



Truth, Justice, and Information for All

The Official Newsletter of the Collin County Law Library

ISSUE 2004-03

www.co.collin.tx.us

Jul Aug Sep 2004



Practicing Outside of Collin County?



?

Research Question of the Day:

I have always been a Lexis user. Now that the Law Library offers Westlaw, I don't know where to begin. How can I get started searching in Westlaw?

To find the answer,
turn to Page 6!

?

Sooner or later, it happens to most attorneys: You've decided to do a favor for a family member and agreed to represent Uncle John in his divorce from Aunt Sue. The catch: Uncle John and Aunt Sue live in Williamson County, Texas. You've never practiced in Williamson County (not to mention ever even been there before). Not to worry! There are several resources available to help you with the ins and outs of practicing in other counties in Texas.

What are the Local Rules?

Texas Rules of Court—Local (Thomson West) provides the local rules of court for counties in Texas that have adopted such rules. Some counties have also provided rules for electronic filing and forms to be used for indigent defense in that county. This book is available at the Collin County Law Library; just ask a law librarian.

Where is the Courthouse?

www.texas.gov

The *Texas Online* web site offers links to the official web site of each county in Texas. (Note: not all counties in Texas have official web sites.) Most of these counties' pages have information regarding the hours and location of their courthouses, as well as information about the courts and clerks' offices.

What are the Filing Fees?

www.texascourthouseguide.com

This site provides a listing of filing fees for Texas counties. Note: This information is provided by county officials for each county and is subject to change.

**Receive This Newsletter
Via E-mail!**

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail rather than from U.S. postal mail, please call the Library at: 972-548-4260 or email us at: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

Law Library Newsletter Now in **COLOR!!!**

We are pleased to bring you *Truth, Justice, and Information for All* in full color beginning with this issue!



New on the Shelves...

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



- O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals 2004-2005
- O'Connor's Family Code Plus 2004-2005
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules, 2004 Revised Edition - from Thomson West
- Supreme Court Practice, 8th Edition - the Law Library has purchased a second copy to meet the high demand for this item!
- Texas Annotated Family Code - part of the new LexisNexis Texas Desktop Code Series
- Sampson & Tindall's Texas Family Code Annotated, August 2004 Edition
- Court-Appointed Legal Representation of Children in Texas Family Law Cases: a Practical Guide for Attorneys, by Debra H. Lehrmann - from LexisNexis



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

Call 972-548-4255 or email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us



Check It Out: Two Great New CLE Opportunities Available At the Collin County Law Library!

Now Available:

Federal Court Practice Course 2004

The Law Library is proud to offer the Federal Court Practice Course 2004 to attorneys. This course is considered as a "Self-Study" course by the State Bar of Texas. Because the course is taken by the attorney as a Self-Study, it does not qualify the attorney for a Certificate of Federal Court Practice to be used in Federal District Court. However, the course is worth up to 5 hours of State Bar of Texas Self-Study CLE credit. The DVDs and coursebook are available for check out at the Law Library.

Coming Soon:

Advanced Criminal Law Course 2004

The Collin County Law Library will be offering the State Bar of Texas Custom CLE Advanced Criminal Law Course 2004 to attorneys beginning this fall. Until the 2004 course becomes available, attorneys may still take the 2003 course for CLE credit. 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 credit. *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.

*For more information about this and other CLE opportunities available at the Collin County Law Library,
Call 972-548-4260 or email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us*

Internet Spotlight

Keeping Up with Federal Sentencing Guidelines News <http://sentencing.typepad.com>

With the recent ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Blakely v. Washington*, the Federal Sentencing Guidelines have been under fire lately. Douglas Berman, a law professor at Ohio State University in Columbus, created this blog (aka: Web log), which sifts through the headlines and follows major court decisions to bring you the latest news in the sentencing guidelines saga.

Federal Criminal Law www.fedcrimlaw.com

This site is devoted to following the ins and outs of federal criminal law. It includes a searchable database of over 8500 significant federal decisions.

Other useful services on this site include the *Apprendi Watch* feature, which keeps subscribers updated on the latest news and decisions relating to the significant *Apprendi* sentencing decision. There are also links to other helpful federal criminal law web sites, a weekly newsletter, current news articles, and more. Subscriptions run about \$18.95 per month for this service.



