



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

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Technology Trends

Portable Toolbars

Did you know that you can take your favorite search engine with you everywhere you go on the World Wide Web? “A search engine toolbar is basically a tiny plug-in for your browser that adds a bar, search box, or drop-down menu to the top of your browser screen and allows you to launch, store, and manage searches directly from your browser without having to open a special website first. Most toolbars load within seconds using a broadband connection and are well worth the effort. Also, they can be uninstalled or temporarily hidden using your View/Toolbars drop down menu.” To read more about these toolbars and to see if your favorite search engine offers this feature, go to: www.searchenginewatch.com. Click on “Search Engine Resources” on the left-hand side of the screen and then click on “Search Toolbar and Utility Reviews.”

Excerpted from: “The Joy of Toolbars” by Stephen Abram, Information Outlook v. 7, no. 9 (September 2003) p.30-32.

Keeping Up With Daubert

“MDEX Online Inc., a medical-legal consulting firm headquartered in Chicago, estimates there are more than 4,000 trial and appellate opinions interpreting and applying *Daubert* and its offspring, as well as thousands more state “gatekeeper” cases. That is why MDEX developed a tool to help lawyers track these cases and, in particular, find out how specific experts or areas of expertise fared in the courts. The **Daubert Tracker**, at www.dauberttracker.com, has as its central feature a database of all reported *Daubert* and *Kumho* decisions, trial and appellate, backed up when available by full-text briefs, transcripts and docket entries. It also includes recent cases applying *Frye v. United States*, the 1928 Supreme Court decision requiring the exclusion of scientific evidence that is unproven or experimental.”

Excerpted from: “How to Track Expert Testimony” by Robert J. Ambrogi, Law Technology News (September 25, 2003) available at:

<http://www.law.com/jsp/printerfriendly.jsp?c=LawArticle&t=PrinterFriendlyArticle&cid=1063212046219>

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Research Question of the Day:

I’m always getting
over 100 hits in my
results list in Lexis!
What can I do to
narrow my search?

To find the answer,
turn to Page 6!

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Memorial Day
May 31st



Receive This Newsletter Via E-mail!

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail rather than from U.S. postal mail, please call the Library at: 972-424-1460 ext. 4260 or email us at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

*Note: To view the newsletter, you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software installed. This software is available for free on the Web at: www.adobe.com



New on the Shelves...

The following titles have been added to the
Collin County Law Library collection:



- Texas Rules of Court: Local, 2004 ed. - the pamphlet from Thomson West
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated, 2004 ed. - by John R. Roach & Michael J. McCormick
- National Survey of State Laws, 4th ed. - from Thomson Gale
- Opening Statements 2d: Winning in the Beginning by Winning the Beginning - by Dominic J. Gianna & Alfred S. Julien, from Thomson West
- Federal Sentencing Law and Practice, 2004 ed. - from West's Criminal Practice Series
- Federal Criminal Code and Rules, 2004 ed. - from Thomson West
- Defending a Federal Criminal Case, 2001 ed. - from the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.
- Practice Guide for Defending a Federal Criminal Case, 2001 ed. - from the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho
- Federal Trial Evidence, 2d ed. - by Howard O. Boltz, Jr.
- Federal Trial Objections - by U.S. District Judge David F. Levi & U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter A. Nowinski

The following 2004 editions of O'Connor's code handbooks have also arrived:

- O'Connor's Federal Employment Codes Plus 2003-04
- O'Connor's Business & Commerce Code Plus 2003-04
- O'Connor's Family Code Plus 2003-04
- O'Connor's Business Organizations Codes Plus 2003-04
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action 2004
- O'Connor's Criminal Codes Plus 2003-04
- O'Connor's Texas Employment Codes Plus 2003-04
- O'Connors CPRC Plus 2003-04



**For assistance in finding these new titles in the library
or for information about upcoming titles,
just ask a law librarian!**

Call 972-424-1460 ext. 4260 or email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us



Check It Out: *National Survey of State Laws*

Richard A. Leiter, Ed., *National Survey of State Laws, 4th edition*, Thomson-Gale (2003).

