



**MARYLAND'S
COURT
LAW
LIBRARIES**

**2020
Annual
Report**

**Conference of
Maryland Court Law
Library Directors**

Anne Arundel
Baltimore
Baltimore City
Carroll
Charles
Howard
Montgomery
Prince George's
Thurgood Marshall
State Law

Court Law Libraries in Maryland

Maryland's network of court law libraries continues to provide access to legal information, offer expert assistance with using legal materials, operate educational programs, and advocate and innovate new solutions for connecting the public to legal information and self-help resources. The Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD) brings together directors of the eight staffed Circuit Court libraries and the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library to discuss advancing access to justice through education and the provision of legal information for the public. CMCLLD members also exchange ideas on law library operations and programming. Maryland's staffed law libraries are in the following locations:

Anne Arundel County
Baltimore City
Baltimore County
Carroll County
Charles County
Howard County
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Assisting Self Represented Individuals



Many self-represented litigants arrive at the law library looking for assistance with challenging situations. Librarians assist by connecting self-represented litigants (SRLs) to legal and community information, resources, and local referrals. In FY20, staffed law libraries provided more than 43,000 in-person instances of service.

Law libraries also assist patrons remotely via telephone and email. Remote inquiries accounted for 32% of library reference activity in FY20, a number that has held steady in comparison to FY19. In total, there were more than 64,701 instances of service in FY20.

The majority of law library patrons are members of the public, including SRLs. Librarians are increasingly gearing their resources, guides, programming, and services towards meeting the needs of the public, including SRLs. Public patrons account for about 68% of law library patrons, a number that has also held steady in comparison to FY19.

Law libraries serve SRLs in the following unique, innovative, and industrious ways:

If an SRL is asking for the impossible, law libraries strive to provide background information to help the SRL better understand the legal system and recognize where their situation may fit. Law libraries dig deep to locate alternative referrals to services where SRLs can connect to help. Because Maryland court law libraries do not restrict the types of questions they will address, court law libraries provide an essential service in areas in which self-help centers and legal service organizations cannot.

**MARYLAND
COURT LIBRARIES
DO NOT RESTRICT
THE TYPES OF
QUESTIONS THEY
WILL ADDRESS**

Working with Attorneys

One of the best ways to understand how court law librarians assist attorneys is by reading the questions they ask. Below is a selection of questions.



- What are the sanctions for discovery witness deposition?
- Is payment of interest on a claim in an estate allowed?
- Where in the Maryland code does it say that the head of an HOA can represent the HOA in District Court but not criminal court.
- In a large claim District Court case where the amount in controversy is \$30,000, does that include attorney's fees and costs?
- Would you look on PACER and see if there are any lawsuits filed against xxx in the fourth circuit, and preferably, Maryland if possible. I want to see a sample complaint, I looked at the other jurisdictions and I am working on them, but I just wanted to see a Maryland case if I can.
- I need cases that spell out and interpret jurisdiction for CINA and especially for shelter and emergency removal when child and parent are not residents of Maryland and there is no evidence that abuse or neglect occurred in Maryland.
- Ten years after a conviction for DWI, District Court forwards the conviction to the MVA. Based on the conviction the MVA is going to pull the person's commercial driver's license. This sounds like a due process issue. Can you assist with case law or statutes?
- I have a hearing to determine the validity of the contract. My client was suffering from a drug addiction at the time. I have found the case of Lynn v. Magness, 6A.2d 604, 191 Md 674. I was wondering if this was still a good case and are there more recent cases that deal with this issue. Thank you!

**MARYLAND
COURT LAW
LIBRARIANS
CONDUCT
LEGAL
RESEARCH FOR
ATTORNEYS**

Assisting Judges and Law Clerks



Not Everything Is Online

I have one rule for law clerks: If you can't find what you need in fifteen minutes call me. Judge West was on the bench in what turned out to be an infamous case of *State v. Wilson*, 64, SEPT. TERM, 2019, (Md. Oct. 26, 2020) where the star witness married the defendant right before the trial.

