



The Information Edge

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

ISSUE 2018-03

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

AUGUST 2018

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

2017-2018 State Bar of Texas Section Reports *Texas Bar Journal*, July 2018

Section reports appear in each July issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* for the previous year to keep attorneys up to date on what each section has been doing. The full article is available in the library but here are some brief highlights of a few sections.

Appellate

The Appellate Section offers free CLE videos through their homepage and also worked on updating their library of CLE articles available online to members.

Business Law Section

The Business Law Section redeveloped their webpage which offers CLE, annotated forms and access to the *Texas Journal of Business Law* to members.

Child Protection Law

A new section that was just formed on January 26, 2018. The section already has 304 members. Additional information and their newsletter is available on their website.

<https://childprotectionlawtx.com/>

Computer and Technology

This section put on a CLE course entitled *With Technology and Justice for All CLE* which is designed for pro bono and new lawyers and featured recommendations on how to use technology to assist in their law practices.

Criminal Justice

This section contributed greatly to the communities affected by Hurricane Harvey by donating to the Access to Justice Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation Harvey Relief Fund, and a few others.

Family Law

The Family Law Section was awarded the Access to Justice Pro Bono Award in 2017. Members of this section receive the *Family Lawyer's Essential Toolkit* and discounts on State Bar family law seminars.

To see the rest of the State Bar Journal Section Reports please come in to the Curt B. Henderson Law Library.

Catching Up with Casemaker

AALL Spectrum—March/April 2018

The State Bar of Texas continues to offer members free access to both Fastcase and Casemaker. The American Association of Law Libraries recently featured Casemaker in its publication *Spectrum*. Here is a brief overview of the article and some useful tools to remember when using Casemaker. Casemaker was founded in 1999 and originally only served Ohio bar members. Over the next two years, several other bar associations, including Texas, reached out and shared their digital case files with each other through Casemaker. From there, Casemaker underwent several changes to become a national law database. Casemaker offers statutory codes for every state and prides itself on how quickly any changes in the law are reflected on the website. Casemaker editors immediately begin to make the appropriate changes to the law and the website reflects the new law within two to three days from the date the law is changed. Casemaker also has a button on their toolbar that will show any negative treatment a case may have received. Casemaker CEO Dave Harri-man says the intent of Casemaker is to assist solo practitioners and small and mid-size firms with a comprehensive legal database to give "smaller firms who are still having to use books a leg up on doing research."

The State Bar of Texas publishes *Adviser*, a State Bar of Texas Legal Research Newsletter. The newsletter covers new content and new features on both Casemaker and Fastcase and provides dates and information on any Fastcase or Casemaker webinar. *Adviser* is available online through the following link: https://www.texasbar.com/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Free_Legal_Research_Powered_by_Casemaker&Template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=39280

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

Tool Kit for Attorneys Representing the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services in Child Protection Cases

The Supreme Court of Texas' Children's Commission Legal Representation Subcommittee now provides a useful guide entitled *Tool Kit for Attorneys Representing the Department of Family & Protective Services in Child Protective Services Cases*. The Tool Kit has been endorsed by the Texas District and County Attorney Association and DFPS. The Tool Kit is divided into 6 sections: Legal Essentials for Child Protective Services; Hearings; Concurrent Issues; Federal Law Issues; Special Issues; and, Additional Resources. A free downloadable PDF version of the Tool Kit is available here:

<http://texaschildrenscommission.gov/media/83756/toolkit-for-attorneys-representing-the-texas-dfps-in-child-protection-cases-online-version.pdf>

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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?

Changes to Guardianship Registration Requirements Now in Effect

On June 1, 2018, the following requirements went into effect for persons applying to be guardians. Prior to being appointed guardian, a person must register online at the [Judicial Branch Certification Commission](#) (JBCC) and complete the Guardianship Training Module. Anyone applying to be a guardian is subject to a criminal history background check performed by the JBCC. Exceptions are attorneys, certified guardians, and corporate fiduciaries, who are not required to have a criminal history background check conducted and are not required to complete the guardianship training module. Any of the information provided during registration is confidential and not searchable by the public. The Collin County Probate Clerk has additional information regarding these changes on their website and a few useful links to help with these changes.

Important Announcement

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library is here as a useful resource and offers the capability to print, copy, e-file, send and receive faxes, and notary services. Please keep in mind that the Law Library is not a business center. Cell phones are not permitted in the Law Library. We ask that everyone be courteous of the other patrons using the library and not leave belongings scattered all over the library. There is no cost for notary services but library staff will only notarize one original and the person signing the document must have a current state driver's license, identification card or a United States passport. All services must be paid for at the time they are received. The library only accepts cash and any copies, prints, or faxes must remain at the reference desk until they are paid for. As a reminder, copies and prints are \$0.10 per page and faxes are \$1.50 for the first page and \$1.00 for any subsequent pages. Thank you for continued adherence to the policies.


KEEP
CALM
&
FOLLOW
THE RULES

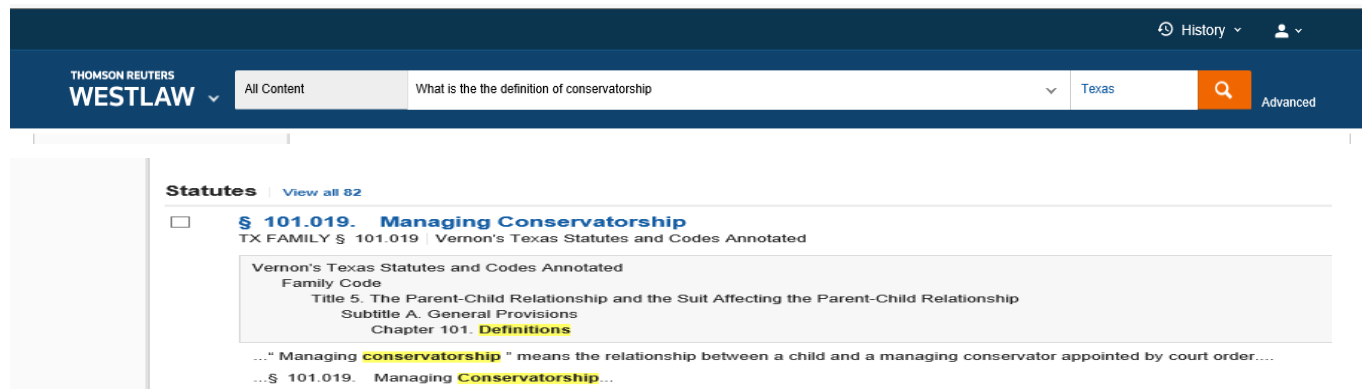
*Thank
you*

WestlawNext News

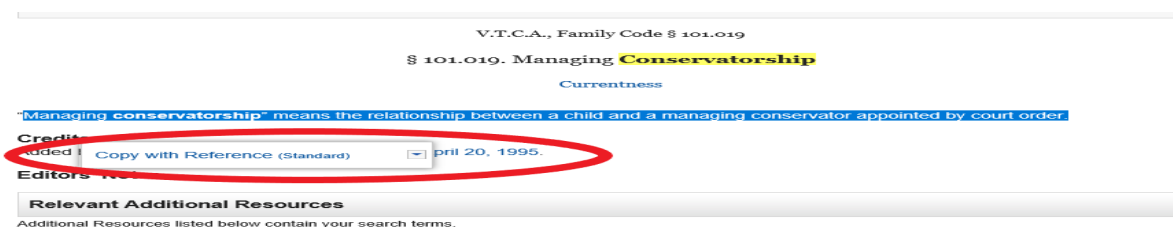
On May 16, the Curt B. Henderson Law Library provided a free WestlawNext CLE training class taught by Thompson Reuters employee Jeanette Alford. For those unable to make it here is a brief summary of the wonderful tips and search tricks that we learned! WestlawNext has added many new features and more enhancements designed to make research more efficient and with better results.

A brand new addition to WestlawNext is called Westlaw Answers. From the home page, the user can now ask three specific questions and receive links to statutes or cases that provide the answer. As of now the questions are limited to definitions, statutes of limitations, and elements of a cause of action. To access Westlaw Answers simply type the question into the search box from the home page using the phrase "What is ...?"

Hit Enter, and Westlaw will pull up the results that are the most relevant to that search.



Another enhancement to Westlaw is the ability to highlight a portion of the text being researched and copy it into another document with the Bluebook citation. To use this feature, simply highlight the portion to be pasted in another document and click on the box that says "Copy with Reference" and then paste it into the word processing document. The reference will appear with the citation included.



Lastly, even though WestlawNext does not save history, always remember to log off after searching to ensure privacy. There is a History tab available but the history only shows searches from the current session.

Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- **Google Keep**— a list-making and note-taking app available on both iOS and Android. The app allows the user to create typed or hand-drawn notes, checklists, and pictures, all of which can be organized with labels and the option to pin the most important notes at the top. Old notes can be deleted or archived. Just like other Google apps, the notes are automatically synced between a phone, computer and Gmail. Reminders for the notes can be set up by dates, times, and locations.
- **Lawtoolbox** - Lawtoolbox is available on both iOS and Android devices and is an "automated, rules-based legal calendaring cloud app." The App generates deadline reports for individual cases and will auto-populate the deadlines on several Microsoft Outlook calendars.
- **Mural**— a basic app that features one large whiteboard that the user can drag notes, images, text, and pictures onto. There are several different design templates and it is designed to be a thinking and organizational tool that is helpful for trial preparation and presentations.



The Law Library

will be closed

Monday,

September 3rd,

2018, for

Labor Day.



New on the Shelf

- Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges—General, Evidentiary & Ancillary Instructions—2018 Edition
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges, Family and Probate—2018 Edition
- 19th Annual Advanced Guardianship Law Course—2018
- Texas DWI Law and Practice Handbook—2018
- Federal Jury Practice and Instructions, Criminal Companion Handbook, Volumes 1 and 2—2018
- Qualifying and Attacking Expert Witnesses—Revision 30
- Texas Criminal Forms, Volumes 1 and 2—Revision 12
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms—2018
- O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms—2018
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings—2018
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals—2018
- O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms—2018
- O'Connor's Texas Federal Employment Codes Plus—2018-2019
- Navigating the Federal Trial, Volumes 1 and 2—2018 Edition
- Federal Postconviction Remedies and Relief Handbook (with forms) - 2018 Edition
- Federal Criminal Codes and Rules—2018 Revised Edition
- Davis's Texas Estate Planning Forms—2018
- Roach's Texas Rules of Evidence Annotated—2018 Edition
- Texas Family Law Practice Manual 3rd Edition—2018
- Texas Legal Practice Forms, Volumes 1-4—2018 Edition
- Texas Law of Wills—2018
- Courtroom Handbook on Texas Evidence— 2018
- Texas Search and Seizure—7th Edition

