

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS

186th ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 5, 2024



10 North Tucker Blvd., 13th Floor, St. Louis MO 63101

314-622-4385 <https://lastl.org>

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS

It is the mission of the Law Library Association of St. Louis to operate a Law Library in the Civil Courts Building to provide legal research materials, education, support services and facilities to the bench, bar, its members and the public. The Law Library provides support to other law libraries in the region by acting as a repository of legal materials not otherwise available or accessible. The Law Library strives to acquire, develop and maintain a collection of legal research materials and to offer educational services to meet the needs of our diverse patron community.

VISION AND VALUES STATEMENT FOR THE LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS

LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION VISION STATEMENT:

The Law Library Association of St. Louis—where members of the bench, bar and public come to be educated in the law and law-related topics.

LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION VALUES STATEMENT:

Excellence: Maintain the highest level of legal resources, print and digital

Expertise: Provide the highest level of service to all users

Innovation: We continue to explore new ways of doing things better

Community: Provide opportunities for people to meet, learn and network to exchange ideas

Collaboration: Work with community partners to accomplish goals based on common missions

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert H. Dierker, Jr., President

Patrick O. Boyle, Vice-President

Katherine Fowler, Treasurer

Elkin L. Kistner, Secretary

Alexandra Johnson, Member

Thomas K. Neill, Member

Matthew Braun, Member

Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Member

REMARKS FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As we close out the year 2024, the Law Library has a lot to be proud of. We continue to offer popular presentations, to host exhibits and to provide needed programs and resources to our diverse patron base. Our outreach to the general community continues.

Some accomplishments of 2024 include:

- Our Legally Reading book discussion group continues to be popular and attract new members. Holding these discussions remotely had led to participation by those from all corners of the St. Louis region and beyond.
- The Law Library entered into an agreement to work closely on projects with the Freedom Suits Memorial Foundation. Our first collaboration was a Juneteenth event that includes a showing of the film, "The Milly Project." This sold-out event was extremely well-received.
- Our fall joint exhibits, *Slavery in St. Louis and The Freedom Suits*, were extremely popular and well-received. There was widespread media coverage of these exhibits, including stories from KWMU (Saint Louis Public Radio), St. Louis American, KSDK Channel 5, Saint Louis Magazine and Nine PBS. The library hosted three large events during the run of the exhibits. In addition, smaller groups and individuals also came to see these groundbreaking exhibits.
- There are now 26 interview highlights of retired judges and jurists up on the Judicial Legacy Page of the library website.
- The Law Library published its new Pro Se Guide, "A Guide to Representing Yourself in Court" in late February. This highly praised guide is available at multiple locations in the region. Over 100 hard copies have been taken and more downloaded from our website and other community websites.
- The Library Director reached close to 100 people through her presentations throughout the region of the program, "Legal Research for the Non-Lawyer."
- The Library Director was recognized with the "Pro Bono Champion" award from the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis for her work and the work of the library in supporting pro bono commitment and for efforts to reduce the access to justice gap
- The Law Library maintained almost all of the new large and median sized law firms who joined in 2023. In addition, the Law Library's end-of-year direct mail fundraising campaign continues to be very successful. The Library also has obtained exhibit sponsorships from new sources this year.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Law Library Association. We successfully are meeting the challenges and opportunities of this time and providing high level services and resources to members of the Bench, Bar and general public.

Gail Wechsler, JD, MLS Library Director

SOME 2024 TESTIMONIALS ABOUT THE LIBRARY—

General Testimonials from CLE Attendees:

About the CLE on the Citing Slavery Project:

“This seminar was very enlightening.”

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the CLE. It was definitely thought-provoking, and made me want to explore and follow up on this topic. Keep up the good work!”

“This program was wonderful. Thank you to all involved!”

About the CLE on DEI and Implicit Bias:

“Great/interactive program.”

“Very engaging and interesting conversation.”

“Interesting, engaging speaker on an important topic. Very enjoyable and I liked her perspective.”

About the CLEs in general:

“Anything you put on is very interesting and enlightening.”

“You are doing a fabulous job with these needed CLE programs.”

“You do an excellent job of identifying topics and presenters of interest.”

Praise for the Library’s Juneteenth Program on “The Milly Project:”

“It was very moving.”

“Fabulous. Outstanding. Very moving. It needs to be shown at all schools nationwide.”

“A stunning experience.” “I enjoyed the film and the discussion. The library is beautiful.”

Feedback on the Library’s Presentations on Legal Research for the Non-Lawyer:

“Good class. [Presenter] was very informative. She was knowledgeable and very helpful.”

"Thank you for hosting this."

"Great presentation." "Thank you so much."

"I appreciate the opportunity to learn about legal resources and people who can provide in person assistance."

Feedback on New "A Guide to Representing Yourself in Court:"

"This guide is a wealth of information. They will certainly be used!"

"I thank you so much for this! It is something our patrons have needed."

"We will be happy to distribute the guide. It will definitely be of interest to our patron base."

"I would say we've handed out 40-50 copies of the guide. I also refer to it often when helping patrons find no-cost or reduced-cost legal aid organizations. The comprehensive list of organizations (and, importantly, their legal focus area and eligibility information) is so incredibly helpful! We're very grateful for the resource!"

About the Slavery in St. Louis and Freedom Suits Exhibits and Programs from visitors this fall:

"Thanks so much for all the effort put into this fantastic display."

"Great exhibit and speech for our group [of middle school students]."

