Public Law Library of King County

The availability of legal information during these tough economic times has made all of the difference to individuals struggling to keep their homes, restructure debt, or maintain contact with their children. We know that having a librarian guide people to the right resource empowers and restores hope. The number of individuals visiting the library, either in person or through our website continues to increase and confirms the fact that the Law Library copies a primary role in assisting.

viduals visiting the library, either in person or through o that the Law Library serves a *primary role* in assisting the public as they navigate through our legal system. We are a key source for meeting legal research needs, through print or electronic resources, and for providing referrals to the many vital legal services providers.

"The Law Library is an excellent public resource."

- Seattle Attorney

In 2011, the Library entered into new partnerships that extended additional avenues to legal information and services. As further described in this annual report, the Northwest Justice Project opened a new clinic in the Library, the Young Lawyers' Division of the King County Bar Association conducted a pilot walk-in clinic, and we offered classes on family law resources at numerous branches of the King County Library System.

All of these are a direct result of the work of the Advisory Committee that was formed subsequent to the Visioning Session that met in 2010. The Advisory Committee worked throughout 2011 to further define the role of the Law Library in providing access to legal information. Their guidance served as the foundation for the Library's 2012-2016 strategic plan. As announced last year, one specific recommendation from the Advisory Committee adopted by the Board was to change the name of the Law Library to the Public Law Library of King County, placing the emphasis on the word "Public." Letting everyone know we are a PUBLIC Library sends a clear message that the Library is open not just to lawyers, but to all. The response has been overwhelmingly positive!

We express our gratitude to King County Executive Dow Constantine and the King County Council for the continued funding of the Public Law Library at the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC). Their support allowed us to help over 18,000 visitors to the MRJC Library (an increase of 2,000), preserving access to legal information and resources for all residents of King County. Finally, the Board of Trustees joins our customers in thanking the staff for their dedication and commitment to the public in providing quality customer service. They are our treasured "first responders" and we are grateful for each one of them.

Please continue to support your Public Law Library of King County and never hesitate to let us know how we might better serve you!

Judge Mary Yu, President Board of Trustees



2011: The Year in Review

Partnerships for Training

The Library continued to forge partnerships with community groups and government agencies to provide services to our patrons.

With input from the King County Superior Court Department of Judicial Administration, we refined and updated our very popular *e*filing classes. In addition, we collaborated with the King County District Court Clerk's Office to develop a class about the King County District Court's DCoR case retrieval system. In turn, this material was combined into a new class "Searching King Court Records."

Partnerships for Clinics

Many of our efforts were directed at helping self-represented litigants. In June 2011, the Library began hosting the Debt Collection Defense Clinic, a walk-in clinic staffed by the Northwest Justice Project. The clinic helps low-income families and clients with various debt issues and lawsuits. In October 2011, the Library collaborated with the Young Lawyers' Division of the King County Bar Association on a pilot program for a walk-in legal clinic to be held in the library once a week. We are pleased to report that the pilot program was a success, and a weekly clinic is anticipated to begin in 2012. In addition, we partnered with the King County Bar Association to continue providing temporary space for the Housing Justice Project and to host a very popular Neighborhood Legal Clinic held on Thursday afternoons.



New Library Website

In 2011, we hired a professional web developer to finalize the design and implement desired features with a public launch date of May, 2012. The new website is built on an open-source content management system called Drupal. Drupal uses a MySQL database in addition to traditional HTML to make it easier for staff to add and edit data. It

also uses indexing terms and faceted searching to add multiple ways for patrons to find information. For example, patrons can access our collection of more than 100 web links in several different places on the new website.

Collection Notes

Partnerships for Outreach

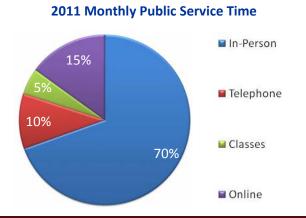
2011 was a busy year for in-person and virtual out-of-house training classes. In partnership with the Washington State Library, the Library taught six webinars on the topics of Skiptracing and Legal Reference for Information Professionals with a combined audience of 77 library staff members across the state. We traveled to the headquarters of the King County Library System (KCLS) in Issaquah and taught three training sessions for a total of 84 staff members.

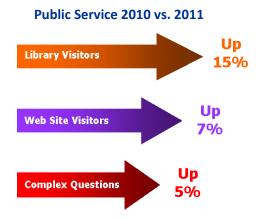
- Added U.S. Congressional Documents to HeinOnline subscription
- Licensed EBSCO (Nolo Press) database for selfhelp books and forms
- Added 386 new titles

We also partnered with KCLS to teach a new family law resources class at five south King County library branches. Finally, we taught 9 class sessions with a total attendance of 200 students to outside groups such as the Washington State Bar Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, the New Jersey Office of Attorney Ethics and the Pacific Northwest Fire Investigators Conference.

Public Service Snapshots

The chart on the left describes how we divided our "public service" time—the time we spent directly helping people with questions—in a typical month in 2011. The lion's share was devoted to working face-to-face with people who visited one of our branches. Despite the popular notion that brick-and-mortar libraries are a thing of the past, this figure clearly demonstrates the importance of maintaining our physical locations. Foot traffic and visits to our web site both increased in 2011. The number of "complex" questions also increased. Questions can be complex because they relate to a complicated topic, require the use of multiple media types, or involve challenging patrons.





2011 Financial Report

Income		
Filing Fees	\$	967,483
Fee-Based Services	\$	38,859
Other Income	\$	321,301
Total	\$1,327,643	
Expenditures – Seattle		
Books & Periodicals	\$	587,063
Non-Book: Operating	\$	63,406
Non-Book: Payroll & Benefits	\$	540,346
Capital	\$	8,099
Total	\$1,198,914	
Expenditures – MRJC		
Books & Periodicals	\$	50,063
Non-Book: Operating	\$	14,420
Non-Book: Payroll & Benefits	\$	85,809
Capital	\$	3,315
Total	\$	153,607

2011 Board of Trustees

The Honorable Mary Yu, President
The Honorable Andrea Darvas, Vice-President
Stephen Ellis, Esq.

James L. Brewer, Esq.
(Designee of County Council
Chair Bob Ferguson)
Patrick McIntyre, Esq.

Public Law Library of King County

516 3rd Avenue, Suite W621 Seattle, WA 98104 206.296.0940 www.kcll.org

Supreme Court Podcast Series



In 2011, the Law Library took to the airwaves and produced a series of podcasts titled "Supreme Court Classics". Shifting away from the former model of addressing two or more topics in one recording, the Law Library's podcasts became more about reflecting on history and those jurists who had great impact on the bench and in the law.

Collaborating with members of the King County Superior Court staff and Superior Court Judges, this new direction allowed the Law Library to talk with members of the bench about William Howard Taft, John Marshall and Thurgood Marshall. What resulted were dynamic discussions about judicial personalities and how legal decisions are lasting legacies for the justices of the High Court. All three of these podcasts can be found at our newly redesigned website www.kcll.org.

"Your staff is the friendliest group of people we've run into in the courthouse today."

- Public Patron