

Law Library Committee Meeting

August 18, 2021

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present: Sara Kearsley, Anne-Marie Clark, Lee Van Duzer, Amy Gregory

Previous Minutes: Kearsley Moved, Clark Second. Approved and Adopted.

Law Library Update:

- a. Operational Status:
 - a. Law Library doors are open and unlocked without capacity limits
 - b. Per state and county policy masks are required for anyone inside the Law Library
 - c. The Law Library will continue to close on an as needed basis to accommodate staff schedules and breaks
- b. Lexis Digital Library and Microfilm Reader
 - a. ARPA Grant from the State Library for 2 year pilot project of ebooks through Lexis. Grant will cover one year of the pilot, Law Library will cover the 2nd year.
 - b. Library Foundation of Washington County grant for the purchase of a microfilm reader. Needed due to not having a way to view our legislative history collection. Used to have to send to a different department to view and that had no digitizing capabilities. New reader will allow for on-site access of microfilm collection as well as digitization. With new reader we will be able to fulfill distance requests as well, within document delivery guidelines
- c. Outreach: The Law Library participated in a couple of outreach opportunities this summer. Due to the nature of the ongoing pandemic, Law Library staff felt it was prudent not to bring all of the outreach swag to the events, this included trading the spin wheel and swag for coloring sheets. We still had meaningful conversations with individuals at both events.
 - a. Farmers Market: we staffed the county booth at the first Tuesday of the market this summer. The position of the booth was less than ideal as it was in an out of the way place, so visibility was not fantastic.
 - b. Fair: Was part of the county booth for one weekday of the fair. County booth was in good positions and at a key traffic flow location.

Policy Discussion:

- a. "Now What" program: The Law Library would like to start the process for their "Now What" legal informational series.
 - a. Need help from Law Library Committee to recruit volunteers, possibly be volunteers themselves

- i. Suggested locations for recruitment include WCBA Newsletter/Blast, OSB Section Leaders, Law Library Committee members themselves
 - b. Brief brainstorming on possible topic ideas; intention of program is to give a basic primer to a non-legal audience on what to expect if they have to deal with the legal system on a certain topic
 - i. Some ideas discussed: family, estate, landlord-tenant, small claims, consumer protection, civil procedure, you've been sued, discovery, collecting judgments, probates, guardianships/conservatorships, mediation/arbitration, etc.
- b. Self Help Services for Small Claims: The Law Library is working with the courts to see if Law Library staff can offer facilitation services for Small Claims.
 - a. Discussion items included
 - i. Balance of assisting without advising
 - 1. Legal information, not specific to case/facts vs legal advice
 - 2. Be prepared, have copies, bring witness(es), value/type of witnesses, etc.
 - ii. Facilitation can help get t's crossed and l's dotted
 - iii. Small claims may be the first time someone encounters the legal system (e.g. other person's story may not match your own, normal)
 - iv. What to do if need/demand is more than expected
 - 1. How to manage
 - 2. UPL
 - 3. What if both parties seek help? How to explain & separate?
 - v. Explanation of Mediation
- c. Metro area law library/OSB partnership: We were approached with an idea to partner with the OSB and other Metro area law libraries to be able to offer a lawyer in the metro area libraries on a rotational basis; still in the very early exploratory stages.
- d. Other items of interest: FJC looking to expand, join with Cares NW – become Family Peace center
 - a. Partner with Law Library, e.g. lawyer in the library

New Business

- a. Recognizing Larry Brisbee
 - a. Blurb on website; history of the Law Library
 - b. Article in newsletter