

**Connecticut Judicial Branch
Law Library Advisory Committee
November 20, 2009**

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library Advisory Committee met on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut in the law library conference room, LL241.

Present:

Hon. Joseph P. Flynn, Chair
Hon. Jon C. Blue
Hon. William J. Lavery
Hon. O. James Purnell, III
Hon. Peter E. Wiese
Atty. William H. Clendenen, Jr.
Atty. Robert Cooney
Ms. Ann DeVeaux
Mr. Blair Kauffman
Ms. Darcy Kirk
Atty. William P. Yelenak

Absent:

Hon. Theodore R. Tyma

Other Attendees

Hon. Patrick L. Carroll, III
Ms. Faith P. Arkin
Mr. Joseph D. D'Alesio
Ms. Maureen D. Well

The chair of the committee, Judge Flynn, called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the April 24, 2009 Law Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved.

II. Library Services and the Judicial Branch Budget Deficit

Judge Carroll, Deputy Chief Court Administrator, indicated that the legislature had appropriated zero dollars for law library materials. He said that we can not expect judges to render decisions with three year old law. They need up-to-date law. He said that when we talk about law libraries, we're really talking about legal resources, legal research materials. He stated that we must renew the Judicial Branch's electronic legal research subscriptions. He also noted that Judge Quinn has made presentations and arguments on behalf of the law libraries, indicating the need for funds to support the services they provide.

Judge Carroll further stated that the Judicial Branch has never had to contend with a deficiency in their budget; it is facing one today. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has projected a deficit of \$5.5 million. However, it will probably be higher. He said that the Judicial Branch budget is roughly \$500 million, with \$320 million for personal services, \$80 million for other expenses and \$100 million for programs contracted with outside providers.

Judge Flynn asked Judge Carroll what did he see as the role of this committee. Judge Carroll replied that the committee should act as a sounding board; that it should function as the eyes and ears of library users; that it should talk about particular issues and/or problems that may exist; and that it should get the word out to others as deemed appropriate.

Blair Kaufman mentioned that at Yale they have made substantial cuts to their law library's print collection. Due to restrictions in electronic licensing agreements, this has resulted in fewer resources being available to those outside of the Yale Law School community.

Darcy Kirk added that the University of Connecticut Law School Library has also experienced a shrinking budget, but still maintains a minimum number of resources in their print collection.

Ann DeVeaux stated that academic law libraries can no longer provide the same services that they once offered to the general public and private attorneys due to budget cuts and licensing restrictions.

Bill Yelenak said that without law libraries available to the public, the playing field of justice can not be level. Sole practioners and self-represented parties alike are put at a great disadvantage if they do not have access to a public law library.

The discussion then turned to free access to electronic legal information. The Cornell Legal Information Institute was mentioned as an excellent resource on the web which is well organized. However, it lacks a citator capacity and has limited access to secondary sources. Connecticut cases, in particular, are not available in an official version on the web. Judge Flynn suggested that the Judicial Branch might want to explore ways to post on the Internet an official version of Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Court decisions.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen D. Well
Secretary