



# LA Law Library Is Much Closer Than You Think: Update on Services for San Fernando Valley Lawyers

By Malinda Muller

**D**O YOU EVER NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR law practice that you don't have in your office or is outside the scope of your online research plan? What about boilerplate language for that contract you're drafting, or a sample complaint for that new case you just took? How about a private space downtown to meet a client or hold a deposition? If you answered yes to any of these questions, LA Law Library can help.

LA Law Library is the second largest public law library in the United States, second only to the Law Library of Congress and it serves all of Los Angeles County, not just downtown. The collection is both current and historical, covering all areas of law, including an extensive foreign and international law collection, with materials from more than 200 countries. San Fernando Valley lawyers can access this unique collection in several ways.

## Van Nuys Branch

LA Law Library maintains a print collection at the Van Nuys

branch of the Los Angeles Public Library, directly across the plaza from the courthouses. The collection includes the West Annotated California Codes, Rutter and CEB practice guides and the full set of California Forms of Pleading and Practice, just to name a few. This spring, LA Law Library also added online access to legal databases at the Van Nuys branch. These new services replicate the robust online subscriptions available at the main library downtown and include:

- *Westlaw*. Coverage of state and federal statutes and case opinions; selected California secondary sources, dockets, jury verdicts, judgments and settlements; as well as selected motions, pleading and other civil trial filings from the California state and federal courts. This service also contains the entire Rutter Group practice library, adding new titles to the service as they are published. Also included is the full Witkin series, Miller & Starr Real Estate and Cal Jur.

- *CEB Onlaw*. Complete access to CEB California's full practice area libraries covering estate planning, business law, real property, litigation, family and employment law. The libraries have full-text search capabilities, citation links to primary law and contain downloadable forms. New titles added in print are added online as well.
- *HeinOnline*. Often a useful place to begin research on an issue, HeinOnline houses the largest collection of full text law journal and bar association magazines and journals in one searchable location. The service also contains current and historical access to the Federal Register, CFR, U.S. Code and U.S. Treaties.
- *Legal Information Resource Center*. More than 300 full text publications and thousands of legal forms provided, primarily, through Nolo: "How-to" instructions addressing a wide-range of legal issues, including business law, intellectual property, family law, property and real estate rights and disputes, foreclosure and bankruptcy, immigration, wills and estate planning.
- *LegalTrac*. Indexing for more than 1,500 law reviews, legal newspapers and international law journals. Selected titles and years are full text. (*Valley Lawyer* is not included, however.)

Using a thumb drive, cases, forms and practice material text, contents and chapters can be saved for later use or transferred to pleadings and other documents. For your convenience, Los Angeles Public Library allows users to reserve a computer up to nine days in advance on their website ([www.lapl.org](http://www.lapl.org)) with a (free) LAPL library card. The branch library also has two 15 minute walk-up computer stations available as well, which are useful for quick case or statute look-ups during a lunch break.

### Delivery and E-Delivery

Beyond Van Nuys, there is also a mother ship of legal resources located downtown. Most of these materials can be checked out and delivered to borrowers via the library's messenger service. Delivery fees are competitive and provide a convenient alternative to traveling downtown.

Any item in the library can also be scanned or downloaded and emailed for a small fee. Popular items sent via e-delivery include judicial profiles and selected text from Rutter Guides and other secondary material. Legislative history materials are also in demand. In today's market, personal libraries are no longer comprehensive. The option is a 'just in time' service from the library that effectively expands your personal collection without the prohibitive cost.

If you need research materials, but aren't sure what the library has, try emailing the reference desk ([express@lalawlibrary.org](mailto:express@lalawlibrary.org)) for assistance or searching the library's catalog online ([www.lalawlibrary.org](http://www.lalawlibrary.org)).

### Online Resources Available from Your Home or Office

Visit the library's website to access the largest repository of the California Supreme Court and appellate courts of appeal starting in 2008 to the present. The library has digitized up to 75,000 briefs and continues to add more daily. Download a legislative history checklist or retrieve California ballot propositions since 1980. Also available is full text access to all publications and forms contained in the nuts and bolts suite of Nolo publications published by EBSCO.

### Other Services

LA Law Library also has services that help to streamline work, promote efficiency and support a cost-effective business. Is there a role in your practice for any of the following?

- *Materials Set Aside for Arrival*. The library maintains a team of professional reference librarians at the downtown branch, including a foreign law specialist, available to apply their expertise and assist you in extracting the most appropriate resources. Staff will conduct a quick reference interview, pull relevant materials and hold them at circulation ready for your arrival.
- *Continued Learning*. The LA Law Library offers live MCLE classes as well as CDs and DVDs that can be checked out for self-study MCLE credit. The library also maintains a speakers' bureau which provides networking opportunities and an efficient method for accumulating CLE credits.
- *Your Downtown Office*. Library conference rooms double as war rooms for trials or as a place to hold a deposition or mediation. Centrally located near all downtown courthouses, the conference rooms are also used for settlement conferences.
- *Enhanced Value and Service Via the Members Program*. The Members Program is an enhanced participation program that offers additional benefits to members of the bar and their affiliates. Representative benefits include remote access to select additional databases, on-site parking downtown, discounts on library services, MCLE classes, conference rooms and direct access to a reference librarian telephone help line. 📞

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