

The Information Edge

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

Summer 2026

Issue 2026-02 **www.collincountytx.gov** **May - July 2026**

Listen And Learn Hours

Are you considering or have you recently filed a divorce?
Our 3rd Listen And Learn Hour, on **Thursday, June 18, 2026, 12:30 - 1:30 pm**, will address **Divorce**.

Do you have questions regarding federal taxes or the Internal Revenue Service?
Our 4th Listen and Learn Hour, on **Thursday, July 16, 2026, 12:30 - 1:30 pm**, will address the **I.R.S. and federal taxes**.

An attorney from **Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas** will lead these sessions.
For sign up or more information, please contact:
lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us
or Caroline Escamilla, Asst. Law Librarian/Pro Se Coordinator at:
cescamilla@co.collin.tx.us
214-491-4817

Pro Se Clinic

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas provides legal help for qualifying low-income people on **Thursdays, 8:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m.** in the **429th District Court**

Reminders

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

Payment Policy: **CASH** only
Copies and Forms:
$0.10/page, rounded down to the nearest dollar

Note: Computers automatically delete downloads at 4:50 p.m.

Library Closures

The Law Library will be closed on:
Mon, May 25, 2026
for **Memorial Day**;
and Friday, July, 3, 2026
for **Independence Day**.

Contact Info

Email: lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us
Phone: 972-548-4255
Kimberly Manzano, Law Librarian
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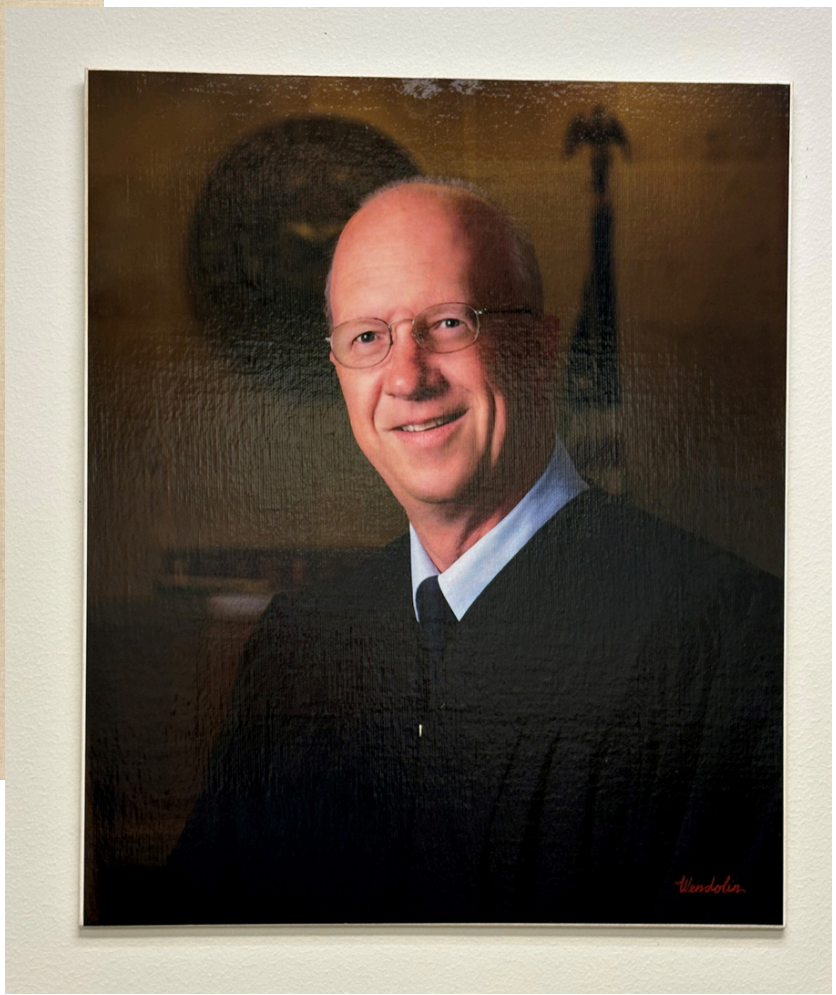


