



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

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Oct Nov Dec 2003



Courthouse News

Judge Appointed to New 416th District Court

Governor Rick Perry has appointed our very own **Judge Chris Oldner** to preside over the newly created 416th District Court of Texas. The new court has been operating on the fifth floor of the main courthouse on McDonald Street under visiting judges since September 1st of this year. Judge Oldner will take the oath of office at his investiture ceremony on October 31st at 1:30pm in the Annex B building on McDonald St. The vacancy in County Court at Law 5 left by the Judge will be filled by visiting judges until the spring party primary elections.

Congratulations Are in Order!

The **Collin County Young Lawyers Association** recently won recognition for several awards from the Texas Young Lawyers Association. The CCYLA won a first place award in comprehensive, a second place award in single project/service to the Bar, a first place award in single project/service to the public, and a first place award for their newsletter. Congratulations CCYLA!!!

Norma Garcia of the Collin County District Attorney's Office was recently elected as the president-elect of the National Hispanic Prosecutors' Association. Congratulations Norma!

Law Library Celebrates 25th Anniversary

In December 1978, Jerry Lewis (now Judge Jerry Lewis) proposed a law library for Collin County to the Commissioners Court. The Order was subsequently signed by County Judge Nathan White. A celebration of this event, a 25th anniversary party, will be held January 13th from 5-7pm in the main lobby of the courthouse on McDonald Street. Please plan to drop by. We hope to see judges and elected officials there as well as members of the public.

Mark your calendars now for January 13th!

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Research Question of the Day:

Where can I go to
find legal resources in
the evenings and on
weekends when the
Collin County Law
Library is closed?

To find the answer,
turn to Page 6!

Fall is Here!





New on the Shelves...

The following titles have been added to the Collin County Law Library collection:

- ♦ Texas Guardianship Manual, 2d ed., with Forms on Disk - from the State Bar of Texas. Like the other forms manuals offered by the State Bar, this title provides great practice notes and legal forms.
- ♦ Prosecutorial Misconduct, by Joseph F. Lawless - the new 3rd edition is here!

The following code pamphlets have arrived containing the text of the code as amended by the recent 2003 Texas Legislature:

- ♦ Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated, 2003 ed. - from Thomson West
- ♦ Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated, 2003 ed. - from Thomson West
- ♦ Texas Penal Code, 2004 ed. - from Thomson West

We expect more code pamphlets to arrive throughout the coming weeks, bringing you the updated version of the codes as amended by the 78th Legislature. Watch the shelves for these new titles!



**For assistance in finding these new titles
or for information about upcoming titles,
just ask a law librarian!**

Call 972-424-1460 ext. 4255 or email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us



CLE Opportunities

Advanced Criminal Law Course 2003

The Collin County Law Library is proud to offer the latest State Bar of Texas Custom CLE Advanced Criminal Law Course to attorneys. The cost is \$329.00 per person. For this price, you will view the videos and receive a copy of the course books for you to keep. The course provides 27 hours of participatory and 3 hours of ethics. *A minimum of two attorneys* must participate each time the course is administered; the course must be completed within a *single calendar month*. The Law Library is providing the administration of this course to assist attorneys in meeting the requirements of our local judges for court appointments.

Guardianship Course 2003

The Law Library is also offering the latest State Bar of Texas course on guardianship as a video course. This course meets the requirements for Guardian Ad Litem certification and helps attorneys to qualify for Guardian Ad Litem appointments in Collin County. This course is a self-study video course worth up to 6.75 hours with 2.5 hours of ethics. The tapes and coursebook are available for check-out at the Law Library. This course is in high demand, so we ask that the videos not be checked out for more than a few days at a time.

For more information about these and other CLE opportunities available at the Collin County Law Library, call: 972-424-1460 ext. 4260 or email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

Internet Spotlight

New on Texas Judge!
www.texasjudge.com

The 2003 **tax charts for child support** are now available on Texas Judge. Just click on the "Download Center" on the left-hand sidebar.

**Records Retention Policy for
 Governmental Entities**
www.tsl.state.tx.us

The Texas State Library offers publications governing the records retention policies of governmental entities in the state of Texas. Click on the "Our Publications" tab at the top of the home page. Then scroll down the page and select "Records Management Publications for State Agencies and Local Governments."

Attention Civil Rights Attorneys!
www.privacyknowledgebase.com

Privacy Knowledge Base is a large database of **privacy and data protection law** information available on the Web. **Note:* This is a subscription database, but it is definitely worth a look!

**Texas Rules of Civil Procedure
 Now on the Web!**

<http://trcp.freesevers.com/index.html>

That's right! The Texas Rules of Civil Procedure are available on the Internet! You will probably need to know the specific rule you are looking for, as the rules are not well indexed on this site. There is also a good deal of "analysis" and "opinion" presented along with the text of the rules; however, the text of the rules themselves is accurate.



Legal Research Guides from SMU
<http://library.law.smu.edu>

The Underwood Law Library at SMU in Dallas offers a wide variety of excellent and easy to use guides to conducting legal research in areas ranging from basic primary law (statutes, agency decisions) to legislative history to court rules to foreign law. To access these guides, click on "Legal Research Guides" in the center of the screen.

The opinions expressed on these web sites are not representative of those of Collin County or the Collin County Law Library.

View This Newsletter Online!

Collin County Law Library Web Site

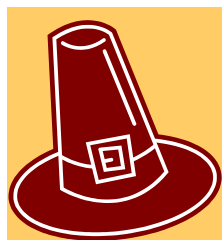
www.co.collin.tx.us

Click on "Law Library" under the Departments menu.

