



# Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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www.co.collin.tx.us

Oct Nov Dec 2007

## Farewell Letter from Assistant Law Librarian Katy Gill

### *To the Collin County legal and library community:*

On Friday, November 9th, I will be leaving my position as Assistant Law Librarian at the Collin County Law Library in order to stay home with my young children. I have made many friends here and have enjoyed working with all of the judges, attorneys, county departments, and area librarians over the years.

Working for the Law Library has been a rewarding journey. My first few months on the job here as a fledgling librarian were definitely a learning experience. I will never forget the day that an attorney walked into the Law Library and introduced me to his assistant, telling her that we had a top-notch law library and that the librarians were great, etc. Then he turned to me and said, "We're looking for lis pendens." I thought carefully for a moment, and then replied, "I'm sorry, I don't know her." An odd look crossed his face and then he went back into the stacks, pulling out a book with a section discussing notices of lis pendens. Needless to say, I was mortified. I'm sure that attorney had a good laugh later on over the librarian who didn't know who "Liz Pendens" was.

Over time, though, I came to learn a lot about the law and how to help people find information in the library. The attorneys I met along the way were friendly, patient, and a pleasure to work with. I also had a wonderful mentor in the library's Director, Judy McCullough. Judy provided guidance and the benefit of her vast experience in legal research. Her support and instruction helped me to find my footing and become a successful law librarian.

I've had many wonderful experiences here over the years. In the five and a half years that I've been with the Law Library, I helped implement our first-ever online library catalog, celebrated the Law Library's 25th anniversary, participated in the Collin County Young Lawyers Association *Wills for Heroes* program, attended countless bar association meetings, and built positive relationships with attorneys and county personnel. As a professional librarian, I collaborated with North Texas area librarians via quarterly *RefNet* librarian seminars and also served several years as a committee chair for the *Dallas Association of Law Librarians*. What made these experiences most rewarding was the relationships that were built and the knowledge that was shared.

The Collin County legal community is a friendly and welcoming group of professionals. It has been a real pleasure working with all of you. I thank you all for the great experience and good memories.

—Katy Gill

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**Research  
Question of the  
Day:**

**I want to do legal  
research from home  
on the Internet.  
Where do I start?**

To find the answer,  
turn to Page 4!

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**Receive This  
Newsletter  
Via E-mail!**

If you would like to receive  
this newsletter via e-mail,  
please email us at:  
[jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us)  
or call the Law Library at:  
**972-548-4255**

## Law Library Welcomes New Assistant Librarian

**Lori Bull Dodds joins the Collin County Law Library as the new Assistant Law Librarian. Lori earned a Bachelor of Information Science and a Master of Library Science from the University of North Texas.**

**Lori's legal experience prior to her pursuit of an MLS degree encompassed over twenty years. She began as the legal secretary for a solo practitioner in Amarillo and moved on to become a paralegal for a firm of medical malpractice attorneys in Austin. Her tenure in Austin included an 8-year stint (1989-1997) as the legal assistant to Bob Gibbins, President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America in 1991.**

**Lori is looking forward to working with the Collin County departments and legal community, and developing an ongoing professional relationship with the members of that community.**

**Please be sure to stop by and say hello to Lori!**



### New on the Shelves...

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



- Texas Law of Oil and Gas - by Ernest E. Smith & Jacqueline Lang Weaver
- National Survey of State Laws, 6th ed. - edited by Richard A. Leiter
- National Directory of Law Enforcement Administrators, Correctional Institutions and Related Agencies, 2007 ed. - from the National Public Safety Information Bureau
- Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, 2007-2008 ed. - from LexisNexis Matthew Bender (formerly Gould Publications)
- Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated, 2007 ed.
- Texas Penal Code: with Tables and Index, 2008 ed. - from Thomson West
- Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Code and Rules: with Tables and Index, 2008 ed. - from Thomson West
- O'Connor's Criminal Codes Plus, 2007-2008 ed.
- O'Connor's Civil Practice & Remedies Code Plus, 2007-2008 ed.
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals, 2007-2008 ed.
- Black's Law Dictionary, 8th ed. - Bryan A. Garner, editor in chief



**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](mailto:jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us)





## COURTHOUSE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

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

Thanksgiving Holidays:

Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd

Christmas Holidays:

Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th

New Year's Day Holiday:

Tuesday, January 1st

## Library News and Notes

### The New Shelving Has Arrived

We are happy to report that all of the shelving has finally been installed in the new Law Library space. Due to some problems during the move, some of our shelving had to be replaced and some of the books had to be stored on carts in a space behind the library until the new shelves arrived. The materials in storage have been placed on the shelves and the new Law Library is completely moved into the new space at last!

### Unclaimed Faxes

The Law Library permits 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 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.

### Unpaid IOUs

The Collin County Law Library has always been happy to permit attorneys to leave an **IOU** with the librarian for the purchase of photocopies, printouts, and faxes made in the Law Library. Attorneys are then invoiced at the end of each month for their IOUs. Lately, several of these IOU invoices have gone **unpaid**. The IOU system is a courtesy that the Law Library extends to attorneys, but if invoices continue to go unpaid, the Library will no longer be able to provide this service. **If you think you have an unpaid IOU invoice** from the Library, please drop by the Reference Desk or contact the librarian at: 972-548-4255.

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**I want to do legal research  
from home on the Internet.  
Where do I start?**

**Answer:**

**The Collin County Law Library web site!**

[www.co.collin.tx.us/law\\_library/](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/law_library/)

We have added a **Legal Research Links** page to our web site. Now you can access the very best the web has to offer in free legal research resources right from the Collin County Law Library web site. We have compiled primary law resources for both Texas and Federal law, as well as sites that allow you to access online law reviews and journals, court web sites, legislative research sites, other law libraries around Texas, and more!

Each of the web sites listed was hand-selected by your law librarians and carefully evaluated for quality of information and ease of use.

**\*\*Please note:** The web sites included on our Legal Research Links page provide information that is NOT based on opinion. However, online resources are not considered to be authoritative. For the OFFICIAL version of the law, visit the Law Library.

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## A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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Optimist



"The Glass  
is Half Full"

Pessimist



"The Glass  
is Half Empty"

Estate  
Planning  
Attorney



"The IRS Took  
Half Because You  
Didn't Plan"

**Collin County Law Library  
2100 Bloomdale, Suite 10216  
McKinney, TX 75071**

**Judy McCullough, Director of Law Library**  
phone: 972-548-4255  
email: [jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us](mailto:jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us)

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

**Visit us on the Web:**  
**[www.co.collin.tx.us](http://www.co.collin.tx.us)**