

MINUTES
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Law Library Advisory Committee
March 13, 2009

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library Advisory Committee met on Friday, March 13, 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. Theodore R. Tyma
Hon. Peter E. Wiese
Atty. Robert Cooney
Ms. Ann DeVeaux
Ms. Darcy Kirk

Absent:

Hon. O. James Purnell, III
Mr. Blair Kauffman
Atty. William H. Clendenen, Jr.
Atty. William P. Yelenak

Other Attendees

Ms. Faith P. Arkin
Ms. Maureen D. Well
Ms. Claudia Jalowka

The chair of the committee, Judge Flynn, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the October 17, 2008 Law Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved.

II. Library Services and the Projected Budget Deficit

There was discussion as to the anticipated cuts to the law library budget due to the current fiscal crisis. Judge Lavery indicated that he would not be surprised if the cuts were “no less than 20%.” The current budget for the law library collection is 2.3 million dollars. Ms. Well noted that she has met with staff to brainstorm ideas as to how to meet the fiscal challenges and will be forming a committee to look at the entire collection, library by library. Ms. Well reviewed the materials that were distributed to the members that reflected the expenditures for each law library. Ms. Well explained that electronic resources are paid from the Law Library Administrative budget.

Since the severity of the cuts are unknown, Judge Blue raised the possibility of considering the closing of some libraries. There was further discussion on the

prior tier structure of the law library system (Tier I, II and Tier III), the current funding classifications (small, medium and large) and the existing minimum collection standards.

There was a motion to have the Advisory Committee recommend that “the judiciary reserve collections should be maintained in those courthouses where there is no law library.” This motion was voted and approved unanimously.

The committee further discussed the importance of maintaining law library staff. It was agreed that if you have a law library of books, you need a law librarian. The members further agreed that the committee should take a proactive position in advocating that personnel be maintained in all law libraries to preserve the collections and provide support to patrons. Cutting law libraries would be the last resort.

Judge Blue opposed the motion to keep all law libraries open. After further discussion, the members unanimously approved the following motion: “That the law library system is essential to the administration of justice and that it is essential to maintain the law library staff as well as maintain the collections, both in paper and electronic.”

Ms. Well was asked to report back to the Committee on a plan for implementing a 20% budget reduction.

III. New Business.

Under new business, Judge Flynn asked the members if they had any questions, suggestions or issues that they would like to raise pertaining to the Law Library System. There were no further discussions other than to emphasize the importance of maintaining the law libraries and proper staffing.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009 at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen D. Well
Secretary