

CMCLLD FALL 2024 MEETING NOTES
Carroll County Circuit Court
October 22, 2024

Attendees: Florence Barnes, Joan Bellistri, Audrey Dingler, Catherine McGuire, James Durham, Zachary Gunther, Kimberly Viera, Tonya Baroudi, Sandy Brewer, Julia Viets, and Julee Snyder

Welcome Address – Deputy Court Administrator Alison Jones

Deputy Court Administrator Alison Jones welcomed the group and provided an overview of the Carroll County Circuit Court and Law Library accomplishments of technical advancements, technology, and excellent service with a balance of modernization and historic preservation. An upcoming law library project will result in a rare books room that will house rare books and artifacts.

Ms. Jones touted law libraries for providing the critical function of access to the court system and is grateful for the collective work of law libraries.

Approval of 8/27/24 Minutes (if reviewed by 10/21/24)

Will approve via email. Link will be re-sent.

Member Updates

Charles County – Julee Snyder, former CMCLLD member and newly appointed Court Administrator, introduced Kim Viera, the new coordinator of the Legal Resource Center and Public Library.

Prince Georges County – Tonya Baroudi reported that law library renovations are on hold. The court's fiscal team is making things easier with measures such as reducing the number of Lexis invoices. Tonya will serve on the AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) this year.

Washington County – Zachary Gunther reported that Legal Aid will staff the Expungement clinic after January 1. The expungement clinic will be held four times a year starting in February 2025.

Howard County – Sandy Brewer reported that the law library has been very busy, and the use numbers have increased. Problem patrons have necessitated an earlier closing time so that the library can be cleared by the closing time and Sandy being provided a key. A budget review by the fiscal specialist investigated decreasing appearance fees.

Montgomery County – Julia Viets reported that the law library continues to be very busy. Law Library hours are being reviewed. The recent law clerk orientation included a scavenger hunt instead of the bingo game used in previous years. Julia will share with the Conference.

Thurgood Marshall State Law Library – James Durham announced the official new hours for the law library after a study of library use. The new hours will be Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 7:30 pm, starting in January 2025. This will result in new staffing patterns. The soon to be hired library assistant will work the closing shift with a reference law librarian. Catherine McGuire added that there is more in-person library use in the afternoon. Audrey Dingler has been the new Outreach Librarian for two months now and is working with the law libraries without professional staff.

Anne Arundel County – Joan Bellistri has instituted a policy for dealing with problem patrons demanding names of staff and court administration. They will be given a copy of the law library brochure and a print-out of the court administration's webpages. The recent law clerk training was well attended. Joanie attended the SRLN Conference in September where she was a panelist for the program "Putting Law Libraries on the Map – Using GIS Technology to Promote Services to the SRL."

Carroll County – Flossie Barnes reported that the law library audit is completed and that there were no findings. There will be an Annual meeting of their Law Library Committee in November at which time Senior Judge Thomas F. Stansfield will be recognized for his 20 years of service as the Library Judge. She recently had a visit from Chief Justice Fader; State

Court Administrator, Judy Rupp; and Senior Judge Getty for a tour. Flossie highlighted the law library's mix of print and online. She is currently planning the CMCLLD Annual Meeting.

Meeting Schedule – Flossie circulated a proposed Conference schedule covering the calendar years 2024 through 2026. Catherine suggested that the March date in 2025 be moved to February and the June date be moved to May. The schedule will be posted to Teams. Suggested locations for in-person meetings included Baltimore County and unstaffed law libraries.

Review of Md Law Libraries oversized business card – Audrey Dingler volunteered to update the card and the poster. There are funds (about \$1280) at the print shop to cover the costs per Julia Viets.

Member Roundtable discussion - Establishing Committees

1.) A Committee to make recommendations for revisions to the Recommended Titles for the Core Collection – Catherine, Audrey, Joanie, and Julia volunteered to work on the committee.

2.) A Committee to make recommendations for Judges, Senior Judges and Magistrates Chambers Collections – Flossie will send a survey to members to collect information on chambers collection titles, policy, and funding source. It will include questions about senior judge materials. Information on chambers collections will be added to Teams Channel / SharePoint Folder, Core Collections.

Outreach Survey Update - Audrey Dingler sent surveys to 15 court administrators in courts with unstaffed libraries. There have been 11 responses. Results can be expected after the November 1 deadline. Audrey will follow-up with libraries to review collections and provide information on standards and the core collection. Visits in the future were recommended. Flossie suggested that staffed libraries be publicized as resources for unstaffed libraries and that MDEC availability be added to the court library directory.

Member Roundtable discussion continued - Establishing Committees

3.) A Committee to make recommendations for Promotion of Court Law Libraries: Marketing/Outreach Inside & Outside the Law Library – This will be a

committee of the whole. Julia and Flossie reported on interest in library services when presenting at the SHC conference where 40 people attended the session. Promotion ideas to consider include items to distribute such as chip clips, magnets, computer camera covers and creation of a logo. Organizations to contact for law library promotion include Conferences of Court Administrators and Court Clerks and state and local government. CMCLLD should participate in related conferences such MLA/DLA, SHC, Partners, MSBA Annual and Solo, MAACM, bar associations, and MCLA. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the quarterly meetings with the A2J Department, SHC staff, and law libraries be resurrected.

Update – Laws of Maryland – Joan Bellistri

Email received 10/16/2024 from Carol Mihm, Editing and Bill Processing Department of Legislative Services: I promise this has not fallen off my radar in the least, but I haven't been able to fully turn my attention to it just yet. I hope to have some info for you in the next week or two.

New business – Press release announcing merger of Law Library and Self-Help Office into Access to Justice Resource Center. Joanie and Flossie will contact Scott Stevens to find out what happened and the process for the transition. Future discussion could involve discussing with the A2J Department best practices for co-locating law libraries and help centers.

(<https://www.courts.state.md.us/media/news/2024/pr20241017>)

A Walking Tour of Carroll County Circuit Court's 1838 Historic Courthouse and Law Library by Senior/Library Judge Thomas F. Stansfield – concluded the meeting.