



# TRUTH, JUSTICE AND INFORMATION FOR ALL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

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WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

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## Useful Internet Sites and Articles

### Texas Register—Portal to Texas History

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TR/>

The Portal to Texas History is a site created and maintained by the University of North Texas and contains “rare, historical and primary source materials from or about Texas.” One publication of note is the *Texas Register*. The *Texas Register* is a weekly publication that records state agency rule making and review actions, governor’s appointments, attorney general opinions, and requests for proposals. When agencies such as the Department of Agriculture or the Texas Workforce Commission adopt a new rule, the agencies must file the final rule with the Office of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State then publishes the final rule in the *Texas Register*. These adopted rules are then codified in the *Texas Administrative Code*. Similarly, before an agency adopts a new rule, the agency is required to file a notice of the proposed rule with the Secretary of State. These notices are published in the *Texas Register*. While the *Texas Register* is published weekly, an index of either new or amended rules is published quarterly. These quarterly indexes are then combined into an annual index at the end of the year. The regular weekly issues of the *Texas Register* are yellow and the quarterly and annual indexes are blue. The Portal to Texas History provides free access to all of the issues from Volume 1, No. 1 (January 6, 1976), to the present. The Texas Secretary of State publishes all of the print versions of the *Texas Register* but the electronic versions available on the Secretary of State website only date back one calendar year.



### TRAIL— Texas Records and Information Locator

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/trail/index.html>

Another place to locate final decisions, proposals for final decisions, and regulations issued by state agencies is directly through the various agencies’ websites. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission created the Texas Records and Information Locator (TRAIL), which holds an archive of more than 180 Texas state agency web servers. *Texas Government Code* 441.102 established TRAIL “to allow electronic access, including access through the Internet, at the Texas State Library and other depository libraries to state publications that have been made available to the public through the Internet by or on behalf of a state agency.” According to its website, the mission of TRAIL is to “provide access to Texas state government information contained in electronic publications. TRAIL facilitates ready access to the information for Texas citizens and other users.” TRAIL provides the following information for every state agency: contact information, addresses, phone numbers, links to enabling legislation for the agency, and a link to the agency’s official website. The list of state agencies is available at the following link:

<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/lrs/agencies/index.html>. TRAIL has archived agency websites since 2007. The list of state agencies has a link to the archived websites and when selected, that link will reveal the exact dates and years of the captures. Below is a small snapshot of TRAIL’s list of agencies.

Agency	TRAIL Website Archived
Accountancy, Board of Public	Y N Y A
Administrative Hearings Office of	Y N Y A
Affordable Housing Corporation	Y N Y A
Agging and Enabling Division, Dept. of	Y N Y A
Agriculture, Dept. of	Y N Y A A
Agriculture Extension Services, Texas (no longer archived)	Y N Y A A
Agriculture Research, Texas (no longer archived)	Y N Y A A
Alcoholic Beverage Commission	Y N Y A
Arbitration Board	Y N Y A
Antiquities and Historic Preservation Authority	Y N Y A

## Spotlight on the Supremes

There is an interesting and information-filled blog for the United States Supreme Court. The blog includes breaking news, links to merit cases, Supreme Court statistics, and a link to “Plain English” versions of high profile cases heard by the Supreme Court. Videos of various Justices’ speeches at conferences and universities are also available for free viewing. The blog is available here: <http://www.scotusblog.com/>

**SCOTUS**blog  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES BLOG

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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 November 6, 2017, the Collin County Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of the Collin County Courthouse to the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building after the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. A Plano resident, Russell Steindam graduated from Plano High School and the University of Texas and later joined the United States Army, becoming an Army Ranger. First Lieutenant Steindam volunteered for Vietnam and then volunteered to lead a night ambush patrol on February 1, 1970. First Lieutenant Steindam demonstrated both bravery and self-sacrifice and saved the lives of all nearby members of his command group. Russell Steindam is one of only two soldiers from Collin County to have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The other soldier was Audie Murphy. More of Russell Steindam’s story is available at the following link to the Texas State Historical Association:

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fstqp>.



## Library Reminders

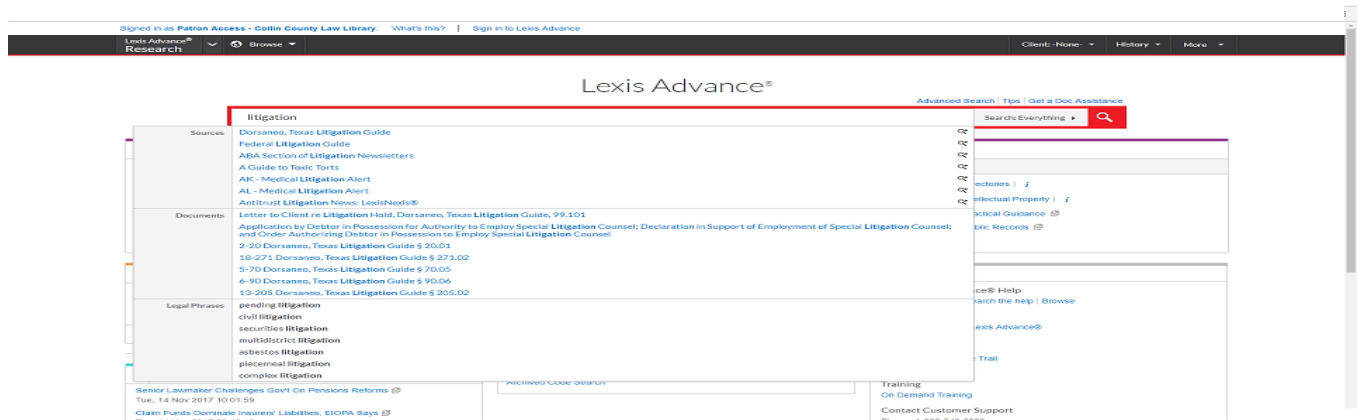
Unfortunately the law library will no longer accept IOUs for payment. Prints and copies are \$0.10 per page and faxes are \$1.50 for the first page and \$1.00 for each subsequent page. The acceptable methods of payment are cash or a check with a current driver’s license. Payment must be made at the time of purchase. Receipts will be offered upon request.



