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October 28, 2026

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Executive Director

Edward Yen, Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Yen:

The Board of Trustees wish to thank the County Board of Supervisors for its support during the past Fiscal Year.

As you know, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 6349 and § 6350 provide that the Board of Trustees submit an annual report and financial report to update the County Board of Supervisors on Law Library services. In accordance with this requirement, please find the Annual Report and Financial Statement for the July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 Fiscal Year for your review. We include a brief overview of other programs and services we are planning in the coming year as well.

The Law Library remains committed to providing free access to its vast collection of legal resources to meet the legal needs of County departments, staff, and constituents. We look forward to working with you and your staff as we seek to provide meaningful services to all Los Angeles County residents in the next Fiscal Year.

Sincerely,



Katherine H. Chew
Executive Director
Secretary to the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Law Library

Enclosure: Annual Report/Financial Report to the Board of Supervisors (Fiscal year 2025-26)

Cc: Hon. Hilda L. Solis, Board Chair, Supervisor, First District
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LALAWLIBRARY



Los Angeles County Law Library

Board of Trustees

Annual Report and Financial Report

Katherine H. Chew, Secretary to the Board of Law Library Trustees of Los Angeles County, pursuant to Sections 6349 and 6350 of the Business and Professions Code, presents to the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County, the Annual Report and Financial Report of the Los Angeles County Law Library, for the Fiscal Year ending on the 30th day of June, 2026.

The Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Law Library is composed of the following members:

Hon. Laura A. Seigle <i>President</i>	Judge of the Superior Court
Hon. Susan J. DeWitt <i>Vice President</i>	Judge of the Superior Court
Hon. Rosa M. Fregoso	Judge of the Superior Court
Hon. Mark A. Juhas	Judge of the Superior Court
Hon. Cherol Nellon	Judge of the Superior Court
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Susan Steinhauser	Attorney at Law County Board of Supervisors Appointee

The Board is staffed by: Katherine H. Chew
Executive Director & Secretary to the Board

ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

Preserving the Past and Creating a Living History

On September 26, 2025, the United States Department of the Interior recognized the Los Angeles County Law Library (LACLL) holds significant importance to the community, state and nation. Listing LACLL on the National Register of Historic Places, the Department declared it a site to be honored and preserved for its association of historical events, significant people, distinctive and rare Late Moderne architectural design, and potential to yield information of moments in history.

Our journey to reach this national recognition began in 1891 with a humble collection of 4,649 volumes and no permanent home. Along the way we have become one of the most utilized and premier collections, with a deepened awareness that it is access to ideas and information that will power our collective success as a society forward. Our past includes historical events, rare transcripts, and significant patrons on the national and global stage:

- In 1954 LACLL hosted Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Earl Warren, as one of our research patrons only months before he delivered the landmark ruling of Brown v. Board of Education, (347 U.S. 483), declaring state sanctioned racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional;
- When a catastrophic hurricane destroyed their entire collection of legal documents, the government of Haiti turned to LACLL's print collection to help replace what was lost and begin the work of rebuilding their country's legal infrastructure;
- Our rare and historical collection includes such treasures as: English common law compilations dating back to the 1300s; centuries old Roman canon, and

other religious law; wartime laws from the occupying Allied powers after the fall of Nazi Germany; transcripts of famous historic trials such as the Clarence Darrow bribery case, Daniel Ellsberg Pentagon Papers trial, O.J. Simpson murder trial; laws of the original thirteen colonies and early California; and, one of the only extant collections of North Korean law.

Today, history lives and breathes in real time at LACLL. It lives in our vast collection of over one million print and digital legal resources that frames how we relate to one another, solve conflict, and repair what is broken in our society. It reveals itself in the enduring impact one volunteer lawyer can have for the greater good by explaining a complex legal topic in layperson terms in a free legal class open to the entire community. It breathes daily in the personal history of each patron who finds a path forward in a legal crisis after walking through our doors to ask for help from a knowledgeable reference librarian or attend a clinic offered by a partner legal aid organization.

From its inception, LACLL has been dedicated to offering the public free access to legal resources and services that can transform the legal playing field for a more fair, effective and equitable outcome. One of the largest in the United States, and second only to the Library of Congress in size, our collection includes historical and current print materials, the most recent digital legal resources available, State and Federal law, one of the nation's most comprehensive international law collections, and a rare book collection unlike any other county law library in the state. With free access to legal classes and clinics, online webinars, public computers, language translations services, and knowledgeable reference librarians, anyone can have the tools to better advocate for themselves as they navigate the court system or seek answers to legal questions that impact their personal or professional lives.

Whether they are from the mainstream of society or left on the margins, we serve over 100,000 patrons a year. While we have always been a place for research and

study for legal professionals, business entrepreneurs, and academics, we play a vital role in bridging the justice gap. Those in our community who are overwhelmed with life challenges—financial troubles, family conflicts, social stress, language barriers, physical or mental disabilities, educational or technological inequity—often have no one to turn to when navigating the judicial system. The library is their connection to a wealth of legal information and services that will empower them when they would otherwise feel powerless because they do not have financial resources to hire an attorney and at the same time do not qualify for legal aid.

The Work Ahead

This year we celebrate LACLL as a historic place worthy of preservation. And while our past has brought us to this present honor, we know the future demands we think creatively to find relevant and practical approaches to assure no one is left behind. We have much more work to do to close the justice gap with new initiatives.

