



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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Apr May June 2005

Are You Blogging?

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**Research
Question of the
Day:**

**How do I use the
Digest and Key
Number system in
Westlaw?**

To find the answer,
turn to Page 6!

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**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: 972-548-4260 or email us at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

What is a Blog?

The term “blog” is a shortened term for “web log.” A blog is a web site where the author (aka: blogger) writes comments and posts links to other web sites and articles on a particular topic. The style of a blog is much like that of a personal journal, with entries displayed chronologically. Because they are maintained on a regular basis, blogs are an excellent source of current news and information on a particular topic.

What is a Blawg?

Blawgs are blogs that are about topics related to the law.

Examples:

Sentencing Law and Policy blog at: <http://sentencing.typepad.com>

How Appealing blog on appellate litigation news: <http://legalaffairs.org/howappealing>

How do I read a blog?

Because it is a web site, a blog can be accessed by simply going to the blog’s web site on the Internet. However, as you begin to frequent more and more blogs on the web, it can become time-consuming to visit each site individually. A news aggregator can help you here.

What is a news aggregator?

News aggregators, such as Bloglines.com or Feedreader.com, are programs that allow you to access and read many blogs at one location. You use them to subscribe to blogs that interest you and create a personalized “news” page displaying headlines from the blogs that you choose. Bloglines and Feedreader are both free services that are web-based and can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection (much in the same way you access your web email through Yahoo, Excite, etc.).

How do I get started?

To get started for free, go to www.bloglines.com and click on “Click Here to Sign Up.” Once you’ve signed up, Bloglines walks you through how to subscribe to blogs that interest you.

For more about how to get started and for a listing of law-related blogs, see the “Articles of Interest” section on page 4 of this newsletter.



New on the Shelves...

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



- Rights of Juveniles: The Juvenile Justice System, 2005 ed. - by Samuel M. Davis
- Texas Juvenile Law, 6th ed. - by Robert Dawson
- Capital Trial Advocacy for the Defense: Changing the Picture & Humanizing the Client - the coursebook from the program presented January 26-29, 2005 in Plano by the Center for American and International Law
- Texas Justice Court Deskbook - from the Texas Justice Court Training Center
- Small-Case Litigation Forms - by Lawrence R. Klemin
- Texas Evidentiary Foundations, 3rd ed. - by David A. Schlueter, John F. Onion, Jr., Charles W. Barrow, & Edward J. Imwinkelried
- Physicians' Desk Reference, 59th ed., 2005
- PDR Drug Guide for Mental Health Professionals, 2nd ed.
- PDR for Herbal Medicines, 3rd ed.
- Bender's Immigration and Nationality Act Pamphlet, 2005 ed. - from LexisNexis Matthew Bender
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules, 2005 ed. - from Thomson West
- Federal Criminal Code and Rules, 2005 ed. - from Thomson West
- O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms, 2005 ed.
- Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions, Civil, 2005 ed.
- Texas Rules of Court: Local, 2005 ed. - from Thomson West
- Texas Rules of Court: State, 2005 ed. - from Thomson West
- Texas Rules of Court: Federal, 2005 ed. - from Thomson West
- O'Connor's Texas Rules: Civil Trials 2005
- The Lawyer's Guide to Strategic Planning: Defining, Setting, and Achieving Your Firm's Goals (includes accompanying CD-ROM) - by Thomas C. Grella & Michael L. Hudkins
- The Family Lawyer's Essential Tool Kit, 2005 ed. - from the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated, 2005 ed.

The Baker's Books are Here!!

- Baker's Texas Criminal Evidence Handbook, 2005 ed. - by Lang Baker
- Baker's Texas Criminal Procedure Handbook, 2005 ed. - by Lang Baker
- Baker's Texas Drugs & DWI Handbook, 2005 ed. - by Lang Baker
- Baker's Texas Penal Code Handbook, 2005 ed. - by Lang Baker
- Baker's Texas Family Code Handbook, 2005 ed. - by Lang Baker



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

Call 972-548-4255 or email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us



SMU-in-Legacy: Dispute Resolution Program

The Dispute Resolution Program at the SMU-in-Legacy campus in Plano offers graduate certification in dispute resolution as well as a series of seminars in conflict management. For more information, go to: www.smu.edu/dispute_resolution

Internet Spotlight

Search Engine: Clusty, by Vivisimo

<http://clusty.com>

www.vivisimo.com

If you are looking to broaden your web searching horizons beyond Google, or if you liked the “folders” feature of the old Northern Light search engine, then **Clusty by Vivisimo** is worth a look!

