

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

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 17 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
Scott Ashlin, Technical Services Assistant
Maureen Della Barba, Reference Assistant
James G. Durham, Deputy Director
Debra Haines, Library Aide
Leigh Johnson, Library Acquisition Specialist
Deborah Judy, Maryland Collections Librarian
Catherine McGuire, Head of Reference and Outreach
Jessica Mundy, Head of Collection Management
Julia Roberts, Discovery Services Librarian
C. Leland Sampson, Head of Web Content and Services
Elizabeth Simmons, Research Librarian (part-time)
Chi Song, Web 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 Legal

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

Information Archive (LIA; formerly the Chesapeake Project) to collect and digitally preserve state government publications.

Digital Archives

The Library is an active member of the Legal Information Archive (LIA), a collaborative digital archive established to preserve and ensure permanent access to vital legal information. The Library's focus is on preservation of born-digital Maryland documents. During FY2019, the LIA collections were migrated to a new platform, [Preservica](#), an industry leader in digital preservation for archives and libraries. The new platform allows for the preservation of a wide range of formats, securing future access to critical materials.

Legislative Bill Files

In cooperation with the Department of Legislative Services, bill files from the 2003 to 2008 Maryland General Assembly Sessions were added to the Library's [Scanned Collections](#). Bill files are received at the Library in CD format, and uploaded to the Library's website for wide availability to legislative history researchers.

County and Municipal Code Digitization

The Library began a long-term project to digitize Maryland County and Municipal Codes into the [Scanned Collections](#). The collection will include select county and municipal codes prior to 1978, as well as recent editions of the Baltimore City Code.

Sierra Migration

Towards the end of the fiscal year, the Library's ILS (Integrated Library System), Sierra, which includes the Library's catalog, was upgraded. The ILS allows for integration of the Library's e-resources management, cataloging, acquisitions, and serials management functions. The upgrade increased performance and security measures. Improved infrastructure functionality increases the Library's ability to respond on the front-end reference activity more swiftly and accurately.

Special Collections and Thurgood Marshall

The Library's Special Collections include some unexpected treasures, such as signatures of special visitors. During the 2019 Maryland General Assembly Session, upon introduction of a bill to rename the State Law Library after Justice Thurgood Marshall, staff discovered Justice Thurgood Marshall's signature in early Library visitor logs. With the successful passage of the legislation, the new name will take effect on July 1, 2019, at the start of FY2020.

Database Subscriptions and Access

The Library added the *History of Supreme Court Nominations* to its content on HeinOnline. The collection includes the complete print series of the text by Roy M. Mersky and J. Myron Jacobstein, *Supreme Court of the U.S. Hearings & Reports on Successful & Unsuccessful Nominations of Supreme Court Justices by the Senate Judiciary Committee*. The content is keyword searchable, and allows for browsing by Supreme Court Justice.

The Library also added a subscription to the database, *Library & Information Science Source*, which encompasses librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more. Materials provided through the database compose a key part of

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

Library staff continuing education, and contribute to the ability to staff to provide high-level information services to patrons.

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.

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 FY2019 Reference Report on the Library's website.

The Library continues to see an increase in workload related to interactions with the public. Almost 11,000 total interactions were recorded for FY2019, an increase in reference workload of 31% from FY2018. Of those numbers, the percentage identified as *public patron* rose to 77% of the overall.

The percentage of interactions received by email continued its rise, comprising 55% of overall numbers. The length of time required for staff to complete a response, recorded as *duration*, increased as well, with a much larger percentage of questions requiring more than 15 minutes for response completion (26% in FY2019, compared with 12% in FY2014).

People's Law Library

The State Law Library's legal information website, the People's Law Library (PLL) launched, in early FY2019, a redesigned website. The redesign included increased site accessibility and readability, improved aesthetics, and enhanced mobile navigation. In addition, an "Ask A Law Librarian" feature was added to connect PLL users directly to the Library's reference desk. The fiscal year saw over 1.3 million users and nearly 2.5 million pageviews, an increase of 16% and 18% respectively from last .

Sixteen new articles were published in FY2019, including articles on immigration law, family law, and landlord/tenant law. Over 40% of procedural and substantive law articles are available in Spanish.

New articles included:

- Notario Fraud
- Limited Scope Representation
- Overview of Divorce in Maryland
- What is a Divorce Decree
- Grounds for Absolute Divorce
- Difference between Absolute and Limited Divorce
- Temporary Protected Status
- Extreme Risk Protective Orders
- Standby Guardianship

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

- Asylum
- Information for Immigrants and New Americans
- Joint Ownership of Real Property
- Prince George's County Housing Code Laws
- Prince George's County Human Relations Commission: Landlord and Tenant
- Housing – Local Laws
- Protective Orders – Frequently Asked Questions

Library Staff Training

In order to provide the highest level of access and services possible, Library staff participate in continuing professional education opportunities in a broad spectrum of related applications and areas. Staff participated in trainings through professional associations, including the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C. (LLSDC), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), and the Maryland Public Purchasing Association (MPPA). Sessions included:

- Legal Research Institute (LLSDC)
- Bridging the Gap Between Generations (AALL)
- Stress Management (AALL)
- Data Privacy and User Data Collection (AALL)
- Working with Non-English Materials for the English Speaker (AALL)
- Institute for Public Procurement, National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP)

In addition, staff engaged in trainings to improve resource and product use, including: Gale LegalForms; MarcEdit; XML and XSLT; Preservica; and Sierra.