Judge West had located an obscure case from the old Baltimore Superior Court and asked his law clerk to find it. As it turns out, almost all the law clerks were looking for the case, online, with no success. They finally called me for help.

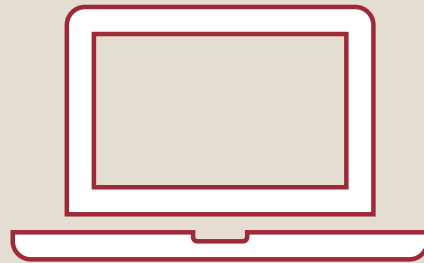
As soon as I saw the citation, I knew that they would never find it online. These cases were published in the *Daily Record* and currently only available on microfilm. I knew the Marshall State Law Library had the entire run of the *Daily Record*, so I called and explained the situation and that I needed as close to immediately as possible. The staff at Marshall did not disappoint, they send scanned version of the case within 15 minutes and the Judge West had his case.

Mary Jo Lazun
Charles County Public Law Library

**“YOU ARE
ALWAYS THERE
WHEN I NEED
YOU”
—MAGISTRATE**

Our FY 2020 Numbers

3,042,238
WEB HITS



1203

SERVED BY LAW
LIBRARY SELF-HELP
LEGAL ADVICE
PROGRAMS

49,638



TRANSACTIONS

WHO WE SERVE



68% PUBLIC



21% BAR



6% JUDICIARY

HOW WE SERVE

65% IN PERSON

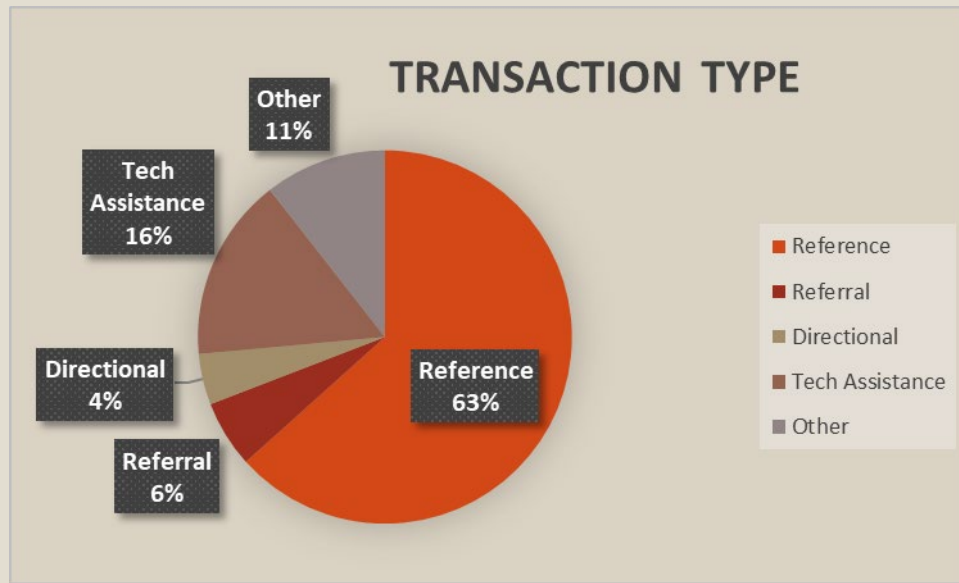


18% PHONE



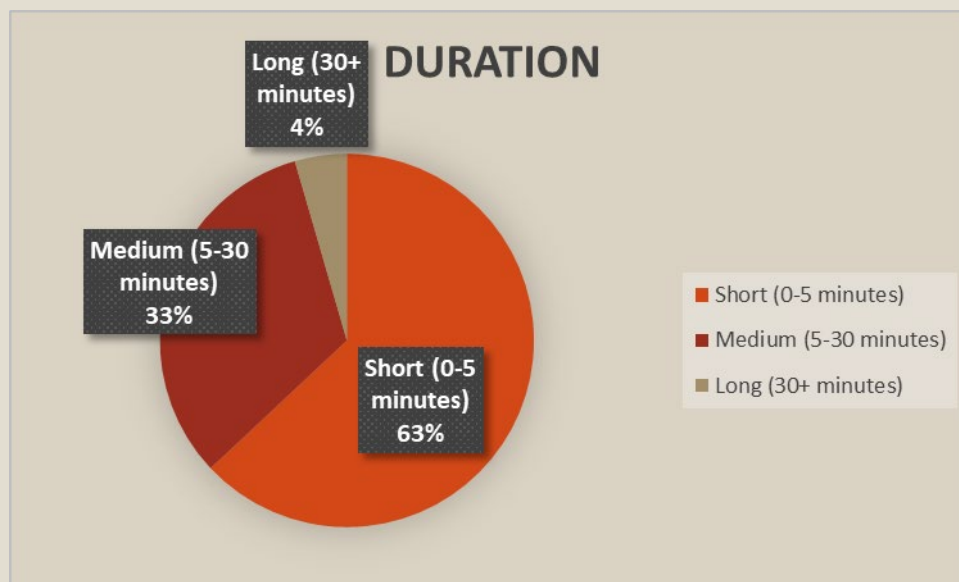
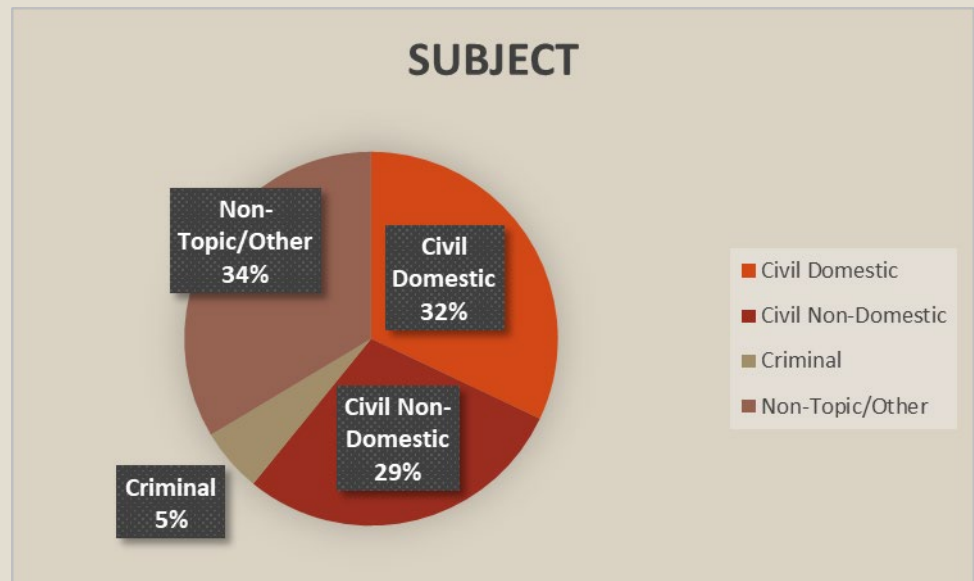
17% EMAIL





70% OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVE REFERENCE & REFERRALS

61% OF QUESTIONS INVOLVE CIVIL ACTIONS



63% OF TRANSACTIONS TAKE 5 MINUTES OR LESS

Anne Arundel County

COVID Response

When the court limited access to the building in March, the law library provided remote service via phone and email. Remote services continue to be available to those who do not need to visit the court in-person. Copies of requested information was (and still can be) sent via email. For requests for information that is not available online such as legislative history information, the librarian can scan and email the needed sections.

Westlaw and Lexis access were made available through the publishers and was distributed upon request by the law library. Online research sessions using screen sharing allows users to search databases with librarian assistance in real time.

The law library created a [Virtual Reference Desk](#) for easy access to remote library services.

The [Lawyer in the Library program](#) was converted to a remote program beginning in May.

[The AACPLL Blog: Law Library News](#) provided updates on COVID and collected the posts on the [COVID resource page](#).



