



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2014-01

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

FEBRUARY 2014

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Collin County e-Filing, Local Rules and Standing Orders

As of January 1, 2014, Collin County e-filing became mandatory for all attorneys. Answers to frequently asked questions regarding e-filing are available through the District Clerk's website:

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/district_clerk/DC_eFiling_FAQ.pdf. The updated Collin County Local Rules of the District Clerk and the updated Collin County Standing Order Regarding Children, Property, and Conduct of the Parties are also available on the District Clerk's website at:

https://www.co.collin.tx.us/district_courts/local_rules.jsp. The Law Library retains copies of the updated local rules and standing order for reference.

Writ Rules for the CCA

"New Writ Rules" *Texas Lawyer*, December 23, 2013

On December 13, 2013, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals amended Rule 73 of the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure. According to Abel Acosta, Clerk of the Court, the most significant change is the word limit. The applications for writs of habeas corpus must not be longer than 15,000 typed words or more than 50 hand written pages. Mr. Acosta states that the amendments "gives us the ability to process the writs a little better—maybe quicker, more efficient." Among other changes, the rule imposes a 180 day deadline for the district courts to resolve the issues addressed in the writ, unless the courts request an extension from the CCA. The Order Adopting Amendments to the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure is available through this link:

http://www.cca.courts.state.tx.us/pdf/TRAP_AMEND_13-003_Final.pdf

Changes in Case Citations for the 5th Circuit

"Hyperlinking Case Citations" *Texas Lawyer*, December 9, 2013

On December 2, 2013, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit added Rule 28.2.2. The new rule requires that "every assertion in briefs regarding matters in the record must be supported by a reference to the page number of the original record, whether in paper or electronic form, where the matter is found, using the record citation form as directed by the clerk of the court." The goal of this rule addition is to allow both attorneys and judges to scan through and quickly access the hyperlinked citations on their tablets during arguments. The Rules and Internal Operating Procedures of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit are available on its website:

<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/clerk/docs/5thcir-iop.pdf>

Took Kit: A Handy Reference

"Top Ten Tips for Temporary Orders Hearings"

Dallas Bar Association Headnotes, February 2014, Volume 39, Number 2

In the February 2014 edition of *Headnotes*, attorneys Carson Epes Steinbauer and Madison McBee wrote an article addressing ten ways to prepare for a temporary orders hearing. One of these tips is to "know the Rules of Evidence and Procedure" and mentions the Tool Kit from the State Bar of Texas as a handy reference to have during the hearing. The 2013 Tool Kit is available in the law library and has within it many useful sections such as a Quick Reference Child Support Chart, Objections with Cross-Reference to Rules, and Generic Direct and Cross Examination Outlines of Expert Witnesses.

Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
droberts@co.collin.tx.us

Spotlight on the Supremes

Texas Supreme Court

On January 26, 2013, Justice Nathan Hecht became the longest serving high court justice in the Texas Supreme Court. The record was previously held by Justice Joe R. Greenhill who served for 9,156 days.

<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/>

United States Supreme Court

On January 27, 2014, the Supreme Court ruled that Texas can continue its case against New Mexico concerning the usage of the water from the Rio Grande River. The State of Texas alleges that New Mexico violated the 1938 Rio Grande Compact by unlawfully diverting underground and surface water at the Texas and New Mexico border, thereby denying Texas farmers of their rightful share of the river.

<http://www.abqjournal.com/343934/news/court-texas-can-sue-nm-over-water.html>

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

Did You Know?

The Texas State Law Library reference librarians created legal research guides for certain areas of law. Currently over 25 areas of law are included and each section contains a highlight of applicable law and available resources on the topic. The link for these research guides is available at: <http://www.sll.texas.gov/self-help/research-guides-by-topic/>.

Library Reminders

Attorney Cell Phone Usage— Cell phone calls **ARE NOT PERMITTED** in the law library. There is an attorney-conference room available in the Court-house to those attorneys who require a conference room type setting for phone calls. The Law Library is a research facility and phone calls are not only prohibited, but they are also extremely disrupting and disrespectful to the other patrons. Violators of this policy will be asked to leave.

IOU's— Several outstanding balances remain owing from attorneys for IOUs, some of which are six months to a year old. Please stop by the library to resolve these balances or the service may be discontinued.



WestlawNext Tips

Use Search Within to View the Vital Parts of a Search Result

Many searches may yield extremely large search results and this tip helps the user to narrow down to only the vital parts of his or her search. Once the search term has been entered, the results overview will appear in a column on the left hand side.



By selecting any one of the options in the column on the left, the user will populate the “Search Within Results” text box. In this example, Cases was selected.

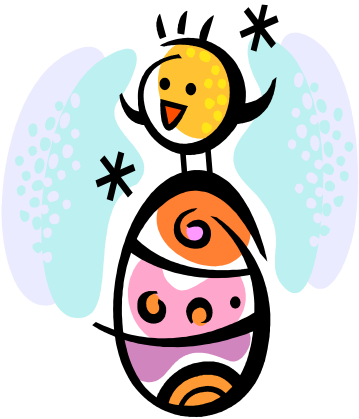


Use the Search Within Results box to go directly to the vital parts of the research. By typing a query in the box, only the relevant parts of the search will appear. The search terms entered in the Search within results box are highlighted in purple for quick skimming of the results.



Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- <http://gritsforbreakfast.blogspot.com/> - “Welcome to Texas Justice: You Might Beat the Rap, but you won’t Beat the Ride.” A legal blog dedicated to the Texas criminal justice system.
- <http://www.geeklawblog.com/> - a legal blog written by three self-described “intrepid law geeks.” The blog covers a vast area of topics from management to internet marketing.
- <http://legalease.blogs.com/> - a blog created by a law firm consultant, designed to help attorneys increase efficiency, effectiveness, growth and profitability.
- Lexis Advance Mobile - Available only if the user has an existing account. Lexis Mobile permits the user to research from any mobile device or tablet. Features include being able to annotate documents and email search results.



The Law Library

will be closed

on Friday, April

18, for Good

Friday.

New on the Shelf:

- Depositions: Procedure, Strategy & Technique, 2013-2014 ed.
- Handbook of Texas Family Law, 2013-2014
- Texas Methods of Practice, 2013-2014
- Texas Construction Law Manual, 2013-2014 ed.
- O'Connor's Texas Employment Codes Plus, 2013-2014
- Texas Rules of Evidence Handbook, 2014
- Handbook on Texas Discovery Practice, 2013-2014
- O'Connor's Business and Commerce Code Plus, 2013-2014
- Business Organizations Code Plus, 2013-2014
- Texas Local Government Code, 2014 ed.
- The TCDLA Trial Notebook, 6th ed., 2013
- Texas Traffic Laws, 2013-2014
- O'Connor's Federal Rules, 2014
- O'Connor's Civil Trials, 2014

A Little Legal Humor

Stu's Views

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We
should
probably
update our
estate
plan.

Why now?
It's only our
eighth life!

