

# *Clock Tower*

## *Quarterly*



*Spring 2026*

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# April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15		17	18
19						25
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- **April 2nd: Family Law Workshop**
- **April 3rd: Good Friday**  
County Offices Closed
- **April 16th: Family Law Workshop**
- **April 20th-24th: National Library Week**

# May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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- **May 1st: Law Day**
- **May 7th: Family Law Workshop**
- **May 21st: Family Law Workshop**
- **May 25th: Memorial Day**  
County Offices Closed

# June 2026

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28	29	30				

- **June 4th: Family Law Workshop**
- **June 18th: Family Law Workshop**
- **June 19th: Juneteenth**  
County Offices Closed

# July 2026

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26	27	28	29	30		

- **July 2nd: Family Law Workshop**
- **July 3rd: 4th of July Holiday Observed**  
County Offices Closed
- **July 16th: Family Law Workshop**

*celebrate*

# National Library Week

April 20 - 24, 2026 *with us!*



find your JOY!



# National Library Week

at the Dell DeHay Law Library  
April 20th - 24th, 2026

## MONDAY: Coffee & Conversation

Join us for a warm cup of coffee and open discussion with library staff. Share what brings you joy in our space and discover the new ways the library can brighten your day.

## TUESDAY: Take a Shelfie for Library Workers

Celebrate Library Workers Day and the folks who keep our library thriving! Snap a “shelfie” with your favorite part of the stacks and email it to us for a chance to be featured in our newsletter.

## WEDNESDAY: Dr. Brian Byrd Author Spotlight

Meet with Brian Byrd M.D. and learn more about his book, *Navigating Feedback at Work, Home and Everywhere Else*. Enjoy snacks and conversation from 11 am to 12 pm. The first 25 attendees will receive a free signed copy!

## THURSDAY: Explore with Library Passports

Pick up your library passport and complete a series of fun, library-inspired activities to learn more about the library. Each completed activity brings you closer to earning exclusive swag (while supplies last)!

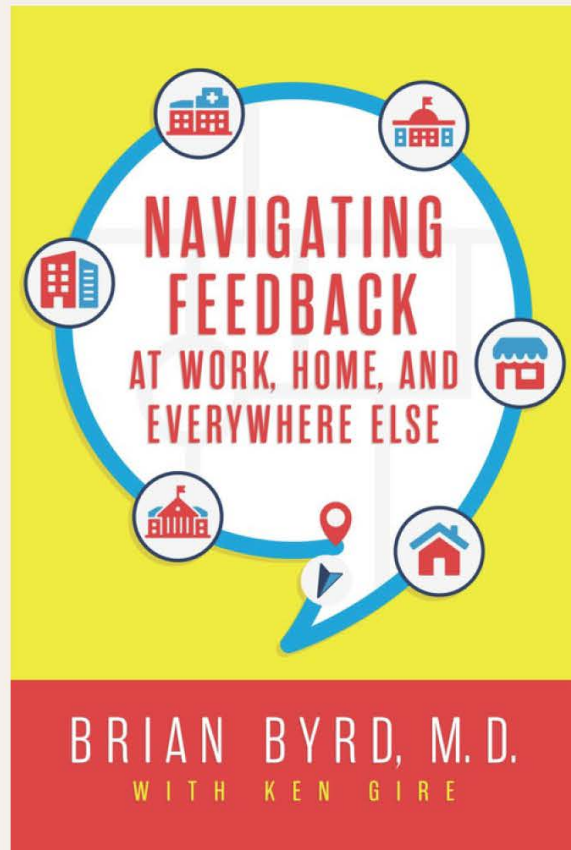
## FRIDAY: Crafting Joy at the Law Library

End National Library Week with color and creativity. Drop in for a variety of hands-on craft projects designed to spark joy. Create something fun and uniquely yours!



