

County Law Libraries Serve Attorneys

By Susanne Dyer, Reference/Development Librarian, Alameda County Law Library

Since the statewide network of independent county law libraries was founded in 1891, county law libraries have served the bench and bar in many ways. In the beginning, there were codes, reporters, and treatises, along with finding aids such as digests and citators. Then came conference rooms, MCLE cassette tapes, and databases on CD-ROM. These days, county law libraries still maintain collections of important print materials, but also provide online access to legal databases such as Westlaw, Shepard's Citations, LexisNexis, CEB OnLaw, and HeinOnline as well as a myriad of services. Here is a county-by-county overview:

Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library, Oakland www.co.alameda.ca.us/law/index.htm

Conference Room Rental. Five in Oakland and three in Hayward; each branch has one large conference room (15+) and smaller rooms (6-7). Larger rooms: \$30 an hour ; smaller: \$15. Call (510) 272-6486 for reservations.

MCLE. The library sponsors an annual symposium every May and other MCLE events from time to time. MCLE CDs available for use at Oakland library; qualified borrowers may take them home. Call (510) 408-4800 for additional information.

Briefs. The library is has briefs filed in the California Supreme Court and Court of Appeals online and on microfiche. Call (510) 408-4800 for current information.

Contra Costa County Public Law Library, Martinez www.cccplib.org

Conference Room Rental. One conference room, \$15.00 per hour. Call (925) 646-2783 to reserve.

Student Exams. The library proctors student examinations; \$15.00 per exam.

Marin County Law Library, San Rafael

Conference Room Rental. One conference room, \$15.00 per hour. Call (415) 499-6356 to reserve.

MCLE. The library has an number of CLE tapes from Versa-Tape, which circulate to members of the State Bar of California. More information available at www.versatape.com.

Student Exams. The library proctors student examinations at no charge.

Sacramento County Law Library, Sacramento www.saclaw.org

Conference Rooms. The board room, a second conference room, and the training center are available to rent. Prices range from \$10.00 per hour up. Call (610) 874-6011 to reserve

Continuing Education. The library hosts both MCLE-approved non-MCLE programs in their training center. Check their web site for current offerings and registration information.

San Francisco Law Library, San Francisco www.sfgov.org/sfll/

Law Firm Membership. Special membership categories entitle members to services such as document delivery (fax and email), phone-in interlibrary loan requests for retrieval, and packaging of materials for messenger pickup. Call (415) 554-6821 for further information, or see the library's hours and locations and services on the library's website.

San Mateo County Law Library, Redwood City www.SMCLL.org

Conference Room Rental. Conference room available for depositions, mediation, and arbitrations; \$50.00 per half day, \$90.00 for all day. No charge for attorney-client meetings. Reservations are recommended – call (650) 363-4913.

Continuing Education. Library hosts several non-credit continuing education programs, including monthly free noon-hour legal information lectures.

Santa Clara County Law Library, San Jose <http://www.sccell.org/>

Conference Room. Conference room: first-come-first-served at no cost, but time limits may apply.

MCLE. CEB continuing education CD's and print materials available at no charge; attorneys who live or maintain an office in Santa Clara County may check them out.