MISSION

The Anne Arundel County Public Law Library serves the needs of Anne Arundel County's court, attorneys, government and citizens by providing access to legal information resources; promoting access to these resources; creating educational opportunities that enhance the understanding of legal information; and providing access to programs providing legal advice to the public.

New Projects

Family Law Mentoring and Pro Bono Study Group

is a project of the Anne Arundel Pro Bono Committee. The project consists of monthly meetings of new attorneys (mentees) and established family law attorneys (mentors). Meetings include case discussion, guidance and special speakers. The group did meet in the law library in order to take advantage of research resources. The law librarian can now attend the virtual meetings to suggest and share appropriate resources.

Email FAQ Templates

To more efficiently respond to the remote requests of self-represented litigants the law library has developed email FAQ templates for family law and civil issues. The templates provide links to the Wiki FAQs as well as legal assistance referrals. The templates are also used to provide contactless information to in-person library users.

Anne Arundel County Public Law Library Staff

Joan M. Bellistri
Law Library Director

Denise Wolf
Law Library Associate

Sarah Green
Law Library Associate

“We had no idea what to do but now we have direction and a start”

Ongoing Special Projects

The [Lawyer in the Library program](#) provides the opportunity to consult with a volunteer lawyer for at least 20 minutes about civil, non-family legal issues for free. Pre-COVID, the program was held weekly in the law library from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and monthly at public library branches in the evening from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday and the third Wednesday. The program is now offered remotely, same times and days as before.

[Wiki FAQs](#) contain links to the law, online articles, forms and videos, as well as lists of print material in the library pertaining to topics that are most often asked by the public. The FAQs are a part of the [AACPLL Self Help and Pro Bono WIKI](#).

Database Access

- Westlaw
- Lexis
- National Consumer Law Center Digital Law Library
- SasiCalc
- HeinOnline
- NOLO Legal Information Reference Center

Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court
8 Church Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

AALawLibrarian@mdcourts.gov
410-222-1387

Online @

<http://www.circuitcourt.org/legal-help/law-library>

<http://aacpll.pbworks.com>

aacpll.org



26,034 visits to the Law Library and FLSHC



4708 questions



246 served by the Lawyer in the Library Program



28,521 web hits

Baltimore County

Access to Justice

Created a new remote service by adding two new emails for public to request help.

baltcoselfhelp@mdcourts.gov and baltcocivilselfhelp@mdcourts.gov.

Provided continued self-help service during COVID 19 court closures by email and telephone. Created a Self-Help at the Baltimore County Law Library Website to provide informational resources for family and civil matters specific to SLRs in Baltimore County. This website includes templates for forms that do not exist on the Judiciary website but are common for Baltimore County Circuit Court like the Petition for Judicial Review.

Responsive and adaptable to changing community needs

Expanded self-help service to email requests. Provided continued self-help assistance during the court's closure for COVID 19 by email and telephone service.

Be Accountable

Director conducts yearly Library Goals meetings with staff to improve upon library services, to expand services and offerings, and to generate new ideas and projects for the upcoming year.

"You are my salvation. You don't know how happy I am that you guys were here today to help me."

Pro Se Litigant

Communicate effectively with stakeholders

Librarians conducted MDEC training sessions for Judges' Judicial Assistants. Librarian continues to educate patrons on how to search historical Maryland laws and legislative history.

Improve Systems and processes

Library is in process of incorporating the Family Law Self-Help office into its space to combine the Law Library's research resource with the Family Law Self-Help program and expanded into civil matters as well. With MDEC Public Kiosk and MDEC OFS/Portal in Library, Librarians provide support to patrons/attorneys retrieving files and e-filing documents.