# MEET & GREET

*with author, Doctor and Public Health Director*  
**Brian Byrd, M.D.**



Dell DeHay Law Library  
100 W. Weatherford St., Room 420  
Fort Worth, TX 76196

**Wednesday, April 22, 2026**  
11:00 am – 12:00 pm

*The first 25 attendees will receive a free copy of his book.*

# Welcome, Amarainie!

*Amarainie joined us in March as one of our Law Librarians, and we are thrilled to welcome her. A proud Texas-born professional with a deep love of community and lifelong learning, she brings creativity, curiosity, and genuine heart to everything she does. A dedicated reader and writer with a growing passion for arts, crafts, and live music, she contributes a vibrant mix of skills and interests to the library. We had the chance to sit down for a brief Q&A and have included her responses in this issue.*

**Where did you attend college?** I earned my bachelor's degree in English from the University of Texas at Arlington. I also earned my Master of Science in Information Studies (MSIS) and Master of Arts in English (MA) from the University of Texas at Austin. Hook 'em!!!!

**Have you always lived in Texas?** Yes! Texas born and raised. I was born in El Paso and have lived around Fort Worth since I was about 9 years old. I briefly lived in Austin for 3 years, but am thrilled to be back!



*Amarainie (second row, third from left) with her family after her college graduation.*



*Amarainie's dog, Athena.*

**What hobbies do you enjoy outside of work?** My most consistent hobbies are reading and writing, which I've loved for practically my whole life. I also really enjoy bike riding when the weather is nice. I'm really passionate about all things zines (and if you don't know what those are, ask — I'd love to talk your ear off about them). I've most recently started exploring any arts and crafts I can get my hands on. I enjoy painting with watercolors, diamond art, and jewelry making, and have picked up some air-dry clay and crocheting supplies I can't wait to try. I adore music as well and love going to live shows whenever I can.

**What's the last book you read for fun?** Right now, I'm reading a couple of books: *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky on my own and *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir with a book club I have with some friends. I am casually listening to *Everything I Know About Love* by Dolly Alderton that I tune into when I'm doing chores.

**Where have you always wanted to travel to?** As much as I love visiting new places, my pockets don't support that lifestyle, so I haven't had the opportunity to visit many places. However, I have been dreaming about NYC since I was a little girl. Outside of the US, Italy and Greece are at the top of my list.

**What do you enjoy most about living in Fort Worth?** There's a lot I love about Fort Worth!! There's always something to do here! From our coffee shops and eats to our gorgeous museum district, catching a concert at Dickies Arena, visiting the Stockyards or going to the Rodeo (one of the best in the state), checking out pop-up shops and events every weekend, or taking a quick 30-minute drive to Arlington for sports games or amusement parks — or an extra 30 to see what's going on in Dallas (though they have nothing on us, hehe). But what I love the most about Fort Worth is that it's my home! My family lives here, my friends live here, I grew up here, and it will always be a very special place for me.



*Amarainie and her boyfriend, Steve.*



*Amarainie (fourth from left) at a friend's wedding this past January.*

### **Amarainie's Favorite Things**

**Go-to coffee or tea order?** I'm a coffee girlie through and through. An iced vanilla latte with oat milk is my go-to.

**Favorite comfort tv show?** Brooklyn Nine-Nine, New Girl and Ted Lasso are my favorite comfort shows.

**Favorite book genres?** My favorite genres are horror, Latinx literature and poetry.

**One snack that you could eat forever?** Probably fruit! I love fruit so much that I have a tiny strawberry tattoo on my ankle. I adore berries but I also love pineapple, oranges, mangoes, kiwis, plums, pomegranates and literally any other fruit you can think of.

**Favorite collections?** I collect a few things. My T-shirt collection is quite extensive—four and a half drawers' worth!—since I buy one at every concert I go to, every new place I travel to, or anytime I find a cool tee I NEED (and easily any T-shirt I come across meets that criteria). I also collect stickers, though I have too much anxiety to stick them anywhere, so I just pin them to a couple of corkboards I have. I also have a growing vinyl collection that I'm proud of! And my boyfriend will probably say I collect arts and craft supplies too.

**Favorite Season?** Halloween is my favorite holiday, so naturally I would choose the season it takes place! I love the fall colors, fresher weather and the cozy seasonal activities.

