

200 Years of Free Legal Information

From County Law Libraries to
Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries



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Dedication



To Marnie Warner

This book is dedicated to our friend, mentor and former leader of thirty-three years, Marnie Warner.

Marnie worked tirelessly to integrate individual County Law Libraries into a cohesive and professional statewide library system. Through her passion for making legal information readily accessible and understandable to the citizens of Massachusetts, Marnie devoted her life to ensuring access to justice for everyone. Marnie earned the admiration and loyalty of law library staff by encouraging them to develop their individual skills and talents for the betterment of the entire system. Through her role as Trial Court Law Library Coordinator, Marnie went above and beyond the confines of her job description, many times using personal funds and vacation leave to attend the meetings of various committees, boards, and professional associations to which she belongs.

Marnie, the leader and visionary for the seventeen Trial Court Law Libraries, dedicated herself to the service of the public. The mission of the Trial Court Law Libraries in part reads, “Access to Justice without Access to Information is Meaningless.” For her entire career, Marnie Warner has embodied this statement.

Marnie, we dedicate this book to you.

Past and Present Staff of the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all of the past, present and future Law Library staff. Your dedication to the delivery of accurate legal information to the legal community and public is, and will always be, greatly appreciated. We would like to specifically recognize the current staff:

Catherine Mello Alves – *Lowell/Lawrence Law Libraries*

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Rachel Diaz – *Lawrence Law Library*

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Jane Graham – *Norfolk Law Library*

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Marnie Warner – *Administrative Office*

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and

Katherine Coolidge, *Secretary of the American Association of Law Libraries*



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Bill Authorizing
the establishment of
law libraries.

March 2^d. 1815
178

Feb. 27

Commenced 11th 5th
Comm. bills 2^d Reading

Report that this Bill
ought to pass.

W. Woods / Rouse

In Senate Feb 28. 1815

Read & ordered that this
Subject be referred to the
1st Section of the most General
Court -

3^d Reading & attack
Wednesday afternoon

Sup. Whitman Pemb
Washington Sedham
Bliss Spring

The Act authorizing the establishment of Law Libraries was passed as chap. 178 and was printed as chap. 177 of the Acts of 1815, from the State Archives.

Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries: From County Law Libraries to Trial Court Law Libraries – Providing Free Legal Information for 200 Years

"Ignorance of the law excuses no one."

"This maxim has been hammered home so many times as to be common-place. Yet seldom can one indicate so immediately as in the present instance the pathway to a knowledge of the law. In Massachusetts there is perhaps less technical excuse for ignorance of the law than in any other jurisdiction within our ken. It has long been the Bay State's pride that every inhabitant has access to a free public library of some kind. But that a system of free public law libraries stretches from end to end of the Commonwealth, making the law available to every attorney and layman, is less generally known."¹ These were the words of Howard L. Stebbins spoken in Swampscott, MA in June 1921.

The General Court Sets Forth a Vision

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, access to justice is a constitutional right guaranteed by Article XI of Part 1 of the state constitution's "Declaration of Rights":

Every subject of the Commonwealth ought to find a certain remedy, by having recourse to the laws, for all injuries or wrongs which he may receive in his person, property, or character. He ought to obtain right and justice freely, and without being obligated to purchase it; completely, and without delay; conformably to the laws.

It was the passage of chapter 177 of the 1815 Acts and Resolves by the Massachusetts General Court that set forth the mission that lawyers in every Massachusetts county could "form a law library, for the use of said county, under such reasonable regulations as the said association may appoint."² In 1842, the General Court passed legislation clarifying procedures for founding county law libraries. It provided that within sixty days after the effective date of the legislation, any law libraries formed under the legislation must give any inhabitants of the county "the right to use the books in said library, subject to such regulations as shall be prescribed by the

associations, with the approval of the court of common pleas."³ In 1844, the General Court extended the timeline for establishing law libraries in every county as incentive to do so. "The counselors and attorneys at law, duly admitted to practice in the courts of this Commonwealth, resident in either of the counties, who have omitted to organize a Law Library Association in their respective counties, within the time, and pursuant to the provisions, of the act to which this is in addition, are hereby authorized to organize themselves in their counties respectively, into an association by the name of the Law Library Association..."⁴ By 1856, seven county law libraries were established.⁵ In 1856, the General Court extended the time frame indefinitely.⁶ By the late 1800's, all of the counties had law libraries, completing the General Court's vision that all lawyers and inhabitants of the Commonwealth have access to a public law library.⁷ (Suffolk County did not establish a law library under chapter 177 as the Social Law Library, a "private" institution, had already been founded in 1803.)

Until 1856, funding for the county law libraries came from the cost for admission of

all practitioners in the bar of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas or from fees paid to each County's Clerk of Courts. In 1856, the General Court passed legislation allowing county commissioners to use general funds for support of their county's law libraries. "The county commissioners of the several counties are hereby authorized to pay and disburse, from the treasuries of their respective counties, to the treasurers of the law library associations now existing, or that may hereafter be duly organized therein, such a sum or sums as they may deem necessary and proper, for maintaining and enlarging the public law libraries for the use of the courts and citizens of the several counties; such sum not to exceed the amount paid into the treasury of any county by the clerks of the courts."⁸ Financial support for these public law libraries no longer rested with the lawyers and people paying fees.

By 1915, county law libraries "exist in their best form in Massachusetts, but the idea has been copied in Connecticut and in Maine, and to some extent in Pennsylvania. To be short and concise, they are free public law libraries, supported by the county and open to everyone who can read, just like any other public library....They are of course located in the court houses and are given rooms, furniture, heat, light, water and in most cases janitor service by the county. Any one of these western states could copy the old Bay State and put an act on their statute books which would start scores and hundreds of law libraries where they are needed the most. California already has a county library system and it could be extended to both law and medical libraries. Colorado has traces of such a system."⁹

Over the ensuing years, the county law libraries operated independently within each county. A snapshot of the variety of law library administration was provided by Howard Stebbins in 1921: "The court house of every county except Suffolk contains one of these free libraries; the largest has 40,000 volumes,

and almost all are equipped with a full collection of state and federal reports, statutes and textbooks. Only one makes outside circulation much of a feature. Title to the books remains in the county; management of the libraries is vested usually in a law library association, more rarely in a bar association, and in one or two instances directly in the county commissioners."¹⁰ Some law libraries had full-time librarians and some had part-time librarians who were often attorneys who practiced law as well. The Hampden County Law Library had a full-time librarian and an assistant. Some law libraries circulated books and some did not. Some counties established more than one library as populations grew and additional courthouses were built.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the General Court enacted Mass. General Laws Ch. 78 sections 5 & 6¹¹, folding the county law libraries into the formal distribution system of legislative and government published documents, continuing to ensure that inhabitants have free access to the laws of the state.

Access to the Law for All

Fast forward to the 1970's when the concept of access to the law extended in tangible ways to prisoners. A 1969 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Johnson v. Avery*, 393 U.S. 483 (1969), established the rights of inmates to have meaningful access to the courts through various means including attorneys and jailhouse lawyers. In 1974, as a response to the establishment of the right to meaningful access, the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts issued a consent decree requiring adequate law libraries be established at Massachusetts Correctional Institution (MCI) Walpole (now MCI Cedar Junction) and the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections extended the decree to include the MCIs at Norfolk, Concord, Framingham and

Bridgewater. In 1977, in *Bounds v. Smith*, 430 U.S. 817 (1977), the U.S. Supreme Court outlined in its footnote 4 the basic collection that should comprise an adequate prison law library. To comply with the consent decree, federal Library Service and Construction Act funds from the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension (now the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners) were used to purchase the legal prison collections. During the early 1970's, the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension was already helping to screen professional librarians hired by the Department of Corrections to administer and provide library services. At one point, the county law library in Norfolk had a smaller law library than its neighboring prison, MCI Norfolk.

As the right to adequate law libraries for prisoners became established, the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension embarked on a similar effort to improve access to the law for all residents through city and town public law libraries. In 1977, Basic Law Collections for Massachusetts Public Libraries by Maria Sekula was published by the Social Law Library. In the foreword, A. Hunter Rineer, Jr., State Librarian, outlined the purpose as:

“Public librarians have almost traditionally avoided legal questions with some peculiar fear of “malpracticing law.” They hold no such fear in giving out information on how to make bread, although through some flaw in the information they may poison their user, or how to repair a car, though in so doing the library user may fatally injure himself.

In advocating the improvement of public libraries' capability to provide legal information, I do not intend to infer that libraries should extend legal advice or try to interpret the law for their users. There is a wide difference between making the law easily available and making the law understandable.

The librarian should steer far clear of trying to be a lay-lawyer or a para-judge. They have neither the training nor experience for the interpretative aspect of working with the law. There is no reason, however, a librarian can't show an interested citizen the state's and town's laws on dog and cats or the text of a landmark supreme court decision.”

As part of the 1977 federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant, four county law librarians (from Fall River, Hampshire, Lawrence, and Worcester) participated in presenting workshops to public librarians with an overview of American and Massachusetts law, a session on how to use Basic Law Collections for Massachusetts Public Libraries to help build their own legal collections, and a description of the county law library services. Each afternoon closed with a tour of the county law library. A fifth workshop was held at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

Court Reorganization

In 1978, the Court Reorganization Act¹² was passed with the stated purpose to “promote the orderly and effective administration of the judicial system of the Commonwealth,” and it created a Trial Court to be administered by a Chief Administrative Justice. All costs of maintenance and operation of the judicial branch including the law libraries would be paid for by the Commonwealth and “all books, papers, equipment, furnishings...purchased by the counties and in the custody of or maintained primarily for the use of the judicial branch” were “declared to be the property of the Commonwealth, and...under the control of the judicial branch.” The Court Reorganization Act did not repeal the sections in Massachusetts General Laws, chapter 78, which included county law libraries.

In 1979, an Advisory Committee for Law Libraries was created by the Chief Administrative Justice to determine how to proceed with integrating the former county law libraries into the new Trial Court. The Committee included judges, county law librarians and law librarians from the Social Law Library. One of the first tasks of the Advisory Committee was to inventory all of the county law libraries to determine their collections and policies. The review showed that many of the staff lacked understanding of basic library concepts resulting in the haphazard arrangement of library collections, a lack of consistency in policies and procedures (e.g., five libraries did not circulate any books), a variety in compensation levels, and a lack of interest in serving the public while seeing an increasing number of self-represented litigants.

The recommendation of the Advisory Committee to the Chief Administrative Justice was to hire a Law Library Coordinator who possessed the education, expertise about law libraries, and time to address the issues identified in the survey. "This position provides supervisory support to the Trial Court Administrator in the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice on direction and coordination of the activities of all law libraries in all the departments of the Trial Court, including county law libraries, district court libraries, judges' lobby libraries and any other collections of law reference materials. Work will involve supervision of all aspects of law library administration."¹³ Other law libraries (including the prison libraries) were hiring professional librarians whose minimum qualifications were a Masters Degree in Library Science from an accredited Library School or a Juris Doctor Degree and experience in relevant professional library positions. In late 1980, a Law Library Coordinator was hired, the first professional law librarian in the Trial Court's law libraries. The Law Library Coordinator was directed to develop a law library system, hire professional librarians as opportunities

arose and bring the libraries and staff into the larger library community.

The first task of the Law Library Coordinator was to visit all of the former county law libraries, write a report to the Court Administrator on the conditions found in each library, and make recommendations especially in terms of budgets. As in the Trial Court itself, there were no uniform policies, so the next task was to develop uniform policies for the law libraries. All of the former county law librarians were asked to participate in the two year process of developing what would become the Guidelines for Delivery of Library Services in the Trial Court (1983). The 155 page guidelines provided standards for governance, philosophy, personnel, services, physical facilities, equipment and furnishings, budget, operating policies and procedures, collection development and selection of library materials, gifts, loans and exchanges, disposal of items, a basic collection list and an action plan. In addition, the Law Library Coordinator worked with task forces from each of the seven Trial Court departments to develop basic collection lists as well as procedures for upkeep of legal collections in each of the departments. The Guidelines were approved by the Chief Justice in 1983 and became the operating document for the development plan for the Trial Court Law Libraries (TCLLs). The Guidelines have been revised over time and the current edition Delivery of Library Services by the Trial Court Law Libraries (March 2003), is supplemented with stand-alone documents covering circulation, disposal of library equipment and materials, inter-library lending, collection development, facilities and fiscal management. Some policy changes were the result of reviews by state and Trial Court auditors.

As the Trial Court itself was still emerging, the plan for the court departments' legal collections was not fully implemented since the court departments still maintained their independence of each other. Additionally, the

great disparity in the size of legal collections in the various courts (one court even had a full-time law librarian) raised local concern that some court collections would be greatly reduced. Court staff was involved in the creation of the collection guidelines for their own court departments, but in the end, since the TCLLs were another department, the TCLLs lacked authority over the court collections. However, the Advisory Committee recognized that the court departments needed support in developing their legal resources and so a Departmental Law Librarian, reporting to the Law Library Coordinator, was hired to work with all of the courts. It was not until a quarter of a century later that a recession and decreased funding forced the Trial Court to finally implement a plan of standard collections in all court departments. Today, the TCLLs oversee the purchasing of all books and computer assisted legal research contracts for the Trial Court.

