

Douglas County Law Library

E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 4, No. 8; August 2007

Contents

- Meeting and Event Announcements
- More on the Improved Wireless Access
- Lexis Training Session on August 17th
- Kansas Statutory Forms Index
- *Judgment at Nuremberg* to be Screened on August 24th
- Current Art Gallery Exhibitions
- 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

Solo Firm Group Lunch. The next Solo Firm Group meeting will be held on Friday, August 17th at noon in the upstairs meeting room at Free State Brewery. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Reinhold at 842-3222 or Jamie Harwood at 842-1581. The Solo Firm Group meets the third Friday of every month.

More on the Improved Wireless Access

In the article in last month's Newsletter reporting the upgrade in the Library's WiFi access, the editor neglected to mention that there is no charge to use the connection and that no password is needed to sign on.

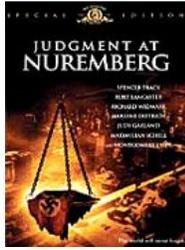
Lexis Training Session on August 17th

A free session on how to perform legal research using the on-line Lexis legal database will be held from noon to 1:00 PM on Friday, August 17, 2007. The session will be presented in the Law Library by Nanci Anderson of Lexis-Nexis. Pre-registration is not required, so if you have some free time over the lunch hour on the 17th, please come.

Kansas Statutory Forms Index

John Pickett, Director of the Johnson County Law Library, has recently compiled an index of statutory forms available on the Kansas Judicial Council website. He has graciously provided the DCLL with an electronic version of the index, which has been added to the desktops of the Library's three patron workstations. To access the index, click on the desktop icon labeled "Kansas Statutory Forms Index."

***Judgment at Nuremberg* to be Screened on August 24th**



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 5:45 PM on Friday, August 24, 2007, with a screening of *Judgment at Nuremberg*, starring Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Maximilian Schell, and Marlene Dietrich. Also featured are notable performances by Judy Garland, Montgomery Clift, Werner Klemperer, and William Shatner. The film was nominated for eleven Academy Awards in 1962 and won two, Best Actor in a Leading Role (Maximilian Schell), and Best Writing for a Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium.

In *Judgment at Nuremberg*, an American judge (Tracy) must decide whether four German judges are guilty of having used their judicial powers to help the Nazis. It is 1948, the Cold War is heating up, and the American and British Governments want to end war crime trials and concentrate on their new enemy, the Soviet Union. The American judge's task becomes even more complex due to his growing relationship with the widow of a Nazi officer (Dietrich).

Because of the length of the film, the screening will begin fifteen minutes earlier than the usual 6:00 PM start time for other films in the series. In addition, there will be no attorney commentary following the film. The usual start time and attorney commentary will resume with the November film screening.

The program will be presented in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium and is free and open to the public.

The next film in the "Reels of Justice Film Series" will be *Witness for the Prosecution*,

scheduled for screening on November 16, 2007.

Current Art Gallery Exhibitions

The August exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are photography by Ann Dean.

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

The September 2007 Law Library exhibition is available for scheduling. More information on the exhibit will be in the September 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 Bill Pendleton, the Library's Art Gallery Exhibitions Coordinator at 843-3536 ext. 19 or billpen@pendletonandsutton.com, or 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. 11:9 (July 2007).

Advance Sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.283:3/37:4 (May 2007).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 26:5 (Jul. 2007).

Criminal Investigation Handbook, Release no. 17, 2007.

Guardian, v. 29:2 (Spring 2007).

Kansas Judicial Council Probate Forms, 2d, 2007 Supplement.

Session Laws of Kansas, 2007:1 and 2007:2.

Did You Know?

Every other week, 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" tidbits are then published here in the Newsletter. The hope is for this to improve communication between the Law Library and its users.

July's entries were:

- There is wireless access in the Law Library.
- Beginning later this year, the Law Library will send out invoices for payment of the annual Law Library Registration Fee to attorneys who have supplied the Library with their e-mail address.
- The Library subscribes to the Kansas City Star, the Lawrence Journal-World, and the Topeka Capital-Journal.

