



Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2018

Maryland's First Legal Resource

Maryland State Law Library
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Reference: 410.260.1430
Email: lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov
Website: www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib

Hours of Operation
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Library Profile

The State Law Library, Maryland's oldest law library, supports the research activities of the Maryland Judiciary. The Library offers its services and collections to other government entities, the legal community, and the public. In addition to a significant number of legal materials, the Library's collections include Maryland state agency publications, Maryland history, and federal government documents. Staffed by 18 full-time and part-time, professional and paraprofessional employees, the Library stands ready to serve users from all walks of life.

The Library's Mission

The Maryland State Law Library, a Unit of the Maryland Judiciary, serves the needs of Maryland's government and citizens by building and preserving collections of legal information resources, promoting access to these collections and creating educational opportunities that enhance the understanding of legal information.

Library Highlights

These Library Highlights provide updates on Maryland State Law Library collections, staffing, initiatives, and accomplishments throughout the year.

Library Staff

Steve Anderson, Director
Mashanda Ardister, Administrative Assistant
Shirley Aronson, State Publications Librarian (part-time)
Scott Ashlin, Technical Services Assistant
Maureen Della Barba, Reference Assistant
James G. Durham, Deputy Director
Debra Haines, Library Aide (part-time)
Deborah Judy, Maryland Collections Librarian
Leigh Johnson, Library Acquisition Specialist
Catherine McGuire, Head of Reference and Outreach
Jessica Mundy, Head of Collection Management
C. Leland Sampson, People's Law Library Web Content Administrator
Elizabeth Simmons, Research Librarian (part-time)
Chi Song, Discovery Services Librarian
Jessie Tam, Head of Technical Services
Cindy Terry, Collection Management Specialist
Tanya Thomas, Research Librarian (part-time)
Ed Wisenbaler, Federal Documents Assistant (part-time)

Library Committee

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals
Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr., Court of Appeals
Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Court of Special Appeals
Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator
Bessie Decker, Clerk, Court of Appeals
Susan Zuhowski, Esq.
Steve Anderson, Director, State Law Library

Library Volunteers

Patricia Lesley
J. Jeffrey Ross



Building and Preserving Collections

The Library is charged with managing permanent access to legal materials, especially those pertaining to Maryland law. Such materials include traditional collections of print and microform materials, as well as a significant collection of digital content. The Library works independently and in partnership with its Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA; formerly the Chesapeake Project) fellows, to collect and digitally preserve state government publications.

Digital Collection Management

The year included a number of changes to the Library's digital collections:

- The Library's Scanned Collections were upgraded to a new platform, Knowviation, which provides enhanced search features and is more user-friendly. A new digital collection, *Maryland Legislative Bill Files* was added to the Scanned Collections (mdlaw.ptfs.com).
- The fiscal year saw the migration of the Library's born-digital materials from ContentDM to Preservica. Preservica's Cloud Consortia includes, as its first customer, the Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA).
- The Library began a project to digitize Maryland county and municipal codes in the public domain.
- The Library's partnership with HeinOnline continued with the provision of three Maryland-specific texts to be digitized and included in Hein's collections. The titles are Kilty's *The Laws of Maryland*, v. 1-7 (1692-1818); *The Law of Insolvency in Maryland* (1887); and *A History of the Maryland State Library, 1827-1939*.
- To ensure continuity, beginning in FY2018, all Library digital collections are backed up in cloud storage supported by Maryland Judicial Information Systems (JIS).

Special Collections

The conservation and framing of the antique map, *Nova Virginiae Tabula* by Willem Janszoon Blaeu (1639), was completed. This map, along with several others conserved and framed in FY2017, were hung in the Library for public viewing.

Database Subscriptions and Access

The Library's database collection expanded to include new material from several database vendors.

- Supreme Court Nominations (HeinOnline)
- West-published federal and regional reports, arbitration materials, expert witness materials, and jury verdict reports (Westlaw)
- West Academic, which provides online access to the West Nutshell and Hornbook series

Promoting Access

The Library continues to connect patrons of the Library to its collections. Efforts include providing information services, expanding access to digital materials, and enhancing web-based information resources and tools. These efforts increase the Library's efficiency and make Maryland legal information and history readily accessible and available to researchers.



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Reference Activity

The Library provides reference and research assistance to a wide range of patrons, most from Maryland or with questions about Maryland law. Assistance is provided through telephone calls, in-person visits, email, regular mail, and chat follow-up as a partner in the Maryland AskUsNow! 24/7 reference cooperative. A more detailed look at reference activity is available in the FY2018 Reference Report at <https://www.lawlib.state.md.us/aboutus/annualreport/2018referencereport.pdf>

The Library recorded 8,300 reference requests over the fiscal year. The total number of requests decreased from the prior year, but as with FY2017, the percentage of lengthier questions increased, meaning the staff was investing more time per question in FY2018 than in prior years.

Of the total requests, 66% were asked by the general public, a continuation of prior years' growth in requests from the public. The methods of communication remained at generally the same percentages, with almost half of the requests arriving by email.

