ADVANCED ELECTRONIC LEGAL RESEARCH

Saturday, April 4 & April 11, 10am – 3:30pm

SFSU Downtown Center, 835 Market St., 6th Floor, Rm 628
Instructor: Emily Bergfeld, MLIS

Class overview: In this class, students will be exposed to the major subscription-based legal research databases used in the legal industry, including Lexis, OnLaw, and PACER, and next-generation databases WestlawNext and Lexis Advance. Through demonstrations and hands-on exercises, students will gain familiarity with the content coverage, features, and search functions of each database, and will learn to develop effective search queries for improved research outcomes. Students will also explore free, web-based alternatives for performing legal, public records, and company research.

Individuals who complete the course will:

- Be familiar with the major electronic legal research platforms.
- Practice performing substantive and procedural legal research using electronic versions of primary materials, practice guides, treatises, and legal encyclopedias.
- Learn to construct effective queries using Boolean logic, proximity operators, segments, and natural language.
- Search and retrieve court filings and litigation and transactional form templates.
- Update and expand research using Shepard's and KeyCite citators.
- Learn strategies for performing efficient and cost-effective legal research.

This course is appropriate for paralegal students, working paralegals, attorneys, and law students seeking to enhance their proficiency using legal databases and increase professional marketability.

Class size is limited to 24 participants to allow in class hands-on experience.

Students in PLS 320 & 430 will get a trial Lexis ID for the month of April.

Register online at http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/openuniversity/classschedule.cfm or by calling (415) 405-7700.

$200 (10 MCLE hours)

PLS 9122 Section A 01 Schedule Number 77203