Assure the Highest Level of Service

Librarian accepted into courses for ICM program. Staff receiving training from Library Associations and the Judicial Education Center to better assist patrons with legal resources. Self-Help at the Baltimore County Law Library website promotes the Library as the first place for SRLs to turn for legal information requests. Expanded self-help service during the pandemic to allow continuity of service even when courts were physically closed

Build Partnerships

Expands working relationship with Baltimore County Family Services and Family Self-Help Program. Library provides private access computer workstation for viewable Child Assess Evaluation Documents and Emergency Evaluations Documents. Librarian is MAACM Communication Committee member, handles MAACM's Facebook feed and acts as photographer at MAACM conferences. Librarian attends Conference of Maryland Law Library Directors meetings, Baltimore County Court Managers Meetings, and Baltimore County Family Law Meetings as well as professional associations events/training sessions

Use Resources Wisely

Created Self-Help at the Baltimore County Circuit Court Library to promote Library's highly trained staff and legal resources for SRLs. Strengthening Library self-help services by incorporating Family Law Self-Help office space into Law Library.

Library Staff

Stephanie Levasseur,
Director

Scott Stevens,
Associate Librarian

Kate Hobner,
Assistant Librarian

Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library

401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Md 21204
410-887-3086

Carroll County

Response to COVID 19

Offered remote legal information reference and document delivery services April –June 2020.

Interior of Library re-arranged to adhere with social distancing protocol in place for use of computers and library tables.

Protective barriers, gloves, masks, disinfectant supplies, computer keyboard and mouse sleeves were ordered. Hand sanitation areas were established in and outside the Law Library.

Signage at the entrance to and around the Library were placed to educate and encourage patrons to social distance and wear a mask.

Quarantine zone mail room set up for the purpose of implementing safe handling measures for all incoming library deliveries.

Emails sent to the local Bar Association to keep members informed of library service availability.

Web page updates to keep the public informed of library service availability.

Distributing, upon request by library patrons, complimentary remote login access to Westlaw and Lexis that are being offered by those publishers.

Reached out to the Carroll County Public Library system to advise of the Law Library's availability to provide legal information reference.



"Thank you a lot for getting the Library ready to re-open."

Hon. Thomas F. Stansfield
Carroll County
Circuit Court

Available Databases

- Westlaw
- Lexis Advance
- SASI-Calc
- Kaufman Alimony Calculator
- Hein Online
- NOLO
- West Academic publications

The Mission of the Carroll County Circuit Court Law Library is to provide access to law related information for the judiciary, as well as the legal community and public. The Library will strive to provide up-to-date and accurate traditional and advanced technological services to its Library patrons.



Memorable Request

A patron requested a synopsis of Greek probate law and procedure. As a small Circuit Court Law Library we did not have those resources to offer; however, after contacting the Law Library of Congress, the request was filled and the patron could not have been more thankful for the information provided.

Contact Information

Website:

[https://circuitcourt.
carrollcountymd.
gov](https://circuitcourt.carrollcountymd.gov)

Email:

florence.barnes@mdcourts.gov

Phone:

410-386-5672

Address:

**Circuit Court for Carroll County
Law Library - Historic Courthouse
200 Willis Street
Westminster, MD 21157**

Charles County

MISSION

The Charles County Public Law Library provides the community with the resources needed to participate knowledgeably in the due process of law.

Law Library Legal Clinic

Maryland's third* Lawyer in the Law Library opened for business shortly after MLK Day with the generous support of the Maryland Judiciary's Family Law Division.

Between January and July 2020 over 300 people had the opportunity to meet with an attorney for free. The praise was overwhelming. Most individuals had family law issues but at least a third had other issues related to housing, estates, and benefits.

*First program was in Howard County and the second in Anne Arundel County.



COVID Response

While the court buildings were closed to the public, the law library offered remote legal information reference and document delivery and free remote access to WestlawNext.

“How did we all survive without you? Thank you!”

--Court Magistrate

Available at the Law Library

Databases	For Public Use
Westlaw	Computers with
Lexis Advance	MS Office
SASI-Calc	Copier
Alimony	Scanner
Guidelines	WiFi
HeinOnline	
West Academic	

Charles County Public Law Library

200 Charles Street
La Plata MD 20646

ccpll@mdcourts.gov
301-932-3322
mdcourts.gov/clerks/charles/lawlibrary

Howard County

COVID-19 Response

Offered remote legal information reference and document delivery services April – July 2020; offered free remote access to WestlawNext legal research database April – July 2020.

