

How is your Law Library Funded?

Like public libraries, law libraries are open to **EVERYONE**

but unlike traditional public libraries...

0% of income comes from Taxes

10% or less

may come from other **services and sources**, including copies, classes, or conference room rentals

90%

California state law sets the portion of filing fee for each county law library

*or more comes from a fraction of

Civil Filing Fees

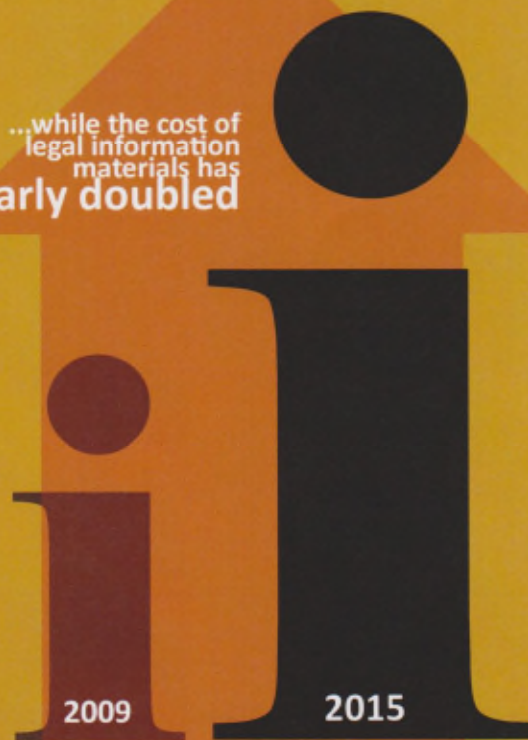
In the last seven years, law libraries have been **unable to increase** their share.

Since 2009...

