



## TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ISSUE 2012-01 [WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV](http://WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV)

FEBRUARY 2012

### Useful Internet Sites and Articles

**"Straight Talk on Motions From the Judges Who Rule on Them"** John Council,

*Texas Lawyer*, Vol. 27, no. 39 and no. 40. p.1, 14-19, and p.1, 13-15.

Texas Lawyer has published two excellent articles on what it is that judges look for in motions and other filings. The articles are transcripts of a judicial roundtable discussion that took place at the South Texas College of Law. Some of the topics included in the articles are: emphasis on brevity and clarity (being clear and specific about exactly what you want from the judge); including an order when filing the motion (so the judge can refer to it if necessary); including graphics if that will make the text of a motion easier to understand; and, bringing original documents, including full cases, if case law is cited, to court, so that they are available if necessary.

#### Texas State Law Library

<http://www.sll.state.tx.us/>

Have you ever been in need of an old case and not been able to find it? Westlaw is all very well and good, but its archive only goes back 20 years. However, the Texas State Law Library is an excellent resource for old Texas cases.

The Texas State Law Library serves the legal research needs of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Supreme Court, Office of the Attorney General, other state agencies and commissions, and the citizens of the state.

**"Brain Plasticity and the Impact of the Electronic Environment in Law and Learning"**

Sherry L. Leysen, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* Vol. 30 no. 4, p. 255-288.

This article is a re-visitation of the issues raised in the 2008 Atlantic article "Is Google making us Stupid?" Namely, has the electronic/internet environment corrupted our ability to read deeply and critically by encouraging skimming and interruption with an environment that is too rich with distractions? Leysen reviews evidence from studies which show that we do process information from electronic sources differently, preferring scanning (in an F pattern, according to eye tracking data) to linear processing, and that we are at risk of losing certain "deep" reading skills unless we find more opportunities to practice them.

She further claims that the "study of the law is different...Our success depends on our ability to locate, read, analyze, interpret and communicate information...tomorrow's students will have developed excellent neural circuits for scanning and reading but will likely to have to work harder to develop less dominant skills, such as the ability to engage in critical reading and the ability to move beyond surface information to reach a stage of critical analysis."

This is a long article, but worth taking a look at if you're interested in the internet's effect on our cognitive processing.

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)

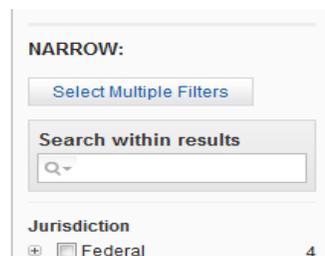
## WestlawNext Tips

### Narrowing a Search Result

You can refine a search by using keywords to search within your initial search results. First, enter your keywords in the main search box at the top of the page, and click on search.



Then choose your content category from the "VIEW" menu on the left (such as "Cases"). A Narrow option will appear in the lower left part of the page, with a Search within results box.



Simply enter additional search terms within that box and click on Search. Your additional search terms will appear highlighted in a different color in your results. Now you can skim through your results quickly, pinpointing the cases that are relevant.

Trial Court Documents	24
Expert Materials	1,151
Jury Verdicts & Settlements	275
Proposed & Enacted Legislation	443
Proposed & Adopted Regulations	2,598
All Results	15,397

#### NARROW:

[Undo Filters](#)

[Select Multiple Filters](#)

#### Search within results

Q- texas

[Undo search within](#)



#### 2. **Schneider v. Schneider**

Court of Appeals of Texas, Fort Worth. | February 12, 2004 | Not Reported in S.W.3d

Background: Husband appealed from 393rd District Court, Denton County decree granting **divorce**, its designation of separate property, and its division of couple's property...

...AND SIGNING OF OPINIONS. MEMORANDUM OPINION Court of Appeals of **Texas**, Fort Worth. Scott SCHNEIDER SCHNEIDER, Arch C...

...were used to purchase the items. The parties moved to **Texas**, were married on September 23, 1995, and lived of



#### 3. **Petco Animal Supplies, Inc. v. Schuster**

Court of Appeals of Texas, Austin. | April 29, 2004 | 144 S.W.3d 554

TORTS - Animals. Mental anguish damages were not recoverable in action for loss of pet **dog**.

...PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC. v. SCHUSTER Court of Appeals of **Texas**, Austin. PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC. SCHUSTER, Appellee...

...appellate court. Intermediate appellate courts are not free to mold **Texas** law as they see fit but must instead follow **Texas** Supreme Court unless and until the high court overrules them or the **Texas** Legislature supersedes them by Damages 115VI Measure...

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

## Tech Tips

### Top iPhone and iPad apps for Lawyers

[www.attorneyatwork.com/top-iphone-and-ipad-apps-for-lawyers/](http://www.attorneyatwork.com/top-iphone-and-ipad-apps-for-lawyers/)

The Attorney at work blog has come up with the top ten most popular apps for lawyers, including G-park, which helps you find your car; Things, which helps you manage your tasks; Dragon Dictation which will help you type out your important thoughts; and, Fastcase, which will help you access case law, state statutes, regulations and court rules.

### PUSH:legal

[www.pushlegal.com](http://www.pushlegal.com)

Speaking of apps, Push:legal is a “mobile library” that lawyers can download and use on iPhone, iPad, Blackberry and Android devices. This app was created by Texas’ own Jonathan J. Paull, and includes many of the Texas Codes and Federal Rules; and, according to the website, will be adding more state materials “replete with both statutes and annotations” on an ongoing basis.

### How to Disable the Carrier IQ on an iPhone

[www.techsupportalert.com/content/how-disable-tracking-spyware-carrier-iq-iphone.htm](http://www.techsupportalert.com/content/how-disable-tracking-spyware-carrier-iq-iphone.htm)

The tracking software installed on smartphones was in the news a few months ago. There is some interesting information on this software at this site, as well as instructions for turning it off on iPhones running iOS 5.0 or later.

## Missing Library Book

One of our O’Connor’s Family Code 2011-2012 books has gone missing. If you inadvertently picked it up, please return it to us! We promise not to be punitive.



## The Law Library

will be closed

On Friday, April

6th for

Good Friday.



## New on the Shelf:

- Bankruptcy Code, Rules & Official Forms, 2011-2012.
- Courtroom Criminal Evidence, 5th ed. 2011.
- Expunction & Nondisclosure, 2011-2013.
- Federal Sentencing Guidelines Manual, 2011.
- Myers on Evidence of Interpersonal Violence, 5th ed. 2011.
- Texas Practice Series: Texas Consumer Law Handbook, 2011-2012.
- Texas Legal Practice Forms, 2011-2012.
- O'Connor's Texas Rules \* Civil Trials, 2012.

## A Little Legal Humor