We understand that effective assistance requires practical solutions: when the courthouse self-help centers are closed on weekends, we stay open on Saturdays, providing more opportunities for those grappling with demanding jobs and family obligations during the weekdays to get the help they need on a weekend. We can offer a quiet public space that can be less intimidating and more accessible than a courthouse, and our staff can provide much needed self-help services on legal topics that are not addressed at self-help centers or require more in depth and personalized assistance for complex legal disputes. We've expanded our partnerships with self-help centers at both the Los Angeles Superior Court and the U.S. District Court to tackle much needed guidance in the areas of immigration, human trafficking, discharging student debt, and the impact of fire disaster relief aid on eligibility of public benefits.

In an increasingly technologically dependent world, we believe promoting the journey to access to justice falls short when there is no practical way to begin the trip in the first place. To address a digital divide that continues to widen for so many who lack educational, financial, and technological resources, LACLL will be collaborating with the County's Internal Services Department and the Delete the Digital Divide initiative in November 2026. This collaboration will provide in depth training on basic digital skills at the downtown main branch in a newly completed computer lab this fall. Offered in English and Spanish, this course will help beginners gain basic and essential knowledge about computers and phones so they become confident in our digital world.

And despite what appears to be an increasingly divided social and political world, we are creating new collaborations to nurture opportunities for better understanding through new programming with community organizations:

- The Civics Center, that fosters an educational non-partisan frame work for high school students to understand the importance of civics engagement and support our democracy by registering to vote;
- The Community Veterans Justice Project to assist U.S. Veterans in legal advocacy, diversion programs, and re-entry support;
- Counsel for Justice, offering free clinics for victims of suspected fraud and attorney misconduct in the nationwide humanitarian visa case against La Luz del Camino Legal (formerly Alexandra Lozano Law PLLC);
- Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School and the NeuroLaw Library, providing free and reliable neuroscience courses to help criminal, civil, and family law courts and advocates make science-informed decisions for incarcerated defendants;
- and the ALIGHT (Alliance to Lead Impact in Global Human Trafficking) and National Survivor Law Collective, providing clinics for human trafficking survivors debt repair.

The Need for Sustaining and Consistent Funding

As we lean into our 135th year of public service, sustaining and consistent funding to meet this mission continues to be a challenge. Major safety related capital projects-- seismic retrofitting, installing a fire suppression system, and upgrading our security systems—are estimated to cost a minimum of \$15 million to \$20 million in today's economy, but the actual cost remains uncertain as construction and material costs continue to rise with time.

Appropriations in the State Budget for county law libraries is not earmarked as an on-going line item in the Judiciary Budget. At the same time, the statutory mechanism for funding public law libraries is limited to civil filing fees, an unsustainable and unpredictable means of support for long term planning.

LACLL continues raise awareness of the vital role we play in closing the justice gap by providing programs and services for some of the poorest and most vulnerable in the community. Through collaborative advocacy with other county law libraries and fostering strong community partnerships in our work, it is our hope our commitment to provide access to information, and in turn access to justice, will eventually yield sustaining financial support for years to come with continuous support from the State's general fund.

In addition, LACLL will continue to pursue other avenues of financial support through grants and private donations. We continue to be grateful for grant funding from the County Board of Supervisors as well as private donations from patrons and the legal community.

2026 Community Engagement Initiatives

In Fiscal Year 2025-2026 LACLL initiated efforts to expand its outreach as a place of civic and community engagement. Initiatives are highlighted below.

What Justice Means To You” Art Exhibit/May through June 2026:

In collaboration with the leading public art consulting firm, Dyson and Womack (serving LA County Arts and Culture/PAid Program/Artist Council), staff at City Council District 14(Ysabel Jurado), Stepping Forward LA, and California State University, we displayed art created under the theme “What Justice Means to You.” Art submissions featured paintings from foster youth and college students. San Diego based sculptor Noe Olivas installed in our main reading room his “Nothing to Lose” sculpture-- wooden four-foot-long handcuffs meticulously crafted from the oak of a repurposed library table. This sculpture symbolized the need for the public to consider the U.S. criminal justice system in the context of social justice and alternative forms of accountability beyond traditional punitive approaches.

2026 Equal Justice Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina: The American Bar Association, in partnership with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, held its annual conference in Charlotte, North Carolina in May 2026. This conference unites the legal community—from legal aid and pro bono advocates, judges, court staff, academics, and law students—to address systemic barriers facing low-income individuals seeking justice. LACLL’s Executive Director served as a panelist alongside the Adult and Community Engagement Manager of the Baltimore Public Library and the Senior Research Librarian of the Boston Public Library to discuss how collaborations with public libraries play a vital role in closing the justice gap for those who must represent themselves because they lack the financial resources for legal representation.

Connecting the Community and Public Places Through Dance:

Founded in 1985 by choreographer Heidi Ducker, Heidi Duckler Dance is a Los Angeles-based contemporary dance company the creates performances in unique, non-traditional spaces such as public buildings, parks and cultural centers. Performances focus on community, inclusivity, and the importance of

fostering social justice and civic engagement. In February 2026 LACLL celebrated its listing on the National Register of Historic Places with a special reception that included an onsite dance performance from Heidi Duckler Dance.

In mid-October, Heidi Duckler Dance returned to the Library with performances in the main reading room in celebration of the company's 41st Anniversary of groundbreaking site-specific dance in local historic landmarks and urban spaces.