The Law Library & Legal Resource Center is now open to the public with the interior of the Law Library & Legal Resource Center re-arranged to adhere with social distancing protocol in place for use of computers and library tables. Protective barriers, gloves, masks, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer were ordered. Hand sanitation areas were established inside and outside the Law Library. Signage at the entrance to and around the Law Library was placed to educate and encourage patrons to social distance and wear a mask.

The Family Law Assistance Program and the Civil Law Center resumed in-person assistance on July 27, 2020. Walk-in service is temporarily suspended; Litigants must make a thirty-minute appointment by contacting the Law Librarian. The hours of each Program are reduced because the evening sessions cannot occur; the public libraries, where evening sessions are offered, remain closed. The Video Chat Self-Help Service is also temporarily suspended.

“Just wanted to thank you for all your help today. You were truly a blessing!”



MISSION

The Law Library and Legal Resource Center serves the law-related research and information needs of the judiciary, the legal community and the public. The Law Library and Legal Resource Center provides access to local, state and federal legal resources in a variety of formats, including traditional print and online resources.

“Fantastic!
Thanks so much
Sandy. You are
a magician!”

Ongoing Special Projects

Law Librarian manages the Circuit Court for Howard County's free legal assistance programs – the Civil Law Center and the Family Law Assistance Program. The Law Library & Legal Resource Center partners with the Maryland Judiciary to offer Video Chat Self-Help Service from two computers. Law Librarian plans and leads an annual summer tour of the courthouse for visiting middle school exchange students from South Korea – as part of the Howard County Public School System's Cultural Exchange Program.

Electronic Resources

Library visitors can scan documents and electronically file the documents. The Law Library & Legal Resource Center also provides access to the Maryland Electronic Courts Public Kiosk, where visitors can view documents filed in other cases .

Legal Databases

- WestlawNext
- SASI-Calc
- Kaufman Alimony Calculator

Contact Information

Website:

<http://mdcourts.gov/circuit/howard/lawlibrary>

Email:

sandy.brewer@mdcourts.gov

Phone:

410-313-2135

Address:

Circuit Court for Howard
County, Law Library & Legal
Resource Center, 8360 Court
Ave, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Montgomery County



New project:

This fall, MCCCLL is temporarily helping the court reduce a backlog of family cases by acting as “Zoom clerks”—scheduling and conducting Zoom hearings with Senior Judges. Additionally, the library plans to continue virtual Everyday Law programs in the Spring of 2021, focusing on specific family law topics like guardianship, mediation, and domestic violence.

“You’re a lifesaver. I couldn’t find it for the life of me in our hearing up here. Thanks!”
-Law Clerk

Ongoing Special Projects:

In the spring of 2020, MCCCLL partnered with Rockville Memorial Library and local attorneys to offer an educational series of programs called “Everyday Law” with the aim of demystifying common legal topics and processes for the public. Programs included Family Law, Writing Your Will, and Elder Law. When Montgomery County’s COVID-19 lockdown commenced in early spring, the program venue transitioned from the public library to Zoom and subsequently garnered record attendance numbers. Due to popular demand, the library reprised “Everyday Law: Writing Your Will” for Rockville Memorial Library as well as several local community associations.

MCCCLL maintains an extensive historic local law collection that contains hardbound books, loose-leaf materials, microfilm, and microfiche. This collection is especially useful for library “power-users” such as judges and the bar. To support this collection in FY20, the library created a microfiche and microfilm station in the library with new user guides. Additionally, the library commenced an effort to bind historic loose-leaf Montgomery County Council Resolutions.

Some other ongoing special projects:

- MCCCLL routinely creates and revises legal information guides. In FY20, revised guides’ topics included wills, Google Scholar, and the Maryland Apostille process.
- MCCCLL contributes a monthly column about legal research tips and library news to the Bar Association of Montgomery County’s newsletter.

- MCCCLL coordinates with court leadership and other departments to design court announcements and informational guides, including a revised “Montgomery County Legal Resources” guide for court clerks, a “Where to Refer” guide for Court Magistrates (still in production), and COVID-19 safety signage.
- MCCCLL renewed a contract with Lexis for continued patron access.