Digital Access

To improve access to digital content, Library staff completed trainings for West Academic and Knowvation, the enhanced platform for the Library's scanned collections. Library staff also completed trainings for the database system EBSCO, which provides access to Criminal Justice Abstracts, Psychology and Behavioral Sciences materials, and SocINDEX, a bibliographic database of sociology journals including criminal justice and social psychology materials.

Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC)

Library staff received training on the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) File and Serve system. Training covered the viewpoints of court staff, the public, and attorneys. Library staff now provide support and assistance for users of the MDEC File and Serve system, helping to direct users to public records and to resolve filing questions.

People's Law Library

The People's Law Library (PLL) is a legal information and self-help website managed by the State Law Library. New articles were added on popular topics of expungement, sealing or shielding court records, and immigration. Foreign language support greatly expanded, as well. The combined result at the end of FY2018 included 500 English language articles and the translation of almost 200 articles into Spanish.

New English language articles include:

- MVA Driving Record Expungement
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Shielding or Sealing a Case Record
- *Notario* Fraud
- Immigration Court Information
- Representation in Immigration Cases
- Limited Scope Representation: What is it and how can I get it?

PLL's primary project in FY18 was a technology upgrade and full redesign of the site to align the site's design and functionality with current user expectations. The overall aim of the technology upgrade and



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redesign was to increase user confidence in the resources provided, and ultimately increase user engagement. The redesign included: increased site accessibility, readability, and aesthetic quality; improved connection of users with information; and improved connection of users with organizations that can help. Significantly, an “Ask a Law Librarian” feature was added to connect PLL users directly to the Library’s reference desk.

Creating Educational Opportunities

Enhancing understanding of law and legal information is a powerful component of the Library's mission. To that end, the Library develops educational materials, programs and events, and exhibits, both independently and in partnership with allied organizations, for the Judiciary, the bar, the public, and many other specialized groups within the Library’s community.

Tours

Library staff regularly provide tours of the Library collections and facility for new judges, law clerks, and other judicial staff. More formal tours are scheduled and provided for students at law schools, undergraduate programs, and community college legal studies and paralegal programs. FY2018 included several program and tour combinations for the Youth Educational Seminar, as well as tours for high school students in public, private, and homeschool programs.

Website Content for Public Library Training

The Library added significant content to its *Legal Reference for Public Libraries*, including: Rephrasing the Question; Questions to Ask; Classify the Need; Online Sources for Getting Started; and Helpful Tools for Legal Reference. Information was edited to reflect the trainings provided by a coalition of the State Law Library, the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors, the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, and the State Library Resource Center.

Library Staff Presentations and Programs

Education is a core tenet of the Library’s mission and philosophy. Library staff provide brief on-demand informational sessions for Judiciary staff on legislative and regulatory history. More formal, longer sessions on the Library’s collection, databases, and services are provided at the Judicial College and Education Conference Center throughout the year. Special trainings in FY2018 included:

- Tours for students of the Court Professional Certificate Program
- Legal Research for the Court Supervisor/Manager Certificate Program
- Online Legal Research for Maryland Judges

The People’s Law Library Web Content Administrator, Leland Sampson, addressed several Judiciary groups, including:

- The Conference of Circuit Court Clerks and the Conference of Circuit Court Administrators
- District Court Chief Clerk’s Committee
- *Assisting Self-Represented Litigants*, Baltimore County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office

James Durham, the Library’s Deputy Director, served as a judge at the 23rd Annual Department of Juvenile Services Oratorical Contest in November 2017.



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Library staff regularly provide specialized trainings for institutions outside of the Judiciary. In FY2018, these trainings included:

- *Legal Reference for Public Libraries*, at Carroll County, Baltimore City, Harford County, and the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (Charles County) and the Western Maryland Regional Library (Allegany County)
- *Information and Knowledge Services within the Maryland State Law Library*, Special Libraries Association Annual Conference
- *Law in Public Libraries*, State Library Resource Center Conference
- *Community Partnering: Best Practices and Case Studies*, Maryland Partners for Justice Conference
- *Maryland Legislative History and Research*, University of Baltimore Law School
- *And Justice for All: Access to Justice in Three States*, American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting & Conference
- *TEDAALL: Library Leaders Share Their Ethics Stories and Challenges*, American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting & Conference

The People's Law Library and its Web Content Administrator, Leland Sampson, delivered numerous presentations for non-Judiciary groups:

- Federal Pro Bono Fair
- Notre Dame of Maryland University, Spanish class (regarding the translation of PLL material)
- Access to Justice Panel, Baltimore Legal Hackers
- Training on using the static PLL site at county jail libraries for Montgomery and Frederick counties
- PLL Overview for MACRO grantees
- MVLS Law Clerk Orientation, University of Baltimore Law School

Staff professional participation has included membership in many professional organizations and attendances at multiple meetings and conferences.