Texas Judge

www.texasjudge.com

Click on "Law Library" on the right-hand sidebar.



This newsletter may also be delivered right to your e-mail Inbox! See page 6 for more details!



Articles of Interest



“Reasons for Reversal in the Texas Courts of Appeals”

Lynne Liberato and Kent Rutter, South Texas Law Review v. 44, no. 2 (Spring 2003), p. 431-481.

“This article first identifies the statewide reversal rate in civil cases and a rate for each of the fourteen courts of appeals. It then examines reversal rates and reasons for reversal in various procedural contexts, including reversals following jury trials, bench trials, summary judgments, and default judgments, as well as reversals of orders granting or denying temporary injunctions, special appearances, and pleas to the jurisdiction.”

—Excerpted from p. 431

“Family Limited Partnerships: Attacking the Entity to Get Your Client a Fair Settlement”

Martin M. Shenkman, The Matrimonial Strategist v. 21, no. 8 (September 2003), p. 3, 5-6.

Family limited partnerships (FLPs) are set up for asset protection planning and are surfacing more frequently in family law litigation. This article examines how family limited partnerships can impact your client’s negotiations and settlement in a divorce suit.



Copies of these articles are available at the Law Library. Just ask a law librarian!

Call: 972-424-1460 ext. 4255 or email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us



Library News

LexisNexis Now Available at the Attorney Workstation

The Collin County Law Library is now offering the online Lexis database at the Attorney Workstation. Attorneys now have access to case law from both Texas and the 5th Circuit, as well as a wealth of other research databases. **If, in the course of your research in Lexis, you need access to a database that is not available** through the Lexis subscription at the Attorney Workstation, **just let the librarian know**. The librarians have access to the full subscription to Lexis and will be glad to retrieve the information for you. **Note: Westlaw access is no longer available at the Attorney Workstation.*

Alternative Dispute Resolution “Blue Sheets” Available in the Law Library

The Law Library has copies of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Project for Reduced Fee and Pro Bono Mediations directory of low-cost mediators, sponsored by the ADR Section of the Collin County Bar Association. Be sure to stop by and pick one up!



Need Some Help?

Here's how to contact a law librarian at the Collin County Law Library:

Judy McCullough
972-424-1460 ext. 4255
jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us

Katy Gill
972-424-1460 ext. 4260
kgill@co.collin.tx.us



Online Research Tips and Tricks



How to Mine Data on Expert Witnesses from the Web

The following is an excerpt from:

“Finding Information on the WorldWideWeb”

Internet Law Researcher v. 8, no. 6 (September 2003), p. 11.

“Say you were on the hunt for an expert in a particular field. You might, by habit, check Google or one of the experts databases that now proliferate on the Web. It might be just as effective, though, to turn first to the **Library of Congress or New York Public Library catalogs**, bits of which are available for free on the Web, to see who has written books on your subject; after all, the cliché, “He wrote the book on (whatever)” has some merit. People who know their subject well tend to write about it. Authorship of a book provides an expert with immediate credibility...”

“...Other sites that lend themselves to this expert-by-bibliography lookup are articles databases such as Ingenta (<http://www.ingenta.com>), the **National Library of Medicine's Medline/PubMed database** at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi>, or even the patents database from the U.S. Patent and Trade-mark Office at <http://www.uspto.gov>. Sifting through these immense holdings can produce the names of individuals who are likely to be skilled in your subject area...”

For a copy of the complete article excerpted above, contact the Law Library.

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Authority on Demand from Lexis Available at the Law Library

The Texas Litigation Guide. *Collier's* invaluable Bankruptcy set. *Bender's Forms of Discovery*.

The helpful practice guides you've come to rely on in their print forms over the years are also available online at the Attorney Workstation in the Law Library. Simply open the Internet Explorer browser and click on “Matthew Bender Authority.”



Moved Lately?

Have you recently moved your office to a new address? Are you planning a move in the near future?

If the answer to either of the above questions is **yes**, then be sure to send us your new address as soon as it is available. We don't know that you've moved unless you tell us! Don't miss a single issue of *Truth, Justice, and Information for All* - just give us a call, send us an email, or drop a note in the mail to provide us with your new address and we'll be sure to update our records!

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Where can I go to find legal resources in the evenings and on weekends when the Collin County Law Library is closed?

Answer:

**Richardson Public Library
900 Civic Center Drive
Richardson, TX 75080
972-744-4350**

The Richardson Public Library has an excellent collection of basic legal resources available to the public. Housed in the Reference section on the basement level of the library, the legal collection includes:

- Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes and Codes
- Texas Cases, 1st-3d
- United States Code Service
- Texas Litigation Guide (Dorsaneo)
- Texas Transaction Guide (Kendrick)
- Stevenson's Texas Legal Practice Forms
- RIA's Analysis of Federal Taxes

... And many more!! For a complete listing of titles and the library's policies, contact the Richardson Public Library at the number listed above.

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 9 pm

Friday - Saturday 10 am - 6 pm

Sunday 2 pm - 6 pm

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A Little Legal Humor...

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Stu's Views

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"Would the court reporter please mime that back to me?"

Receive This Newsletter Via E-mail!

You can now receive your copy of *Truth, Justice, and Information for All*, the official newsletter of the Collin County Law Library, as a PDF email attachment! If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail rather than from U.S. postal mail, please call the Library at: 972-424-1460 ext. 4260 or email us at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

**Note:* To view the newsletter, you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software installed. This software is available for free on the Web at: www.adobe.com



**THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY
WISHES YOU JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