Assisting the Community in Challenging Times: LACLL made a concerted effort to develop legal programming that addresses issues facing the community due to current events. In partnership with legal aid organizations and community agencies, we have created resource fairs and clinics for those grappling with local and nationwide legal issues: disaster relief stemming from California wildfires; local businesses concerned with ICE deportations of employees; legal guidance for victims of immigration fraud schemes in the Alexandra Lozano Human Trafficking Immigration Fraud Case; and employment protections for LGBTQ workers.

LOCATIONS AND HOURS

The Main Branch is located in the Mildred L. Lillie Building, 301 West First Street in downtown Los Angeles. Conveniently located directly across the street from the Stanley Mosk Superior Courthouse and the United States Federal Courthouse, LACLL offers easy access to free services and a vast legal collection to surrounding businesses, law firms, city and county government staff, courthouse personnel, and the general public.

To assure service to communities beyond the downtown Civic Center, LACLL also maintains ten (10) courthouse and public library partnership locations that offer in person assistance, eBranch access, or a combination of both. Locations offering eBranch assistance provide a walk-up computer based interactive research experience, allowing a patron to contact Reference Librarians remotely via live chat service.

Our branch locations allow us to provide access to resources throughout the community and are an extremely important part of our service model. Unfortunately, after seventeen years in the Torrance Courthouse, we were recently advised the Judicial Council would terminate our lease to use the space for a childcare center. While the court offered LACLL a former courtroom space to relocate on the Torrance Courthouse campus, the cost to renovate the space into a functional library was prohibitive and we therefore had to close this branch location. Currently, the branch and partnership locations are as follows:

Courthouse Branch Locations

- Long Beach (eBranch and staff)
- Norwalk and Pomona (eBranch only)

Public Library Partnership Locations

- Los Angeles Public Library in Van Nuys
- Pasadena Public Library (Hastings Branch)
- Pomona Public Library
- Santa Monica Public Library
- Lancaster Public Library
- Compton and West Covina (currently on hiatus)

During the first part of fiscal year 2025/2026, we offered a mix of in-person and remote services. The Main Law Library was open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Services were accessible via email, telephone, live chat, online classes, workshops and in-person pickup of collection materials.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Reference Assistance:

Our Reference Desk is one of the most valued and accessible services we can provide the community. While our Reference Librarians do not provide legal advice, they are knowledgeable about the law and are specially trained in legal research and resources. Recognizing accessibility must be patron centered to be effective, we provide reference assistance during all operational hours through connections that meet the patron's needs: in-person; by phone; through email or postal mail; and via live web-chat. These services are available at no charge to all users of the library, including attorneys, legal professionals, students and the general public.

The Library's vast collection contains instructions, explanations, and guidance on virtually any legal issue in any jurisdiction. By listening to a patron's story, asking questions, and identifying relevant facts, the Reference Librarians help connect the patron to the resource they need to take the next step in the legal process, and, ultimately, access the justice system in a meaningful way.

Most importantly, a Reference Librarian is often the first person a patron encounters who will truly listen to their legal question and respond in a respectful and compassionate way. Most users of the Library are self-represented litigants or others without legal training with seemingly no other choice but to address their legal situation alone. This is a vital public service to Los Angeles County constituents trying to navigate a complex legal system that can be overwhelming and intimidating. Library staff are acutely aware that LACLL is often the first and last resource many turn to for help.

Addressing the Digital Divide with Support Services:

We are fully cognizant that LACLL may be the only place many in the community can rely upon to close the digital divide. To address existing inequities in access to

modern telecommunications technology, we provide free public access to computers and Wi-Fi, as well as copiers, printers, office supplies, faxing service, document delivery and e-delivery for a small fee.

The initiative to work with the County's Delete the Divide initiative is an added outreach that we hope will provide basic computer skills for the community as they do their legal research.

The availability of public computers has become especially important in election cycles. This service is especially important with the 2026 mid-term elections in November which will determine control of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate for the second half of the presidential term. Many patrons who do not have computers or struggle with computer literacy have expressed frustration in attempting to register to vote as they are often directed to do so "online." LACLL is sensitive to the need to make print copies of voter registration applications available. We provide these forms to any patron wishing to use the print forms to exercise their civil right and responsibility.

Likewise, we can provide print copies of other important legal documents with instruction guides such as tax forms or court forms as the next tax season approaches.

Classes, Clinics, Workshops and Programs:

Supported by many partners within the legal community—legal aid organizations, community agencies, legal professionals, judges, and bar associations-- LACLL is an educational center dedicated to meet the needs of a diverse patron population.

For Attorneys, Paralegals and Certified Court Interpreters: The Library provides State Bar-certified Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) classes on a diverse set of topics designed to serve the needs of attorneys

and paralegals in all practice areas, with an emphasis on subjects that expand access to justice for disadvantaged groups or those unable to afford legal representation. Fiscal Year 2025/26 featured 7 live MCLE certified class sessions, plus 32 pre-recorded programs available to watch online. Sessions covered a variety of new and relevant topics: the impact of artificial intelligence on legal practice; how to approach professional ethics within the legal profession as technology advances; discretionary protections available to undocumented workers; and how to help victims of natural disasters.

In addition, the Library offers Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education (CIMCE) credit for classes on court procedures and common legal issues to help court interpreters better serve their clients and the courts. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026 the Library featured 35 CIMCE-certified class sessions covering fundamental legal topics such as filing and responding to civil complaints, representing oneself in civil trials, basics of landlord-tenant law, dealing with debt, and probate court procedures.

