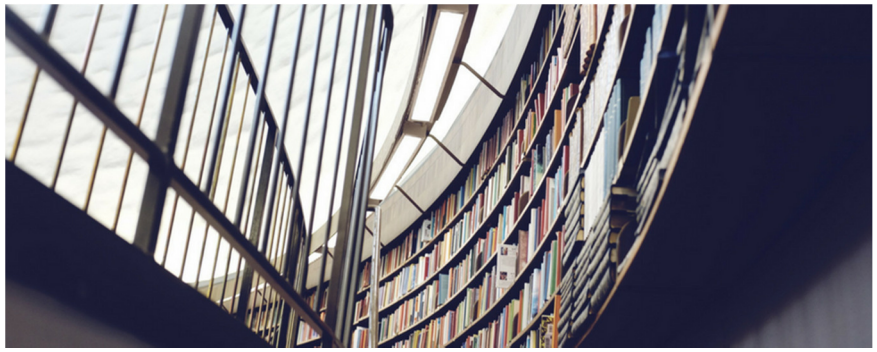
Public Law Library of King County
2015 Annual Report

The statistics on the legal needs of low-income households in Washington State are staggering. According to the June 2015 update of the Washington State Supreme Court Civil Legal Needs Study, over 70 percent of low-income households had a civil legal problem within the year prior to the release of the study. Many of those problems went unaddressed because of the lack of legal information and assistance. In good news, the study found that, of those people who were able to attain legal assistance, 61 percent felt satisfaction with the resolution of their problem and within this group 17% were able to fully resolve their problem.

The Public Law Library of King County is on the front lines of the access to justice struggle. Our unique locations in the King County Courthouse in Seattle and in the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, put us in the position of being "first responders" for the exactly the types of issues discussed in the Civil Legal Needs Study. The Law Library functions as a lifeline for the legal needs of King County residents. While attorneys and judges are a core constituent base of library users, members of the public make up the lion's share of our patrons. In Seattle, over fifty seven thousand people visited the law library at the King County Courthouse in 2015 and we answered 15,012 reference questions. In Kent, almost 20,000 people visited the law library at the MRJC and we answered 7,820 reference questions.



Hundreds of patrons were able to receive legal advice at the law library from the clinics we host including the KCBA Neighborhood Legal Clinic, the KCBA Young Lawyers Division Clinic, the NW Justice Project Debt Collection Defense Clinic, and the Columbia Legal Services Re-Entry clinic. With the development of our new Legal Help Center, the Public Law Library will soon be able to do even more to address the issues identified in the Civil Legal Needs Study. Our in-house public services attorney will be able to assist patrons with determining which legal documents they need to file and can help with ensuring that the forms are drafted correctly.

The Public Law Library of King County recognizes that we are in a unique position to provide access to legal materials and legal assistance at critical moments for our patrons. We are committed to providing the residents of King County assistance at the highest levels, taking into account our funding constraints.

2015 Board of Trustees

- *The Honorable Andrea Darvas, President*
- *James L. Brewer, Esq. Vice President (Designee of County Council Chair Larry Phillips*
- *The Honorable Monica Benton*
- *Stephen Ellis, Esq.*
- *Joseph Bringman, Esq.*

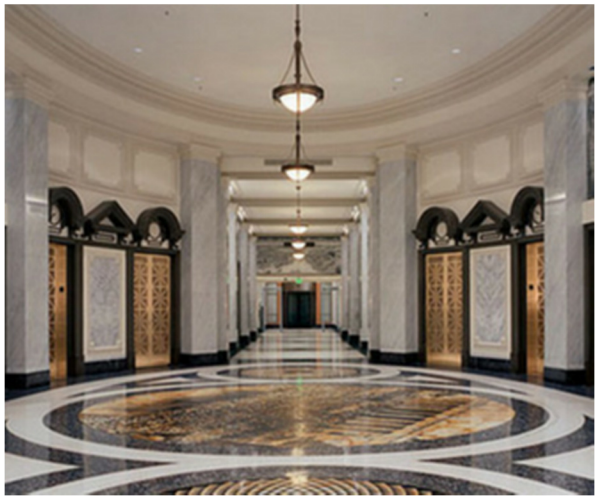
2015 Financial Report

Income	
Filing Fees	$775,783
Fee-Based Services	$89,310
Other Income	$324,006
Total	**$1,189,099**
Expenditures - Seattle	
Books & Periodicals	$419,996
Non-Book: Operating	$60,286
Non-Book: Payroll/Benefits	$534,751
Capital	$4,524
Total	**$1,019,557**
Expenditures – MRJC	
Books & Periodicals	$50,770
Non-Book: Operating	$18,405
Non-Book: Payroll/Benefits	$177,559
Capital	$621
Total	**$247,355**

Public Law Library of King County

Seattle Courthouse
516 3rd Avenue, Suite W621
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 477-1305

Kent Regional Justice Center
401 Fourth Avenue N., Room 1N
Kent, WA 98032
(206) 205-2905



2015: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Legal Help Center Planning

Public Law Library of King County Hires Marc Lampson to Spearhead Development of New Legal Help Center.

