

# CLOCK TOWER QUARTERLY

Vol. 6



**Dell DeHay Law Library**

Hours:  
Monday — Friday  
8am — 4pm  
Note: Computers will self-destruct  
at 4pm.

Phone Number:  
817-884-1481

Email:  
lawlibrary@tarrantcountytexas.gov

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

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Photo credit: Amanda Hill

Library view of approaching summer storms from the 4th floor of the 1895 Courthouse.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tarrant County Bar Association LegalLines

**Dates: 09/26/2024**

*(October/November not announced yet)*

The Tarrant County Bar Association offers a free LegalLine at limited times per month. To learn more & register, visit <https://www.tarrantbar.org>.

**TCBA Lawyer Referral &  
Information Service**  
**Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm**  
**817-336-4101**



### Dallas County Bar Association LegalLine

**Wednesdays—4pm to 8pm**

<https://www.dallasbar.org/?pg=legalline>

**JUST ANNOUNCED!**

SAVE THE DATE!

TEXAS

**Y'ALL**

LEGAL INSTITUTE

A virtual half-day conference for Texas-based law librarians

FRI, NOV 15  
2024  
12-4 PM

Co-hosts:  
Houston Area Law Librarians,  
Dallas Association of Law Librarians

### Texas Y'ALL Legal Institute

**Date: 11/15/2024**

The Houston and Dallas Associations of Law Librarians are co-hosting a virtual half-day conference for Texas-based law librarians!

You don't have to be a member to join, and there will be local viewing parties for opportunities to socialize and network.

Check DALL and HALL websites for updates.

<https://dallnet.org>

<https://houstonarealawlibrarians.org>

**Volunteer as a poll worker with the Tarrant County Elections Department! Learn more at:**  
<https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/elections/poll-workers.html>

# 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>.



## HIGHLIGHTED LEGAL TOPIC: SMALL CLAIMS

Information and forms for filing a smalls claims case in Tarrant County is available at:

<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/justice-of-the-peace-courts.html>.

*A precinct map for the eight Justice of the Peace Courts is available on the website.*

Texas Justice Court Training Center has forms for small claims available at:

<https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/forms.html>.

A civil deskbook with instructions is available at:

<https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/deskbooks.html>.

Texas State Law Library provides instructions and forms for filing a small claims at:

<https://guides.sll.texas.gov/small-claims>.

Dell DeHay Law Library provides a research guide on small claims available at:

<https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/content/dam/main/law-library/pdfs/research-guides/>

## Podcasts



Host Tiffany Lashmet, Extension Ag Law Specialist with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, visits with seasoned attorneys and agriculturalists to share their experiences, thoughts and interests in agricultural law. Podcast episodes are available at <https://aglaw.libsyn.com/>.



The State Bar of Texas podcast features news and trends happening in the legal field. Host Rocky Dhir, attorney and CEO of Dallas-based Atlas Legal Research, invites various guests to share their experience and knowledge in law. Episodes are available at <https://www.texasbar.com/Content/NavigationMenu/Podcast/default.htm>.



Hosts Joyce Vance, Jill Wine-Banks, Barb McQuade, and Kimberly Atkins Stohr discuss the often contentious world of politics, including the corruption that seeps into government. They give their insight based on their combined years of experience as U.S. attorneys and national news analysts. Additional information and podcast episodes are available at <https://www.politicon.com/podcast-title/sisters-in-law/page/3>.

## 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 twice a month. Please note, there will only be one workshop in November.**

**October 3rd & 17th**  
**November 7th**  
**December 5th & 19th**



Members of Domestic Relations Office at Employee Appreciation Day 2024

For additional information, please visit the Tarrant County Domestic Relations Office website at <https://>

*The workshops are for family law cases only.*

# HIGHLIGHT: TARRANT COUNTY ARCHIVES OVERHEAD SCANNER



Tarrant County Archives hosted a county employee open house to demonstrate their new scanner capable of scanning large items such as maps and scrapbooks. The Dell DeHay Law Library contributed historic maps and plans from the law library for scanning on the new equipment.

Pictured are Archives management, Jaime Parker and Jamie Sheppard, explaining the variety of historic collections housed in Tarrant County as well as their mission to preserve the history of Tarrant County and create greater access to the community through digital content.

Their mission is to “collect, preserve, and provide access to materials that serve as record of Tarrant County History.” Visit the Tarrant County Archives website for additional information at <https://www.tarrantcountytexas.gov/en/tarrant-county-archives.html>.

