



# **PLACER COUNTY LAW LIBRARY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Paul Chamberlain, President  
Alexander Constantino, Secretary  
Dennis Keller  
Anthony LaBouff  
Levin  
Timothy Sands  
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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 February, Levin joined the board, replacing outgoing Placer County Bar Association President Maureen Rodarte.

The library's primary source of income is its portion of the civil filing fees. The law library's current \$35 portion cannot be increased without an act of the Legislature. The January 1, 2006 implementation of the Uniform Civil Filing (UCF) fee in 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.

During FY 07-08, the law library's income from filing fees was \$350,096, while income from the previous year FY 06-07 was \$284,580. This represents an increase of \$65,516, or a 23% increase in filing fee income. This year's revenues exceeded expenditures by \$41,950. This is the second year the law library has not had to expend trust account reserves to cover operating costs since FY 02-03. At the end of the year the law library trust account balance was \$118,119.

For the first time since the Law Library opened in its current location in the fall of 1995, Placer County has agreed to contribute to the maintenance of the library facility over and above the weekly custodial service they have been providing. The agreement was in response to the Trustee request for the County to contribute toward facility operating costs as required under Business and Professions Code Section 6361. The County approved reimbursement of facility expenses up to \$19,000/year and the actual reimbursement was \$17,694.

With the increase in civil filing fee income and the contribution from Placer County toward library facilities, the law library was able to significantly increase the materials collection for the first time in years. In addition to expanding the collection of self-help law books, criminal and federal materials, the library was able to expand its electronic database access. In the past year the library has added CEB OnLaw, HeinOnline and Lexis. Goals for next year include replacing the four aging public computers and replacing West CD-ROM products with WestLaw.

After the civil court clerk's office moved from across the street in the Historic Courthouse out to the Dewitt Center in August of 2007, the law library experienced a drop in use. Over the course of the year 10,665 people used the Placer County Law Library and library staff answered 4,586 reference questions. This was a 13% decrease in the number library users over the previous year and 12% decrease in the number of reference questions answered. The consolidation of the courts in Roseville and the removal of the civil clerk function from the county seat could have a further impact on library usage.

The law library continues to work closely with the Placer County Library. The County Library has been working all year on a project to improve its existing computer network of which the law library is a part. When this upgrade is completed in November 2008, the network access, including the public internet access will be significantly faster and the law library will be equipped with wi-fi. The increased network speed is vital given the increased use of online legal databases. Additionally the law library worked with the public library on the selection of electronic versions of the most popular Nolo self-help law books so they can be available through the County Library website. Finally, the County Library was able to obtain approval from Placer County to host the law library website at: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Library/LawLib.aspx>.

Law Librarian Christopher Christman is serving his fourth year as treasurer of the statewide county law library organization, the California Council of County Law Librarians (CCCLL).

With unanimous Board approval, in July the Board and the Placer County Bar Association hosted a ceremony to rededicate the library as the "Sparks Law Library of Placer County," to honor the signal achievements to the law of local jurists Judge Lowell L. Sparks and his son, Justice Keith F. Sparks. Justice Keith Sparks accepted the honor on behalf of his family and he and Justice Rick Sims spoke at the well-attended event, moderated by Trustee Alex Constantino.

Respectfully Submitted October 2008,  
PLACER COUNTY BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES

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Alex Constantino, Secretary

ASSETS

Law Library Trust Account	118,119.20
Buildings and Improvements	320,121.93
Total	438,241.13

BOOK INVENTORY

Total Volumes July 1, 2007	8,270
Volumes Added	516
Volumes Discarded	200
Total Volumes	8,586

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

*Revenues and Expenses For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008***REVENUES**

6854 Printer Copies / Disks	2,016	
6950 Interest	4,952	
6965 Conference Room	660	
6965 Copy Machine	1,509	
8143 Court Filing Fees	350,096	
8755 Donations	1,131	
B&P 6361 Reimbursement	17,694	
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>\$378,058</b>

**EXPENSES**

2051 Communications	3,657	
2405 Condominium Monthly Assessment	8,488	
2406 Bathroom Maintenance	774	
2439 Professional Dues	674	
2523 Office Supplies	672	
2528 Security	328	
2556 Computer Maintenance	322	
2556 Library Staff	175,549	
2841 Staff Training	65	
2860 Books / Materials / CDS	127,448	
2931 Travel	243	
2964 Reception	2,930	
2965 Utilities	4,446	
2556 Placer County Library Fee	10,300	
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>\$336,108</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses</b>		<b>\$41,950</b>

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Respectfully Submitted October 2008,  
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Alex Constantino, Secretary

