

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



516 Third Ave. W621
Seattle, WA 98104



kccl.org



KING COUNTY
LAW LIBRARY

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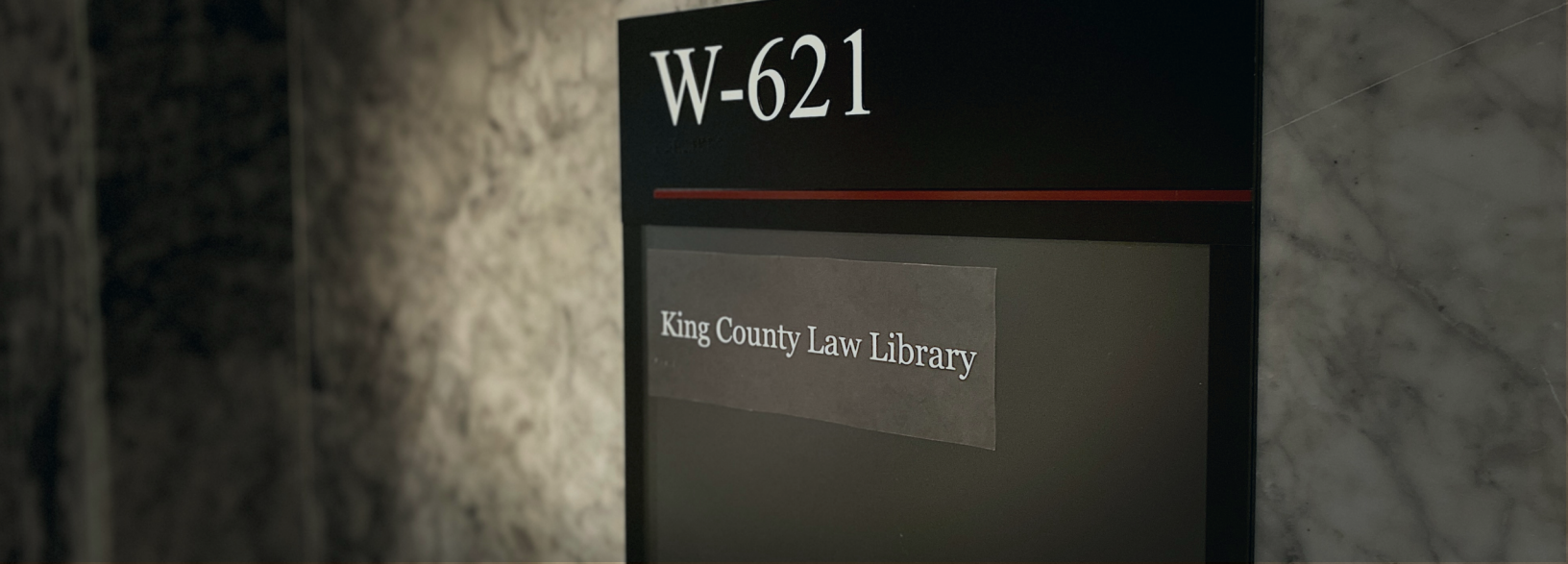
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W-621

King County Law Library

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With much relief, 2022 brought the King County Law Library back to “normal” in-person hours of operation and services. Normal is in quotes because the operating model of the law library and of the courts, law firms, legal aid service providers, and patrons had fundamentally changed. Court procedures and library usage made an abrupt shift to online services. Prior to the pandemic we had no e-Books in the collection. With the availability of Lexis Digital, we were able to shift the bulk of the topics covered in our print collection to e-Books with remote checkout.

Foot traffic in the courthouse remained low for much of 2022 with the proliferation of on-line services in almost all court administrative offices. Pre-pandemic, the law library hosted three in-person legal clinics per week. All legal clinics shifted to telephone consultations during the pandemic and remained that way.

That said, many of our patrons either do not have access to technology or are not technologically adept, so it was important for us to strike a balance between shifting to online access and continuing to preserve in-person services.

