

Douglas County Law Library E-Mail Newsletter



Vol. 6, No. 5; May 2009

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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 8th.

Board of Trustees Election Results

The ballots have been tallied and the results are in. The attorneys elected to fill the five attorney-member positions for the 2009-

2011 term on the Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees are:

Jody Meyer
Kenzie Singleton
Craig A. Stancliffe
Charles E. Whitman
Stephanie J. Wilson

Their two-year terms began on May 1, 2009.

Fifty-one percent of eligible attorneys voted in this year's election. This was a significant increase over the last Board of Trustees election in 2007, when only forty-four percent of those eligible to vote did so.

Retiring Board of Trustee Members

The Editor would like to take this opportunity to recognize the three Douglas County Law Library Board of Trustees members who have left this year, and to thank them for their valuable service on the Board and for their support of the Law Library.

Judge Jack Murphy left the Board on the occasion of his retirement on January 12 from the judgeship in Division II of the Kansas Seventh Judicial District.

Martin L. Miller and Carolyn Simpson left the Board on May 1 when their two-year elected terms ended.

Legal Essay Contest Winners

The winners of the Second Annual Douglas County Legal Essay Contest are:

First Place - Hannah Kapp-Klote - Lawrence Free State High School.

Second Place - Nash Riggins - Lawrence Free State High School.

Third Place - Colin Busby - Baldwin High School.

The annual contest is co-sponsored by the Law Library and the Douglas County Bar Association, and is open to all seniors who attend high school in the County and who intend to further their formal education after graduation.

The topic for the 2009 contest was "The Significance of Separation of Church and State in our Government." Cash prizes were awarded for the top three essays, 1st place receiving a \$1,500.00 award; 2nd place receiving a \$1,000.00 award, and 3rd place receiving a \$500.00 award.

The three winners attended the Law Day luncheon on May 1st and their essays will be published on the Law Library's website. In addition, as first place winner, Ms. Kapp-Klote's name has been inscribed on a plaque that is displayed in the Library and a copy of her essay has been added to the Library's collection.

The Value of the Law Library

In these tough economic times, the Law Library has become even more valuable to the attorneys of Douglas County. While incomes are down and prices are rising, all of

the Library's resources continue to be free to use.

For the \$10.00 annual fee that you are required by statute to pay, you are eligible to be issued a key that gives you free access to the Library and all of its resources, including the Lexis online legal database, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is the best deal in town, since even a limited Lexis, Loislaw, or Westlaw subscription costs many times more than the Library's annual fee.

In addition to electronic resources, the Library has print resources focused on a Kansas practice, most of which are very expensive to purchase privately.

Why not check out what the Library has to offer, and if you like what you see, consider dropping your expensive subscriptions and utilize the Library's resources instead.

The Library also purchases material requested by its users. If there is a resource that you would like to have access to but it is too expensive to purchase yourself, suggest it for purchase by the Library. If, after evaluation, it is determined to be something the Library should have in its collection, it will be purchased and made available to our users.

Current Art Gallery Exhibition

The May exhibits in the Douglas County Law Library Art Gallery and the Division IV Art Gallery are watercolors by Linda Everett.

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

The June 2009 Law Library and Division IV exhibitions will be paintings by Lynn Metzger. More information on the exhibit will be in the June 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, or 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.13:6 (Apr. 2009).

Child Law Practice: Helping Lawyers Help Kids, v. 28:2 (Apr. 2009).

Kansas Trial Handbook, 2nd ed., 2009 Pocket Part.

Search and Seizure Bulletin, v. 46:4 (Apr. 2009).

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.

April's entry was:

- Attorneys may set up a prepaid account to automatically pay for printing and copying in the Library, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This Month In Legal History

May 15, 1861 - The Mayor and the Marshal save a secessionist from a lynching.

