

# **PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUMMER EXTERNSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT**

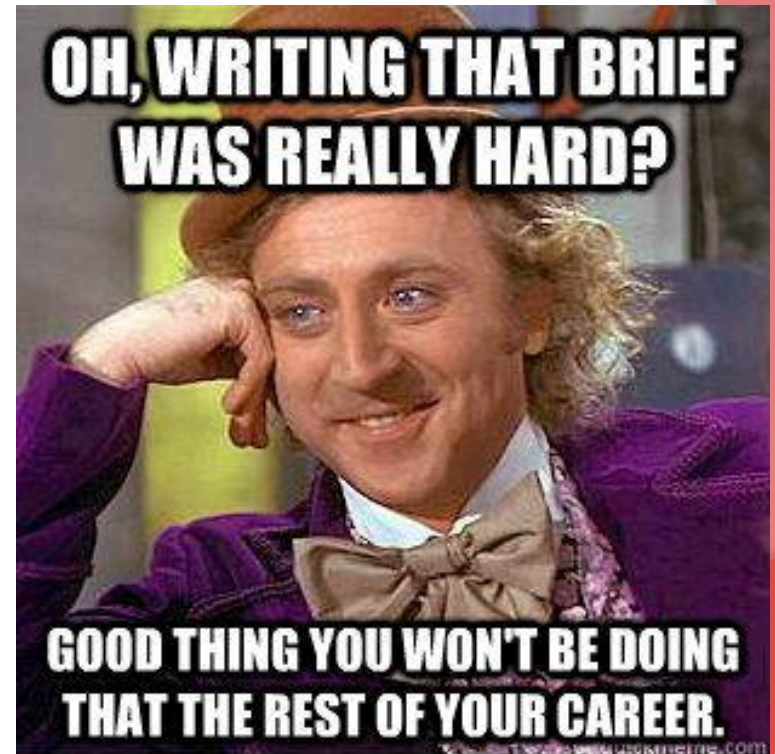
**Presenter: Alexandra Siek**  
**Law Library Public Services Coordinator**

# In this session, we'll...

- ⦿ Discuss the need for legal research “boot camps” and “bridge the gap” sessions in law schools;
- ⦿ Discuss how one school’s Law Library has supported the research needs of students seeking summer externships and employment, and how that support has developed and continues to adapt.
- ⦿ Break into small groups and discuss what you and your colleagues have tried at your own institutions and what has – and hasn’t – worked.

# The struggle is real! First year...

- First-year law school curriculums often do not sufficiently prepare students for summer clerkships and employment after their first year.
- Focus: researching issues and to write basic legal briefs and memoranda; not the same level of attention to all types of research resources.
- Rising 2L UNM Law students have expressed a need to build their legal research skill set for their practice or summer work.



# The struggle is real! Second and third years ...

- UNM Law students required to take a two-credit Legal Research course as 2Ls.
- By the end of their 3L (sometimes sooner), students have expressed a desire to refresh their legal research skill set for their practice or summer work.



# A Reactive Response ...



Image : [freepik](#)

- Law Library responding to individual “band-aid” requests for guest lectures from various classes and programs
  - ✓ Externship class
  - ✓ Office of career services
  - ✓ Practicum

**Issues:** Reactive response misses out on marketing and outreach opportunities for the Law Library; lacks coordinated, holistic approach that takes into account larger curricular gaps and needs.

# One proactive initial response: legal research “boot camp”

- 2015: UNM Law Librarians strategized a Legal Research “boot camp” aimed at rising 2L students to prepare them for clerkships and employment
- Sessions commonly referred to as “boot camps” in law schools and law libraries - ranging from a one- or two-hour orientation to a week-long seminar on skills development and substantive information - can enable students to start their externship or employment experience with immediate practical skills and knowledge. <sup>1</sup>



Image : [pexels](https://www.pexels.com/)

<sup>1</sup> Larry Cunningham, *The Use of Boot Camps and Orientation Periods in Externships and Clinics: Lessons Learned from a Criminal Prosecution Clinic*, 74 Miss. L.J. 983 , 984 (2005)



# One proactive initial response: Summer Research Series ...1.0

- ① “Boot camp” rebranded ... the UNMSOL Summer Research Series



Image : [freepik](#)

# Summer Research Series 1.0

- **Presenters:** two members of Law Library faculty.
- **Intended audience:** rising UNM Law 2Ls as well as UNM Law externship students.
- **Non-credit offering held in early Summer.**
- **Coordinated with Office of Career Services as well as Media Services.**
- **Marketed through email; flyers; Law Library digital sign, social media.**



# Summer Research Series 1.0

- Three in-person sessions offered. First session offered mid June; second and third “deep dive” sessions offered two weeks later on a Friday afternoon.
- All sessions were recorded and made available on Media Services website for law school community.
- Deep dive sessions interspersed with breaks, snacks.
- Sign in sheet was provided –soliciting various information including year of students; follow up.