In 2015, the law library took affirmative steps toward setting up a legal help center located in the law library. In April, we hired Marc Lampson to fill the newly created position of Public Services Attorney. Marc is both an Attorney and a law librarian with long work experience in the civil legal aid arena.

The Public Services Attorney position allocates 45% of work time to the Legal Help Center (LHC). In this capacity, Marc will be responsible for the general direction, policies and procedures of the LHC and will create form packets for clinic and law library use. When the LHC opens Marc will provided limited legal assistance including drafting and completing forms for LHC patrons, advising on legal procedure issues, and making referrals when appropriate.

In addition to the Legal Help Center duties, the Public Services Attorney will also be responsible for the provision of law library reference services with 35% of his time allocated to these duties. In this capacity, Marc will be responsible for providing reference services by telephone, email and in-person. He will contribute to the implementation and development of best practices for our reference service policies and procedures and prepare content for the law library's website.

The final 20% of the job allocation of the Public Services Attorney position is reserved for general law library duties such as public outreach, education and training, and preparation of research guides, workshops and classes. He will also be responsible for associated library administrative duties.

After initial training in April and May, Marc traveled to the Sacramento County Law Library, which established one of the first legal self-help centers with an in-house, on-staff attorney. He spent time observing Sacramento's legal self-help center in action and discussing various matters with their attorney and library staff. Marc subsequently developed policies and procedures adapted from the Sacramento model for our Legal Help Center. These policies and procedures were presented to the Board of the Public Law Library of King County and to the law library staff approval, suggestions, and revisions. In late 2015, the law library initiated plans to launch a "soft opening" of the Legal Help Center in January of 2016.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS AT PLLKC

The law library taught fifteen classes in 2015. In an effort to broaden our reach into all areas of King County almost half of our classes were offered on-line using WebEx software.

We also taught in-person classes at the law library's Seattle Branch.

Sampling of Classes Taught in 2015:

- Advanced WestlawNext
- Skiptracing
- Hiding Your Trail
- Legal Research for the Non-Attorney Part I
- Legal Research for the Non-Attorney Part II

THE LAW LIBRARY GETS SOCIAL

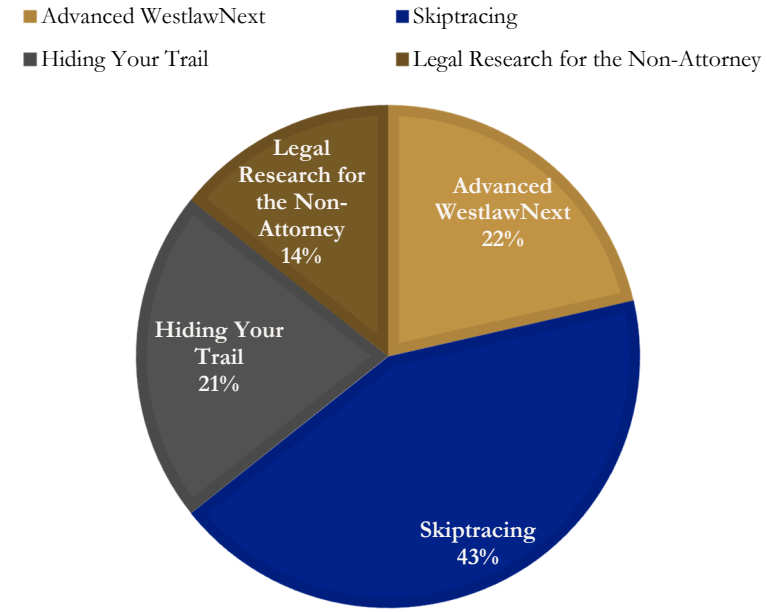
The law library established a Twitter account in June of 2015 and averaged about 20 Tweets per month throughout the year. The following Tweets earned some of our top impressions:

November 2015 Top Tweet: earned 122 impressions

PublicLawLibraryKC @pllkc

CHS Community Post | Social Justice Takes a Stand at Seattle University's Social Justice Hackathon http://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2015/10/chs-community-post-social-justice-takes-a-stand-at-seattle-universitys-social-justice-hackathon/ … via **@chsfeed**

CLASSES OFFERED IN 2015



COLLECTION NOTES

The law library added 824 new books to our collection.

Sampling of Books Added to the Collection in 2015:

- Strategies for Creditors in Bankruptcy Proceedings
- Business Divorce: Understanding Its Dynamics and Formulating Solutions
- American Law 101: An Easy Primer on the U.S. Legal System
- Representing Plaintiffs in Title VII Actions
- Guide to U.S. Government Practice on Global Sharing of Personal Information
- The Law of Probate Bonds