

# The Lawyer's Guide to Fact Finding on the Internet

Reviewed by Lyn A. Warmath

Carole Levitt and Mark Rosch demonstrate in the second edition of *The Lawyer's Guide to Fact Finding on the Internet*, 2nd ed., that they know their audience and their audience's concerns very well. Every fiber of their book reflects the authors' objective to save researchers time and money. They accomplish this by thinking the way that lawyers think and by organizing their book accordingly.

The authors' pooled backgrounds in law practice, librarianship, marketing and computer technology combine to create an unbeatable writing team who understands the billable hour and its connection to cost-effective and time-saving research. Attorneys will save countless hours when they take advantage of the authors' evaluations, analyses, search tips and tricks for each of the best sites that the authors test drove and assessed.

The authors strive to point researchers toward specific sources that provide information relevant to researchers' search inquiries, thereby bypassing search engines altogether. Their theory is that researchers waste entirely too much time and energy using search engines that return questionable results. But even though the bulk of this book is designed to steer searchers to specific sources, the authors nonetheless present substantive and evaluative chapters describing their favorite search engines and search strategies.

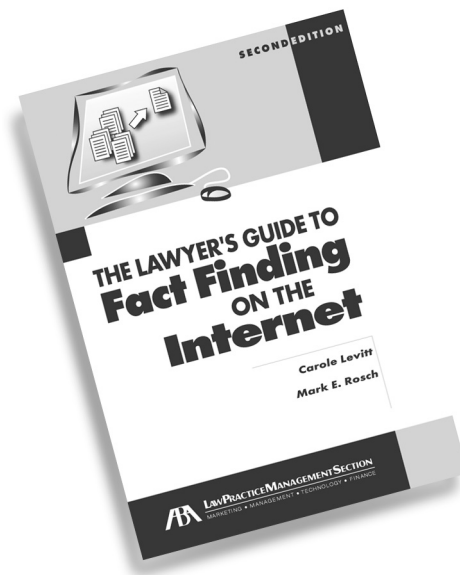
The authors analyzed the best and the worst features of previous books on the subject and came up with their own sure-

fire winner. Gone are the alphabetical unannotated lists of Web sites found in other books. The authors examined and evaluated every site they recommend and they rank their chosen sites in order of preference under subject arrangement. No longer do searchers need to navigate to Web sites to discover if the sources are offered for free or for fees, because the authors include this time-saving and essential information as well.

The inclusion of war stories and anecdotes add human elements to a topic that can become somewhat dry. Even experienced Internet searchers will find myriad fascinating tips on page after page. Readers will find evaluations of the best sites for locating extinct or archived Web pages, aerial photos, company information, public records and competitive intelligence, as well as tracking down and researching backgrounds of people, including expert witnesses. The authors also include a guide to citing Internet sources and several checklists for tracking Internet methods, Internet source credibility and search strategies, for example.

As Web researchers know, Internet sites come and go, so any print volume will be out of date from the day it is published. To fill the gap between editions, the publisher offers reasonably priced quarterly updates (\$19.95).

Accompanying the book is a CD-ROM that includes links to all the sites covered in the book. No need to type URLs into a browser, because all the sites are indexed



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 Carole A. Levitt  
 Mark E. Rosch  
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by name and topic for efficient navigation and retrieval. The CD-ROM also contains several checklists featured in the book.

Attorneys, law librarians and Web developers, will appreciate all the work the authors put into this book and its accompanying CD-ROM for the readers' benefit.

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# *The Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935*

## by T. Keister Greer

Reviewed by Russel V. Palmore Jr.