Health Privacy Project www.healthprivacy.org

Health Privacy Project maintains a website that offers up-to-date information about the 1996 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (**HIPAA**). Both state and federal health privacy laws are available on this site, and users may also sign up for an email newsletter to keep them updated on developments in health privacy law.

Science.gov - Firstgov for Science www.science.gov

“Science.gov has served as the gateway to reliable information about science and technology from across federal government organizations since its launch in December 2002 ... Science.gov 2.0 lets users search across 30 databases from 12 government science agencies (up from 10 agencies in version 1.0), as well as across 1,700 Web sites - that’s 47 million pages, with results presented in relevancy ranked order. Use of the site remains free with no registration required...”

Excerpted from “Science.gov 2.0 Launches with New Relevancy Ranking Technology” Paula J. Hane, *Information Today, Inc.*, 2004, available at: www.infotoday.com/newsbreaks/nb040524-1.shtml

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



Need a Speaker for Your Next Meeting?

Just Ask a Law Librarian!



The law librarians at the Collin County Law Library are always happy to come and speak at meetings of local associations and organizations. Perhaps your bar association is looking for a speaker for next month’s meeting; or maybe you are a member of a civic organization whose members would benefit from using the Law Library. In the past, we have spoken to bar associations, paralegal students, other libraries, senior citizens organizations, and student groups. Most recently, Law Library Director Judy McCullough spoke at a meeting of a local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees in McKinney about elder law information and resources available at the Law Library. We are available to give presentations on how to conduct legal research, as well as provide an overview of the services that the Law Library has to offer. If you would like the law librarians to come and speak to your organization, contact the Law Library at 972-548-4255 or email jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us.



Articles of Interest



“Rethinking Texas Evidence Rule 103”

Frederick C. Moss, Baylor Law Review v. 56, no. 2 (Spring 2004).

This article addresses the ambiguities of Rule 103 and attempts to make some sense of it for the attorney struggling to preserve error. The author consults case law interpretation of the rule as well as making his own recommendation for a revision of Rule 103 itself.

“Cross-Examination: The Rules of the Game”

Jacqueline M. Valdespino, American Journal of Family Law v. 18, no. 2 (Summer 2004).

This article offers some helpful suggestions for conducting cross-examination of a witness specifically in family law cases. What makes this article particularly useful is the Appendix, which contains a list of sample questions for use in cross-examination of a Guardian Ad Litem.

“Take ‘Mandatory’ Out of Arbitration Agreements”

Paula Greisen and Alison Butler Daniels, TRIAL v. 40, no. 8 (August 2004), p. 28-33.

This article examines the law and various issues facing employees who sign mandatory arbitration agreements. It discusses the question of whether or not the employee, by signing such an agreement, is giving up his or her right to sue.

“Creative Advocacy in Voluntary Alternative Dispute Resolution”

Victoria L. Herring, TRIAL v. 40, no. 8 (August 2004), p. 40-42.

“Trials can be emotionally satisfying for both plaintiffs and lawyers, but sometimes a less dramatic resolution better serves the client, especially in employment cases. Participants in ADR can look beyond monetary payments to fashion other, more creative solutions that give plaintiffs closure and ensure a positive ending for all.” *From TRIAL above, p. 4.*



Copies of these articles and any related court cases are available at the Law Library.

Just ask a law librarian!

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



Westlaw Training Available in the Law Library

With the addition of Westlaw to the Attorney Workstation, the Law Library is offering individualized one-on-one training in Westlaw by a law librarian. While Westlaw is similar to Lexis in many ways, the overall interface of each of these databases is very different. Research is conducted differently in each of these systems, but the fundamentals of searching are the same. For example, Westlaw and Lexis use the same terms and connectors search operations. Attorneys who would like assistance in learning how to use the various features of Westlaw may schedule an appointment for training in the Law Library with a librarian. Training sessions will last approximately 30 minutes. *NOTE: To assist attorneys in the transition from Lexis to Westlaw, Lexis will still be available at the Workstation through September 30th.*



Library News

A New Face in the Law Library

The Law Library is pleased to welcome Rebecca Poli, our new library intern. Rebecca came on board in June and is assisting the librarians in various projects in the Law Library this summer. After earning a Bachelor of Science of Computer Information Systems from DeVry Institute of Technology in 1997, she is now studying at the University of North Texas



School of Library and Information Science with a specialization in legal research. Rebecca expects to earn her Master of Library Science degree in December 2004.