This Month In Legal History

Each month, an event from the history of law and jurisprudence of Douglas County that occurred during that month will be included in the Newsletter. Entries will also be posted on the Law Library's website for

the month. Submissions from readers are welcome and encouraged.

This month's entry:

August 20, 1857 - Charles Robinson acquitted on charge of usurpation of office.

In January 1856, Charles Robinson was elected governor of Kansas Territory under the Free-State constitution that had been adopted by the 1855 Topeka Constitutional Convention. He attempted to avoid conflict with federal authorities who did not recognize the legitimacy of the Topeka Constitution, but he incurred their wrath by ignoring laws passed by the "Bogus" proslavery territorial legislature that had been elected in 1855. After taking office, Robinson left on a trip back east to promote the Free-State cause. On May 10, 1856, he was arrested while in Lexington, Missouri, and was brought back to Kansas. Robinson was indicted for treason and usurpation of office, and taken to Camp Sackett, a military encampment near Lecompton. He was held there, along with several other men, pending trial set for September 8. On the day set for trial, neither judge nor jury, clerk nor marshal appeared, so the proceedings had to be postponed until their arrival the next day. After their arraignment, the prisoners' council pressed Judge Samuel Lecompte, chief justice of the Kansas Territorial Supreme Court, for an immediate trial. The prosecuting counsel argued for a postponement, basing their arguments on the grounds that a jury could not be obtained and that important witnesses were absent, due to the Territory's being in insurrection. Judge Lecompte denied all motions for postponement. The next day, September 10, Charles Robinson was arraigned for trial, separately, on a charge of usurpation of office. Reversing his decision of the previous day, Judge Lecompte decided to continue all the defendants' cases because "the great excite-

ment prevailing in the country was such as to prevent a fair trial of the prisoners." Robinson was granted bail of \$500 on the charge of usurpation of office. He and the other prisoners were then arraigned again for treason, granted bail of \$5,000 each, had their new cases continued, and were released. It was speculated that the real reason for Judge Lecompte's granting a continuance was the supposed imminent arrival of Kansas Territorial Governor John Geary, who was known as sympathizing with the Free-State cause and who might have influenced the trial in the defendants' favor. The treason charges against all the defendants, including Robinson, were dropped prior to Robinson's trial. In August 1857, he was brought before Judge Sterling G. Cato, associated justice of the Kansas Territorial Supreme Court, on the charge of usurpation of office. Judge Cato, who was well known as a proslavery activist, did his best to get a conviction, but the jury acquitted Robinson of the charge on August 20, 1857. His council had convinced them that, owing to the Topeka Constitutional Convention being illegitimate, all offices created under it were void, and there could be no usurpation of an office that did not exist.

From: William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas, Territorial History, Part 41 - <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/terrhist/terrhist-p41.html>.

Law Library Volunteer Opportunities

The Library is looking for individuals to fill the following volunteer positions:

E-Mail Newsletter Editor.

Film Series Commentators

Patron Education and Training Assistant.

Publicity and Marketing Assistant.

Recycling Assistant

Reference Assistant.

Volunteer Coordinator.

Work Station Maintenance Assistant.

The Library also has opportunities for volunteers to create positions around their own interests and skills.

For more information and/or for position descriptions, contact the Library or visit the "Volunteers" page on the Law Library's website.

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

Employment Opportunity:

PART-TIME ATTORNEY POSITION

Assistant Douglas County District Court Trustee

Part-time attorney position (20 hrs/week) responsible for enforcing and collecting child support and spousal support orders. Must be licensed in Kansas with experience in litigation of family law issues and specifically support matters and have excellent customer service skills with desire to serve the public. Starting salary \$24,950, with insurance and benefits. Submit resume, cover letter, and legal writing sample (not to exceed 10 pages) **by August 10, 2007**, to Katy Nitcher, District Court Trustee, 111 East

11th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044 or to knitcher@douglas-county.com. Complete job listing can be found at http://www.douglas-county.com/district_court/dctjobs.asp. EOE.

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