...income from filing fees has **declined over 35%...**



...while the cost of legal information materials has **nearly doubled**



Help us keep legal information accessible in our communities

Council of California County Law Librarians									
Statewide Filing Fee Revenue Last Seven Fiscal Years									
	Filing Fee	FY 2008-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	6-Year -DECREASE / Increase
Alameda	37	\$1,912,668	\$1,878,101	\$1,772,623	\$1,556,938	\$1,441,323	\$1,285,063	\$1,219,628	-36.23%
Alpine	4	\$235	\$138	\$131	\$193	\$205	\$100	\$80	-65.96%
Amador	20	\$19,936	\$19,818	\$21,966	\$16,171	\$15,318	\$13,728	\$12,108	-39.26%
Butte	35	\$218,046	\$197,336	\$210,547	\$182,473	\$172,711	\$157,266	\$141,619	-35.05%
Calaveras	32	\$38,317	\$42,091	\$43,740	\$37,980	\$30,337	\$27,269	\$24,955	-34.87%
Colusa	17	\$7,813	\$6,991	\$6,116	\$5,983	\$6,379	\$5,638	\$4,923	-36.99%
Contra Costa	35	\$1,245,592	\$1,204,408	\$1,253,600	\$1,006,051	\$898,482	\$851,567	\$727,388	-41.60%
Del Norte	20	\$11,971	\$11,554	\$11,680	\$9,429	\$10,753	\$9,169	\$8,764	-26.79%
El Dorado	29	\$152,912	\$162,847	\$161,275	\$133,361	\$120,110	\$114,180	\$99,672	-34.82%
Fresno	37	\$1,080,317	\$1,021,821	\$971,442	\$835,964	\$780,633	\$719,864	\$687,258	-36.38%
Glenn	20	\$12,317	\$11,622	\$12,031	\$9,594	\$10,607	\$11,326	\$9,975	-19.01%
Humboldt	40	\$125,171	\$120,782	\$120,835	\$111,259	\$108,056	\$101,394	\$94,352	-24.62%
Imperial	20	\$102,478	\$88,969	\$84,708	\$72,708	\$72,332	\$56,485	\$50,395	-50.82%
Inyo	29	\$11,696	\$9,253	\$11,256	\$8,580	\$7,686	\$7,266	\$7,512	-35.77%
Kern	27	\$706,172	\$658,716	\$644,768	\$592,185	\$536,248	\$497,399	\$463,061	-34.43%
Kings	29	\$98,571	\$98,271	\$99,667	\$77,745	\$71,758	\$75,382	\$67,046	-31.98%
Lake	23	\$41,095	\$41,159	\$43,919	\$36,484	\$35,184	\$30,457	\$29,249	-28.82%
Lassen	28	\$18,741	\$19,125	\$19,775	\$15,973	\$13,840	\$13,528	\$11,963	-36.17%
Los Angeles	24	\$10,027,252	\$9,669,603	\$9,411,440	\$8,388,148	\$7,797,818	\$7,168,466	\$6,553,659	-34.64%
Madera	32	\$125,589	\$125,436	\$112,930	\$97,008	\$86,599	\$80,031	\$73,935	-41.13%
Marin	32	\$235,473	\$250,064	\$260,297	\$230,611	\$204,385	\$182,611	\$171,628	-27.11%
Mariposa	27	\$9,446	\$9,220	\$10,490	\$9,796	\$9,553	\$7,155	\$7,452	-21.11%
Mendocino	35	\$75,220	\$67,721	\$72,953	\$61,964	\$60,219	\$57,172	\$55,235	-26.57%
Merced	29	\$215,373	\$204,510	\$185,689	\$160,321	\$137,391	\$127,048	\$117,726	-45.34%
Modoc	20	\$4,023	\$4,172	\$3,970	\$3,020	\$3,578	\$2,926	\$2,400	-40.34%
Mono	20	\$5,006	\$5,738	\$5,601	\$6,210	\$6,796	\$4,580	\$4,288	-14.35%
Monterey	31	\$343,440	\$329,128	\$303,919	\$262,486	\$245,835	\$222,232	\$201,681	-41.28%
Napa	23	\$95,249	\$96,783	\$92,660	\$82,145	\$75,168	\$67,556	\$54,706	-42.57%
Nevada	29	\$80,932	\$85,599	\$86,041	\$77,501	\$66,367	\$56,706	\$44,383	-45.16%
Orange	35	\$4,057,738	\$4,075,807	\$3,974,106	\$3,449,654	\$3,186,019	\$2,862,586	\$2,589,451	-36.18%
Placer	35	\$392,815	\$408,739	\$399,306	\$330,602	\$312,506	\$278,137	\$251,361	-36.01%
Plumas	23	\$11,539	\$12,197	\$14,214	\$8,606	\$8,721	\$7,831	\$8,469	-26.61%
Riverside	32	\$2,886,726	\$2,799,974	\$2,692,205	\$2,202,900	\$2,025,156	\$1,775,513	\$1,593,795	-44.79%
Sacramento	50	\$3,738,680	\$3,384,285	\$3,260,079	\$2,914,049	\$2,995,965	\$2,744,085	\$2,379,062	-36.37%
San Benito	26	\$39,641	\$45,371	\$44,015	\$31,149	\$29,095	\$25,926	\$24,146	-39.09%
San Bernardino	29	\$2,493,027	\$2,353,664	\$2,199,035	\$1,826,602	\$1,744,074	\$1,471,564	\$1,354,823	-45.66%
San Diego	38	\$4,172,438	\$3,968,682	\$3,952,779	\$3,363,143	\$3,107,707	\$2,815,901	\$2,631,919	-36.92%
San Francisco	42	\$1,828,707	\$1,646,163	\$1,475,768	\$1,336,359	\$1,286,437	\$1,134,247	\$997,258	-45.47%
San Joaquin	29	\$743,767	\$706,755	\$666,775	\$525,259	\$490,872	\$436,918	\$419,024	-43.66%
San Luis Obispo	34	\$238,179	\$243,253	\$248,666	\$205,614	\$204,993	\$174,993	\$165,733	-30.42%
San Mateo	38.50	\$809,013	\$811,443	\$802,745	\$674,419	\$614,104	\$576,497	\$506,782	-37.36%
Santa Barbara	41	\$468,147	\$461,499	\$443,941	\$394,510	\$381,116	\$333,836	\$311,212	-33.52%
Santa Clara	26	\$1,261,175	\$1,286,214	\$1,273,450	\$1,062,837	\$984,866	\$895,118	\$795,708	-36.91%
Santa Cruz	35	\$221,915	\$219,805	\$223,399	\$189,871	\$176,754	\$150,290	\$142,430	-35.82%
Shasta	26	\$153,831	\$150,423	\$145,031	\$119,579	\$114,828	\$105,895	\$92,189	-40.07%
Sierra	20	\$2,093	\$1,318	\$1,031	\$934	\$1,449	\$849	\$860	-58.91%
Siskiyou	26	\$30,886	\$30,004	\$28,097	\$24,551	\$23,894	\$23,384	\$21,021	-31.94%
Solano	29	\$470,444	\$469,230	\$446,191	\$358,389	\$327,872	\$317,225	\$297,610	-36.74%
Sonoma	35	\$524,270	\$495,772	\$531,759	\$430,218	\$420,824	\$359,721	\$332,738	-36.53%
Stanislaus	24	\$439,562	\$400,744	\$375,016	\$310,970	\$285,523	\$271,582	\$247,247	-43.75%
Sutter	7	\$21,492	\$19,164	\$18,841	\$16,160	\$15,248	\$14,301	\$12,504	-41.82%
Tehama	23	\$42,291	\$36,387	\$38,096	\$31,256	\$31,208	\$24,177	\$27,901	-34.03%
Trinity	20	\$4,224	\$4,812	\$4,312	\$4,074	\$4,176	\$3,656	\$4,444	5.21%
Tulare	38	\$393,096	\$366,671	\$343,633	\$304,677	\$288,625	\$291,894	\$274,754	-30.11%
Tuolumne	20	\$29,136	\$29,383	\$27,562	\$23,695	\$20,769	\$19,369	\$18,641	-36.02%
Ventura	32	\$859,335	\$849,006	\$798,952	\$687,035	\$654,994	\$571,650	\$524,881	-38.92%
Yolo	35	\$171,374	\$170,781	\$157,713	\$144,663	\$130,109	\$117,282	\$100,663	-41.26%
Yuba	13	\$22,898	\$22,280	\$25,736	\$22,982	\$22,276	\$19,958	\$18,959	-17.20%
Total		\$43,549,491	\$41,910,802	\$40,648,521	\$35,083,032	\$32,915,850	\$29,777,946	\$27,092,626	-37.79%

