is a natural place for students to congregate while taking study breaks during finals. We've found that a large round table works well for the puzzle. We set up a second table for the origami and the toy giveaway. The origami station included a mix of origami paper and three origami instruction books. A colleague also brought in materials to make paper flowers. All three activities showed evidence of student participation – the students completed the first 1000-piece puzzle within a few days, and every morning there would be evidence of origami- and flower-making.

The toy giveaway proved to be the most successful aspect of our de-stressing activities. We rebranded the plastic animal toy giveaway as a “study buddies” adoption event. I built a small stand to display the animals with signage

encouraging the adoption of the “animals.” Signage promised that they would swear to be quiet. We bought four packages of mixed plastic animals and dinosaurs from Amazon, for a total of 260 pieces. By the end of finals, we had 4 lonely dinosaurs left (they are adoption fails and now live in my office). The stand was restocked twice per day. On more than a couple of occasions, we had students waiting for the animals to be restocked and received verbal feedback from students that they really liked them!

While these activities are “small” within the broader context of supporting our students’ mental health, providing a little bit of respite during an intensely stressful time is an important part of student well-being and well within the ability of our library. We’re very happy with the results of our de-stressing activities and plan on continuing them indefinitely. We will continue to pick up new ideas from our colleagues and hope to expand the program in the future. ■

Further Reading

- American Bar Association. National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being. (2017) <https://perma.cc/4PBE-7GAK>
- Confino, Jordana Alter. Where are We on the Path to Law Student Well-Being? J. Legal Ed. (Forthcoming, Summer 2019). <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3374976>



Unwind While You Dine: Georgetown's Cat Café

D.C.'s *Crumbs & Whiskers* offers its customers cats, coffee, and conversation for good cause

Babak Zarin

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Located at 3211 O St. NW, D.C.'s *Crumbs and Whiskers* is the latest hit in the Georgetown "foodie" scene: a cat café, where customers can eat and drink while they sit down and play with adult cats for anywhere between fifteen and seventy minutes.

Knowing that it was a pretty in-demand place, I decided to visit their [website](#) to see if I could have them save me a space. This was an unexpectedly great idea: *Crumbs and Whiskers* only offers a limited number of walk-ins per day, none of which include food service, making having a reservation very important to guaranteeing the full experience. I found it a relatively easy process to make my reservation, and the confirmation e-mail I received also included additional information such as where you could park and how to place an order, as all the items on their menu— a variety of coffee/tea drinks and gourmet macarons, available for \$3-10— are prepared offsite.

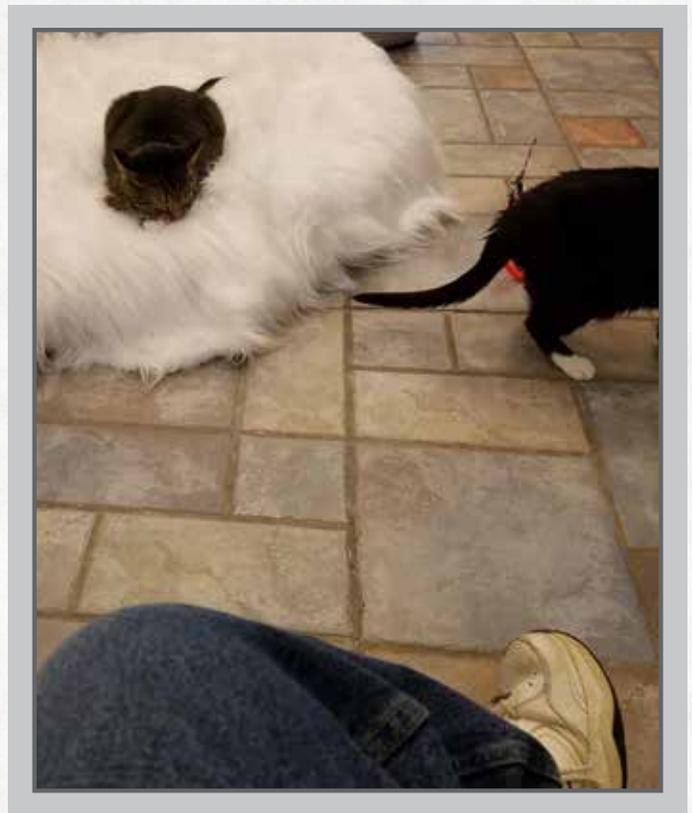
When I arrived, reservation in hand and [waiver](#) already submitted, I was happy to discover that the concept and the space itself was just as charming as I could hope for. *Crumbs and Whiskers* is tucked neatly onto a side street in a two-story building, both floors of which are open to the public while



its basement floor is reserved solely for the cats themselves to recover from all their visitors. The first floor is also the main floor: it was large enough for roughly ten people at a time, with seating consisting of a few benches, a lounge chair, and several on-the-floor lounge pads. The whole building is neutrally colored, making it a very restful space.