**Fictional world you would most like to visit?** Harry Potter. No question.

**What's the first library you ever loved and why?** I've always loved libraries and spent a lot of time in them growing up because they felt like a safe place. The first ones that truly made a lasting impact on me were the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL) and the Austin Public Library. The PCL means the world to me—it was my first library job and gave me the assurance that this was the work I was meant to do. It was also where I curated my first exhibit, and the sheer size and scope of the library building itself filled me with endless awe. I also feel the need to mention the Austin Public Library because it was one of the first where I saw how impactful creative architecture and design could be for a library space. It's gorgeous and a must-see.

**What's the most unusual job you had before becoming a librarian?** I don't think I've had any unusual jobs, but I've done quite a lot before becoming a librarian. I've worked at a restaurant, a bank, a department store, a fast-food place, and in marketing for a military broker. I've also worked in various libraries and museums, including one dedicated to the Texas Military Forces and one dedicated to an artist's donated land that was converted in to a sculpture garden!

**What attracted you to the field?** When I used to work for the previously mentioned military broker, I didn't have a lot of job fulfillment – you'll hear me say, "I was only making Michael Kors richer" and what good is that when he has more than enough money? I wanted to do something that truly impacted people, something that made a difference and still felt like "me." Coming from an English background, where studies focus on research, books, and communication, entering the field of librarianship felt like a natural fit—and sure enough, I'm quite passionate about it.



*Amarainie (left) with her sisters at an Enjambre concert in February.*



*Enjambre*

**What part of your new job are you looking forward to the most?** I'm most looking forward to the sheer amount of learning that is required of me. I know there won't be a boring day in this role because there's always more to learn. I am also looking forward to making the legal process less intimidating for patrons, helping to guide and provide direction to otherwise confused or uncertain individuals.



# NATIONAL LAW DAY

*The Texas Constitution & The Rule of Law*

**May 1st, 2026**

Join us at **The Dell DeHay Law Library** in honoring how law contributes to the freedoms and justice we all share as Americans. This year, we will also highlight the Texas Constitution, the highest law of our state, which remains in the hands of the Texas people even after 150 years.



# A Day in the Life of a Law Librarian

by C.K. Hardy

If you've ever wondered what a typical day looks like for a law librarian, allow me to pull back the curtain. Spoiler: it's chaos and a copious amounts of caffeine.

## 6:00 AM – The Animal Department

My day starts at home entirely too early, where I am outnumbered by dogs who believe their breakfast is the most important part of my day. Each one has a specific food routine, one has multiple medications that must be delivered with the precision of a pharmacist, and we can't forget to set up the treats and toys so no one gets too bored while the human is away.

After the dogs are handled, it's time for the chickens, and can't forget the parakeet who's small, opinionated, and convinced he is in charge of this whole operation. Finally, everyone is fed, dosed, chirped at, and settled into their daily entertainment (usually Cops reruns because apparently my dogs enjoy crime!), I slip out the door while yelling at them what I was told every time I left for school as a kid,

***“Be good, make A's!”***

## 7:15 AM – Fueling Up

An embarrassing number of mornings, I stop at my regular taco joint, where they have my order memorized better than my boyfriend most days: a chorizo, bean & cheese burrito and a green Monster. Then I'm off! Typically jamming to some 2010's alt emo or dad rock and putting my make-up on in the garage.

## 7:45ish AM – Opening the Library

Once I arrive at the wonderful world of the Dell DeHay Law Library, everyone works together to go through our morning ritual:

- ◆ Lights and computers on
- ◆ TV running with informational slideshow created for each season or holiday
- ◆ Printers, scanners, and general library magic brought to life
- ◆ Cart shuffling (occasionally dropping) and getting set up at the reference desk

Think of us as the pit crew of legal information. By the time patrons walk in, everything is ready for action.