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

Myth: *Only attorneys use county law libraries.*

Fact: While county law libraries are used by attorneys, judges and their staffs, more than half of the users are members of the general public. Students also use county law libraries. The county law library is committed to providing the information needed to ensure access to justice for all. It serves members of the community equally. In Contra Costa County, 2/3 of law library users are non-attorneys.

Myth: *The only people who use county law libraries are criminals, deadbeats and their lawyers.*

Fact: There is no such thing as a typical patron in a county law library. Some examples of people using the law library include a mother whose child became severely ill due to toxicity in the home; a young couple with a tiny infant facing eviction with no place to go; scores of women seeking relief from domestic abuse, including a terminally ill cancer patient with a violent partner; victims of the foreclosure crisis who face eviction from their rentals through no fault of their own; parents seeking help with custody and child support issues; parents of handicapped children seeking information about their children's educational rights under California law; numerous victims of fraud; and, sadly, legions of victims of elder abuse. There are many others, too numerous to name.

Myth: *There are other places people can go to get the information they need. Why do we even need county law libraries?*

Fact: For many people the law library is the only place where they can get access to accurate, up-to-date legal information along with assistance from trained information professionals. Library users often say that our agency is the only agency where access to justice is a reality.

Myth: *Why bother with libraries at all since everything is on the Internet now?*

Fact: While the Internet can be an additional source of information in many areas, including law, the average person needs assistance in locating and using reputable Internet sites. Law libraries provide professional staff trained to assist users in locating the information they need. Also, most legal publications are not available online since they are commercially published by for-profit companies. They are often accessible at the county law library. The Internet does not replace books and other material—it supplements them.

Myth: *Law libraries represent an unnecessary expense.*

Fact: Law libraries are, in fact, many things. They are actually a type of self-help center. They offer legal material in a variety of formats, photocopy equipment, computers and printers, and access to librarians committed to assisting users with their legal research. County law libraries also serve as portals to other agencies including public libraries, university libraries, the courts, local and state bar, and other sources of help and information such as legal clinics, workshops and government offices. The central mission of all county law libraries is to help those who need help. Those of us who work in county law libraries see people in a state of crisis on a daily basis. We are here to help.

