

# Clark County Law Library News & Notes

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## Published By the Staff of the Clark County Law Library

The Clark County Law Library News & Notes is published quarterly by the staff of the Clark County Law Library, 309 South Third St., Suite #400, Las Vegas, NV, 89101, as an informational guide to library services to aid the Southern Nevada community in its legal research. Materials for publication, research queries, or comments should be submitted by fax to 455-5120 or on a Macintosh or IBM disk in text format, or in person to Kevin L. Clanton, Director, at the address above.

The Law Library's web site is:  
[www.co.clark.nv.us/lawlibry/lawlibix.htm](http://www.co.clark.nv.us/lawlibry/lawlibix.htm)

## A Brief History of Time

(With Apologies to Steven Hawking)

**M**any members of the legal community will fondly recall the Law Library as it has transitioned through various stages of evolution-and physical locations-throughout the years.

With each change in location of the Clark County Law Library, the amount of square footage allotted to the collection has likewise grown. Old-timers might wistfully recall the "good old days" when the library was tucked underneath the stairwell on the first floor of the County Courthouse next to the Marriage Commissioner. While the practice of law in Las Vegas at that time might have been less aggravating and more rewarding in a personal sense, the resources available for (and the complexity of) legal research have grown just as Las Vegas has grown.

I have watched the library move and grow from its location in the Courthouse to where a parking lot proudly stands next to the Methodist street. You may recall it: The old Masonic

Temple, a larger facility across the street. You may recall it: The old Masonic Temple, where a parking lot proudly stands next to the Methodist Church across from the County Courthouse. How I miss that old building: Hot in the summer, cold in the winter, and with a leaky roof, the staff of the library had to be ready to meet any rainstorm with a layer of plastic sheeting with which to cover the books, and buckets to catch the water. Ah, yes: Those were the days. The staff watched six thousand square feet of ceiling, playing catch with pails of water, not unlike the Dutch boy plugging holes in the dike.

While the Masonic Temple lacked in structural fitness for a library, it more than made up for in *character*. I loved that building: from the trap door below the balcony, to the carved pillars atop the "stage", to the imported beams for the clerestory.

The situation improved markedly in 1990 when the library moved to its location

on Carson Street, filling the vacancy left by the move of the Justice Court. Ten thousand square feet were available at this location, and for the first time, we were able to make available a separate room for photocopiers, and another for computers. The treatises, periodicals, and federal materials were each housed in separate rooms. One District Court judge called the new location "labyrinthine", and so I covered a section of my office window with a map of the Mammoth Cave system. What the library didn't have at this point was what a librarian would call "visual control"--that is, the ability to see all parts of the library with a glance. (This not only is good customer service, but also tends to reduce the theft of materials.)

*"One District Court judge called the new location 'labyrinthine,' and so I covered a section of my office window with a map of the Mammoth Cave system."*

This location worked out very well for most of the legal community: we were housed on the ground floor, there was plenty of foot traffic, and those law firms fortunate enough to be housed in the First Interstate building next door found they need only descend the elevator and walk twenty steps to access the library. But times change, and Clark County, in accordance with a resolution passed by the County Commission known as the "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights,"

wisely sought to move the library from its old Carson Street location--where it was paying to lease the ten thousand square foot facility--to a new facility in a building already owned by Clark County. Thus, the library moved once again. December, 1997, saw the library move into its present location in the former Assessor's Office at 309 South Third Street, fourth floor.

The Law Library has, for the first time, taken on the "look" of a real library. With the completion of the hiring of new staff, re-routing of internal wiring and the reconfiguration of offices (namely, the creation of a microfiche room) as well as the addition of brand-new carpeting, the library looks forward to the near future--it has embarked upon a program that will allow it to offer law-related Internet access to members of the legal community and the general public.

Like so many other businesses in this "dot-com" world we live in, the Clark County Law Library has a web page of its own (<http://www.co.clark.nv.us./lawlibrary>). Although currently offering only basic information such as location, schedule, background, and how we assist the public with legal research, expect to see some major expansions soon.

By the way, for those of you with *really* long memories and a fondness for that old courthouse location (like me), you may have noticed that the "art deco" style metal plaque affixed to our front door is the same one that was

once affixed to our front door...way back when we were in the courthouse. The "dot-com" library still retains some link to its past!

-Kevin Clanton,  
*Library Director*

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## Circulation Policy

The circulation policy of the Clark County Law Library is that each patron has their own borrowers card. We **do not** issue cards to firms. To apply for a card all you need do is fill out an orange application card. We will issue cards to attorneys, judges, and county officials. Law clerks and paralegals can also get cards of their own but they must submit a Letter Of Responsibility from the firms where they work. The first time fee is \$50. Every year after that to renew the card is \$30. If you lose your card, the renewal and replacement fee is \$40.

All library patrons must present a current library card to check out any materials from the library.

- Donna Claridy,  
*Law Library Asst. II*

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## Quote of the Day

Explaining why he wrote opinions while standing:

*"Nothing conduces to brevity like a caving in of the knees."*

-Justice Oliver  
Wendell Holmes, Jr.



## Get Carded!

Since it appears unlikely that neither treatises nor the full text of legal periodicals will appear on the Internet anytime soon (there being no economic incentive to make them available in this manner) that means the contents of both these sources of secondary authority are still only available primarily in print only.