*Findings of a Federal Grand Jury at Harrisonburg give color to rumors which have been circulated for several years with respect to large liquor operations in Franklin County . . . The report constitutes one of the most sensational developments in the recent history of Virginia . . . Official action now has placed the county before the world in the light of a community in which the liquor laws might be violated with impunity and under the protection of those who were sworn to uphold these laws . . . There should be no delay in this matter. What is to be done should be done at the earliest moment possible—Richmond Times-Dispatch, February 9, 1935*

\* \* \*

*What is the wettest section in the U.S.A., the place where during prohibition, and since, the most illicit liquor has been made? The extreme wet spot, per number of people, isn't in New York or Chicago. By the undisputed evidence given at a recent trial in the United States Court at Roanoke, Virginia, the spot that fairly dripped illicit liquor, and kept right on dripping it after prohibition ended, is . . . Franklin County, Virginia—Liberty Magazine November 2, 1935*

These notorious references to Franklin County antedate the publication of a recent book by a member of the county's "first families." But Keister Greer's affection for Franklin County and its history were solidly in place years before, when he submitted *Genesis of a Virginia Frontier: The Origins of Franklin County, Virginia 1740–1785* as his undergraduate honors thesis at the University of Virginia. That affection and geographical pride are still evident throughout the 900 pages of Greer's current toast to his beloved

county: *The Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935.*

Franklin County, which "is older than the Constitution of the United States," is part of Virginia's "Southside."

Southeast of Roanoke and approximately thirty miles from the North Carolina line, the county is the birthplace of Booker T. Washington, General Jubal A. Early and Congressman Virgil H. Goode Jr. The county's delegates to the 1788 state convention in Richmond, which ratified the U.S. Constitution in 1788, voted—as did Patrick Henry—*against* ratification.

That anti-federalist sentiment may have been at play by Franklin County's "political and bootlegging elite" from 1928 to 1934. Depriving the federal government of tax revenues through the "manufacture, transportation, sale and possession of non-tax paid liquors" in all likelihood did not create significant unpatriotic feelings by the participants. Greer opines, "Large-scale production of illicit liquor in Franklin County did not occur in a vacuum . . . discriminatory freight rates (against southern industries) endured until after World War II . . . Transportation of the product of illicit stills was not subject to discriminatory freight rates."

Nevertheless, after months of investigation by the government's Alcohol Tax Unit in early 1934 and the testimony of two hundred witnesses before a federal grand jury, a twenty-two-page indictment was returned in February 1935 against thirty-four individuals and one corporation. An additional fifty-five persons were named as undicted co-conspirators. In short, all were alleged to have been part of a conspiracy



to defraud the United States of the tax on "spirits distilled by them."

Included as defendants were a former sheriff, four deputy sheriffs, a former state prohibition officer/county policeman and Franklin County's Commonwealth's Attorney, Charles Carter Lee, a grand nephew of Robert E. Lee.

Although transcripts of the fifty-day jury trial have been lost, Greer cleverly presents much of the text in familiar trial testimony format. With obvious meticulousness, he blends extant grand-jury transcripts, newspaper articles and investigative reports into a fascinating daily account "of the longest trial in Virginia."

**Moonshine** *continued on page 55*

**Russell Palmore Jr.** was graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and received his law degree from the University of Virginia. He is a partner at Troutman Sanders LLP. He is past president of the Richmond Bar Association, past chair of the Virginia State Bar Third District Disciplinary Committee and past chair of the VSB Conference of Local Bar Associations.

*photo above from the cover of The Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935*

**Moonshine** *continued from page 19*

While the trial is clearly the centerpiece of the book, Greer brackets that account with intriguing related sidebars.

For example, approximately two weeks before the grand jury convened, a Franklin County deputy sheriff, who was likely prepared to provide damaging testimony against other county residents, was mur-

dered. Subsequently, a deputy sheriff who testified on behalf of the government during the conspiracy trial was shot and killed in a similar drive-by shooting. Accounts of the multiple trials related to those incidents—as well as the six-day trial for alleged jury tampering in the bootlegging case—add to the richness of Greer's opus.

However, *The Great Moonshine Conspiracy Trial of 1935* is not about a legal case. Not really. Rather, it's a history book—historical almanac—which has been scrupulously researched, is very readable and is not nearly as intimidating as it looks—or weighs.