



# Librarian's Report

Laura Richmond

## THAT'S SUCH AN INTERESTING QUESTION...

One of the things I love about being a Law Librarian is that you're never quite sure where the next question is coming from! I have almost lost the ability to be surprised about the range of questions I've fielded. I wanted to use this column to highlight some of the more unusual or creative ones. They also highlight some of the available tools that might not necessarily come to

mind when you think of a law library or legal research.

### Q: Can you find me the contact information for this doctor in Qatar?

This one was tricky because the primary language used in Qatar is Arabic, which uses a different alphabet from English. Although I started with the obvious step of Googling the doctor's name and hospital, I didn't have much luck with that strategy. I used Google Translate to translate all of the information I had into Arabic, and

used that to search online. I then translated the information I found *back* into English, and passed that on to the requesting lawyer. I was able to find the hospital he worked from, along with a telephone number.

### Q: The other side is saying that "XYZ" was not public information at the time but my client swears it was available on their website. Is there a way to verify this information was actually available?

The short answer? Maybe. One of my favourite things to use online is the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>). They host a huge digital library with electronic versions of books. It is an especially good place to look for government documents (legislation, bills, reports, etc...). They also have a really cool feature called the **Way Back Machine** (<https://archive.org/web/>). You can plug in a URL and view a calendar to look at different versions of a website on particular dates. It can be a fun way to see how much web design has changed since the 1990's (remember all those bright backgrounds and Flash animation?), but it's also an incredibly useful tool in litigation. It can be a bit spotty in terms of which dates the website was 'captured', but it is a great place to start.

### Q: We have a slip-and-fall case and need something to show how slippery the roads/streets were on December 12, 2017. Any ideas?

There are a few different places you can hunt for this type of information. You can view historical weather data on Environment and Climate Change Canada's website. It allows you to look at specific weather stations (there are 204 in Ontario alone) and look at the weather on an hourly basis. Another good place to look is any newspapers published in the area where the slip-and-fall happened. You can usually access historical news databases through public libraries.

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These examples illustrate that there are a wide variety of resources available to anyone doing research online – you just need to get creative! They're also examples of things that may not seem like 'legal research' at first, but are definitely an important part of any legal researcher's toolkit.

If you're struggling to find information you think would be useful, contact the HLA Library. We may not have it here, but we can try to point you in the right direction! ■

*HLA Library Staff is available to assist you from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.*

*You can reach us at:*

*Tel: 905-522-1563*

*Email: [hla@hamiltonlaw.on.ca](mailto:hla@hamiltonlaw.on.ca) (General)*

*[richmond@hamiltonlaw.on.ca](mailto:richmond@hamiltonlaw.on.ca) (Librarian)*

## **New Materials in the HLA Library**

### **Civil Litigation**

Watson & Jeffrey, Holmsted & Watson, Ontario Civil Procedure, v 1-7

HLA, 13th Annual Current Issues in Commercial Litigation Seminar

HLA, 5th Annual Advocacy Skills Workshop

Law Society of Ontario, Civil Appeals: The Year in Review

### **Criminal**

Brown & Witkin, Prosecuting and Defending Sexual Offence Cases:

A Practitioner's Handbook

Layton & Proulx, Ethics and Criminal Law

Gibson, Canadian Criminal Code Offences, v 1-3

Chan & Magotiaux, Digital Evidence: A Practitioner's Handbook

Law Society of Ontario, The Six-Minute Criminal Court Judge 2018

### **Human Rights**

Law Society of Ontario, 6th Annual Human Rights Summit

### **Intellectual Property**

Law Society of Ontario, 22nd Annual Intellectual Property Law: The Year in

Review

### **Personal Injury**

Middlesex Law Association, Eleventh Annual Personal Injury Conference

### **Real Estate**

Law Society of Ontario, Real Estate Practice Basics 2017

Law Society of Ontario, Practice Gems: Title and Off-Title Searching 2018

### **Wills & Estates**

Ellis, Fiduciary Duties in Canada, v 1-3

HLA, 16th Annual Estates & Trusts Seminar

Middlesex Law Association, Twelfth Annual Wills, Estates, & Trusts Conference

Law Society of Ontario, Estate Accounting

Law Society of Ontario, Annotated Will 2018

## **A Unique Way To Give Back To Your Community**

### **What is The Will Campaign?**

The Lung Association – Ontario invites lawyers at local law firms to participate in **The Will Campaign** - a campaign that occurs throughout the year and helps support community health programs and life-saving lung research. By participating, you will be funnelled new clients looking for legal services in exchange for a donation to The Lung Association – Ontario. Your participation will help Canadians breathe.

### **What Are The Benefits?**

Those who participate in **The Will Campaign** will:

- *Increase community awareness of their law firm and that of participating lawyers*
- *Be introduced to new clients who may require legal services*
- *Result in a potential increase in your will portfolio*
- *Support the one in five Canadians living with lung disease*

### **How Do You Get Involved?**

For additional details please call Susan Chapman, Manager, Community Engagement at: 905-745-7416 or email: [schapman@lungontario.ca](mailto:schapman@lungontario.ca)

**B R E A T H E**  
the lung association