

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 is on the 9th.

Update on New Computers

The new computers have been installed and the new wireless network has been set up.

There are three HP TouchSmart desktop PCs and a MacBook Pro laptop, all for use by Library patrons.

We are still working the bugs out of the new system, so a few features that were available prior to the new installation are not functioning at optimal performance, but we will get the issues resolved as soon as possible.

If you experience difficulties using the new computers, please let library staff know so that they can be addressed.

New Public Wireless Network Available in Law Library

As a result of setting up a new network in the Law Library, there is now a separate new wireless network available in the Library for the use of Library patrons. The network is accessible through any wireless device that has Internet capability. The network name is "DCLaw-guest", and the password is posted in the Library. From time to time, the password will be changed and the change will be posted.

Legal Essay Contest

The fifth annual Douglas County Legal Essay Contest is in full swing. All high school seniors who attend a high school in Douglas County are invited to participate. The contest is sponsored by the Law Library and the Douglas County Bar Association. The topic for this year's contest is "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Discuss and analyze why the American justice system is or is not the fairest in the world."

Up to three cash prizes will be awarded for winning essays as determined by a panel of judges, \$750.00 for first place, \$500.00 for second place, and \$250.00 for third place. Depending on the decision of the judges, not all prizes may be awarded.

The authors of the winning essays will be invited to the Law Day luncheon on May 1, and in addition, the first place winner will have his or her name and school inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the Law Library.

If you know of a high school senior, please encourage him or her to participate in this strictly local contest.

A complete list of contest rules and essay submission instructions can be found on the Douglas County Law Library's website at <http://www.douglascolawlibrary.org/essay-contestrules.html>.

Reels of Justice Film Series on Hiatus

The Lawrence Public Library is currently undergoing an 18 million dollar renovation. As a result, the Auditorium will be unavailable for use. This will require the Reels of Justice Film Series to go on hiatus until the project is completed, which will likely be sometime in 2014. The Film Series will begin again from where it left off.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The February/March 2012 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions are photography by Roger Spohn.

The exhibitions will run through the end of March 2012. All of the pieces are for sale and may be purchased directly from the artist. Contact information for Mr. Spohn is available in the Library.

The April/May 2012 exhibitions in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are scheduled to be paintings by Joanna Ward. More information on these exhibitions will be in the April 2012 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. 16:4 (Feb. 2012).

ABA Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 31:2 (Feb. 2012).

Advance sheets of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals, v. 293:2/v. 46:4 (Jan. 2012).

Ghosts of Mississippi, DVD.

Law Library Journal, v. 104:1 (Winter 2012).

Manual of Procedure for Incorporating by Reference the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 2011 ed.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 49:1 (Jan. 2012) and v. 49:2 (Feb. 2012).

Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, 39th ed. (2011).

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:

In its role as the archive for the Douglas County Bar Association, the Law Library welcomes and encourages submission of material from both the history of the local bar and from attorneys who once practiced in the county for possible inclusion in the archival collection.

This Month In Legal History

March 13, 1903 - Excavation begins for the Douglas County, Kansas, courthouse.

Douglas County, Kansas Territory, was founded in 1855, and until 1858, LeCompton was the county seat. In 1858, the county seat was permanently moved to Lawrence. 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, Douglas

County, one of the most populous counties in the state, still did not have a courthouse of its own. That year, county voters approved a levy for an additional real estate tax to pay for one. In February 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 deed to the land in March, and planning for construction of the building was begun. A building design competition was held, but the Commissioners were unable to decide on one single architect. They asked architects J.G. Haskell and Frederick C. Gunn to work together on the project as associates for a fee not to exceed 5% of the gross amount expended on construction. Haskell and Gunn began drafting detailed plans that would permit construction to begin early in 1903. Eight bids for the construction of the Douglas County Courthouse were received, and a contract was awarded to the firm of Cuthbert and Sargent of Topeka for \$62,181. Excavation for the building began on March 13, 1903. Actual construction starting about April 1. The cornerstone of the building was laid on July 4, 1903, during a ceremony conducted by the Masonic orders. In March of 1904, vaults were ordered from the Art Metal Construction Company of Jamestown, New York. In August, Sol Marks, a local jewelry store owner, was awarded a contract to provide a Seth Thomas clock with four dials for installation in the courthouse tower. Construction was completed sometime in late 1904, and in January 1905, county officers began to move in without fanfare. There is no evidence that the courthouse was officially dedicated. On April 14, 1975, the Douglas County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

From: [Douglas County Courthouse History](#) - Douglas County, Kansas, website; William G. Cutler's History of the State of Kansas, Douglas County, Part 3, [County Organization and Official Roster](#); and, Na-

tional Register of Historic Places, Inventory - Nomination Form - [Douglas County Courthouse](#).

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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