Staff participated in tours at the U.S. Navel Academy's Nimitz Library and the Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Services Library, to broaden cooperation among area institutions and widen knowledge of alternative resources.

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. FY2019 included several program and tour combinations for high school students in public, private, homeschool, and special programs, including sessions for the Youth Educational Seminar, and a lengthy tour of the Audubon prints for high school art students.

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC)

The State Law Library and select circuit court law libraries assist attorneys and self-represented litigants with the public-facing components of MDEC, including E-File & Serve, Record Search, and the Public Kiosk. Library staff members provided trainings to Judiciary staff and court librarians on assisting the public through in-person sessions at the Baltimore County Circuit Court and the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court.

Public Library Training

The Library continued its partnership with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission on the Legal Reference for Public Libraries project. Website resources were augmented, most significantly in the areas of Online Sources and Forms information. The partnership expanded to include input from legal services providers and educators at the University of Maryland iSchool.

Project trainings were conducted for the Southern Maryland Regional Library Association (SMRLA); the Eastern Shore Regional Libraries (ESRL); the Cecil County Public Library; and the Anne Arundel County Public Library. With the completion of these trainings, 23 out of 24 of Maryland's counties have received basic legal reference training through this partnership.

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 FY2019 included:

- Online Legal Research for Maryland Judges
- LexisNexis Digital Library
- Westlaw Brief Tools
- The People's Law Library, Court Manager/Supervisor Program

Library staff regularly provide specialized trainings for institutions outside of the Judiciary. In FY2019, in addition to the Public Library Trainings referenced above, trainings and presentations included:

- Legal Information at the State Law Library, Baltimore County Public Library
- University of Maryland School of Law (People's Law Library)
- Office of the Attorney General Pro Bono Fair (People's Law Library)
- Federal Pro Bono Fair (People's Law Library)
- Best Practices for Online Legal Research, Frederick County Bar Association

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 Online Bibliographic Services SIS, the Technical Services SIS, and the Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS
- Asian American Law Librarians Caucus
- Federal Depository Librarians Conference (FDLC)
- Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)
- Legal Information Preservation Alliance (LIPA)
- Maryland Library Association (MLA)

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

- Maryland Partners for Justice
- Maryland State Publications Depository & Distribution Program (SPDDP)

Staff leadership positions included:

- Steve Anderson, member, Nominations Committee, Government Law Library Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL; member, Executive Director Search Special Committee of AALL
- James Durham, Secretary/Treasurer, Government Law Library Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL; Body of Knowledge (BoK) Ambassador (AALL)
- Catherine McGuire, Vice Chair, Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) of AALL
- Jessica Mundy, Chair, Placement Committee, Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)
- Leland Sampson, member, Pro Bono Coordinating Council Steering Committee
- Elizabeth Simmons, Secretary, Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)
- Chi Song, Treasurer, Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM); Chair, Communications & Technology Committee, Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM); member, Awards Committee, Government Law Library Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL
- Jessie Tam, Chair, Bylaws Committee, Asian American Law Librarians Caucus of AALL; member, Funding Research Opportunities Grant (FROG) Committee, Online Bibliographic Services/Technical Services Special Interest Section (OBS/TS-SIS) of AALL
- Tanya Thomas, member, Education Committee, Government Law Library Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS) of AALL

Publications by Library Staff

Catherine McGuire, Access to Quality, Legal Information = Access to Justice: Legal Reference at the Public Libraries. *Maryland Bar Journal* LII:1 (Winter 2019), pp. 20-21.

Library staff contributed to the revision of the Maryland Judiciary's *Journal's Guide to Maryland's Legal System*.

Comments from Library Patrons

- Thank you and bless you again for all your fantastic help both Saturday and today. What an awesome resource we have in you!
- Thank you very much for your information, and for the terrific leads! I will try those contacts you provided. Happy summer to you, and thank you, again!
- Thank you, again! This is so incredibly helpful! I greatly appreciate your assistance and I'm delighted that Maryland has such a great service available to the public!
- Thank you so much. I should have looked there first. You are wonderful.
- This explanation definitely helps! Thanks very much for your prompt, and thorough, explanation.
- Thank you very much for this help. I am going to go through this now and check on the book as well!
- Thank you so much for your assistance with this matter. Please feel free to close the request. If I think of anything else that I need, I'll get back in touch. Thanks again, and have a great weekend.
- You were a delight to work with.... many thanks and have a great rest of your week!

