

Clark County Law Library

News & Notes

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Published By the
 Staff of the
 Clark County Law Library
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The Clark County Law Library News & Notes is a publication 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.

Have a "Brush With the Law" at the Law Library!

Ever wonder about a law, or hear about an interesting case on television?

Do you or someone in your family have legal issues? Is your sister going through a child custody dispute, or do you have parents who are considering establishing a trust? Are you thinking about forming a business enterprise? Ever been denied SSI or Social Security benefits, or want to appeal a DMV issue? Have you written a song, a screenplay, or a computer program--and would like to learn more about how the law affords protection to intellectual property? Have you been having problems with your homeowners' association?



The helpful staff at the library's reference desk serves the bench, bar, and public alike.

Many people have legal questions--but they don't know how to start, or where to find answers without the assistance of an attorney.

Most people don't realize that they have a potential source of information available -- free of

charge--and it has been available all along: ***The Clark County Law Library.***

- The Clark County Law Library is the place to find:
- Laws, both state and federal.
- Court cases from the state supreme court level (yes, even out-of-state), or any level of the federal courts.
- State and federal regulations and agency decisions.

If you need legal forms, the library has a thousands of them -- both contractual and pleading including:

- Forms for buying and selling property, business interests, or services.
- Forms for forming a partnership.
- Forms for petitioning a court for redress.
- Forms to respond to a complaint and summons.
- Guardianship forms, power of attorney forms.
- Forms for a temporary protective order, or any other form of injunction.

Add to that the fact that the library has available, through its treatise collection, thousands of titles ranging from aviation accident law to zoning, and everything in-between.



Case Reporters (pictured above) contain decisions of various state and federal courts. The Staff of the Law Library is available to show the patron just how to locate cases, statutes, regulations, and explanatory reading materials.

So...the library has the information. But you might still have some trepidation about actually visiting the library as getting information out of library sources can be a difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming experience.

The knowledgeable and helpful staff of the law library can facilitate your legal research by recommending time-saving strategies, alternative sources, or offer an explanation on the organization and use of the materials contained in the library. The power of the library is in its collection, coupled with the helpful staff who can explain the use of that collection.



Books aside, we also offer free Internet-based legal research. Contrary to popular misconception, not everything is available on the Internet. The serious researcher must still rely upon print materials.

Note, however, that while the staff can explain the structure of a law book, the interpretation of the contents and the future application of this information rests solely in the hands of the patron. It is a violation of state law for a non-lawyer to render legal advice. We cannot recommend a legal course of action. As a general rule, the staff can assist in locating informative materials, but cannot interpret the materials to the patron. Legal research, just as in any library research, requires individual initiative and elbow grease to make it work. We are a research library, not a legal clinic. We "let our books do the speaking" to the patron.



The use of the library's Conference Room is available free of charge to groups for teaching, depositions, and has proven to be a useful "neutral" meeting place for meetings. Call 455-4695 for reservations.

The Law Library also functions as an information and referral agency: we can make appropriate referrals to various other help agencies, such as the Senior Citizen's Law Project, Self-Help Center, Pro Bono Foundation, or Nevada Legal Services, to name a few. If we don't have it, we very likely know where to find it.

The staff of the Clark County Law Library answers over 14,000 reference questions per year. Give us a chance to answer yours!



The Law Library offers Tours of the Law Library! Call 455-4695 for more information on scheduled tours.

For more information on how the Law Library can potentially be of help to you, visit our [website](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/law_library/home_page.htm) @ http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/law_library/home_page.htm or give the library a call at 455-4696. We're awaiting your questions!

Kevin Clanton,
Law Library Director

BOOK BINDING

Beginning in the month of September, and continuing through into the month of March the law review periodicals will be sent outside of the library to be bound.

The Law Library is binding the soft back issues into hardbound volumes.

Many of our law reviews will not be available during this time, but please be assured we will speedily move the process along and have the law reviews back in tiptop shape.

Your patience is greatly appreciated.



Michael Buttars
Library Technician

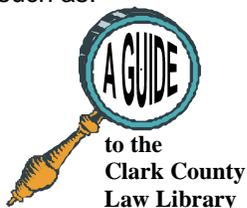
Pathfinders Can Show the Way

Research guides (also known as *pathfinders*) are a series of informational pamphlets covering a narrow topical scope devoted to providing the library patron with a quick understanding of where to find sources of information on a specific issue. They are intended for use by all categories of library patron—whether an experienced member of the bar, or a layperson visiting the library for the very first time.

A pathfinder is an entry point into the legal research process—it's a good place to start.

Typically, a pathfinder is a brief bibliography listing information sources known to be helpful on a given issue. Some might consist of nothing more complex than a map, while others might list a set of procedures, or detail established library policies or rules of conduct.

We currently offer over two-dozen pathfinders covering a variety of topics, such as:



- Law firm management (Pathfinder #21)
- Finding Jury Instructions (Pathfinder #13)
- Grandparents' rights (Pathfinder #18)
- Legislative history searches in Nevada (Pathfinder #8)
- Initiating a lawsuit (Pathfinder #10)
- Legal ethics (Pathfinder #22)
- Overview of the court process (Pathfinder #5)

- Deciphering legal abbreviations (Pathfinder #16)
- How to use case digests and key numbers (Pathfinder #19)
- Shepardizing (Pathfinder #20)
- Understanding Library of Congress call numbers (Pathfinder #23)
- A bibliography of useful federal Internet sites (Pathfinder #31)
- A Spanish-based pathfinder explaining what resources are available (Pathfinder #29)

...and many more.