In the early years of implementing the Court Reorganization Act, the law libraries faced a number of challenges and opportunities. One challenge was to find a way to channel the new energy of court reform and the apprehension about the change in governance from the counties to the state. The local bar associations that had governed the county law libraries were not all ready to release their involvement. In a number of counties, the solution was to create a “friends of the library” group so that lawyers could continue to support their local law library through the acquisition of books and equipment which were beyond the resources of the library budget and by maintaining art work owned by the library or the bar association. These friends’ groups purchased some of the first fax machines in the law libraries and purchased essential equipment when state funds were limited. Some of these friends’ groups continue to be actively involved in supporting their local TCLL.

Another challenge and opportunity was the new Trial Court policy that an attorney engaged in the practice of law could not simultaneously work for the new Trial Court. Several county law librarians were practicing attorneys and chose to leave their position in the library. These staffing changes allowed the hiring of several professional law librarians within a short time, infusing the staff with people who had experience working as professionals in law firms and who brought expertise in administering cutting edge law libraries to the Trial Court. In addition, some of the county law librarians made the choice to go back to school and earn their Masters in Library Science. Several of the county law librarians had decades of experience and had solid legal research skills. The Trial Court Law Library system was developed by combining the knowledge of the “old guard” with the skills of the “new guard”.

The mission of the law libraries has always been to serve the bench, bar and the public.¹⁴ As service to the bench and bar was already in place, there was new emphasis placed on working with public librarians to enhance their knowledge of legal research and the services provided by the TCLLs. Over the years, various projects were undertaken by the Head Law Librarians to strengthen the skills of public librarians in providing legal reference, knowing when to refer questions to the TCLLs and building local legal collections. In 1985, a legal research workshop was developed for public librarians and presented four times throughout the state by the Trial Court Law Librarians. In 1991, a federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant funded additional legal reference workshops for public librarians and paid for an 800# telephone evening legal reference service. The project was called “Legal Information for All.” Three years later, a follow-up federal LSCA grant entitled “On the Road with Legal Information” allowed Head Law Librarians to make consulting site visits to 128 public libraries to

assist in the development of their legal collections. In 1995, the Trial Court Law Libraries received the American Association of Law Libraries Publication Award for How to Grow a Law Collection: A Guide for Public Librarians written by Janice Shotwell and Meg Hayden, two Head Law Librarians, and a bibliography called "*Living with the Law.*"

Into the Computer Age

Another opportunity and challenge arose when computers were installed in the law libraries for the first time in 1987. The computers provided word processing and computer assisted legal research and enabled communication among law library staff through an electronic bulletin board. In addition, the TCLLs joined OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) to use their MARC records (Machine-Readable Cataloging record) to build the first centralized union catalog of library materials held by all 17 TCLLs. A union catalog meant that the diversity of the libraries' holdings, especially treatises, could easily be identified and shared. In 1989, uniform circulation and inter-library loan policies were established to facilitate statewide access and use of these diverse collections.

The use of computers in legal research presented an opportunity for the library staff to work with judges and court attorneys who were also learning to navigate this new electronic world. Law library staff provided training sessions either as part of court conferences, through the Judicial Institute programs or in individual courts or libraries. In addition, library staff were always available to provide personal instruction to court staff. As the libraries could provide on-site training, they partnered with other organizations such as the Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) by providing training in the libraries on the use of the MBA database. Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly (MLW) donated dedicated computers

in the TCLLs for attorneys to use to connect to MLW's electronic bulletin board.

In 1996, the Internet brought online access to information. By 1998, the TCLLs had established a website, www.lawlib.state.ma.us, which can still be seen in the Internet Archives' Wayback Machine. In 2005, an online public catalog was introduced so people could search the titles in all of the libraries, request that a book be delivered at no charge to another library across the state, place holds and renew their books. By 2007, Nolo press publications could be read as e-books using a law library card. In 2012, the law libraries were reformatting Massachusetts rules of court as e-books and making them available to download to multiple devices. In 2014, the TCLLs introduced the e-card so patrons could have remote access to select online legal databases without having to visit a law library. In the same year the TCLL website was merged into the judicial branch website.

Connecting to the Greater Library World

The age of computers also brought the ability of libraries everywhere to easily share their collections and information. In 1995, the TCLLs became members of the New England Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), a consortium of twenty-two New England law libraries. Besides improving inter-library loan, especially for foreign materials which the TCLLs do not maintain, being part of NELLCO enables the TCLLs to be part of innovative projects. In 2003, Trial Court law librarians participated in a pilot project providing real-time chat. Over time, it was found chat was a service used more in public law libraries than law school law libraries so the TCLLs established a stand-alone chat service which continues to increase in usage.

In 1997, the state reorganized its public library system and included special libraries

aware that people needed more than the general materials found in municipal public library collections. This membership allowed the TCLLs to become part of the statewide book delivery system, saving the law libraries substantial postage fees for inter-library lending. As the cost of law books continued to increase dramatically, public libraries eliminated legal materials from their budgets and instead began to rely more heavily on the TCLLs for legal information. In addition, there were opportunities for training and outreach to other libraries, informing them of those TCLL services that can be provided to their patrons. In 1999, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded the TCLLs a grant for Statewide Legal Reference Service (SLRS), enabling the law libraries to conduct legal reference workshops for libraries which were members of the state's regional library systems. In 2001, the funding for Statewide Legal Reference Service included building a website of legal information for librarians, www.slrsonline.org, which was later rolled into the TCLL website. SLRS also extended legal reference hours and access to an 800# in two law libraries into the evenings and Saturday.

The Access to Justice Movement

The TCLLs have been refining how best to provide legal information and reference to self-represented litigants since Court Reorganization in the early 1980's. The survey summary from the Advisory Committee on Law Libraries gave an overview of the emerging needs of the public. "The lay public is increasingly interested in the workings, legal foundation and jurisdiction of municipal agencies such as zoning boards, environmental control departments, school boards, urban renewal agencies, residential standards control and inspections and reassessment projects and many state and federal agencies such as those dealing with public health standards and taxation. Pro se litigation is on the rise as well,

encouraged by simplified small claims procedures and popular literature dealing with do-it-yourself legal procedures."¹⁵

With this growing trend, law book publishers began to publish more titles geared to the lay person and the TCLLs responded by selectively adding these titles to their collections. Besides helping the self-represented person in the library, starting in 1985 the law librarians continue to teach public librarians the basics of legal research and when to refer complex legal questions to the TCLLs. In 1993, the TCLLs received the American Association of Law Libraries Public Relations Award for their packet of materials, "*Outstanding Outreach to the Clientele – the Public.*"

When computers entered the law library environment, it became easier to share information as more information became available. To help people find accurate and reliable legal information as well as try to sift through all of the results retrieved from a computer search, in 1999 the law librarians began developing pathfinders on frequently requested topics. These evolved into "*Law About*" pages on the TCLLs' website, now www.mass.gov/courts/case-legal-res/law-lib. Today there are almost 250 "*Law About*" pages, narrowing topical information to the most pertinent Massachusetts and Federal laws, cases and regulations with references to specific print resources and relevant websites.

The TCLLs have also partnered with Massachusetts Legal Services as a way to reach out to people needing legal information. In 2005, the TCLLs received a federal Library Services and Technology Act grant to improve the delivery of legal information to legal and social service agencies. Called "Navigating the Legal Maze", workshops were held throughout the state with frontline workers in legal and social service agencies to help their staff learn what resources were available to them and their clients when researching or resolving legal

questions. With a hotlink to the TCLL chat service on Massachusetts Legal Services' topical web pages, the law librarians provide live online assistance to people using Massachusetts Legal Help, www.masslegalhelp.org.

Even as the world moves more into a digital environment, people continue to need help with finding legal information that will help to solve their own legal problems and in completing the necessary procedures for an action in court. Now, as part of its strategic plan, the Trial Court is establishing Court Service Centers so litigants can obtain one-on-one assistance. The TCLLs will support the Court Service Centers by providing research assistance and library materials.

Planning for the Future and Continuing the Mission

Librarians constantly plan for the future. Whether it is through purchasing printed materials or databases that judges, attorneys and the public need to answer their legal questions or whether it is by making way for new technologies, librarians are continually adapting - if not helping - create the future. The Guidelines for Delivery of Library Services in the Trial Court served as the first plan to develop the TCLLs. Over the years, the libraries have used the American Library Association planning process to develop five year plans, sometimes created by staff and sometimes involving the larger community of judges, lawyers and the public. In 2000, a series of statewide town-meetings were organized to discover how the TCLLs could better serve Massachusetts courts and residents.^{16 17} The results were culled into seven planning topics: publicity, extending hours, improving library design, training patrons on how to use electronic resources, obtaining adequate computers with consistent connectivity, adding more staff and handling

information in a variety of formats. At a subsequent state-wide town meeting, 40 invited guests, including judges, court personnel, attorneys from large and small firms, and law librarians developed priorities in each of the seven topics and added two more topics - developing a long range facilities plan and planning technical infrastructure to support evolving information systems. As the information and law library environments change, these areas will continue to be the priorities for which planning and implementation needs to be undertaken.

There is a wide misconception that everything eventually will be available for free on the internet. While the internet does contain some free primary legal resources, most of them are provided by government entities. For example, the TCLL staff continues to work on reformatting Massachusetts cases from print into digital format so that eventually there will be a free electronic version available of the entire body of published Massachusetts cases. However, the legal information which is produced and published privately by legal publishers is protected by copyright and is available only through expensive print sources or fee-based databases. Libraries are in a unique position to purchase these materials and make them available to a wide variety of users, for whom these resources would otherwise be unaffordable and therefore unavailable.

For 200 years the Massachusetts county law libraries and their successor Trial Court Law Libraries have freely served the bench, bar and the public. Law libraries will continue to be the place where lawyers and judges can get a quick-start to legal research with the assistance of a professional law librarian who knows a library's print resources, who knows which database will provide the quickest access to specific legal information, and who can teach researchers the intricacies of each database's

unique search engine. And, in an impartial environment, law libraries will continue to assist self-represented individuals to find answers to their own legal issues and to provide them with the information necessary to navigate their way through court procedures.

Endnotes

¹ Howard L. Stebbins, *The County Law Library System in Massachusetts*, 14 *Law Libr. J.* 69 (1921).

² Chapter CLXXVII Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1814.

³ Chapter 94 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1842.

⁴ Chapter 157 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1844.

⁵ Middlesex, Lowell, Norfolk in 1815; Franklin in 1816; Berkshire and Essex in 1842; Worcester in 1844.

⁶ Chapter 184 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1856.

⁷ Nantucket before 1820; Bristol in 1858; Hampden in 1860; Fitchburg in 1871; Hampshire in 1872; Barnstable in 1889; Brockton, Plymouth and Dukes in 1890; Fall River and New Bedford in 1894; Lawrence in 1904.

⁸ Chapter 71 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1856.

⁹ G. E. Wire, *Differing Functions and Limitation of Law Libraries*, 8 *Law Libr. J.* 19, 22 (1915).

¹⁰ Howard L. Stebbins, *The County Law Library System in Massachusetts*, 14 *Law Libr. J.* 69, 70 (1921).

¹¹ Chapter 387 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1871 (section 5); Chapter 209 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1904 (section 6).

¹² Chapter 478 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1978.

¹³ Job posting for Law Library Coordinator, August 1-20, 1980.

¹⁴ The focus statement from 1988 to 2001: “As the public law libraries of the Commonwealth, the Trial Court Law Libraries provide legal information to the Trial Court,

legal community and general public. This library network strives to develop specialized collections and services to address the legal reference, research, educational and community information needs of library patrons. The Trial Court Law Libraries are committed to facilitating access to their collections and services.”

The mission statement from 2001 to present: “As the public law libraries of the Commonwealth, the Trial Court Law Libraries provide legal information to the Trial Court, legal community and general public. This library network strives to develop collections and services to address the legal reference, research, educational and community information needs of library patrons. The Trial Court Law Libraries are committed to facilitating access to their collections and services.”

The mission statement adopted for the website: “The mission of the Trial Court Law Library system is to provide timely, efficient access to current and historical law-related information in an impartial and respectful manner to anyone in need of legal information.”

¹⁵ Advisory Committee on Law Libraries, *County Law Libraries in Massachusetts: A Preliminary Survey* (1980).

¹⁶ Trial Court Law Libraries Place Patrons at the Center of Planning for the Future, *The Court Compass* (Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court), vol. 3, No. 2, p. 1, 3-4 (Summer 2001).

¹⁷ Marnie Warner, *Planning: A Practicum for Busy Librarians*, *AALL Spectrum*, vol. 5, No. 7, p. 28-29 (April 2001).

