

Michigan Law Online and ICLE's Plans for Online Books

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Michigan Law Online— a new service from ICLE and the State Bar of Michigan

Overview

- Launched in late March, 2004
- Available free to all members in good standing of the State Bar of Michigan as a member benefit
- Developed by ICLE in collaboration with the State Bar

Why?

- Many primary law resources are available free in Michigan – older caselaw was not.
- The Bar wanted to provide this as a member benefit.
- We also were aware of the need for this resource, and wanted our own set of caselaw to link to when we put our books online

What does Michigan Law Online include?

- MI Supreme Court opinions from 1942
- MI Supreme Court orders from 1966
- MI Court of Appeals published opinions (all)
- MI Court of Appeals unpublished opinions (2003 and later)
- MI Court Rules
- MI Rules of Evidence
- MI Rules of Professional Conduct

Who has access?

- All members of the State Bar of Michigan in good standing.
- Law firm librarians can also get their own user name and password.
- Will eventually sell access to others upon request for their own use. Not available yet.
- Not available to law schools and bar associations to give access to their patrons.

How to access Michigan Law Online

- Through the ICLE web site
- Through the State Bar web site

How do law firm librarians get a user name and password?

- If your firm has an ICLE Partnership, or owns one of the books with an online component (like M Civ II), your password is already assigned. You should have gotten an email with your own user name and password.
- If you haven't gotten such an email, and you work for a law firm, call us at (877) 229-4350 and ask for Michigan Law Online customer support.

What features do the MLO cases include, more specifically?

- Searching by keyword
 - Relevance-ordered results
 - Cases include: official cite, NW first-page cite, official pinpoint cites, do not include syllabuses and headnotes
 - Features: "cases that cite this case," print-friendly version, term highlighting, word processing version of citations (including pinpoints)
- Searching by citation
- Advanced searching allows users to

Updating

- Daily, as the Michigan Supreme Court electronic bulletin board service releases materials.

Tips for "best usage"

- Use Internet Explorer, not Netscape
- Remember that the "cases that cite this case" feature only includes cases in the Michigan Law Online database, not federal cases.
- Pay attention to the "footnotes" in the attached guide for information on search engine idiosyncrasies
- Use the online Help. Access the Help by clicking on the "Help" button on the Michigan Law Online homepage.
- Call ICLE and ask for Michigan Law Online Support if you have questions.

The Future of Michigan Law Online

- We plan to expand and improve this service, and we want your suggestions. You can email me at mhiniker@umich.edu or call us.

ICLE's Plans to Put Practice Books Online

Note: This is our current plan, subject to adjustment as we get the books prepared to go online.

Goals of ICLE's New Web site

- Personalized to each customer.
- When you are logged in, the "My ICLE" page displays all the online resources you are subscribed to; gives information on others

- The “Notices” area on the “My ICLE” page displays your subscriptions, address information, seminars attended
- Allows searching across all your online resources

When will ICLE’s books go online?

- Starting in January 2005 with many of our litigation books
- Virtually all books should be online by the end of 2006

Features of the online books

- Internet-based service
- Frequently updated
- Citations will be linked to primary law
- Form references will be linked to electronic forms
- Searchable across books and the ICLE Partnership resources
- Each book will include tables of contents, and navigation features like “next section, last section”

How will they be sold?

- Not part of the ICLE Partnership
- Purchasers can buy an annual subscription to an individual online book, or to a collection like “Litigation.” It will be more cost-effective to buy an entire library, or “the ICLE Library” when all books are online.
- Purchasers can choose a “firm” or an “individual” subscription for each book.
- Prior book subscribers will receive a letter offering a limited-time discount on the first year subscription to individual online books. ICLE Partners will receive a discount on the online libraries.

What about print?

- We will continue to offer print books and individual print supplements as long as there are a sufficient number of buyers.
- We are changing the supplement format to eliminate cumulative “blue page” supplements as we prepare individual books to go online. Instead, we reprint all pages in those books with each supplement. We are increasing prices modestly to cover the additional printing cost.
- Reason for the change in supplement format: many customers have told us that ours are the only print books they maintain, and that they no longer have the staff to interfile the pages of the supplements. Also, it is not feasible for us to maintain two formats of updates, and we believe it is not user-friendly to put separate supplements online.

Summary

- We want your feedback. We would appreciate your comments on our new web site and its features, and suggestions for improving Michigan Law Online.
- Now would be the time to give us suggestions for the online books. Let us know if you’d like to be a beta tester this fall as we get the first set of books online.