


# APRIL FOOL'S DAY INFO HUNT

Happy April Fool's Day from the Mendik Library! Here's an EASY opportunity to WIN great prizes - study guides, texts, and NYLS Guest Cards (good for food purchases as well as printing and copying).

To enter the drawing, simply answer these six FUN questions using the **easy step-by-step instructions below**. They'll lead you right to the correct answers. *You don't have to get the answers right and you'll learn a lot in the process!*

Submit your completed answer sheet (available at [mendikmatters.org](http://mendikmatters.org)) at the Reference Desk or email it to [reference@nyls.edu](mailto:reference@nyls.edu) by **Tuesday, April 1st at 5:00 PM**.

The drawing will take place outside the library entrance on **Tuesday, April 1st at 5:40 PM**. You need not be present to win, but an additional entry form will be added for all attendees.



***“Haha! April Fool’s!” isn’t a legal defense...***

In Missouri in 1986, a defendant tried to convince the court that he confessed to a robbery he didn’t commit to play an April Fool’s joke on the police. What was the name of this clever fellow?

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b) Type ***April Fool’s joke*** into the search field.

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- a) Set your search tabs to **All Content Types – Start in Cases, Missouri, and All Practice Areas and Topics.**
- b) Type ***April Fool’s joke*** into the search field.
- c) Open the first document - **State v. Hicks, 755 S.W.2d 242 (1988).**

***H.G. Wells would not be amused...***

In 1991, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register that would allow the FCC to fine radio stations for broadcasting “harmful hoaxes” such as on April Fool’s Day. When was this notice published?

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b) Select **Federal Register** and type ***April Fool’s Day hoax.***

***When pranking can ruin your legal career...***

Between 1991 and 2007, G.W. applied to the bar seven times. He passed the exam in February 2008, but the Standing Committee on Character and Fitness recommended he be denied admission for reasons that included his nine criminal convictions, one for pretending to rob a store, an April Fool's prank. What court ultimately denied G.W.'s application to the bar?

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- c) Click **search**.

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In 1968, Judge George Rose Smith authored an opinion in a fictitious case, *J.R. Poisson v. Etienne d'Avril*, in which the Arkansas Supreme Court appeared to hold that the legislature had repealed all statutory law in Arkansas. Surprisingly, many attorneys, as well as the publisher of the unofficial reports, "bit the April Fish."

Locate a law review article that discusses this opinion and find within the article the title of another fictitious opinion authored by Judge Smith.

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- b) Select **“Law Reviews & Journals.”**
- c) In the search box at the top of the screen, enter the search string: **“april fool” /p “Judge Smith.”**

***The trouble with practical jokes is that very often they get elected.***

~Will Rogers

In 2011, *The New York Times* reported that the Shelby American Automobile Club in Connecticut had printed a fake front page of *The New York Times* alleging that Senator Charles E. Schumer, to close the federal deficit, was proposing a federal tax on specialty automobiles. Hundreds of classic car lovers were angered by the “proposed tax” and began to organize against the fictitious threat. (This article appeared next to another fake article, a study showing that recreational polka dancers display lower rates of colon cancer, perhaps because of their diet of kielbasa and stuffed cabbage.) Provide a citation to the article.

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a) Open [The New York Times](#) website.

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- a) Open [The New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) website.
- b) In the search box in the upper left-hand corner, enter the term ***“april fool”*** and click **search**.
- c) At the top of the next screen under “date range,” select the “specific dates” option and search from **01/01/2011 to 12/31/2011**. Pull up the sixth article entitled **“A fake tax rattles classic car buffs.”**

***The aim of a joke is not to degrade the human being, but to remind him that he is already degraded.*** ~George Orwell

In *Fuerschbach v. Southwest Airlines*, a New Mexico case, an employee sued her employer, her supervisor, the City of Albuquerque and police officers after two police officers handcuffed and “arrested” the employee as part of a prank. Pranking was part of a Southwest Airlines tradition celebrating the end of an employee’s probationary period with the company. Provide the citation for this case and the federal statute under which the plaintiff sued.

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b) In Google Scholar, select **Case law** and enter the phrase “***Fuerschbach v. Southwest Airlines.***”