The Law Library Community

The backdrop of law libraries in the geographic area

As public law libraries, the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries occupy a unique place, with connections across a variety of libraries (all types of law libraries as well as public libraries generally). Unlike some other New England states, Massachusetts had no public, state-run law school to support public patrons for a very long time.¹ As law libraries evolved as a specialized type of library over time (particularly in the last 50 years), the Massachusetts Trial Court librarians have been colleagues and partners with all Massachusetts librarians trying to navigate through new challenges and opportunities in helping all people (lawyers, law students, government workers and members of the public) needing access to legal information.

Soon after the 1815 legislation authorizing the establishment of law libraries in the counties was enacted,² libraries related to legal education (i.e. law school libraries by varying definitions) began to emerge.³ Private academic libraries in Massachusetts rely on the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries' amazing website of specialized Massachusetts legal research knowledge, and send public patrons, students, and others conducting practical Massachusetts legal research to its librarians.⁴ They have also relied on them as partners and experts on legal information for events.

In 1826, the Massachusetts State Library "was established...to collect, deposit,

and house the Commonwealth's collections of maps, statute books, and government documents in a single central location. Since that time, the State Library has grown into a multifaceted and reliable resource for legislators, executive personnel, state employees, historians, genealogists, and users from all over the world."⁵

An early example of a private law library is that of Daniel Webster's in Marshfield, MA built in 1832, today a National Historic Landmark.⁶ Throughout the years, private law firms have relied heavily on the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries as practice trends have gone from large print libraries to practice specialty libraries to digital collections. As the economy has changed, so too have law firm libraries, shrinking and growing with the times. During the most recent recession, the Trial Court Law Libraries were particularly critical to law firms and individual lawyers, making legal research resources available to all. The trend in law firm collections was to rightsize the library collection from one that was based on maintaining a resource just in case it was needed to a strategy of obtaining research resources just in time. The Trial Court Law Library collections, managed by knowledgeable law librarians, were always there just in time.

As various types of law libraries grew, so did the local and national professional organizations specifically supporting them.

The national American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) was founded in 1906 during the American Library Association (ALA) annual meeting.⁷ This dominant national professional organization, AALL, specifically recognized the special concerns of Court Libraries by the creation in 1977 of a Special Interest Section (SIS) for State, Court and County Libraries.⁸ AALL has honored Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries with numerous awards.⁹

The Law Librarians of New England (LLNE) formed in 1946 and became a formal chapter of AALL in 1948.¹⁰ The Association of Boston Law Librarians (ABLL), primarily including private law librarians in its membership, was founded in 1966. In 1983, the Northeast Law Library Consortium (NELLCO), now an international consortium of law libraries, was founded to maximize resources and to support the missions of their institutions, advancing justice through access to global legal information.

Looking through past issues of LLNE's newsletter since 1980, various issues facing libraries emerge over time. Prominent among them are issues surrounding the growth and relevance of technology. Yet the heart of what law librarians do is to make information available and to help people find it. This heart still beats the same regardless of the changing technological opportunities or obstacles. ADA legislation in the early 1990's had libraries looking for ways to serve patrons.¹¹ From the installation of fax machines¹² to the challenges of videos,¹³ CD-ROMs and finally the advent of the Internet and web-based technology, it is clear that grappling with these exponentially growing modes of communication became a hot topic. The early 2000's saw the emergence

of chat reference as a response to people turning to the web for answers.¹⁴

Today, even as the technology continues to change, without additional content selection and mark up or description, patrons are often spending time sifting through reams of information, not finding what they need. An early issue from the LLNE newsletter¹⁵ had a research topic shared by a reference librarian at one of the Trial Court Law Libraries. She had been helping a patron with a question that involved using print directories. While a "Google search" yielded some relevant results, it still took some time to confirm the best content. Names of organizations change, and the method used to get listed in a directory in the past might be difficult to ascertain. Thankfully, librarians continue to "help" people by curating, organizing and mediating, navigating the complex architecture of information that has evolved over the last couple of centuries.

Endnotes

¹Donald J. Dunn, Chief Justice's Commission on the Future of the Courts in Massachusetts, 12 LLNE News No.1 & 2, March-June 1991, p.33, 35 ("there is no state academic law library in the Commonwealth and the private academic law libraries have many more restrictions on access than do we [Western New England College].")

Law school libraries provide very limited access to the general public or none at all.

²Chapter 177 Massachusetts Acts and Resolves of 1814 (<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/actsResolves/1814/1814acts0178.pdf>)

³See e.g. Harvard Law School 1817 <http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/about/history/index.html> "In July 1817, the creation of the Law School was announced with the promise that students would 'have access to a complete law library'. The library was housed in the office of the University Professor of Law, and had

a budget of \$681.74."

Suffolk School of Law opened in 1906, and first had a librarian in 1909.

David L Robbins and Lauri Umansky, *Suffolk University : A Centennial History, 1905-2010* (IIS Press, 2011).

Note: Litchfield Law School in Connecticut was the first law school in the country. Glen-Peter Ahlers, *History of Law School Libraries in the United States: Defining Moments* p.2 (William S. Hein & Co., 2011) .

⁴Massachusetts legal research guides of area law schools are filled with references and referrals to the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries. See e.g. <http://guides.library.harvard.edu/content.php?pid=101616> ,

<http://www.suffolk.edu/law/library/research/21980.php>; <http://libraryguides.nesl.edu/mass>

⁵<http://www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/mission-statement.html>;

⁶National Historic Landmark Program, <http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=1496&ResourceType=Building> and <http://marshfield.wickedlocal.com/article/20140807/NEWS/140807470/12423/NEWS>).

⁷Gilson G. Glasier, "History of the American Association of Law Libraries, The Founders and the Early Years, 1906-1929", 49 *Law. Lib. J.* 82, 82-83 (1956).

⁸Bylaws adopted June 25, 1977 <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sccl/about/Bylaws.html>

⁹AALL Reports 1992-1993 (report from Awards Committee), 85 *Law Library Journal* 893, 894 (1993)

American Association of Law Libraries Reports of Chapters, Special Interest Sections, Committees, Special Committees and Task Forces, and Representatives (State, Court and County Law Libraries), 1994-1995 , 87 *Law Library Journal* 771, 772 (1995)

The State's Law Libraries, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, July 31, 1995.

¹⁰<http://llne.org/about-us/> Massachusetts Trial Court Law Library (MTCLL) members have been active and helpful in the organization. Barbara Schneider has served as LLNE President and various MTCLL librarians have served on a variety of committees and hosted programming.

¹¹MTCLL "purchased four 'Reading Edge' machines for use by visually impaired library patrons," converting "printed or typeset documents to synthesized speech and reads it aloud."

"What's Happening in Member Libraries," *LLNE News*, v.14, no.4 p.65 (December 1993).

MTCLL also started a legal information reference line for hearing-impaired library patrons (no charge).

LLNE News, v.13, no.3, p.63 (September 1992)..

"Previously, the only law library service for the hearing impaired was provided by the New England School of Law Library in Boston." P.64

MTCLL also began offering evening reference service to public librarians (through LSCA grant). P.64

¹²"Fax machines installed at all the Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries," *LLNE News*, v.13, no.4, p.102 (December 1992).

¹³ ¹² *LLNE News* No. 4 p.114 (December 1991) "Legal Information for All" project begun in 1992, federally funded with LSCA funds through a MBLC IOLTA grant, to develop a collection of legal videos for lay people.

¹⁴ <http://www.cslib.org/connector/1102/ref.htm> Lawline, a 2002 NELLCO project, was a collaborative virtual reference pilot program involving nineteen academic and Court law librarians.

Today, the Trial Court Law Libraries answer legal reference online with access from "Ask A Law Librarian" at <http://www.mass.gov/courts/case-legal-res/law-lib/libraries/services/ask.html>.

¹⁵"Reference Referendum," *LLNE News*, v.11, no.2, p.2 (June 1990).

Electronic Services

The “Virtual Branch”



Web site in 1998.

Over time the site evolved.

By 2002, it was clear that the website and online services were vital but time consuming. Meg Hayden, who was instrumental in the early development of electronic services for the Trial Court Law Libraries, was named the first Electronic Resources Librarian for the system.

Meg is both a visionary and a passionate advocate for access to information. Combining these qualities with a keen intellect, she has kept the Trial Court Law Libraries on the forefront of

As legal information began to appear online, it was clear that the Trial Court Law Librarians should play a role in organizing and presenting it to information seekers. It was a natural extension of the role of law librarians to connect legal information with the people who need it. In 1998, the first Trial Court Law Libraries’ website was created through the initiative and hard work of Meg Hayden.

The goal of the site was to find everything credible on Massachusetts law that existed online, and to organize it by subject, which paralleled the function of the seventeen physical libraries. In the early years, the entire site was less than forty pages, and could easily fit on a 1.44 MB floppy disk.

technology. Meg has provided the TCLLs with a large online presence thereby allowing users electronic access to staff assistance and library resources. Meg's commitment to guiding the Trial Court Law Libraries into the 21st century continues today with her extensive contribution to the Trial Court's website.

As of 2015, the website includes over seven thousand pages, including extensive online collections of regulations, executive orders, and court rules.

Collection Development

In the traditional library, collection development is the process through which librarians select the best materials to help their patrons. In the online environment, the law libraries have engaged in a similar process.

Databases

The 2006 introduction of a system for online patron authentication online allowed the libraries to provide access to licensed databases to users over the internet. For the first time, patrons could read licensed content without having to visit a library.

Patrons now have access to a variety of databases, including eBooks from Nolo, primary law via Retrievelaw, law review articles from Hein Online, and general interest databases from Gale and others.

Masscases.com

In 2007, a very popular online database declined to renew their contract with the libraries. Library patrons were left without a remote source for Massachusetts cases. It was a turning point for the law libraries. Library staff members decided that it was imperative to provide access to cases, and also to provide the information in a platform-independent way. Massachusetts case availability could not be reliant on an individual vendor or piece of software. Staff members began an intense process of digitizing and formatting Massachusetts SJC and Appeals Court cases.

Now, in 2015, the librarians had provided over thirty thousand cases online at <http://www.masscases.com>. The cases now include available briefs and links to oral arguments. Newly-released court opinions are added each week; retrospective conversion of older cases continues, in hopes of eventually having all Massachusetts cases in the database.

Ebooks

The creativity of individual staff members has been key in creating and providing content. In 2012 Head Law Librarian Catherine Mello Alves had an idea to create and provide Massachusetts Rules of Court in e-book format for no charge. She then

single-handedly went on to create thirteen different e-books, which have been downloaded by library patrons over twelve thousand times.

Staffing the Online Library

Email

The law libraries began providing legal reference by email in 1999. While the goal was to provide guidance to those using online sources, email reference proved to be very popular with users looking for legal information from print and referral sources as well. The libraries answer over five hundred reference questions and document requests via email each month.

Online chat

As technology changed, the law libraries continued to explore ways to meet the needs of online customers. In the Fall of 2002 they began offering reference by online chat in collaboration with academic law libraries from across New England. That experiment ended in 2005, when it became clear that Mass. Trial Court Law Libraries' patrons made far more use of the service than those of the other libraries—nearly six hundred questions vs. less than ten per year for many of the academic libraries.

Beginning in 2005, the Trial Court Law Libraries began to offer online chat independently. Since that time, they have used a variety of interfaces to provide chat; IM clients, Meebo, Trillian, Live Assistance, and LibraryH3lp. In all cases, the goal was the same—to help people find the information they need—just as the libraries have been doing since 1815.

By 2015, the libraries were receiving about five hundred chat questions per month.

Text Messaging

The law libraries have always tried to greet patrons wherever they are, using whatever technology is most comfortable for them. In 2012, library staff began offering a text messaging reference service, so that patrons can ask questions from their portable devices, using SMS text messaging technology. By 2015, the libraries were receiving about one hundred text messages per month.

Outreach via Social Media

Every library tries to reach the public to let them know about the library's services, and to anticipate their information needs. The Trial Court Law Libraries use a variety of social media outlets to publicize the libraries and to share legal information.

Blog

Since 2005, the law librarians have been blogging about library and legal news. By February 2015, the staff members had written over two thousand blog posts. The blog can be found at <http://blog.mass.gov/masslawlib/>

Twitter

Since 2008, Twitter has proven to be a valuable format to share quick bits of information, like snow closures, and also to provide a gateway to more substantive information, like blog posts and web pages. The libraries have tweeted over 1700 times, and in 2015 have over 1000 twitter followers.

Others

The Trial Court Law Libraries have maintained a presence in other social media outlets, such as Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/masslawlib>) and Flickr (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/masslawlib>), as a way to increase awareness of the website and the libraries.

Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

Research Tools Locations Services Accessibility History FAQ

Welcome!



We are seventeen public law libraries located across Massachusetts, dedicated to serving the bench, bar and public.

This web site has two primary goals: to assist you in taking advantage of the services of the Trial Court

Law Libraries, and to guide you to other resources on the web that may be valuable in conducting legal research.

If you're already familiar with our site, just select a page and go!

Quick Navigation:

Otherwise, choose from one of the navigation buttons at the top of the page. Here's some information about what you'll find:

Research Tools: This is the largest area of the website. Here you'll find links to: [Our Union Catalog](#), which allows you to search one, several or all seventeen locations, [Recommended Law-Related Internet Sites](#), [Licensed Databases](#), [Pathfinders](#), Annotated bibliographies on a variety of legal topics, and [Legal and Consumer Assistance and Referral](#).