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

- Wow, thanks for your reply. I'll need a couple of days to review it all, and then I'll ask about copies. Thank you so much!
- This is great - thank you for your time. A 2017 law amended this section from the [County] Code, and we needed to figure out what it was so we could properly index the legislation in the Laws of Maryland!
- This is just what we were looking for. Thank you again for your generous assistance.
- I read everything that you sent; super helpful. And I owe you a massive thank you because the material you included for Rule X-XXX actually gave us a way easier way to rule on this case. Thank you so much!
- Thank you very much for finding these items. My judge and I greatly appreciate it. Judge X was right when he said that you and the other law library staff would be very helpful and patient concerning the Maryland Register. Thank you again for your time and consideration. Take care!
- We just received a verbal compliment from a gentleman from the X office. He visits us occasionally and as he was leaving he turned around to give us a compliment. He wanted to let us know that he appreciates our services. He notes that it is the combination of willingness and ability that he finds at the Maryland State Law Library – a combination that has become so rare compared to a generation ago – that he appreciates.
- Thank you. I'm so impressed with your thoroughness. Much appreciated.
- Thank you so much for your quick and very nice response. I, as a member of the general public, would very much wish that all our State and Government departments would be so nice and courteous in delivering their responses to public queries.
- Thank you so much for this additional information about eliminating the XX exemption for women in certain counties in MD. This is exactly what I needed to know. And, I can't tell you just how much I appreciate the help you consistently have provided me regarding my research.
- Thanks a lot for the great service. As I am in Denmark right now, it was difficult for me to find the correct reference and you helped me a lot with this explanation. Highly appreciated.
- Thank you SO much for this direction and for the attachments. I'm very grateful for your work and very prompt response. We're on a bit of a time crunch before our winter break, so this is extremely helpful. Thank you again and happy holidays!
- Thanks for [the copy] and timely response. As a practicing attorney, and even before as a graduate student beginning in 1992, I have used the State Law Library on numerous occasions and found it and its staff to be very helpful, rich with legal resources and a pleasure to utilize. Thanks for your service to the Bar and to the people of this State.
- This is actually extremely helpful. You rephrased my questions expertly. I think you've provided me with more than enough tools necessary to assist us in resolving the issue presented. Thank you and take care.
- Thank you, so much. I spent yesterday writing a statement for the hearing on the repeal of the law today in Annapolis, which I submitted this morning. Now I have the time to read this more carefully, and take it from there. Appreciate it!
- Wow. Superb info—both PDF and links. Thank you very much. The Maryland State Law Library makes me proud to be a Maryland tax payer.
- This is beyond perfect and immensely helpful. Thank you, thank you very much! It is exactly what I was looking for and will save me a trip to Annapolis. I appreciate it!
- Wow! thank you so much for your help! This info is extremely helpful. Thank you for including the text and examples. I really appreciate your time and your help!

Maryland State Law Library Highlights, FY2019

Maryland's First Legal Resource

- This is amazing!!! Thank you so much for your prompt, efficient, and effective research. I'm so lucky to have such a wonderful resource.
- I would like to sincerely thank you for emailing me back so quickly. I got speaking to an attorney based at the telephone number below [the Maryland Self-Help Center] and he was most helpful. I am very grateful.
- Thank you SO much! This is exactly what I needed, but couldn't find. I really appreciate it.
- I am also very grateful to your wonderful Reference Librarian who helped me a lot with professionalism and kindness. Thanks again for your time and help with this research.
- Hello – I wanted to thank you for the information and research you provided. The sample form for an Order XX turned out to be precisely what I needed to submit to the court, and the case is moving forward. I really appreciate your help.
- This is spot on! Thank you for all of your help! And big thank you to X, who was very helpful on this yesterday.
- Thank you so much for all of the information. I have never used this service before, and I must say that I am really surprised that you were able to get back in touch with me so quickly and provide as much information as you did. Thank you so much!
- Thank you. This is helpful information, and I appreciate your taking the pains to track it down for me. I am on the trail, going to archives in both Annapolis and Baltimore. To most people the 19th Century into the 20th seems ancient. I will investigate the links.
- As always, you guys are fantastic. This is what we needed.... Thank you, again.
- Good morning, I received all the material you sent. I know it was a pain... to have to send the material in nine separate emails, but I couldn't print the emails any other way. Thank you very much for going the extra mile.
- I'm so very grateful for your help. I was getting frustrated looking online and coming up short, so I will remember to try the library more often, especially for specific Maryland information. My department tries to document decisions and timeframes for different records, but I hadn't questioned the date until a colleague from another county asked. I forwarded her your response as well. So glad we have this resource and wish I had remembered it earlier.
- Good Morning! My patron told me that the information that you provided was perfect! No further work is needed. Thank you!
- This is perfect - thanks so much. And thanks for letting me know about the Scanned Collections. I'm sure that will come in handy in the future!
- Can I just say wow? This was so helpful. Thank you very much for the time you spent researching this on my behalf. I sincerely appreciate it.
- Thank you for responding so quickly to my inquiry. Wow! That's a lot more helping information than I expected. Thank you again for being so thorough. You've made my day!
- Wow!!! Thank you so much for such an informed response. Your office is always so willing to help and I do appreciate it!!!