Here are the King County Law Library's highlights of 2022:

Completion of the Public Computer Replacement Project

Astoundingly, the last time that the law library was able to purchase new public patron computers was in 2002. The public patron computers most recently in use were installed in 2013 at the ripe old age of 7 after having outlived their useful purpose as law library staff computers. The law library managed to keep them ticking with gum and string for 18(!) years but it was clearly only a matter of time before the wheels came off.



In 2022 with a **\$5000 grant from the American Rescue Plan Act** and a **\$10,000 grant from the KCLL Foundation** the law library was able to move the ball forward with replacing the public patron computers. Significant contributions by **KCLL Foundation donor Eric Long** were critical to the project's success.

As Eric says: **"There is no justice until everyone has an equal playing field. So, I will continue to give to the law library."** We thank Eric for his incredibly generous donations to the library and his on-going support of our mission – *Without access to information, there is no justice.*

Planning for the Family Law Forms Drafting Lab

Planning began for a new in-person service aimed at helping those representing themselves in family matters work on their forms.

The law library is partnering with the **Seattle University Law School Family Law Help Center**, the **King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinic** and the **King County Family Law Information Center** to create a weekly program where



patrons will work on their forms in a group setting (with the understanding that there is no expectation of privacy or confidentiality and no attorney/ client relationship). As questions arise, they can flag down one of the law student interns from the SU Family Law Help Center who will then answer the question or send it along to the volunteer attorney. This format allows more people to be helped simultaneously and has the synergistic effect of allowing others with similar questions to benefit from hearing the answer.

Self-Help Form Packets

Outreach Services Attorney, Stephen Seely, had a very productive year creating self-help form packets to assist pro ses with common legal issues. The form packets include instructions and forms geared to non-attorneys.

In 2022, Stephen created packets for:



- **Responding to a Civil Lawsuit in Superior Court**
- **Asking for a Default Judgment in Superior Court**
- **Starting an Appeal from Superior Court to Court of Appeals**
- **Appealing a Driver's License Suspension.**

Our biggest kudos go to Stephen for completing the long-awaited replevin packet. Several people over the years had attempted a replevin packet but were bogged down explaining a relatively complex process in a manner that non-lawyers could understand. Stephen's **How to Get Your Stuff Back by Court Order in Superior Court (Replevin)** packet is a wonder to behold.

Young Attorney Outreach

With more court hearings taking place over Zoom and more attorneys working from home, the law library prioritized reaching out to younger attorneys who might not know that the law library even exists, let alone all the wonderful services and resources we provide. **Outreach Services Attorney, Stephen Seely**, spoke to the UW Law School's Low Bono Legal Research class about free legal research databases, resources, and services available at KCLL. Stephen also set up informational tables at bar admission swearing in ceremonies and attended other young lawyer social networking events.

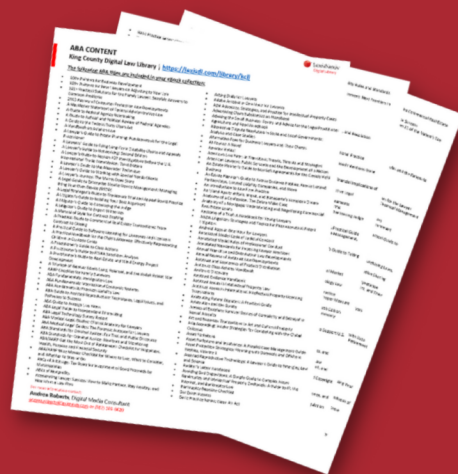


Staff Retention Measures

In conjunction with King County's system-wide efforts to promote employee retention, the law library **adjusted staff salaries and work hours** to bring them more in-line with librarian positions in the Puget Sound region.

Major Addition to the eBook Collection - ABA Treatises

The law library added the full collection of ABA's eBook titles to our Lexis Digital Collection. The **ABA collection includes over 800 titles** on a far-ranging span of subject matter. Topics covered include: contracts, insurance, administrative law, alternative dispute resolution, business law, criminal law, elder law and estate planning, government law, property law, disability law, and tort law just to name a few.



