

# Douglas County Law Library

## E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 10, No. 1; January 2013

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### Meeting and Event Announcements

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

The January Douglas County Bar Association Brown Bag CLE program will be on Thursday, January 17, 2013, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in the Jury Assembly Room in the Judicial and Law Enforcement

Center. Anne McDonald will present *Wellness and Stress Management*. Handout material can be downloaded from the [DCBA website](#).

### 2013 Law Library Registration Fee Due By January 15

The 2013 Law Library Registration Fee for attorneys is due in the Law Library no later than 5:00 pm, January 15, 2013. A 2013 Law Library Registration Renewal Form/Invoice was e-mailed to all attorneys for whom the Library had an e-mail address. If you need it re-sent, please contact the Library. The form is also available in fillable PDF format on the Law Library's website by clicking [here](#).

If you have not already paid your 2013 fee, please fill out, print, sign, and date the form, and, along with your 2013 fee payment of \$25.00 made out to the Douglas County Law Library, get it to the Law Library no later than January 15th.

### 2013 Law Library Board Election

The two-year terms for the five attorneys serving on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees will expire at the end of

April. An election will be held this spring to choose the five attorneys who will serve on the Board for the 2013/2015 term.

The attorneys current serving as members of the Board are Julia V. Bellemere, Hatem Chahine, Jody Meyer, Craig A. Stancliffe, and Charles E. Whitman.

Information on the nominating process will be in next month's Newsletter.

### **Current Art Gallery Exhibition**

The December 2012/January 2013 Law Library and Division IV art gallery exhibitions are artwork from [The Dream Rocket Project](#).

The exhibitions will run through the end of January 2013.

The February/March 2013 exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are scheduled to be cut paper art by Angie Pickman. More information on these exhibitions will be in the February 2013 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](mailto:info@douglascolawlibrary.org).

### **New Acquisitions**

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

AALL Spectrum, v. 17:3 (Dec. 2012).

ABA Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 31:12 (Dec. 2012).

Child Support Guidelines: Interpretation and Application, 2nd ed.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 49:11 (Nov. 2012).

West's Kansas Statutes Annotated, v. 1 - v. 45, 2013 Pocket Parts.

West's Kansas Statutes Annotated: General Index, 2012.

### **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.

December's entry was:

As part of the re-evaluation of Library periodical subscriptions, there is a use log of titles up for possible cancellation. Library users are requested to record on that log each time that they consult one of those titles. Periodicals that do not exhibit sufficient usage will be cancelled.

### **This Month In Legal History**

January 1858 - Lawrence replaces Leecompton as the county seat of Douglas County, Kansas Territory.

Douglas County, Kansas Territory, was officially organized on September 24, 1855, by the Territorial Legislature. The members of the legislature had been chosen in a disputed election on the preceding March 30th, when thousands of men from Missouri had crossed the border into Kansas, took over the polls,

and though they were not residents and so not eligible to vote, did so anyway. In addition to voting, they also prevented many of the legal residents of the Territory from voting. The men from Missouri were in favor of Kansas Territory being admitted to the Union as a slave state, and the men that they prevented from voting were in favor of it becoming a free state. This was an escalation in the troubles that had been caused by the passage and signing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act the previous year, which had opened up the possibility of Kansas becoming a slave state by a vote of the people of the Territory. When the balloting was over, most of the unauthorized voters went back home to Missouri. Although the number of ballots that were cast that day exceeded the number of legal residents by nearly three times, the Federal Government accepted the vote. The "Bogus Legislature," as it became known to Free State proponents, was formed and convened on July 2, 1855, in Pawnee, a small settlement near Fort Riley about 120 miles from the Missouri border. Territorial Governor Andrew Reeder had chosen the town to be the capital of the Territory, and work was begun on a capitol building there. The proslavery legislators felt that having the capital that far from Missouri gave an advantage to the Free State cause in Kansas, so they voted to move the capital to one of the buildings at the Shawnee Methodist Mission, which was just inside Kansas along the Missouri border. Governor Reeder vetoed the bill, but the Legislature overrode his veto, adjourned the session on July 6, 1855, and abandoned Pawnee. They reconvened at the Shawnee Mission on July 16, 1855, and began enacting laws, many designed to promote the establishment of slavery in Kansas. The Legislators also found time to begin the process of organizing 33 counties in the territory. One of the counties approved to be organized was Douglas County, named for Stephen A. Douglas, Senator from Illinois, and author of the Kan-

sas-Nebraska Act. Lecompton was chosen to be the county seat. The town was originally named Bald Eagle, but was renamed in honor of Chief Justice of the Kansas Territorial Supreme Court Samuel D. Lecompte. Lecompte was known to be proslavery, and Lecompton became headquarters of the proslavery movement in Kansas. In addition to being made the county seat, the town was later made the capital of the Territory. The conflict between Free State and proslavery forces in Kansas erupted into violence, which grew steadily worse throughout the rest of 1855 and 1856. The blatantly proslavery actions of the legislature helped to inflame the violence, inspiring Free State supporters to form their own competing government, and the resulting struggle lasted well into 1857. On October 5-6, 1857, a new Territorial Election was held that resulted in a significant increase in representation by Free Staters in the legislature. They slowly were able to turn the direction of legislation around to their way of thinking, and as 1857 neared its end, the Free State cause was in the ascendancy. Late that year, the legislature voted to move the county seat of Douglas County from the proslavery stronghold of Lecompton to Lawrence, the headquarters of the Free State movement in Kansas. The town had been the object of much animosity and violence from proslavery forces, and moving the county seat from Lecompton to Lawrence was an obvious statement on how the political winds were blowing in Kansas. In anticipation of the move, competing interests in Lawrence were making plans on where a courthouse would be located after the change was made. In January 1858, the county seat physically moved to Lawrence. Since there was no courthouse there, county officials were obliged to rent space to house county offices. All the maneuvering over where to place the courthouse in Lawrence went for nothing, as none of the competing interests were successful in securing a loca-

tion for the building and no courthouse was built. In addition to Lawrence becoming the county seat, Topeka supplanted Lecompton as the capital when Kansas entered the Union as a free state on January 29, 1861. Douglas County continued to rent office space from various businesses until 1869, when they were allotted space in the new Lawrence City Hall. In 1899, county voters approved a bond issue to build a courthouse in Douglas County. Construction began in early 1903, and county offices moved into the new building in January 1905.

From: [Samuel J. Jones](#), Historic Lecompton website; [Lecompton](#) - Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc., Standard Publishing Co, Chicago, 1912, v. 2; William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas, Douglas County, [Part 3](#); [Douglas County](#) - Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc., Standard Publishing Co, Chicago, 1912, v. ; [Lecompton, Kansas](#), Wikipedia website; [Lecompton - Capitol of Kansas Territory](#), Legends of Kansas website; [Douglas County Courthouse History](#), Douglas County, Kansas, website; [About Lecompton](#), Historic Lecompton website; and, [Douglas County, Kansas](#), Kansas State Historical Society 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, 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 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044. The Library's e-mail address is: [info@douglascolawlibrary.org](mailto: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**

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