



Oct. 1, 2006

# CLERK'S CLIPS



Volume I, Issue 5



Dear Friends,

I always welcome the opportunity to speak to any group with an interest in the duties and functions of this office. If you would like me to speak to your civic club,

professional organization, or other group, please give me a call directly at 601-855-5526.

Attorneys may find a new search tool on our website helpful. On September 15, we launched the "Search Docket Entry Descriptions" feature which will query the docket listings of all cases in our database (back to 1988) and search for a keyword. Our goal is to enable attorneys and others interested in finding a sample pleading or unique type of case to do so easily. I am frequently asked to locate a case involving letters rogatory, or a partition of land, or enrollment of a foreign judgment, or any other infrequent type of pleading. Now, such keywords can be plugged in to our database and a list of cause numbers containing that keyword in the docket entries will be produced. You will find this feature in the list of search tools when you log on to the Chancery Clerk's webpage.

Our social security number redaction program went into effect last month, virtually eliminating unnecessary disclosure of private information from records accessible on the website. Loan numbers are also redacted if they contain a social security number.

Best Regards!



## FEATURE STORY: COUNTY ARCHIVES

There are many different types of older records stored in the basement here in the Chancery building. Board of Supervisors minutes and agendas dating back to 1833 are stored here. In 1833, the Board of Supervisors was known as the Board of County Police. Included in the records of 1833 within this Board of County Police record is a map of where the City of Canton and the Square was designed. Other records stored here include older Chancery Court case files, chattel records, tax sale records, landrolls and old newspapers. Also included in storage are past Circuit Court records such as marriage licenses, civil cases, voter registration and criminal cases. Previous county court cases, justice of the peace cases, payroll records and claim dockets, among many other records, are also stored here. County archives are presently being maintained by Col. Jerry Thomas who will be more than happy to assist you in any way.



## Title Tips:

- Lease contracts and lease assignments recorded prior to 1994 are found in the deed of trust books. Lease contracts and lease assignments recorded after 1994 are filed in the deed books.
- When searching the land records, a general power of attorney is styled as a "Power of Attorney-Ge", however a cancellation of a deed of trust is styled as a "Power of Attorney". No one seems to know why.



## Court Corner:

- Chancery court files may be checked out **by lawyers** for up to 10 days. Be sure to sign the check out sheet, however!
- The Chancery Clerk's office mailed out motions to dismiss for want of prosecution on September 28, 2006. If you or your office received a notice, please respond with a pleading to avoid dismissal in 30 days.

# ARTHUR JOHNSTON

## MADISON COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK

P.O. BOX 404 · 146 W. CENTER ST. · CANTON, MS 39046

PHONE: (601) 855-5537 · FAX: (601) 855-5759

WEBSITE: WWW.MADISON-CO.COM · EMAIL: JOHNSTON@MADISON-CO.COM