



TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Articles and Websites of Interest

Police Deception During Interrogation and Its Surprising Influence on Jurors' Perceptions of Confession Evidence

The Jury Expert, Vol. 22 Issue 6, available at: www.astcweb.org/public/publication/article.cfm/1/22/6/Police-Deception-During-Interrogation-and-Influence-on-Jurors

This article asks: do jurors decide cases differently when the police use false-evidence ploys during interrogation? The writers set up an experiment in which two groups of people read trial summaries of a case. One group's summary contained a false-evidence ploy, the other group's summary contained no such ploy. Participants who read the false-evidence summary also read an interrogation transcript that depicted a demeanor, testimonial or scientific false-evidence ploy. All participants rendered verdicts and those who convicted the defendant also recommended sentences. The people who read the false-evidence ploys rated the interrogations as more coercive and deceptive than the people who did not. This group also recommended lighter sentences than the control group. The authors conclude that "this outcome suggests jurors viewed the defendant exposed to police deception as less deserving of punishment even though the crime, the evidence, and the presence of the confession were identical."

The authors make seven recommendations for attorneys, including: "Defense attorneys should attempt to introduce an expert witness in the

area of false confessions, to educate jurors ...when appropriate, voir dire should include questions concerning false confessions and the degrees to which jurors see themselves and others as capable of making a false confession."

Blawg: Social Media for Law Firms

<http://www.socialmediaforlawfirms.com/>

Some of the more well-read posts on this blawg include: "Is your Law Firm on Wikipedia?" "How To: Law Firm Facebook Pages" and "LinkedIn Tips for Lawyers." The purpose of this blog is to "help legal professionals learn how to use social media in their marketing strategies." Those of you who have put off diving headfirst into social media may want to scan this blog for ideas and articles of how to use social media to boost your practice.

Free Database of Worldwide IP Laws and Treaties www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched an online database of patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret and competition laws and regulations. The home page includes tabs for member states' profiles, and treaties, and also has a newsfeed for treaty info. Full text search is available, and includes many English translations for countries such as China.

Free Caselaw search in Google Scholar

Google now provides a way to search caselaw for free, via google scholar. Google has made available state appellate and supreme court cases since 1950; US federal district, appellate tax and bankruptcy courts since 1923; and US supreme court case since 1791. You can access it by going to <http://scholar.google.com> and choosing the button for **legal opinions and journals**. For the best results, click on the **Advanced Scholar Search** link. Once in **Advanced Search**, scroll down to the bottom of the page and choose the option for federal courts or State courts (see below).

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Staff is available for a presentation to your organization.

The screenshot shows the 'Legal opinions and journals' section of the Google Scholar search interface. It includes a checkbox for 'Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics' which is unchecked. Below it, there are three radio button options: 'Search all legal opinions and journals.', 'Search opinions of All federal courts', and 'Search opinions of Texas courts.' The 'Texas courts.' option is selected. There is a link 'Select specific courts to search' and a 'Search Scholar' button.

Google doesn't have Keycite or Shephardizing, but clicking on the How Cited tab will get you snippet examples of how the case is cited (in all kinds of documents) as well as a list of Cited by cases that cite it and Related documents, which are cases similar in structure or content (see below). There is no option for finding a case by citation, but you can "force" one by typing in the citation in quotes and using the **in the title of the article** option.

