



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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Jan Feb Mar 2007

Together, Law Librarians Mark 25 Years of Service

In February, Law Library Director Judy McCullough celebrated her **20th** year of service as law librarian for Collin County. Judy received her commemorative service pin from county Budget Director Rodney Rhoades in a meeting of Collin County Commissioners Court on February 13th.

"It has been exciting to serve Collin County for the past twenty years," McCullough said. "We have gone from a library containing only books, a 30-inch desk, and a copier to one with Internet and Westlaw access for attorneys. Over the years, I have seen the library's newsletter take shape and the creation of an online card catalog. Next: a move to a new courthouse, where the Law Library will provide even more access to justice, with more computer terminals and resources just waiting to be utilized. Thank you, Collin County, for all of your support."

Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill marked her **5th** year of service to the county in March, receiving her 5 year commemorative service pin. Both librarians look forward to serving the legal reference needs of the Collin County community in the years to come.



Left to Right: Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill and Law Library Director Judy McCullough

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**Research
Question of the
Day:**

**Where can I go to
find the new
Collin County
Indigent Defense
plans and forms?**

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, please call the Library at: 972-548-4260 or email us at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us



New on the Shelves...

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



- Texas Pattern Jury Charges: Business, Consumer, Insurance, Employment, 2006 ed. (includes CD-ROM) - from the State Bar of Texas
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action, 2007 ed.
- O'Connor's Texas Rules-Civil Trials, 2007 ed.
- O'Connor's Federal Rules-Civil Trials, 2007 ed.
- Texas Workers' Compensation Manual, 2007 ed. - from Flahive, Ogden & Latson, PC
- Texas Consumer Law Handbook, 2007 ed. (Texas Practice Series) - by Stephen G. Cochran
- Handbook of Texas Family Law: A Quick Reference Guide to the Family Code, 2007 ed. (Texas Practice Series) - by Judge Don Koons
- Handbook of Texas Lawyer and Judicial Ethics, 2006-2007 ed. (Texas Practice Series) - by Robert P. Schuwerk & Lillian B. Hardwick
- High Technology Litigation 2003 - State Bar of Texas CLE coursebook
- Capital Issues for Trial Judges: A Practical Approach (2004) - a seminar coursebook from the Center for American and International Law in Plano
- Federal Sentencing Law and Practice, 2007 ed. - from Thomson West
- Sexual Assault Trials, 3rd ed. - by Paul DerOhannesian II
- Bankruptcy Code, Rules & Official Forms, 2007 ed. - from Thomson West
- Handbook on ERISA Litigation, 3rd ed. - by James F. Jorden, Waldemar J. Pflepsen, Jr., & Stephen H. Goldberg
- 2007 U.S. Master Tax Guide - from CCH
- Top Federal Tax Issues for 2007 CPE Course coursebook - from CCH

The new State Bar of Texas 2006 CLE coursebooks are here!!

- Advanced Criminal Law Course 2006
- Advanced Family Law Course 2006
- Family Law Boot Camp 2006
- Marriage Dissolution Institute 2006
- Advanced Real Estate Law Course 2006
- Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course 2006
- Advanced Guardianship Course 2006
- Advanced Elder Law Course 2006
- Building Blocks of Wills, Estates & Probate Course 2006
- Constructing and Negotiating an IP Licensing Agreement 2006
- Electronic Discovery and Digital Evidence Institute 2006
- Nuts and Bolts of Employment Law 2006
- Governance of Nonprofit Organizations Course 2006
- Suing and Defending Governmental Entities Course 2006



**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



Internet Spotlight

Baker's FastLaws

www.bakers-legal-pages.com/fastlaws/index.htm

Freelance Enterprises (the publishers of the Baker's code handbooks series) now offer FastLaws, a FREE online tool for researching in the Texas Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Family Code. It provides the full-text of the codes as well as helpful tables of amendments from the most recent legislature and the corresponding sections affected. Perhaps the best feature on FastLaws is the ability to search the full-text of the codes. The enhanced search feature not only offers keyword searching, but also the ability to search using Boolean operators.

Express PDF

www.expresspdf.com

ExpressPDF converts documents from Microsoft Word, Excel, and web pages into PDF format for FREE. Because you can access ExpressPDF on the Internet from any computer, it is convenient for converting PDF documents on the fly without having to have Adobe software installed.

BlawgsFM Podcast Directory

<http://blawgsfm.justia.com>

Justia.com now offers BlawgsFM, an online searchable directory of law-related podcasts.

Recall Information

www.recalls.gov

From the federal government, this consumer site lets you search for product recalls for cars, medicine, and other consumer products. You can even sign up for email updates on recalls.

Cornell Law Library's

Legal Research Engine

<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/guides/researchengine.asp>

This search engine is specifically designed just for legal researchers. It searches reliable, trusted online legal research guides that have been hand-picked by the folks at the Cornell Law Library.



