



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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Courthouse News

New Judge for County Court at Law #6

Collin County attorney Greg Willis has been appointed by the Collin County Commissioners Court to the newly created County Court at Law #6. Willis will take the bench on October 1st.

Law Librarians Attend Conferences

Collin County Law Library Director Judy McCullough attended the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association in Toronto, Canada this past June. Keynote speaker, Don Tapscott, author of *The Naked Corporation: How the Age of Transparency will Revolutionize Business*, addressed the attendees regarding the explosion of information that has resulted from corporate activities becoming more open and “transparent.” The conference was attended by librarians from around the globe who work in libraries ranging from law libraries to medical libraries to corporate libraries. These librarians came together to discuss new trends in library technology, new web searching tools, blogging, and more.

Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill attended the annual conference of the American Association of Law Libraries in San Antonio in June. The theme of the conference was “Strategize! Values Visions Vistas” and was attended by over 1700 law librarians from ten different nations. Katy met with other county law librarians from around Texas and the United States to share ideas and discuss county library services.

Research Question of the Day:

How is online text
searching like
ice fishing?

To find the answer,
turn to Page 6!

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

Attorney Workstation Available in Law Library

Attorneys and their legal assistants are welcome to use the designated Attorney Workstation in the Law Library. This station is equipped with a computer, printer, typewriter, and telephone. It provides attorneys access to the **Internet, Westlaw, Matthew Bender** practice materials, as well as several other library materials on CD-ROM. The computer is also equipped with **Microsoft Office** tools, including Microsoft Word. So, whether you need to check out the latest information on the Texas Judge website, type up a last-minute order, or conduct research on Westlaw, you can do it all at the Law Library’s Attorney Workstation.



New on the Shelves...

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



- The Lawyer's Guide to Fact Finding on the Internet, 2nd ed. (with accompanying CD-ROM) - by Carole A. Levitt & Mark E. Rosch
- Internet for Lawyers: How to Use the Internet for Legal & Investigative Research, a Guide for Legal Professionals - by Carol A. Levitt & Mark E. Rosch
- 2005 Dallas County Bench Book (includes Collin & Denton Counties) - from the Dallas Bar Association
- ALM Experts: Southwestern Directory 2006 - an expert witness directory from American Lawyer Media
- Directory of Drug and Alcohol Treatment Programs - from Lexis Nexis Matthew Bender
- National Directory of Law Enforcement Administrators, Correctional Institutions and Related Agencies (2005) - from the National Public Safety Information Bureau
- Texas Family Law Bibliography, 2000-2004 - annual bibliography issue of the State Bar Section Report: Family Law
- Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated (August 2005 ed.) - from Thomson West
- O'Connor's Family Code Plus, 2005-2006 ed.
- O'Connor's Probate Code Plus, 2005-2006 ed.
- O'Connor's Civil Practice & Remedies Code Plus, 2005-2006 ed.
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals, 2005-2006 ed.
- O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms, 2005 ed.
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules (2005 Revised Ed.) - from Thomson West
- Courtroom Handbook on Texas Evidence, 2005 ed. - From the Texas Practice Series by Thomson West
- 2005 Bankruptcy Reform Legislation with Analysis - by Hon. William Houston Brown & Lawrence R. Ahern III
- HIPAA Compliance Manual, A Comprehensive Guide to the Administrative Simplification Provisions for Health Care Professionals - by James B. Davis
- Myers on Evidence in Child, Domestic and Elder Abuse Cases - successor edition to *Evidence in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases, Third Ed.* - by John E.B. Myers
- Cross-Examination: Science and Techniques, 2nd Ed. - by Larry S. Pozner & Roger J. Dodd
- 1st Annual Collin County Juvenile Law Seminar coursebook (June 24, 2005)
- Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual - from Lexis Nexis Gould Publications (formerly the *Texas Criminal Law and Motor Vehicle Handbook*)



**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



New: Disaster Planning Resource

The recent disaster of Hurricane Katrina reminds us all how important it is to plan for future disasters.