Locations: Library locations, directions, hours, phone, fax and e-mail information.

Services: Links to library circulation, interlibrary loan, reference and fax policies. Provides a form for submitting a reference question.

Accessibility: Provides information on accessibility of individual locations for those with mobility, hearing or visual disabilities.

History: As the name implies, here you'll find information on the history and mission of the Trial Court Law Libraries.

FAQ: Everything (else) you ever wanted to know about the Trial Court Law Libraries.

1999

Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

Seventeen public law libraries located across Massachusetts, dedicated to serving the bench, bar and public.

Welcome!

Essential Links

Find a Book in our Libraries
Ask a Question
Legal and Consumer Referral
Self-Help Legal Sites
Legal Directories: find a lawyer by location or specialty
What's New
Search

Laws, Regulations and Cases

Code of Mass. Regulations (CMR)
Mass. Court Rules
Mass. General Laws
Mass. Cases
Other Mass. Laws, Rules, and Orders
Federal Law
Law of Other States
Foreign and International Law

Law by Subject

Law About... over 50 topics, A-Z:
Primarily Massachusetts info--this is the best place to start
Forms
Legal News
General Legal Info: When you're looking for very broad coverage
Pathfinders: bibliographies of print and electronic information on selected topics

About the Law Libraries

Ask a Law Librarian!
Contact Us: Library locations, phone numbers and more
Federal Depository
Library Services: Circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, fax service
"Card" Catalog
List of Periodicals
History, Mission, Five-Year Plan

[Home] [Laws] [Law by Subject] [Law Libraries] [What's New] [Search] [Ask a Librarian]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Trial Court Law Libraries. Last update: July 09, 2002. Questions, comments or corrections on this website? Contact webperson. Questions about legal information? Contact Reference Librarians.

2002

2004



Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

Seventeen public law libraries located across Massachusetts, dedicated to serving the bench, bar and public.

New Look, Same Site!

[Ask a Librarian](#)

[Get a Document](#)

[Laws by Source](#)

[Law by Subject](#)

[Law Libraries](#)

[Find a Lawyer](#)

[What's New](#)

[Search](#)

Essential Links

Mass. Law About Same-Sex Marriage **NEW!**
Get a Document: When you know exactly what you need
Find a Book in our Libraries
Ask a Law Librarian
Find a Lawyer
Find a Law Library
Lexis and Westlaw
What's New
Search

Law by Subject

Law About... over 50 Topics..A-Z: Primarily Massachusetts info--this is the best place to start
Forms
Legal News
General Legal Info: When you're looking for very broad coverage
Pathfinders: bibliographies of print and electronic information on selected topics

Laws, Regulations and Cases

Code of Mass. Regulations (CMR)
Mass. Court Rules and Fees
Mass. General Laws
Mass. Cases
Mass. Executive Orders
City and Town Ordinances
Other Mass. Laws, Rules, and Orders
Federal Law
Law of Other States
Foreign and International Law

About the Law Libraries

Ask a Law Librarian!
Law Library Locations: Hours, phone numbers and more
ADA Accessibility
Federal Depository
Library Services: Lexis, Westlaw, Circulation, reference, interlibrary loan, fax service
"Card" Catalog
History, Mission, Five-Year Plan

[Home](#) | [Ask a Librarian](#) | [Get a Document](#) | [Laws by Source](#) | [Laws by Subject](#) | [Law Libraries](#) | [Search](#) | [Updates](#) |

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Massachusetts Trial Court
Law Libraries



Questions?
Ask us!

Information:

- [Home](#)
- [Laws by Subject](#)
- [Laws by Source](#)
- [Databases](#)
- [Library Locations & Services](#)
- [Library Catalog](#)
- [Mass. Law Blog](#)

You can also:

- [Get a Library Card](#)
- [Renew a Book](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)
- [Get a Document](#)
- [Find a Lawyer](#)
- [Search](#)

Welcome to the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries!

Laws by Subject

Law About... Over 150 Topics A-Z

- Law About Eviction
- Law About Foreclosure
- Law About Same-Sex Marriage
- and much more.

Forms: All the Mass. legal forms we could find online for no charge
Laws by Popular Name: index to statutes, regs, etc. by popular names.
Legal News
Podcasts

Laws, Regulations, Cases and more...

Massachusetts Laws

- Mass. General Laws (MGL)
 - Acts and Resolves
- Regulations (CMR)
- Cases
- Court Rules and Fees including amendments effective Aug. 1 and Oct. 1, 2009
- Massachusetts Courts
- Executive Orders
- State Agency Opinions
- City and Town Bylaws
- More...

Federal Laws
Laws of Other States
Foreign and International Law



Library Locations and Services

Law Library Locations: Hours, phone numbers and more
Ask a Librarian: online chat, email and more
Get a Document: request a copy of a case, statute, whatever, at no charge
Follow us on Twitter
Follow our Flickr photostream
Circulation:
• Library Catalog
• How to Get a Library Card
• How to Renew your own books
WiFi in all 17 locations
Databases:
• HeinOnline
• Lexis
• Lexis
• Massachusetts Newslink
• Rebrivista
• Westlaw
• and more...

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Trial Court Law Libraries. Questions, comments or corrections on this website? Contact [webperson](#). Questions about legal information? Contact [Reference Librarians](#).

Last update: July 23, 2009 1:19 PM

2009



The Official Website of the Massachusetts Judicial Branch

Massachusetts Court System

Search... in Court System SEARCH

- Court Information
- Self-Help Center
- Forms
- Case & Legal Resources
- Jury Information
- Programs
- News & Publications
- Job Opportunities

Massachusetts Court System > Case & Legal Resources > Law Libraries

Law Libraries

Law Libraries

[Laws by Subject](#)

[Laws by Source](#)

[Library Locations & Services](#)

[Databases](#)

[Rules & Orders](#)

[Case Information](#)

[Judicial & Clerks' Ethics Opinions](#)

[Guidelines](#)



Law About...over 150 topics



Get a Library Card



Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR)

Trial Court Law Libraries

[Locations and Contact Information](#)



[Ask a Law Librarian](#)
Get help finding legal resources

Most Requested

- [Search the Library Catalog](#)
- [Massachusetts Law Updates Blog](#)
- [Rules & Orders](#)
- [Massachusetts Law About](#)
- [Law about Landlord and Tenant](#)
- [Law about Employment](#)
- [Massachusetts Legal Forms](#)
- [Code of Massachusetts Regulations \(CMR\)](#)
- [Massachusetts City and Town Ordinances and Bylaws](#)



Welcome to the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

There are seventeen Trial Court Law Libraries located across Massachusetts to serve the courts, attorneys and the public. On this site, we have collected a great deal of information on Massachusetts law that we hope you'll find helpful.

Massachusetts Laws by Subject

In [Laws by Subject](#), we have gathered information on legal topics ranging from adoption through zoning.

[Massachusetts Law About...](#)

[Massachusetts Legal Forms](#)

[Massachusetts Laws by Popular Name](#)

[Guide to Sources for Legal News](#)

Massachusetts Laws by Source

[Laws by Source](#) pulls information from all levels of government, from the US Supreme Court through local town bylaws.

[Massachusetts General Laws](#)

[City and Town Bylaws or Ordinances](#)

[Massachusetts Court Cases](#)

[Massachusetts Agency and Commission Opinions and Bulletins](#)

[Code of Massachusetts Regulations \(CMR\)](#)

[Federal Primary Law](#)

[Massachusetts Executive Orders](#)

[Massachusetts Historical Legal Documents and Laws](#)

[Rules of Court and Standing Orders](#)

Law Library Locations and Services

[Library Locations and Services](#) will provide everything you need to know about the libraries and what they can do for you.

[Law Library Locations](#)

[Legal and General Information Databases](#)

[Law Library Services & Policies](#)

[Library Catalog](#)

Historical Milestones of the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

- 1815 **Chapter 177** of the Acts of 1815 authorizes the establishment of law libraries in every county within the Commonwealth by five or more attorneys.
Middlesex, Lowell, Berkshire and Norfolk Law Libraries are founded.
- 1816 **Franklin** Law Library is founded.
- 1842 **Chapter 94** of the Acts of 1842 (M.G.L. chap. 78 sec 2-6) Attorneys may organize law libraries in counties and inhabitants will have access to the library and books.
Essex Law Library is founded.
- 1844 **Worcester** Law Library is founded.
- 1856 **Counties** authorized to pay for the support of the law libraries.
- 1858 **Bristol** Law Library is founded.
- 1860 **Hampden** Law Library is founded.
- 1871 **Fitchburg** Law Library is founded.
- 1872 **Hampshire** Law Library is founded.
- 1889 **Barnstable** Law Library is founded.
- 1890 **Brockton and Plymouth** Law Libraries are founded.
- 1894 **Fall River and New Bedford** Law Libraries are founded.
- 1904 **Lawrence** Law Library is founded.
- 1978 **Governor** Dukakis signs the Court Reorganization Act (ch. 468). County law libraries become part of the Massachusetts Trial Court and are now known as the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries.
- 1979 **July** first Commonwealth of Massachusetts assumes all funding for courts including county law libraries. **Advisory** Committee on Law Libraries (1979-1985) is established.
- 1980 **Advisory** Committee surveys former county law libraries.
The Committee recommends and fills the position of Law Library Coordinator.

- 1981 **The** Law Library Coordinator makes site visits to law libraries to assess collections and facilities to help prepare budget requests for future funding. **Preparation of Guidelines for the Delivery of Library Services in the Trial Court** begins.
- 1982 **Microfilm**/microfiche reader/printer purchased to provide access to the Supreme Judicial Court and Appeals Court records and briefs.
- 1983 **Guidelines for the Delivery of Library Services in the Trial Court** approved by the Chief Justice. The document establishes minimum standards for legal collections as well as uniform policies and procedures for the TCLL's to follow. **Master** list of Massachusetts materials and serials compiled to facilitate inter-library loan lending throughout the Trial Court Law Library System.
- 1984 **User** statistics start to be recorded.
Departmental Law Librarian hired to work with the seven Trial Court departments on maintaining lobby and court collections.
Berkshire, New Bedford and Plymouth law libraries are painted.
- 1985 **Trial** Court Law Library system presents four workshops for public librarians on legal materials.
Collection development committee begins review of titles in order to revise collection component of the guidelines.
Lowell Law Library is designated as depository for duplicate Massachusetts Reports.
- 1986 **Cataloging** Committee prepares libraries for computer installation.
- 1987 **Computers** are installed in the Trial Court Law Libraries and provide the staff with word-processing capabilities, computer assisted legal research, communication among TCLLs via an electronic bulletin board and the ability to create a master catalog of holdings.
The Worcester Librarian, Mary Terpo, celebrates forty years of service.
- 1988 **Strategic** planning process begins for the Trial Court Law Libraries based on American Library Association document.
Focus statement, goals and objectives for reference, research, education and community information are written.
- 1989 **Uniform** circulation and interlibrary loan policies adopted.
Plymouth and Worcester are part of court facilities projects.
Laser Guide installed and is a master list of holdings for the Trial Court Law Libraries on CD-ROM.
- 1990 **Lawrence** moves into temporary quarters.
Five Year Plan FY90 – FY94 is adopted.
- 1991 **Twenty-eight** percent (28%) reduction in the Trial Court Law Libraries line item for FY91 funding, which is restored by the Legislature in June 1991.

- Received** federal Library Service and Construction Act (LSCA) grant to provide legal reference workshops for public librarians and 800-telephone evening reference assistance.
- Grant** work begins in 1992 for evening hour reference.
- Hampshire** Law Librarian Barbara Fell-Johnson receives a Trial Court Employee Excellence Award.
- 1992 **Plymouth** Law Librarian Louise Hoagland is the recipient of the Chief Administrative Justice Award for Outstanding Service to the Massachusetts Trial Court.
- 1993 **The** Trial Court Law Library System received the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) *1993 Public Relations Award* “Outstanding Outreach to the Clientele – the Public” for the TCLL materials packet.
- Reading** Edge machines purchased to assist those with visual disabilities.
- 1994 **Ten** law library assistants hired.
- Computer** training for the staff on Windows, Word Perfect and Quattro Pro. **Head** Law Librarians of the TCLLs make 128 site visits to public libraries as part of second LSCA grant.
- 1995 **Trial** Court Law Library system becomes a member of the New England Law Library Consortium, a consortium of 22 law libraries.
- Four** Quadrant Law Librarians hired.
- Trial** Court Law Library System receives the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) *1995 Public Relations Award* in the print category for a bibliography called “Living with the Law” and a book entitled How to Grow a Law Collection: A Guide for Public Librarians, written by Berkshire and Bristol Law Librarians.
- 1996 **Generic** design specifications written as basis for the design of new facilities. **Internet** access becomes a reality.
- 1997 **Lawrence** Law Library enters into cooperative agreement with Northern Essex Community College whereby the college provides funds for staffing the library two nights a week and Saturday morning to provide extended hour library access.
- Guidelines** developed for the disposal of law books.
- Trial** Court Law Library system joins regional multi-type library systems.
- 1998 **Norfolk** Law Library moves to a rental space in Norwood and Lawrence Law Library moves into new Fenton Judicial Center.
- TCLL** web site (www.lawlib.ma.us) introduced and includes a catalog to facilitate the sharing of resources.
- 1999 **Trial** Court Law Library system awarded grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners for Statewide Legal Reference Service.
- TCLLs** provide extended hour reference assistance, topical resource kits and a web page with links and pathfinders on various legal subjects.
- Email Reference** service is established.