During the course of research, it is sometimes helpful to know what the law regarding a certain issue is in another state outside of Texas. *National Survey of State Laws* is a helpful resource offering a comparison of **laws from all fifty states** in the United States. Organized topically, this single volume provides a general overview of each legal topic followed by a table for each state detailing the applicable statute for that state as well as brief descriptions of each state's statute. A broad range of legal issues are covered, including business law, capital punishment, employment law, family law, tax law, and more. *National Survey of State Laws* is now available in the Law Library. Just ask a law librarian for assistance!

Internet Spotlight

New on Texas Judge!
www.texasjudge.com

The proposed **Local Rules of the District Courts Concerning the Electronic Filing of Court Documents** are now available on the Texas Judge web site in the Download Center. Please note that these rules are currently under review by the Texas Supreme Court and have not yet been adopted. Stay tuned to texasjudge.com and the Law Library newsletter for news of their formal approval by the Texas Supreme Court.

The Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism
www.txethics.org

Tired of sifting through back issues of the Texas Bar Journal to find legal ethics opinions? You can read the text of all of the **ethics opinions** issued by the Texas Supreme Court Professionalism Committee online at the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism web site. To get started, click on "References" on the top of the home page. You can then search for opinions by opinion number or by subject keyword. You can also click on "Subject Index" to browse opinions by topic.



Internet Archive
www.archive.org

The World Wide Web is an ever-changing organism. Web sites and content come and go. Maybe you're wondering whatever happened to a long-lost web site you used to rely upon, or maybe you need to know about some information that was on a corporate web site a year ago but isn't there now. Well, you're in luck! The Internet Archive offers a searchable feature called the "Wayback Machine" to find old web pages. You can **search for old web pages** by typing in the URL (web address) and then selecting a date.

The Federal Trade Commission Wants Your Spam!

That's right! In order to crack down on spammers more effectively, the government has set up an email address where you can forward all of the unwanted spam email you receive. The Federal Trade Commission has created a database of spammers that will help them pursue law enforcement actions against these people. **Forward your spam to: uce@ftc.gov**

The opinions expressed on these web sites are not representative of those of Collin County or the Collin County Law Library.



Want to Know What's Going On in the Legal Community?

Just stop by the Law Library!

The Law Library bulletin board and newsstand are designed to keep you informed about news and events in the legal community. The bulletin board displays local bar association newsletters and announcements as well as CLE opportunities offered in the North Texas area. The bulletin board is located above the photocopier in the Law Library.

The library newsstand contains a wide variety of periodicals covering topics of interest to today's attorney. Legal information titles include *Texas Bar Journal*, *Texas Lawyer*, *TRIAL*, *American Journal of Family Law*, and more. The newsstand also offers titles in the field of information technology, such as *WIRED* magazine and *Internet Law Researcher*, as well as local news items like *The Collin County Commercial Record* and *Inside Collin County Business*. So whether you're waiting for a setting or just want to catch up on current events, the Law Library Newsstand has something for you.



Articles of Interest



“An Attorney’s Primer: Working With Interpreters”

Isabel Picado, PROTEUS: Newsletter of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators v. 9, nos. 1-2 (Winter-Spring 2000), available at: www.najit.org/proteus/v9n1-2/picado_v9n1-2.htm

This article provides insight into the challenges faced by interpreters when translating for witnesses, clients, and defendants in legal proceedings. It also includes helpful suggestions for things that attorneys can do to make the interpreter’s job a little easier. You can access this article online from the Texas Judge web site at www.texasjudge.com.

“Select the Right Jury for Your Case”

Dan Christensen, Trial v. 40, no. 4 (April 2004), p. 58-63.

This article offers some sound advice for improving your voir dire technique. It describes how to begin by building a rapport with potential jurors. Various questioning techniques are suggested, as well as how to establish causal challenges.

“Texas Supreme Court Addresses Mechanics’ Liens”

David Weatherbie, Headnotes v. 28, no. 5 (May 1, 2004), p. 9.

This article highlights and discusses some key recent court cases which have clarified the responsibilities of subcontractors under Texas mechanic’s lien laws.

“Sex Reassignment Surgery: When is a “He” a “She” for the Purpose of Marriage in the United States?”

Elena P. Bishop and Noel Myricks, American Journal of Family Law v. 18, no. 1 (Spring 2004), p. 35.

