

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**A California Independent Public Agency Under
Business & Professions Code Section 6300 et sq.**

May 28, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Law Library Trustees of Los Angeles County was held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 12:15 p.m., at the Los Angeles County Law Library Mildred L. Lillie Main Library Building at 301 West First Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 for the purposes of considering reports of the affairs to the Library, and transacting such other business as might properly come before the Board of Trustees.

ROLL CALL/ QUORUM

Trustees Present: Judge Laura Seigle
Judge Rosa Fregoso
Susan Steinhauer, Esquire (Arrived at 12:26pm)
Judge Susan DeWitt
Judge Cherol Nellon

Trustees Absent: Judge Mark Juhas

Senior Staff Present: Katherine Chew, Executive Director

Also Present: Marcelino Juarez, Finance Director

Vice President Seigle determined a quorum to be present, convened the meeting at 12:18 pm and thereafter presided. Executive Director, Katherine Chew, recorded the Minutes.

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Library employee, Sharon Boone, spoke about the late, ex-Executive Director of LA Law Library, Richard Iamele. She spoke about what a kind, honest, fair man he was, and reminisced about their time working together.

2.0 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1 Approval of Minutes of the April 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- 3.2 Review of March Financials and List of April Checks and Warrants
- 3.3 Review of FY2026 Property & Liability Insurance Estimates
- 3.4 Approval of Revisions to Job Description, Library Aide, Communications

Vice President Seigle asked the Board if anyone would like an item removed from the Consent Calendar. No item was requested. Vice President Seigle requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. So moved by Trustee DeWitt, seconded by Trustee Nellon. The motion was approved unanimously 4 – 0.

4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4.1 Approval of Operating Budget, FY26

Library Finance Director, Marcelino Juarez, addressed the Board. He stated that Item 4.1 is just a discussion of the budget. We will bring the budget back in the June Board Meeting to finalize it. Trustee Steinhauer pointed out that the net income loss of the library is around \$2 million. She inquired how we are filling the net loss. Trustee DeWitt responded that the answer is the library's

reserves. Trustee Steinhauser then inquired which reserves? One time funding? How much is in our reserves. Marcelino responded that we have about \$21 million in reserves, and it takes about \$11 million to fund the library every year. Vice President Seigle then stated that with a \$2 million deficit in the proposed budget, the library will run out of money in ten years. In five years we will need a plan to address this deficit. Marcelino then stated that for the last three or four fiscal years we have had to tap into reserves. Trustee DeWitt then stated that the Budget Committee would like for the library to develop a plan to try and reduce budgetary dependency on reserves.

4.2 Presentation: Proposed Master Facilities Plan

Guest Speakers David Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of the Court and Honorable Sergio C. Tapia II, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, County of Los Angeles

Judge Tapia and Mr. David Slayton addressed the Board. Judge Tapia began by discussing the history of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and the Civic Center at large. He discussed how the court had contracted with a private firm to see if it would be more cost effective to refurbish Stanley Mosk, or to replace it. They determined that it would be much more cost effective to replace the building. He went on to discuss how the court has engaged with the county to come up with a master plan for the entire Civic Center. This project will be funded by the state. Judge Tapia and Mr. Slayton would like to see how the library can fit into the master plan.

Trustee Steinhauser arrived at 12:26pm.

Mr. Slayton then discussed how the master plan project began in March 2025. The architectural firm Gensler was hired to oversee the project. Planning has begun, and the court is trying to gather feedback from affected stakeholders, including LA Law Library. Nothing has been finalized, including the future configuration of buildings in the Civic Center. Mr. Slayton spoke about how the court wants the library near the new courthouse. The court would like for Gensler to check the condition of the library to see what kind of work or retrofitting it would require. They have offered to pay for Gensler to come in and inspect the library.

Judge Tapia went on to clarify that even if Gensler were to come and inspect the library, the library would be under no obligations. Trustee Nellon pointed out that Stanley Mosk was built in 1958, and inquired if the building was considered historical. If so, how would that affect the master plan.