Enter your search terms and Clusty sorts your search results into “clusters,” which are arranged topically in an outline format.

For example, a search on the term “colt” in the Google search engine would yield a single result list of 3,390,000 hits on a broad range of topics. You would have to enter more narrow search terms and run the search again or try to read through the lengthy result list to find relevant sites. The same search for “colt” in the Clusty search engine produces a result list grouped into clusters labeled “Guns,” “Indianapolis,” “Horses,” etc. This allows you to immediately eliminate entire groups of irrelevant “hits” from your result list. Users who want to read about the Indianapolis Colts football team and not the Colt .45 handgun can go immediately to relevant sites by clicking on the appropriate cluster.



Search Engines 2

www.search-engines-2.com

This site offers a directory of search engines by topic. Over 67 topics are covered, from adoption to franchises to zip code search engines. Each engine allows you search only sites related to that topic. Each engine’s site also offers a directory of key web sites on that topic.

Google’s Uncle Sam

www.google.com/unclesam

Google’s Uncle Sam allows you to limit your Google search to only government (.gov) and military (.mil) websites.

5th Circuit Slip Opinions

www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/5th.html

Search for slip opinions from the 5th Circuit from July 1997 to the present. You can search by date, docket number, party name, or full-text keyword.

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

Consumer Health Information Center Opens at CCCD

The Collin County Community College Central Park Campus now boasts a library dedicated to providing medical and healthcare information and resources to the public. The Consumer Health Information Center has books, journals, videos, online databases, and other resources covering topics such as pregnancy, diet, elderly healthcare, and more. Materials are available for check-out by the public; contact the Center for more information. The Consumer Health Information Center is located in the Learning Resource Center of the Collin County Community College Central Park Campus at 2200 W. University Dr. in McKinney.

Phone: 972-548-6734 Web: www.ccccd.edu/cs/lrc/lrc.html

Monday—Thursday 7:45am—9:45pm

Friday 7:45am—5:00pm

Saturday 9:00am—4:00pm

Sunday 1:00pm—5:00pm



Articles of Interest



**“A Presumption for Supervised Visitation in Texas:
Understanding and Strengthening Family Code Section 153.004(e)”**
Scott A. Young, Texas Tech Law Review v. 37, no. 2 (Winter 2005) p. 327-355.

The author discusses the law of supervised visitation and its criteria. Guidance is given for identifying what is a history of pattern of violence as well as approaches to defining present abuse. Supervision options are also examined and recommendations are made to make the language of Section 153.004 more inclusive.

“Family Violence: Criminal & Civil Aspects”
Samuel E. Bassett, VOICE for the Defense v. 34, no. 1 (January/February 2005) p. 18-27.

This article provides an excellent overview of what attorneys face when representing clients in family violence cases, including both the expected and the unexpected. The author examines the pertinent criminal and family law statutes as well as collateral consequences and ethical questions that can arise in such cases.

“The Anders Brief: What Is It and How Do You Do It?”
Justice Lee Ann Dauphinot, VOICE for the Defense v. 34, no. 3 (April 2005) p. 26-31.

The title says it all. This article also highlights the key court cases which govern the filing of *Anders* briefs as well as explaining how to handle frivolous appeals, the steps the attorney must take, the requirements of what the brief must contain, and what will happen once the brief is filed.

“International Family Law”
Jeremy D. Morley, The Matrimonial Strategist v. 23, no. 1 (February 2005) p. 3-6.

This article covers some of the more commonly encountered international family law issues and highlights the United States and international laws which govern them. Specific topics discussed include child abduction, divorce, custody, and relocation.