# Summer Research Series 1.0

- The initial first session was used to:
  - ✓ introduce essential research resources needed for externships and summer work; and
  - ✓ review what the students had learned so far – including the Legal Research plans that Law Librarians had shared with the Legal Writing faculty;
  - ✓ Explore what they don't know.
- Initial session was used as a “teaser” for the deep dive sessions two weeks later.
- We asked students attending to bring their questions and challenges they'd encountered at work thus far to the deep dive sessions.

# Summer Research Series 1.0

The deep-dive sessions covered:

Basics of New Mexico Legal Research including

- administrative law;
- legislative history; and
- local law;

“Nuts and Bolts Research Skills” including:

- Points about citation practice in NM;
- Accessing trial court information and filings;
- Practitioner-oriented resources



Image: Cairn's Premier Reef and Island Tours



Image: Lauren Smith, via the Guardian.com

# Summer Research Series 1.0:

## Data and Feedback

- 12 students and also a couple of clinical faculty colleagues attended the deep dive sessions in- person. A number of students emailed that they could not attend in person but watched the recorded sessions.
- Sessions were well received; a number of students noted they wished they'd had access to the training earlier in their education.
- A surprising number of students attending the deep dive sessions were 3Ls wanting a refresher as they looked forward to practicing, as opposed to rising 2Ls needing legal research building blocks for their summer employment.

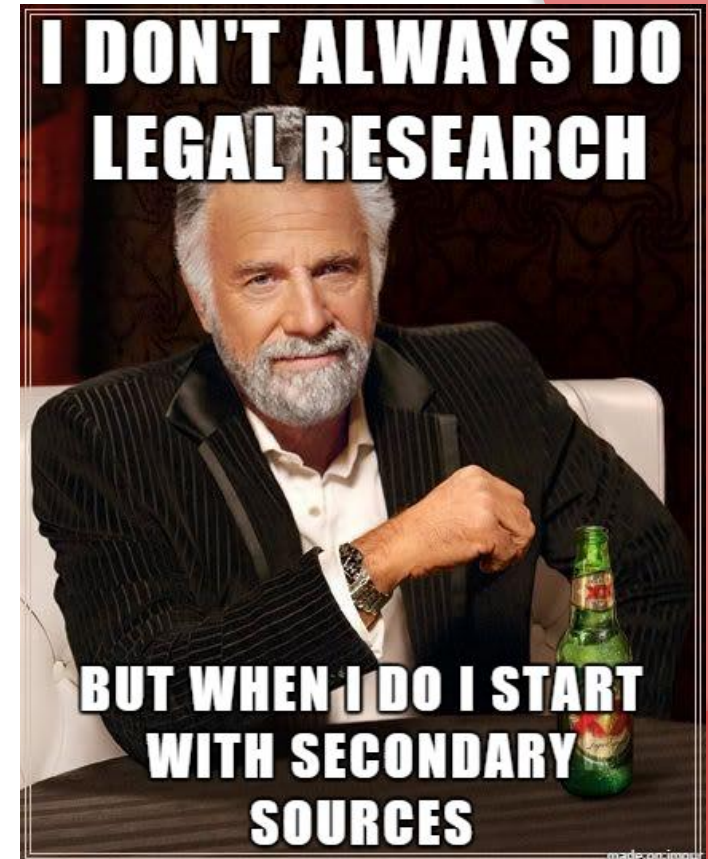


Image: [memegenerator.net](http://memegenerator.net)

# The following year....

## Summer Research Series 2.0

Fall 2016: reassessed the Research Series for Summer 2017.

*Issue:* Availability of Law Library faculty and teaching load in Spring and Summer → **Need for a more efficient outreach model.**

*Solution:* **present the Summer Research Series as a series of screencasts**, or recorded video presentations that capture the presenter's voice as well as action across the screen of the computer the presenter is using.

These screencasts are designed to assist students - particularly our rising 2Ls - in obtaining basic legal research skills that will support them in their summer employment and externships.

# Summer Research Series 2.0

Spring 2017: I recorded a **series of screencasts on various subjects**, including federal and state case law research; citators; New Mexico state level research; administrative law; online searching and online resource evaluation; practitioner resources; and other subjects.

**Software used: Camtasia**, the software with which I was familiar, to record and edit the screencasts.

**UNM Law Media Services hosts the recordings** on the UNM Law server; they are available on the Law School intranet where any UNM Law faculty, staff, or student can access them.

