

PLACER COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

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PLACER COUNTY LIBRARY

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The Board of Law Library Trustees submits this annual report to the County Board of Supervisors on the condition of the law library trust fund pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6349 and 6350 of the California Business and Professions Code.

The Law Library Board of Trustees held regularly scheduled meetings on the second Monday of each month. In January, Dave Tellman joined the board, replacing outgoing Placer County Bar Association President Tim Balcom.

The library's primary source of income is its portion of the civil filing fees. During FY 05-06, there were 8004 paid filings, a 5% increase or 402 filings more than the previous year. The law library's income from filing fees was \$225,948. Income from filings during FY 04-05 was \$205,591. This was the first time since FY 02-03 that the number of paid filings has increased.

This year's expenditures exceeded revenues by \$32,700. This amount includes a month of staff salaries and benefits carried over from the previous fiscal year necessitated by a change in the county payroll system. Another major cost was a special assessment by Courthouse Office Plaza to replace the 20-year-old air-conditioning units. The installation of energy efficient units resulted in a 16% lower utility bill this year.

Over the course of the year 12,448 people used the Placer County Law Library and library staff answered 4,755 reference questions. This was a 5% increase in the number library users over the previous year and a 4% increase in the number of reference questions answered.

Since FY 00-01, the number of library users has increased by 30% and reference questions answered have increased by 28%. Law library usage has increased, despite an increase of legal materials on the internet, the increase of court programs for the benefit of self-

represented litigants, and the overall decrease in library usage by attorneys.

The January 1, 2006 implementation of the Uniform Civil Filing (UCF) fee in California superior courts had a major impact on county law libraries. UCF changed the way money was distributed to law libraries and it removed the ability to control the amount of the fee at the local level.

In the past, the superior court collected the filing fee and sent the law library portion to the County before it sent the remainder to the state. Under the new system, the local court sends the entire filing fee to the State and the Administrative Office of the Court determines the law library portion and sends it back to the County.

One of the reasons that civil filing fees were not uniform in the first place was that each court and county had the ability to set local fees, including the law library fee. While the UCF made civil filing fees uniform, it froze law library fees at whatever they were in 2005. This resulted in a statewide range of law library fees from \$3.00 to \$45.00 per filing. The Placer County Law Library fee was \$29.00. The new legislation allowed the counties to increase their portion of the law library fee two times before removing the power from local control altogether. On October 11, 2005, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution increasing the law library share of the civil court filing fee by \$3.00 effective January 1, 2006, and an additional \$3.00 effective January 1, 2007.

The most pressing issue facing the law library remains the opening of the South Placer Justice Center (SPJC) in August 2007. The Placer County Court has decided to consolidate all civil, family, and criminal filings at the new Justice Center 20 miles away in Roseville. The removal of the civil clerk function from the county seat will have a huge impact on self-represented litigants using the law library. As a result the Trustees have approved a resolution to move the main library to the South Placer location to better serve the public. The

Trustees are in negotiations with the County to acquire suitable space for the law library in the SPJC. The Trustees will continue to operate a branch library in Auburn, the county seat, as required by Business and Professions Code Section 6340.

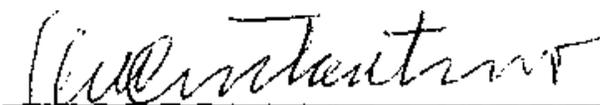
This year is the fifth year the library has been participating in a program with law libraries across the state to provide real-time online internet reference. Placer County Law Library makes a two-hour time commitment to staff the service and assist patrons with a combination of chat software and software that allows the librarian to guide the patron through internet searches. With the number of libraries participating, it allows the service to be accessible over 55 hours a week.

Law Librarian Christopher Christman continues to serve as treasurer of the statewide county law library organization, the California Council of County Law Librarians (CCCLL). He is also a member of a CCCLL committee charged with performing a comprehensive survey of county contributions for law library quarters under Business and Professions Code Section 6361.

Respectfully Submitted September 2006,
PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES



Paul H. Chamberlain, President



Alex Constantino, Secretary

ASSETS

Law Library Trust Account	60,045.65
Buildings and Improvements	320,121.93
Total	

BOOK INVENTORY

Total Volumes July 1, 2005	8,094
Volumes Added	136
Volumes Discarded	114
Total Volumes	8,116

LIBRARY STAFF

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

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday	8:00 - 8:00
Tuesday	8:00 - 8:00
Wednesday	8:00 - 5:00
Thursday	8:00 - 5:00
Friday	8:00 - 5:00
Saturday	10:00 - 2:00

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Revenues and Expenses For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2006

REVENUES

6854	Printer Copies / Disks	1,390	
6950	Interest	3,052	
6965	Conference Room	617	
6965	Copy Machine	1,061	
8143	Court Filing Fees	225,948	
8755	Donations	1,834	
	Total revenues		\$233,902

EXPENSES

2051	Communications	1,198	
2405	Condominium Monthly Assessment	5,627	
2405	Condominium Special Assessment	3,203	
2406	Bathroom Maintenance	972	
2439	Professional Dues	654	
2523	Office Supplies	434	
2528	Security	343	
2556	Building Maintenance	106	
2556	Computer Maintenance	240	
2556	Library Staff	146,368	
2841	Staff Training	150	
2860	Books / Materials / CDS	92,458	
2931	Travel	341	
2965	Utilities	4,508	
2556	Placer County Library Fee	10,000	
	Total expenses		\$266,602
	Excess of expenses over revenue		\$(32,700)