

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF USED LAW BOOKS

Moving?  
Downsizing your law book collection?  
Having a good old clear out?

**Find a home for those law books rather than recycling or sending them to a landfill.**

### **LOCAL POSSIBILITIES**

- Ask lawyer friends and especially ones just setting up their own private practices.
- Ask your local law librarian. Just about every county in Oregon has a law librarian who can help get the word out, post a free-books notice, or suggest possible recipients. (Law librarians: Always check for state laws or institutional rules on the proper disposal and receipt of your library's used or donated books.)
- Do you belong to any local or statewide lawyer association special interest groups? Send a message to other members over the listserve. There is almost ALWAYS someone else who wants your books and who will come and pick them up AND TREASURE THEM. (Throw in that last kitten or puppy (or fruitcake come to think of it) while you're at it.)
- Do you know anyone in a local paralegal or legal assistant program? Ask if a notice could be sent to their listserve. (Caveat: Be careful if giving certain books to non-attorney legal workers. Not everyone understands the concept of SUPERCEDED. I never, ever give superceded statutes or treatises to lay people unless I know them well.)
- Some law books might bring a good return to your public library's "Friends of the Library" book sales. Ask your local public librarian to recommend a Friends' contact.
- Ask your local second-hand bookstore owner if the store buys used law books.
- Post to a bulletin boards, the old-fashioned corkboard kind. Post notices in the courthouse, the office, the local coffee shop, grocery store, or wherever else there is a public bulletin board. Some public libraries have bulletin boards for public use.
- Contact someone in your neighborhood association and ask if an email message could be sent out to list members.
- How about local restaurants, legal theme or otherwise? Books look good on shelves and some restaurants use them for "atmosphere." The books also help muffle noise and heaven knows restaurants are too noisy nowadays.
- Your local community-access TV station may be able them to use on a news or interview set. (They don't have to be complete sets – take a look at most law books used on TV.)
- New and second-hand independent furniture or antique stores might also want the books for sale or for show. Contact office furniture showrooms or car dealers too if you are really determined to find a home for the books.

## **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

- Make things out of those clean hardbound used books. Instructions are at various web locations. We especially liked the ones at [www.diy.net.com](http://www.diy.net.com) and [www.thisintothat.com/](http://www.thisintothat.com/). This Book Bar too, if the link still works: <http://www.vestaldesign.com/projects/bookbar/>.
- Contact your local theatre group or school drama club. The theatre's prop room might be happy for books. Large theatre groups might also be interested. And they sometimes have vehicles and labor to help pack and pick up the books.
- Do you know any interior decorators? You'd be surprised how many people would pay big money to have law books on their shelves. And they won't care if it's not a complete set.
- Schools and community centers: Local K-12 schools or specialized arts or crafts schools or community centers that hold art classes. Have you heard of the new art form called Altered Books? It's a way to recycle a book by turning it into something else – art.

## **USED LAW BOOK DEALERS**

Here is a list of used law book dealers or contacts. There may be others. Phone or send an email message describing what books you have, where you are, and what you are willing and able to do to get the books to their destination. (These are mostly small businesses; their web and email addresses can change with little notice.)

Claitors: <http://www.claitors.com/>

Law Booksellers: <http://www.xs4all.nl/~kloof/lawdeal.html#USA>

Law Book Exchange: <http://www.lawbookexchange.com/index.html>

## **ONLINE and WORLDWIDE**

- eBay: direct or through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party “drop-off” store for those who don't want to deal directly with eBay. For example, in Portland we have the Bid Brothers ([bidbrothers.com](http://bidbrothers.com)) and I Sold It LLC ([www.i-soldit.com](http://www.i-soldit.com)). QuikDrop International ([www.quikdrop.com](http://www.quikdrop.com)) is another one with drop-off stores around the country.
- Direct online: Craig's List: Go to [www.craigslist.com/](http://www.craigslist.com/) and look for your city. There may be other community-based web sites where you can sell or give away books such as Freecycle.com. (Not every city has a freecycle.com network.)
- International associations, e.g. Asia Foundation (this method works best for very large collections). Check the “Encyclopedia of Associations/Associations Unlimited.” Your local public library may have it in print or online.

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Washington County Law Library

Hillsboro, Oregon

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