COVID-19 Response:

Between Mid-March and June of 2020, when MCCCLL was asked to temporarily pause direct assistance to the public and bar, the library continued to provide remote legal assistance to the judiciary. To assist the public during this time, the library authored and made available an online COVID-19 legal resources guide.

Library staff also focused spring-time efforts on remote educational programming for both the public and librarians. In addition to presenting Everyday Law programs virtually, library staff helped organize two webinars for government law librarians and assist the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library with a webinar for Montgomery County Public librarians.

Since June 15th, 2020, the library has been able to expand remote legal reference services to the bar and public. These services have included free remote access to both Westlaw and Lexis and free and temporary remote notarization services in accordance with Maryland Emergency Executive Order 20-03-30-04.

Just wanted you to know that Julia and her team helped me resolve issues with 18 different forms over the past few weeks. Thanks again for allowing me to borrow their expertise. Wish I had them sitting in my office round the clock – always so detail oriented – like human Google pages, just better!”
-Court Employee

Databases & Electronic Resources:

Westlaw

Lexis

HeinOnline

PACER

BloombergBNA

SASI-CALC

Kaufman’s Alimony Guidelines

Law Library Staff

Julia Viets, Law Library Director

Jenna Wolf, Assistant Law Librarian

Jill Schorr, Morning Librarian

Georgia Weingarten, Afternoon Librarian

Montgomery County Public Law Library

Website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cct/law-library.html>

Email: lawlibrary@mcccourt.com

Phone: (240) 777-9120

Address: 50 Maryland Ave, Room N-3420, Rockville, MD 20850

Prince George's County

COVID-19 Response

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Library partnered with LexisNexis and Westlaw to continue the flow of service as expected by our customers by providing temporary remote access to legal research databases from both companies. Other remote services included continuing reference service by email with an Ask a Librarian program, which is being marketed on Instagram in both English and Spanish, and enhancing the Library's website pages with an expanded list of self-help resources and newly created reference guides on several commonly asked about legal topics.

New Projects:

Court Forms Video Tutorial

The Circuit Court's Law Library provides a step-by-step visual guide for self-represented litigants on how to find various types of official Court forms that are available on the Maryland Judiciary website. Users are guided on how to find family law forms for the Circuit Court using the Court Forms Finder and how to use filters to find forms related to other types of cases. Links to legal self-help websites are also highlighted.
https://youtu.be/IQ_iR3bGGOY.



Searching Maryland Rules Video Tutorial

This tutorial video provides a step-by-step guide for self-represented litigants on how to search for Maryland Rules using the free Maryland Code and Court Rules website hosted by Thomson Reuters:

<https://govt.westlaw.com/mdc/Index>.

Users are shown how to navigate to and browse through the rules, as well as how to use the search function. There are also tips for how to create strong search terms and using some of the tools available on the website that make navigation easier.

<https://youtu.be/m60sM5CDHEE>.

Mission

Prince George's County Circuit Court Law Library provides legal information and information services to Judges and attorneys, state and county employees, and self-represented litigants who reside or practice in Prince George's County, Maryland.

Court and Community Outreach

- In FY20, the Law Library continued **The Judiciary Project: A Courthouse Experience**. The program provides students in grades 9 – 12 with an authentic opportunity to learn about the justice system by observing real cases and court procedures. Students also receive an overview of the Department of Juvenile Services and engage in a question and answer session with a Circuit Court for Prince George's County judge.

The program hosted four different organizations with 120 participants for FY20 and included a defense attorney and State's Attorney Office Teen Court coordinator as guest speakers.

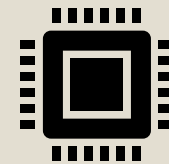
- The Library staff also **coordinated Courthouse tours** with the County's Office of Human Resource Management, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and the Prince George's County Family Justice Center.
- Two **Westlaw training sessions** led by Law Library staff were offered to employees with Westlaw accounts to assist them in using Westlaw to perform their duties more efficiently.
- Law Library outreach to new and established attorneys includes regular announcements in the **Prince George's County Bar Association's monthly newsletter**.
- A Librarian led a presentation on free legal research resources at the **Law Library Association of Maryland's Legal Research Institute** that public and other librarians can use with confidence.
- Library staff attended **Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors, Prince George's County Circuit Court Directors, Law Library Association of Maryland** and **Citizens for Maryland Libraries meetings**, as well as professional associations events and training sessions and served as **board members**.