Solo Law Practice Tips Blawgs:

Build a Solo Law Practice Blog

<http://susancartierliebel.typepad.com/>

Victor Medina's Small Business & Solo Law Practice Blog

<http://www.victormedina.typepad.com/>

Both of these legal blogs, or "blawgs," offer advice and practice management tips for solo and small law firms.

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

Courthouse Holiday Office Closures

The Collin County Courthouse (and the Law Library) will be closed on the following days this spring:

Friday, April 6th
for the Good Friday holiday

Monday, May 28th
for the Memorial Day holiday



Articles of Interest



“When a Parent Steals a Child Away”

Carole S. Gailor & Cathy C. Hunt, TRIAL v. 42, no. 13 (December 2006) p. 42-47.

This article addresses the law surrounding international child abduction. It includes some suggested resources to which attorneys can refer their clients in these situations.

“Parental Alienation Syndrome”

Lawrence Jay Braunstein, The Matrimonial Strategist v. 25, no. 1 (February 2007) p. 5-8.

(Excerpted from page 5)

“There is a substantial disagreement within both the legal and psychological fields as to whether or not PAS is a legitimate concept. This article explores the psychological underpinnings of this behavior and the legal implications within the context of custody litigation.”

“Standards of Review in Texas”

W. Wendell Hall, St. Mary’s Law Journal v. 38, no. 1 (2006).

(Excerpted from page 54)

“...this Article presents a substantial and comprehensive update of standards of review applied by Texas appellate courts, focusing on appellate standards for reviewing trial court rulings on pretrial, trial, and post-trial proceedings.”



These articles are available at the Law Library.

Just ask a law librarian!

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



Check it Out: Law Library Circulation Policies

The Collin County Law Library is happy to permit attorneys and their legal assistants to borrow print, video, and DVD materials from the library. CD-ROMs are the only items not available for check out; these items are licensed for use at the Law Library’s Attorney Workstation only.

To check out an item, simply complete a check out card located at the Reference Desk in the library and leave the completed card with the librarian.

The more heavily used reference items must be returned within **24 hours**. Some examples of items that carry the 24-hour limit include the *Vernon’s* statutes, *The Texas Litigation Guide*, *O’Connor’s* pamphlets, and any items that contain practice forms. Other library items may be borrowed for up to 72 hours. When checking out materials, just ask a law librarian when the items need to be returned.

We ask that attorneys be considerate of other users of the Law Library 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.

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

New Judges in the Courthouse

Collin County Welcomes New Judges

Several new judges took the bench in Collin County this January. **Judge Greg Brewer** was elected to the bench of the 366th District Court after Judge Nathan E. White, Jr., who retired. **Judge John Roach, Jr.** was elected to the bench of the 296th District Court after Judge Betty Caton, who also retired. **Judge Dan Wilson** was elected to the bench of County Court at Law #5, left vacant by Judge Brewer. Contact information for these judges follows:

366th District Court - Judge Greg Brewer

Collin County Courthouse, 5th Floor
972-548-4570

Court Coordinator: Joanna Smith

296th District Court - Judge John Roach, Jr.

Collin County Courthouse, 4th Floor
972-548-4409

Court Coordinator: Laura Thompson

County Court at Law #5 - Judge Dan Wilson

University Drive Courts Facility, 1st Floor
972-548-3850

Court Coordinator: Twyla Caton

Did You Know...?

Law Library Has Felony Plea Papers

Did you know that the Law Library has copies of the Collin County District Attorney's Office uniform plea papers? We have both the regular Plea Agreement as well as the Defendant's Plea of True and Stipulation of Evidence papers. Attorneys can get copies of the papers at the display at the front desk in the Law Library.

Librarians Offer Westlaw Training

Did you know that the Law Library offers individualized one-on-one training in Westlaw by a law librarian? We are happy to show you how to retrieve a document, shepardize using the Keycite feature, conduct a case law search, and more!

Attorneys who would like assistance in learning how to use the various features of Westlaw may schedule an appointment for training in the Law Library with a librarian. Training sessions will last approximately 30 minutes.

Just call the Law Library to set up a time! 972-548-4255

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Where can I go to find the new Collin County Indigent Defense plans and forms?

Answer:

At the Collin County Law Library!

The Collin County District Courts have adopted a new indigent defense plan effective January 12, 2007. This plan includes a **new fee schedule** for appointed attorneys in felony cases.

The Law Library has copies of the new indigent defense plans, including the new fee schedule, as well as the forms for requesting compensation. The plans for the County Courts at Law and the Juvenile Court are also available at the Law Library.

Attorneys may pick up copies of the plans and forms in the standing kiosk behind the large worktables in the Law Library.

They are also available for download on the District Courts page of the Collin County web site at:

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/courts/indigent_defense/fair_defense.jsp

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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."

Collin County Law Library
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email: jmccullough@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

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www.texasjudge.com