Cats, of course, were everywhere. During my visit there were approximately 27 adult cats, all of whom were up for adoption and were so playfully loveable that I found myself despairing for all those visitors that, like me, lived in places with pet ownership restrictions and couldn't take one home. Visitors have their choice of toys they can use to play with the cats if desired, and you can even lift a cat into your lap with a convenient basket. As I had also placed a food order (the macaroons, by the way, are *delicious*), I opted to go with the basket option once I was done eating, lifting a grey cat named Tigger up in a white basket onto my lap for optimal petting.

All in all it was a nice, restful experience, and when my time was up, I was offered a sticker, a discount coupon for my next visit, and my choice of a free souvenir photo that had been taken on a Polaroid camera. On my way out, I was unsurprised to see several groups hoping for a walk-in, and was happy to tell them who to speak to about that. Even better, I was also able to witness another group that had come in around the same time as me start the process of adopting one of the adult cats, proving that visiting *Crumbs and Whiskers* truly can be a win for both cats and people alike. ■



Editor's Note: Another D.C.-area cat café may be on the way! Crowd-funded on [Kickstarter](#) back in May 2018, the [Mount Purrnon Cat Café + Wine Bar](#) is hoping to open soon in Alexandria, Virginia. They are currently working on locking down a location. You can find more information and get updates on their website's [FAQ page](#) as well as on the [Updates page](#) of their Kickstarter campaign.

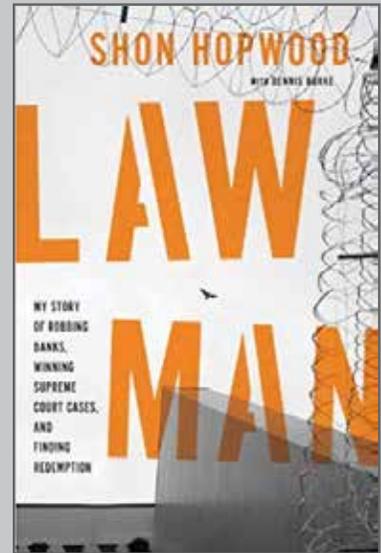
Writer's note: Crumbs & Whiskers is currently in the process of merging spaces with their affiliate pop-up The Kitten Lounge, which is located at 3109 M Street NW. I asked when they expected the process to be complete, and the staff's response was that they were thinking it would be in October, but could be as early as July. So if you're planning to visit them during the AALL Annual Conference, I'd highly recommend confirming the location!

Book Review

Shon Hopwood, *Law Man: Memoir of a Jailhouse Lawyer* (Washington, D.C.: Prison Professors LLC, 2017)

Savanna Nolan

Reference Librarian and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Law Center, sn647@georgetown.edu



With Shon Hopwood giving the Keynote speech at this year's AALL Annual Meeting, it felt only right to read and review his memoir, *Law Man: Memoir of a Jailhouse Lawyer*. Though Hopwood and I both work at Georgetown Law, I'm afraid I haven't had the pleasure of meeting him yet. Prior to reading this book I only knew the broad strokes of his story: he had robbed banks in his youth, went to jail, and after his time in prison he became first a lawyer, then a Georgetown Law professor (and his *60 Minutes* interview about all of this was filmed in the library shortly after I started working there).

Those broad strokes do not do justice to the full story, and I'm glad I read the book. First, Hopwood is an incredibly cinematic writer, and he deftly utilizes a dual timeline structure to highlight and separate how he got to his lowest point and how he then worked his way out of it. The main narrative sequence starts with him being transported to the Federal Correctional Institution at Pekin, Illinois, and ending in the present day. This story is interspersed with a second narrative starting from when he is about 21 and leading through his robberies and arrest. If you imagine the second narrative as a downward line and the redemption story as largely an upward one, it is very clear that the prison law library is the turning point.

Shortly after Hopwood lands a "cushy" job in the prison law library, the Supreme Court decides *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, [530 U.S. 466 \(2000\)](#), which Hopwood summarizes as holding "that judges were wrong to add harsher sentences based on facts not proven to a jury or confessed in court" (p. 81). Hopwood becomes fascinated with the law and teaches himself legal research as he wonders if this decision could help him get released ahead of schedule. While he had pled guilty to unarmed

Book Review, Continued

robbery, the judge had sentenced him to armed robbery, knowing Hopwood had possessed a gun:

I began to research cases in piles of dusty books. Could I knock a couple of years off my sentence? I had no idea, but like the Tim Robbins character in *The Shawshank Redemption*, I suddenly felt like I was digging a tunnel to freedom. My tunnel ran paragraph by paragraph through the law library (p.82).

