

MINUTES
Connecticut Judicial Branch
Law Library Advisory Committee
December 3, 2010

The Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library Advisory Committee met on Friday, December 3, 2010 at the Quinnipiac University School of Law Library, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut in the law library conference room, LL241.

Present:

Hon. Douglas C. Mintz, Chair
Hon. James W. Abrams
Hon. Jon C. Blue
Hon. William H. Bright, Jr.
Hon. William J. Lavery
Hon. Theodore R. Tyma
Atty. William H. Clendenen, Jr.
Ms. Ann DeVeaux
Mr. Blair Kauffman
Atty. William P. Yelenak

Absent:

Atty. Adam J. Cohen
Atty. Virginia C. Foreman
Ms. Darcy Kirk

Other Attendees

Ms. Ann H. Doherty
Ms. Maureen D. Well

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

I. Approval of Minutes.

Minutes from the September 24, 2010 Law Library Advisory Committee meeting were approved. Judge Lavery then asked what budget amount was requested for the law libraries in Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Ms. Well responded that she did not know, but would find out.

II. Surveys Sent to Judges, Family Support Magistrates, and Legal Research Clerks.

Judge Mintz indicated that in the packet of materials distributed for the meeting there was both a summary sheet, as well as a detailed compilation of the results from the two surveys sent to judges, family support magistrates, and legal research clerks. He noted that the surveys show that the library collections are being used by judges, family support magistrates, and law clerks.

Ms. Well pointed out that there was a 98% survey return rate for the legal research clerks and a 30% return rate for the judges and family support

magistrates. Fifty-six per cent of the law clerks used the libraries more than once a week; 21% used the libraries once a week; 17 % used the libraries once or twice a month; and 6% checked the category other.

Results from the judges' and family support magistrates' survey showed that 39% said they rarely used the libraries; 19% said they used them once or twice a month; 16% indicated that they used them once a week; 13% said they used the libraries more than once a week; 7% said they never use the libraries; and 6% checked the other category.

When asked what do they use the libraries for, the top three responses from the law clerks were 1) review treatises and other secondary sources (94%), 2) cite checking (86%), and 3) ask the librarian for assistance (83%). The top responses from judges and family support magistrates were 1) review treatises and other secondary sources (53%), 2) ask the librarian for assistance (46%), and 3) borrow books (32%).

Ms. Well encouraged committee members to read the comment sections in the detailed survey results. Blair Kauffman noted that in the law clerk responses to the question, *What services of the law libraries do you value the most?*, the majority mentioned the assistance of librarians and access to secondary sources. Judge Blue commented that the survey results emphasize the importance of treatises.

III. Surveys Sent to Law Library Advisory Committee members.

Ms. Well indicated that in the packet of materials distributed for the meeting there was a compilation of the results from the ranking of each element of the Law Library Minimum Collection Standards by the Law Library Advisory Committee members. She said that she had also included the ranking results from her staff, as well as rankings by the permanent Appellate Court law clerks as was requested by Judge Lavery.

Ms. Well also included in the packets a draft proposal of suggested changes to the Law Library Minimum Collection Standards. She said this proposal would result in a document that was more realistic given the present budget constraints.

Judge Mintz stated that no action would be taken at today's meeting regarding possible amendments to the standards so that committee members would have a chance to study the information provided. Ms. Well said that she would send to the committee the results from surveys being completed by attorneys and self-represented parties. Judge Blue suggested that the bibliographies be updated to include current editions of each publication. Ms. Well agreed and said that she would have a revision of the bibliographies available at the next committee meeting.

IV. Attorneys and Self-Represented Parties Surveys.

Ms. Well explained that the law library survey for attorneys was posted December 1, 2010 at the E-Services homepage on the Judicial Branch website. A notice regarding the survey was sent to the presidents of local bar associations, as well as to a listserv for members of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association.

A survey for self-represented parties and members of the general public will be available in a print format in the law libraries. Electronic copies of the survey will also be sent to those who contact the libraries by email or telephone, and a copy of the survey will be posted at the law libraries' website.

Attorney Clendenen inquired about an opinion survey that library patrons responded to three years ago. He remembered that those results indicated that the libraries were being used and were filling a unique role in providing access to justice. Ms. Well responded that she would send the results of that survey to the committee members prior to their next meeting. She also said that she would provide samples of "thank you" responses received by staff.

It was then agreed that the deadline for the current surveys should be extended into January to accommodate the December holidays.

V. Future Meetings and Adjournment.

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen D. Well
Secretary