

(1979); Clark Boardman (1980); Warren, Gorham & Lamont (1980); Lawyers Cooperative (1989); Bancroft-Whitney (1989); Research Institute of America (1989); Maxwell Macmillan, formerly Prentice-Hall, (1991); Counterpoint Publishing (1994); Information Access (1994); Barclays (1995); and Shepard's/McGraw-Hill, treatises only (1995).

These acquisitions and the subsequent reorganization of traditional product lines have created no end of confusion for law book consumers as they struggle to keep up with the new lineup of publishers and products. Publications once received from Lawyers Cooperative Publishing (Lawyers Coop) may now come from Clark Boardman Callaghan (CBC) or any one of the publishers owned by Thomson; publications received from Shepard's have been transferred to Lawyers Coop or CBC.

If the sale is approved by the Department of Justice—and at this point in time no one believes it will not be approved—Thomson will control: 100 percent of the national legal encyclopedias (CJS and Am.Jur.2d); 100 percent of the annotated federal codes (USCA and USCS); 100 percent of the commercial U.S. Supreme reporters (Supreme Court Reporter and Lawyers Edition); 100 percent of the U.S. Supreme Court digests; 80 percent of the national legal forms sets (West Legal Forms, Am.Jur.Forms and Nichols Cyclopedia of Legal Forms); 76 percent of the state legal encyclopedias; 50 percent of the major American legal treatises and student case books; the entire National Reporter System; 100 percent of West state, regional, Decennial and topical case digests; 25 annotated state codes; and WESTLAW LawDesk and numerous CD-ROM products.

Prior to the sale, there was significant overlap in the publications of West and the Thomson Group, giving the customers a choice of titles from which to choose. The merger of the two companies will almost certainly reduce competition through the elimination of overlapping publications. Will the consumer have a choice of either CJS or Am.Jur.2d., USCA or USCS, Supreme Court Reporter or Law Edition? Doubtful.

The reduced competition is likely to lead to increased prices. Based upon the history of prior Thomson acquisitions, consumers of legal publications should be prepared for significant price adjustments to former West publications. The cost of the annual supplementation to Am.Jur.2d rose from \$584 in 1987 to nearly \$1,500 in 1994 following Thomson's acquisition of Lawyer's Coop in 1989. Shortly after Thomson created the new entity, Clark Boardman Callaghan in 1992, the supplementation frequency doubled for Couch on Insurance and Costs rose from \$133 in 1992 to \$695 in 1995. West charged \$256 for the 1995 annual pocket parts to West's Legal Forms, while CBC charged \$842 for the 1995 supplementation to Nichols Cyclopedia of Legal Forms, comparable form set. One can only speculate as to what the annual supplementation to West's Legal Forms is likely to cost in the future, particularly since it is well recognized in the publishing industry that Thomson paid as much as three times the going rate for its acquisitions and will need to recoup its investment.

The reduced competition also has resulted in less local customer services and fewer local sales representatives. (Perhaps some customers will not find this a loss.) No longer can one deal with a sales rep. No longer can one lean on the sales rep to straighten out a confused billing or take back an unwanted publication. Instead, there are the telemarket callers.

Lawyers, judges and law students cannot perform legal research or study law without reference to one or more of these publishers' research sources either on line or in hard copy format. Yet very few lawyers are aware of the Thomson acquisitions and even fewer have any understanding of the ramifications and profound effect they will have on everyone in the legal community.

West Publishing Corporation

July 18, 1996.

Mr. Bartlett F. Cole,
1201 S.W. 12th Avenue, Rm. 305, Portland,
Oregon 97205-1705

Dear Mr. Cole: Mr. Hall wanted me to thank you for your greeting, and also asked me to respond to your letter of July 1 regarding the 1995 West Calendar.

Over the last twenty years West has encouraged the participation of American artists by supporting one of the nation's major invitational art shows. Through "WEST ART & THE LAW" West has received much recognition, and was even presented the National Business in the Arts Award. The artwork which you enclosed was highlighted and selected by a panel of nationally recognized individuals from the arts community.