In addition to the great practical content of the ABA collection, there is also a fun little series of books on quirky areas of law. “The Little Book of” series has titles like: The Little Book of Cowboy Law, The Little Book of Skiing Law, The Little Book of BBQ Law, The Little Book of Fashion Law, The Little Book of Coffee Law, The Little Book of Foodie Law, and of course **The Little Book of Elvis Law**.

Return of the Expanded Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) Workshop Series

After a hiatus during the pandemic, the workshop series returned to in-person classes. The law library partnered with fabulous volunteer attorney **Jeff Cowan** and the **Seattle Public Library** to host the entire SRL workshop series.



We started with the 90-minute class, **Civil Litigation without Tears: The Basics of Representing Yourself in Court**. In the following weeks, the program continued with the 60-minute advanced classes taught in previous

years: **The Nuts and Bolts of Motions, Discover Discovery, and Examining Evidence**. Jeff also developed an additional advanced class, **Preparing for Trial: The Basics of Getting Ready for Court** that rounded out the workshop series. Attendees were grateful to have in-person classes and the opportunity to ask questions face to face.

Multi-Media Presentation: Alternative Facts - The Lies of Executive Order 9066

My favorite KCLL event of 2022 was the law library's presentation of the film, **Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066**. E.O. 9066 is the law that authorized the forceable removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. The film takes an in-depth look at the legal rationale and evidence that undergirded the issuance of

Executive Order 9066 and **Korematsu v. United States (1944)**, the subsequent U.S. Supreme Court Case which upheld its constitutionality. Using historical footage, documents, and



interviews, Alternative Facts covers the forces and players that brought E.O. 9066 into being, the work of researchers who uncovered evidence unmasking the manipulated record submitted to the Supreme Court in Korematsu, and the work of the attorneys pursuing coram nobis cases to

vacate the convictions of **Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui**.

After screening the film, KCLL hosted a moderated panel discussion which included **filmmaker Jon Osaki, King County Superior Court Judge Patrick Oishi**, and **attorney and law professor Lori Bannai** who was one of the attorneys on the coram nobis team. A recent law school graduate at the time, Lori had the opportunity to work on the case of a lifetime.

The film and the panel were presented at a CLE which included a live Q & A session with the panel. The program was also made available for on-demand viewing on the KCLL website and was run several times on the King County television channel, KCTV.



MOMENTS OF JOY - ART IN THE LAW LIBRARY

Bringing a little more color and joy to the library, **Tamara Hayes** - our Technical Services Librarian - penned an essay for the July 2022 issue of the King County Bar Bulletin that highlights the artwork adorning the library's walls. Her descriptions can be used to guide one's own walking tour of our collection and will serve as cheerful reason to come up to the sixth floor of the courthouse.

The entire article can be read at:

kcll.org/from-the-director-august-2022/



I once heard art described as a moment of joy in a home. We hope the next time you're in the library you take a moment to enjoy a couple of the art pieces in our space.

COLLECTION UPDATE

Books Added:

608

Total Books:

39,361

Most Circulated:

1. Wahington Practice – Criminal Practice & Procedure
2. Revised Code of Washington Annotated
3. Washington Digest
4. WA Lawyers Practice Manual
5. WSBA Real Property Deskbook

Books Lost:

3

Books Removed:

836

10

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Filing Fees | \$605,053 |
| Fee-Based Services | \$176,549 |
| Other Income | \$456,748 |
| TOTAL | \$1,238,350 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Books & Periodicals | \$322,478 |
| Operating | \$80,584 |
| Payroll/Benefits | \$657,870 |
| Furnishings/Equipment | \$16,480 |
| TOTAL | \$715,661 |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Miriam R. Gordon, Esq. - President

Monique Cohen - Vice President

(Designee of County Council Chair Dave Upthegrove)

The Honorable Susan Amini

Joseph Bringman, Esq.

The Honorable Averil Rothrock