



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

Texas Justice Court Training Center (TJCTC)

(<https://www.tjctc.org/>)

According to its website, the Texas Justice Court Training Center is "an educational endeavor of the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association funded by a grant from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals" and is affiliated with Texas State University. Justices of the Peace, Court Personnel and Civil Process Personnel have the option of creating a unique login for access to the TJCTC newsletters and updates. However, a login is not necessary to access the number of free resources available through the site. These resources include online deskbooks, charts and checklists and unique learning opportunities through online webinars. Each resource is explained in more detail below and is helpful for either attorneys or self-represented litigants.

Deskbooks

The deskbooks may be downloaded for free and each one contains a clickable table of contents. The following deskbooks are accessible: Administrative Proceedings Deskbook, Civil Deskbook, Criminal Deskbook, Evictions Deskbook, Fines, Fees, and Costs Deskbook, Inquests Deskbook, Juvenile Deskbook, Magistration Deskbook, Officeholding & Ethics Deskbook and Trial Notebook.

Forms

The legal department of the TJCTC created over 100 civil and criminal forms all available free of charge. Forms are available for the following areas: Administrative Proceedings, Criminal Procedure, Debt Claim, Evictions and Landlord-Tenant, General Officeholding, Inquests, Magistration, Repair & Remedy, Small Claims, and Truancy. Spanish forms are available as well as Self-Represented Litigant Packets for eviction, small claims and debt claim cases.

Charts and Checklists

Another unique resource through TJCTC is the access to charts and checklists. These are a quick overview that shows the procedure and order of events in several different areas with more practice areas being added all the time. Some examples of the charts available now are an occupational driver license flowchart, eviction appeal flowcharts, and a truancy adjudication hearing flowchart.

Online Learning

TJCTC has several free online webinars, only an email address is needed to access them. The webinars come with free downloadable power points, handouts and articles. TJCTC also has a free YouTube channel available here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqzIVLuZxtaLUwGcwZ7f28w>



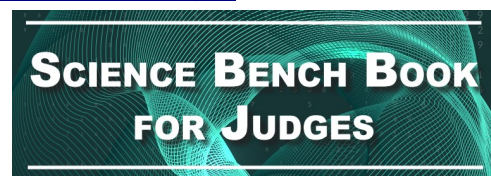
BlueBook Now Features Free Access to Foreign Jurisdictions Online

The 21st edition of *The Bluebook* was released in July of 2020. One of the biggest changes to this edition is that T2, the table entitled *Foreign Jurisdictions*, is now available online, free of charge to everyone. The link to T2 is available [here](#). In addition to now being free, researchers will also notice the addition of some new jurisdictions.

THE BLUEBOOK®

Science Bench Book for Judges

The National Judicial College and Justice Speakers Institute, LLC produced a free online bench book explaining scientific evidence and how it affects the various stages of a court proceeding, moving all the way from pre to post-trial with additional chapters on juvenile court and expert witnesses. The book may be viewed here: <http://resources.judges.org/downloads/science-bb.pdf>



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

Chief Justice Nathan Hecht was named to lead two national court organizations. On August 3, 2020, Chief Justice Hecht began his term as President of the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and as Chair of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Board of Directors. According to its website, the CCJ was founded in 1949 and “provides an opportunity for the highest judicial officers of the states to meet and discuss matters of importance in improving the administration of justice, rules, and methods of procedure, and the organization and operation of state courts and judicial systems, and to make recommendations and bring about improvements on such matters” (<https://ccj.ncsc.org/>). Chief Justice Hecht is the fifth Texas Supreme Court Justice to lead the CCJ.



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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?

On May 26, 2020, the Supreme Court of Texas justices signed the *Order Amending Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 47, 500.3, 509.2, and 509.6*. The amendments to the rules will be effective September 1, 2020, and are summarized below. A complete copy of the Order and the amendments may be viewed here: <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1446701/209070.pdf>. Rule 47 changes both Rule 47(c)(3) and (4), increasing claims for relief under those sections from \$200,000 to \$250,000. Rule 500.3 increases the recovery amount for justice court cases from \$10,000 to \$20,000 (excluding statutory interest and court costs but including attorney fees, if any) for small claims cases, debt claim cases, repair and remedy cases, and eviction cases. Rules 509.2 and 509.6 govern repair and remedy suits and the amendments to those reflect the increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Rule 509.2 will read that the petition must include “a statement that the total relief requested does not exceed \$20,000, excluding interest and court costs but including attorney’s fees” and Rule 509.6 will read that “judgment may be rendered against the landlord for failure to repair or remedy a condition at the residential rental property if the total judgment does not exceed \$20,000, excluding interest and court costs but including attorney’s fees.”

Important Announcement

Until further notice the following changes have been implemented in the Curt B. Henderson Law Library:

- 1) The Law Library hours have returned to 8am–5pm.
- 2) No more than 2 people are allowed at the reference desk at one time. Upon entering please stand on the red line.
- 3) Maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone else.
- 4) Please limit computer usage to 30 minutes if others are waiting.



Westlaw Patron Access Extended

The last edition of *The Information Edge* explained how patrons were able to access free Westlaw for a limited period of time. However, since many libraries either remain closed or have reopened with limited service, Westlaw has agreed to continue to provide free access to primary law, secondary sources, litigation and Practical Law through Westlaw Next. While no expiration date has been provided, access is limited to 20 hours of usage over 14 days. The link to this patron access can be found here: <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/en/c/remote-patron-access>. Patrons will need to use an e-mail address not previously used to access Westlaw.

Simply click on “Get Access and follow the prompts to access the database.

Access Westlaw with Practical Law For 14 Days

There is no credit card required and no need to cancel when your trial ends. To get started, fill out the form below and click continue.

All fields required.

First name

Last name

Business email address

Your content will be limited when using public domain email (gmail, yahoo, hotmail, MSN, AOL)

Organization type

Business name

Business phone number

LexisNexis Offers Remote Patron Access Program

LexisNexis is also offering a Remote Patron Access Program until August 31, 2020 which allows patrons to have access to cases, codes, and secondary resources. The link to the LexisNexis patron access is available here: <https://www.lexisnexis.com/en-us/pa-access.page>. Fill out the required information for a Lexis Advance free ID.

The ID will be delivered within a business day.



The Law Library
will be closed on
Monday,
September
7th for Labor
Day.



New on the Shelf

- Bender's Immigration and Nationality Act Pamphlet—2020 ed.
- Texas Family Law Practice Manual—2020
- O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms—2020
- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals—2020
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings—2020
- Texas Practice Series: Courtroom Handbook on Texas Evidence—2020
- Texas Practice Series: Handbook of Texas Lawyer and Judicial Ethics: Attorney Tort Standards and Attorney Ethics Standards—2020
- Texas Practice Series: Handbook of Texas Lawyer and Judicial Ethics: Judicial Ethics Standards and Recusal and Disqualification of Judges—2020
- The Family Lawyer's Essential Toolkit—2020 Edition
- O'Connor's Federal Civil Forms—2020
- Federal Employment Codes Plus—2020-2021

Also remember to visit the online catalog for the Curt B. Henderson Law Library on our library [website](#).

Legal Humor

Stu's Views

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If you have no specific recollection, how can you be sure the Defendant was at home that morning?

