



# The Information Edge

## Current Legal News from Collin County's Curt B. Henderson Law Library

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WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

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### Useful Internet Sites and Articles

#### Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe.

"School Zone," *Texas Bar Journal*, Vol. 81, No. 4. Children and teachers alike are having to face issues such as bullying, suicide and harassment on a daily basis without much support or guiding resources and the laws surrounding these types of behaviors are unclear. The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) will be launching a new program that gives teachers, parents and students an overview of the laws that apply to the school system. Funded by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, TYLA started *Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe.* When completed, the program will be a website accessible to anyone and will be broken down into specific sections: administrators, teachers, parents, social media, and special education. The website "addresses additional common concerns from educators and parents, such as what teachers can post on social media, what parents can do if their children need special attention, how educators can accommodate students who have dyslexia, and whether teachers can legally require students to say the Pledge of Allegiance." TYLA President Baili Rhodes said that the idea for *Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe.* came from conversations with family and other TYLA members. According to Rhodes, "Parents want to know, if my child gets in trouble or my child gets in a fight with another kid, what are my rights? What does the school have to tell me? What can they not tell me? And teachers want to know, what am I allowed to tell? And what do I have to tell and what can I not tell?" TYLA director and co-chair of the Law Focused Education Committee Donald Delgado wants the public to know that as laws affecting education change, so will the website. The website for this program was set to launch in April, but was still not live at the time this newsletter was published. When library staff spoke to a TYLA staff member she gave assurances the project was moving forward and should be live soon. The website for *Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe.* will be [teach-safe.tyla.org](http://teach-safe.tyla.org).

#### Texas Truancy Court Resource Manual

<http://www.tmcec.com/truancy/texas-truancy-court-resource-manual/>

Until September 1, 2015, Texas was only one of two states left that was allowed to criminally prosecute children for skipping school. The new law has been in place for over two years but can still be challenging to those parents facing charges under the revised law. Texas Municipal Courts Education Center has an entire section on their website entitled Texas Truancy Court Resource Manual which is a "collaborative effort of our organizations to help justice and municipal courts address the challenge of construing and applying more than 50 new state statutes in the absence of legal precedent." The Texas Truancy Court Resource Manual has checklists for the initial proceedings, adjudication and hearing procedures, and trial procedures. The website also provides forms for all parties involved in truancy court from the Petition for Adjudication of Truant Conduct all the way through to sealing and destroying of records. According to the website, the Manual is "part bench book, part forms book, and, admittedly, part best educated guess: because of the dynamic and evolving nature of the subject matter, this online resource is a work in progress and subject to periodic revision." The Manual should be frequently revisited because as more is learned about the relatively new laws the Manual will continue to improve.



**Texas Municipal Courts  
Education Center**

Another resource for truancy court information and truancy forms is the Texas Justice Court Training Center available here: <http://www.tjctc.org/truancy>. One of the tools available on their website is an archived free webinar entitled, "Introduction to Truancy Court" from September 24, 2015.

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

## Spotlight on the Supremes

On April 6th, 2018, the Judicial Committee on Information Technology for re:SearchTX held a work session to review and make tentative recommendations to continue the expansion of re:SearchTX, first to attorneys not of record on the case and then to the registered public. The Committee met again on May 4th to discuss the recommendations before formally making the recommendations to the Supreme Court of Texas for consideration.

re:SearchTX is an online court record system that will closely resemble PACER. Beginning January 1 of this year, attorneys are only able to search the system for cases in which they are the attorney of record.

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

Note: Computers will  
automatically log off  
at 4:50 p.m.

## Did You Know?

The Texas District and County Attorneys Association has their own website at <https://www.tdcaa.com/>. Their website provides helpful information including features such as Case of the Week, Announcements, and Upcoming Training. One of the most interesting areas is their Case Summaries page, which is updated weekly with cases from the United States Supreme Court, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Courts of Appeals, and the Texas Attorney General. Each case not only has a basic summary, but also a link to the full text of the opinion and contains exclusive prosecutor commentary explaining how the case may be impactful to prosecutors.



