



WILLIE MELTON LAW LIBRARY NEWS

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STAY IN THE LOOP WITH UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!

AT A GLANCE

- What's going on at the Law Library!
- How you can access resources from your home or office.

HOURS

Mon	8 am - 5 pm
Tue	8 am - 5 pm
Wed	8 am - 5 pm
Thu	8 am - 5 pm
Fri	8 am - 5 pm
Sat	CLOSED
Sun	CLOSED



What's New

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



LONE STAR
LEGAL AID

- **LAWYER IN THE LIBRARY**
hosted by Lone Star Legal Aid EVERY MONDAY from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm - [More Information Here](#)
- **PRO SE BASICS** at 10 am EVERY TUESDAY - Learn about basic court procedures and resources.
- **EXPRESS CLASSES** at 10 am EVERY THURSDAY - Learn basic legal technology.

UPDATES AND CLOSINGS

- **ELECTION DAY** is Tue, **Nov 7**.
- The Law Library and the Justice Center will be CLOSED on Fri, **Nov 10**, for **VETERANS DAY**.
- The Law Library and the Justice Center will be CLOSED on Thu and Fri, **Nov 23 & 24**, for **THANKSGIVING**.
- The **Virtual Court Kiosk**, through a grant by Texas Legal Services Center, can be reserved for virtual court hearings in the mornings from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, and in the afternoons from 1:30 to 5:00 pm.
[Reserve the Kiosk Here](#)
- New **Trellis Database** COMING SOON - Access all 254 Texas Counties Trial Court Records.

**TEXAS
LEGAL
SERVICES
CENTER**



UPDATED RESOURCES

- Texas Controlled Substances: Peace Officer's Field Manual and Study Guide **NEW**
- O'Connor's Texas Criminal Codes Plus, 2023-24 Edition
- O'Connor's Texas Probate Law Handbook, 2024 Edition
- Texas Insurance Coverage Litigation, 2024 Edition
- Medical Evidence Revision, 11 2022 **NEW**

THIS MONTH IS ELECTION LAW MONTH!

- We have lots of resources on this topic this month! Come and let us show you!

Past Program Recordings

ATTORNEY LECTURE SERIES

- **Attorneys and Burnout** - Speaker Attorney Cynthia Rendon - Find it [HERE!](#)
- **10 Lessons I Wish I Had Learned Earlier** - Speaker Attorney Rocky Pilgrim - Find it [HERE!](#)

Online Resources

REMOTE DATABASES

- **Lexis Nexis Digital Library** - Collection of Ebooks from publishers LexisNexis, Matthew Bender, and James Publishing
- **Gale Legal Forms Library** - Collection of Civil Forms on various topics that can be used in Texas and Federal Courts



[Sign up for an eCard here to access](#)

PRO SE HANDBOOK - FORMS AND INFORMATION

- General Civil and Family Law Forms and Information from Texas Law Help, Fort Bend County District and County Courts at Law, Fort Bend County District and County Clerks, the Fort Bend County Law Library, and other Texas Governmental Agencies. [Check it out here.](#)



Trellis is Coming Soon!

by Christine France

The Fort Bend County Law Library will soon have access to Trellis! Trellis is a legal database that provides access to state trial data, which includes dockets, judge rulings, and documents filed with the state trial courts. The database will allow you to view numerous county records across the United States, and simple searches will enable you to determine how a judge, party, or opposing counsel has handled similar cases. You can also use Trellis to search by the title of the motion if you are needing an example to refer to. If you are looking to view filed documents, perform case searches, view case histories, or see judge analytics, come visit us at the Law Library!



Featured Resource: Resources for Guardianship

by Jonathan Briggs

Guardianship is the legal process whereby a “Guardian” is appointed by the Probate Courts (here in Fort Bend County, the County Courts at Law) to handle the affairs of an incapacitated adult (the “Ward”). It is a topic that we regularly deal with here at the Law Library, providing resources to attorneys and pro-se parties. Very typically, a parent or family member of a mentally-incapacitated person will come to us seeking the means to establish a guardianship for their loved one. It is usually either for an elderly person who is dealing with dementia, Alzheimer’s, etc., or it is regarding a young adult with Autism or other incapacitating condition and the parents have lost the natural right to make the decisions for them. Since their child is no longer a minor and does not have the capacity to handle things for themselves – such as decisions on healthcare, financial issues, etc. – the parents have to go to the courts and seek a guardianship granting the authority and establishing the Guardian-Ward relationship so that they retain the power to act on behalf of their adult child.

To assist our patrons in pursuing a guardianship, we have many resources – statutes, forms, and practice-guide materials.

The Texas Guardianship Manual from the State Bar is comprehensive, providing detailed information and extensive forms for this process. We have it in print, and it is also available electronically for downloading forms, etc., in the Law Library via a thumb drive we keep at the desk. *Texas Probate, Estate and Trust Administration* also provides excellent information about the process of seeking and managing a guardianship, as well as forms. It is available in print and online via **Lexis Plus** in the Law Library and via the **Lexis Digital Library**, accessible from the Databases page on Fort Bend County Libraries’ website (www.fortbend.lib.tx.us). The *O’Connor’s* series, available in print and via **Westlaw** in the Law Library, provides information and forms regarding Texas guardianship in the *Probate Law Handbook*, *Estates Codes Plus*, and *Estate Planning Forms*. Guardianship may not be the only answer to the situation a patron is dealing with, and the book *Guardianship Alternatives* can assist in exploring other options. We also have the entirety of the Estates Code available via **Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated** and all Texas case law on guardianship, both in print and online.

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Resources for Guardianship *continued*

The Texas Department of Health and Human Services has published *A Texas Guide to Adult Guardianship*:

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/laws-regulations/legal-information/guardianship/pub395-guardianship.pdf>

The County Courts at Law also have a webpage providing orders, information , and some forms concerning guardianship:

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments/county-courts-at-law/probate-forms-information>

Be advised, the County Courts at Law do have a policy concerning pro-se parties, so make sure your legal moves in the probate courts of Fort Bend County comport with this:

<https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/sites/default/files/document-central/document-central/county-court-law-documents/CourtPolicyRegardingProSeA.pdf>

Guardianship is an issue that many families may face, and we are glad to be able to provide a wealth of information and tools to assist our patrons and the attorneys that are representing them. Copying and printing is 10 cents a page. We are on the 2nd floor of the Justice Center or contact us via phone at 281-341-3718 or by e-mail at: llpublic@fortbend.lib.tx.us. Come by and see us!