This article discusses the various arguments surrounding the issue of transsexual marriage and also briefly examines a Texas court case which has ruled on this topic.

“The Seat Belt Defense in Texas”

Brian T. Bagley, St. Mary’s Law Journal v. 35, no. 3 (2004), p. 707-740.

This article discusses the use of the seat belt defense in negligence cases and whether or not this defense should be used in such cases in Texas.

“Punishment Evidence: *Grunsfeld* Ten Years Later”

Edward L. Wilkinson, St. Mary’s Law Journal v. 35, no. 3 (2004), p. 603-684.

“This article deals with the admissibility of evidence during the punishment phase of a non-capital trial in Texas.



Copies of these articles and any related court cases are available at the Law Library.

Just ask a law librarian!

Call: 972-424-1460 ext. 4255 or email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us



Important Notices:

Attorney Workstation Users:

Please sign off of Lexis when you are finished working. To do this, click on "Sign Off" in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Then close the Internet Explorer window. This keeps costs down and allows the library to continue to offer Lexis to our attorneys.

Unclaimed Faxes

The Law Library has always been happy to permit attorneys to receive faxes on the library's fax machine at a charge of \$1.00 per page. Lately, we have received many faxes addressed to attorneys that no one ever comes to pick up and pay for. We cannot continue to offer this service if the faxes are not retrieved and paid for in a timely manner. If you have a fax sent to the Law Library, please pick it up and pay for it within 24 hours.

Missing Newsstand Items

Lately, several items have gone missing from the Law Library's newsstand. These items are not free giveaway items available for people to take with them and keep; they belong to the Law Library and are kept there for everyone to use. Attorneys are welcome to read newsstand items while in the library. However, if you wish to take an item with you to read elsewhere in the courthouse or at home, we ask that you complete a check-out card and leave it at the Reference Desk.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.



Courthouse News



Assistant District Attorney Helps Set Up Trust Fund

One of our very own Collin County Assistant District Attorneys, **Curtis Howard**, has recently worked to help establish a trust fund to help two local girls pay for their post-secondary education. The fund was conceived by a Collin County jury panel who wanted to help the two girls who were victims involved in a recent criminal case. Mr. Howard's efforts in this cause were noted in the May 2004 issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*.

"Jury's Verdict: Can We Set Up a Trust Fund?"
Texas Bar Journal v. 67, no. 5 (May 2004) p. 345.

Librarians Attend Conferences

Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill recently attended the Computers In Libraries 2004 conference in Washington, D.C. in March. The conference program included seminars covering a variety of information science topics such as federated searching, blogs, and digital library collections. And because the conference was held in our nation's capital, Katy also was able to tour the Library of Congress and pay a visit to the United States Supreme Court.

Law Library Director Judy McCullough will be attending the 2004 Annual Conference of the Special Libraries Association to be held in Nashville, TN in June. In addition to meeting in a roundtable discussion with other county law librarians from around the U.S., there will also be many seminars discussing topics ranging from library office management to emerging web and research technologies.

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I'm always getting over 100 hits
in my results list in Lexis!
What can I do to narrow my search?

Answer:

You can limit your search results in Lexis by doing a **Terms and Connectors** search using **Boolean operators**. Here's how:

After selecting which database you want to search in Lexis, you will be taken to the search screen. First select "Terms and Connectors" above the "Enter Search Terms" box. Now you are ready to enter the terms you want to search for. There are special symbols called Boolean operators you can use when entering your search terms that will help to make your search more specific. The operator is placed between two search terms in the search box. Here are some helpful Boolean operators:

Operator: &

Example: conversion & automobile

This search will retrieve only those documents that contain both the word "conversion" and the word "automobile" within the same document.

Operator: /s

Example: conversion /s automobile

This search will retrieve only those documents that contain the word "conversion" and the word "automobile" within the same sentence.

Using Quotation Marks

Example: "personal property"

This search will retrieve only those documents that contain the entire term "personal property" within the same document.

Put them together:

Example: conversion /s "personal property"

This search will retrieve only those documents that contain the word "conversion" and the term "personal property" within the same sentence. You can put in as many search terms and words as you want using Boolean operators to connect them. **The more specific your search is, the smaller your results list will be!**

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A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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"Mr. Frosty, it's March.
Time to talk estate planning."

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Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
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