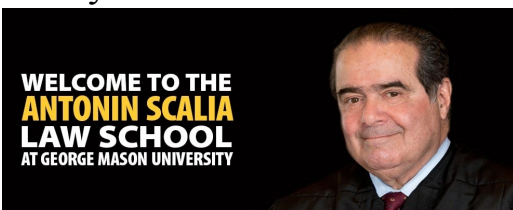


# Bathroom Reader

Issue 26, April 2016

## “MASON LAW” NO MORE

George Mason University's law school just renamed itself the Antonin Scalia School of Law in recognition of a pledge of more than \$30 million. The donation includes \$10 million from the Charles Koch Foundation and is the largest in the university's history.



*New website banner.*

Christian Smith, a Richardson student who transferred to Mason in 2014 said, “I’m sure that this name change will only increase diversity in applications.” When asked for clarification, she said that she was being sarcastic.

Others took to the internet to express their displeasure, with some at first thinking it was an early April Fool’s Day joke. A few lamented that a Founding Father’s name was getting displaced in favor of a contemporary figure, while many were having fun with the new nicknames and acronyms that the name “Antonin Scalia School of Law” could make. Even after his passing, it seems, Justice Scalia is still riling people up.

## DATA ON THE COURT

There’s a new law blog on the block. Launched in February, Empirical SCOTUS seeks to examine the U.S. Supreme Court from an empirical perspective, looking at justices, attorneys, briefs, and Court practices.

One article is an analysis of the last 16 oral arguments in which Justice Scalia participated and the first 16 after he passed (Justice Sotomayor took the most turns in the latter). Other articles include analysis of the first 19 opinions of the term, a distillation of cases to reduce them to 10 words, and one on 2014 “cert winners.”

The use of data to help understand the Court is interesting and the articles are quite readable. Check it out: [empiricalsctous.com](http://empiricalsctous.com).

## PANAMA PAPERS FIRM

News of the leak from the Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca is still breaking. The so-called Panama Papers show how the firm helped well-heeled clients launder money, dodge sanctions, and avoid taxes.

The firm has over 500 employees in more than 40 offices around the world and, in 2013, had billings of more than \$42 million. The firm claims that it “has never

been accused or charged in connection with criminal wrongdoing,” and a spokesman said that the firm “merely helps clients incorporate companies.”

Founder Jürgen Mossack’s father was a member of the SS during WWII who may have spied on communists for the U.S. after the war. The other founder, Ramón Fonseca, is an award-winning novelist.

Past shenanigans include the crafting of legislation for Niue in 1994 that provided for incorporating offshore companies. The firm then signed a 20-year deal with Niue government for exclusive rights to register such companies. So brisk was their business that in 2001, they were paying \$1.6 million into the country’s projected \$2 million annual budget. After an investigation and blacklisting of Niue by the Financial Action Taskforce, Niue declined to renew MF’s companies, shutting down the firms exclusive franchise. As a result, the firm encouraged clients to re-incorporate in Samoa.

Among those named in some leaked documents is the Prime Minister of Iceland and Jackie Chan.

For more information see [panamapapers.icij.org](http://panamapapers.icij.org).