

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter

- 100th Issue -



Vol. 9, No. 4; April 2012

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100th Issue of the E-Mail Newsletter

This month's issue marks a milestone in the publication of the Law Library's monthly e-mail newsletter. This is the 100th issue since the Inaugural Issue was emailed to a

small list of subscribers at 3:33 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2004.

A lot has changed since that two-page experiment was published, in the Library, in the lives of those who frequent our establishment, and in the newsletter itself. Over those eight plus years, a number of additions to the content of the newsletter have been made. These have included monthly articles on art gallery exhibitions, new library acquisitions, law library trivia, and local legal history, and quarterly articles on upcoming film series screenings.

We hope you have enjoyed the first 100 issues, and that they have been enlightening and informing. Thank you.

Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting is on the 13th.

The next Douglas County Bar Association Brown Bag CLE will be on Thursday, April 19, 2012, from noon to 12:50 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center, 111 East 11th Street. The Honorable Patrick D. McAnany will present his *Overview of the Kansas Supreme Court's Blue Ribbon Commission*. Handout material will be posted on the [DCBA website](#) when it is available.

The April meeting of the Judge Hugh Means Inn of Court has been moved to the Crystal Room at the Eldridge Hotel. The meeting is April 26, 2012, cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6:30. For more information, e-mail the Inn at InnAdmin@innsofcourt.org.

There will be a joint meeting of the Kansas Chapters of Inns of Court, Wichita-Topeka-Overland Park-Lawrence, on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at The Oread. All area attorneys are welcome. The guest speaker will be Mark Morris, Courts and Crime Reporter for the Kansas City Star and co-author of *Fatal Error*. For more information, e-mail the Inn at InnAdmin@innsofcourt.org.

Public Access Wireless Network

As noted in Last month's newsletter, there is now a separate new wireless network available in the Law Library for the use of Library patrons. The network is accessible through any wireless device that has Internet capability. The network name is "DCLaw-guest", and the password is posted in the Library. From time to time, the password will be changed and the change will be posted.

Legal Essay Contest

The fifth annual Douglas County Legal Essay Contest is approaching its conclusion. The deadline for submission of entries is midnight on April 16th.

All high school seniors who attend a high school in Douglas County are invited to participate. The contest is sponsored by the Law Library and the Douglas County Bar Association. The topic for this year's contest is "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Discuss and analyze why the American justice system is or is not the fairest in the world."

Up to three cash prizes will be awarded for winning essays as determined by a panel of judges, \$750.00 for first place, \$500.00 for second place, and \$250.00 for third place. Depending on the decision of the judges, not all prizes may be awarded.

The authors of the winning essays will be invited to the Law Day luncheon on May 1st, and in addition, the first place winner will have his or her name and school inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the Law Library.

If you know of a high school senior, please encourage him or her to participate in this strictly local contest.

A complete list of contest rules and essay submission instructions can be found on the Douglas County Law Library's website at <http://www.douglascolawlibrary.org/essaycontestrules.html>. The names of the winners will be included in next month's newsletter.

Law Day is May 1st

The American Bar Association's Law Day 2012 is May 1st. This year's Law Day Luncheon is sponsored by the Douglas County Bar Association and will be held on May 1st at 11:30 a.m. at Maceli's, 1031 New Hampshire Street in Downtown Lawrence.

This year's theme is "No Courts, No Justice, No Freedom: America's courtrooms must be open to keep the wheels of justice turning." The cost of luncheon is \$30.00 per person.

The special guest speaker is the Honorable Chief Judge Richard D. Green of the Kansas Court of Appeals. Richard D. Greene was born in Hermann, Missouri on January 9, 1950. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1972, and a J.D. from Southern Methodist University-Dallas in 1975. Upon graduation he practiced law with the firm Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy for 28 years. Governor Kathleen Sebelius appointed him to the Court of Appeals in June of 2003. Greene was appointed Chief Judge by the Supreme Court effective January 10, 2011.

If you wish to attend the Law Day Luncheon, please RSVP by sending an e-mail to ahall@pendletonandsutton.com.

Mail checks to:

Anne Barker Hall
President
DCBA Young Lawyers Section
1031 Vermont Street, Suite B
Lawrence, KS 66044

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The April/May 2012 Law Library and Division IV art gallery exhibitions are painting by Joanna Ward. Mrs. Ward is the wife of long-time district court bailiff Darrell Ward.

The exhibitions will run through the end of May 2012. All of the pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Mrs. Ward is available in the Library.

The June/July 2012 exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are scheduled to be artwork by Karen Roberts. More information on these exhibitions will be in the June 2012 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. 16:5 (Mar. 2012).

ALM Experts, Litigators' Trusted Legal Resource: Midwestern Directory, 2012 ed.

Health for Teens in Care: A Judge's Guide, by Karen Aileen Howze.

Juvenile Justice Update, v. 18:1 (Feb./Mar. 2012).

Kansas Administrative Regulations, 2009 ed., 2011 Supplement.

Kansas Trial Handbook, 2nd ed., 2012 Pocket Part.

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:

If you have suggestions or feedback for the Law Library, put them in the suggestion box on the table inside the Library entrance, e-mail the Library at info@douglascolaw-library.org, telephone the Library at (785) 838-2477, or complete a feedback form that is available through a link on most pages on the Law Library's website.

This Month In Legal History

April 1865 - "Summary punishment" is meted out to three "colored" men at Black Jack, Kansas.