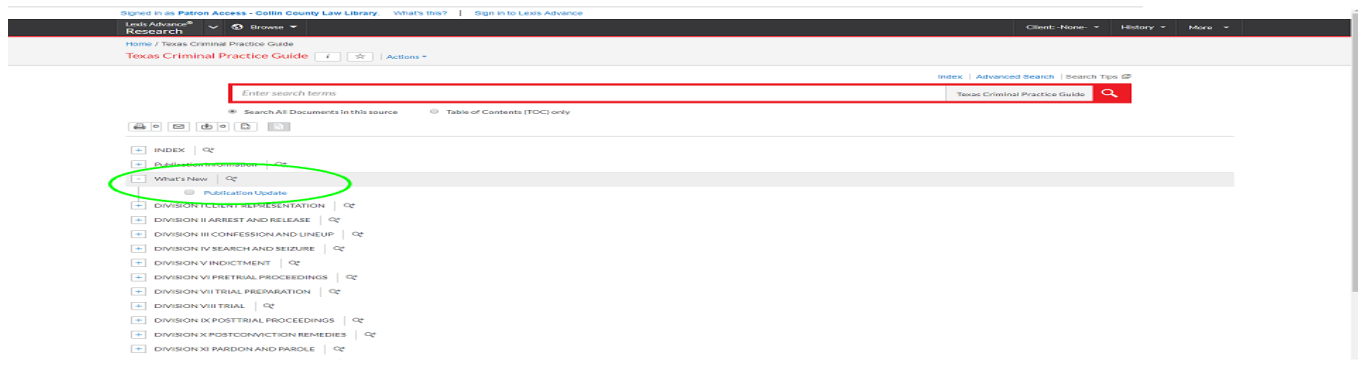
Please remember to sign out of your email when using the library computers, particularly if using Google Chrome. These computers are used multiple times a day by several different users and signing out of email accounts ensures your privacy.

## Lexis Advance Tips

The Curt B. Henderson Law Library reminds its patrons that Lexis Advance is available for use on the public computer terminals. One of the extremely useful features of Lexis Advance is the ability to search specific resources such as *Dorsaneo's Litigation Guide* or the *Texas Transaction Guide*. Either a full or partial name of the specific resource to be searched may be entered into the red search box:



By entering a full or partial name, Lexis Advance will populate a list of sources, documents and legal phrases to be searched. Just like the books, the online versions of the materials are kept current and up to date. Another unique trait to Lexis Advance is that it provides a “What’s New” tab for the guides, such as the *Texas Criminal Practice Guide*. Simply type the guide to be searched and once it pulls up the guide, expand the What’s New section and click on Publication Update. This will provide a brief overview of all the updates made and how current the updates are.



## Tech Tips: More Useful Apps and Law Blogs

- NextChapter New Online Client Portal—NextChapter is a cloud-based bankruptcy software for attorneys allowing them to easily track bankruptcy filings. NextChapter just released an online portal for debtors which allows clients to fill out a bankruptcy questionnaire online so the attorney has all the relevant information prior to the initial meeting. <https://www.lawsitesblog.com/2017/11/nextchapter-unveils-nextchapter-portal-bankruptcy-debtors.html>
- <https://www.aallnet.org/mm/Publications/spectrum/spectrum-online/legal-apps.html>—The American Association of Law Libraries published a free online article entitled, “Good Apps Aren’t Hard to Find: Resources for Finding Legal Apps.” With more than 500,000 apps available through iTunes and another 600,000 apps offered by Google Play, the author, Emily Lawson, points out it’s impractical to provide a “best of” legal app list. Alternatively, she suggests a number of ways to search through the apps to locate the ones best suited to the searcher’s needs. These suggestions include legal publisher websites, legal technology blogs and websites, and app search engines. Ms. Lawson provides website links for each suggestion in her article.



**The Law Library will be closed November 23-24 for Thanksgiving**



**The Law Library will be closed December 25-26 for Christmas**



**The Law Library will be closed January 1 for New Year's Day**



**The Law Library will be closed January 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

## New on the Shelf:

- O'Connor's Texas Estates Code *Plus*, 2017-2018
- O'Connor's Texas Crimes & Consequences, 2017-2018
- O'Connor's Texas Family Code *Plus*, 2017-2018
- O'Connor's Texas Property Code *Plus*, 2017-2018
- O'Connor's Texas CPR *Plus*, 2017-2018
- Texas Business Organizations Code *Plus*, 2017-2018
- Police Misconduct Law and Litigation, 3rd Edition
- Texas Law Enforcement Handbook, 2017-2018 Edition
- Texas Criminal Lawyer's Handbook, Volumes 1 and 2— Revision 18
- Texas Criminal and Traffic Law Manual, 2017-2018 Edition
- Vehicle Search Law and Deskbook, 2017-2018 Edition
- Kinkeade & McColloch's Texas Penal Code Annotated, 2017-2018 Edition
- West's Texas Statutes and Codes: Texas Penal Code, 2018 Edition
- Treatise on Constitutional Law: Substance and Procedure, 5th Edition, Volumes 1-6
- Ineffective Assistance of Counsel, 2017 Edition
- How Insurance Companies Settle Cases, Revision 27
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure and Rules, 2017 Revised Edition
- Federal Criminal Code and Rules, 2017 Revised Edition

## A Little Legal Humor

