New Features on Westlaw

Westlaw has rolled out some new features that you don’t want to miss. They include a first pass at legal artificial intelligence called “Westlaw Answers.” As you start to type in search terms, relevant questions from common legal issues will appear in the type-ahead text suggestions. Select a question, and you’ll get a plain language answer with case authority to back it up. It is especially useful for finding statutes of limitations, judicial definitions and the elements of common law claims under state law. Another new feature is the “Research Recommendations,” which can be turned on in your Westlaw preference settings. This automatically identifies legal issues during your research session and suggests additional documents and key numbers that are relevant to the search. They appear in a box above the research results and are designated with the “pair of glasses” icon. They can also be viewed in your search history.

November: America Votes and Honors its Veterans

Vote on November 8! To put your vote in context, take a look at America Votes! Challenges to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights, displayed in the library lobby. And, as you vote, remember those who have through numerous wars protected this essential right. Veterans Day, November 11, is a national holiday. As President Obama proclaimed, it is a time to “reflect on the immeasurable burdens borne by so few in the name of so many,” and to honor the “heroes who have put their lives on the line so that we might live in a world that is safer, freer, and more just.” Information on veterans’ rights and benefits can be found in Title 38 of the United States Code and on the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website, www.va.gov. Detailed coverage and practice tips are provided in the Veterans Benefits Manual, available in the stacks and on LexisAdvance. The library’s government documents room also has abundant background resources.