



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

ISSUE 2008-02

www.co.collin.tx.us

April May June 2008

Please Welcome Our New Staff Member

Tonya Stanton has joined the Law Library as a part-time employee. Tonya graduated from Texas A&M-Texarkana with a degree in elementary education and taught elementary school for four years. She is embarking on a new career as a library media specialist and expects to graduate in May 2009 with an MLS from Texas Women's University. Tonya has been married for 14 years and has three beautiful children, ages 13, 6, and 3. Please help us make Tonya feel welcome.

A Big Thanks to Attorney Lee Craig

Lee has graciously donated material from two recent seminars at which she presented. "Successful Wealth Transfer Strategies (January 2008)" and "The Probate Process from Start to Finish for Paralegals (May 2008)" are published by National Business Institute and are now available in the Law Library. Lee is a solo practitioner in Richardson and concentrates her practice in trusts and estates, elder law, Medicaid planning, contracts, wills, probate, business law, estate planning and guardianship. She has lectured to professionals and civic organizations on elder law, Medicaid eligibility, asset protection and estate planning for elders.

Law Library Looking for Missing Issues of BarTabs

If anyone has copies of the following issues of the Collin County Bar Association newsletter and would like to donate them to the Law Library, we would be extremely grateful: **Vol. 3., Nos. 3-4, 1992; July 1993; May, August 1994; April, May, July, August, December, 1997; May, July 1998; August, September, 1999; and September 2000.** Judge Nathan White kindly provided us with many early issues, and our collection is now almost complete.

GoToMyPC Not Available in Law Library

Due to filters on the county computers, www.GoToMyPC.com, which allows you to access your computer remotely, is unavailable in the Law Library.

?

**Research
Question of the
Day:**

**What is Avvo, and
why should I care?**

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



New on the Shelves...

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



- Directory of State Court Clerks & County Courthouses, 2007, edited by Robert S. Want.
- Discovery and Admissibility of Mental Health Records in Custody Disputes, 2005, American Bar Association (audiocassette + course materials.)
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedures and Rules, 2008, Thomson West.
- Federal Criminal Codes and Rules, 2008, Thomson West.
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings, 2008, by Michol O'Connor.
- The Probate Process from Start to Finish for Paralegals, 2008, National Business Institute, Inc.
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated: with federal rules of evidence appendix, 2008, annotations by John R. Roach.
- Successful Wealth Transfer Strategies, 2008 — National Business Institute, Inc.
- Texas Estate Planning, 2007, by Dianne Reis.
- How Insurance Companies Settle Cases, 2007, by David Frangiamore.
- Texas Motions in Limine: evidence exclusion guide, 2007, by Stephanie Lee & David N. Finley.
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges—Family, 2008, State Bar of Texas.

The State Bar of Texas 2007 CLE coursebooks are here!!

- Advanced Criminal Law Course 2007
- Advanced Drafting: Estate Planning and Probate Course 2007
- Advanced Elder Law Course 2007
- Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course 2007
- Advanced Evidence and Discovery Course 2007
- Advanced Family Law Course 2007
- Advanced Real Estate Law Course 2007
- Advanced Estate Planning and Probate Course 2006
- Advanced Guardianship Course 2006
- Advanced Elder Law Course 2006
- Collections and Creditors' Rights Course 2007
- **The New Lawyer Course 2007— *new***

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

LLRX.com
Law and Technology Resources
for Legal Professionals
<http://www.llrx.com>

[LLRX.com](http://www.llrx.com) is a free, independent Web journal produced by Sabrina I. Pacifici. The site is dedicated to providing up-to-date information on a wide range of Internet research and technology-related issues, applications, resources and tools. One example of the kind of information found on the site is Ken Strutin's recent article "Criminal Law Resources: Fingerprint Evidence Challenges." The article is a collection of select web resources concerning the reliability and admissibility of fingerprint evidence.



and all states. Merlin includes such information as addresses, phone numbers (including cellular phone numbers and a reverse unlisted phone number feature), dates of birth, criminal records, drivers license information, bankruptcies, secretary of state records, fictitious business records, real property records, motor vehicle records, UCCs, neighbors, relatives, and live credit headers.

Filling out a detailed seven-page application and payment of an initial deposit of \$100 opens a debit account. Upon approval of your account, Merlin will deduct \$10 per month as a minimum usage fee. The \$10 minimum is applied to fees for any searches performed during the month.

Merlin Information Services
<http://www.merlindata.com>

Merlin is a relational investigative pay database, useful for skip-tracing, marshalling assets and running background checks. It covers national data

Women Lawyers—Back on Track
<http://tinyurl.com/5cvrh8>

This blog is intended for women attorneys "seeking success and happiness in the legal profession." Author Nicole Black discusses subjects such as discrimination, the Mommy Track and disparity.

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

The Law Library now has the current version of the **Certification of Right of Appeal** prepared by the District Attorney's office. ADA John Rolater, Jr. advises that defense attorneys should have a Certification prepared for each open plea, bench trial, contested revocation, open plea true, pre-trial writ hearing, probation writ hearing, or DNA hearing. We also have the current Revocation packet and plea agreement. The forms are located in the pamphlet display on the wall as you come into the Law Library.