Tito, the Bourke's parakeet

## 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM – At the Reference Desk

During the morning, I am posted up at the reference desk. This is where I get to help patrons navigate the sometimes-overwhelming maze of legal information. This is where I become part guide, part problem-solver, tech support, and sometimes part therapist. Every situation is different, and that's what makes this role dynamic and rewarding. Helping patrons isn't just about pointing to a book or handing over a form. It's about listening carefully, understanding their situation, and connecting them with the right resources. It's a mix of legal knowledge, research expertise, and empathy.

While the reference desk is the most visible part of my job, there's a lot happening behind the scenes while I am on the desk to keep the library functioning smoothly:

- ◆ Printing the preprinted materials so we have quick access to commonly needed forms.
- ◆ Keeping the copy paper stocked, because the magic of endless printing doesn't happen on its own.
- ◆ Returning books to their proper places, straightening shelves and chairs, and making sure everything stays organized.
- ◆ Updating resources and monitoring changes, so our materials stay accurate and relevant.

It's equal parts customer service, detective work, keeping chaos at bay, and ok, yes, occasionally "Shhh-ing" people.

### 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM – Project Mode

Now that the Monster energy is gone this is when I switch from front-line reference duties to Dr. Pepper and all the big project work that keeps the library humming, as well as helping with answering the phone and sending emails. Now is when I get to deep dive into my long-term projects and more detail-oriented duties, which include:

- ◆ The catalog refresh: Yes, we are re-cataloging **everything**. Yes, it is exactly as massive and tedious as it sounds. The Library of Congress can thank me for their spike in website traffic.
- ◆ Writing Newsletter articles: Like the one you're reading! Or the even better one at the end of this issue with cute opossums!
- ◆ Creating and Updating Research Guides: Because who doesn't love a roadmap through a legal maze. This also keeps me updated on specific topics and I get to learn new things.
- ◆ Forms & Handouts: Creating, updating, and improving template forms is something I feel is one of the most important jobs that patrons find incredibly helpful

You never know what you may find or learn being a law librarian. My most recent favorite and new video game obsession was when we found a 1992 floppy disk with the "Civil Objection!" game. For some homework here is the criminal version if you would like to test your skills! [https://archive.org/details/msdos\\_Objection\\_1992](https://archive.org/details/msdos_Objection_1992)

### And that's a wrap

At the end of the day, I head home to the dogs, who greet me as if I've been gone for years. Cops gets turned off, dinner is served, and I recharge for another day of helping people find what they need. Some days I feel like a librarian, others I feel like a writer, designer, researcher, or therapist. Being a law librarian means juggling technology, resources, people, and the occasional book that simply refuses to stay shelved, but I wouldn't trade it. Every day is something and someone new, and a reason for me to say, "Let's see what we can find."



Left to Right: Saffy, Dot, Odin, Pepper

*Till next time! And remember, Be good and make A's!*



19th Annual

**People's**  
LAW SCHOOL

Presented by Tarrant County Bar Foundation in cooperation with  
Tarrant County Bar Association and Texas A&M University School of Law

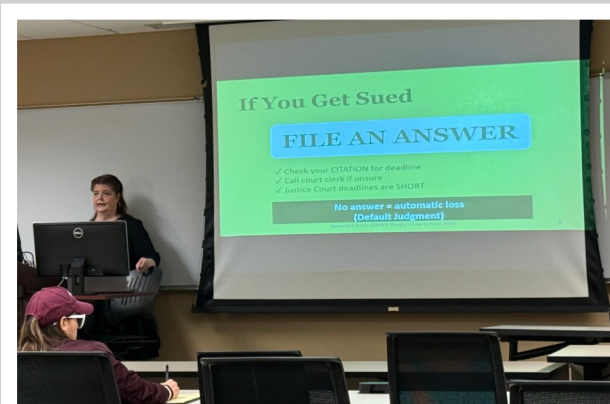
**FREE  
EVENT**

**Saturday, March 7, 2026 | 12:30 p.m – 3:15 p.m.**  
Texas A&M University School of Law  
1515 Commerce Street Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(located downtown across from the Fort Worth Water Gardens)

People’s Law School is a long-running Spring event hosted by the Tarrant County Bar Association and the Tarrant County Bar Foundation. It is a free program that gives the public a chance to learn about common legal topics.

