

PLACER COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2006-2007

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The Board of Law Library Trustees submits their annual report to the County Board of Supervisors on the condition of the law library trust fund pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6346 and 6350 of the California Business and Professions Code.

The law library Board of Trustees held regular scheduled meetings on the second Monday of each month. In February, Matthew Roberts joined the board, replacing outgoing Placer County Bar Association President Dave Felman.

The library's primary source of income is its portion of the civil filing fees. From January 1, 2007, its portion was increased from \$35 to \$45. During FY 06-07, the law library's income from filing fees was \$234,137, while income from the previous year, FY 05-06, was \$229,648. This represents an increase of \$58,632. The 20% increase was much more than the expected 9% increase afforded by the major portion of the civil court filing fee.

The court's revenues exceeded expenditures by \$13,487. This is the first time the law library has not had to expend trust fund reserves to cover operating costs since FY 02-03. At the end of the year the law library trust fund balance was \$70,169. The increase in filing fee revenue was a welcome surprise given the inability of the library to increase its funding for the near future.

On January 1, 2007, in implementation of the Uniform Civil Filing Fee Law, California superior courts changed the way money was distributed to law libraries and also removed the Board of Supervisors' ability to control the amount of the fee at the local level. The law library's current \$35 portion of the filing fee can not be adjusted without the act of the Legislature. The latest information from the Administrative Office of the Courts is that an increase in law filing fees may be not be adopted.

The most pressing issue facing the law library was the completion of the court's new Justice Center (i.e., Courtyard). The new site is a

the county seat and the removal of the civil clerk functions from the county seat will have a huge impact on library users. For several years the Trustees have been in negotiations with the County to fund a location in South Placer to better serve the public once the SPJC opens.

In May, the Trustees informed the County they were unable to accept the offer of space in the SPJC given the financial obligations the offer imposed on the library. Currently, the Trustees do not have the financial ability to operate two facilities. Instead, the Trustees will continue to operate a library in Auburn, the county seat, as required by Business and Professions Code Section 6340. The issue of financial solvency needs to be resolved before the Trustees can expand law library services. To this end, the Trustees have asked the County to contribute toward facility operating costs as required under Business and Professions Code Section 6351. The Trustees have paid these costs without County assistance for 12 years and cannot longer afford to do so without reducing public services.


Over the course of the year, 12,268 people used the Placer County Law Library and library staff answered 5,225 reference questions. This was a 1.5% decrease in the number library users over the 11,004 year and yet a 9.9% increase in the number of reference questions answered. The number of in-person library visits decreased by 6.7% but this was offset by the 11.4% increase in telephone inquiries.

This year and the sixth year the Library has been participating in a program with law libraries across the state to provide real time, online, internet reference. Placer County Law Library makes a two part time commitment to staff the service and assist patrons with a combination of chat software and software that allows the librarian to guide the patron through internet searches. This service is available for 16 hours a week.

www.kent.edu/library/countylawlibrary/countylawlibrary.htm

and Christine Christman is serving a third year as treasurer of the statewide county law library organization, the California Council of County Law Librarians (CCCLL).

Respectfully Submitted, September 2007
KENT COUNTY BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES


James H. Christman, President

ADDITIONS

Law Library Trust Account	36,188.20
Buildings and Improvements	330,121.93
Total	366,299.13

BOOK INVENTORY

Total Volumes July 1, 2007	5,118
Volumes Added	354
Volumes Disbanded	200
Total Volumes	5,272

LIBRARY STAFF

Christopher Christman - Librarian
Diane Wells - Library Clerk
Mark Lombardo - Extra Help Library Clerk

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday	8:00 - 8:00
Tuesday	8:00 - 5:00
Wednesday	8:00 - 5:00
Thursday	8:00 - 5:00
Friday	8:00 - 5:00
Saturday	9:00 - 2:00

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