

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



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Meeting and Event Announcements

Solo Firm Group Lunch. The next Solo Firm Group meeting will be held on Friday, March 21st at noon in the upstairs meeting room at Free State Brewery. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Reinhold at 842-3222 or John Bodle at 843-0187. The Solo Firm Group meets the third Friday of every other month.

Library Registration Fee for 2008 is Past Due

The 2007 Law Library Registration Fee for attorneys is now past due. If you have not paid your \$10.00 fee, your filing privileges will be suspended and your Law Library key will be deactivated until payment is received by the Court Clerk's Office.

In Cold Blood to be Screened on February 15th



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 15, 2008, with a screening of *In Cold Blood*.

This film adaptation of the book by Truman Capote stars Robert Blake and Scott Wilson. It details the 1959 murders of four members of the Clutter family in Holcolm, Kansas, by two parolees from the Kansas State Penitentiary, their attempt to avoid capture, their trial, and their execution. Richard Brooks prepared the adaptation and directed the film. Some scenes were filmed on locations of the original events in Garden City and Holcomb, Kansas, including the Clutter

residence, the site of the murders. The film was nominated for four Academy Awards in 1968 including Best Director, Best Original Music Score, Best Cinematography, and Best Screenplay Based on Material from Another Medium

The program will include an appearance by local attorney Martin Miller, who will give commentary on the film and provide anecdotes about the book and about Truman Capote from when he was in Lawrence doing research prior to writing the book

The Lawrence Public Library is co-sponsoring this special screening as part of their film series featuring films of Truman Capote, and so the screening will begin an hour later than the usual 6:00 PM start time for films in the Reels of Justice Film Series. The Public Library's Truman Capote film series is being shown on Friday evenings in February 2008, in conjunction with the "Kansas Reads In Cold Blood" statewide reading project sponsored by the Kansas Center for the Book. The reading project runs from January 29 thru February 29, 2008.

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 *Sergeant Rutledge*, scheduled for screening on May 16, 2008.

Local Opinions Project

The Law Library is beginning a project to make the local opinions of the Seventh Judicial District Court judges available for research by attorneys and the public. They will eventually be made available in the Library in electronic format. Although details of the final design of the database are yet to be determined, the intent is that they

will at least be searchable by case number, party names, and other keywords. If you have suggestions on what you would like to be able to search in the database, please contact the Library.

The Library has hired a part time employee to work on the project (see article below). No completion date for the project has been determined.

Input from Attorneys Needed

In order to make the planned electronic database of Seventh Judicial District Court judge's local opinions as useful as possible to attorneys, the Law Library is soliciting suggestions as to what features would be good to incorporate into the database design. These could include what should be searchable in the database, e.g.: case number, party names, area of law covered by the opinion, etc., or anything else that would be helpful in performing legal research.

Due to constraints of the database software or other factors not know of at this time, it may not be feasible to incorporate all suggested features, but the final design will be as useful as possible.

New Library Employee

The Law Library has hired Dennis Kuhnel as a part time employee. His primary responsibility is to work on the local opinions database project. He will organize, scan, and convert those local opinions that exist only in paper into electronic format, organize those opinions that already are in electronic format, and compile all opinions into a searchable electronic database accessible in the Law Library.

Dennis is a native of Pretty Prairie, Kansas. He is a third-year law student at KU and is

working on a PhD in History through the University of Iowa.

We would like to welcome Dennis to the Law Library staff.

Current Art Gallery Exhibitions

The February exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are paintings by Malissa Martin-Wilke.

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

The March 2008 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are artwork by Patrick Emerson. More information on the exhibits will be in the March 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:

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.285:1/38:3 (Dec. 2007).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 26:10 - v. 26:11 (Dec. 2007 - Jan. 2008).

Children in the Courtroom: Challenges for Lawyers and Judges, by Sherrie Bourg Carter.

Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Approach, 2nd ed., by Anne Graffam Walker.

Internet guide for the legal researcher newsletter, v. 3:1 (Jan./Feb. 2008).

Kansas Administrative Regulations, 2007 Supplement.

Kansas Statutes Annotated, v. 2 and v. 2A 2007 bound volumes, and 2007 Supplements for v. 1, v. 3-v. 7, Constitutions volume, and the 2007 General Index.

Kansas Trial Handbook, 2nd ed., 2008 Pocket Part.

Preparing Children for Court: A Practitioner's Guide, Lynn M. Copen.

Pretrial Motions in Criminal Prosecutions, 3d., 2007/2008 Supplement.

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.

January's entry was:

- Local Court Rules for the Seventh Judicial District are available on the Douglas

County website and in hard copy in the Law Library.

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:

February 18, 1857 - Sheriff William Sherrard shot in a gunfight.

In response to a public notice, a crowd of between 200 and 300 people assembled on Capitol Hill, Lecompton, Kansas, seat of the pro-slavery government of territorial Kansas, at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, February 18, 1857. There were official delegates elected by public meetings, editors of the local newspaper, Sam Jones, the former sheriff of the county, federal officials, and ordinary citizens. All knew that the purpose of the meeting was to take some action about recent insults made by 28-year-old William T. Sherrard, a pro-slavery man who had recently been appointed sheriff of Douglas County, to 38-year-old John W. Geary, the current Kansas territorial governor. Sherrard's insults, which had escalated to the level of an attempt at the governor's assassination, stemmed from Geary's refusal to issue the official commission entitling Sherrard to exercise the office to which the board of county commissioners had appointed him. The meeting was called to order and a five-man resolutions committee was appointed and withdrew to a nearby store to perform their duties. While the committee worked, a number of speakers from both sides of the issue addressed the crowd. Three members of the resolutions

committee returned and made their report, consisting of a preamble and three resolutions. Sherrard, who was in the crowd, took the stand and began addressing the crowd. He said that anyone who would vote to sustain the resolutions was "a liar, a coward, and a scoundrel." In the crowd about the stand was Joseph W. Sheppard, who said that he endorsed the resolutions. With an oath, Sherrard drew his revolver and commenced firing. Sheppard fired back, wounding Sherrard once, while suffering two wounds himself, none of which were serious. This was the signal for a general outbreak of shooting in the crowd, with perhaps as many as 50 shots being fired. As soon as the firing began, officials tried to restore order. Ex-Sheriff Sam Jones and others separated Sheppard and Sherrard. Two witnesses testified that they heard one of Geary's Secretaries, Richard McAllister say, "Why don't somebody shoot Sherrard?" Sherrard, whose revolver was empty, turned away and drew out another pistol. As he turned, he confronted Free-State supporter John A. W. Jones. John A. W. Jones was Governor Geary's nephew and one of his secretaries, and had been physically attacked by Sherrard three weeks before. As Sherrard moved toward him, he drew out his own pistol and shot Sherrard in the head. In the words of a witness, "I saw Sherrard leap into the air as a bullet struck him in the forehead." There were conflicting reports whether Sherrard's pistol fired. Fatally wounded, his brains oozing from the bullet hole, Sherrard was carried off to die. He clung to life for more than two days, dying on the morning of February 21, 1857. John A. W. Jones was arrested and arraigned for murder, but, fearing retribution from pro-slavery men, managed to free himself from custody and leave Kansas.

From: http://www.kancoll.org/khq/1976/76_3_meerse.htm - "No Propriety in the Late Course of the Governor": The Geary-Sherrard Affair Reexamined, by David E. Meerse, Kansas Historical Quarterly, Autumn, 1976 (Vol. 42, No. 3), pages 237 to 262.

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.

There are no classified ads this month.

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