Honoring Judge Curt B. Henderson

Upon Judge Henderson's retirement in 2010, the Collin County Commissioners named the County Law Library the Curt B. Henderson Law Library. In 2011, the Collin County Bar Association inaugurated the Curt B. Henderson Inn of Court, Collin County's affiliation with the American Inns of Court system. Judge Henderson presided over thousands of cases, and more than 680 jury trials in his 25 years as a trial judge. It was an honor and privilege to interview Judge Henderson for "The Information Edge," the Curt B. Henderson Law Library's quarterly newsletter.







Honoring Judge Curt B. Henderson - continued

Judge Henderson kindly responded to our questions in writing:

Dear law library patrons,

Serving as a District Judge in Collin County was one of the great privileges of my life and career. When I graduated law school and entered the workforce (initially as a prosecutor), I never in my wildest imagination could I have dreamed of becoming a District Judge.

The favorite part of my experience as judge were trials by jury. A jury trial embodies the best representation of the American legal/judicial system. During the jury selection process, potential jurors are educated about our system by excellent and experienced attorneys who have to overcome years of misinformation and unfounded myths about the trial process.

My emphasis as a district judge was to make sure that there was the highest level of confidence in the process taking place in the courtroom. For the most part my job as judge was not to determine outcomes, but rather to manage the case, control the tone of the courtroom and make sure the parties and attorneys appearing before me followed longstanding and accepted rules of procedure and evidence. And to that end, I insisted that the participants presented competent evidence that aided the jury in reaching their verdict and acted with proper decorum: dignified and respectful. While some may think that's old fashioned, it was my experience that jurors welcomed and appreciated the dignity and respectful behavior of the participants.

After I retired from the bench I did a few years of mediation work and visiting judge assignments. My wife and I also traveled extensively; seeing all those places you would want to see and experience if you had the time and means. In 2018 my wife and I moved to Houston to be near our grandchildren, which has been a great decision. We had previously purchased a second home in Colorado and spent a great deal of our summers there.

I continued to work part-time as an arbitrator until the 4th of July 2025, a date I will never forget because on that day my wife took me to the emergency room at the local hospital near our home in Colorado. I was told that I had brain tumors and an aggressive form of brain cancer. So that journey with MD Anderson Cancer Center began immediately and that journey continues to this day.

Even today, as I reflect, I am grateful for the trust that the community placed in me back in 1988, and for the many lawyers, clerks, and staff members who made the work of the court meaningful. I am also immensely honored to have the law library named after me. I had no clue that the naming was in the works and was very surprised and honored when it was announced. I have not been inside the Collin County Courthouse since 2010. I'm sure it is a much different place from the place I knew, with different faces and priorities and challenges.

I've been asked to leave a bit of advice to the new young lawyers. First, become an excellent lawyer who is always prepared, and exhibit professionalism and integrity Find out who the great local lawyers are and ask if you can shadow them on a case. Treat everyone with dignity and respect."

Sincerely,

Judge Curt B. Henderson

Texas Becomes First State to End American Bar Association Role in Lawyer Admissions

The Texas Supreme Court has finalized a plan to end its reliance on the American Bar Association for law school accreditation and instead establish its own list of law schools whose graduates may practice in the state. Additional information may be found in this Reuters article dated January 7, 2026: https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/texas-becomes-first-state-end-aba-role-lawyer-admissions-2026-01-07/

The Texas Supreme Court Final Approval of Amendments to Rule 1 Governing Admission to the Bar of Texas, signed March 27, 2026, may be found on the Texas Judicial Branch website at txcourts.gov; Supreme Court; Administrative Orders.