- 2000 **Planning** process begins based on the American Library Association's Planning for Results.
Eight "town meetings" were held throughout the state attended by judges, attorneys, business leaders, court personnel, librarians, teachers, students and the general public. Meetings were held to gather input from TCLL patrons as to how the Trial Court Law Library system can better serve them.
- 2001 **Trial** Court Law Library system, through a cooperative program with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, provide Statewide Legal Reference Service (SLRS) to the member libraries of the six multi-type library networks in the Commonwealth.
Two articles funded by a mini-grant from the Reinventing Justice Project are published. "Planning: A Practicum for Busy Librarians", published in the AALL Spectrum (April 2001) and "Trial Court Law Libraries Place Patrons at Center of Planning for the Future", published in The Court Compass (Summer 2001)
- 2002 **Barbara** Fell-Johnson, Head Law Librarian at the Hampshire Law Library, received the Sixth Annual Contribution to Justice Award from the Hampshire Bar Association.
Middlesex Law Library hosts the International Federation of Library Association's Annual Meeting.
Public computers at all 17 Law Libraries have DSL lines installed to upgrade access to the Internet.
- 2003 **Meg** Hayden, Electronic Resources Librarian, receives one of the Trial Court's Employee Excellence Awards in Worcester, Massachusetts for her efforts to develop the Trial Court Law Library's website. www.lawlib.state.ma.us
Suzanne Hoey, Head Law Librarian at the Worcester Law Library receives Worcester County Bar Association's Law Day Special Recognition Award.
Trial Court Law Library system is part of a New England Law (NELCO) project to provide live online reference (chat).
- 2004 **Document** Delivery service is implemented system wide.
- 2005 **Automated** library system including an on-line public access catalog is installed.
Navigating the Legal Maze: A Coordinated Response, a two year federal Library Services and Technology Act grant is awarded to improve the delivery of legal information to customers of legal and social services.
Lawrence Law Library receives a Library Services and Technology Act grant to build a collection of legal materials in Spanish and other languages to assist non-English speakers in understanding legal and business issues.
Office of Consumer Affairs voted the Trial Court Law Library website the second best website for Massachusetts consumer law (The Office of Consumer Affairs site came in first)
Visitors to the Trial Court Law Library website have come from all 50 states and over 90 countries.

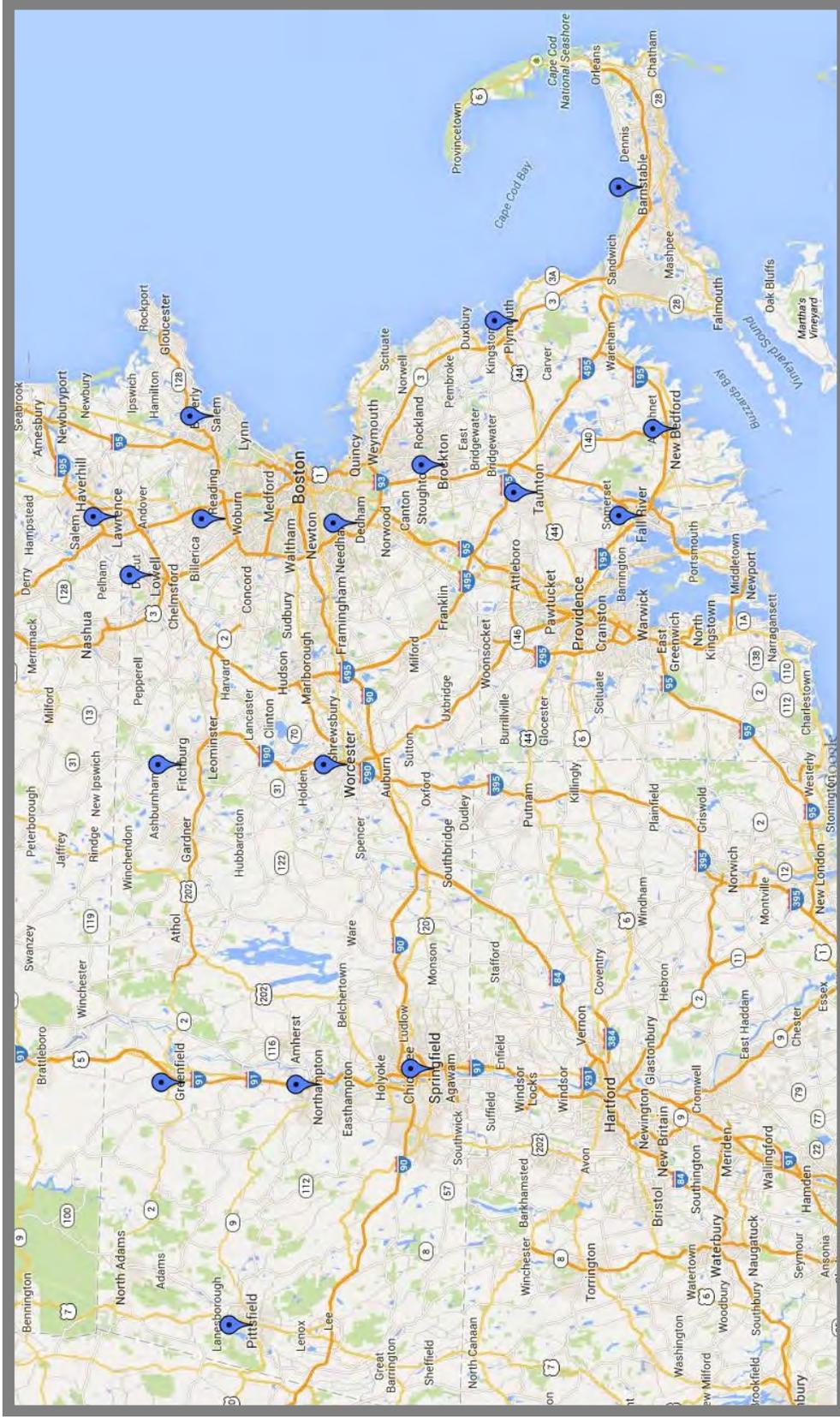
- 2006 **Law** Library Coordinator, Marnie Warner, is appointed to the SJC Committee on Self-Represented Litigants and involved in sub-committees on Expanding Access to Justice and the Working Group on Resources for Self-Represented Litigants which writes “Representing Yourself in a Civil Case: Things to Consider When Going to Court.”
- 2007 **Film** series organized by the Berkshire Law Library in partnership with the local bar association and the Friends of the Public Library. Two hundred people attend to view, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Verdict*, *Inherit the Wind* and *My Cousin Vinny*. **Training** sessions introducing the array of services of the Trial Court Law Libraries is presented to Law Clerks of the Superior, District, Probate & Family, Housing, Juvenile and Land Courts in addition to judges of Boston Municipal, Superior and Probate & Family Courts. **Barbara** Schneider, Head Law Librarian of the Berkshire Law Library, is selected to be a New England Law Library Consortium International Fellow and will spend two weeks at Oxford University in England.
Plymouth Law Library moves and is part of the new Plymouth Courthouse.
- 2008 **Middlesex** Law Library moves into 200 Trade Center in Woburn.
The Massachusetts Bar Association holds six sessions on Casemaker in four law libraries, Essex, Norfolk, Plymouth and Worcester.
Suzanne Hoey, Head Law Librarian of the Worcester Law Library is nominated as an Unsung Hero by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.
- 2009 **Worcester** Law Library moves across the street from the new Worcester Courthouse. Trial Court Law Library website www.lawlib.state.ma.us is redesigned using Dreamweaver software allowing for access on mobile devices and improves the website for ADA and W3C compliance.
- 2010 **Richard** Adamo, Head Law Librarian of the Essex Law Library is recognized as an Unsung Hero by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.
Diane Connell, Administrative Assistant for the Law Library Department honored by receiving one of the Trial Court’s Employee Excellence Awards for her work on consolidating all Trial Court Legal Book Accounts under the Trial Court Law Libraries.
Fall River Law Library is moved to the Fall River Justice Center.
Norfolk Law Library moves to the Registry of Deeds building in downtown Dedham.
Head Law Librarians of the Worcester, Plymouth and Norfolk Law Libraries provide an overview of the Trial Court Law Libraries website for each of the Regional District Court Judges Conferences.
Middlesex Law Library passes inspection from the American Bar Association to be the law library for the Middlesex Community College’s Legal Studies Program.
- 2011 **MBA Civil Litigation Newsletter** includes an article by Raymond Ausrotas writing that the Trial Court Law Libraries provide “Another exceptional opportunity that many lawyers may not be aware of, but should, is right under our noses when we go to court: the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Library system.”
Boston Globe Magazine recently listed the MTCLL as one of the “101 Things Every Bostonian Should Know.”
Rachel Diaz and Kathleen MacKinnon from Lawrence Law Library nominated as an Unsung Hero by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

Trial Court Law Libraries work with Massachusetts Public Libraries and Massachusetts Law Reform Institute on Access to Justice. The three organizations distribute bookmarks and posters, developed under a Gates Foundation Grant to the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, to the public libraries and courts, linking all information to the three organizations in one place.

Worcester Telegram & Gazette's "On the Job" article for May 16 features Suzanne Hoey, Head Law Librarian at the Worcester Law Library.

Superior Court Clerks Association features Law Library Coordinator as morning speaker.

- 2012 **e-books** of the Massachusetts Court Rules and the Massachusetts Guide to Evidence were developed by Catherine Mello Alves and published by the Trial Court Law Libraries. In the first month, 525 e-books were downloaded.
- The President's** Award from the Worcester County Bar Association for outstanding dedication and service to the members of the Bar was presented to Suzanne Hoey, Head Law Librarian at the Worcester Law Library.
- TCLL staff participated in Access to Justice Committees. Marnie Warner served on the Access to Justice Initiatives Committee and co-chaired the Self-help Materials Task Force. Kate Flynn, Head Law Librarian at the Hampden Law Library served on the Self-help Materials Task Force. Suzanne Hoey, Head Law Librarian at the Worcester Law Library served on the Information Center Task Force. Marnie Warner and Meg Hayden, Electronic Resources Librarian, served on the Access to Justice Commission's Technology Working Group.
- 2013 **The Fitchburg** Law Library moved from the Superior Court building to the second floor of the Fitchburg Public Library.
- Marnie Warner**, Law Library Coordinator, retired on June 30, 2013. She received the Top Women in the Law award from Lawyers Weekly in October. Marnie received the Law Librarians of New England's Edgar Award in recognition of her years of service. The Edgar is given in memory of Edgar Bellefontaine, who was the former director of the Social Law Library. "The Edgar award is bestowed on a law librarian (living or deceased) who as a member of the Law Librarians of New England, has made significant and sustained contributions to the field of law librarianship over the course of his or her career."
- The Essex** County Bar Association commissioned a portrait of Richard Adamo to recognize his dedicated service. The portrait was unveiled during a ceremony held at the Essex Law Library in November 2013.
- Plymouth** Law Library Head Law Librarian, Louise Hoagland, received the Excellence in Judicial Administration award from the Plymouth County Bar Association in December 2013.
- 2014 **The TCLL website** (www.lawlib.state.ma.us) is merged into the judicial branch website (<http://www.mass.gov/lawlib>) on November 19, 2014. Meg Hayden was in charge of the migration along with mass.gov staff. Sue Page and Robin Perry assisted with the project.
- 2015 The Law Libraries celebrate their 200th anniversary with this commemorative book, and celebrations in Boston and across the state.



<http://www.mass.gov/courts/case-legal-res/law-lib/libraries/locations/>

Barnstable Law Library



Barnstable District Courthouse

The Barnstable County Law Library Association was among the last to be established in 1889 with Judge Sherman approving its bylaws at the April sitting of the Superior Court. In July, 1889, Hon. Henry A. Scudder gave his extensive private law library to the Association for the use of the bench, bar and public. The first officers of the association were Freeman H. Lothrop, librarian; James H. Hopkins, treasurer and T. C. Day, clerk.

The detailed first account of life at the Barnstable Law Library comes from a 1983 article written by retiring assistant librarian Lois Perry in the “Barnstable Patriot.” As with many of the county law libraries, the position of Law Librarian was held by a practicing attorney. Most of the work performed in the library was done by the “assistant librarian”. Ms. Perry recalls the beginning of her tenure at the law library “twenty some years” previous when she was approached by a County Commissioner and offered the job of assistant librarian. At the time, Ms. Perry only reported to work

when there was work to be done and was able to “come and go at her convenience”. The duties of the librarian in the 1960s consisted of stamping the new volumes with the library seal, recording the receipt, shelving, typing a copy of the invoice for payment by the County Commissioners and reconciling accounts. After some difficulty with the library accounts, assistant librarian, Lois Perry was instructed by her 95-year old father, a former banker, how to keep the books in an orderly fashion.

