

# Douglas County Law Library

## E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 5, No. 7; July 2008

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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.

### Sentencing Guidelines Complete

Back issues of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Desk Reference Manual and its precursor, the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act Implementation Manual, have been added to the Law Library's collection. There is now a complete set of the Manuals

in the Library, from their initial publication in 1992 through 2007, the most recently published volume. They are shelved on the second shelf in the "Kansas Practice" area in the bookcase under the windows.

### Reels of Justice Screening Next Month

*Kramer vs. Kramer* will be screened next month as part of the Law Library's Reels of Justice Film Series.

The film stars Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep. It is the story of how a man, who has always let his career come before his family, learns how to manage housekeeping and taking care of himself and his young son after his wife leaves him. He is later faced with losing custody when his wife resurfaces and wants their son back.

The film was nominated for nine Academy Awards in 1979 and won five, including Best Actor for Hoffman and Best Actress for Streep.

The screening will begin at 6:00 PM, Friday, August 15th in the Lawrence Public Library Auditorium. All screenings in the film series are free and open to the public.

### **Current Art Gallery Exhibitions**

The July exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are photographs by Beth Ridenour.

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

The August 2008 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be watercolors by Julie Hammer. More information on the exhibits will be in the August 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](mailto:billpen@pendletonandsutton.com), or 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. 12:8 (June 2008).

Drunk Driving Defense, Sixth Edition, 2008 Cumulative Supplement.

Drunk Driving Defense, Sixth Edition, 2008 Supplement [Forms. CD ed.]

Hereof, Thereof, and Everywhereof: A Contrarian Guide to Legal Drafting. 2nd ed., by Howard Darmstadter.

Kansas Sentencing Guidelines Act, Implementation Manual, 1992.

Kansas Sentencing Guidelines, Desk Reference Manual, 1993-1996, 1999-2001.

### **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.

June's entry was:

- It is official Law Library policy to recycle all recyclable waste generated in the 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.

July 1970 - Two young men are killed by police officers during a violent summer in Lawrence.

In early 1970, the racial and student unrest that had been building in Lawrence, Kansas, over a number of years began to boil over. There had been walkouts, confrontations, and violence that spring at Lawrence High School. On the night of April 20, an arson fire gutted the Student Union at the University of Kansas. On April 21, Kansas Gover-

nor Robert Docking declared a three-day dusk to dawn curfew in Lawrence and sent in Kansas Highway Patrol troopers and members of the Kansas National Guard to assist the Lawrence Police maintain order. Feeding off each other, tension and violence in the city increased throughout the rest of that spring and into the summer. Gunshots could be heard ringing out nearly every night. Late in the evening of July 16, 1970, two Lawrence police officers were in the vicinity of Afro House, a black cultural center established earlier in the summer. They observed Rick "Tiger" Dowdell, a 19 year-old Lawrence native, leave Afro House and enter a Volkswagen driven by a woman. When the car drove off, the officers followed. Eventually, the Volkswagen turned down an alley and was followed in by the patrol car. The Volkswagen stopped in the alley and Dowdell got out. Gunfire was heard, and Dowdell was killed by a shot to the back of the head. The officers reported that Dowdell had a gun in his hand when he exited the car and began to run away. He allegedly fired on one of the officers and was hit when the officer fired three shots in return. Many members of the black community in Lawrence disputed the police version, charging that the officers were gunning for Dowdell, that they had murdered him, and that the gun the police produced was a "throw down" planted by the officers to justify their actions. Tensions in town increased, and on July 18th, a Lawrence Police officer was seriously wounded in a gun battle near Afro House. Then, on the night of Monday, July 20th, there was another killing. Police were called to the vicinity of the Gaslight Tavern, a bar just off the Kansas University campus on Oread Avenue that was patronized by Kansas University students. It was frequented by local hippies and was a center for student activists in town. Police were responding to a report that a city fire truck had been fired on by a sniper in the area. When the police arrived,

there was a crowd of young people in the street outside the Gaslight. Some members of the crowd began to do things to confront the police. They overturned a Volkswagen, tried to set some bushes on fire, and opened a fire hydrant. The police formed up in a line across Oread Avenue, a block north of the Gaslight near the Rock Chalk Café, another bar and student hangout, and began advancing toward the Gaslight, carrying shotguns and rifles aimed in the direction of the crowd. Several teargas grenades were thrown at the crowd, but the wind was in the south that night, as it often is in the summer in Kansas, and the dense teargas cloud drifted back into the line of officers. A number of shots rang out. In response to the shooting, pandemonium broke out in the crowd of young people by the Gaslight. Eventually, someone noticed a young man lying in the street, bleeding from a bullet wound in the head. The young man was Nick Rice, a white 18-year-old Kansas University student. Several people carried Rice into the Gaslight, followed almost immediately by teargas canisters fired into the building by the police. Rice soon died of his wound. Many observers that night reported that police had fired wildly into the crowd. Police denied the charge and instead claimed Rice was shot by a sniper. Tensions in town continued to increase, as did the fear of major violence erupting. On July 22, an all-white panel at a coroner's inquest exonerated the officer who killed Rick Dowdell of any wrongdoing. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation also found no wrongdoing in the shooting. On Thursday, July 23rd, Rick Dowdell was buried, his interment preceded by a large funeral procession that included his coffin, draped with the red, black, and green Black Liberation flag, being pulled on a wagon behind a mule, followed by mourners wearing black. The procession wound its way through town, its route including several blocks of Massachusetts Street in downtown Lawrence. The city's annual

Sidewalk Bazaar was that day, and the sight of the mule-drawn wagon and its burden followed by a long line of black mourners walking in total silence, juxtaposed by the large suddenly hushed crowd of mostly white bargain hunters lining both sides of the street on merchandise-covered sidewalks, made the evening news on national television that day. Also on that day, a newspaper article reported that the woman who had driven the car Rick Dowdell exited just prior to his being shot said that she had heard only one shot, not the multiple shots reported by police, making many question the officer's account and the inquest's findings. In response to the killings of Dowdell and Rice, tension and fear remained high. The Kansas Governor sent in more Highway Patrol Troopers and relative calm was restored. Police officers were reported to have been offended by this, the implication being that the Lawrence Police Department was not capable of handling the situation. In August, an investigating team from the President's Commission on Campus Unrest found that the Lawrence Police Department had fired M-1 rifles and shotguns "at a dangerous level" in the July 23, 1970, incident in which Nick Rice was killed. The lack of a significant independent local review of the shootings prompted many at the time to charge that there was an official cover-up of police wrongdoing. Although tension remained high the remainder of the year and there were scattered incidents of violence, including two bombings, one at Lawrence High School and another at Summerfield Hall at Kansas University, there were no other killings associated with the unrest.

From: "This is America?": the Sixties in Lawrence, Kansas, by Rusy Monhollon. Palgrave, 2002, and from personal recollections of the Editor.

### **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 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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