



The Aspen Learning Library:
a key resource for
student success in law school



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SUMMARY

Librarians at Arizona State University strive to meet one-on-one with all 1L students to personally walk them through the library's resources, including robust study aids such as the *Aspen Learning Library*. Having this meeting is a key step to fully engage with students and convey the importance of the library as a critical resource for student success in law school.

Background

Sean Harrington is the Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian at the Ross-Blakley Law Library at Arizona State University. In Fall 2021, the school welcomed its largest class, with over 300 first-year JD students attending.

Students receive their first introduction to the law library during an orientation tour of the school. At this time, librarians promote their premier service, "Meet with a Librarian." It is their goal to meet individually with each 1L student before the first open memo is assigned. At the one-on-one meeting, the librarian provides the student with individualized research guidance, but also takes the opportunity to personally walk through how to use each study aid the library provides. Says Harrington, "Students are mainly worried about how they should study. We work with each student to determine which of our high-quality study aid resources will best help them." Having this meeting is a key step to fully engage with students and convey the importance of the library as a critical resource for student success in law school.

EDUCATOR

Sean Harrington

SCHOOL

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law - Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

PRODUCT IN USE

Aspen Learning Library

As a follow-up to orientation, the library sends one comprehensive email to students with all of the information they will possibly need related to library study aids, databases, and library services. The [law library's website](#) is the first place to start. Harrington has been instrumental in creating materials on the website to orient first-year students to all the resources they have available, including a [New Student Orientation](#) YouTube playlist.

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*– Sean Harrington,
Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian,
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law,
Arizona State University*

Implementation

The Ross-Blakley Law Library is a longtime subscriber to the *Aspen Learning Library* (formerly the *Wolters Kluwer Online Study Aid Library*). To gain access, students register on campus for a personal account using their school email address. From there, they may login remotely, print, add notes, bookmarks, and highlights, as well as download the *Aspen Learning Library* app which enables the student to access content and save for offline reading on any device. Instructions and information on the *Aspen Learning Library* are available on the library's [website](#).

Shares Harrington, “One of the challenges of being a new law student is there are all these siloed databases with an abundance of titles, each with different but similar-sounding names. It can be very confusing to understand where to go, what to use, and when.” To help law students make the most of the most popular study aid libraries, Harrington and his colleagues created a one-page [Study Aids Quick Reference guide](#) to connect students with the best study aid for their needs. The guide highlights select popular titles based on type (quick reviews, practice questions, detailed explanations, and audio materials) and categorizes when to use the resources based on three key times in a term: early semester, midterms, and finals preparation.



Impact

Since the launch of the new and improved *Aspen Learning Library*, Harrington notes some key components that he and his students appreciate: “First, the global search bar is easy to use. Second, there has been a huge demand for video content, and students really love having access to all the videos that encapsulate a concept of law or a case. Third, students love the app – it’s modern and appealing. Finally, there are so many good titles.” Harrington mentions *Emanuel CrunchTime* as being “super cool” and also notes that students are hungry for the practice essays offered in *Friedman’s Practice Series*. Of course, *Examples & Explanations* has been a popular series that law students have long used and appreciated. *Casenote Legal Briefs* is also a commonly accessed title.

Harrington takes advantage of the administrator console in the *Aspen Learning Library* to collect statistics on usage and the most popular titles accessed.

Conclusion

For anyone who has not seen the new, updated *Aspen Learning Library*, Harrington recommends they “take a look.” He says, “It’s a more seamless experience. The user interface has been updated, the administrator panel is helpful to monitor usage, and the titles are fantastic.” In one student’s words, the *Aspen Learning Library* provides “so much additional material right at my fingertips, whenever I need it.”

Over the years, students have expressed gratitude to Harrington and his colleagues for helping them succeed in law school. Many have said they wished they had met with a librarian even sooner. Harrington believes that “making the most of the law library’s resources is a student’s recipe for success in law school.”

[Regarding the new *Aspen Learning Library*]

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