When the law library was moved to the new District Court building in the early 1970s, the demand for the library increased. The new library needed to be fully staffed and open from 9 – 4, but the librarian was reluctant to work a full work week. As a result, the first “job share” in the law libraries was created. Ms. Perry and Ms. Eleanor Gallagher shared the work week from 1972 or 1973 until they both retired in 1983 increasing their responsibilities as they went to include helping attorneys and the public find the answers to their legal questions.

After the Trial Court took over the operations of the Law Libraries, the Barnstable Law Library flourished. They were able to purchase many modern-day conveniences such as an adding machine and an electric typewriter. Library staff fully participated in state-wide activities ranging from serving on the Trial Court Law Libraries Collection Development Committee to teaching legal reference classes in “On the Road with Legal Research”.

Librarians

Philip M. Boudreau – (1976)

Lois Perry (assistant librarian) - 1963 - 1983

Eleanor Gallagher (assistant librarian) – 1972/1973 - 1983

Martha Elkins – 1983 – 2005

Meg Hill - 2006- 2015

Suzanne Hoey – 2015 -

A History of the Berkshire Law Library

A History of the County of Berkshire by David D. Field, published in 1829, recites “In September, 1814, the members of the bar formed themselves into a Law Library Association, for the purpose of procuring books to be used during the sessions of the Courts. They now have 310 volumes.” At the time that Field wrote his *History*, there were forty practicing lawyers in the



“Plan of Courthouse drawn by a scale of one fourth of an inch to the foot by Isaac Damon” Elevation of the Second Berkshire County Courthouse built in 1815 in Lenox, MA.
Courtesy of the Lenox Library.

County. A century and a half later, the library was called “the first such collection in the state . . . which came to be invaluable to members of the Berkshire Bar whenever they attended court sessions in Lenox. The idea soon attracted imitators in counties all over Massachusetts.”¹ To give a sense of what it was like to be a lawyer in the western part of the state in 1814, it is noteworthy that the Berkshire Law Library predates the establishment of the Harvard Law School. Harvard did not establish a Law School until May 14, 1817.² The Law Library was one important path to learning the law.

In the earliest years of the Republic, there was much dissension about what town should be designated as the shire town, where the Courts should be located. Berkshire County was

separated from Hampshire County in 1761. In 1782, upon petition of local citizens, the legislature appointed a committee to determine the site of the county seat. “The report [of this committee] was accepted, and an act passed directing the Courts to be holden at Lenox. . . the act was not universally acceptable to the people.”³

The first courthouse was built in Lenox in 1791 or 1792 at the site of the current Town Hall. In 1815, a new Courthouse was constructed in Lenox. A “stately Greek Revival building with its majestic Ionic columns and elegant cupola, was designed by Captain Isaac Damon and built on Main Street in 1814-1815.”⁴ This building serves today as the Lenox Library. The original plans for the 1815 Courthouse are part of the Lenox Library collections. The design of the Court Room features a prisoner’s dock, and the building includes a library located behind the “Judge’s seat” with limited access.

In these early years, the Supreme Judicial Court held two sessions per year in Lenox. Theodore Sedgwick was one of several Berkshire County Justices who served on the Court (1802 – 1813). The Honorable Lemuel Shaw, Chief Justice of the SJC from 1830 to 1860, first took his seat at a sitting of the Court in Lenox. “At the time of his appointment to the bench, American law was still in its formative period. . . No other state judge through his opinions alone had so great an influence on the course of American law.”⁵ Other early patrons of the library, who “may well have owed something of their legal knowledge to its convenient location” were “David Dudley Field, one day to become famous as the codifier of New York State law, and his brother, Stephen J. Field, destined to sit on the Supreme Court of the United States.”⁶

Chapter 94 of the Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1842 provided a template for the formation of Law Library Associations throughout the Commonwealth. In response to this legislation the Berkshire Law Library Association held a meeting in the Lenox Courthouse on May 12, 1842,. The Act stipulated that “any inhabitant of the county shall have the right to use the books in said library” and directed these revised versions of Law Library Associations to adopt by-laws. The first to hold the position of librarian of the new Association was George J. Tucker who served from 1842 until his death in 1878.

All this while, Pittsfield was jockeying to be the shire town. As early as 1812, Pittsfield citizens were petitioning the legislature to move the county seat. A bitter battle between factions arguing for and against removal resulted in the publication of numerous broadsides, lobbying of legislatures, and a series of votes of the people querying where the County Courthouse should be located. One of the BroadSides reads “the County Commissioners, upon the *universally* expressed or implied understanding that the question had been settled, proceeded to make . . .enlargement of the Court House [in Lenox]. The work was commenced in 1855, and completed in [1856.] The cost was about \$13,000.” Plans in Lenox Library of the 1855 addition show an enlarged Law Library, with much better access, and a Court Room designed in the fashion to which we are more accustomed today.

Alas, the battle for the location of Berkshire’s County Courthouse was not over. In 1868, the Legislature authorized the Berkshire County Commissioners to borrow money to build a new Courthouse in Pittsfield (St. 1868, c. 325).

The law library's collection sustained a devastating fire while books were held in temporary quarters on North St. in Pittsfield, pending the move into the new Pittsfield Courthouse. A "Statement of the loss and damage sustained by the Berkshire Law Library in the fire which consumed the Court House in Burbanks New Block in Pittsfield on the morning of Tuesday May 11.1869" tells the story. "The library was kept in a second story room fronting on street and the book [sic] which were saved were almost all thrown out of the window into the mud and dirt. They were then picked up by the crowd and removed at once in wagons and otherwise to places of safety and as soon as it became daylight were collected and removed in wagons to the Town Hall where by direction of C.J. Chapman the Court was held that morning." The loss was settled by a Boston insurance company within the same month for \$800.00.

The new Pittsfield Courthouse was designed by Louis Weisbein of Boston, and built by A.B. and D.C. Munyan of Pittsfield for a cost of \$200,000. "The Courthouse, which is one of the finest in the commonwealth, is constructed of white marble, from Sheffield, resting on a basement of dove colored marble from the same town. It was first occupied at the September term of the Supreme Court in 1871."⁷ Initially, the Law Library was located on the second floor of the Courthouse. The Library moved up to its present location on the third floor in 1918, complete with a vaulted ceiling and stucco cornice work that since has been obscured by a drop ceiling. In 1964, substantial renovation was made to the Court House. At that time, the Library was air conditioned, new furniture was installed and an office area was created.

In 1991, the Courthouse was included as part of Pittsfield's Park Square Historic District in the National and State Register of Historic Places.

St. 1842, c. 94, the legislation that allowed for the creation of Law Library Associations with libraries open to the public stipulated that "the officers of such associations shall be clerk, treasurer and librarian, whose duties shall be defined by the by-laws." In the nineteenth century, the Association's librarians were typically well respected lawyers who took on the duty of "librarian" as a kind of civic duty. George Tucker, Librarian from 1842 to 1878, also served as Register of Deeds, County Treasurer and state legislator.

Law Librarianship, as a profession, developed in the twentieth century. The American Association of Law Librarians was established in 1906. Classification systems, enabling books to be shelved in a way that would provide access by subject, were developed in the late nineteenth century. Not until 1921, do we hear Howard L. Stebbins, writing about "The County Law Library System in Massachusetts" say "with competent full time librarians these county institutions are libraries in the best sense; without them some collections come perilously near being as the auction dealers have it 'a lot of books.'" ⁸

Donald J. Dunn, also writing about Massachusetts law libraries, said "during the early developmental years, law libraries were often viewed as warehouses and librarians as caretakers. Those days have long since passed."⁹ With the proliferation of legal literature, the librarian's role changed. Librarians learned to build and maintain collections, teach legal research skills, and help members of the bench, bar and the public find primary and secondary sources of state and federal law. Today, we would

add the necessity of balancing print and electronic formats to the list of the librarian's duties.

At the Berkshire County Law Library, there is a record of Ruth E. Griffen being the Assistant Librarian in 1912, working under the direction of W. C. Kellogg. Jessica D. Sisson was the paid Assistant Law Librarian from 1921 to 1942, working under Frederick M. Myers, Esq., Librarian. Oscar F. Stetson became Assistant Librarian in 1942. In 1945, Stetson reached the compulsory retirement age of 70 years. However, at that time, the County Commissioners, who were paying his salary, approved a reappointment "to remain in effect during the continuance of the existing state of war between the United States and any foreign country." ¹⁰

In 1946, Ulrich Gay was appointed to succeed Oscar Stetson. Gay was a minister with the French Evangelical Church in Pittsfield, and became associate pastor when his church merged with the First Church of Christ. In 1959, Gay asked the County Commissioners for a raise because the Law Library Association voted to begin lending books. Gay argued that circulation would increase the work load and responsibilities of the Librarian. "At the time the present Librarian took up his job in 1946, there were only 72 members of the Berkshire Bar Association, while today the Association counts 120 members. Our appropriation for new books went up from \$1500 in 1946 to \$3800 at the present date. The Library at present has 27,000 volumes." ¹¹

Christine Donna, a Pittsfield attorney, took over as Assistant Librarian in 1961, and ushered the Library through the state take-over of the law libraries resulting from the 1978 Court Reorganization Act, St. 1978, c. 478. She worked with Chief Administrative Justice Arthur M. Mason's Advisory Committee on Law Libraries, and later Marnie Warner, Law Library Coordinator, to begin forging the disparate County Law Libraries established under the 1842 legislation into a twentieth century system. Donna retired in 1982.

In a pamphlet on the subject of "Massachusetts County Law Libraries" written by the Worcester County Law Librarian in 1908, G. E. Wire lamented "Some sort of organization among us would result to our individual and collective advantage, and it is earnestly hoped that this may be accomplished." There is no doubt that the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries have been organized into a system that benefits all. The union catalog of the system's collections and the Trial Court Law Libraries' website, now part of mass.gov, serve the Berkshires and the world.

Trial Court Law Librarians are members of regional and national professional organizations to our "individual and collective advantage." Lending and borrowing are possible through accessing our system's resources and the services of OCLC's WorldShare Interlibrary Loan. Rare seventeenth and eighteenth century books, part of Berkshire's special collections, are cataloged in the British Library's "English Short Title Catalogue", a comprehensive, international union catalogue listing material printed before 1801. Berkshire Law Librarians participate in online legal reference services, and work together with their colleagues across the state and beyond. What has not changed is a commitment to serve the bench, the bar and the public as it was outlined in the earliest legislation.

Endnotes

- ¹ Richard D. Birdsall, *Berkshire County: A Cultural History*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959), p. 163.
- ² Arthur C. Pulling, “The Harvard Law School Library,” 43 *Law Library Journal* 1 (February, 1950).
- ³ David D. Field, *A History of the County of Berkshire*, (Pittsfield: Samuel W. Bush, 1829), p. 102.
- ⁴ The Lenox Library, “About the Library,”
Available at : <http://lenoxlib.org/about-the-library/history/> (Accessed January 25, 2015).
- ⁵ Levy, Leonard W. “Lemuel Shaw: America’s Greatest Magistrate”, 7 *Vill. L. Rev.* 389 (1962).
- ⁶ Birdsall, p. 232.
- ⁷ *History of Berkshire County Massachusetts* (New York: J.B. Beers & Co., 1885), p. 327.
- ⁸ Howard L. Stebbins, “The County Law Library System in Massachusetts”, 14 *Law Library Journal* 69, p.72.
- ⁹ Donald J. Dunn, “Law Libraries And Law Librarians: Then, Now, And Later”,
Available at: <http://vintage.sociallaw.com/renovation/dunnarticle.htm> (Accessed 1/27/15).
“First appeared in an October 19, 1992 ‘special section.’ Reprinted with permission of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.”
- ¹⁰ Berkshire Law Library records.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*

The Bristol Law Library



A unique feature in the Bristol Law Library, likely used by the clerk when the space was a probate courtroom.

The Bristol Law Library was founded in 1858 by a Law Library Association composed of local bar association members and judges. The first permanent librarian began work in 1904. In 1931, all the funds were transferred to the county treasurer, and the library remained county supported until the passage of the Court Reorganization Act of 1978, which transferred the administration of the Bristol Law Library to the Commonwealth's Trial Court System under the Office of the Administrative Justice.

“The original library was in a room of the old Superior Courthouse. After the present building was built, it was scattered about in the consulting rooms and in the gallery of the small courtroom. When the new Registry Building was built the library was located in its present quarters in the old Probate Court Room.”¹

One of the features of the current space is the unusual acoustics, which conduct sound from one side to the other without amplification. A useful design element for a courtroom.

¹From a 1937 newspaper clipping of unknown origin.

