



WILLIE MELTON LAW LIBRARY NEWS

VOL 32 NUM 2 | APR/MAY 2024

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 -- is 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

- The Law Library will be CLOSED on Friday, **May 17**, for STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY.
- The Law Library and the Justice Center will be CLOSED on Monday, **May 27**, for MEMORIAL DAY.
- 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 is HERE!

**TEXAS
LEGAL
SERVICES
CENTER**



UPDATED RESOURCES

- Texas Practice Guide, Discovery 2024-2025 Edition
- Bearings' Texas Civil Litigation, 2024 Edition
- Texas Practice Series, Handbook of Texas Discovery, 2024-2025 Edition
- Davis' Texas Estate Planning Forms, 2024-2025 Edition
- Social Security Disability Practice, 2024 Edition

THIS MONTH IS EDUCATION LAW MONTH!

- We have lots of resources on this topic this month! Come check them out!

Past Program Recordings

ATTORNEY LECTURE SERIES

- **"Immigration"** given by Attorney Eduardo Franco.
See the replay [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 Willie Melton Law Library, and other Texas Governmental Agencies. [Check it out here.](#)



Featured Resource by Jonathan Briggs

Resources for Our Senior Citizens

Usually, this column is strictly about the legal resources we have to assist our patrons -- the attorneys and self-represented/pro se litigants who come to us every day. We keep statistics here, and recently we did our Door Count -- simply counting the number of people who come into the Law Library. It ranged from 50 to more than 100 each day. Many of those people are our senior citizens. It got me thinking that besides providing legal materials, such as informative documents and forms, we often provide other useful information to these patrons. I think most any government office and employee should do this when they are asked to or see a need.

Senior citizens, retirees, and the elderly are a special part of our community. They are our parents and neighbors. They have lived long lives. They are often our communities' and our families' backbones. They are the keepers of our memories and histories. They are the foundation of all our lives, and the community we live in began with them. They have much still to give, and we owe them so much. They can be one of the more vulnerable populations in our communities, including Fort Bend County. Their wellbeing can often be tenuous. Health, financial, emotional, legal, and simple day-to-day needs can be challenging.

We'd all be well-served to be reminded of this and make sure that we tend to their needs, help them, and look out for them. We want them to maintain as much independence as they can while still being there for them, to strike that balance for their happiness and well-being. So many people in the community actively do this without fanfare.

They want us in their lives. They want that phone call or visit from their grandchild. They want to go to church or to the store. They want to be a part of the community, but sometimes they end up isolated. They are widows and widowers. Many of their peers and family members of their generation have already passed away. I'm sure many feel like all they do anymore is go to medical appointments. We all have our busy lives of work and school and day-to-day tasks and obligations. But remember, when you encounter a senior citizen, you may be one of the only people they talk to that day, whether you are their grocery checker, their physical therapist, their AC repair tech, a county employee here at the Justice Center, or their neighbor. They talk to you because they need you, they have something valuable to say and share, and it is important to them. That little old lady could be your mom or your grandma. She could have been your teacher or your neighbor.



Featured Resource by Jonathan Briggs

Resources for Our Senior Citizens cont.

That stooped old guy could be your dad or your grandpa. He could have been your Scout leader or Little League coach. He might have been in World War II. They made their contribution to society and the world. Let us all remember to make our contribution back to them.

I like to think we do our part here at the Fort Bend County Willie Melton Law Library as Fort Bend County employees and as members of the legal community. First, it is our job to assist them. Secondly, it is our moral obligation. It can be as simple as saying hello or pointing them to the right office, or it can be something more impactful as we carry out our daily duties and use our skills and experience and give our kindness and empathy.

The Law Library has resources for them, their families, and caregivers. It has materials for estate planning, medical and financial powers of attorney, guardianship materials, and so much more. But it is also that other information we can impart to them about the resources this County provides and from the greater caring community.

Seniors often struggle with mobility and transportation issues. **Fort Bend County Transit** provides many options to all our residents to get them from A to B in the County and to certain other parts of the Houston area. It is an excellent service.

Almost every day, I see people being dropped off or picked up at the Justice Center by the shuttle buses.

Other resources include:

- **Fort Bend County's Social Services Department**
- **The Pinnacle Senior Center**. Law Library staff have often given informative lectures there.
- **Fort Bend County's Health and Human Services Department** -- for services such as indigent health care.
- The **Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office**, including its **"You Are Not Alone"** program (YANA).
- **Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels**
- The Fort Bend County library system is a place to come and spend time reading and access various media, such as books and movies, etc. **Fort Bend County Libraries** partners with various people and organizations to provide entertainment, cultural and intellectual enrichment, and tangible help, such as hosting the AARP to provide tax assistance.

There are many other County programs as well as services provided by charitable, religious, and social-service organizations and local, state, and federal government entities.



Featured Resource *cont.*

Resources for Our Senior Citizens cont.

There are also attorneys practicing in this County in the areas of estate planning and probate, guardianship, and elder law -- check the **Fort Bend County Bar Association** website for options.

Governmental agencies, private organizations/non-profits, and you and me. Let's remember and go out of our way to assist our senior citizens. Cherish them. Look out for them. Check in on them. They can be physically and medically vulnerable. They can be overwhelmed by the difficulties of managing their own healthcare and bills. They can be preyed upon via the technology that is so ubiquitous in this complicated modern world -- our smartphones and computers.

They need you, and they want you, your company, and your conversation. You and I can easily do little things for them that are such a help and relief -- to simply bring a smile to their face, knowing they are remembered and cared for.

Technology Corner by Andrew Bennett

Gale Legal Forms Library

Did you know you have access to a remote database that gives you numerous civil forms for Texas and beyond? Well, you do! All you need is a Fort Bend County library card, and you will get access.

If you have one, grab the barcode number off the back of your card, visit our website at www.fortbend.lib.tx.us, and go to "Resources" and then "Digital Resources and Databases." Once there, select "By Subject" and then "Legal." Finally, find "Gale Legal Forms Library." Enter your barcode number.

Now you have access to forms from many different areas including Family Law, Probate and Estates, Deeds, Power of Attorney, and more!

To do a search, you can use the blank in the middle of the screen. Or you can use the "Browse by main category" option farther down. Whichever way you do it, you will be given a list of forms. The ones with "TX" in front of the form number indicates it as a Texas form. If you find one that has "US" in front of it, means it is a general form you can use, but it just may need some additional editing. Usually the forms labeled "TX" are very close to fill-in-the-blank.

All the forms will download in MS Word and Real Text format. Real Text should be able to be opened by whichever word-processing program you have. Some of the forms will have sample forms as well as the blank templates. In addition, some forms are also in Spanish. No other languages are available.

Need more information? Visit the Law Library or call us and we can help you log in.