After helping promote the event, several law library staff members were able to attend this year’s sessions and see how community members engaged with the speakers. Topics included wills and estates, consumer law, guardianship and alternatives, probate and alternatives, expunctions, and a “know your rights” overview of constitutional law.

Seeing community members dive into the sessions and ask thoughtful questions was a great reminder of why People’s Law School has remained such a meaningful resource for so many years.





## Region 3-DFW District Partnering to Protect Resource Fair

"Marching with our Partners to Protect"

*One Band One Sound*

When: March 12, 2026


Where: 201 N Rupert Street

Ft. Worth, Texas 76107- 2nd Floor

Time: 10:00AM-1:00PM

Law Library staff hosted a vendor booth at the APS Partnering to Protect Resource Fair, sharing valuable legal information and highlighting the wide range of services the Law Library provides to the community. Team members engaged with attendees, answered questions, and promoted resources designed to support access to justice for all.

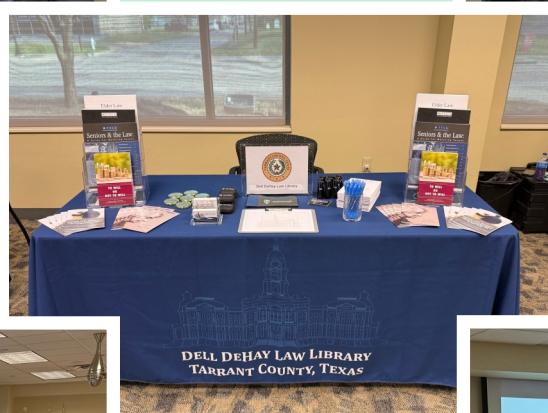


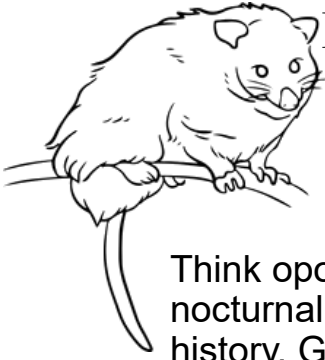


Commissioner Alisa Simmons  
**KIDNEY WELLNESS**  
*and Health Expo*  
 A CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS INITIATIVE

Commissioner Alisa Simmons hosted the 3rd Annual Kidney Wellness and Health Expo on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at the Tarrant County Sub-Courthouse in Arlington. The event focused on raising awareness about chronic kidney disease and offered a wide range of free community health resources, including kidney function screenings, physician-led workshops, healthy cooking demonstrations, food samples, a complimentary lunch, a Kids Zone, and screening mammograms for those who qualified.

The Law Library participated as a vendor this year, hosting a booth where staff members engaged with attendees about the services the Law Library provides. Staff enjoyed talking with attendees about what the Law Library offers and sharing estate planning resources that support informed decision making.





# Lawsome Opossum: How the Law and History Cross Paths with America's Favorite Marsupial

By: C.K. Hardy

Think opossums just hang out in trees and play dead? Think again! These nocturnal marsupials have wandered into courtrooms and even presidential history. Grab your coffee and settle in for some cases almost as weird as these creatures.



## Postal Telegraph Cable Co. v. Schiff (1928)

This Tennessee case revolved around a delayed telegram about the price of opossum furs. The plaintiff, a fur buyer, sent a telegram quoting opossum fur prices at 72.5 cents. The telegram was delivered eight days late, by which time prices had jumped to 80 cents. Acting on the outdated telegram, the buyer purchased furs at the higher price, expecting reimbursement—but the fur company refused. The court held the telegraph company liable for negligence, ruling that the delay was the proximate cause of the buyer's financial loss.

Who knew opossums could spark a lawsuit over market volatility? Turns out, even in the Roaring Twenties, playing “possum” with telegrams was a bad idea!



## Alt v. Alt (1923)

In this New Jersey divorce case, the wife alleged extreme cruelty. Among her grievances? Her husband kept an opossum in their barroom, despite her repeated pleas to remove it. She claimed the animal's presence caused her constant fear and mental anguish. The court dismissed the husband's divorce petition and granted the wife maintenance, finding her claims of cruelty credible.

