



CLOCK TOWER QUARTERLY

Vol. 5



Dell DeHay Law Library

Hours:
Monday — Friday
8am — 4pm

Note: Computers log off automatically
at 4pm.

Phone Number:
817-884-1481

Email:
lawlibrary@tarrantcountytexas.gov

100 W. Weatherford, Room 420
Fort Worth, TX 76196

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Law Library staff rocking their protective eyewear for the solar eclipse on April 8th.

National Library Week!

April 8-12: With the solar eclipse on Monday, the library gave away eclipse viewing glasses and celestial-themed treats. For National Library Workers Day, the library showcased its "Library Stars" and invited the public to help complete a 1000-piece puzzle of the 1895 Courthouse. The library staff also had a free coffee station, swag giveaways, and arts and crafts. Visitors were encouraged to pay the "swag tax" by getting their picture taken at the law library's photo booth!





Real Property Deeds

Transferring property to a loved one? Selling your house? The Dell DeHay Law Library has legal resources on real estate and deeds. Some fill-in-the-blank forms are available. Others will be available as templates, where patrons would use sample language to help them draft real estate forms. Some templates may be e-mailed for free. For more information, an article from Texas Law Help on deeds is available at <https://texaslawhelp.org/article/property-deed-basics>.

Please note: By law, library staff are not permitted to advise on which form to use, help fill out forms, or create forms for patrons, but staff can provide legal resources to read as well as information for speaking to an attorney or legal aid.

Podcasts



Host June Grasso, an Emmy award winning journalist and former legal analyst for ABC Radio Network, discusses major legal issues and cases in the news with prominent attorneys and legal scholars. Available to listen at <https://www.bloomberg.com/podcasts/series/law>.



Host Holly Draper, CEO of The Draper Law Firm, discusses Texas Family Law issues with attorneys and other professionals. Available to listen at <https://draperfirm.com/podcast/>.



Butler Snow LLP attorneys discuss appellate law matters with judges and top appellate attorneys. Listeners are provided information for successfully presenting their case, managing their dockets and promoting efficiency through legal technology. Transcripts are available for each episode. [Available to listen at https://www.butlersnow.com/news-and-events/podcasts/texas-appellate-law-podcast](https://www.butlersnow.com/news-and-events/podcasts/texas-appellate-law-podcast).

Family Law Workshops

Do you have questions about going to court?

Twice a month, Tarrant County's Domestic Relations Office hosts Family Law Workshops on the 3rd floor of the 1895 Courthouse. General information will be presented by Tarrant County attorneys on the legal process as it pertains to family law cases. Attorneys cannot represent you. **The workshops will be held on the 1st and 3rd**

June 20th

July 18th

August 1st & 15th



Members of Domestic Relations Office
at Employee Appreciation Day 2024

For additional information, please visit the Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office website at <https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/domestic-relations-office/legal-enforcement/family-law->

The workshops are for family law cases only.

Employee Appreciation Day 2024



Amanda & Cara



Clockwise left to right: Nancy, Deneshia, Brittany, Amanda, Yancy, and Sandra



Cara & Emily (Purchasing)



Andre & Andy (County Admin.)



Norma & Mary Louise (County Clerk)



Ann, Jaimi, & Amanda (Archives)



SUMMER EVENTS in TARRANT COUNTY

Tarrant County LegalLine 2024

Dates: June 13th & June 27th

The Tarrant County Bar Association offers a free LegalLine twice a month. To learn more & register, visit <https://www.tarrantbar.org>. For the direct link to the LegalLine sign-up, go to <https://www.tarrantbar.org/?pg=LegalLine>



Event: Juneteenth, Opal's Walk

Date: June 19, 2024

Fort Worth is the home of Dr. Opal Lee, affectionately known as the "Grandmother of Juneteenth." She will be leading a 2.5 mile walk around the city in representation of the 2.5 years for news of the Emancipation Proclamation to reach Texas. Registration and information at

www.opalswalk2dc.com



Photo: <https://www.opalswalk2dc.com>

Event: Fort Worth's 4th

Date: July 4, 2024

Tarrant Regional Water District hosts a fireworks show and festival every year on July 4th at the Panther Island Pavilion. The event includes food, drinks, live music and children's activities. Admission is **FREE**. Gates open at **5pm**. Parking is **\$10**. For more information, visit <https://fortworthsfourth.com>.



Photo: Lissa M. Willis

TEXAS LEGAL UPDATES



88th Legislature (2023): Effective Dates for Bills

The Legislative Reference Library of Texas website gives effective dates for bills that passed in the 88th Legislative Session. Information is available at <https://lrl.texas.gov/sessions/effDates/billsEffective88.cfm>.

A news article from the *Austin American-Statesman* providing information on laws that went into effect on January 1st, 2024, is available at <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/state/2023/12/27/new-texas-laws-going-into-effect-new-year-tax-vaping/71908217007>.