21,000
Visitors



3,000
Questions



3,000
Computer
Logins



2,100
Photocopies



Library Databases

- Westlaw
- Lexis
- HeinOnline
- VerdictSearch
- Support Alimony Calculator
- National Consumer Law Center Digital Library
- SASI-CALC

Library Staff

Tonya E. Baroudi,
Director

Vickie Yiannoulou,
Assistant Law Librarian

Sharon C. Brandon,
Library Assistant

Contact Information

Email lawlibrary@co.pg.md.us
Phone 301-952-3438
Fax 301-952-2770
Address 14735 Main Street, Room
1400, Upper Marlboro, MD
20772

Website
www.princegeorgescourts.org/285/Law-Library



Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Response during COVID-19

FY2020 presented unforeseen challenges for the Library, as it did with the Judiciary and wider world. On March 16th, the Judiciary announced the need to move personnel to remote work where possible. In the limited time available, staff determined which tools would be most useful in a remote setting, obtained access, and provided quick basic training so that staff could be as productive as possible remotely. These last-minute critical decisions provided the foundation for the **Library's success in providing remote reference and information services** to persons in need across the state.

During the twelve weeks of quarantine, in-person, telephone, and letter contact was unfortunately inaccessible. Information inquiries continued to arrive via email, at a higher number than prior to the quarantine. Reference staff found workarounds to manage almost every request, in large part by **working cooperatively with colleagues** in the Maryland Circuit Court law libraries and law librarians nationwide.

Throughout the COVID-19 closures and phased re-openings, People's Law Library staff published 7 new articles keeping patrons up to date on court closures, procedural changes, and available resources. These **pages were updated nearly every day** as new information became available. Staff also monitored developments related to 72 articles in categories such as housing, domestic violence, and government benefits.

"You are the best resource for lawyers and lay citizens."

Digitization Projects

The Library continued to build its scanned collections, completing the addition of County and Municipal Codes, with select county and local laws/codes from prior to 1978, as well as recent editions of the Baltimore City Code. The Library also began digitization of historic local and Maryland Court Rules.

MISSION

The Thurgood Marshall 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.

Legal Reference in Public Libraries

The Library's cooperative project with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission and the Conference of Maryland Circuit Court Law Libraries, active since 2016, continued in FY2020. In addition to basic training, the fiscal year included **new advanced topic training**, with a focus on the common legal information topics of family law, landlord-tenant law, and consumer/debt collection law. Sessions were provided to public library systems in Anne Arundel, Carroll, Cecil, Howard, and Prince George's Counties, as well as for the regional systems for Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore.

Spring scheduling had just begun when the COVID-19 quarantine shut down the established face-to-face training. Pivoting quickly, with the help of the Montgomery County Public Libraries, **training shifted to virtual sessions**. After a successful session for its own county, the Montgomery County library system offered to host a statewide session, which drew more than 160 registrants from multiple counties.

"I am a solo practitioner and the staff was extremely helpful assisting me with research for a brief. Given the distance, it is not easy to get to Annapolis to do legislative research. I will keep your library in my thoughts for future needs. Your website was also helpful. Did not know these resources were available on-line."

"Thank you very much for all the information and support you provided. It is a daunting task to think about representing yourself in court so I wanted to say how much I appreciate the information and the sample trial pleading to help me understand the proceedings and where to find Maryland's Rules and Regulations."



18,300
Visitors



10,000+
Reference
Interactions



Over
3 million
pageviews

Contact Information

Email lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov
Phone 410-260-1557
Address Robert C. Murphy Courts of
Appeal Building, 361 Rowe Boulevard,
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Website mdcourts.gov/lawlib