When faced with a choice, always pick the opossum. They don't throw lamps. And sometimes the opossum deserves the house more than the husband.

#TeamPossum



## State v. Hoxie (1998)

This Tennessee criminal case involved stalking and harassment. After a divorce, the defendant tried to gift his 6-year-old daughter a opossum in a metal cage. When the ex-wife refused, he hurled the cage at her car. This was just one incident in a long pattern of harassment. The court upheld convictions for felony stalking, misdemeanor stalking, and telephone harassment.

Nothing says “romantic gesture” like an opossum, except when it becomes Exhibit A in a stalking trial!



## Kimberly Hills Neighborhood Assoc. v. Dion (1982)

A Michigan neighborhood association sued to stop a housing development, arguing it would destroy natural resources, including habitats for wildlife like opossums. The case tested the scope of the Michigan Environmental Protection Act. The court reversed an injunction, finding that while opossums and other wildlife were present, they weren't rare or endangered, so the development didn't violate the statute.

Opossums briefly became environmental celebrities, until the court decided they were too common to halt progress. Sorry, possums, no VIP status this time!

## Presidential Possums



When you think of White House pets, dogs and cats probably come to mind. But what about these awesome opossums?



In 1929, during Hoover's presidency, an opossum wandered onto the White House lawn. Rather than shoo it away, Hoover adopted the marsupial and named it Billy Possum. Billy became something of a novelty pet, charming visitors and staff alike, and even briefly served as the mascot for a high school baseball team.

Historical accounts suggest that President Benjamin Harrison kept two opossums at the White House, creatively named Mr. Reciprocity and Mr. Protection. Imagine the photo ops! Two opossums symbolizing trade policy!



Lastly, before you start dreaming of your own Billy Possum, remember: most states, including Texas, prohibit keeping native wildlife like opossums without special permits. These rules protect ecosystems and animal welfare.

We've covered some interesting cases starring opossums, now we want to hear from you: What other obscure legal topics would you love to see featured? Historical oddities? Animal antics? Send us your ideas, and we'll forage for the next wild legal tale.

## Citations

(1929) *White House possum, 5/25/29*. 1929. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016843745/>.

(1929) *White House possum, 5/6/29*. 1929. [May 6] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016843743/>.

Alt v. Alt, 95 N.J. Eq. 90, 122 A. 607 (1923)

Kimberly Hills Neighborhood Asso. v. Dion, 114 Mich. App. 495, 320 N.W.2d 668 (1982)

Postal Tel. Cable Co. v. Schiff, 7 Tenn. App. 182 (1928)

State v. Hoxie, 963 S.W.2d 737 (Tenn. 1998)

Winick, S. (2019, August 12). *Of Possums and Presidents: Some Presidential Encounters with Opossums*. Folklife Today. Retrieved from <https://blogs.loc.gov/folklife/2019/08/of-possums-and-presidents-some-presidential-encounters-with-opossums/>

## Ask a Librarian

Have a challenging research question or need assistance navigating a legal database? Our law librarians are here to help. Visit us in person, give us a call, send an email, or use our [Connect with a Law Librarian](#) service!

## Suggest A Research Topic

### Have an idea for a research guide or workshop?

The Dell DeHay Law Library is looking for topic suggestions to expand our collection of guides and classes—and we want your input. Whether it is a legal area you would like to learn more about or a resource you think others should know, now is your chance to help shape content that supports your research and professional needs.

Submit your ideas to [lawlibrary@tarrantcountytexas.gov](mailto:lawlibrary@tarrantcountytexas.gov) and let us know what topics you would like to see covered.

## **Dell DeHay Law Library**

### **Hours:**

Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm

Note: Public computers automatically shut down at 4:00pm

### **Phone Number:**

817-884-1481

### **Email:**

lawlibrary@tarrantcountytexas.gov

### **Physical Address:**

100 W. Weatherford St., Suite 420

Fort Worth, TX 76196

### **Website:**

<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/law-library.html>