

Douglas County Law Library

E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 7, No. 4; April 2010

Contents

- Meeting and Event Announcements
- CourtWEB
- Reels of Justice Film Series
- Current Art Gallery Exhibition
- New Acquisitions
- Did You Know?
- This Month In Legal History
- Law Library Volunteer Opportunities
- Feedback
- Submitting Articles for Newsletter
- To Subscribe
- Classified Ads

Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting will be on the 9th.

CourtWEB

CourtWEB is a free "online federal court opinions information system." It "provides information on selected opinions of those judges of the Federal Courts who elect to make information available on this site." There are two types of on-line searches

available, a Quick Search that retrieves basic information about the opinion, and a Full Text Search that retrieves the entire opinion. The database does not have access to all Federal Court jurisdictions, but the intention is eventually to include all of them. Currently, none of the Federal Court jurisdictions for Kansas and Missouri are represented.

Both Lexis and Westlaw provide some access to this type of material, so CourtWEB would be more useful to researchers who do not have easy access to one of these on-line databases.

The web address for the site is <http://courtweb.pamd.uscourts.gov/courtweb/CourtWeb.aspx>.

Reels of Justice Film Series

The next screening in the Library's free Reels of Justice Film Series will be *Dial M for Murder*, starring Ray Milland, Grace Kelly, and Robert Cummings, and directed by Alfred Hitchcock. It will be shown at 2:00 PM, Sunday, May 23rd in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. Mark your calendars.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The April exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are pastels by Kathleen Hoff-Harvey.

The exhibits will run through the end of April. All pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Ms. Hoff-Harvey is available in the Library.

The May 2010 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be art glass by Daniel Kettle. More information on the exhibits will be in the May E-Mail Newsletter.

For more information on past, current, and future Art Gallery exhibitions, or for more information on the Art Gallery, please consult the Art Gallery page on the Law Library's website.

If you would like to exhibit your art in our gallery, or know of local artists who would like to show their original art here, contact the Law Library at 838-2477 or by e-mail at info@douglascolawlibrary.org.

New Acquisitions

Newly acquired material added to the Law Library's holdings:

AALL Spectrum, v.14:5 (Mar. 2009).

ALM Experts, Litigators' Trusted Legal Resource: Midwestern Directory, 2010.

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 28:12 and v. 29:1 (Feb. 2010 and March 2010).

Internet guide for the legal researcher newsletter, v. 5:2 (Mar./Apr. 2010).

Juvenile Justice Update, v. 16:1 (Feb./Mar. 2010).

Kansas Sentencing Guidelines, Desk Reference Manual, 2009.

Kansas Statutes Annotated, 2009 Supplements.

Kansas Trial Handbook, 2nd ed., 2010 Pocket Part.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 47:3 (Mar. 2010).

Did You Know?

Every month, a bit of Law Library trivia is posted in the Law Library and on the Law Library's website. The previous month's "Did You Know" tidbit is then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

March's entry was:

- The Law Library is always looking for local artists to exhibit their work in the Douglas County Law Library and District Court Division IV art galleries.

This Month In Legal History

April 20, 1970 - The Kansas Union burns.

After the end of World War I, there was interest at the University of Kansas to find a way to honor the school's students and alumni who had died in the War. William J. Baumgartner, professor of zoology at the University, proposed that a memorial student union be built to fill that role. In late 1920, a fund-raising effort called the "Million Dollar Drive" was begun to raise money to build a stadium and student union building at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The intention was that each would be a me-

morial to the dead of World War I. Building of the stadium began first, and by late 1921, the initial section was completed, with football games being played there that fall. A hillside site to the southeast of the stadium was chosen for the union building so that the two structures would be visible from each other. Irving K. Pond of the Chicago architectural firm Pond and Pond designed an 80 by 135 foot union building. Construction expenses for the stadium had used up most of the money that had been raised, which delayed groundbreaking for the union building until commencement in 1925. The exterior of the building, constructed of brick made at Lansing State Prison and trimmed with cut Indiana limestone, was finished in 1926, but because it was just a hollow shell, it became known as "Baumgartner's Folly." When it opened in September 1927, most of the interior of the Union was still unfinished. As funds permitted over the next decade, lounges, game rooms, a cafeteria, and a ballroom were completed. Major additions were completed in 1952, 1960, and 1969, the results being a building double its original size with north and south wings flanking a central core. By the spring of 1970, the racial and student unrest that had been affecting other parts of the country began boiling over in Lawrence. At about 9:13 in the evening of April 20, 1970, three firebombs were tossed through a window of the Unified School District 497 Administration Center located just south of the high school. Only one went off, and the resulting blaze was put out by someone using a fire extinguisher, with the fire causing only minor damage. A fire truck responding to the call reportedly had shots fired at it. No damage or injuries resulted, but the firefighters reported seeing muzzle flashes and an unidentified gunman. A little more than an hour later, at 10:25 p.m., an employee checking out the Pine Room on the 5th floor of the Kansas Union noticed nothing out of the ordinary. However, just five minutes later,