While it quickly becomes apparent that his newfound skills in legal research won't directly help his own case, Hopwood finally begins to feel driven and focused about something that isn't basketball. He works on legal briefs for other prisoners, and the ascent from the low point begins.

Throughout the book, it's clear that Hopwood is frustrated by stigmas and secondary consequences that convicted felons face in our society. You see it best in the stories of the men he helps in prison, including Melvin:

Although he had been arrested with a very small amount of crack, his sentence was over sixteen years. It was long because he was treated as a three-strikes career criminal. How someone could be a career criminal at twenty-four was beyond me. [...] His lawyer had missed [a sentencing] distinction, so the kid had been sentenced to sixteen years instead of probably five (p. 205).

"Since his release, Hopwood has also launched Prison Professors LLC, which works to help people 'conquer struggle and get the best outcomes after criminal charges.' In light of all of this, I personally hope that his AALL Keynote [...] will emphasize how law librarians can work to help others find their own "tunnel to freedom" in the law library."

Since his release, Hopwood has also launched Prison Professors LLC, which works to help people "conquer struggle and get the best outcomes after criminal charges" (<https://prisonprofessors.com/>). In light of all of this, I personally hope that his AALL Keynote will be similar to that of Bryan Stevenson's 2017 Keynote and will emphasize how law librarians can work to help others find their own "tunnel to freedom" in the law library.

Professor Hopwood's Keynote address, "A Law Library Saved My Life" is scheduled for Sunday, July 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Washington Convention Center. For more information, please refer to the [AALL Annual Meeting website](#). ■



Member Spotlight

Have you recently changed positions? Received a promotion? Participated in any professional events, conferences, or symposiums? Retired? Published? Been elected to serve in a professional organization? Anything else? Let LLSDC know by submitting your news and announcements to our editorial team. Photos are always welcome!

Emily Florio

Emily Florio will begin her term as AALL's Vice President/President-Elect in July. Way to go, Emily!

Kristina Alayan

Kristina Alayan was awarded AALL's Emerging Leader Award, which recognizes newer members who have already made significant contributions to the Association and/or to the profession and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service.
Kudos, Kristina!

Emily Kasprak

Emily Kasprak was recently promoted to Research Manager at Epstein Becker & Green, P.C., where she has worked for almost five years. Congratulations, Emily!



LLSDC Scholarships and Grants

LLSDC members are encouraged to keep an eye out for announcements about our scholarships and grants. You can find information about these opportunities – including application forms and guidelines — at: <https://www.llsdc.org/scholarships-grants>



Member Spotlight, Continued

Member Question

What is your #1 not-to-be-missed thing (e.g., activity, attraction, event) that you always insist friends visiting D.C. during the summer should experience?

"I suggest getting a drink at Off the Record, the basement bar in the Hay-Adams hotel. Have a cocktail while viewing all the famous political cartoons that adorn the walls."

—*Kelly McGlynn, Research & Knowledge Services Supervisor, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

"The Holocaust Museum"

—*Emily Flanagan, Law Libraria, RoFinCo LLC*

"Arlington Cemetery"

—*John E. Butsch, Senior Research Services Manager, Cooley LLP*

"I would, of course (!), recommend visiting the Library of Congress."

—*Ann Hemmens, Senior Legal Reference Librarian, Law Library of Congress*

"Visiting the monuments at night"

—*Megan Moltrup, Librarian, North American Library, Baker & McKenzie LLP*

"I love to show guests how vibrant D.C.'s restaurant scene is, especially during the summer when you can eat outside. There are so many restaurants with great outdoor patios, especially in Eastern Market/Barracks Row, Navy Yard, and Alexandria."

—*Savanna Nolan, Reference Librarian & Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown Law Library*

"I always advocate visiting the National Zoo"

—*Mike Timpani*

"There are a lot of favorite things I have to do in Washington, but one of my favorites for friends and family is lunch at the POV Rooftop restaurant at the W Washington, D.C. hotel. It used to be called the Hotel Washington, and I think a lot of people still call it by that name. It's at the corner of 15th & F Streets, NW. It overlooks the White House, the Treasury Department, the Ellipse, the Washington Monument, National Airport, etc. The prices are reasonable and the food is good."