"I really liked this field trip. The speech [by Judge Mason] was amazing and very moving. It was informative and interesting. The exhibits were very interesting too. I'm so glad I got to come here today and participate."

NEW MEMBERS IN FY 2023-24 (total new members) –20 individuals

NAME	DATE	NEW or REINSTATEMENT
Alicia Meyerhoff	10/17/23	New
Kristin Conwell	10/17/23	New
Jim Martin (Martin Malec firm)	10/17/23	New
Edward Rolwes	10/19/23	Reinstate
Claudine Chastain	01/03/24	New
Joann Leykum	01/08/24	New
Ben Wilson	01/16/24	New
James Marks	02/06/24	Reinstate
Rachel Breland	02/09/24	New
Judge Michael Wolff	03/19/24	New
Ray Alexander	03/20/24	New
Ashley Beumer	04/10/24	New
Kathryn Wire	05/08/24	New

Marie Gillen	05/13/24	New
Benjamin Scrivner	07/02/24	New
Jillian Wood	07/16/24	New
Shelby Patterson	08/05/24	New
Lucy Lahey	08/14/24	Reinstate
Steve Kratky	09/18/24	New
Lorna Holmes	09/18/24	New

TOTAL NUMBER OF CURRENT MEMBERS for 2023-24 Fiscal Year: Approximately 661, including 400 from Thompson Coburn firm and 60 from HeplerBroom firm

OVERVIEW OF NUMBER OF NEW VOLUMES AT THE LAW LIBRARY:

The volumes added to the Law Library's collection during the FY23-24 included:

Encyclopedias: 26

Reporters: 125

Treatises: 275

Statutes: 74

Directories and Digests: 54

In addition, the Library subscribed to the following databases: Westlaw Next, HeinOnline, LLMC Digital and DocketBird.

FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURERS REPORT (ATTACHED)

RECAP OF CLE PROGRAMS: All programs virtual in 23-24 other than the April 2024 DEI program

The following continuing legal education programs were offered during the FY 23-24:

October 2023: A View from the US Attorney's Office

November 2023: Lessons from Ferguson: Legal Reforms and Litigation Results to Address Systemic Inequities

December 2023: Doing Legal Research with HeinOnline

January 2024: Employment Law Update: Is Some Degree of Discrimination or Retaliation Tolerated under Title VII and the Missouri Human Rights Act?

February 2024: Slavery's Legal Legacy and Its Meaning for Missouri Lawyers

March 2024: 491 Hearings: Pre-trial Procedures for the Admission of Children's Hearsay Statements

April 2024: Elimination of Bias? A Conversation on Bias for Lawyers and Law Firms

May 2024: Navigating the AI Revolution in Legal Practice

June 2024: Annual Legal Ethics Update

September 2024: Preview of the 2024-25 U.S. Supreme Court Term

2023-24 DONOR LIST ATTACHED

Annual Report Approved by Board President:

 12/5/24

President

Date



DONORS

It is the mission of the Law Library Association of St. Louis to operate a Law Library in the Civil Courts Building to provide legal research materials, education, support services and facilities to the bench, bar, its members, and the public. The Law Library Association is also the only law library in the City of St. Louis currently open to the public. Therefore, we serve a unique role assisting pro se patrons to gain access to the justice system.

Below is a list of the donations received from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions from this list.

\$500-\$2000

AJ Legal Services, LLC *
Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice
LLC *
Bar Association of
Metropolitan St. Louis * †
Mark Bronson
Brown & James Law Firm *
Dorothy White-Coleman
Dowd & Dowd, P.C.
Dowd Bennett *
Michael and Laura
Ellenhorn*
Husch Blackwell *
Charlene Kass
Legal Services of Eastern
Missouri *
Lewis Rice
Lexitas *
Littler Mendelson, PC *
The Honorable Mark Neill
Thomas Neill
Donald Schlappizzi
Thompson Coburn, LLP*

\$100-499

Eric Banks
Thomas Bauer

Kenneth Chackes
Honorable Anne-Marie
Clarke
Mary Coffey
The Honorable Nicole
Colbert-Botchway
The Honorable Robert
Dierker, Jr.
Francis Duda
The Honorable Katherine
Fowler
William Gavin
Randall Gusdorf
Roberta Gutwein
Patrick Hagerty
Alexandra Johnson
Elkin Kistner
Robert and Nancy Litz
Tamah Matejka
Tracey Mehan, III
Joseph Neill
Thomas and Sara Neill *
Genevieve Nichols
Padberg Appelbaum Knepper
William Piper
Norah Ryan
Honorable Booker Shaw

Richard Swatek
Mavis Thompson
Bettye Battle-Turner
Janet Varon and Ed Munoz
Gail Wechsler
John Weller
Kenneth Winn
Michael Wolff
James Wright

\$50-\$99

Karen Aroesty
Matthew E. Braun
Ann Buckley
Thomas Connelly
Elaine Fondiller
Matthew Ghio
Christine Gilsinan
Patrick Hamacher
David Hares
Scott Harper
Corey Inskip
Alex Klein
Phyllis Markus
Stephen Novack
Lisa Thorp
Michael-John Voss
Carolyn Whittington

Under \$50

Batya Abramson-Goldstein
Sally Bowles

* Sponsor of *Slavery in St. Louis and the Freedom Suits*

† CLE Sponsor

Christopher Dentman
Karen Greenberg Wasserman
Elizabeth Heath
James Jacobson

* Sponsor of *Slavery in St. Louis and the Freedom Suits*
‡ CLE Sponsor