For Self-Represented Individuals: The Library provides workshops, clinics and programs on a frequent recurring basis through a mixture of in-person and remote sessions, including:

- Weekly: Ask a Lawyer/Expert (subject-specific town-hall style Zoom sessions) and legal assistance in answering unlawful detainer complaints presented by Tenant Power Toolkit and a Section 8 Ombudsperson from LAC Housing Authority; a Public Interest Attorney who specializes in assisting patrons with public benefit applications for SNAP and WIC.

- Bi-weekly: Civil Lawsuit Basics/Common Legal Issues: Where You Begin and Adult Legal Conservatorship workshop presented in English and Spanish;
- Monthly offerings: Lawyers in the Library (free consultations with volunteer lawyers).
- Quarterly offerings: Adult Name Change Workshop

Lawyers in the Library: This program is offered in-person on the third Friday of the month or on an ongoing basis by remote consultations via internet and telephone. In either format, volunteer attorneys provide free 20 minute consultations with members of the public. The program has grown so dramatically – due in part to the housing crisis and the increased need to keep people housed – that many regular volunteers now provide consultations on an ongoing monthly basis. The most heavily requested topics are probate, landlord-tenant, family law and immigration. Recently, there has been an increase in requests for assistance on topics including small business issues, small claims, personal debt, consumer debt, employment law, and real estate.

Ask A Lawyer: In response to the need for remote, but individualized, legal assistance, the Library also hosts “Ask a Lawyer” sessions. These sessions are subject-specific, “town-hall”-style Zoom sessions, where anyone can direct their question to a lawyer with experience in that area. This type of program is highly efficient and allows our volunteers to help many people during an hour-long session. Since launching with a session on landlord-tenant protections during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has expanded to include not just landlord-tenant sessions, but also monthly sessions on Section 8, probate, wills and trusts, and family law.

Clinics: In response to the need for specialized one-on-one legal assistance, the library has expanded its community and legal aid partnerships to offer clinics to self-represented litigants.

- In November of 2025, we launched our quarterly Expungement Clinic in partnership with Community Legal Aid of Southern California. The clinic is on Saturday from 10am-2pm and is available for patrons across several counties.
- In January of 2026, we launched our quarterly Federal Pro Se Clinic in partnership with Public Counsel. The clinic has rotated between evening and afternoon sessions to accommodate the patron schedules.
- In November of 2025, we launched an Immigration Clinic in partnership with Counsel for Justice. We offer the clinic both in-person and virtually to accommodate patron schedules and the increased need for safety as ICE raids have occurred across Los Angeles County.
- Conservatorships & Alternatives to Conservatorships: We continue to grow our collaboration with the ABA Accredited West LA College Paralegal Program to hold a self-help clinic for patrons wishing to learn about conservatorships, consider alternatives, and if necessary, petition for appointment of a conservatorship. With a class of ten to fifteen paralegal students, LACLL is able to provide individualized assistance to a large number of self-help litigants as they navigate through a complex court process. At the same time, the paralegal students receive real world experiences as they hone their professional legal skills while receiving class credit towards their paralegal certificate. The Library's Executive Director and a college faculty member teach the students valuable and practical skills such as case screening, client intakes, public speaking, and document preparation while students assist self-represented patrons seeking to petition for the appointment

of a conservator. The class includes a tour of the Superior Court and an opportunity to observe conservatorship hearings. With two semesters completed, this collaboration continues now into the fall semester with thirteen new paralegal students. The work experience has helped two of our participating paralegals get jobs in the conservatorship field of practice after completing their studies.

The services offered in Conservatorship Clinic has made a positive impact on the efficiency of the Probate Court's docket. Those without an attorney are often overwhelmed and confused by the court procedural process, leading to repeated continued hearings and delayed case resolution. Recognizing that LACLL is a valuable resource that can help remedy this problem while providing reliable guidance to self-help litigants, the Superior Court distributes flyers at the courthouse about our information sessions and petition workshops.

For Business People and Entrepreneurs: LACLL provides classes and workshops, including:

- Starting & Growing a Business: Legal & Financial Knowledge You Need to Succeed (14-part biannual series) in partnership with L.A. County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs, L.A. Ports TradeConnect, and the L.A. Mayor's Office of Economic Development

These classes are now offered online as on-demand recordings.

For the Entire Community: LACLL provides free community events, aimed at promoting equal access to justice throughout Los Angeles County:

Community Outreach Events:

- Programs Off-Site :

Service Projects/Resource Fairs: Library staff actively

engage in yearly outreach through resource fairs and community events. For the past two years staff have volunteered to participate with Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel's Office on its Valley Day of Service at Pierce College. We assisted with service projects benefitting seniors, veterans, and the unhoused, as well as participated in a resource fair to inform the community about our services. For the past year, staff have tabled at the Hudson Health Resource Fair and given a presentation on library resources at the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative.

Programs at the Library: Special Event Days

The Library celebrates the rule of law with a series of events held throughout the year where everyone is invited to learn how the law and the legal system work to ensure justice in our society and throughout the world.

In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Library marked Mediation Week and Mental Health Awareness Week with in person and remote programs. The Library's Mediation event on March 16, 2026 featured an evening in-person panel on the importance of strengthening communities through mediation in collaboration with the Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. We also presented Mental Health Awareness Week in recognition of Mental Health Advocacy Service in May by offering classes on housing rights of tenants with disabilities and highlighting ways patrons with cleared criminal records can access social benefit programs.

In April 2026 LACLL collaborated with Public Counsel to offer a workshop on the updated rules for Federal Student Loans and how to discharge the debt in Bankruptcy Court.