—*John D. Moore, Circuit Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit*



A New (Apple) Skin: Thoughts on D.C., Technology, and the Carnegie Library Apple Store

Jeff Gerhard

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I didn't grow up in Washington, D.C., and I decamped to Baltimore several years ago, but I still think of D.C. as my hometown. I was born here, went to college here, and spent much of my adult life roaming the District on foot, bike, bus, and Metrorail. I grew and changed in tandem with D.C.'s transforming neighborhoods and shifting demographics and culture.

As a result, I am terrible at providing "tech tips" for D.C. visitors, having learned to navigate this town without using any tech much newer than the street grid or Metro map (and I encourage you to trust in those old technologies yourself – they are sturdy and reliable).

On the other hand, my local experience gives me a lot of context for the ways that technology has transformed the nation's capital, both physically and socially. Yelp and similar ratings apps have radically altered the way we find restaurants, attractions, parks, and entertainment, leading crowds of people to neighborhoods they'd never otherwise visit. Ride-hailing and bikeshare apps have shrunken distances while undermining the financial support for the region's excellent public transportation system. Instagram influences the design of cafes, museum exhibits, and nightclubs; dating apps are cited as a reason for shrinking the bar space in rock clubs, since patrons don't sit around drinking as much as they used to. Telework, real estate websites, data-driven urban planning, and the influx of technology firms and big-tech lobbyists have all made their mark. And of course, these relatively new changes are just the latest chapter of the centuries-long interplay among technology, culture, and the urban environment.

Most recently, I've been fascinated by the transformation of D.C.'s Carnegie Library building into an Apple store which just opened in May. You can easily visit it during the AALL conference – it's located

Tech Talk, Continued



Carnegie Library in 2012. Photo by Mark Schierbecker, distributed under a [CC BY-SA 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

in Mt. Vernon Square, directly across from the main entrance of the convention center. According to the [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com), “Apple hopes to sell its new home to the public as a cultural destination rather than a glorified showroom.” The building hosts a library and a series of galleries, all affiliated with the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (The library was not yet complete when I visited.) Apple is hosting events with local artists and creators, and the overall intent is a store that plays a similar role to the city’s existing museums, galleries, and cultural centers.

I stopped by one afternoon, trying to capture the feel of the renovated building, its façade adorned with subtle white Apple logos. Dodging the array of cheerful, green-clad employees, I pondered the role of corporate money in the city, admired the architecture, and tried to visualize the functioning library it was for much

of the twentieth century (the Carnegie building served as the central branch of the D.C. Public Library system from 1903 to 1972). The north side of the building facing the convention center is really the back entrance, and if you walk in that way, you’ll go through an area that was originally closed stacks. The wide-open central area once housed a “delivery desk” where a librarian sat, and the two wings hosted adult and children’s reading rooms, respectively, along with some open shelving where patrons could choose their own books.

Now, these areas are lined with minimalist electronics products, and a giant viewscreen sits where a librarian once did – the display for Apple’s planned cultural activities. I didn’t mind the overall aesthetic, and the galleries were as tasteful as you’d expect. Certainly, it’s better to have an Apple store that is open to the public rather than a closed library building

Tech Talk, Continued

(the Carnegie site has struggled for decades to find a viable tenant). But I couldn't help feeling disconcerted. This store was open to the public but still very much felt like a store rather than a public space, and I felt like a customer rather than a patron. I wished there were some quiet places to read or work, to replicate a library-like environment. Plenty of nonprofit museums in DC have gift shops, but this felt like the gift shop had swallowed up the museum.

I learned about this building's original layout from Abigail Van Slyck's 1995 book, *Free for all: Carnegie libraries & American culture, 1890-1922*. I knew little about the Carnegie library program, and was startled when Van Slyck situated the program from its inception directly at the uncomfortable intersection of commerce and culture. Carnegie library funding came with strings attached and was attacked in some cities for being "tainted money" due to Andrew

Carnegie's business practices. The new libraries prompted complicated negotiations over control of public cultural institutions, and tied into the shifting dynamics of contemporary class and gender roles. The design, site location, and functionality of the Carnegie library buildings were all fraught decisions, based on power struggles, compromises, and prejudices of the era.

A lot of my fears about the Apple takeover were allayed when I considered this history. Cities, libraries, and public institutions have always had to wrestle with concerns about corporate financing and influence, and there has never been an easy answer. We just have to do the best we can with the possibilities that are offered, sometimes accepting cash infusions from wealthy philanthropists and corporations. I'm happy to see the old Carnegie Library looking so lively, and I hope the Apple store is a success for now, until the building morphs into something else that suits the needs of the future. Cities, like technology, are always evolving. That's what makes them exciting. ■

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Apple Carnegie Library opening; [Apple Newsroom](#).

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