Mr. E. Flagler and Mr. J. W. Thompson arrived in Lawrence, Kansas, on May 15, 1861, having come on the stagecoach from Kansas City. The two men registered at the Eldridge House, giving their home as Kansas City, and then went about their business. Flagler was seen to be walking around town, eventually making his way to the jail where he asked some questions of the guards. Thompson's activities during the day were not reported, and by evening, the two men were back at their hotel. During a conversation that evening, Thompson stated that he was a secessionist, a supporter of the southern states seceding from the Union. Word quickly spread that there were secessionists in the Eldridge House. The building stood on the site of the Free State Hotel, which had been burned to the ground by a large group of pro-slavery men on May 21, 1856. Lawrence had been the center of Free State activity during territorial days, and had been sacked and burned on that day in May 1856. This history, combined with the fact that rebels had fired upon Fort Sumter only 33 days earlier, made the prospect of having pro-slavery rebel sympathizers in their midst more than the good citizens of Lawrence could tolerate. An angry crowd assembled outside the hotel and then forced its way into the building, accompanied by shouts of "death to traitors." Either from something Thompson had said, or from the similarity of names, it was understood that he was the brother of M. Jeff Thompson, a colonel in

the Missouri state militia. At the time, Colonel Thompson, who later became known as the "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy," was leading his pro-Confederate command in attacks on the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, whose construction he had helped supervise in the 1850s. No one related to Colonel Thompson would have been welcomed in Lawrence, and the possibility that one of the secessionists in the Eldridge House was his brother would have further inflamed the crowd. When news of the crowd's actions reached Mayor Alonzo Fuller and City Marshal Joseph Cracklin, the two quickly made their way to the hotel. Seeing the mood of the crowd, and undoubtedly fearing that a lynching was imminent, they took custody of the two men and began making plans to get them out of town. The two officials soon decided that it would be better to take the two men to the jail, and several companies of troops stationed in town were called in to help move the prisoners. Upon arrival, the troops formed up three deep around the prisoners and marched them to the jail without serious incident. When Thompson left the hotel, "...he was so disguised that only those nearest to him knew exactly where to look for him, which caused considerable confusion in the ranks of the excited ones, and saved much trouble." The German citizens in town were particularly incensed by secessionists, due to reports that had reached town concerning ill treatment of Germans in Missouri.¹ It was noted that, "Our German citizens were particularly excited against the prisoners...though many Americans joined in the cry for blood. The scene was one of the wildest Lawrence has witnessed for many a day." The military guard at the jail was doubled and the crowd gradually dispersed. After reaching the jail, Flagler was questioned by the authorities. He was asked, "Are you a Free State man?" and he replied, "I am that." He went on to say other things that were not reported. This convinced the citizenry that he was an inno-

cent man who had been found in bad company, and he was released. Thompson, who was described as being "well dressed, and quite cool considering his position," spent the night in jail. On the following morning, Thompson was put aboard the Kansas City stagecoach. He was reluctant to leave in that way until two respected citizens volunteered to accompany him out of town. The two boarded the stage and escorted Mr. Thompson to safety. The *Kansas State Journal* observed, "Mayor Fuller and Marshall Cracklin are deserving of praise for the energy and good judgment they exhibited throughout. ... We are proud to be able to announce that our city came out of this excitement without any disgrace. ... The next traitor caught in Lawrence will be lucky indeed, if he escapes with so whole a skin."

¹In one report coming from St. Louis, a gang of secessionists had hunted down and killed up to nine innocent German men. This was supposedly in retaliation for Federal troops of German extraction having shot and killed a number of St. Louis civilians during an attack by a mob. A detachment of Missouri State troops had surrendered to the Federal troops on May 10, 1861. As the prisoners were being marched out of camp, a mob began attacking the Federal troops with stones, clubs, and pistols. The Federal troops held their fire until the prisoners broke ranks and tried to escape. The escaping prisoners ran into the crowd of civilians and at the same time began attacking the Federal troops. The civilians were killed when the Federal troops fought back to defend themselves and recapture their prisoners.

From: *Kansas State Journal*, v. 1, no. 13 (May 16, 1861), p. 3; *ibid*, v. 1, no. 14 (May 23, 1861), p. 3; and, "M. Jeff Thompson" on Wikipedia.org.

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 op-

erations 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.

For Sale:

Black notebooks, gently used, assorted sizes, 50 cents each, any size. Great for trial notebooks. Contact Juanita Carlson at her e-mail address: jcarlson@1040nh.com.

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