Myth: *Law libraries get plenty of money from sales taxes and property taxes.*

Fact: The amount of funding public law libraries receive from tax-based sources is zero. Law libraries receive over 90% of their funding from a small portion of civil court filing fees. Legislation such as SB 1407, signed into law in September of 2008, established a moratorium on increases in filing fees until January 1, 2012; however, it was extended indefinitely. This means law libraries cannot increase their primary revenue source despite the fact that publishers of legal material raise their costs an average of 10-15% per year. Other legislation has had the unintended consequence of reducing funding to county law libraries. Law libraries are mandated to exist by state law (B&P 6340), yet alternate state law severely curtails their sustainable funding. Meanwhile the number of Californians seeking help from law libraries continues to grow.

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to request that a 16.5 million dollar appropriation for California county law libraries be included in the May 2016 budget revision. County law libraries are an essential tool in access to justice. For many self-represented litigants in California, county law libraries are the sole provider of legal information and help.

In the past 8 years county law libraries have suffered revenue losses of 35-40%, yet the cost of legal materials has risen dramatically, as has the demand for services in law libraries. Reduced revenues and increased use has put these libraries under extraordinary financial strain.

A one-time appropriation of 16.5 million dollars is a necessary first step in alleviating law libraries' financial hardships while a permanent solution to the problem is in development. Without this funding some counties are at risk of losing their law libraries, and all counties are at risk of losing critical access to legal information and services.

Sincerely,

cc:

Michael Cohen, Director of Finance
Senator Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Senator Jim Nielsen, Vice-Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Senator Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 5
Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assembly Member Travis Allen, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5

Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol Building, 1st Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

This letter is to support a \$16.5 million dollar appropriation for California county law library funding.

In the past 5 years county law libraries have seen a reduction of 35-40% in revenue and a 60% increase in operational costs.

Funding for county law libraries comes from a small portion of civil filing fees, unless a fee waiver is granted. Law libraries have been unable to increase their portion of civil filing fees for almost ten years.

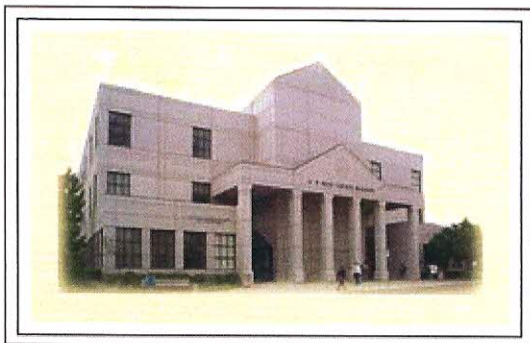
These law libraries lay a critical role in the public's access to the law. They represent an essential tool in upholding civil and criminal justice. For many self-represented litigants, law libraries are the only access to legal resources needed in their case. Seventy to eighty percent of library users are not legal professionals, and an additional 25% of users utilize these agencies for starting a business, or transferring property. Furthermore, law libraries are vital partners with our higher educational institutions.

Law libraries as vital community resources are in dire need of consistent and ongoing funding. A one-time appropriation of \$16.5 million is a necessary first step in alleviating law libraries' financial hardships. Without this funding some counties are at risk of losing their law libraries.

Sincerely,

cc:

Michael Cohen, Director of Finance
Senator Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Senator Jim Nielsen, Vice-Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Senator Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee 5
Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assembly Member Travis Allen, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
Assembly Member Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5



About the Library

Established in 1893, the law library contains a balanced collection of print and online materials in a wide variety of subject areas.



Mission Statement

To provide all members of the community access to research materials to aid in understanding and preserving legal rights.

SERVICES

FORMS

The library offers forms and packets of forms. Cost is based on \$.20/page.

COMPUTERS

Each branch has computers for public use while doing legal research. Wifi is also available. Computers can be used to access the library's online subscriptions, legal websites, and for document preparation.

PRINTER AND PHOTOCOPY SERVICES

Both are available at the rate of \$.20/page.