## Library Reminders

As a reminder, the law library is no longer offering IOUs. Payment must be received at the time the prints, copies or faxes are completed. The only acceptable forms of payment are cash or a check with an unexpired driver's license. Prints and copies are \$0.10 per page and faxes are \$1.50 for the first page and \$1.00 for all subsequent pages. Receipts are available upon request. Pages printed or copied in error must be included in the total number of pages. There will be a charge for unclaimed faxes. As an alternative, consider emailing documents rather than faxing them so they can be printed only when needed.

Additionally, please remember that the books can be checked out for only 72 hours and cell phone calls are not allowed within the library. Also be sure to log out of email and do not save any documents to the computer or to the desktop as the computers are heavily used all day. Thank you for your adherence to the rules.



## WestlawNext News

### Join us for a WestlawNext CLE Training Class on May 16 at 2:30 p.m!

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library is hosting a WestlawNext CLE training class on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. The free class will be taught by Thomson Reuters employee Jeanette Alford and will be held in the law library in the lower level of the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building. One hour of CLE credit (non-ethics) is available for the course. If you have any questions about the course please contact the law library. The training will cover Westlaw content available to our law library patrons as well as new features and tools on Westlaw designed to save researchers time and get answers quickly.



## Annual Statistical Report from the Texas Judiciary 2017

Every year the Office of Court Administration (OCA) produces an annual report providing statistics from the Texas Judiciary fiscal year which is from September 31st to August 1st. This past April, the OCA released the statistics from the 2017 fiscal year. A full copy of the report is available online at the following website: <http://www.txcourts.gov/statistics/annual-statistical-reports/>. One of the many goals of compiling this report is to keep track of the many changes the court system goes through from year to year. The report is broken down into many components including statewide trends, court-level trends, and detailed activity reports. According to David Slayton, the Administrative Director of the OCA, the following list provides a brief summary of the changes that occurred in 2017:

- small claims, landlord/tenant, and debt cases make up more than 80% of the civil caseload;
- in the area of family law, the number of child protection cases and post-judgment actions increased, as well as the number of litigants representing themselves in family court;
- the number of criminal cases filed saw a decline, with the misdemeanor caseload at its lowest level since 1993;
- drug possession offenses are the largest share of criminal offenses, closely followed by domestic violence and theft; and
- the number of active guardianships decreased for the first time since the first Annual Statistical Report in 2011, which the Administrative Director attributes to the OCA Guardianship Compliance Project.

## Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- **Picture it Settled Lite**—available on both Android and iOS, this app is a mediation and negotiation tool designed to assist attorneys by assessing and solving cases through the use of statistics. The app allows the user to keep track of all offers made by either side of negotiation and predicts future offers.
- <http://appsinlaw.com/> - a website designed exclusively for attorneys highlighting useful legal apps with various guest attorneys explaining what apps help them better run their practices and demonstrating their usefulness in short informational videos.
- <https://www.fastcompany.com/40537294/the-25-best-productivity-apps-for-2018>—a link to the best productivity apps designed to assist office staff in daily tasks to become more efficient. Tested and reviewed by Fast Company.
- **Talks on Law**—available only on iOS, this is a fun app that gives legal professionals free access to current and relevant legal content. Searchable by topic area, the goal is to be both educational and entertaining.



## The Law Library

will be closed on

**May 28, 2018** for

Memorial Day and

on July 4th, 2018

for Independence

Day



## New on the Shelf

- Texas Collections Manual—Fifth Edition
- Expunction and Nondisclosure (TDCAA) –2018 Edition
- Traffic Stops (TDCAA) - 2018 Edition
- Punishment & Probation (TCDA) - 2018-2019 Edition
- Handbook of Texas Lawyer and Judicial Ethics: Attorney Tort Standards and Attorney Ethics Standards—2018 Edition
- Texas Rules of Court Volume III— Local—2018
- Federal Criminal Appeals—2018 Edition
- Federal Criminal Code and Rules—2018 Edition
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules—2018 Edition
- Federal Sentencing Law and Practice—2018 Edition
- Rights of Juveniles—2018 Edition
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action—2018
- O'Connor's Texas Rules Civil Trials—2018
- O'Connor's Federal Rules Civil Trials—2018
- Texas Workers' Compensation Manual—2018 Edition

Stu's Views

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find what I'm  
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for.

Try different  
keywords.

