



# Library Briefs

April 2009

## *Federal Stimulus*

### **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009**

The Law Library has created links on its homepage to some comprehensive websites dealing with the ARRA, both on a state and national level. These include data sites provided by the White House, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, and Governor Baldacci's office. The links are accessible in the "New and Featured" section of the page, available at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/>.

## *Research Aids*

### **New research aids**

The Law Library staff have compiled a new bibliography of tax studies and reports in its collection. The bibliography is available online through the Bibliographies link on our homepage or as a print handout in the display rack just inside the library doors. Several new legislative histories have also been compiled in binders and are available for borrowing. They are on the topics of excise tax and school reorganization.

## *Votes We Compile*

### **Lists of election results**

The Law Library maintains lists of votes on initiatives, referenda, bond issues, constitutional amendments, and people's vetoes and publishes them on its website. The data goes back to about 1910, except the list of bond votes, which starts at 1951. You can access all these lists from our site map, at <http://www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/sitemap.htm#votes>, under the heading "Votes".

## *Television Appearances*

### **"Consumer Matters"**

John Barden, Library Director, and reference librarian Bob Michaud were guests on *Consumer Matters*, a channel 9 cable program hosted by Jim McKenna of the Attorney General's Consumer Division. Discussion focused on how the Law and Legislative Reference Library can help the general public identify legal resources to assist with their consumer issues. The segment will air the second and fourth weeks of April and May, on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., Thursdays at 8 p.m., and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.



*Digital Clippings  
Update*

**Digitization progressing**

In 2005 the Law Library began to scan its vast archive of newspaper clippings, including articles on Maine legislators, legislation, and topics of interest and use to the Legislature. This growing digital collection is available to and fully searchable by users at the Law Library's public access computers. Library staff review each Maine daily and weekly newspaper and some national newspapers for material to scan. Now, with the development of more and more newspaper websites, the Law Library has begun to download many articles from these sites as an alternative to scanning. This new technology will enable us to get current information into the publicly-accessible database much more quickly and cleanly than before.

*Prohibition Display*

**Exhibit on the "Maine Law" in Visitor's Center**

You are invited to visit the State House Visitor's Center to learn more about General Neal Dow, the "Maine Law," and the history of the Prohibition movement in Maine. In 1851 Maine was the first state to pass a law outlawing the manufacture or sale of spiritous liquors except for medicinal or mechanical purposes. This controversial measure stayed on the statute books of the state (and was even incorporated into the State Constitution) for over eighty years. The exhibit in the Visitor's Center features items dating from 1720 to 1934 from the collections of the Maine State Library and the Law and Legislative Reference Library, including a rare volume from 1842 in which the members of the Maine Executive Department and Legislature signed the temperance pledge.