FAX

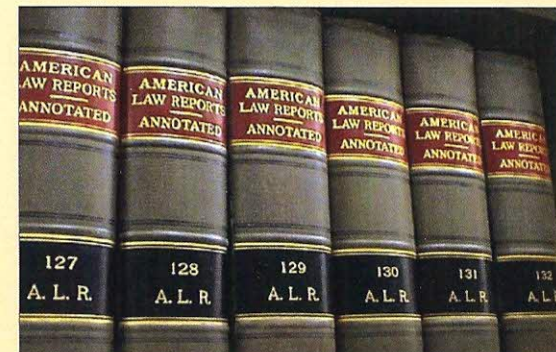
Faxes can be sent and received at the rate of \$1.00/page.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY

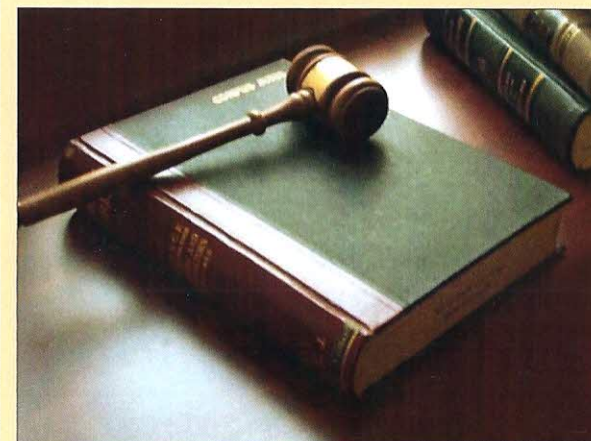
As time and staffing permits, library staff can retrieve cases and other materials to be emailed to users. Check with staff for rates and other policy information.

CONFERENCE ROOM

Two conference rooms are available in Martinez for depositions and meetings. Call (925) 646-2783 for rental rates and other policy information.



Contra Costa County Public Law Library



www.cccpllib.org

Your source for legal information.

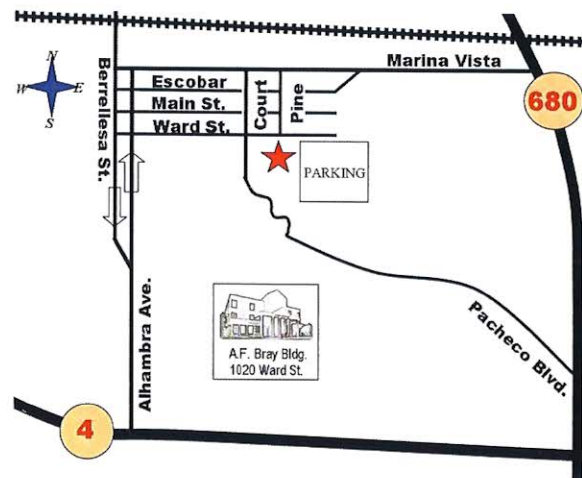
RICHMOND BRANCH



100 37th Street, Rm. 237
 Richmond, CA 94805
 Phone: 510-374-3019
 Fax: 510-374-3606
 Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 Closed 12:00-12:30

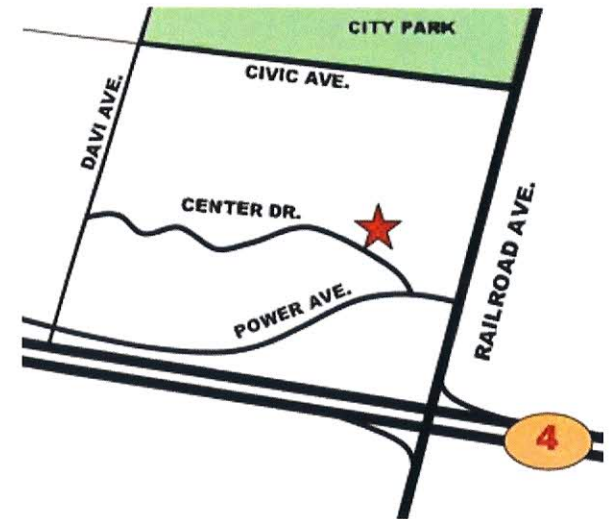


MAIN LAW LIBRARY MARTINEZ



1020 Ward Street, 1st Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553
 Phone: 925-646-2783
 Fax: 925-646-2438
 Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PITTSBURG BRANCH



1000 Center Drive, Rm. 1045
 Pittsburg, CA 94565
 Phone: 925-252-2800
 Fax: 925-252-2801
 Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30 Closed 12:00-12:30