The Essential Formbook: Comprehensive Management Tools for Lawyers—vol. IV: Disaster Planning and Recovery; Risk Management and Professional Liability Insurance, by Gary A. Munneke & Anthony E. Davis, provides detailed guidance for developing a disaster plan for a law firm of any size. This manual includes forms and information sheets (also available on a CD-ROM) to assist attorneys in creating a plan for emergencies designed to minimize damage and preserve the safety of employees.

This title is available for check-out at the Law Library.

Internet Spotlight

Firstgov's Facts and Figures

About Your Community

www.firstgov.gov/Citizen/Facts.shtml

FirstGov.gov, the official portal of the U.S. government, provides **local statistical data** and information on topics ranging from business and the economy to public safety and justice. For example, you can view the FBI crime reports on violent crime for an individual city in Collin County.

Babel Fish Translation

<http://babelfish.altavista.com/translate.dyn>

Brought to you by the folks at AltaVista, Babel Fish Translation allows you to translate a block of English text into one of 12 different languages—or vice versa. For example, you can translate a paragraph of the U.S. Code into Japanese. Just type in the passage you would like translated and then choose the languages you are translating from and to. While Babel Fish is useful for getting the general meaning of a passage, a professional translator is recommended for obtaining a precise translation.



Ethics Opinions on the Web

Texas Professional Ethics Opinions
www.txethics.org/reference_opinions.asp

Search the text of all opinions issued by the Supreme Court Professionalism Committee.

Judicial Ethics Opinions
www.courts.state.tx.us/Judethics/ethicsop.asp

Search for Judicial Ethics Opinions issued by the Committee on Judicial Ethics.

Ethics Advisory Opinions
www.ethics.state.tx.us/legal/AT-eaosquery.html

Search for Ethics Advisory Opinions issued by the Texas Ethics Commission. The opinion database includes opinions issued from 1992-present.

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

Expert Witness Directories Online

Looking for an expert? There are several expert directories available online; here are a few.

****Note:** Some of these directories require a fee for access.

American Lawyer Media—ALM Experts
www.almexperts.com/expertwitness

Expert Witness Network
www.witness.net

Expert Pages.com
www.expertpages.com

Findlaw Expert Witness Directory
http://marketcenter.findlaw.com/experts_consultants.html

The TASA Group
www.tasanet.com

ExpertWitness.com
www.expertwitness.com

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Articles of Interest



“The Role of Parenting Coordination in the Family Law Arena”

Nancy Bacher, Linda Fieldstone, & Jonathan Jonasz, American Journal of Family Law v. 19, no. 2 (Summer 2005) p. 84-96.

In addition to an in-depth discussion of what the parenting coordinator is and does in family law cases, there are also sample Order and Agreement forms included.

“Using a Parent Coordinator in a High-Conflict Case”

Robert B. Guyot III, American Journal of Family Law v. 19, no. 3 (Fall 2005) p. 178-182.

This article describes how the use of a parenting coordinator can help to limit the negative impact a high-conflict family case can have on children as well as saving time and money for all parties involved.

“Divorce and the New Bankruptcy Law”

Willard H. DaSilva, The Matrimonial Strategist v. 23, no. 6 (July 2005) p. 1-4.

This article discusses the impact on support and property issues in divorce cases made by the new Bankruptcy Code. Sample wording for protective clauses is also provided.

“Instant Messages: Instant Panic”

Alexi Oreskovic, The National Law Journal v. 27, no. 42 (June 27, 2005) p. 8, 11.

This article addresses the importance of firms creating a policy on use and retention of instant messages and instant messaging software.

“Who Will Decide Your Client’s Case?”

“The Menace of Mandatory Arbitration”

“Tax Relief for Employment Plaintiffs”

“Selecting the Standout Employment Case”

TRIAL v. 41, no. 8 (August 2005)

The August 2005 issue of TRIAL, Journal of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, is devoted to **employment law**.