In June the Library offered a Brown Bag Lunch Series focusing on Post Graduate Public Service Fellowships for law students. We also offered a class for patrons on how community advocacy works in collaboration with Legal Aid Organizations to provide racial justice to underserved stakeholders across Los Angeles.

Topics covered in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 included the following: helping tenants facing eviction; expunging criminal records; applying for public benefits; paths to citizenship; building an appeals case; responding to civil discovery requests. The Library also offered a new program in partnership with Stepping Forward LA and the Civics Center on foster youth engagement in the voting process for the upcoming local elections.

Pro Bono Week in October:

Every October since 2009, legal organizations across America participate in the National Celebration of Pro Bono to draw attention to the professional responsibility and individual ethical commitment of each lawyer to meet the demand of pro bono services to the community. In keeping with this tradition, LACLL dedicates a week in October to programming for unrepresented individuals who need help understanding their rights, representing themselves, and accessing the justice system.

During our Pro Bono Week celebration, the Library hosts free events offering opportunities for one-on-one assistance, consultation with an attorney, education about the law and discussions on timely topics in the law. In recognition of the increased need for pro bono services during harsh economic times, the program also includes training for volunteers interested in meeting the demand for pro bono services, providing them with tools and skills to be actively involved in helping the community with much needed legal assistance.

For Pro Bono Week in 2026, some of the new programs premiering include: a new Veterans Expungement Clinic in partnership with Wilson Elser and the Community Veterans Justice Project, a new Disaster Law and Public Benefits workshop in partnership with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and a workshop on Employment Law Protections for LGBTQAI+ employees.

Members Program:

LACLL offers a Members Program, which uses an affordable fee-for-service model to provide quiet work and meeting space adjacent to the downtown courthouses; unlimited access to the law collection and legal databases on-site; off-site access to certain databases; priority reference service; plus, discounts on services, classes, and parking. While open to the general public, the program serves to provide affordable support to attorneys serving modest-means clients, especially newer members of the bar, who are engaged in offering new and innovative representation models for litigants who might otherwise be unable to afford legal help. In addition to the

established Members Program, a second Platinum Members Program is offered to address the needs of larger firms by providing unlimited access to LACLL's unparalleled collection. In addition to several of the benefits afforded the core individual Members Program, the flat-fee based Platinum Membership model provides all-inclusive, unlimited e-delivery of digital documents, as well as e-delivery of scanned material from our extensive collection, all for a flat monthly fee.

Law and Library School Internship Programs:

LA Law Library traditionally hosts library school interns twice per year. Under the supervision of professional librarians, an internship at the library offers an optimal field environment for obtaining practical hands-on experience working with an approximate 1 million equivalent volume collection. Through these field experiences, students have the opportunity to learn effective reference skills, hone their communication techniques for interacting with a diverse public, and explore collection development and management practices. Within the framework of these internships, library school students benefit from the real-world exposure to career options as a special librarian.

In 2020, a long-time Law Library Member left a generous bequest in her estate to support the training of future librarians. This has allowed LACLL to offer paid internships to those who may not be able to afford an unpaid internship, granting them the opportunity to gain practical experience in the field of law librarianship.

Library Tours and Orientations:

Library staff also gave library orientations and tours to outside groups including community and public interest organizations, historical preservationists, paralegal students, law-related student groups, academic institutions, elected officials and government agencies. Staff made a concerted effort to reach out to these groups to introduce our collection and services as well as build

stronger relationships within the community. The focus of these tours centered on matters of interest for the general public or customized for a particular audience. Some popular tour subjects included our deep collection of foreign and international law and our historical California materials. Others showcased the historical architecture of the building.

In the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, we conducted tours for the following groups:

- Students/Interns: the Pre-Law Society at CSULA and students studying legal research at Los Angeles City College; interns from the U.S. District Court
- Elected officials: Los Angeles City Councilmembers Eunisses Hernandez (1st District), Bob Blumenfield (3rd District), Nithya Raman (4th District), and Hugo Soto-Martinez (13th District); State Assemblymember Mike Fong (District 49); and Councilmember Imelda Padilla (District 6).
- Civic Leaders/Government Entities: court staff and architectural consultants of the Los Angeles Superior Court; Community Partners Co-founder and former President and CEO Paul Vandeventer
- Historic Preservationists: Advocates from the LA Conservancy; historic preservation specialist and architect Brenda Levin; Rita Cofield (architectural preservation expert at Getty Conservation Institute) and Gail Kennard (former cultural heritage commissioner)

- Legal and Academic Community: Pro-bono attorneys from Christian Legal Society; Anthony Pacheco (Pro Bono Attorney and Board of Directors of the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library); and Jennifer Musto (Director of Knapp Social Science Center, Wellesley College).

Room Rentals:

LACLL serves as a public space for those wishing to meet and confer with colleagues, hold a training conference, prepare for a legal case scheduled for trial, and sometimes, serve as a backdrop for a movie or film. The Library's prime location in the center of downtown Los Angeles is comparable to none: proximity to the downtown civil, criminal, and Federal courthouses; centrally located in the heart of city and county government offices; a convenient and short commute by walking, vehicle or public transportation from downtown businesses, embassies, or law firms.

