



The Information Edge

Current Legal News from Collin County's
Curt B. Henderson Law Library

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WWW.COLLINCOUNTYTX.GOV

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Useful Internet Sites and Articles

Equal Justice Center

- *What is the EJC?*

EJC has offices in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio and provides legal help and advocacy throughout the State of Texas. The EJC fights to ensure that all workers can enforce their basic rights in the workplace, and works to empower working families in Texas to achieve fair treatment in the justice system.

Legal Action to Support Workers' Rights

The EJC provides direct legal representation to individuals to enforce their rights in the workplace. Through their legal assistance, they show workers how they can access the justice system and enforce their basic employment rights at work, regardless of their immigration status. Since 2003, the EJC has helped low-income working people recover over \$12.5 million dollars in unpaid wages. Their employment law representation helps workers who have not been paid at all for their work; workers who have not been paid the legal minimum wage, overtime wages, or prevailing wage rates; low-wage workers who have experienced workplace discrimination, including sexual harassment; and working people who have suffered retaliation for speaking up about their wages or working conditions.

The EJC provides specialized employment law help to survivors of sexual assault, including victims of sexual assault in the workplace and other survivors who need their employer's accommodation, support, and protection. The EJC's legal representation can help survivors sustain stable employment, gain security in their workplace, recover compensation for injuries, and hold culpable employers properly accountable. In addition, the EJC collaborates with other service providers across Texas to provide holistic support and assistance to survivors

of sexual assault. Proactively, the EJC also works to encourage employers to adopt work safety practices that prevent sexual assault in the workplace.

The EJC provides specialized employment law help to temporary foreign guest workers who are often exploited while working in the U.S. through temporary visa programs, such as the H-2B, H-2A, and J-1 programs. They also specialize in providing legal services to survivors of labor trafficking.

Workers' Rights Education

They work closely with their clients, so that they will learn how to be strong advocates for their own workplace rights, how to use the legal system more effectively, how to advocate collectively with other workers and organizations, and how to teach these skills to others. They conduct employment rights education programs that empower low-income working people with knowledge about their rights and how to enforce those rights safely and effectively.

DACA

As a part of the Equal Justice Center's mission of empowering working families to obtain fair treatment in the workplace and society, the EJC provides legal assistance to undocumented students and graduates undergoing the renewal process for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). They have helped well over a thousand individuals across Texas obtain temporary protection from deportation and employment authorization through DACA, which allows these young people to secure better jobs and earnings and a better future for themselves and their families.

EQUAL

JUSTICE

CENTER

Copies of these articles are available in the library, or from the law librarian via email:
jsims@co.collin.tx.us

Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co., 1968 U.S. Lexis 2980

June 17th, 2023 will be the 55th anniversary of the landmark decision by the Supreme Court in Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co.

Joseph Lee and Barbara Jo Jones wanted a four-bedroom home in the suburbs. They toured the new Paddock Woods subdivision near Parker Road, saw a model they liked and picked a lot on Hyde Park Drive. They went to Alfred H. Mayer Co., the county's biggest homebuilder, and offered \$28,195. No Deal, said the sales agent, who was blunt about his reason—Joseph Jones was black.

The mixed-race couple had married in 1961 and were living in north St. Louis. He was 33 and from Mississippi, she 31 and from Kirkwood. They both worked for the Veterans Administration. "We are just two nobodies who wanted a house," Barbara Jones said. They went to the Greater St. Louis Committee for Freedom of Residence, a group that promoted integrated housing, and talked to its chairman, lawyer Samuel Liberman II. He filed federal suit in September 1965.

On June 17, 1968, the U.S. Supreme Court Issued a landmark 7-2 ruling, declaring there was no right to refuse to sell a home because of a buyer's race. "the right thing was done," Joseph Jones said. But they never got that dream home on Hyde Park. During their three-year wait, they lost in the U.S. District Court and the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which said federal law didn't prohibit a private seller from discriminating according to race. Meanwhile, Mayer sold all the lots in Paddock Woods, a mile north of Interstate 270.

Liberman's argument was that the Civil Rights Act of 1866, adopted to enforce the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery, gave blacks equal rights to property ownership. The lower courts had said that law applied only to government action. The Supreme Court heard arguments on April 2, 1968, two days before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in Memphis. The Assassination jolted Congress into adopting the Fair Housing Act one month before the Supreme Court ruled in the Jones Case.

