

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF ST. LOUIS

187th ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 11, 2025



10 North Tucker Blvd., 13th Floor, St. Louis MO 63101
314-622-4385 <https://llastl.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

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert H. Dierker, Jr., President

Patrick O. Boyle, Vice-President

Katherine Fowler, Treasurer

Thomas K. Neill, Secretary

Alexandra Johnson, Member

Patrick Hamacher, Member

Matthew Braun, Member*

Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Member

*Matthew Braun sadly passed away in May of 2025. We remember his service to our Board.

REMARKS FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

As we close out the year 2025, 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 2025 include:

- Our fall exhibit, The Judicial Legacy Project Exhibit, opened in September with a well-attended and well-received opening event. The exhibit also was profiled in a story on KWMU, St. Louis Public Radio, and in several other media outlets. It continues through March of 2026. Additional programs and group tours of the exhibit are taking place.
- Thanks to a donor connected to our partner organization, the Freedom Suits Memorial Foundation, the Freedom Suits Exhibit (created as a temporary exhibit for the Law Library in the fall of 2024) is now a permanent exhibit at the Law Library. Group and individual visits to this exhibit are continuing.
- There are now 31 interview highlights of retired judges and jurists up on the Judicial Legacy Page of the library website.
- The Law Library's Pro Se Guide, "A Guide to Representing Yourself in Court" continues to be very popular, both for patrons at this library and area public libraries in the region. Recently, the Law Library received a grant to translate this guide and several other self-help resources into Spanish. The Spanish language guides will be available at our library, downloadable from our website and provided to area public libraries and social services agencies.
- The Law Library continues to deepen and expand its partnerships. This year, the Law Library was asked to host two popular programs sponsored by the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL). These were The Welcome to the Bar event for newly admitted lawyers and a CLE on Motion Practice, part of a new Practical Skills series organized by BAMSL and the St. Louis County Bar Association. The Legally Reading Book Discussion Group, a successful partnership with the Saint Louis Public Library, recently completed its seventh year.
- The Law Library maintained all of the 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. We exceeded our fundraising goal this fiscal year. The Library also has obtained exhibit sponsorships from new sources this year, including from several large Missouri law firms.

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

Gail Wechsler, JD, MLS Library Director

SOME 2025 TESTIMONIALS ABOUT THE LIBRARY—

General Testimonials from CLE Attendees:

About the CLE on Legal Ethics:

"This program provides a real service to the bar."

About CLE previewing upcoming US Supreme Court term:

"I look forward to Professor Hazelton's presentation each year to keep me informed as to trends and issues in the US Supreme Court."

About the CLE on Copyright and Trademark:

"[Presenter] Kelly [Spann] was very thorough and professional and covered a lot of information within the allotted time. Very helpful."

About the CLE on Archer Alexander:

"I really enjoyed this presentation. Dorris Keeven-Franke does an excellent job."

About the CLEs in general:

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

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

"I look forward to the law library's excellent CLE programs and events. A special thanks to you [Gail] for all you do for the law library and attorneys in St. Louis"

Praise for the Library's Judicial Legacy Project Exhibit:

"I was able to visit [the exhibit] today and am so delighted with your work. What a great testament to several wonderful people. Please keep up your outstanding efforts."

"I so appreciate your work and organization of this project."

Praise for Legally Reading Book Discussion Group:

"I am grateful to participate in the Legally Reading Book Discussion Group. The people who show up are active-minded readers and experienced discussion participants. It feels like we are building a community."

Praise for the Freedom Suits Exhibits and Programs from visitors this year:

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

“Thank you so much for the wonderful tour of the Freedom Suits exhibit, [including the] interesting and powerful talk of [curator] Bill Glankler.”

NEW MEMBERS IN FY 2024-25 (total new members) – 21 individuals

NAME	DATE	NEW or REINSTATEMENT
Korey Lewis	10/01/24	New
Shirley Rukcic	10/10/24	New
John Malec	10/24/24	New
Tiffany McPherson	10/29/24	New
Patrick Hamacher	12/05/24	New
Joan Kersting	12/20/24	New
Nancy Mogab	12/20/24	Reinstate
James Knappenberger	01/03/25	New
Kevin Hawkins	02/25/25	Reinstate
Lilly Gutwein	03/03/25	New
David Aubrey	04/07/25	New
Saad Malik	04/09/25	New
Ian Simmons	05/14/25	New
Melvin Raymjond	05/21/25	New
Eddie Roth	06/25/25	New
Rene Morency	07/24/25	New
Brent Dulle	08/12/25	New
Michael Payne	08/18/25	New
Joseph Neely	08/18/25	New
Doug Devitre	09/03/25	New
Celestine Dotson	09/03/25	Reinstate

TOTAL NUMBER OF CURRENT MEMBERS for 2024-25 Fiscal Year: Approximately 636, 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 FY24-25 included:

Encyclopedias: 13

Reporters: 149

Treatises: 219

Statutes: 104

Directories and Digests: 68

In addition, the Library subscribed to the following databases: Westlaw and HeinOnline.

