



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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www.co.collin.tx.us

Apr May Jun 2006

Coming Soon: Law Library Online Public Access Catalog!

The Collin County Law Library is pleased to announce the completion of an online public access catalog! The days of wondering what is in the Law Library collection are over. Everyone will soon be able to search for materials in the Law Library collection simply by clicking a link on the library's web site and searching by either title or keyword.

The task of creating an online catalog of titles contained in the Law Library collection has taken ten years to complete. Collin County is proud to be one of the first county law libraries in the state of Texas to offer this service to our patrons. **The Law Library catalog will come online later this summer.** Watch for announcements in the upcoming issues of *Bar Tabs* and *Truth, Justice, and Information for All*.

Library Catalog Naming Contest

To celebrate this achievement, the Law Library is holding a contest to name the new catalog. The winner will receive a gift certificate for dinner for two at Goodhues restaurant in McKinney. Suggested names should be indicative of the function of a library catalog as well as somehow incorporating the "Collin County Law Library" name. Some examples of online library catalog names:

PONI	=	Public Online Information (Southern Methodist University)
BearCat	=	Baylor Bears Catalog (Baylor University)
STELLA	=	South Texas Electronic Law Library Access (South Texas College of Law)

Entries will be accepted from attorneys, judges, and county departments. Please submit entries to Judy McCullough via email at: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us. The last day to submit a name is June 30th.

A name will be chosen in July by a panel consisting of Law Library Director Judy McCullough, Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill, Judge Curt Henderson, Collin County Bar Association President Gwen Rawls, and Collin County Public Information Officer Leigh Hornsby. The winner will be announced later this summer in the *Bar Tabs* newsletter and the *Collin County Connection* employee newsletter.

Research
Question of the
Day:

Where can I go to
find legal resources
in the evenings and
on weekends when
the Collin County
Law Library is
closed?

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

Law Library Newsletter: Proposed Changes

The Law Library is **considering discontinuing the print publication** of *Truth, Justice, & Information For All*, the official newsletter of the Collin County Law Library after 2006. Beginning in 2007, the newsletter would be distributed in an **electronic format only**.

The newsletter currently circulates to nearly **1,200** local attorneys, county officials, and libraries. The cost of printing, supplies, and staff time devoted to preparing the paper newsletter for distribution is considerable.

We ask that attorneys who may wish to continue to receive the Law Library newsletter after printing ceases, please send us your email address as soon as possible so that we can include it in the email mailing list. Email addresses can be sent to Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us or simply drop off your email address next time you visit the Law Library.

If you would like for the Law Library to continue to provide the newsletter in a print format, please contact Judy McCullough at 972-548-4255 to voice your concerns. Thank you!

New on the Shelves...

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

- O'Connor's Texas Rules—Civil Trials, 2006 ed.
- O'Connor's Texas Employment Codes Plus, 2005-2006 ed.
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated, 2006 ed. - by John R. Roach & Michael J. McCormick
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules, 2006 ed. - from Thomson West
- Federal Criminal Code and Rules, 2006 ed. - from Thomson West
- Professional Responsibility in Criminal Defense Practice, 3rd ed. - by John Wesley Hall, Jr.
- The Legal Rights and Responsibilities of the First Amendment's Religious Liberty Clauses 2005 - State Bar of Texas CLE coursebook
- Texas Foreclosure Manual, 2nd ed. - by William H. Locke, Jr. & Ralph Martin Novak, Jr. - from the State Bar of Texas
- Library of Congress Law Library: An Illustrated Guide

**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

Important Notice to Attorneys

The Law Library is always happy to permit attorneys and their legal assistants to borrow print, video, and DVD materials from the library. Lately, many items have not been returned to the library in a timely manner. We ask that attorneys be considerate of other library users by returning materials promptly when they are due. Remember: The longer a book is checked out, the longer it is not available for other library users to use until you return it to the library. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**The ability of the Law Library to continue to offer this service
depends upon attorneys returning materials in a timely manner.**

Internet Spotlight

Search Engine: GigaBlast www.gigablast.com

A new search engine you may want to check out is Gigablast. It functions like most search engines, with an extra feature that helps you narrow your search. After entering your search terms and clicking the “Blast Off!” button to launch the search, the result list will display. In addition to your listing of search results, Gigablast provides you with a list of “Gigabits.” These “bits” are **suggested search terms** that appear on web pages frequently alongside the search terms you entered. Simply click on one of these suggested terms to narrow your search!

CIA World Factbook Online www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/

Want to know the population of Uzbekistan? What about the unemployment rate in the Netherlands? Find the answers to these and other questions about a particular country in the CIA World Factbook online. Updated on an almost daily basis the Factbook provides factual and statistical data about every country on the globe. Information

provided includes geographical facts, population, religion, ethnic groups, form of government, economic data, and more.

Texas Judiciary Online www.courts.state.tx.us

If you’re not using Texas Judiciary Online, you should be! This site offers a wealth of information about the Texas courts.



From here, you can access the web sites of Texas trial courts, appellate courts, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Texas Supreme Court. Many of these courts, including the appellate courts and the Supreme Court, offer a **case search** feature which enables you to look up opinions that have been issued by that court as well as view all of the events in the case file. This can be a helpful way of searching for the status of a petition for review, etc.