Mr. Slayton responded that the building is not under historical designation. He then stated that buildings that do have a historical designation could be limited in their ability to make modification, demolitions, etc. Judge Tapia then stated that none of the buildings in the Civic Center are historical landmarks.

Vice President Seigle then asked what the timeline was for getting the site plan chosen. She also asked for the timeline for confirming there will be money to complete the project. Mr. Slayton responded that the county, court, city, and/or library need to come up with a plan. They want to have plans finalized by the end of the 2025 calendar year. There will be no money at that point. The agreement will be in principle. The state has plans to fund the new Stanley Mosk Courthouse in the 2027/2028 fiscal year. Mr. Slayton stated that cost depends on where land parcel is going to be, then funding can be triggered.

Judge Tapia stated that this plan will move forward with or without the library. He thinks that it could be a good opportunity for the library. Refurbishing the library would be very costly. Gensler would work with the library so that we can make our own analysis. Trustee Steinhauser asked if the library chose not to go along with the plan, would the library be left alone. Mr. Slayton and Judge Tapia said that was correct. Trustee Steinhauser then asked who would pay for the new



library building. Judge Tapia answered that Gensler would need to determine the value of the library's parcel. He stated that our parcel may pay for a new parcel and a new building.

Trustee Steinhauser asked if there was any guarantee that state money will be there by the time the project was implemented. Mr. Slayton responded that the hope is to be ready. There is no guarantee of timeline. Trustee DeWitt pointed out that free consulting would be beneficial to the library. She then raised the concern of possible conflicts of interest using Gensler due to the fact that they have been hired by the county. Mr. Slayton responded that this is something we should consider. E.D. Chew stated that we have begun some preliminary research on conflicts of interest. We are working with special counsel to fully inform our Trustees about responsibilities before entering into an agreement with anybody. We are hoping to get a confidential memo to all of our Trustees about responsibilities as far as their fiduciary duties, and any conflicts that may come into play depending on who the library potentially would contract with, whether the state, county, city, etc. There are different machinations we would have to consider based on her discussions with the library's special counsel. E.D. Chew stated that it is great that we are being brought to the table to discuss these matters now, however, as the library's general counsel, she recommends that our special counsel inform our Board before any discussions as far as committing to Gensler, or any other contract, just so everybody is aware what their responsibilities are.

E.D. Chew then inquired if Gensler have any plans for the Civic Center. She stated that she would be willing to look at their options and share them with our Board. Mr. Slayton responded that it should be fine for E.D. Chew to engage with Gensler. Trustee Steinhauser then inquired what the next steps are. E.D. Chew responded that she wants to fully inform the Board about conflicts of interest. After that, it will be up to the Board to make a decision. Vice President Seigle asked if we could get a report from our outside counsel by the next board meeting. E.D. Chew responded that she spoke with them yesterday, but the process could be timely in that a formal opinion from the FPFC is necessary.

E.D. Chew asked for clarification on who was paying Gensler for their services. Mr. Slayton then discussed how the court and the county are splitting the cost of the master plan. The court is giving the county money, but the actual contract is between the county and Gensler. Vice President Seigle then asked if the court could go to Gensler and ask for a study about the library in order to bypass conflicts of interest. Mr. Slayton responded that they could probably do that, but do not want to overstep the library's boundaries.

Judge Tapia then reiterated that they would like for us to work with Gensler to determine the scope of the work needed on the library. He went on to state that he believes that having the library near the court is critical. He then voiced his concern that the library is vulnerable to earthquakes.

Trustee Steinhauser asked if E.D. Chew could contact them requesting information. Mr. Slayton responded that they are happy to help any way they can.

Trustee Fregoso left the meeting at 1:12pm.

Item 4.2 was discussed before Item 4.1.

5.0 AGENDA BUILDING

Items not on the posted agenda may be presented by a Trustee and, if requested, may be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.



6.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Law Library Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 12:15pm.

Katherine Chew, Executive Director and Secretary
Los Angeles County Law Library Board of Trustees

