



## ***Highlights***

FY 2009

July 2008 – June 2009

### The Library's Mission

The Maryland State Law Library, a court-related agency 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.

*Adopted April 14, 2009*

Maryland State Law Library  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
Reference: 410-260-1430  
Fax: 410-260-1572  
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Website: [www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib](http://www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib)

**“MARYLAND’S FIRST LEGAL RESOURCE”**

# ***Building and Preserving Collections***

## New Databases in the Collection

### *Gale Legal Forms*

This commercial database contains a wide variety of sample Maryland-specific legal forms. The database is available via Library public workstations and WiFi.

### *Academic Search Complete*

*Academic Search* is a multi-disciplinary full-text database, with more than 6,100 full-text periodicals, including more than 5,100 peer-reviewed journals. The database is available at Library via WiFi and public workstations

### *RIA Checkpoint*

The *RIA* package focuses on estate planning, and includes more than 20 authoritative treatises. The database is available via Library public workstations and WiFi. WiFi access requires registration.

## Digitization of the Maryland Rules Committee Materials

The Library completed the digitization of the Maryland Rules Committee materials, including both Minutes (1947-2007) and Agendas (1997-2007). The materials are accessible from the Library's website. The collection employs PTFS Archivalware as its platform. The digitized materials can be browsed and searched. Files are arranged in chronological order for simplified access.

## Municipal and County Codes

The Library began a significant acquisition effort to ensure the comprehensiveness of its collection of county and municipal codes. Additionally, staff developed a policy on the retention of superseded editions.

## Transition to Lexis

This fiscal year saw the transition of the State Judiciary to a new online legal research provider, through an open bidding process by which Lexis was granted a multi-year contract. To aid Judiciary users with the transition, the Library posted a special web page to serve as an information clearinghouse about the new service.

## ***Promoting Access***

### Reference Assistance

Reference activity increased slightly over the previous year, with a total of almost 9500 responses to requests. The Library provides reference assistance via phone, email, regular mail, as well as to in-person visitors to the Library.

The Library continued its participation in the Maryland AskUsNow! 24/7 chat reference service, as a follow-up service provider for questions relating to law. The Library has participated in the service since its inception in 2003.

The Library had an estimated 12,000 in-person visitors, and an estimated 80,000 unique hits on its website.

### WiFi Access

Internet access via WiFi debuted at the Library this year. Patrons can now use their own laptops anywhere in the Library to access the internet as well as most Library databases. The network is password-protected, with the password available by request at the Information Desk.

### Two Additional Public Computer Stations

The Library added two public computer workstations, bringing the total number of stations available for public use to eight. The two workstations closest to the information desk are limited to 15 minutes of use, and have no attached printer. These two stations are used mainly for quick catalog checks, maps, directions, and other brief internet needs.

### Grants Program

State Law Library grants to Maryland Circuit Court law libraries continued this year, with grant documents now made available in fillable format to speed the application and reporting process. Grants this year included start-up support for a civil non-domestic legal clinic at the Howard County Circuit Court Law Library in Ellicott City.

### Maryland State Bar Association Solo-Small Firm Conference

In November 2008, Library staff participated in the MSBA's Solo-Small Firm Annual Conference showcase of service providers. Staff spoke with a majority of attendees about the Library's services.

### Baltimore County Bar Association Technology Day

In March 2009, Library staff participated in the BCBA's Technology Day and demonstrated digital collections and database access to attendees.

# ***Creating Educational Opportunities***

## General Treatises List

The Library's Outreach Program, together with the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors, completed a list of Recommended General Treatises for Maryland Circuit Court Library Collections. The spreadsheet of titles, available on the Library's website, includes format and estimated update costs.

## "Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day"

The Library hosted a hands-on laboratory of legal documents for the Administrative Office of the Courts' "Bring Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day" in April 2009. Significant and unique library materials were arranged in the conference room for the children to examine.

## Peoples Law Library

Information pages were added on the following topics:

- Unattended minors
- Appealing agency decisions
- Correcting a public record / court ordered titling of vehicles (mandamus)

Information pages were updated on the following topics:

- Mortgage foreclosure resources
- Vital records
- Legal services database
- Landlord-tenant
- Foreclosure of property information for tenants

## Court Solutions Conference

Several staff attended the September 2008 Court Solutions Conference, organized by the National Center for State Courts. Staff participated in the Self-Represented Litigation track, learning from nationwide experts about the challenges facing courts and obtaining suggestions for improving access to justice.

## Legal Research for the Judiciary

The Library's popular Legal Research series (Part I: Basic Print Sources; Part II: Online Sources) continued under the auspices of the Office of Professional Development, with four sessions of each offered throughout the year. In addition to the Library-hosted programs, staff also taught legal research classes for the Judiciary's Court Supervisor Training program and the District Court's New Commissioner Training Academy programs.

## ***Library Profile***

The Maryland State Law Library, established in 1827 as the Maryland State Library, supports the research activities of the Maryland State 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, works on Maryland history and Federal government documents.

### **Staff, FY2009**

Steve Anderson, Director  
Shirley Aronson, State Publications/Research Librarian (Part-time)  
Scott Ashlin, Library Clerk  
Katherine Baer, State Publications/Research Librarian  
Bernice Bernstein, Acquisitions Librarian  
Carol Carman, Reference Librarian (Part-time)  
Michael Craven, People's Law Library Web Content Coordinator  
Maureen Della Barba, Library Clerk  
Debra Haines, Library Aide (Part-time)  
Ruth Henderson, Administrative Specialist  
Rudi Lamy, Cataloging/Research Librarian  
Mary Jo Lazun, Head of Electronic Resources  
Catherine McGuire, Outreach Services Librarian  
Carole Roche, Reference Librarian (Part-time)  
Jessie Tam, Head of Technical Services  
Cindy Terry, Federal Documents and Systems Associate  
Dee Van Nest, Reference Coordinator  
Ed Wiesenbaler, Federal Documents Assistant (Part-time)

### **Library Committee**

Hon. Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Court of Appeals  
Hon. Clayton Greene Jr., Court of Appeals  
Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Court of Special Appeals  
Hon. Deborah Sweet Eyler, Court of Special Appeals  
Frank Broccolina, State Court Administrator  
Bessie Decker, Acting Clerk, Court of Appeals  
Patricia Ann Logan, Esq., Anne Arundel County Office of Law  
Steven Anderson, Esq., Library Director