We recognize in art, as well as other subjects, taste, judgments, perceptions vary with each individual. We did receive several letters, such as yours, expressing displeasure with that particular picture. Our intentions were not to offend any group of individuals by this particular selection, but to support art. The artwork for our 1997 West Calendar is called "City Hall". It's more related to the legal profession, and I hope you won't mind if we send you one as it becomes available.

I also wanted to thank you for the literature you enclosed. I personally believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, but I had never seen or read it in the comic book format. It was interesting.

Thank you again for interest.

Sincerely,

Orell G. Pieper,
Marketing Department.

West Publishing

June 28, 1996.

Dear Customer: I'm very pleased to announce that The Thomson Corporation has acquired West Publishing. As a result of this acquisition, we have combined two Thomson companies, Thomson Legal Publishing, and West Publishing to form a new company, West Information Publishing Group. This merger has successfully passed review by the Department of Justice.

The new company is now unquestionably the preeminent provider in legal publishing and will offer great benefits to the industry. We now have the potential to provide more

integrated products and services—products that will be easier to use, more timely, and will incorporate cutting-edge technologies. In addition, our licensing of Star Pagination to third parties will provide greater public access to primary case law by broadening the number of vendors who utilize the product.

In terms of the sales support, customer service, product enhancements, billings, and other services you expect from West Publishing Company, nothing will change in the near term. All operational details will remain the same for the remainder of 1996. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call your customer service representative.

You are a valued customer, and your satisfaction is at the top of our priority list. I look forward to our enhanced ability to serve you in the future.

Respectfully,

Brian H. Hall,

President, West Information Publishing Group.

[FR Doc. 96-25030 Filed 10-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice of information collection under review; State Juvenile Corrections Organization Survey.

The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Emergency review and approval of this collection has been requested from OMB by November 1, 1996. The emergency approval is only valid for 90 days and during this period a regular review of this collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until December 10, 1996.

Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Comments and/or suggestions regarding the item(s) contained in this notice, especially regarding the estimated public burden and associated response time should be directed to Joseph Moone (phone number and address listed below). If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Joseph Moone, 202-307-5929, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 782, 633 Indiana Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

Overview of this information collection:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* New collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* State Juvenile Corrections Organization Survey.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form: None. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: State juvenile corrections agencies. Other: None. This collection will gather specific information on the various State statutes and policies that affect the juvenile custody rates and juvenile custody populations of each state. This information will aid in the analysis of juvenile corrections data.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 51 respondents at an average 6 hours per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 306 burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center,

1001 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: October 7, 1996.

Robert B. Briggs,

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 96-26125 Filed 10-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

Submission for OMB review; Comment Request

October 3, 1996.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of this individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor Acting Departmental Clearance Office, Theresa M. O'Malley ((202) 219-5095). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY/TDD) may call (202) 219-4720 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for Departmental Management, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 ((202) 395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the Federal Register.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Agency: President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

Title: Job Accommodation Network (JAN).

OMB Number: 1225-0022.

Frequency: Other (call-in/followup).

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Number of Respondents: 500.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 30 minutes.

Total Burden Hours: 250

Total Annualized capital/startup costs: 0.

Total annual costs (operating/maintaining systems or purchasing services): 0.

Description: The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) provides information about making accommodations in the workplace and rights/responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to employers and others. The information collected will consist of accommodation examples and will be used to provide solutions to other callers.

Theresa M. O'Malley,

Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 96-26177 Filed 10-10-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-23-M

Submission for OMB review; Comment Request

October 8, 1996.

The Department of Labor (DOL) has submitted the following public information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). A copy of this individual ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor Acting Departmental Clearance Officer, Theresa M. O'Malley (202) 219-5095). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY/TDD) may call (202) 219-4720 between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

Comments should be sent to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 (202) 395-7316), within 30 days from the date of this publication in the Federal Register.

The OMB is particularly interested in comments which: