



The Information Edge

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

ISSUE 2019-04

WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

NOVEMBER 2019

Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator Update

Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 82 No. 9

In February of 2018, this newsletter featured a section about the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator (TOJI). Frank E. Stevenson was the State Bar of Texas president from 2016-2017 and recently wrote an article in the *Texas Bar Journal* providing an update on what is now one of the largest legal incubators in the world. Two of the most important benefits of TOJI are in the name—opportunity and justice. Mr. Stevenson explains, “TOJI delivers opportunity by providing proven, real-world training for lawyers who want to build economically sustainable solo-practice careers serving the underserved; TOJI delivers justice by providing affordable legal assistance for low-and-moderate-income populations.” Currently, the program is an 18 month program during which TOJI members receive group training, personal coaching, and access to resources to grow their businesses. “The program provides an accountability structure to help lawyers achieve their goals and transform their law practices.” Mr. Stevenson further explains that members of TOJI are required to meet a certain amount of pro bono hours. Members of the TOJI have found themselves practicing many areas of law including elder law, immigration, landlord/tenant issues, family law, consumer law, and criminal defense. According to Mr. Stevenson’s update, from April 2017 to the end of July 2019, TOJI lawyers represented 2,476 clients in 28 areas of law, including 306 pro bono clients and 1,257 modest income clients. They worked 10,952 modest-income hours and 3,816 pro bono hours. Now that the TOJI is fully up and running and receives more attorney applicants than the TOJI has room for, Mr. Stevenson estimates that the hours will continue to increase drastically. Currently there are over 60 legal incubators in over 30 states and four countries. Even though TOJI is located in central Texas, TOJI lawyers have assisted clients in 74 Texas counties and is currently planning to expand its reach statewide.



TOJI moving from Physical to Digital

Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 82 No. 9

Due to the very high interest in the TOJI and given that clients in 254 Texas counties need the kind of help TOJI provides, TOJI is making the switch from physical to digital. Beginning in January 2020, TOJI will become virtual, allowing attorneys from anywhere in Texas to become a part of TOJI. TOJI Director Anne-Marie Rabago explains that “many of the lawyers in TOJI offer virtual services to clients as a way to keep overhead low, keep pricing affordable and service more people. Similarly, for TOJI, we’ve seen that it’s not necessary to be in the same room to share knowledge and expertise or to provide support for each other.” Part of this shift from physical to virtual is shortening the program from 18 months to 12. The level of experience needed to become a member of TOJI has lessened in order to be more inclusive of all attorneys. Previously, applicants needed to be within their first five years of practice but as of January 2020, law school graduates and attorneys at any point in their career are welcome to apply. Ms. Rabago believes that “by bringing together lawyers who are at different points on their career trajectories everyone in TOJI benefits from the diversity of experience.” Applicants accepted into the 2020 program will meet for two days at the Texas Law Center in Austin, Texas for orientation. Once the in-person orientation classes are complete, the rest of the training will be entirely virtual, using programs such as Zoom for video conferences and Slack, which is a team-messaging program through which TOJI participants will receive updates and be permitted to share resources and referrals among each other. Ms. Rabago says the primary reason for the switch was the eagerness of Texas lawyers everywhere wanting to do their part to help underserved clients. “Our recruitment cycles have shown us there are lawyers throughout Texas who want to make a difference for low-and modest-income communities. Now, they can join us from wherever they are in their lives and their careers.”

TOJI is the flagship
program of the State Bar of
Texas addressing the
justice gap.

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

On October 10th, the Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments for two cases at Texas A&M University School of Law in Fort Worth. The Texas Supreme Court has been holding sessions away from its Austin location for 20 years and last visited Fort Worth in 1999. In addition to hearing oral arguments, the Texas Supreme Court Justices fielded several questions from law students about the procedures of hearing cases and how their careers lead them to the Supreme Court of Texas. These types of trips became permissible after voters approved a constitutional amendment in 1997 to allow the Court to meet outside of Austin. Chief Justice Nathan Hecht thanked Texas A&M School of Law for hosting the arguments and made note that these visits are important because “while the court has live webcasts and archives of video recordings of its proceedings, actually being here presents an added dimension to the experience.”

Contact Information:

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

Bethany Fansler
Assistant
Law Librarian
Email: bfansler@co.collin.tx.us

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

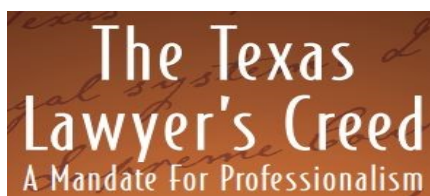
Note: Computers will
automatically log off
at 4:50 p.m.

Did You Know?

The Texas Lawyer's Creed—30 Years Later

Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 82, No. 10

In November of 1989, the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals adopted the Texas Lawyers Creed—A Mandate for Professionalism. According to a December 22, 1989, letter sent to thousands of judges and lawyers throughout the state by Justice Eugene A. Cook, Texas “became the first state in the nation where the highest courts have set forth those standards to which we expect all attorneys to adhere.” In an article from the *Texas Bar Journal*, author Suzanne Mann Duvall spoke of the 30 year anniversary of the Texas Lawyer's Creed and of the recent efforts taken by some to place a renewed focus on the Creed. While she was head of the State Bar of Texas Professionalism Committee, Kenda Culpepper worked with the State Bar of Texas which led to the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals reaffirming the Creed. The Professionalism Committee is dedicated to the renewed interest in the Creed and encourages local bar associations to hold “Days of Civility” programs, the goal of which is to “focus members of the profession on the importance of their conduct and behavior in their interaction with colleagues, the courts and clients.” A copy of the Texas Lawyer's Creed may be viewed [here](#).



Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that as the holiday season approaches it may be necessary for the Law Library or other court offices to occasionally close for a brief period of time during normal work hours. Please call ahead of time to check the library's hours during this holiday period. Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.

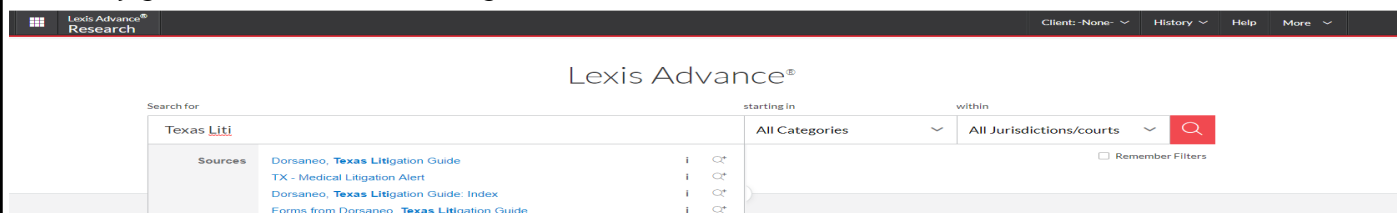


Lexis Advance

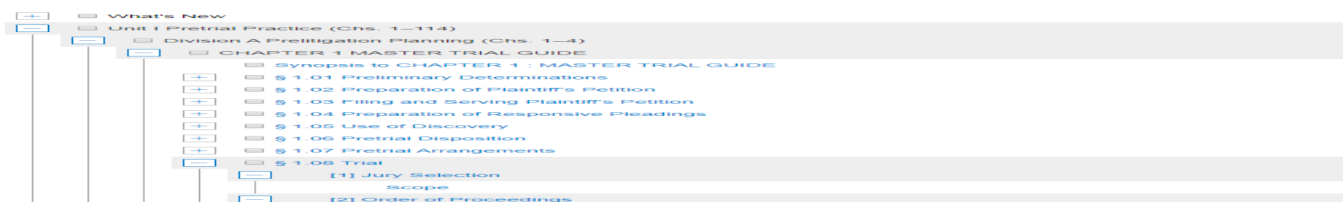
Navigating The Texas Litigation Guide Online

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library offers patrons the choice of using either Westlaw or LexisAdvance. To use a computer, please be prepared to sign in at the reference desk. LexisAdvance is available through an icon on the computer desktop. To sign in to Lexis, please enter first and last name (or initials) and select “Accept & Continue” at the bottom right of the sign in screen. Once signed in, the user will see the main page. As part of its subscription, the Law Library offers electronic access to the Litigation Guide, including forms.

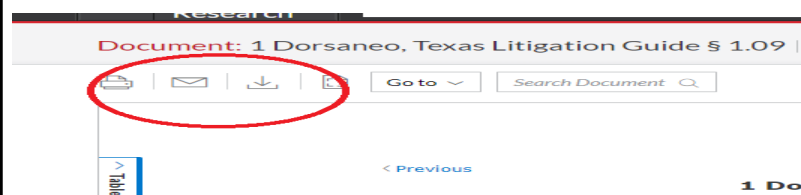
From the home page simply begin to type Dorsaneo or Texas Litigation Guide and LexisAdvance will automatically generate a list of matching terms to be selected from the list:



The next screen will be a list of the contents of the Guide. The user can either select a unit with the desired chapter in it or the index. Click on the “+” to further expand the contents. Once the user has located the desired chapter or search term, click on the blue link to access the material electronically:



Users have the option to either print or email the information:



The Collin County Law Library offers access to the following Mathew Bender guides in print and online: Texas Litigation Guide; Texas Transaction Guide; Texas Family Law Practice and Procedure Guide; Texas Criminal Practice Guide; Prosecution and Defense of Forfeiture Cases; Defense of Narcotics Cases; Defense of Drunk Driving; Prosecution & Defense of Sex Crimes; Immigration Law and Procedure; Texas Torts & Remedies; and, Texas Probate, Estate and Trust Administration. All of these guides can be accessed online using the same method above. As a friendly reminder, any prints are \$0.10 per page cash.

Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- ♦ <https://perma.cc/> - Perma.cc is a service designed to help anyone create links to online references so they will not disappear. Once a website is saved or hyperlinked, sooner or later that link will no longer be good and the user will receive a message that that link is permanently unavailable. This is known as link rot. Perma.cc fights against link rot by archiving that website on the user's account. No matter what happens to the original link, the archived link remains safe through the services of Perma.cc. Perma.cc. is a subscription based service.
- ♦ **PlayerFM**—PlayerFm is a web app that allows users to access podcasts from a desktop, tablet or phone. PlayerFM is free with premium packages available. This particular podcast app has a “Legal Technology” page that connects the user to hundreds of the leading legal technology podcasts available today. In addition to legal topics, PlayerFM also offers podcasts on topics such as business, education, news, lifestyle, science and entertainment.



The Law Library will be closed November 28-29 for Thanksgiving Day.



The Law Library will be closed December 24-25 for Christmas.



The Law Library will be closed January 1, 2020, for New Year's Day.



The Law Library will be closed January 20, 2020, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

New on the Shelf

- Sampson, Tindall & England's Texas Family Code Annotated—2019 Edition
- O'Connor's Texas Family Code *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas Property Code *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas Business Organizations Code *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas Business and Commerce Code *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas Estates Code *plus*—2019-2020
- O'Connor's Texas CPRC *plus*—2019-2020
- Qualifying & Attacking Expert Witnesses—Revision 31
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules—2019 Revised Edition
- Ineffective Assistance of Counsel—2019 Edition
- Texas Criminal Lawyers Handbook, Volumes 1 and 2—Revision 20
- West's Texas Criminal Procedure—Code and Rules—2020 Edition
- West's Texas Penal Code—2020 Edition
- Texas Criminal and Traffic Procedural Manual—2019-2020 Edition
- Trial Objections Handbook—2019-2020 Edition
- Kinkeade & Mccolloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated—2019-2020 Edition
- Federal Prison Guidebook: Sentencing and Post-Conviction Remedies—Revision 5

Happy Holidays from the Law Library



Diane

Bethany

Jonathan