If treatises are only available in print, doesn't that necessarily imply that--heavens--a borrower's card might be a good thing to have to lend that necessary research edge? A valid library circulation card enables the smart legal researcher to borrow that badly-needed products liability treatise over the long weekend. It will also unlock the circulation opportunities of videotapes, periodicals, and case reporters as well.

Why not get "carded" and renew that old circulation card? Even in the year 2000, it still comes in handy. Besides, it makes Big "D" happy, not to mention the fact that it directly supports the Law Library. (Hey, we'll just take the money and blow it on more legal treatises...)

"Neither a borrow nor a lender

be" the Bard once advised. Well, we're willing to ignore his advice, and lend...but for every lender, there must be a borrower. Support your library: Be a borrower!

-Kevin Clanton,  
*Library Director*

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## The Phantom Cite--A Mild Menace

The staff of the Law Library understands that sometimes researchers get confused when looking for a parallel citations because they don't *know* that their cite is a parallel one. I jokingly term these "Phantom Cites" and while Phantom Cites are not particularly menacing, they can be annoying in that they are difficult to find if you don't understand how to locate them.

Perhaps an example is in order at this point. Suppose that a researcher is looking for this case: 205 Cal. App. 3d 479. To get a copy of this case, the researcher must first understand how to read a cite. All cites to cases follow the same format: the first number is a volume, then the publication is listed in abbreviated form, then the page number of that particular volume. So, 205 Cal. App. 3d 479 means volume 205 of California Appellate Reports, third series, page 479. Normally, you can go to the set of reporters you need, then go to the correct volume in the correct series, then the correct page. However, this will not work when the cites are parallel citations. The parallel

citations you will have the most trouble with are those from California, New York, and some Supreme Court citations. If a researcher tries to go directly to the California Reporter to look up 205 Cal. App. 3d 479, it will not be there (hence the term "Phantom Cite"). California puts many of its court cases in one reporter, so how do you know which volume contains your case? To find out where your case is, the researcher could go to the National Reporter Blue Book ("Blue Book" for short in this article) and convert the parallel citation to the California Reporter citation.

This is how you convert:

- 1) Go to the latest supplement of the Blue book (2000), located at the end of short row "P" in the Reference area of the library. Look for the table that has the volume and publication for your cite, in this case it would be 205 Cal. App. 3d. The Blue Book lists all of the courts alphabetically and by number within each category.
- 2) Look for the table with the title "205 California Appellate Reports, Third Series" (It is actually on page 58). Once you find this table, all you have to do is to go down the column that reads "Cal. App. 3d Pg." until you find the page you need, in our example that will be page 479. When you do find it read across to the

next column. You will see it reads "Vol." and the next column reads "Cal. Rptr. Pg.". You can easily see that the table is telling you that the location of your case is volume 252 on page 382 of the California Reporter. Now you can go directly to the California Reporter, get volume 252, turn it to page 382 and you will find your case.

When converting a case in the Blue Book, look for the correct table then cross-reference the page to the new volume and page. This method also works when you need to convert a case from a state to the regional reporter for that state. For example, we do not have the Kansas reporter, but we do have the regional reporter that reports on cases in Kansas. All you have to do to get the Kansas case is to convert it from a Kansas state case cite to the Regional Reporter case cite using the Blue Book. If your looking for your case in the Blue Book supplement and cannot find it, go to an earlier supplement. Keep working your way backward in time until you do find the correct table.

- Richard Myrick,  
*Technician*

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## Photocopy Cards

For your photocopy convenience the Law Library has photocopy cards at the rate of \$0.16 per page in the following increments:

125 copies ..... \$20.00  
250 copies ..... \$40.00

500 copies..... \$80.00  
1,000 copies..... \$160.00

The library will accept cash, money orders, cashier checks and business checks. The library will not accept credit cards, out of state checks or personal checks. Please call 455-4696 if you have any further questions.

- Karen Byrd,  
*Administrative Specialist*



## Library Announcements

### NEW MICROFICHE ROOM AT THE LIBRARY!

The Law Library has relocated the microfiche machines to a new room. The new room is located toward the back of the library near the State Codes shelf. The door is visible as you approach the copy room.

What does the library have on microfiche? We have the minutes of Nevada Senate and Assembly Legislative Committees, the first series of each regional reporter, and all 50 state bar journals, just to name a few. The collection is worth looking over so come take a look!

Now all of the microfiche machines and materials are in one location for your convenience.

## LCB'S "OFFICIAL NEVADA LIBRARY" NOW AVAILABLE

The new Official Library CD is available from the Legislative Council Bureau. The CD has the latest statutes, regulations, and cases on it.

The interface is quick and easy to use. But the best news of all is that you can print results with this CD at the normal cost of \$0.25 per copy.

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## LEGAL INTERNET URLs NOW AVAILABLE

The Internet has become a tremendous aid in legal research but sometimes it can be difficult to find what you are looking for. The library has assembled a list of some Internet sites that we feel will greatly aid you in your Internet legal research. This guide is available in whole or in part for sale, or you may copy single pages. Ask for it at the Reference Desk.

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## INTERNET COMPUTERS NOW AVAILABLE

The Library has installed two computers devoted entirely to Internet Legal Research. There is no fee to use these computers. Currently, printing is not available. We expect to have printing capability sometime in February of 2001.