The Library can provide secured, ready to use, professional conference and office space for rent. Rental amenities include free Wi-Fi, unlimited computer usage, privacy, access to our copy center, standard Audio/visual capabilities, and free access to Lexis+ or Advance®, Westlaw®, WestlawNext® and other popular exclusive online legal resources. Small conference rooms and a larger Training Center can be rented for daily, short term or hourly rental. Staff can assist with catering for those wishing to rent space for consecutive days, such as helping with a list of nearby restaurants, set up and clean up. There is a discount on rental rates for those participating in the Library's Members Program.

The Library has also been a prime location for law firms wishing to prepare for trial and prepare witnesses when slated for trial at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse. In addition, production companies have rented space for a staging area when planning special events at Grand Park or other civic center programs. Others requested to rent the Library's frontage for prime viewing of parades or special events held in the Civic Center Corridor, including the annual Red Bull Soapbox Race.

And on occasion, many have requested to rent space at the Library given our unique location, as well as our historical interior and exterior design. This year the Library served as a backdrop for two private film companies in the production of a movie project and a TV series.

In the past year, our communications staff have developed a marketing campaign to raise awareness of rental opportunities. This effort has translated into the steady increase of requests for rental space, providing a much-needed funding resource to support programming, facility repairs, and capital improvements.

Capital Projects

Main Reading Room Improvements:

The Library completed a remodeling project in the main reading room to provide more useable space for programming and room rentals. After installing moveable glass partitions, there is more flexibility in creating spaces for a computer lab and classroom area. The next phase of the remodeling project will include the procurement of moveable computer desks and chairs for the computer lab. We have installed two mobile large screen TV monitors in both rooms that can be used for programming and special events. Plans for

November include our new collaboration with the County's Delete the Digital Divide initiative in this new computer lab.

Hill Street Parking Structure:

The Library has a free-standing parking structure located on its property at the corner of 1st Street and Hill Street. In 2022 the structure fell into disrepair and in December 2025 we began much needed repairs. As part of the process, we were awarded a grant to participate in LADWP's Electrical Vehicle Charging Station Program. This grant allowed us to install—at no cost to the Library-- forty (40) Tesla Level 2 Universal Wall Connector Magic Dock Stations in the structure. This will allow the Library to support the County's green sustainability efforts while generating addition funds to support our mission.

Improved Lighting Throughout the Library:

Our recent listing on the National Register of Historic Places opened a new opportunity to participate in the LADWP's LED Lighting Conversion Program which allowed the Library to replace the entire antiquated florescent lighting system to LED bulbs at no cost. Our LED system provided a savings of \$314,000 in installation and labor costs, and we expect savings of \$16,000 in energy costs per year.

Future Capital Project Improvements:

The challenge of finding funding to help the Library address major and necessary safety and security capital projects is of critical concern. The estimated costs are expected to be a minimum of \$15 million to \$20 million in today's economy, but the actual cost remains uncertain as construction and material costs continue to rise with time.

Future capital projects include the following: modernizing all four of our hydraulic elevators; installing security cameras throughout the reading room and stacks; improvements to the IT Network system, including an intercom

system for public announcements, improved WiFi connectivity, safety alarm system, and updating our website with ADA compliant features. In addition, LACLL plans to address much needed long-term property and safety projects, including obtaining a seismic retrofit analysis, and upgrading the Library's fire suppression and life and safety systems. Estimated costs for these much needed improvements are in the range of \$15 million to \$20 million; however, with construction and materials costs rising, it is possible the costs could be greater.

LIBRARY USAGE

LA Law Library provides in-person and remote legal research assistance and instruction to tens of thousands of individuals who need help researching legal issues and accessing the legal system. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, Reference Librarians responded to 65,643 questions from our patrons. Assistance from Reference Librarians is provided at no cost.

The Library is open to all members of the public, and use of the library materials, including the computers and legal databases, is free. A library card is needed to access the computers (2-hour limit per day) and to borrow print or digital books. Borrowing of print materials requires a refundable security deposit, while e-books access is available using a free version of our library card.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2025-2026 there were 24,893 library cardholders without borrowing privileges of print materials. At the end of Fiscal Year 2025-2026, there were also 985 persons registered as individual borrowers, including 477 attorneys. This group of borrowers added 38 messengers to their account. In addition, 100 law firm and business borrowers have identified 279 designated borrowers, including attorneys, librarians and messenger services. There are 351 judicial borrowers, 413 government borrowers and 2,508 Los Angeles County Bar Association borrowers (this number is contingent upon the number of renewals as a special promotion, however). The circulation department staff issue library cards, check books in and out, respond to requests for computer sign-ups, place books on hold, handle

questions about overdue fines and page materials as needed from the library's closed stack areas. In Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Circulation desk handled 34,154 requests. Of these requests, 26,542 were at the desk, 625 by email, and 7612 were by telephone. A total of 687 physical items were placed on hold and 9,376 books were circulated and /or loans renewed. In fiscal year 2025-2026, 4,105 e-books were borrowed by patrons and 338 e-books were placed on hold.

In response to requests for materials and information, LA Law Library provides document delivery and e-delivery services. Requests delivered in fiscal year 2025-2026 totaled 1422 and included 23,366 pages. The Copy Center also responded to 1,188 requests, producing 460,471 photocopies.

During Fiscal Year 2025-2026, LA Law Library reference staff fielded an overall total of 65,643 requests for information, holding steady from the previous year. The questions came from a diverse group of users that includes self-represented litigants, attorneys, paralegals, judges, students and the general public. 37,904 of the total requests were in-person inquiries; 22,949 requests were received by phone; and 4,242 were through email or live-chat. Of these requests, 125 were requests for information involving international laws and 6,867 inquiries were from self-represented litigants directed to the Library from the superior courts. Reference staff referred patrons visiting the library in-person to 12,542 print volumes in addition to information available through the legal databases.

LACLL reference staff responded to 548 requests received by postal mail, generally from incarcerated individuals (an increase of 55% from the prior year in this category).

Communications/Promotional Outreach

Communications took a different approach for promotion during the fiscal year to strategically coordinate promotions of classes, clinics, workshops and

special events with our new partnerships. We leveraged popular social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram to promote and build awareness of our collection, services and programs. Our efforts to encourage community engagement and increase patronage produced a noticeable increase in general public interest and participation concerning our in-person and online clinics, classes and webinars. Our social media following and engagement nearly doubled from last fiscal year. Engagement with posts average from 5,000-10,000 views without paid boosts.

The website (www.lalawlibrary.org) had more than 208,888 visitors in Fiscal Year 2025-26. The average number of daily visits was 498 with an average visit duration of 2:47 minutes. 94.29% of the visitors were from the United States; 5.71% of the visitors were from other countries

COLLECTION / ACQUISITIONS

Print Materials: During Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Main Library added 5,358 volumes; the Branch locations added 65 volumes. During the same period, the library withdrew 1,907 volumes and media from the Main Library and 68 volumes from the Branch locations. At the end of Fiscal Year 2025-26, the total number of print volumes in the collection was 712,336. The Main Library held 711,614; the Branch locations held 722.

Non-Print Materials (Other Than Subscription Databases): During Fiscal Year 2025-26, the main Library added 6 computer discs, and 115 ebooks. Additionally, we added 994 microfiche to the collection (reflecting a decline in the use of microfilm/microfiche as a commonly-used production medium). At the end of the Fiscal Year 2025-26, the Library held 8,216 reels of microfilm, 1,441,244 microfiche, 1,080 computer discs, 4,660 ebooks, 213 audio discs, and 132 video/DVDs. The Branch locations do not maintain non-print collections (other than subscription databases).

Volume Equivalents: The volume equivalent of non-print materials available in

microform and ebooks is approximately 317,557 volumes. The grand total of volumes and volume equivalents in the collection is 1,029,893 volumes representing 201,322 titles.

Rare Book Collection: As one of the premier public law libraries in the country with a long history of responsible stewardship of a vast collection, LACLL acquired a substantial collection of rare and historical material through private donations. This aspect of our collection makes us a unique and valuable resource for academic and historical research throughout the state, country, and the world.

With one time funding from the State to identify, assess, and preserve these rare books and materials, staff have begun to take additional steps to protect and preserve these fragile gems so we can continue making them accessible to researchers and display notable items for public viewing.

GIFTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Gifts: During the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 many recognized LA Library's critical role by generously donating legal resources and financial support to allow us to continue and grow our programming for the community. In addition to receiving gifts, the Library also refers patrons wishing to donate books to the Books for Prisoners Programs and to the Los Angeles County Public Library.

Donations of books to the collection from individuals include the following:

- Donated by the Altadena Historical Society
The Society offered a copy of the 18th century Universal Magazine of Knowledge from their deaccessioned items.
- Donated by Judge Shannon K. Cooley and the Estate of Judge Eric E. Younger
An additional 50 copies of the classic California legal treatise Younger on California Motions to be used as gifts for attorneys who provide pro bono services at the library's educational and legal aid programs, which supplements an earlier generous donation of this title.

- **Anonymous donation**

The library received a large anonymous donation of California and U.S. practice materials, including titles that were accepted into the collection for wills, trusts, and estates, and course handbook material from the American Trial Lawyers Association.

CURRENT FUNDING AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The great majority of services are free of charge, including in-person access to the highly valuable digital and print collection, reference assistance and borrowing. To cover rising costs of operations, we continue to try to develop additional revenue sources including fees for extraordinary library services (such as electronic delivery, room rentals, etc.), as well as professional development and training (such as MCLE classes). With our parking structure now ready for public use, we hope to generate passive income from renting spaces and electric charging stations.

County Law Libraries are funded by a formula established by the Legislature which allocates a small portion of the fees generated from initial civil filings in each county to that county's Law Library. In recent months, civil filing fees continue to fluctuate but seem to be trending upwards.

The State Legislature has determined that the fiscal year 25/26 Budget should include backfill funding to offset the lost filing fee revenue from expansion of eligibility for fee waivers for County Law Libraries statewide. A total of \$937,000 will be divided on a pro rata share to all County Law Libraries statewide. Of this amount, LA Law Library will receive its pro rata share of \$231,641 in funding.

FINANCIAL REPORT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Year Ending June 30, 2026

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY
Balance Sheet as of Year Ending June 30, 2026
(Provisional and subject to year-end adjustments)