Courthouse Holiday Office Closures

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

Friday, July 4th
for Independence Day

Monday, September 1st
for Labor Day



Articles and Other News of Interest



Looking for Legislative history materials and coming up blank?

The Collin County Law Library can obtain copies of these materials for attorneys through collaboration with the State Law Library. Archival materials including Special Laws; original bill files from the Republic Congresses and for the 1st (1846) through the 62nd (1972) Legislatures; as well as several editions of the earlier civil statutes, codes, digests, and manuals related to Texas legislation are available from the SLL. Delivery can usually be made via email once we have received the information. Remember, Special Laws appear only once in print -- the year they are published. It will be necessary for you to know the year in order to locate a particular law.

“The All-Woman Texas Supreme Court:

The History Behind a Brief Moment on the Bench”

Alice G. McAfee, *St. Mary’s Law Journal*, v. 39, no. 3 (2008) p. 467-503

In 1925, the Governor of Texas appointed an all-woman special supreme court to hear *Johnson v. Darr*, 114 Tex. 516, 272 S.W. 1098 (1925). This was before women had the right to serve as jurors and before any woman had served as judge on any lower court in Texas. It was the only time that all justices on the Texas Supreme Court were women. Most versions of the story relate that Governor Neff appointed an all-woman tribunal because he had no choice. Suit was brought by trustees of The Woodmen of the World, and all three sitting justices were disqualified from hearing the appeal because of their membership in that organization. Not only that, but allegedly every male judge or attorney to whom Governor Neff offered the appointment also had to decline because of his membership in The Woodmen. Supposedly, the Governor had no choice but to appoint women to hear the case as women were barred from membership in The Woodmen. However, McAfee makes the argument that Governor Neff, an advocate of women’s rights, made a conscious choice to appoint all women. McAfee’s article provides a background of the case, discusses the possible reasons behind Governor Neff’s decision, and examines the significance of this appointment with respect to the Texas women’s movement.

“Finding Hope in Funding Shortfalls”

Paula Seeger, *AALL Spectrum*, v. 12, no. 6 (April, 2008) p. 22-25

Our Law Library Director, **Judy McCullough**, is quoted in Seeger’s article which discusses the ongoing struggles of county law libraries to meet increasing demand with smaller budgets. As part of a discussion on “Creative Revenue Services,” use of the inmate commissary fund to support the Collin County Jail Law Library is mentioned, and Ms. McCullough notes this move has “meant keeping the collection fully funded and current.”



Copies of these articles are available in the Library.



Just ask a law librarian!

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

TEXAS PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Trial Lawyer Series, Volume 5

Knowles Publishing, Inc.

2008 Update

This **trial guide** in the Law Library's collection **contains checklists and forms** for the preparation and trial of professional liability cases involving Lawyers, Doctors, Police, Engineers, Accountants, Architects and Engineers, and Insurance Agents. Analyses are made of the types of damages involved (such as personal injuries, wrongful death, property damage, injuries to personal and business reputation, and losses sustained because of incorrect professional advice).

Each section relates to a different profession and contains information regarding trial preparation (such as potential defendants and witnesses), discovery, affidavits for proving records and expenses, voir dire, opening statements, witness checklists, reference materials, and disclosure and consent forms.

Of particular interest may be the section involving suits against Police Officers. The chapter treats the following areas of police liability: illegal arrest and detention, use of excessive force and brutality, illegal search and seizure, and use of deadly force inflicted under "color of state law."

Law Librarians attend DALL

The Law Librarian and Assistant Law Librarian attended the April meeting of the Dallas Association of Law Librarians on April 16th at Baker Botts in downtown Dallas. The speaker for the meeting was Paulette Barwinkel, attorney with the Texas Legislative Council in Austin.

The TLC is required by law (Section 323.007, Government Code) to carry out a complete non-substantive revision of the Texas statutes. The process was devised to make the statutes easier to use and understand without altering the law's meaning or effect. Before the program's initiation, Texas statutes were last revised in 1925.

A listing of recently completed and current Code Projects, Revisors' Reports containing chapters enacted by previous legislatures, and Proposed Chapters for the current legislature can be found on the TLC website at <http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/tlc.htm>.

**For more information,
just ask a law librarian!**

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

?

What is Avvo, and why should I care?

Answer:

Avvo is a website that ranks and profiles attorneys. Their rating system uses a mathematical model that considers the information shown in a lawyer's profile. Profile information comes from sources such as state bar associations, court records, lawyer websites, and information provided by lawyers. The Avvo rating takes into account such factors as experience, professional achievements and disciplinary sanctions.

Why should you care? Avvo advises that they collect profile information from sources they do not control, and they do not verify the information. If you disagree with something you see in your or another attorney's profile, you may email Avvo with the correct information.

?

A Little Legal Humor...

Stu's Views

© Stu All Rights Reserved www.STUS.com



"Lawyer of the Year!" Wow!
The associates who do all my
work will be SO jealous.



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

Lori Bull Dodds, Assistant Law Librarian
phone: 972-548-4260
email: ldodds@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
www.texasjudge.com

Staff is available for a presentation to your organization.