someone smelled smoke, and by 10:40 p.m., the area was engulfed in flames. A fire call was made and nearly the entire Lawrence Fire Department responded, sending four pumper trucks, a hook and ladder truck, and a snorkel truck to the scene. The fire spread quickly and broke through the roof in the west part of the building around 11:00 p.m. The firefighters, augmented by more than a hundred student volunteers, fought the blaze from inside the building and on the roof. They were hampered by there being no source of water inside the building, which required fire hoses to be stretched from outside hydrants into the building and up the stairs to the top floors. Students helped firefighters haul the heavy fire hoses into the building and up the interior stairs to get water on the fire. They struggled against the weight of the hoses, and the dense, acrid smoke billowing down the stairwells. One firefighter told the young volunteers, "If the roof collapses, you're all dead," but they ignored his warning and continued to help. Other young people, university and high school students, carried furniture and artwork to the relative safety of the new north wing of the building. Some brought blankets to cover artwork that could not be moved, and others brought food and coffee for the men fighting the blaze. By 11:30 p.m., the worst part of the fire was in the area above the 5th floor ballroom. At about 12:30 a.m., flames burst through the roof over the ballroom, leaping over forty feet in the air, the spectacular blaze being visible for miles. Despite the best efforts of the crews of the snorkel and hook and ladder trucks, a large portion of the flaming roof collapsed into the ballroom. The collapse of the roof marked the high point of the blaze, which was soon brought under control and put out. Except for one or two firefighters being overcome by smoke, there were no injuries to anyone in the building at the start of the fire, firefighters battling the blaze, or student volunteers helping the firefighters.

Later in the day, Kansas Governor Robert Docking declared a three-day dusk to dawn curfew in Lawrence and sent in Kansas Highway Patrol troopers and members of the Kansas National Guard to assist the Lawrence Police maintain order. 40,000 square feet of the top two floors of the Union's central core, including the ballroom, were destroyed, and the other four floors in the central core and some areas of the south wing suffered severe water damage. Although \$50,000 worth of art had been rescued from fire and water by student, water was standing in the Kansas Union Bookstore, and much of its \$500,000 inventory of books was damaged or destroyed. Estimates for repair of the building ranged up to \$2,000,000. Despite the destruction, some undamaged portions of the Union opened for limited services on April 24th. Given the turmoil going on in the City at the time, arson was immediately suspected. Both the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation were brought in. The origin of the fire was traced to a petroleum-based fuel being ignited in a men's restroom on the 5th floor. There was much speculation as to who had started the fire, and why. Some thought it was done by local individuals. Others thought it was done by outside agitators. The FBI suspected three unidentified older black males who were supposedly seen exiting the restroom not long before the fire. A few days after the fire, a white KU student who had helped save furniture and artwork during the fire, and two black men were arrested by the Department of Public Safety, allegedly for carrying a Molotov cocktail. For a while, they were prime suspects in the arson, but were never charged. A massive clean-up effort was undertaken to get the Union ready for the Fall 1970 semester. By the beginning of classes on August 31, areas of the Union open to the public had been so restored that incoming freshmen could see little if any sign of the conflagration that had occurred

in the building just four months before. Because the Union was operated by a private entity, the Memorial Union Corporation, instead of by the University or the State, the damage was almost entirely covered by insurance. Within two years, the Union had been completely repaired. Despite authorities having compiled a case file a foot thick, no one has ever been identified as being responsible for the Kansas Union fire.

From: Campus Buildings Directory - [Kansas Union](#); [Kansas Memorial Union](#); [Baumgartner, Leona](#); [Memorial Stadium](#); Lawrence Daily Journal-World, v. 112, no. 95 (April 21, 1970), pp. 1, 2, and 10; Lawrence Daily Journal-World, v. 112, no. 96 (April 22, 1970), pp. 1 and 12; Lawrence Daily Journal-World, v. 112, no. 98 (April 24, 1970), p. 2; Lawrence Daily Journal-World, v. 132, no. 111 (April 20, 1990), p. 7A; "This is America?": the Sixties in Lawrence, Kansas, by Rusty Monhollon, Palgrave, 2002, p. 153; and personal recollections of the Author.

Each month, an event from "This Month In Legal History," the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month, is included in the Newsletter. The current entry is also posted for the month on the Law Library's website. Entries from past months are archived on the website. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Law Library Volunteer Program provides a capable and dependable volunteer work force to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Law Library and with its special projects. This work force supplements the paid Library staff and allows the Library to provide the best possible service to attorneys, local judges, and the public.

The Volunteer Program is instrumental in linking a valuable community resource - the citizens - with a valuable community institution - the Douglas County Law Library - for the benefit, growth, and enrichment of both.

If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for one of them, or if you would like more information on our program and/or the positions we have open, please contact the Library or visit the “Volunteers” page on the Law Library’s website.

Feedback

This Newsletter is intended to be useful to its readers. As in any enterprise, feedback on how the Newsletter is fulfilling this goal is crucial to our achieving it. If our articles are helpful, let us know. If they are not, let us know. If you have suggestions on how to improve the Newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.

Submitting Articles for Newsletter

The Editor encourages readers to submit articles for publication and/or make suggestions on material to be included in future issues of the Newsletter.

To Subscribe

Contact the Law Library by mail, e-mail, or telephone and request a free subscription to the Newsletter. It will be sent to you as a PDF attachment to an e-mail. The Library’s mailing address is: Douglas County Law Library, Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library’s e-mail address is: info@douglascolawlibrary.org. The Law Library’s telephone number is: 785-838-2477.

Classified Ads

Free classified ads may be placed in the Newsletter by contacting the Law Library. The Editor reserves the right to refuse anything deemed inappropriate and to add restrictions as the need arises.

No Ads this Month.

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter

Editor: Kerry Altenbernd

Published monthly by:

The Douglas County Law Library,
Judicial and Law Enforcement Center,
111 East 11th Street,

Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Phone: 785-838-2477

Fax: 785-838-2455

E-mail: info@douglascolawlibrary.org

Website: <http://www.douglascolawlibrary.org>