

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 12th.

Spotlight on Library Resources

The resource in the spotlight this month is *Handbook on Limited Scope Legal Assistance*, a publication of the Modest Means Task Force of the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation.

As noted in the Foreward, "The Handbook is a practical guide to providing legal services in a way that permits clients, who otherwise could not afford or would not choose to hire a lawyer, to obtain critical legal representation for discrete and important tasks in the course of resolving disputes. The Handbook discusses aspects of limited-scope representation, including formation and termination of the relationship, the performance of discrete tasks, and the ethical issues and procedural rules involved in this service method. It also provides valuable anecdotal experiences of limited-service practitioners." An index contains sample forms and pleadings.

The volume is shelved in the "General Legal" section in the bookcase along the south wall of the Library under the windows.

An on-line edition of the Handbook is available on the ABA's website. The on-line edition is accessible through a link on the "Links" page of the Law Library's website and by clicking [here](#).

Spotlight on Library Resources is an occasional feature intended to make readers aware of a resource available in the Library with which many may not be familiar.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The March exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are artwork by Donna Dennis.

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

The April 2010 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be pastels by Kathleen Hoff-Harvey. More information on the exhibits 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:

AALL Spectrum, v.14:4 (Feb. 2009).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v.289:3/v.42:3 (Dec. 2009).

Black's Law Dictionary, 9th ed.

A Few Good Men, DVD.

Kansas Court Rules and Procedure, Volume II - Federal, 2010 Supplement.

Law Library Journal, v. 102:1 (Winter 2010).

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 47:1 and v. 47:2 (Jan. and Feb. 2010), and v. 46 Index.

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.

February's entry was:

- The Douglas County Law Library has a suggestion box on the table near the Library entrance.

This Month In Legal History

March 16, 1857 - Henry F. Parker reports on the courthouse competition in Lawrence, Kansas.

In 1855, the first act organizing Douglas County, Kansas Territory, designated LeCompton as the county seat. LeCompton was the headquarters of the pro-slavery movement in Kansas Territory, and that same year it became the permanent capital of the territory and the seat of the territorial legislature. The legislature had been elected by a large group of pro-slavery men who had come into the territory from Missouri, specifically to take over polling places, cast fraudulent votes, and so ensure a pro-slavery outcome in that spring's election. Because of this, it was known as the "bogus" legislature by Free-State men and women, many of whom lived in Lawrence, the headquarters of the Free-State movement in the territory. By 1857, there was movement on the part of Free-State men to have the county seat moved from LeCompton to Lawrence. In

anticipation of this, plans were being made as to where county buildings would be located after the change was made. Apparently, different interests in town were competing for the location of a future courthouse. Henry F. Parker, a Free-State supporter originally from Reading, Massachusetts, wrote a letter dated March 16, 1857, to Hiram Hill, another Free-State supporter and businessman in Williamsburg, Massachusetts. Parker reported to Hill that an unnamed "they" were trying to find a location for a courthouse in Lawrence, and that a Mr. Whitman, presumably Edmund Burke Whitman, local agent of the National Kansas Committee, had offered a square of land containing five or six acres and \$500 for a courthouse. A Mr. Mallery, a Mr. Ditzler, and one or two unnamed others had "offered the same," presumably referring to money to build a courthouse on the land Whitman was offering. Parker wrote that Whitman wanted to know if Hill would do likewise. This was apparently being done to counter the actions of a Mr. Babcock, presumably local attorney Carmi William Babcock, whom Parker indicated was trying to get the courthouse located on his own land, and who had offered up a large sum of money for that purpose. All this maneuvering went for nothing, for even though the territorial legislature moved the county seat of Douglas County from Leecompton to Lawrence in January 1858, none of the competing interests were successful in securing a location for the courthouse. In fact, no courthouse would be built in the county for many years. From 1858 to 1869, the county rented space to house county offices in various business buildings in Lawrence. In 1869, the City of Lawrence built a City Hall, and the county rented space there for the court and some other county offices. By 1899, the county still did not have a courthouse of its own, so that year the voters of Douglas County approved a levy for an additional real estate tax to pay for one. In 1902, local banker J.B. (Jabez Bunting)

Watkins offered to donate four lots on the southeast corner of Massachusetts and Quincy (now 11th) Streets for the construction of a courthouse. The County Commission accepted the donation and construction began in early 1903, the cornerstone being laid on July 4th of that year. Construction was completed sometime in late 1904, and in January of 1905, county officers began to move in without fanfare. The building became a local landmark, and on April 14, 1975, the Douglas County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

From: Historic Leecompton, [About Leecompton...](#); William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas, Douglas County, [Part 3, County Organization and Official Roster](#); History of Lowell and its people, Volume 2, by Frederick W. Coburn, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York City, 1920, [p. 675](#); [Letter, Henry Parker to Hiram Hill](#), March 16, 1857; [Hiram Hill Collection](#), Kansas State Historical Society; [Expense Sheet, Edmond Burke Whitman to National Kansas Committee](#), February 28-August 14, 1857, Kansas Memory Project, Kansas State Historical Society; [Photograph, Carmi William Babcock](#), Kansas Memory Project, Kansas State Historical Society; National Register of Historic Places, Inventory, Nomination Form, [Douglas County Courthouse](#); [Douglas County Courthouse History](#), Douglas County, Kansas, website; and, [Douglas County Courthouse](#), Kansas State Historical Society.

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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