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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2010-02

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MAY

Issue 2010-2

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Articles and Websites of Interest

Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar Website:

<http://www.txbarcjs.org/articles.php>

This new website is just up and running so it does not have a great deal of content; but it's off to a great start with a collection of very interesting articles, including: "Everything you ever wanted to know about expunction" and "Entertainment or expectation? How CSI affects today's juries." There are also links to the CLE calendars for the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, and hopefully the section for "Interesting Cases" will be populated soon.

Law Brain: www.lawbrain.com

Lawbrain is a collaborative "wiki" website (like wikipedia) that serves as a law dictionary, encyclopedia, and discussion board. You can read, edit, and contribute to articles on law topics, people, and areas of interest. The site is clean, easy to navigate, and easy to figure out, if you want to edit or contribute to articles.

Lawbrain is a Findlaw project, and many of the articles are authored and/or edited by Findlaw authors.

JD Supra: www.jdsupra.com

If you are into social networking and online promotion, you may want to check out JDSupra. This website "lets you create an impressive online portfolio of your articles, newsletters, alerts, court filings, and presenta-

tions in minutes. Then, we help you get noticed (by prospective clients, colleagues and the media), so you can concentrate on doing what you do best - great work!" The site includes tools to let you see how many people are viewing your documents and learn search engine optimization tips and strategies. A basic account on JDSupra is free, other accounts range from \$45 to \$150 per month.

"Social Networking Dos and Don'ts for Lawyers and Judges" Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 37 no. 3 (2010), p. 192-194.

A 2009 Lexis Nexis Martindale-Hubbell survey revealed that 86 percent of lawyers between the ages of 25 and 35 and 66 percent of those 46 and older belong to online social networking groups. Authors Slaughter and Browning provide a list of behavioral guidelines for lawyers who are actively posting online. Their tips include: Do use social networking to market your services. Do use social networking sites to find information in litigation (many people do not use privacy settings, so Facebook can be a "treasure trove" of information). Don't take ethical shortcuts in obtaining this information "Social Networking Pages that are private will require more formal discovery steps...using deceptive means to 'friend' a witness is unethical." Don't use social networking to engage in ex parte communications. Don't use social networking to betray client confidences or badmouth judges. Many of these guidelines seem obvious, but the article is full of examples of real-life mistakes and mis-steps taken by lawyers.

10 Things You Can Do with Google (that you may not know about)

Sure, we all use Google for our searches on the internet, but the company is famous for keeping on top of the trends, and is always adding functionality. Here are some great shortcuts that may save you some time and effort:

- Use the “site:” operator to limit searches to a particular site. Example: type in “name change:site collincountytexas.gov” to search the county website for references to “name change.”
- Spelling corrections: not sure you’ve got it right? Type the word into Google, and if it’s incorrect, Google will suggest the correct spelling.
- Calculator: just type in the equation. Example: $112 * (15/23)$. Google will return the answer.
- Time: Need to know what time it is in London? Just type in “time London.”
- Currency conversions. Example: “100 dollars in pounds” will give you the current number of pounds you can get for 100 dollars.
- Area Code lookup. Example: “212” will let you know the location of the 212 area code and show you a map of where it is.
- Specific document types. Example: If you’re looking for only PowerPoint files that mention Collin County, type “Collin County filetype: ppt.”
- Search within numerical ranges. Example: “Olympics 1950...1960” will search for Olympic references between 1950 and 1960.
- Exclude specific terms with the minus operator. Example: if you are looking for American Idol references but don’t want to see anything about Simon Cowell type “American idol–Cowell.”
- Expand search using OR. Example: “GTD OR getting things done” will return websites with either of these terms — just remember to use capital letters for the “OR.”

-Adapted from “10 Simple Google Search Tricks” at www.nytimes.com

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How do I . . .

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TEXAS BAR ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

Need Desktop Legal Research? Can't afford Westlaw? Can't get to the Library? Try CaseMaker.

CaseMaker is an online “web library” which contains a searchable database of the case law and statutes of all fifty states and federal law and is available free (yes, free!) through the Texas Bar CLE website. To use CaseMaker, simply go to www.TexasBarCLE.com and click on the CaseMaker icon to register. Once you are a registered user, you can quickly search the Texas Library (for Texas Case Law), Fifth Circuit Cases, Federal Library or other State Libraries. A searchable Forms library is also available for all fifty states. Like Westlaw, you can search by keyword or citation. A “Shephardizing and Keyciting” component, called CaseCheck, is available for a fee of \$20 per month. CaseMaker provides free training webinars, a user manual, and live phone support (7am-7pm Central Time).

Texas Bar CLE Courses Available Online

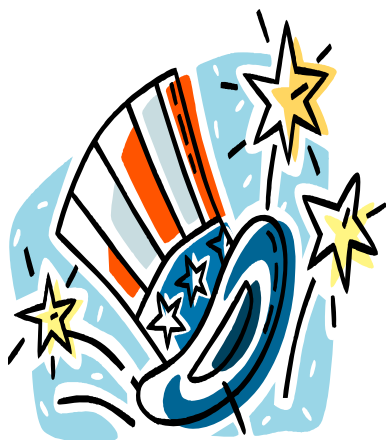
The Texas Bar Association is working to make continuing education more accessible. Texas Bar CLE courses are now available as online video courses, and separate articles, as well as webcasts. Simply go to www.TexasBarCLE.com and click on the “Online Classroom” link on the menu on the left. You can shop for courses to view from the convenience of your computer. There are also free courses and free articles available from the site—just click on the “Free Classes” link.

Law Library Holiday Closures

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

May 31, for Memorial Day

July 5, for Independence Day





New on the Shelves

- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings, 2010.
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges: Family, 2010.
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges: Intoxication and Controlled Substances, 2010.
- Texas Rules of Court: Volume III—local, 2010.
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals: practice Guide & Annotated Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure with Forms, 2010
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated: with Federal Rules of Evidence Appendix, 2010.
- Texas Rules of Court: Volume III—local, 2010.

A Little Legal Humor

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