Librarians

Carol Francis (1955 – 1990)

Margaret Hayden (1991 – 2002)

Debra O’Donnell (Acting 2005 – 2010)



"Bristol County Courthouse, cornerstone laid In 1982. B&W". Licensed under PD-US via Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bristol_County_Courthouse_B%26W.jpg#mediaviewer/File:Bristol_County_Courthouse_B%26W.jpg

Brockton Law Library



The Law Library is located in Brockton Superior Courthouse.

Library Staff

The first documented librarian was Miss Stella Rollins, who received a weekly salary of \$7.00 in 1917. Correspondence from William Nagel Law Book Publisher in Boston reveals she married at some point and was known as Mrs. Stella R. Churchill in 1929. Mr. George Olsson, Clerk of Court, sent a letter to District Court Judge William Rowe dated August 27, 1929 about Mrs. Churchill being discharged from her duties as librarian. In his letter, Mr. Olsson explained that Mrs. Churchill put in extra time to assist with a larger number of people who wanted to be naturalized before July 1, 1929. It was his opinion that she was not compensated for the amount of work she performed and she “was willing to assist prospective citizens of this country out of a sense of civic duty.” Apparently this letter of support did not have its intended effect, because a certificate of employment dated July 1, 1932 shows Margaret Alexander as being appointed the part-time librarian at the Brockton Law Library at a salary of 45 cents per hour. Miss Elizabeth Scott was the librarian from 1936 to 1939. Ledger books indicate that a salary was paid to Mildred M. Cogswell (later Mildred M. Dickinson) and Thomas F. Quinn from 1947 to 1951. It is not clear if either Ms. Cogswell or Mr. Quinn may have worked in Plymouth. Fred D. Rowe was the law librarian in 1952-1953. Attorney Kenneth MacMullen worked as a part-time librarian from the 1970’s to 1984. Susan Van Beek was the law librarian for a short time

until Jean Medeiros Smith took over and remained in the position until February 2013. She was succeeded by Robin Bates, who was formerly the Quadrant Law Librarian. In January 2014 Robin transferred to the Essex Law Library in Salem. The Head Law Librarian position remains vacant as of February 2015.

The Early Years

Although documentation could not be found showing the date of establishment of the Brockton Law Library, it was in existence in the late 19th century. The “Annual Statement of the Receipts and Expenditures of the County of Plymouth for the Year Ending December 31, 1890” lists payments made to legal publishers for the law library at the Brockton Courthouse. The annual statement in the following year listed “Law libraries in several courthouses” as assets of the county in the amount of \$3,000. In 1895 the law libraries were valued at \$6,500.

Library Location

The Brockton Law Library is located in the basement of the Superior Court building at 72 Belmont Street. It occupied 2,390 square feet until an “annex” area was added in the 1990s. The main library is divided up by alcoves and a vault in the center of the space. In 1980 there was one desk for the library staff with a typewriter and 5 small tables and photocopier for library patrons. By the end of the 1980s computers replaced the typewriter. The annex area down the hallway allowed room for 3 public computers, a microfiche reader/printer, a law librarian’s office and space for a staff desk and table. Over the years the law library has been plagued by water damage from leaky pipes, so print materials and equipment have been damaged.

Attorneys Advocate for the Law Libraries

Given that the law libraries were originally established by Bar Associations, it stands to reason that attorneys would have an interest in them and want to improve the resources. Here are some examples:

A letter dated January 8, 1936 from Attorney Harry Stone of Brockton to Judge Francis P. Murphy of the Probate Court suggested that they approach the County Commissioners to purchase a file cabinet for SJC briefs. Attorney Stone visited the Essex Law Library in Salem and discovered that they asked Essex County counsel who go to the Supreme Judicial Court to send a copy of their briefs to the law library.

Attorney Seymour Bluhm of Plymouth was an ardent supporter of the Plymouth County law libraries and asserted their cause with the County Commissioners and General Court. He wrote to the other trustees of the Plymouth County Law Library Association in February 1971 and said “The County Commissioners have chopped the hell out of our budgetThey have proceeded to approve for books the same amount as was appropriated by the legislature in 1968, \$7,500. The Legislature had appropriated for us in 1969,



Photo by Timothy Valentine, 2010.

11, 1977 at 4:30 pm. Every other law library in Mass. gets triple and double the funds that each of our libraries gets and nobody seems to see the insanity of that kind of system.”

Appendices

Appendix A: Photograph of Gerri Cummings at copier, November 1985.

Appendix B: Photograph of staff desk in main library, November 1985.

Appendix C: Letter to Judge Rowe from George Olson (clerk of courts) dated August 27, 1929.

Appendix D: Notice of Intent to Fill a Vacancy or to Establish a New Position for a part-time librarian at the Brockton Law Library, July 1, 1932.

\$9,839.30; and in 1970, \$11,454.24. I am at a loss to understand why they should be acting this way!” In 1973 Attorney Bluhm sent a letter to Senator Anna Buckley (Committee on Counties) to ask for an adjustment to the Plymouth County Law Library budget due to a few mistakes. The first error was due to the budget being based on a 12 month period instead of an 18 month period. Secondly, the budget did not reflect the fact that there were 2 law libraries in Plymouth County. Mr. Bluhm included a chart showing by county the book budget, population, and the population to book ratio to emphasize that Plymouth County was below the other counties. Attorney Bluhm continued his campaign for more library funding in 1977 when he wrote to the other library trustees saying “It is urgent that as many of our trustees of the Law Library attend hearing before the Plymouth County Commissioners as possible on Tuesday, January

Essex County Law Library History¹



“The history of law libraries in Massachusetts begins in 1803 with the formation of the Social Law Library by members of the Suffolk bar. The necessity for such an institution arose following the exodus of Tory lawyers back to England, who took with them their law books. The loss of these vital resources created a hardship for both the members of the bar and the judiciary. To support their objective, Suffolk bar members pledged \$50 each to the "establishment of a public Law Library in this Town." With \$1,100 in his pocket, Boston attorney John Lowell purchased the needed volumes of reports and texts while touring England and the Continent.

The first annual meeting of the Social Law Library was held April 23, 1804, where the Essex bar's Theophilus Parsons was elected president. Members of the Suffolk bar were

once again in the position to properly practice law, however, the court and judiciary still lacked resources of its own. To remedy the situation, that same year, the Supreme Judicial Court offered space within the courthouse to the library for the privilege of using its materials. That relationship continues to this day.

In 1815, an Act was approved authorizing the establishment of Law Libraries in every county where at least five attorneys at law were admitted and sworn to practice before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. To fund the libraries, the twenty dollar new admission fee, which was currently paid to the Court of Common Pleas, would now be paid to the treasurer of that county's law library.

Members of the Essex Bar Law Library compiled an exceptional assortment of some four hundred volumes through the year 1837. Until that time, the library maintained residence in the old brick courthouse on Washington Street which was scheduled to be replaced with a new stone Courthouse on Federal Street Unfortunately, no space was allocated for the library in the new location. Therefore, it was moved to the office of Joshua Ward. Without one individual, or entity, to manage and preserve its contents, many of the library's books vanished, and the library faltered until 1856.

The organization of the Essex County Law Library Association in December of 1856 was the result of an Act passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1842. This Act required the appointment of a clerk, treasurer and librarian to oversee the administration of the library, which in the long run may have contributed to its preservation. Although the 1856 by-laws acknowledge Stephen B. Ives, Jr. as the Clerk of the Essex County Law Library, no mention is made of a librarian. The new library flourished, increasing the number of volumes from less than three hundred in 1856, to over twenty-six hundred in 1872. A catalogue listing the library's contents was published that same year, indicating William C. Endicott as the librarian.”

According to papers filed in the Registry of Deeds, William C. Endicott, identified as the treasurer of the Essex Law Library Association, offered his bond, in the sum of \$1,500.00 in December of 1856. It was not until December of 1863, however, that his title was changed to librarian and treasurer. Endicott held the position of librarian until 1873. Since that time there have been eight Librarians who have served the bench, the bar and the general public in their search for legal information. They are: Leverett S. Tuckerman (1874 – 1882); Theodore M. Osborn (1882 – 1890); Frank V. Wright (1891 – 1904); Sumner Y. Wheeler (1910 – 1953); Paul F. Ferguson (1953 – 1966); J. Joseph Gilligan (1967 – 1983); Richard E. Adamo (1984 – 2013); Robin W. Bates (2014 -).

In 1888, Essex County decided to enlarge the Salem Courthouse. The architects, a Lynn firm, designed the addition to include the law library. In the book, Courthouses of the Commonwealth, there is a section entitled, “The houses of the law, a history of Superior Court architecture in Massachusetts”, written by John C. McConnell. In it, McConnell,

while describing the addition to the Salem Courthouse, writes that the “true glory of this building is its law library”. Anyone who had the opportunity to see the space would agree. Rich oak paneling, a huge fireplace, solid oak bookcases, and beautiful iron work made the library a beautiful place to do legal research.

Like a lot of libraries, space was always at a premium. As more cases were argued, and more laws were passed, the need for more space grew. In order to accommodate the expansion of legal information, there was a decision made to add free-standing double-sided bookcases around the perimeter of the rooms. Following the style of the oak paneling, the bookcases were not only functional, but works of art with elaborate moldings.

Of course while this certainly gave more shelf space to the library, it was not the end. The legal community needed access to not only Massachusetts law, but information from other states, and the federal level as well. Access to regulations, both state and federal, as well as access to secondary sources, was necessary. Once again the need for more space was felt. The balcony was doubled in size and free-standing, double-sided oak bookcases were added. The once grand room was becoming crowded.

Then the move to electronics entered the legal field. Once only able to find cases and do legal research with books, now computers were being used. And not just for legal research, but also for the day to day operations in the library. Westlaw and Lexis, Word and Wordperfect, these were essential tools for anyone working in the legal field. And so, it got even more crowded.

Every inch was used – something had to give.

That something was the decision to build a new court complex that would house the different court divisions. And this time, that included the library. The Essex Law Library is now located in the J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center in Salem Massachusetts. The library itself is in the old First Baptist Church which is attached to the new Judicial Center. The First Baptist Church was built in 1806 and purchased by the Trial Court in 2007. It was then moved 175 feet to its present location. According to the architects at Goody Clancy, the firm developing plans for building the complex, the challenge was how the new building would complement the old court building and church. Joan Goody, a partner in the Boston firm of Goody Clancy, said “the church is to be seen as a jewel, with the glass and granite of the new Trial Court behind as background to it”. And they succeeded. The blending of the old and new created a beautiful space to conduct legal research.

The handcrafted tables and chairs came, the grandfather clock, and the pictures that graced the walls. What did not come, was the many hardbound print reporters. A determination was made that with the availability to get cases electronically, and from more than one vendor, that having only electronic access would be sufficient. Now, the only print reporters in the library are the Massachusetts Reporters. Not everything was left behind; historical material, superseded treatises, and journals are now housed in compact shelving



The law library in the renovated former church connected to the new Judicial Center.

the Essex County Bar Association” Pamela L. Surette, 2006.

in the lower level with staff only access.

The main room of the library has the two large tables with six public computers, two for Westlaw and three for Lexis, and one for general use. Then there are four smaller tables and four extra large carrels available for personal work space or when using the many print books. Each table and every carrel has electrical outlets for patron’s laptops. In addition to the computers and print material, there is also free access to Westlaw, Lexis, and the Social Law Libraries various databases and free wifi.

¹ Written by Richard Adamo, Head Law Librarian at the Essex Law Library from 1984 to 2013, for inclusion in the pamphlet entitled “The 200 Year History of

Fall River Law Library

The Fall River and New Bedford Law Libraries were established by the Massachusetts Acts of 1894, chapter 423, for use by the courts and citizens of the Commonwealth.

Law libraries were to be established in every county within the Commonwealth by five or more attorneys. Massachusetts Acts of 1815, chapter 177.

The Act of 1894 directed and required the Bristol County Commissioners to provide funding, not to exceed \$1,000 annually, and suitable accommodations for the law libraries within a courthouse in their respective cities. The law libraries were to be under the control and direction of their local bar associations.

The Fall River Superior Courthouse was authorized to be built in 1887 and work commenced on North Main Street in March 1889. Upon completion in 1895, the Law Library was to share space with the Superior Court, Registry of Deeds, apartments for the District Attorney, clerk of court, etc. and had six cells in the basement. The reported cost for this project was \$181,016.



Fall River Superior Courthouse, North Main St. n.d.

The Fall River Bar Association was founded in 1887. Nicholas Hatheway, Treasurer of the association was appointed librarian in 1905. A library committee was also established with members Edward Higginson, L. Elmer Wood and Richard P. Borden.

By 1907, the Libraries held 5,000 volumes, mainly reference books which circulated to attorneys and persons holding permits from the directors.

In 1930, an adjoining building was constructed on the property for the expansion of the Registry of Deeds and Law Library. In August 2010, the library relocated to the Fall River Justice Center, 186 South Main Street.



Fall River Judicial Center, South Main St., 2015.