Welcome, Rebecca!

Westlaw Now Available at Attorney Workstation

Westlaw is now available for use by attorneys at the Attorney Workstation in the Law Library. Databases available in Westlaw include: all state and federal cases, all state and federal statutes, Texas Court Rules, CFR, Texas Jurisprudence 3d, Texas Practice Series, Texas Forms Legal & Business, Texas Jurisprudence Pleading & Practice Forms, Texas journals & law reviews, and more. Users may also make an appointment with a librarian for individual training in Westlaw use (*see article on page 4, bottom*). There is also a handy guide to using the basic features of Westlaw on Page 6 of this newsletter; and be sure to look for our "Using Westlaw" user guide handout available in the Law Library.

New in Town? Join a Local Bar Association!

One of the most important ways to get your new law practice established is to attend local bar association meetings. These organizations provide helpful networking opportunities and CLE programs, as well as providing professional resources and advice for attorneys new to the area. Collin County has several different bar associations available:

Collin County Bar Association

When: 3rd Friday of each month, 12 noon

Where: Brazos Cattle Company restaurant in Allen

President: Bob Hultkrantz 972-562-5291

Frisco Bar Association

When: 2nd Friday of each month, 12 noon

Where: Terrelli's Restaurant on Preston Rd. in Frisco

Web Site: www.friscoabar.org

Collin County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

When: 2nd Thursday of each month, 12 noon

Where: Emilia's restaurant on the Square in McKinney

President: Deric Walpole deric@boyd-veigel.com

Plano Bar Association

When: 1st Friday of each month, 12 noon

Where: Tino's Mexican Restaurant in Collin Creek Mall in Plano

Web Site: www.planobar.com

?

I have always been a Lexis user. Now that the Law Library offers Westlaw, I don't know where to begin. How can I get started searching in Westlaw?

To Find a Document by Citation:

If you know the citation of the document you are looking for you can find a document easily by entering the citation itself in the "Shortcut" window on the left-hand side of the screen. In the "Find by Citation" box, enter your citation and select "GO." Your document will then be displayed on the right-hand side of the screen.

Using Keycite:

To "Shepardize" a case in Westlaw, you will use the Keycite feature. If you know the citation, enter it in the "Keycite" box located in the "Shortcuts" window on the left-hand side of the screen and select "GO." A result list will be displayed on the right-hand side of the screen showing the cases cited. You will find options for additional citing information located on the left-hand side of the screen. Choosing the "History" option will display the subsequent history of the case, while choosing "Citing References" will display a list of documents that cite your document. **To Keycite a case you have already retrieved**, click on the "KeyCite" logo located on the left-hand side of the screen. To view your Keycite results list, select the "Results List" tab.

To Search Using Terms:

From the Welcome screen, enter the terms (and any connector values) you want to search into the "Search For" box located on the right-hand side of the screen. Then select the database(s) in which you want to search. Click "GO." The result list display will show all cases that meet the search criteria you entered. From there, you may review any cases that you find relevant by clicking the case name. Additionally, the "ResultsPlus" list located on the right-hand side of the screen offers additional resources relating to the topic you are researching.

A Little Legal Humor...

Reprinted with permission.

Stu's Views

© 2002 Stu All Rights Reserved www.stus.com



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

**Collin County Law Library
210 S. McDonald St., Suite 203
McKinney, TX 75069**

Judy McCullough, Director of Law Library
phone: 972-424-1460 ext. 4255
email: jmccullough@co.collin.tx.us

Katy Gill, Assistant Law Librarian
phone: 972-424-1460 ext. 4260
email: kgill@co.collin.tx.us

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm

Visit us on the Web:
www.co.collin.tx.us
www.texasjudge.com