



DALLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021

An Introduction to the Dallas County Law Library

Welcome to the Dallas County Law Library!

The library opened in 1894 as a collection of books in a cupboard under the stairs at Old Red Courthouse. The Dallas Law Library Association maintained the books as reference material for the lawyers of Dallas. Fast forward 127 years later and the Dallas County Law Library looks very different.

The Texas Government Code states that, “the commissioners court of a county by order may establish and maintain a county law library at the county seat.” Today, the Dallas County Law Library occupies over 4000 square feet of the 7th floor of the George L. Allen, Sr. Courts Building. Eight full-time staff members serve approximately 250 in-person patrons a day. The library has a print collection of over 4600 titles, a large number of ready-made forms and free computer access to Westlaw and the internet.

Who uses the law library? Anyone seeking equal justice under the law. The Texas State Supreme Court and the Court Access to Justice Commission have made A2J a key priority. Significantly, their findings include the fact that there is only one Legal Aid attorney for every 12,000 qualified Texans. In addition, private or legal aid attorney are meeting only 20-25% of the civil legal needs of low-income Texans, while 60% of courts report an increase in “pro se” or self-representing litigants.

The court system was designed for lawyers and most unrepresented people have a difficult time navigating the system. The county law library functions as the primary connection between the courts, legal service providers and the public, and the most current legal information (accessible online and in print).

What can you expect when you come to the Dallas County Law Library? A skilled reference interview with trained law librarians, knowledge of the Dallas County Courts and legal system, ready reference forms, legal treatises and looseleaves, internet access, Westlaw, LexisNexis Digital Library, self-help legal resources and referrals to local community organizations.

The Dallas County Law Library is open from 8am-4:30pm during the week. Come get your questions answered!



DALLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

**George L. Allen Sr. Courts
Building**

**600 Commerce Street
Suite 760 (7th FL)
Dallas, TX 75202**

PHONE: 214-653-7481

Email:

LawLibrary@dallascounty.org

**Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday**

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

*Did you know the Law
Library has free access to:*

WESTLAW

The Law Library has free access to Westlaw.

Westlaw content includes primary law, secondary resources, litigation, and Practical Law.

Westlaw can be accessed at the Law Library.

LEXISNEXIS DIGITAL LIBRARY

The Law Library has free access to its LexisNexis eBook collection.

The eBook collection contains Dorsaeno's Texas Litigation Guide, Texas Family & Procedures, Search & Seizure and other valuable legal resources.

LexisNexis Digital Library can be accessed at the Law Library or remotely.

*Please visit the Law Library's website for more
information about these resources at:*

*[https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/
consolidated-services/law-library/](https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/consolidated-services/law-library/)*