Black Jack was a small community founded in 1857 on the Santa Fe Trail in southeastern Douglas County, Kansas Territory. It was approximately 16 miles southeast of Lawrence, and a mile east of the site of the Battle of Black Jack, where a Free State militia, led by the abolitionist John Brown, had defeated a pro-slavery militia on June 2, 1856. In the April 6, 1865, issue of the *Kansas [Daily] Tribune*, there was an editorial titled *Summary Punishment*, written by John Speer, the newspaper's editor. The editorial began by recounting two communications that had recently been received by the newspaper from the vicinity of Black Jack. One of the communications reported that three "colored" men had been hanged there for stealing, and a fourth had been captured and was in the custody of the Vigilance Committee (1). It was also reported that the Committee was looking for a fifth man in Lawrence. Although Speer did not use the word, it is apparent from the tone of the editorial that the three men had been lynched. The editorial continued by acknowledging that there had been reports of several recent thefts in the area, and that, "the former sufferings of the people there have been such as not to naturally endow them with much mercy for thieves and robbers." Speer was

likely referring to two raids that had been visited on the village in 1863, carried out by men who sometimes rode with the band of guerrillas led by William Clark Quantrill, the most notorious Confederate guerrilla leader in the Civil War. The first raid on Black Jack was on May 8, 1863, and was led by Dick Yeager. The raiders robbed the store owned by N. H. Brockway and S. A. Stonebraker, and stole all the horses that were owned by the overland stage route that had an office there. Then, on August 15, 1863, Bill Anderson, known as "Bloody Bill" because of his ruthless conduct toward Union soldiers and civilians, led another band of men on a raid of Black Jack. The raiders intercepted the overland mail, stole fourteen horses, and took \$2,000 from the passengers. They also broke into and robbed Brockway and Stonebraker's store, stole about \$1,800 worth of goods, and set fire to the building. In his editorial, Speer sympathized with how the community at Black Jack felt towards thieves and robbers, but not in how they reacted to such activity. He wrote that, "...the execution of men at this period by methods not recognized by law is very unsafe in precedent, however enormous the crime may be." He concluded the editorial with, "If the civil power is competent, it is very unsafe to resort to mob law. We have seen something of this kind in times of great excitement, and there is no safety in encouraging any other process for punishment of offenders than through the regular judicial tribunals." It is likely that Speer was troubled by the fact that the three men lynched were black. He had been a tireless champion of the Free State cause in Kansas before the War, and probably would have been disturbed that three men who had likely suffered the horrors of slavery had been executed without any legal proceedings in a state that was founded on the principle of being antislavery. Speer had himself lost two sons to the cause, when they were murdered by members of Quantrill's guerrilla

band during its raid on Lawrence on August 21, 1863. It is one incident resulting from that raid that brings special meaning to the words that Speer wrote in his April 6, 1865, editorial. The day after Quantrill's raid, a resident of Lawrence named Thomas Corlew was accused of being a spy for the guerilla leader. He was arrested by a mob, tried by a lynch court, found guilty, and hanged. In an article written by Speer titled *Tom Corlew Hung* that was published six days after the raid on August 27, 1863, in the *Kansas Weekly Tribune*, Speer seemed to approve of the process that led to Corlew's death, writing, "The proceedings were orderly; characterized by a deep determination to rid the world of a traitor and murderer." It was less than two years after the Lawrence raid that Speer wrote about the lynchings, the "summary punishment" of the three black men at Black Jack. Was he thinking of the Corlew lynching when he wrote, "We have seen something of this kind in times of great excitement, and there is no safety in encouraging any other process for punishment of offenders than through the regular judicial tribunals."? When he wrote about the three black men, saying, "...the execution of men at this period by methods not recognized by law is very unsafe in precedent, however enormous the crime may be," was he thinking of Thomas Corlew, and how he and the other citizens of Lawrence had allowed or participated in the lynching of the man in reaction to Quantrill's raid? How did he feel about the "summary punishment" that Corlew had received? After time and reflection, had Speer come to regret what had been done to Thomas Corlew? Without a diary or letters of Speer's coming to light that deal with his feelings about this, we will probably never know for certain, but the wording of his editorial makes one wonder.

(1) A vigilance committee was a group of private citizens who came together to enforce law and order, frequently by extralegal means, when they perceived that the governmental authorities were ineffective in

controlling crime. They are better known by the term "vigilantes," and the justice they meted out as "vigilante justice." Many communities formed vigilance committees during the "Bleeding Kansas" era to protect themselves from groups of men who supported either the Free State or the proslavery cause during Kansas' Territorial period. During the Civil War that followed closely on the heels of Kansas statehood, vigilance committees attempted to defend against marauding Confederate guerillas from Missouri and bands of outlaws taking advantage of the turmoil caused by war. After the Civil War, some such groups disbanded or turned their full attention to protecting their communities from outlaws. Other communities that had not previously had such organizations formed them. One of these latter groups was the Cattlemen's Protective Association, or CPA, that formed in Eudora, Kansas, to protect against cattle rustlers and horse thieves. In addition to its protective role, the CPA became a social organization that held an annual picnic. The protective role of the organization eventually disappeared, but the social aspect remained. The CPA Picnic evolved into a three-day event that is held every July in Eudora, and includes parades, carnival rides, and other social activities.

From: *Kansas Daily Tribune*, v. 2: issue 104 (April 6, 1865), p.2; William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas*, Douglas County, [Part 34](#); and, *Kansas Weekly Tribune*, August 27, 1863, p.1.

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, or comments and suggestions on the Law Library itself, please let us know. For your convenience, there is a link to a [feedback form](#) available on most pages of the Law Library's website. 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.

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