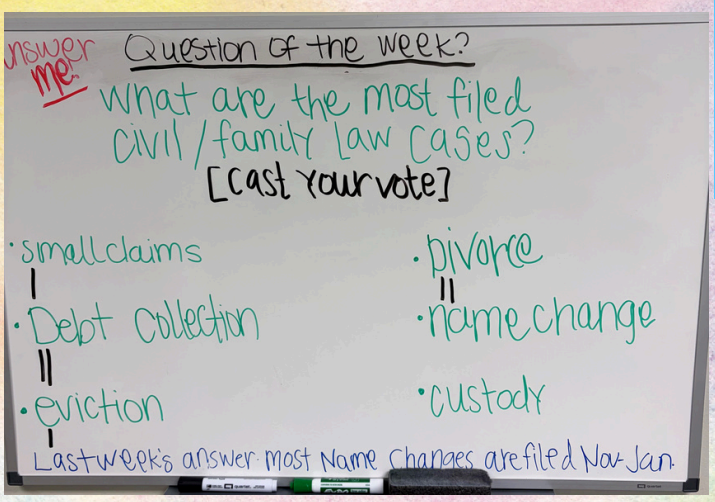
DOJ, VA Sign Agreement to Implement Guardianship Process for Veterans

The U.S. Veterans Administration has implemented a new Guardianship process via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the VA and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

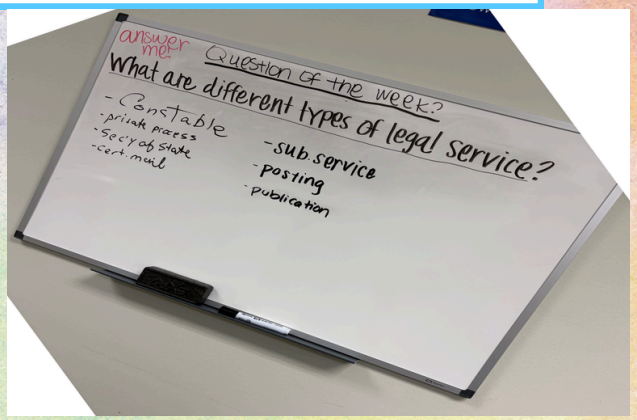
The MOU gives the DOJ the authority to appoint VA attorneys as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys. That appointment will give VA attorneys the legal authority to initiate and participate in state court guardianship or conservatorship proceedings when required for Veterans.

Additional information related to the VA Guardianship process may be found in this press release from the DOJ: https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doj-va-sign-agreement-improve-care-nations-most-vulnerable-veterans

What's New in the Law Library



The Law Library has a new whiteboard with a "Question of the Week." Patrons may ask/answer common legal questions to help one another.







Some of the Law Library staff participated in the "Tails & Trails" 5K Run/Walk on April 11, 2026 to support Collin County Animal Services.







Law Day – May 1, 2026

The American Bar Association website states:

The 2026 Law Day theme is "The Rule of Law and the American Dream." The rule of law - the idea that no person is above the law - is what ensures the rights of the people to live their lives as freely as possible and to pursue their dreams. The ABA encourages all Americans to recognize Law Day on May 1, 2026, and to reflect on how the rule of law ensures all Americans have the ability to fulfill their dreams.

Are you interested in receiving a digital copy of this newsletter, "The Information Edge"? Please email us to be added to our Newsletter Distribution List at:

lawlibrary@co.collin.tx.us



New on the Shelf

- O'Connor's Texas Family Law Forms 2026
- Texas Guardianship Manual 2024
- Questioning Techniques and Tactics 2026
- Federal Civil Judicial Procedure & Rules 2026
- Search & Seizures Arrests & Confessions, Volumes 1-2, 2026 Edition
- Federal Criminal Code & Rules 2026
- Federal Sentencing Law & Practice, Volumes 1-2, 2026 Edition
- Davis's Texas Estate Planning Forms 2026
- O' Connor's Texas Rules Civil Trials 2026
- Texas Family Law Practice Manual, Volumes 1-3 & Practice Notes, 2026 Edition









Legal Humor



"Sustained. Defendant will stop making puppy dog eyes at the jury."