New Forms, Procedures, and Resources

- **Standardized Protective Order Forms:** The 88th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 48 which required the Office of Court Administration (OCA) to create standardized forms for the application and issuance of protective orders. **The new protective order forms are now available at <https://www.txcourts.gov/rules-forms/standardized-protective-order-forms>.**
- **TRAP RULE 24 Update:** Pursuant to the rule change effective January 1, 2024, the clerk is no longer required to review and approve a Supersedeas Bond. No bond approval fee is charged for filing a Supersedeas Bond. Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure 24.1 (b)(2): A bond is effective upon filing. On motion of any party, the trial court will review the bond.
- **Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) New Pro Se Resources:** A new guide for information on legal tools in regard to nonparent care of child while parents are out of town. The guide is available at: <https://tyla.org/resource/legal-considerations-for-a-kids-free-vacation>.
- **Young Adult Legal Rights:** A new website for young adults that explains their legal rights and responsibilities. Topics include healthcare, contracts, consumer protection, marriage, employment, housing and more. Visit the new website available at: <https://adulthood.tyla.org>.

Library Announcements

45th Anniversary of Law Library Naming



June 4, 2024, marked the 45th anniversary of the Tarrant County Law Library becoming the Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County. Who was Dell DeHay, you might ask? Born in 1918, Alma Adelpia “Dell” (Markward) DeHay began working at the Tarrant County Law Library in 1962 and has the distinction of being the Law Library’s first professional librarian. From 1964 to 1969, she worked nights and Saturdays to achieve her master’s degree in library science. Dell DeHay transformed the Law Library over her sixteen years of service. She is credited with enhancing the Law Library’s collection. Under her direction, the library became known as "outstanding for a working law library, with practically all areas of law presented therein." Rumor has it that she had the gumption to send taxis to law firms to retrieve overdue books – back when books were allowed out of the library – and billed the firms for the fare both ways. They reportedly paid it too!

By 1976-1977, Dell DeHay and the Law Library had received some well-deserved accolades. DeHay was dedicated to the Tarrant County legal community, and she received the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers' Association Mentor Award in 1976. An independent review of the Law Library conducted on April 23, 1977, declared the library as “well-managed, with an outstanding collection.” The reviewer declared, “There [were] no established ‘standards’ for county law libraries in the United States, but if there were, Tarrant County Law Library would measure up in all respects.” She concluded that DeHay “probably ranks in the top ten percent of law librarians in the United States.”

The review also was published in *The Bar News*, prompting even more letters of congratulations. Attorney Ruel Hudspeth also told the Library Committee Chairman “with all sincerity” that he had “never met two more capable and courteous librarians than Mrs. DeHay and Mrs. Perry,” and he joked, “I earnestly wish they would offer to try some of my cases for me! Maybe I’d win a few.”

Sadly, despite her professional successes, DeHay’s health deteriorated rapidly during the late-1970s, and she had to retire early. In honor of her many years of service, and in recognition of her commitment to the Law Library, the Commissioners Court named the Law Library after her on June 4, 1979. She passed away a few short days later, on June 12, 1979, and is buried at Shannon Rose Hill Cemetery in Fort Worth. The Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County carries her name and her legacy to this day.



County Holidays
Juneteenth June 19th
4th of July
Labor Day September 5th

Display Case featuring current exhibit honoring the 45th anniversary of the law library’s renaming as the Dell DeHay Law Library of Tarrant County in 1979.

Law Library Research Guides

Librarians at the Dell DeHay Law Library create Research Guides which are useful to patrons researching a specific legal question or topic. We currently have 127 research guides available. Guides are arranged both alphabetically and topically on our website. Use QR code to access research guides online.



Law Library's Online Access to Forms

The Law Library also has commonly requested fill-in-the-blank forms available on its Forms webpage, accessible at www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/law-library/forms.html. It is important to note that there are not fill-in-the-blank forms for every situation. Contact the Law Library if you do not see information on your legal research topic.

Virtual Court Kiosk



Texas Legal Services Center partnered with the Law Library to provide a Virtual Court Kiosk in Tarrant County. It is a computer station where you can attend virtual court or find legal help. Access to the kiosk is first come, first served. To schedule, contact the Law Library.

Tarrant County Legal Assistance

- **Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (LANWT)** is income based legal aid for residents of Northwest Texas. Visit www.lanwt.org to apply online. Applications are available in English and Spanish. Call 817-336-3943 to apply if you are involved in a family law case, domestic violence situation, have a legal deadline, and/or have been served a lawsuit.
- **Tarrant County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service.** Call 817-336-4101. The attorneys in this referral program have agreed to 30-minute consultations for \$20.00. You are not obligated to retain the attorney after the initial meeting.
- **Tarrant County Legal Line Sign-Up** is a community service program offered on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Volunteer attorneys answer legal questions and make referrals to local legal or social service agencies. Sign up at <https://www.tarrantbar.org/?pg=LegalLine>.
- **Texas Lawyer's for Texas Veterans** provides legal aid for veterans. Visit the TLTV Tarrant County website at <https://txltv.org>.



Photo Credit: Lissa M. Willis

About the Authors

Brittany Schick has a background in academic libraries, most notably Dallas College, where she worked as a reference librarian. She graduated with her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas in 2009. She has worked at the Dell DeHay Law Library for two years. Some of her duties include providing reference services and assisting with compiling research guides. Her favorite hobbies are reading and writing. She is thankful for the opportunity to share her love of both with the community.

Amanda Hill has served as the Assistant Law Library Director since 2021. She holds a Master's in History from Texas Christian University, with experience in material culture studies and archives. She also oversees the Law Library's website, research guides, and historical collections. She is currently serving as Secretary for DALL, co-chair for the Constitution & Bylaws Committee in SWALL, and is a member of the Log Cabin Heritage Foundation Board.