



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2011-04

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

NOVEMBER 2011

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Siri Reviews

For all of you early-adopters and technophiles out there, Ben Schorr has written an interesting review on Siri, the voice-enabled personal assistant on the latest version of the iPhone. In his article "Siri—Can I Tell You a Secret?" Mr. Schorr points out that Siri has a security flaw—if someone gets possession of your iPhone 4S, they can "activate Siri and get her to do things like read your e-mail or send texts as you," even if you have the screen locked. You can access the article on the Slaw blog at (<http://www.slaw.ca/2011/11/02/siri-%E2%80%93-can-i-tell-you-a-secret/>).

Federal Case Law Search: PACER and Recap

(www.pacer.gov and www.recapthelaw.org)

PACER (www.pacer.gov) is the federally funded website that "allows users to obtain case and docket information from federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts." PACER is convenient, easy to use, and fairly inexpensive at 8 cents per page to access court documents.

If you use the Firefox browser, there is a plug-in available called Recap (PACER spelled backwards) that will automatically add any files you download to a free public archive, and will also let you know if any cases you are looking for are available for free from the archive. Check it out at www.recapthelaw.org.

New Federal Register 2.0 Website

(www.Federalregister.gov)

The Federal Register is the official daily publication of the US government and contains rules, proposed rules, and notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive orders and other Presidential documents. Last year, the Government Printing Office and the National Archives Office launched an "unofficial" online version (the official version remains the printed paperbacks that the library gets every month). The website is user-friendly—the daily reports are indexed by "regular" language subject tabs such as "business and industry" and "science and technology" (although there is also a way to browse by agency, if you prefer). The navigation is easy and there are summaries, videos and headlines throughout the site.

beSpacific

(www.bespacific.com)

BeSpacific's banner reads "accurate, focused law and technology news," and I have to admit that this is one of the most useful news feeds to which I have ever subscribed. The daily email update includes links to reliable primary and secondary sources on a variety of subjects, including e-government, privacy, government documents, cybercrime and ID theft, the Patriot Act, freedom of information, federal legislation, and legal research.

WestlawNext Tips

We have had very positive feedback on WestlawNext's usability compared to the regular Westlaw database. Here is a tip on using Next:

West has streamlined the interface so that you no longer have to look to find a citation box to use when you are trying to pull up cases. Using the main search box at the top of the screen, you can find a case by one or more of the parties' names, case title, or citation. If you have a list of citations you can type all of them into the search box, separated by semicolons, and Next will retrieve them all at once (see example below).



Also, please note: For your convenience, our version of Next has now been set to default to Texas and Federal jurisdiction—you no longer need to set the jurisdiction to Texas before searching for cases or statutes in our law library.

You can get small, bite-sized Westlaw Next “lessons” by signing up to get emails for Westlaw’s Tip of the Week. Just go to <http://westlawnext.com/tipoftheweek> and click on the subscribe tab.

Catching up with the Legislature

For those of you who feel a little behind the times on your legislative updates, there is a great summary of the legislative changes that were enacted this past summer in the Texas Judicial Report:

http://www.courts.state.tx.us/tjc/pdf/82nd_leg_update.pdf

There are also excellent summaries of the legislative changes listed by topic in the front of the O’Connor’s series of books at the library (see the new titles list on the back page).

Pro Se Resources

We have had several requests from lawyers about referrals to resources for people who are trying to represent themselves. Here are some of our most commonly used websites:

Texas Law Help www.texaslawhelp.org continues to be the best resource for pro se litigants. From consumer debt to simple probate matters to family law, they have forms, informational brochures, links to other websites, and other helpful information.

For criminal issues, there is a very helpful brochure on the criminal justice system from the Texas Bar Association:

<http://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/FreeLegalInformation/OurLegalSystem/TxCriminalJusticeProcess.pdf>

For amounts under \$10,000, court cases typically go to small claims court. There is an excellent brochure available from the Texas Bar Association *How to Sue in Small Claims Court*:

<http://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/ForThePublic/FreeLegalInformation/OurLegalSystem/HowtoSueinSmallClaimsCourt.pdf>

Our extensive list of legal and community resources is posted online on our website:

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/law_library/documents/LegalResourceSheet.pdf

Contact Information:

Diane Roberts
Law Librarian
Email: DRoberts@co.collin.tx.us

Ellen Heavner
Assistant
Law Librarian
Email: eheavner@co.collin.tx.us

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

A Little Legal Humor



Reprinted with permission



The Law Library

will be closed

December 23 and

26 for Christmas

**and January 2,
2012**

for New Year's Day.

New on the Shelf:

- O'Connor's Business and Commerce Code Plus, 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Business Organizations Code Plus, 2011-12
- O'Connor's Texas Crimes and Consequences 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Family Code Plus, 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Probate Code Plus, 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Property Code Plus, 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Civil Practice and Remedies Code, 2011-2012
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms, 2011
- Opening Statements: Winning in the Beginning by Winning the Beginning
- Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated, 2011
- Is it Admissible? 2011/2012 Courtroom Edition
- Federal Jury Practice and Instructions, 2011
- Navigating the Federal Trial, 2011
- Texas Criminal Codes Plus, 2011-2012
- Texas Sentencing, 2011
- Ineffective Assistance of Counsel, 2011
- Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, 2011-2012 Edition
- Kinkeade & Mcculloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated, 2011-2012