These articles are available at the Law Library.

Just ask a law librarian!

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



Moved Lately?

Have you recently moved your office to a new address? Are you planning to move soon?

If so, then be sure to send us your new address as soon as it is available. Don't miss a single issue of *Truth, Justice, and Information for All* - just give us a call, send us an email, or drop a note in the mail to provide us with your new address and we'll be sure to update our records!





CLE Opportunities



Coming Soon to the Law Library:

Role and Duties of the Attorney Ad Litem in Child Protection Litigation

The Law Library is now offering the Role and Duties of the Attorney Ad Litem in Child Protection Litigation. Completion of this course fulfills the 3 hour CLE training requirement to become an Attorney Ad Litem in DFPS termination and conservatorship suits. This is a self-study DVD course worth 3 hours (.5 hour ethics) Self-Study credit. The Law Library is providing this course at no charge to assist attorneys in meeting the requirements to receive **court appointments as Attorney Ad Litem** in termination and conservatorship suits filed by the DFPS in Collin County. The DVDs and coursebook will be available for check-out at the Law Library in October. It is expected that there will be a high demand for this course, so attorneys will be given a week to complete the course and return the materials to the Law Library.



Advanced Criminal Law Course 2005



The Collin County Law Library will be offering the State Bar of Texas Custom CLE Advanced Criminal Law Course 2005 to attorneys beginning this fall. The cost for taking the course is \$329.00 per person. For this price, you will view the DVDs and receive a copy of the course books for you to keep. The course provides 24.75 of participatory and 2.25 hours of ethics credit. A *minimum of two attorneys* must participate each time the course is administered; the course must be completed within a *single calendar month*. The Law Library is providing the administration of this course to assist attorneys in meeting the requirements of our local judges for **court appointments for indigent defense**. This course will be available for check-out at the Law Library in October.



Advanced Guardianship Course 2005



The Law Library currently offers the Advanced Guardianship Course 2005 at no charge to assist attorneys in meeting the requirements to receive **court appointments as Guardian Ad Litem** in the Collin County courts. This course is a self-study DVD course worth 5 hours (1 hour ethics) Self-Study credit. In order to qualify for Guardian Ad Litem certification, you must complete a training program that is at least 3 hours in length. Certification lasts two years from the date of the certificate. Attorneys who have been certified twice (four total years consecutively) may be certified a third time for four years. In order to receive Guardian Ad Litem appointments in the Collin County courts, you must submit a resume with a cover letter to each court for which you want to receive appointments.

Interested in Receiving Court Appointments for Indigent Defense?

The Law Library has copies of Collin County's indigent defense plans as well as the paperwork required to receive court appointments and compensation in the District Courts, Juvenile Court, and County Courts at Law of Collin County. This information is available in the Law Library on the standing kiosk located behind the large work tables.

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How is online text searching like ice fishing?

Answer:

You walk out onto the ice and cut a tiny hole in the surface. You bait the hook and drop your line into the water below. Now you wait to see which fish take the bait.

You open the online database at your computer. You type in your search terms and click the "Search" button. Now you wait to see which documents match your search criteria. How long will it take you to review the list of results to isolate which hits are useful? Will you have to conduct yet another search before you find useful results?

At a recent law library seminar, a speaker described an informal study where law school students were given a list of research questions and were instructed to locate the answers using an **online text search** and then using an **index search**. *In almost every case, students were able to locate the answers much more quickly when using the **index**.*

In an index, search terms are organized topically and cross-references are available to direct users to the correct term when an incorrect term is used. Online text searches only retrieve those items that match the terms and criteria input by the user. The term a researcher might use in a search may not necessarily be the term used within the database. Most online databases have an **index** feature available. These electronic indexes are often organized in the same way as their print counterparts, making it easy to locate your topic within the database. So don't forget the index!

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A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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"Counselor, though inspiring, how does the Gettysburg Address relate to this check fraud case?"

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Monday - Friday
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