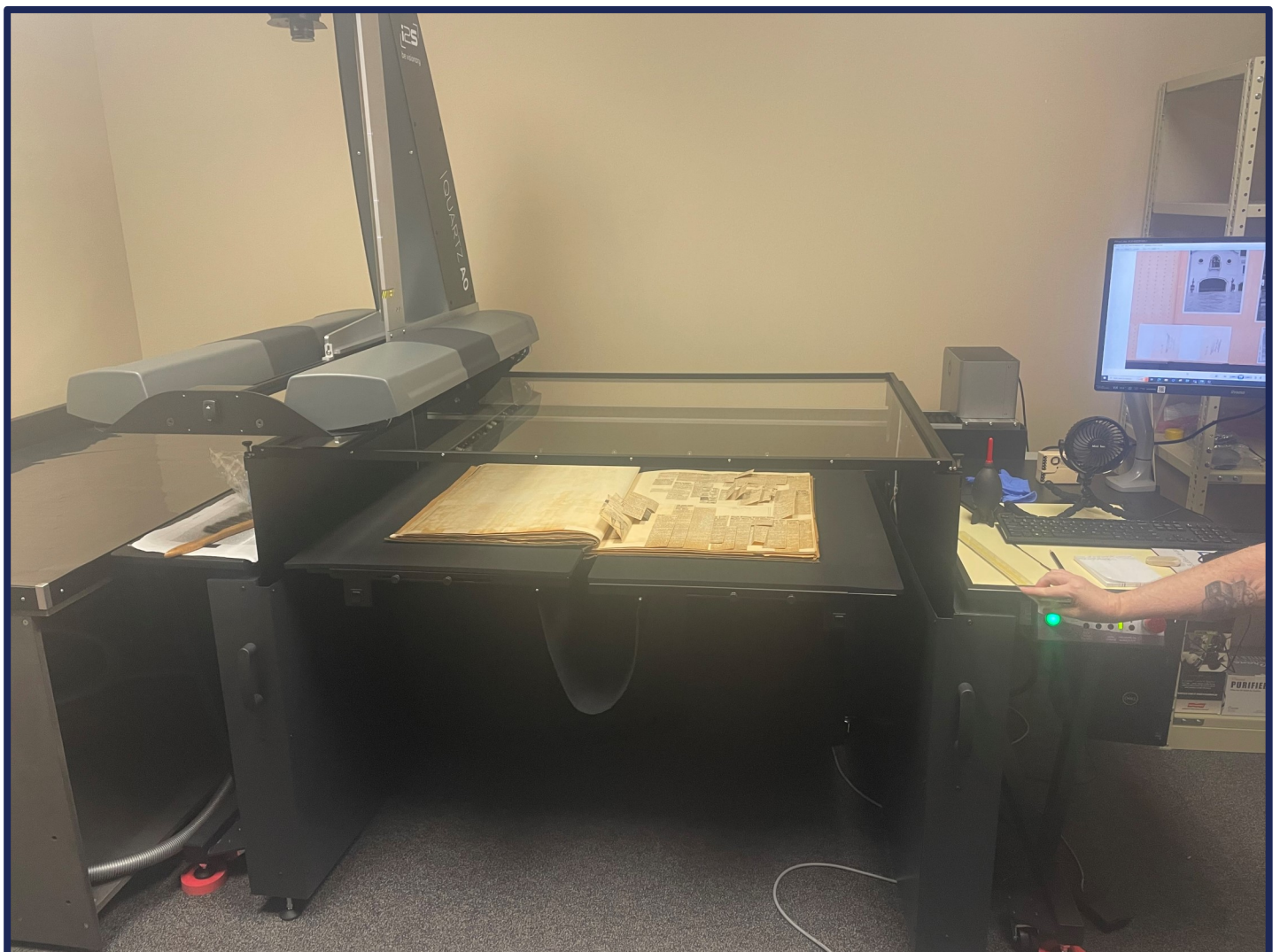


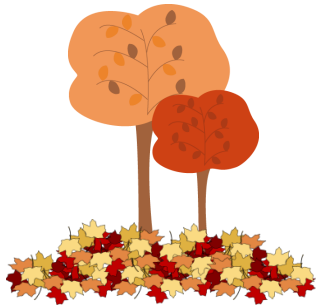
Photo Credit: Cara Sitton



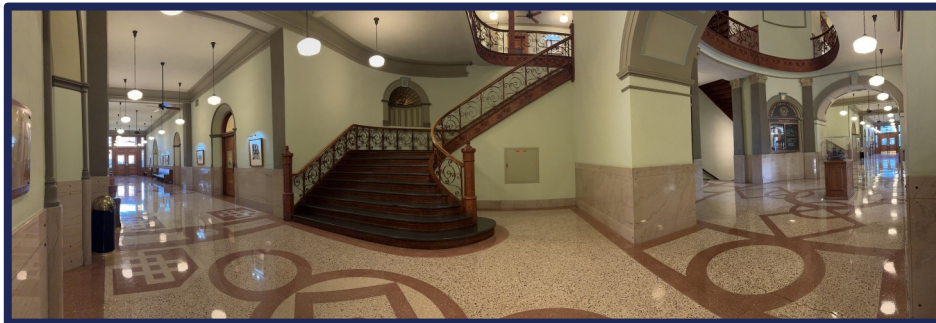
# Library Announcements

A virtual Historic Tarrant County Courthouse Walking Tour is now available on the library website. The tour was originally a booklet written by retired Tarrant County Probate Judge Steve M. King in the 1990s.

**County Holidays**  
November 28th and 29th  
Thanksgiving



To view or download a copy of the Historic Tarrant County Courthouse Walking Tour, visit [https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/content/dam/main/law-library/pdfs/Courthouse Walking Tour Scan.pdf](https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/content/dam/main/law-library/pdfs/Courthouse_Walking_Tour_Scan.pdf).



## Commitment to Service



Dell DeHay Law Library staff congratulates Cara Sitton and Amanda Hill on their elections to leadership roles in the Dallas Association of Law Librarians (DALL) and Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) for 2024/2025!

Cara serves as Chair for the Legal Information Services to the Public Committee. She will work with local chapters and within SWALL to provide programs and materials for the general public.

Amanda serves as Secretary for the DALL Executive Board and Co-Chair for the SWALL Constitution and Bylaws Committee. She will work to revise and review changes to the SWALL Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws as necessary.

## 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 over 140 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.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/law-library/forms.html](http://www.tarrantcountytx.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. The Virtual Court Kiosk is now available on the 4th floor.

## Tarrant County Legal Assistance

- **Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (LANWT)** is income based legal aid for residents of Northwest Texas. Visit [www.lanwt.org](http://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 consultation.
- **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.