In addition, this site also offers electronic versions of **court rules**, including the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Texas Rules of Judicial Administration, and various rules advisories.

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

Did you know...?

Did you know that the Law Library has some **older titles available on microfiche**? Our collection of the *General and Special Laws of the State of Texas* (i.e.—the state session laws) reaches back to the 53rd Legislature (1954), with many of those sessions on microfiche. The Law Library also has *Texas Law Review* issues dating back to 1970!

Did you know that the Law Library 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 can use the player’s accompanying DVD monitor to view the materials.

NOTICE:

The Collin County Courthouse (and the Law Library) will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

CLE Opportunities



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 course. 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 are available for check-out at the Law Library.



Coming Soon: Advanced Guardianship Course 2006



The Law Library will be offering the Advanced Guardianship Course 2006 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 (2.5 hours 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.



Articles of Interest



“Get a Handle on Electronic Hospital Data”

James P. Frickleton, TRIAL v. 42, no. 5 (May 2006) p. 44-45.

This article outlines the importance of being able to navigate and retrieve hospital and patient information from electronic databases. The type of information contained in such databases is discussed as well as how to gain access to such information.

“Cross-Examining the Defendant Doctor”

Mark Mandell, TRIAL v. 42, no 5 (May 2006) p. 28-33.

Cross-examination of a physician can be tricky with today's juries. This article offers practical advice for successfully avoiding common pitfalls.



These articles are available at the Law Library.

Just ask a law librarian!

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



New in Town? Join a Local Bar Association!

One of the most important ways to get your new law practice established is to attend local bar association meetings. These organizations provide helpful networking opportunities and CLE programs, as well as providing professional resources and advice for attorneys new to the area. Collin County has several different bar associations available:

Collin County Bar Association

Meets: 3rd Friday of each month
12:00 noon

at Ralph & Kacoo's at Hwy. 75 in Allen
www.collincountybar.org

President: Gwen Rawls 972-881-8808

Plano Bar Association

Meets: 1st Friday of each month
12:00 noon

Tino's Mexican Restaurant in Collin Creek Mall in Plano
www.planobar.com

President: Keith Davis 214-473-9626

Collin County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Meets: 2nd Thursday of each month
12:00 noon

at Eldorado Country Club in McKinney
President: James Whalen 214-368-2560

Frisco Bar Association

Meets: 2nd Friday of each month
12:00 noon

Terelli's Restaurant on Preston Rd. in Frisco
www.friscobar.org

President: Lisa Hernandez 214-387-9056

Law Library News

Law Library Acquires 800th Title

The Collin County Law Library added its 800th title to the law library collection in May. *Library of Congress Law Library: An Illustrated Guide* (Library of Congress, 2005) was chosen for this landmark honor. The librarians wanted to select a book that would reflect the importance of law libraries to the people they serve. This title is now on display at the Law Library.

Law Library Director Attends Conference

Collin County Law Library Director Judy McCullough attended the annual conference of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries in Austin in April. The theme of the conference was "Information in Motion" and seminar topics included new search engine trends, legislative history research, and legal information blogs, as well as a tour of the University of Texas Tarlton Law Library on the UT campus. Judy also met with other county law librarians from

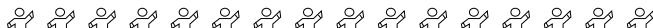
across Texas and the southwest to share ideas and discuss county law library services.

Assistant Law Librarian Participates in CCYLA Wills for Heroes Program

As a part of the Law Library's commitment to outreach, Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill volunteered to participate in the Collin County Young Lawyers Association "Wills For Heroes" program held in the Collin County courthouse central jury room in April. Twenty-five police officers, fire fighters, and other emergency personnel were provided with wills and other estate planning instruments free of charge. Many local attorneys participated, interviewing and consulting with the officers while other volunteers typed up the documents.

This event was organized by Collin County's own Cynthia Walker and sponsored by the Collin County Young Lawyers Association. Katy found it to be a very rewarding experience and looks forward to volunteering again next year.





Where can I go to find legal resources in the evenings and on weekends when the Collin County Law Library is closed?

Answer:

Richardson Public Library
900 Civic Center Drive
Richardson, TX 75080
972-744-4350

The Richardson Public Library has an excellent collection of basic legal resources available to the public. Housed in the Reference section on the basement level of the library, the legal collection includes:

- Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes and Codes
- Texas Cases, 1st-3d
- United States Code Service
- Texas Litigation Guide (Dorsaneo)
- Texas Transaction Guide (Kendrick)
- Stevenson's Texas Legal Practice Forms
- RIA's Analysis of Federal Taxes

... And many more!! For a complete listing of titles and the library's policies, contact the Richardson Public Library at the number listed above.

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 9 pm
 Friday - Saturday 10 am - 6 pm
 Sunday 2 pm - 6 pm



A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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"Mr. Jones is delayed at the office.
 On his behalf, I thank the Bar Association
 for this Most Hours Billed Award."

Collin County Law Library
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McKinney, TX 75069

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phone: 972-548-4255
email: jmcullough@co.collin.tx.us

Katy Gill, Assistant Law Librarian
phone: 972-548-4260
email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit us on the Web:
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www.texasjudge.com

