

A Legal Miscellanea Spring 2012



A LEGAL MISCELLANEA
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Robert D. Noelle, Cataloging Librarian

Religion in Paris during the 19th century is a fascinating story, a story that has been told in many ways. In 1840, the first edition of the *Annuaire de la Ville de Paris* was published, a work that provided a detailed account of the city's religious life. The work included a list of all the churches in Paris, their names, and the names of their pastors. It also included a list of all the religious orders in Paris, their names, and the names of their superiors. The work was a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of religion in Paris.



Annales de la Ville de Paris

The great city page, typical of each period in the *Annuaire de la Ville de Paris*, was a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of religion in Paris. The work was a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of religion in Paris.

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TALKING POINTS: GW LAW'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

During the past year, GW Law has embarked upon an oral history project to record the experiences and impressions of its current faculty and deans, the "Socrates Guard" Law School alumni who graduated fifty or more years ago, and other key members of the GW Law community. One purpose of conducting oral histories is to record aspects of the history of the Law School that otherwise might remain undocumented. Preserving this information allows it to become a permanent resource for future researchers, a record of institutional life that provides a singular perspective on institutional events that typically does not surface in the institution's documents, newspapers, and magazines.

"Oral history" refers both to the techniques of gathering information from interview subjects (also called "narrators"), as well as the audio-visual products of the interview and its transcription. According to the Oral History Association, "Oral history interviewees work as in-depth sources of personal experience and reflections, with sufficient time allowed for the narrators to give their story the follow-up they desire. The nature of oral histories is grounded in reflection on the past as opposed to contemporary or purely contemporary events."¹ The oral tradition is a building block of historical method, collection and narration of past events by those who are proximal to those events. The oral tradition is a building block of historical method, collection and narration of past events by those who are proximal to those events. The oral tradition is a building block of historical method, collection and narration of past events by those who are proximal to those events.



The interview process involves David Robinson, J., Professor of Law, and Michaela Biele, Ph.D., Director of Special Collections.

¹ Oral History Association, *The Guide to Oral History and the Practice of History*, <http://www.oralhistory.org/oralhistoryguide/oralhistoryguide.html>

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