The value of a research guide like a pathfinder lies in the effort put into it by the library's staff; by using a pathfinder, you are saving yourself time—you are essentially leveraging the library staff's knowledge of the collection and allowing them to summarize proven useful sources for you.

New pathfinders are published regularly. Check the pamphlet racks near the entrance—you might be pleasantly surprised to find we've anticipated what you might ask. If not, feel free to inquire at the reference desk.

We're always happy to assist you with your questions.

Kevin Clanton,
Law Library Director

More Shelving

The library not only will have newly bound periodicals but the periodicals will have new shelves.

Periodical shelving is being purchased to match the other shelves in the library.

The current shelving is crumbling under it's own weight. Not to mention the shelving is old and doesn't match the rest of the

library.



Michael Buttars
Library Technician

New PCs

The law library is getting new PCs. We are upgrading the old PCs used by the public.

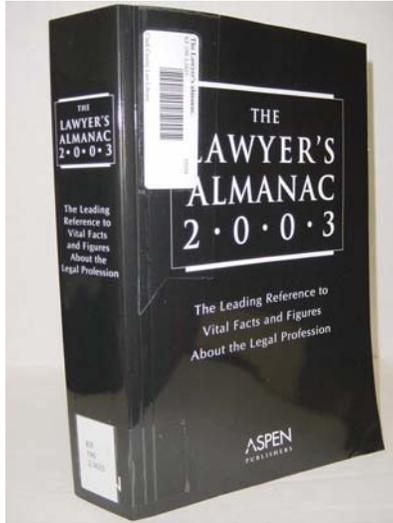
This will make finding cases, codes, and regulations on-line faster and easier.

As well as make the PC more reliable and less likely to run slow or not run at all. The new PCs will also be set to current standards needed to search materials on CDs in the library.



Michael Buttars
Library Technician

BOOK REVIEW



TITLE: *The Lawyer's Almanac: 2003.* (ISBN 073553747X)

PUBLISHER: Aspen Publishers.
aspenpublishers.com
(800) 638-8437

FORMAT: Soft cover, approx. 575 pp. Includes charts and tables

COST: \$220.00

RATING: 8/10

Although a handy volume, it could be enhanced by including work life expectancy and mortality tables, listings of expert witnesses, as well as a summary of marriage and divorce laws, and other such multi-state comparative information. This, admittedly, would put it beyond its intended scope: Aspen bills the *Lawyer's Almanac* as "the leading reference to vital facts and figures about the legal profession."

I've found the *Lawyer's Almanac* to be useful for answering those questions that are black-and-white, fact-based, and where a quick answer is sought.

The tome is rather thick, pushing the envelope for the maximum practical thickness of a paperback book with a simple glued spine. Because it is an annual publication, it is likely that the owner would find the spine cracking at just about the

time its subsequent replacement volume would be due to arrive.

Contents include:

- 700 largest U.S. law firms, their profits and revenues
- Survey of corporate lawyers' salaries
- A listing of the top Internet-based legal research resources (including general legal, government, and metasites)
- State-by-state legal educational requirements
- Bar examination statistics: passage/failure rates and emerging trends, comparison of first-timers and repeaters, admission rates by jurisdiction, as well as multi-state statistical information
- American Bar Association officers, their telephone numbers and contact information
- State bar associations and their officers, including contact information
- Information on the federal bench: U.S. Supreme Court, various circuit and district courts, their location and contact information
- State court information: appellate and general jurisdiction courts, as well as a survey of judicial salaries, terms and qualifications, and a list of State Court Administrators
- Federal litigation statistics: number of cases commenced, terminated, and pending
- A listing of quasi-official federal agencies
- Listing and contact information on the U.S. executive branch departments and federal agencies
- Organizational charts of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, with listings of their respective standing committees and even their room number assignments

- A listing of selected state-level officials: Attorneys General, State Bank Supervisors, Insurance Commissioners, State Securities Commissioners, and Mental Health Officials
- A directory of where to write for vital records (birth, death, marriage, and divorce)
- A state-by-state statutory summary of motorist liability laws and firearms laws

The Lawyer's Almanac would prove of use to the media or those with an interest in trends within the legal profession itself.

While *The Lawyer's Almanac* can often prove to be a very useful resource, it remains rather narrow in informational scope, and would be suited only to fact-finding of information directly relevant to the legal profession itself.

Another test of the utility of a volume is whether the information therein can be easily located. Although this volume lacks an index, it has a very usable and logically-arranged table of contents; because the contents are so logically arranged, it almost makes up for its lack of any index; finding sought-after information will be an easy task for the average user.

Kevin Clanton,
Law Library Director

Did you know...?

There are just under **two** Linear miles of shelving in the Law Library. The actual figure is 9,765 feet.

fun facts about the Law Library
