

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



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Meeting and Event Announcements

The Defense Bar meets the second Friday of the month. This month the meeting will be on the 11th.

Self-Nominations for Law Library Board Election Sought from Attorneys

The nominating process is beginning to identify candidates for this spring's election of the five attorney members who will serve on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees for the 2011/2013 term.

The current attorney members on the Board of Trustees are Jody Meyer, Kenzie Singleton, Craig A. Stancliffe, Charles E. Whitman, and Stephanie J. Wilson. Their terms expire on May 1, 2011.

In order to ensure that only attorneys who are willing to serve are nominated, only self-nominations will be taken. Attorneys who have paid their 2011 Law Library Registration Fee, and for whom the Library has a postal mailing address, will soon be sent a copy of an Attorney Members Self-Nomination Form by postal mail. The self-nomination form is also available on the Law Library's website.

Local attorneys who would like to nominate themselves to be placed on the ballot for the election in April should complete a nomination form and return it to the Law Library, making certain that it is received no later

than 5:00 PM on March 4, 2011, the deadline for nominations.

More information on the election will be in next month's E-Mail Newsletter.

Special Reels of Justice Film Series Screening February 27th



The Law Library's "Reels of Justice Film Series" continues at 1:00 PM, Sunday, February 27th with a special screening of *Amistad*. The film stars Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins, and Matthew McConaughey, and was directed by Steven Spielberg. It received four Academy Award nominations in 1998.

In addition to the screening, this special program will include a discussion of the legal and historical aspects of the film. The discussion will be led by local attorney and author Napoleon Crews and University of Kansas history professor Dr. Jonathan Earle. The program will begin an hour earlier than usual to accommodate the film screening and the post-screening discussion.

The film, based on a true incident, recounts the case of a group of men who freed themselves from bondage on board a Spanish slave ship off the coast of the United States in 1839, and who were tried for mutiny and murder for doing so. The case against the men eventually was heard by the United States Supreme Court.

The Lawrence Public Library is co-sponsoring this free program, which will help celebrate Black History Month and serve as a run-up to the beginning of the official Civil War Sesquicentennial in April.

Reminder to Take the User Survey on Law Library Resources

If you have not already taken the user survey of Library resources, please consider doing so. The Law Library is conducting the survey to ensure that Library funds are being expended on material that is valuable and useful to its users. If these resources prove to be of little or no value to Library users, then they will be considered for elimination from the Library budget.

There are two ways to participate in the survey. 1. Fill out a printed survey form available in the Library; or, 2. Take the survey on-line by clicking below.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DV29ZBN>

If you have not done so, please take a few minutes to respond to the survey and give your feedback on these resources. If you have a favorite resource and you do not indicate it is important to you, it may no longer be available in the Library.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The February/March exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are photography by Don Stevanov.

The exhibitions will run through the end of March. All pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Mr. Stevanov is available in the Library.

The April/May 2011 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be artwork by Sandy Craig McKenzie. More information on these exhibitions will be in the April 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:

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.291:2/v.44:3 (Dec. 2010).

Bradley Parenting Time Calculator, 2011 edition.

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 29:11 (Jan. 2011).

Kansas Annual Survey, v. 21, 2010.

Kansas Child Support Calculator, 2011 edition.

Kansas Long-Term Care Handbook, 2nd ed., 2009 Supplement.

Pattern Instructions Kansas, Civil, 4th, 2010 Supplement.

Practitioner's Guide to Kansas Family Law, Second Edition.

Practitioner's Guide to Kansas Family Law, Second Edition. CD [Including forms.].

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 48:1 (Jan. 2011).

Search and Seizure Bulletin, Index, v. 47.

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:

February 26, 2011, will mark the 10th anniversary of the election in which local attorneys voted on the question of establishing a law library in the County. The vote of 109 in favor and 12 against established the Douglas County Law Library that day.

This Month In Legal History

February 26, 2001 - The Douglas County Law Library is established by a vote of local attorneys.

In the closing years of the 20th century, members of the local legal community perceived a growing need for a law library to serve the attorneys and general public in Douglas County, Kansas. In the fall of 2000, the Honorable Michael J. Malone, then Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District, proposed to the Bench/Bar Committee of the Douglas County Bar Association that it consider establishing a county law library. The Committee decided to ask local attorneys if there was enough interest to move forward with the proposal. The Committee appointed a six-member subcommittee to coordinate and conduct an election on establishing a law library, pursuant to the requirements set forth in K.S.A. 20-3126(b). On February 26, 2001, the committee held an election among local attorneys, asking whether a county law library should be established. The attorneys voted 109 in favor and 12 against, thereby approving the establishment of a library. According to statute, the five

sitting district court judges, the Honorable Michael J. Malone, the Honorable Robert Fairchild, the Honorable Paula B. Martin, the Honorable Jack A. Murphy, and the Honorable Jean F. Shepherd, became members of a board of trustees for the newly approved law library. Since the five members constituted a quorum of the new Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees, they immediately held a meeting by e-mail on February 27-28, 2001. The board passed a motion that set the attorney representation on the Board at four members, two more than the statutory requirement that no fewer than two attorney members be elected to two-year terms on a county law library board. In addition, the board set the law library docket fees that are authorized in K.S.A. 20-3129, with collection to begin in March of 2001. The board held an election to fill the four attorney positions on the board of trustees in May of 2001. Douglas County attorneys elected David J. Brown, Kay Huff, Margie Wakefield, and Charles Whitman, all of whom had been members of the Bench/Bar election subcommittee, to serve on the board. The board held its first regular meeting on May 31, 2001. At that meeting, it set the annual Law Library Registration Fee for local attorneys at the statutory minimum of \$10.00 and authorized Doug Hamilton, Clerk of the Douglas County District Court, to begin collecting the fee pursuant to K.S.A 20-3126(c). Over the next year and a half, the board researched and investigated the necessities of opening and operating a law library, including the finding of a suitable location for the library and the hiring of a law librarian. The Judicial and Law Enforcement Center was undergoing renovation during that time, which allowed some flexibility in identifying a space for the library to occupy. The board chose an area on the south side of the Judicial and Law Enforcement Center and next to the south entrance of the building as the location for the future library. The space

had previously been part of the Citizen Review Board offices. Construction began to adapt the space for library use. During the summer of 2002, the board conducted a search for a law librarian with Kerry Altenbernd eventually being hired to fill the position. He began work on October 1, 2002. The board and the law librarian worked for the next seven months to finish renovation of the space, outfit the library, and otherwise make it ready for opening. The official opening of the Douglas County Law Library was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 1, 2003.

From: The [Law Library History page](#) on the Douglas County Law Library website.

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.

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