FINANCIAL REPORT/TREASURERS REPORT (ATTACHED)

RECAP OF CLE PROGRAMS:

The following continuing legal education programs were offered during the FY 24-25. All were virtual other than the May 2025 program on Motion Practice:

October 2024: Bang the Drum for Justice: How the 19th Century Supreme Court shaped Racial Issues into the 21st Century

November 2024: Juvenile Law: Back to Basics: What you Need to Know

December 2024: The Second Confiscation Act and Archer Alexander

January 2025: Elimination of Bias in the Legal Profession

First March Program 2025: Estate Planning: Basics, Updates and the Role of Emotion in Estate Planning

Second March Program 2025: Basic Overview of Copyright and Trademark Law for Attorneys

April 2025: Law, Not Force: Ben Ferencz's Legacy of Legal Justice for Human Rights Victims

May 7, 2025 Program (in cooperation with BAMSL-in-person CLE): Practical Skills Series:

Arguing Motions in Circuit Court (for Beginners and Veterans)

May 13, 2025 Program: The Expedited Procedure of Chapter 517

June 2025: Annual Legal Ethics Update

September 2025: Preview of the 2025-26 U.S. Supreme Court Term

2024-25 DONOR LIST ATTACHED

Annual Report Approved by Board President:

 12/11/25

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, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions from this list.

\$500-\$2500

Bar Association of
Metropolitan St. Louis‡
Mark Bronson, Esq.
Hon. Anne-Marie Clarke
Dowd and Dowd, P.C.
Husch Blackwell, LLP^
Charlene Kass*^
Littler Mendelson, P.C.^
Hon. Mark Neill
Tom and Sara Neill
Lewis Rice
St. Louis Bar Foundation^
Thomson Coburn LLP^
Jay Umansky^
Dorothy White-Coleman
Women Lawyers Association
of Greater St. Louis^

\$100-499

AJ Legal Services, LLC
William Albrecht
Nicholas Angelides
Gerald Axelbaum and Ellen
Schapiro
Kenneth Chackes^
Coffey & Nichols, LLC

Hon. Nicole
Colbert-Botchway^
Hon. Robert Dierker, Jr.
Francis Duda
Martha Ferdinand
Hon. Katherine Fowler
Leonard Frankel
Matt Ghio^
Roberta Gutwein
Patrick Hagerty
Patrick Hamacher
Thomas Hayes
Michelle House-Connaghan
Legal Services of Eastern
Missouri^
Robert and Nancy Litz
Elizabeth Martin
Jim Martin
Tracy Meehan, III
Ed Munoz and Janet Varon
National Council of Jewish
Women St. Louis^
William Piper
Canice Rice
Norah Ryan
Schucat, Cook & Werner^

Hon. Booker Shaw
Hon. Laura Stith
Robert Susman
Richard Swatek
Mavis Thompson
Gail Wechsler^
John Weller
Hon. Caroline Whittington
Kenneth Winn
Kathryn Wire
Michael A. Wolff

\$50-\$99

Batya Abramson-Goldstein
Eric Banks
Matt Braun+
Ann Buckley
David Cox
Ann Craver
Christopher Dentman
Karma Edwards^
Elaine Fondiller
William Gavin
Christine Gilsinan
David Hares
Corey Inskip

‡ CLE Sponsor

+ Deceased

* In memory of Judge Richard Teitelman

^ Judicial Legacy Project: Honoring Trailblazers in our Courts

Lucy Lahey
Pamela Mack
Phyllis Markus
Stephen Novack
Robert Paster
Lisa Thorp

Under \$50

Sally Bowles
William Buchholz
Jennifer Fisher
Carl Geraci
Sheila Greenbaum^
Elizabeth Heath
James Jacobson
Karen Greenberg Wasserman
Aaron Waters
Hon. Joseph Whyte

‡ CLE Sponsor

+ Deceased

* In memory of Judge Richard Teitelman

^ Judicial Legacy Project: Honoring Trailblazers in our Courts