“Do you blog?”
Rebecca Porter, Trial v. 41, no. 2 (February 2005) p. 44-48.

The author of this article explains how “blogging” and reading “blogs” can help attorneys stay abreast of current news and developments in areas of the law that are important to their practice, as well as the use of blogs as marketing tools. There is also a helpful “how-to” section of the article showing attorneys how to get started reading blogs and creating their own blog.

“The Internet Guide to RSS and Blawging”
Ken Kozlowski, Internet Law Researcher v. 9, no. 10 (January 2005) p. 3-7.

This article offers an excellent guide for the beginning blogger as well as an extensive listing of some law-related blogs, or “blawgs.”

For more about blogs and blogging, see page 1 of this newsletter!



These articles are available at the Law Library.
Just ask a law librarian!
Call: 972-548-4260 or email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us





CLE Opportunities



Juvenile Law Course Coming in June!

The State Bar of Texas is offering a CLE course in juvenile law entitled **Special Education Issues and the Juvenile Justice System** on June 10, 2005. The course will be held live at the Texas Law Center in Austin, but attorneys can participate in the course locally via a live webcast at TexasBarCLE.com. The course offers **7.25 hours with .75 hours ethics** CLE credit.

If you cannot participate in the course on June 10th either live or via the webcast, don't worry: The course will be available for attorneys to take on TexasBarCLE.com approximately 4-6 weeks after the course initially takes place in June. Attorneys who take the course online will receive full participatory credit for the course.

The Law Library also plans to purchase a copy of the course book and an audio recording of the course. Attorneys will be permitted to check out these course materials from the Law Library and receive up to 5 hours of self-study credit for the course.

*Please note that in order to receive court appointments for juvenile cases in the juvenile court of Collin County, attorneys are required to have **a minimum of 10 hours in criminal law CLE, with 6 hours of that being in juvenile law.***

For more information about this course, go to:

<http://www.texasbarcle.com/materials/Programs/1059/Brochure.pdf>

or just ask a law librarian!



Discovery and Admissibility of Mental Health Records in Custody Disputes



This American Bar Association course addresses privacy issues involved in mental health records, including psychotherapist privilege and trial advocacy techniques. The program speakers include Judge Debra H. Lehrmann of the 360th District Court of Texas. The Law Library is offering this course to attorneys for 1.5 hours of self-study CLE credit. The course materials include a book and audio tape of the program and may be checked out for up to one week at a time.

For more information about this course and other CLE opportunities, ask a law librarian!



Local CLE Opportunities



Legal Aid of Northwest Texas frequently offers free CLE seminars to attorneys who accept pro bono cases. For more information about Legal Aid seminars and volunteering, call 972-542-9405 and dial "0" for the operator.

The Center for American and International Law offers CLE programs on a variety of legal topics throughout the year, ranging from labor law to criminal defense to commercial arbitration, and more. The Center is located in Plano just across from the SMU-in-Legacy campus. For more information, call the Center at: 972-244-3400.

DVD Player Now Available For Check-Out

The Law Library now has a portable DVD player available for attorneys to use for viewing CLE materials checked out from the Law Library. The player can be connected to a TV at your home or office; or you may use the player's accompanying DVD monitor to view the materials. The DVD player may only be checked out by attorneys who are currently taking a CLE course administered by the Collin County Law Library.

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How do I use the Digest and Key Number system in Westlaw?

Answer:

The West Digest and Key Number system that you're familiar with in print is available in the Westlaw online database as well. Here's how to get to it:

1. After logging into Westlaw you will be taken to the "home" page.
2. Locate the "More" pull-down menu in the upper right-hand corner and select "Key Numbers & Digest" from this menu.
3. Place a checkmark in the box next to the key numbers in which you wish to search. Click the "Search Selected" button in the lower left-hand corner.
4. You will be taken to a screen where you can limit your search to specific jurisdictions, ALRs, law reviews, and more. You can further limit your search by entering search terms into the search box on this screen as well.
5. Once you have finished setting all of your search limits, click on the "Search" button on the lower left-hand side. You will be taken to a listing of West digest entries of cases meeting the criteria you selected.

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A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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"I never accept a first offer."

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