Photo and text provided by www.stltoday.com



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT)

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas is offering free pro-se assistance to those who qualify every Thursday in the conference room of the 429th District Court in the Collin County Courthouse.

For more information please contact:
(972) 542-9405

Do I benefit from **LEGAL AID?**



Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas (LANWT) offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Texans who wouldn't otherwise be able to secure such legal representation.

Practices include:

- Support for Families
- Preserving the Home
- Maintaining Economic Stability
- Safety, Stability and Health
- Individuals with Special Needs
- Problems Affecting Groups of Individuals

Workers Defense Project—*Proyecto Defensa Laboral*

Workers Defense seeks to rebuild the construction industry and give power to the people who drive it..

From their about us page: workersdefense.org/en/about-us/

- Immigrant workers are the backbone of the construction industry. Without them, our cities would not grow and our neighborhoods would cease to be built. Not only does the work of construction workers impact the way communities function, but their labor is essential to healthy economies at both the city and state level. However, despite their incredible importance, immigrant construction workers are routinely treated as disposable and disrespected.
- By creating a community-led organization for workers' rights, we seek to stop this cycle of negligence and empower construction workers to secure the basic workplace rights they are entitled to, from paid sick leave to humane working conditions. We nurture a community that can protect its own and ultimately change the way the construction industry is run. In doing so, we work each day to create a more just system that recognizes the power that construction workers hold.



Workers Defense Project
Proyecto Defensa Laboral

Contact Information:

Jonathan Sims
Law Librarian
Email:
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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?

Texas Law Help maintains an event page/calendar where those in need may be able to track down legal assistance from attorneys and discuss a legal issue one-on-one at a clinic hosted by a reliable nonprofit partner. Most clinics offer virtual appointments in order to maintain COVID-19 safety protocol.

Visit texaslawhelp.org/events for more info

**TEXAS
LAW
HELP
★ORG**

Important Announcement

Please keep in mind that if you are not comfortable visiting the library in person to do research during the pandemic, we have a number of resources available online. While we cannot provide legal advice, we may be able to guide you to the resources or forms necessary to assist you in your situation.

Library staff may be reached at 972-548-4255 or 972-548-4260.





**The Law Library
will be closed**

**May 29th for Memorial
Day and July 4th for Inde-
pendence Day.**

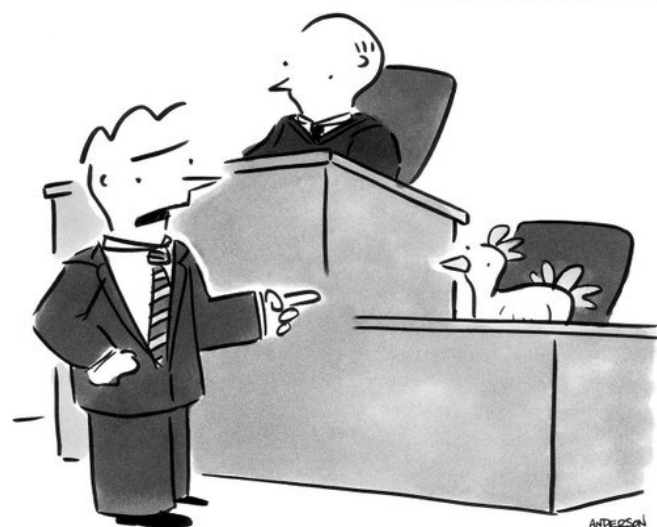


New on the Shelf

- ◆ Bender's Immigration and Nationality Act Pamphlet—2023 Edition
- ◆ Federal Criminal Code and Rules—2023 Edition
- ◆ Federal Employment Codes Plus—2023-24 Edition
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action Pleadings—2023
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Civil Appeals—2023
- ◆ O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms—2023
- ◆ Rights of Juveniles—2023 Edition
- ◆ Davis's Texas Estate Planning Forms—2023
- ◆ Professional Responsibility in Criminal Defense Practice—4th Edition
- ◆ Texas Forms: Real Estate / Commercial & Residential—2023
- ◆ Employment Evidence—Revision 19



Legal Humor



"I'll ask you once more, and I remind you that you are under oath! *Why did you cross the road?!*"