**Bonus: my colleagues and I can use these screen casts to supplement in person classes and lectures we teach.**

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### Available Events:

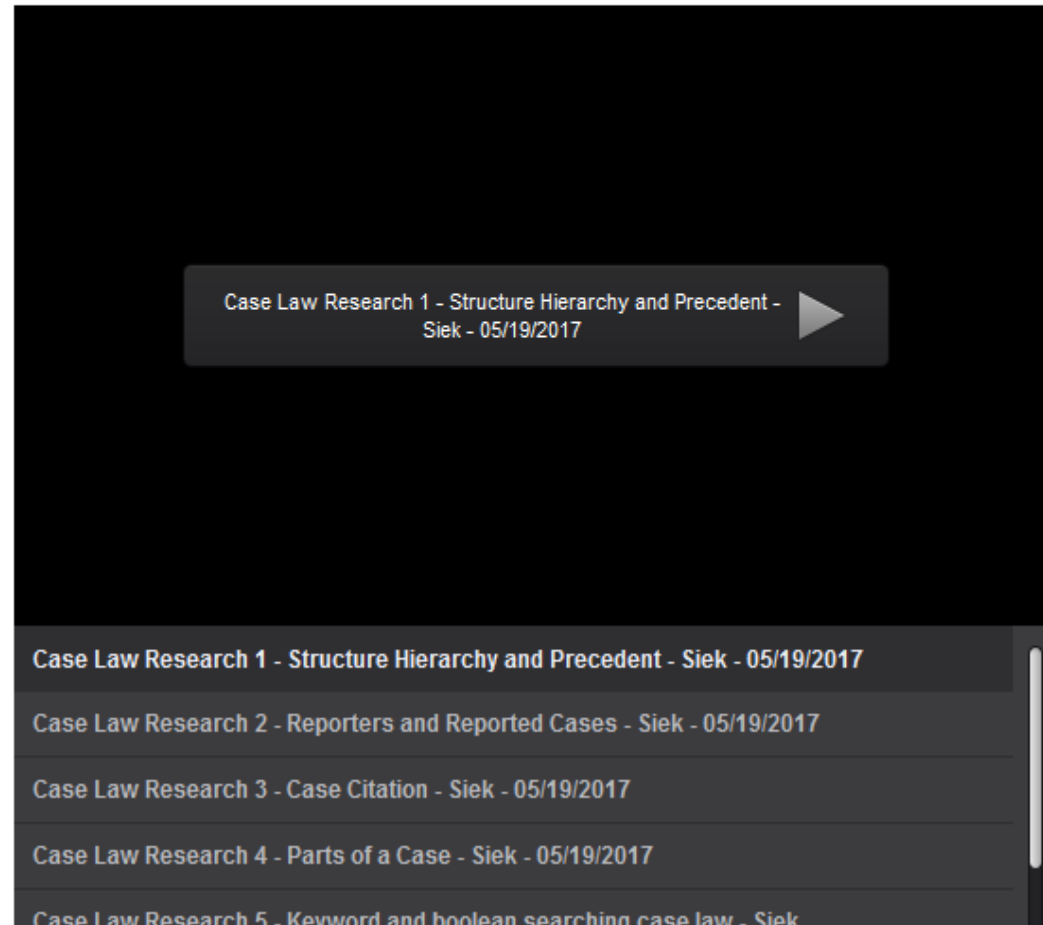
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## Summer Research Series

Media files for this event are listed in the player below. If a particular file is not listed here, then most likely it has not been uploaded yet. If you have a question about the files, then you can email us by clicking "[Contact Us](#)"

These Summer Research Series lectures are designed to assist our rising second-year students in obtaining the legal research skills that will best support them in their summer work.



Case Law Research 1 - Structure Hierarchy and Precedent - Siek - 05/19/2017

Case Law Research 2 - Reporters and Reported Cases - Siek - 05/19/2017

Case Law Research 3 - Case Citation - Siek - 05/19/2017

Case Law Research 4 - Parts of a Case - Siek - 05/19/2017

Case Law Research 5 - Keyword and boolean searching case law - Siek

# Summer Research Series 2.0

Some things I considered:

- **Branding:** approved color schemes and logos for our institution in the PowerPoint slides design used.
- **Audience:** broaden the audience to all students, not just first years?
- **Timing:** We advertised the Series earlier in the semester.
- **Marketing and outreach:** Career Services assisted us in engaging in further marketing of these offerings through their Externship class as well as on their website. These were also marketed through email; flyers; the Law Library digital sign, and social media.

# Summer Research Series 2.0

Some things I considered (*continued*):

- **Software I used in recording:** continued use of Camtasia. Considered switching platforms from Mac to PC.
- **Who hosts the video?** While I chose UNM to host the videos, I considered that YouTube can subtitle videos that they host – either you the editor can add them or YouTube can use speech recognition technology to automatically create captions for your videos. Be cautious and experiment with using subtitles and YouTube!
- **Content:** more can be rolled out as needed, I don't need to worry about scheduling in-person sessions within a set time frame.

# Summer Research Series : Enhancements Considered

- Offering attendees a Certificate of Completion for this Summer Research Series;
- Featuring information about this Series on our Library website including learning outcomes, etc.
- Offering a separate Prepare to Practice series for graduating 3Ls as well as new graduates; present sessions before the bar exam and in August at the annual Bar meeting.

# Break into small groups!

- ⦿ Please consider the questions on the handouts as talking points, after which we will reconvene:
  - Has your institution presented a Legal Research “Boot Camp” or “Bridging the Gap” program?
  - What worked? What didn’t work?
  - Feel free to refer to the list of issues to consider on page 2 to inspire your discussions.

# Questions? Thank you!



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