	2026	2025 (audited)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	19,258,714	17,335,752
Accounts receivable	1,688,500	1,632,228
Prepaid expenses	221,066	300,944
Total current assets	21,168,280	19,268,923
Noncurrent assets		
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	318,470	318,470
Investments	6,956,269	6,720,672
Capital assets, not being depreciated	927,689	803,751
Capital assets, being depreciated - net	14,475,874	14,209,408
SBITA assets net of amortization	1,777,346	1,777,346
Total noncurrent assets	24,455,648	23,829,647
Total assets	45,623,928	43,098,570
Deferred Outflow of Resources		
Deferred outflow of resources	3,648,483	3,648,483
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	49,272,411	46,747,053
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	279,406	236,318
Other liabilities	0	0
Payroll liabilities	19,406	18,937
Total current liabilities	298,812	255,255
Noncurrent liabilities		
Accrued sick and vacation liability	266,774	273,887
Borrowers' deposit	198,725	206,608
OPEB liability	5,050,164	4,920,168
Net pension liability	5,816,497	5,316,493
SBITA Liability	1,810,670	1,810,670
Total noncurrent liabilities	13,142,830	12,527,826
Total liabilities	13,441,642	12,783,081
Deferred inflows of resources		
Deferred inflows of resources	727,023	727,023
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	14,168,665	13,510,104
Net position		
Invested in capital assets	15,403,563	15,013,159
Unrestricted	19,700,183	18,223,791
Total net position	35,103,746	33,236,949
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources and net position	49,272,411	46,747,053

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Income Statement for the Year Ending June 30, 2026

(Provisional and subject to year-end audit adjustments)

	2026	2025 (audited)
Income		
L.A. Superior Court Fees	10,707,070	9,287,659
Interest	593,396	637,965
Parking	0	0
Library Services	401,369	706,890
Total Income	11,701,835	10,632,514
Expense		
Staff	5,634,518	6,143,750
Electronic Resource Subscriptions (ERS)	664,476	518,560
SBITA interest & amortization expense		547,901
Library Materials	1,994,904	1,947,784
Library Materials Transferred to Assets	-1,994,904	-1,947,784
Facilities	1,138,247	1,157,947
Technology	268,260	249,219
General	144,905	127,899
Professional Development	27,956	34,004
Communications & Marketing	4,420	4,676
Travel & Entertainment	1,145	168
Professional Services	158,088	130,782
Depreciation	2,258,499	2,259,844
Total Expenses	10,300,515	11,174,749
Net Income	1,401,319	-542,235
 Investment Gain (Loss)	 235,597	 341,488
Extraordinary Income	231,641	231,641
Extraordinary Expense	0	0
Net Income Including Extraordinary Items	1,868,557	30,894
 Capitalized Expenditures	 518,045	 406,325

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Statement of Cash Flows as of Year Ending June 30, 2026
(Provisional and subject to year-end audit adjustments)

	2026	2025 (audited)
Cash flows from operating activities		
LA Superior court fees	10,707,070	9,287,659
Parking fees	0	0
Library services	401,369	481,890
Extraordinary income	231,641	231,641
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	-56,273	-66,507
Increase (decrease) in borrowers' deposit	-7,883	15,067
Cash received from filing fees and services	11,275,924	9,949,750
Facilities	-1,138,247	-1,157,947
Technology	-268,260	-249,219
General	-144,905	-127,899
Professional development	-27,956	-34,004
Communications & marketing	-4,420	-4,676
Travel & entertainment	-1,145	-168
Professional services	-158,088	-130,782
Electronic Resource Subscriptions (ERS)	-664,476	-518,560
SBITA interest and amortization expense		-547,901
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	79,878	61,561
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	43,088	75,829
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	0	0
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	-2,284,532	-2,633,764
Staff (payroll + benefits)	-5,634,518	-6,143,750
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities	469	2,372
Increase (decrease) in accrued sick and vacation liability	-7,113	4,469
Increase (decrease) in OPEB liability	129,996	1,355,873
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability	500,004	-184,920
Cash payments to employees for services	-5,011,163	-4,965,957
Contributions received	0	225,000
Net cash from operating activities	3,980,230	2,575,029
Cash flow from capital and related financing activities		
Library materials	-1,994,904	-1,630,937
Fixed assets	-530,062	-472,840
Capital - Work in Progress (WIP)	-123,938	-54,219
Cash flows from investing activities		
Deferred inflows/outflows adjustment	0	0
Investment earnings	593,396	637,965
Net cash increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,924,721	1,054,997
Cash and cash equivalents, at beginning of period	17,701,014	16,646,017
Cash and cash equivalents, at end of period	19,625,735	17,701,014

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

Statement of Cash Flows as of Year Ending June 30, 2026 (Continued)

(Provisional and subject to year-end audit adjustments)

	2026	2025 (audited)
Reconciliation of Operating Income to Net Cash		
from Operating Activities		
Operating income	1,039,564	-948,560
Adjustments for noncash effects:		
Depreciation	2,258,499	2,259,844
Extraordinary expense: book write-off		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	-8,339	-35,018
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	-47,934	-31,489
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	79,878	61,561
Increase (decrease) in other liabilities	43,088	75,829
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities	0	0
Increase (decrease) in accrued sick and vacation liability	469	2,372
Increase (decrease) in borrowers' deposit	-7,113	4,469
Increase (decrease) in OPEB liability	-7,883	15,067
Increase (decrease) in net pension liability	129,996	1,355,873
Impact of GASB 68 adjustments	500,004	-184,920
Net cash from operating activities	3,980,230	2,575,029

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine H. Chew

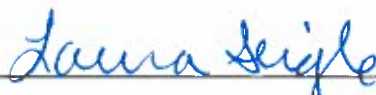
Executive Director & Secretary to the Board of Law Library Trustees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(Seal)

The Los Angeles County Law Library
Board of Trustees desires to acknowledge
the support and assistance given to the Law
Library by the Los Angeles County Board
of Supervisors during the past year.

By order of the Board of
Law Library Trustees of
Los Angeles County
Los Angeles, California


President of the Board of Law Library Trustees
Secretary of the Board of Law Library Trustees