Read this case	How cited	Arrington v. Arrington, 613 SW 2d 565 - Tex: Court of Civil Appeals.
	How this document has been cited	Cited by
	<p>“ —refusing to appoint managing conservator of pet dog in divorce case, observing that “[a] dog, for all its admirable and unique qualities, is not a human being and is not treated in the law as such. A dog is personal property, ownership of which is recognized under the law ”</p> <p>- in Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. v. Schuster, 2004 and 4 similar citations</p>	<p>Vermont Civil Unions: The New Language of Marriage G Johnson - Vermont Law Review</p> <p>Finn v. Finn 658 SW 2d 735 - Tex: Court of Appeals, 5th Di 1983</p> <p>Bueckner v. Hamel 886 SW 2d 368 - Tex: Court of Appeals 1994</p> <p>Toward a Non-Property Status for Animals TG Kelch - The feminist care tradition in animal ethics ..., 2007</p> <p>Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. v. Schuster 144 SW 3d 554 - Tex: Court of Appeals, 3rd Di 2004</p> <p>all 48 citing documents »</p>
	<p>“ Arrington involved a custody dispute over Bonnie Lou,"a very fortunate little dog with two humans to shower upon her attentions and genuine love frequently not received by human children from their divorced parents ”</p> <p>- in The Case Against Dog Breed Discrimination by Homeowners' Insurance Companies and 4 similar citations</p>	
	<p>“ —one of the most frequently cited cases addressing the status of pets in divorce proceedings, the court justified its decision to award ownership of a dog pursuant to current property law by distinguishing pets from children. ”</p> <p>- in Puppy Love: Providing for the Legal Protection of Animals When Their Owners ... and 2 similar citations</p>	
	<p>“ Thus, the Texas cases clearly support the right of a court to consider one spouse's diminution of community property in making equitable distribution of community property. ”</p> <p>- in Conduct of a Spouse That Dissipates Property Available for Equitable ... and 2 similar citations</p>	
	<p>“ So, if the community estate amounted to \$200,000 before the dissipation and one spouse causes a loss of \$50,000, that spouse should receive \$50,000 of the remaining assets and the other should receive \$100,000 if the marital estate is to be divided equally ”</p>	<p>Related documents</p> <p>Bennett v. Bennett 655 So. 2d 109 - Fla: Dist. Court of Appeals, 1st Dist. 1995</p>

Just for Fun

Website: The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913
www.oldbaileyonline.org

"A fully searchable edition of the largest body of texts detailing the lives of non-elite people ever published, containing 197,745 criminal trials held at London's central criminal court."

Frustrated with your current case? Take a break and read the case regarding Grand Larceny that took place on Jan. 10th 1787, which records that the Marquis Granbury was indicted for stealing: three geese, one silk handkerchief, a shirt, a pair of breeches, stockings and a towel. Maybe it's just me, but the court proceedings don't read all that differently from today's.



CLE news

Because of changes at the State Bar Association, we are no longer offering the "Representing Texas Children in Abuse Cases" CLE course. It is available online only at www.texasbarcle.com.

Two of the CLEs available from the library are "Advanced Criminal Law" and "Attorney Ad Litem Certification for Guardianship." The Advanced Criminal Law course is administered through the Law Library and as such requires a fee of \$595 for one person or \$465 each for two or more. Attorneys retain the course materials. The Guardianship certification course is available as self-study and qualifies attorneys for Guardian Ad Litem appointments. This course is free and the materials are returned to the Law Library upon completion of the course.

For more information, or to reserve either of these courses, please contact a Law Librarian at 972-548-4255.

The Collin County Courthouse (and the Law Library) will be closed on the following holidays:

*April 22, for Good Friday
May 30, for Memorial Day*



The Law Library will be celebrating National Law Day on May 2, 2011.

Come on out and help us celebrate this year's theme : The Legacy of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo.

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New on the Shelf:

- Confessions, by John Stride with John Rolater, 2010 ed.
- O'Connor's Federal Rules: Civil Trials, 2011.
- O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action, 2011.
- O'Connor's Texas Rules: Civil Rules, 2011.
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges: Malpractice, Premises, Products, 2010.
- Texas Pattern Jury Charges: Business, Consumer, Insurance, Employment, 2010.
- Texas Workers' Compensation Manual, 2011.

A Little Legal Humor

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Stu's Views

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"You like kayaking, travel and yoga. I hope you realize that lawyers don't have time for this stuff."