- American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), with membership in several Special Interest Sections (SIS), including the Government Law Libraries SIS, the Legal Information Services to the Public SIS, the Technical Services SIS, and the Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS
- Asian American Law Librarians Caucus
- Computers in Libraries Conference
- ContentDM Users Group
- Digital Preservation Best Practices Exchange Conference
- Federal Depository Librarians Conference (FDLC)
- Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)
- Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA)/Chesapeake Digital Preservation Group (CDPG)
- Maryland Court Service Center Advisory Work Group
- Maryland Digital Newspaper Conference
- Maryland Interlibrary Loan Conference (MAILL)
- Maryland Library Association (MLA)
- Maryland Partners for Justice
- Maryland State Publications Depository & Distribution Program (SPDDP)



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- National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA)
- Potomac Technical Processing Librarians (PTPL)
- Technology Initiative Grants Conference (TIG)

Staff leadership positions included:

- Steve Anderson, Chair, Scholarship Awards Jury, AALL; Member, Executive Director Search Special Committee, AALL; Member, Local Arrangements Committee, 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference, AALL
- James Durham, Secretary/Treasurer, Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL; Member, Local Arrangements Committee, 2018 Annual Meeting and Conference, AALL; Member, Body of Knowledge (BoK) Special Committee, AALL
- Catherine McGuire, Chair, Education Committee, Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) of AALL
- Jessica Mundy, Chair, Placement Committee, LLAM; Member, Communications and Technology Committee, LLAM
- Chi Song, Chair of the Awards Committee, Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL; Treasurer, LLAM; Member, Communications and Technology Committee, LLAM

Publications by Library Staff

Catherine McGuire, *Self-Care for Librarians: The Necessity of Setting Boundaries*, in LEGAL EASE: SELF-CARE FOR LIBRARY STAFF (American Association of Law Libraries, 2018).

Chi Song, Adnan's Story: The Search for Truth and Justice after *Serial* by Rabia Chaudry (book review). *Law Library Journal* 109:3 (2017), p. 480.

Comments from Library Patrons

- Thank you very much for your professional and prompt response.
- This is incredible. I can't thank you enough for your fast and thorough response.
- Thanks for your fast reply, this was exactly what I was looking for.
- I was impressed by the professionalism of [the staff] who did research for me and emailed me as well as called.
- I want to thank the librarian who handled my request very much for the excellent research job. The information was exactly what I was looking for.
- Your service is invaluable and I very much appreciate the help you have given me over the years. Keep up the excellent work!
- I greatly appreciate your rapid response to my inquiry...I will definitely review this information accordingly and share with my colleagues as well. Keep up the great work.
- Thank you for providing the information I was seeking and directing me to free online resources.
- Always nice to get the answer from an authoritative source to pass on to the attorney.
- [The staff] found a lot of relevant info for me. I am totally impressed with her and with this service.
- WOW! This is an incredible wealth of information. I am diving in how to look at all of this. I am so very grateful for your time and extremely helpful guidance.
- The link to the library's scanned collections is exactly what I needed.

- I just wanted to thank you again for all of your help with this research on [a Maryland Rule]... it has been most helpful and exactly what I was looking for. I have been able to find every material that I needed – thanks to you!
- A million thanks for finding this article on suffrage. It was a fascinating article and truly spoke to the issue.
- Thank you for taking the time to look into the problem I presented.
- Thank you so much for your thorough research and quick turnaround. Everything you sent is beyond helpful.
- Was pleased with the responsiveness for being very timely and referring me to other resources that could assist me better with my situation.
- I have to say, this service is awesome. I'm from [another state] and I've never experienced anything like this from a Library. Thanks again for your help.
- So many thanks! Without your research, we would not have this information. You rock!
- Thank you so much for your swift and efficient assistance.
- Wow, thanks so much for doing this. I'm sure it wasn't easy...Way above and beyond the call of duty!
- Thank you, thank you – your customer service was exemplary!
- Thank you for helping me find my truth for my mom's estate. I know that she's smiling from heaven.
- These are the exact code sections I was seeking. Thank you very much!
- These are wonderful resources and I greatly appreciate your assistance. We have all been at a loss as to how to proceed given the decline of one of our sisters. I will follow up on these and thank you again for your help!
- Thank you! I am working with a student who is working in Maryland who will very much appreciate this! Last night I taught in a virtual class with the student and several others working in placements around the country and I tried to reinforce that law librarians everywhere are awesome. I am going to send this to my student and her professor because it perfectly reinforces what I was saying, librarians are awesome, everywhere, but in Maryland specifically! Thank you so much for helping me and my student!
- All librarians are very knowledgeable, helpful, and responsible. Many thanks for your great help.
- I'm glad your library is available to the public, thank you!
- Wow. Too good. Thank you very much for all your efforts in retrieving the volume in question and figuring out the right section.
- Many thanks for your speedy reply to my questions! I really appreciate your excellent public service in tracking down the origins of the provisions in state law...Thanks also for your background explanations. I now understand that changes prior to the re-codification of the Article don't show up in the history annotations at the end of the sections.
- Thank you so very much – at the very least I will get a good education about Maryland law.