Fall River Librarians

1905-1930: Nicholas Hatheway

1930-1960: Laura R. Wilson

1960-1972: Mary M. Welch

1972-1991: Mary L. Sullivan

1991-2002: Lois Kane

2002- present: Madlyn Correa

Fitchburg Law Library



Photo by Antiquity Echoes

In 1871, more than fifty years after the Commonwealth enacted the legislation creating law libraries, a new Superior Courthouse was built in the City of Fitchburg in northern Worcester County. The Victorian Gothic edifice, costing \$125,000 to construct, featured massive granite walls and steeply slanted slate roofs in the then popular “American Mansard” style. Inside, in addition to spaces for the Superior Court, the Police Court, various county offices, and three jail cells, a space measuring twenty-four feet by eighteen feet was set aside for a law library.

The popularity of the law library and its growing law book collection eventually forced planners to concede that four hundred thirty-two square feet wasn’t adequate, and the library’s space was extended to fifty-eight feet by eighteen feet, more than doubling its size to one thousand forty-four square feet, the size it remained until the mid-1980s when a number of court functions moved across Wallace Avenue to the newly renovated District Court facility and left a courtroom adjacent to the law library vacant. After breaking through a wall and absorbing that space, the library measured one thousand two hundred and fifty square feet, its largest dimension since its inception and the size it remained for the next thirty years.

In 1990, the library's budget also peaked, reaching just over \$130,000; thus the library was expending more on legal resources per annum than the courthouse the library occupied had cost to build.

But the condition of that courthouse had seriously deteriorated. Faced with the daunting prospect of expensive repairs requiring rare expert craftsmanship from a bygone era, combined with new regulatory requirements for accessibility and the urgent need for court reorganization resulting from severe budget shortfalls, the Trial Court decided to close the old Superior Courthouse at the end of 2013.

Closure of the courthouse forced the law library to seek a new home, which turned out to be two vacant offices on the second floor of the Fitchburg Public Library. The tenancy of a court law library, with its law book collection organized according to the Library of Congress classification scheme, inside a public city library, with its broad general book collection organized according to the Dewey Decimal System, was a first in the nation experiment with benefits to be gained by both institutions. At long last, the law library was handicapped accessible and could extend its hours beyond the court's normal workday schedule; and the public library could finally offer its patrons looking for legal information a current, specialized, legal resource in-house.

At approximately four hundred square feet, the library's current size is roughly the same as its original size more than one hundred and forty years ago; and the library's current budget is less than a third of what it once was. With the substantial downsizing of print collections and limits to circulation necessitated by these contractions, it may seem as if the library has come full circle. But 2015 is not 1871. No longer do patrons have to walk or ride their horse to their nearest law library. Today legal researchers can call or email or communicate via live chat with reference librarians and have their legal queries answered remotely. Information can be scanned from printed resources unavailable on the web and emailed or faxed. The electronic information revolution now allows law libraries to hold more information in less space than ever. That means that today, despite its small size and small budget, the Fitchburg Law Library remains a vital legal resource for the people of northern Worcester County.

Librarians :

Ann O'Connor (1981 – 1985)

Lyn Lambert (1985 – 1996)

Peter Anderegg (1996 – present)



Franklin Law Library

Birth

In 1816, the Franklin County Bar Association, four years after it formed, requested that a warrant issue to call a meeting in order to establish the Franklin Law Library Association:

To Rodolphus Dickinson Esq. One of the Justices of the Peace within and for the County of Franklin,

We the Subscribers attornies at Law regularly admitted and sworn to practice before the Circuit Court of Common Pleas request your Honor to issue your warrant for calling a meeting of the practitioners at Law within the County of Franklin aforesaid to meet at the Court House on Wednesday the fourteenth day of August current at six of the Clock P.M. for the purpose of organizing the establishment of a Law Library according to the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in such cases made and provided.

Dated at Greenfield in Said County the first day of August A.D. 1816.

Richd E. Newcomb
E. Alvord 2nd
H. Leavitt
Geo. Grennell Jr.
Franklin Ripley



Franklin County Courthouse, Bank Row, Greenfield (1813)

(See Appendix A). The warrant issued, the attorneys assembled, and the Law Library Association was born. The officers were: Rodolphus Dickinson, Esq., Chairman; Hooker Leavitt, Esq., Clerk; Elijah Alvord, 2nd, Esq., Treasurer; and Richard E. Newcomb, Esq., Librarian.

The Librarian

The Franklin County Bar Association and the Franklin Law Library Association remained closely linked throughout the 19th and into the 20th centuries. Richard E. Newcomb, Esq., served as the first President of the Franklin County Bar Association as

well as the first Librarian of the Franklin Law Library Association (See Appendix B). Others who had turns as Librarian and Bar President were Samuel O. Lamb (Librarian mid-1850's; Bar President 1892-1907), and Samuel D. Conant (Librarian 1889-1910; Bar President 1910-1931).

John C. Lee, who served as Librarian for over 20 years from 1911 to the mid-1930's, reported to the Bar Association in 1923 that, during the past year, the library had added 270 volumes, the books and shelves had been thoroughly cleaned and some re-arranged. He also noted that certain sets such as the Missouri Appeals reports had become increasingly expensive to keep up and therefore, discontinued. He described “no diminution in the use of the library; on the contrary, there has, so far as observation could be made, been an increase in the number of visits to the library during the year.”

Sometime between 1932 and 1937, the Library Committee reported to the Franklin County Commissioners the need to hire a full-time librarian. After visiting the libraries in Worcester, Pittsfield, and Hampden Counties, the Committee described their desired candidate:

Such a person should be one of more than average intelligence who could adapt himself or herself to the routine of library work. There should be a marked degree of dependability, imagination and ability to work consistently in a conscientious manner without supervision. There should also be initiative and an ability to acquaint himself or herself to a certain degree with the contents of the library and the use of law books, and the ability to build up and continue a catalog and handle the accounting end of the library's work. Secretarial ability is very desirable.

The report surmises,

We believe that a woman, with some training in general business matters, can probably be obtained at this time, who can be trained to do useful work in the upkeep of the library, at a reasonable salary.

The present-day librarian has advanced degrees of either Masters in Library Science or Juris Doctor or both in order to meet the demands of deciphering the validity and quality of the explosion of available legal information and far outshines that first mid-1930's job description.

Notably, Marguerite Dolan, who headed Franklin Law Library for over ten years in the 1960's, was the last person in the Commonwealth to be admitted as an attorney without having attended law school under the old practice of “reading for the Bar.”

Library Locations

The law library has always been housed in the Franklin County Courthouse. First, it resided in the Courthouse (built in 1813) on Bank Row (See Appendix C), then in the Courthouse (built

in 1848) across the street on Bank Row until 1935 (See Appendix D). During the opening Address after the 1848 building was renovated in 1873, Whiting Griswold¹ described the law library as “tasteful, convenient, well arranged and well furnished.” In 1935, a new Courthouse was built at 425 Main Street (See Appendixes E and F). In February 2014, the Law Library moved with the Courthouse to a temporary leased space at 101 Munson Street (Greenfield Corporate Center - See Appendix G) while the old courthouse is completely renovated into a new state-of-the-art facility. It is expected to be completed in 2016-2017 (See Appendix H).

Library Access Evolves

On November 13, 1816, the Library Association adopted its first by-laws and resolved to allow books out of the library to “Gentlemen of the Bar” only while Court was in session, “[t]hey being responsible for the good usage and safe return of the same at the rising of the Court.” The judges were allowed more liberal use “at all times during their Session . . . either at their lodgings, in the Court Room, or at the Library Room.” They allowed the Librarian “the liberty to use in his professional practice, any of the Books in said Library,” but forbade him from permitting the books “to be studied by Students at Law in his Office” (See Appendix I).

The Law Library Association loosened such restrictive access to its resources in 1842 when it granted the public the right to use the law library pursuant to Acts of 1842, Chapter 94.

Over the years, as part of the Trial Court Law Libraries, Franklin Law Library continued to improve access and technology, and became a member of the greater library community. A favorite example of its impact on the larger library community is when Marilyn Lee (Librarian 1972-2001; See Appendix J) deaccessioned the Georgia Reports from the law library and those volumes found a new home with the Georgia Law Library whose own set had been burned during Sherman’s 1864 Civil War March to the Sea.

Today, the Court Service Center, piloted in 2014, integrated with the Law Library to provide focused assistance to the self-represented litigant. The Franklin Law Library supports Greenfield's Court Service Center by providing library materials and assisting with research.

¹Whiting Griswold (1814-1874) was a western Massachusetts lawyer and state legislator. He graduated from Amherst College in 1838, and was sworn in as an attorney in Northampton in 1842. He served multiple terms each as a Massachusetts House Representative and a State Senator. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention of 1853.

Hampden Law Library

Historical Sketch of Hampden Law Library

Accounts of the origins of Hampden Law Library differ. In *King's Handbook of Springfield Massachusetts*, King writes that, "It was established in 1860, at the request of the bar, by means of an appropriation made by the county commissioners." According to the *First Annual Report of the Worcester County Law Library*, "Hampden County Law Library was started in 1813. It contained but few volumes until 1860 when a member of the bar was elected a county commissioner." The 1813 date is confirmed in a 1921 Law Library Journal article entitled "The County Law Library System in Massachusetts."

While we do not know much about the earliest operations of the Hampden Law Library, we do know that the collection size increased steadily following the 1860 appropriation. In 1884, King wrote, "It contains over 2,000 volumes, including the valuable set of reports donated by his library by the late Hon. William G. Bates of Westfield." The library expanded dramatically by 1899, housing 12,200 volumes, as reported by the *First Annual Report of the Worcester County Law Library*. According to Law Library Journal there were 15,444 volumes in the library in 1921.

We also know that the library has long been inside the courthouse, even when new courthouses have been built. When the

architecturally noteworthy courthouse designed by Henry Hobson Richardson was built (1871-74), the Springfield Daily Union described the library space: "Among the pleasantest rooms in the building are those devoted to the judges and the bar, the latter's apartments being serviceable for both a law library and consultation rooms." The article, which appeared July 7, 1873, includes floor plans of the building with a whole corner of the second floor devoted to law library space.

Not everyone agreed about the need for a new building, of course. A letter to the editor in the Springfield Sunday Morning Telegram, Jan. 2, 1876, by prominent attorney A.M. Copeland, disparaged the need for a new courthouse building at all and presented complaints about the design and function. Copeland describes the previous courthouse as mostly sufficient for the needs of the day, but:

The only room in the whole building which was felt to be insufficient was the library room. The county owned land enough in the rear of the building to have enlarged it. The whole building had been neglected by incompetent [sic] and lazy janitors. Everything about it had suffered to get out of repair, and terrible dirty; but it was not necessary to build a new Court House to remedy that trouble.

While Copeland had his criticisms, his article shows that the library had been located in the previous court house building as well.

During the Great Depression, the walls were graced with two frescoes by artist Howard Cook. Cook was hired by the CWA (a precursor to the WPA). In later years, Cook was a celebrated artist in the American Southwest.

In the late 1970's the library moved from the building Richardson designed to its current location in the Hampden County Hall of Justice. Well known MIT professor and architect Eduardo Catalano designed the building and was said to have paid special attention to the design of the library.

A library's value comes from more than books and location. Without a dedicated librarian a library is just paper and pixels. A complete list of Hampden Law Library's librarians is unavailable, but we do have accounts of a few.

The earliest librarian we can find discussed was Miss Claribel H. Smith. There are references to Miss Smith's employment in the Hampden County Law Library as early as 1901 and as late as 1938. She was a member of the bar and according to a circa talk that was reproduced in *Law Library Journal* (7 *Law Lib. J.* 48), she was passionate about keeping the library up to date:

...Nine-tenths of their [attorneys] use of the county law library is in connection with their work in the court room, and what they need to know when conducting a case there, is not what the law ought to be, or even if it is good law, but they must know what the law is at the present moment,—the moment in which they are to use it. When they rush

in hot haste from the court room into the library, the why or wherefore of the law concerns them not; only the fact of what is the law is important to them.

Law Library Journal (14 *Law Lib J* 69) described the condition of the law library as it was under Miss Smith in 1921:

At Springfield Miss Smith has a full time assistant and this makes possible much that cannot be accomplished under less fortunate conditions. Miss Smith, a member of the bar, makes a specialty of annotating, citing and indexing and offers her patrons the law as it is now and not the out of date law of last month and last year. The library is always busy.

Springfield was a munition center during the war and the ratio of population growth in the last decade was greater in Hampden county than elsewhere in the state.

This library contrasts sharply with those to the north of it, both of which lack regular librarians. Greenfield reports a book collection only slightly smaller than Springfield's yet for lack of attention the library is confused and hard to get at, and many books are chronically missing through failure of the men to leave a record when taking them out.

Mrs. Grace L. M. Gainley worked for many years along with Miss Smith. Mrs. Gainley was also "a member of the faculty at Western New England College, teaching legal bibliography and the use of law books." She was the president of the Law Librarians of New England for the 1955/1956 term.

Subsequent to Mrs. Gainley, the library was

headed by John J. Kelly. Mr. Kelly was notable because he took on the role of librarian even though blind...

Kathleen Flynn, JD, MLS, was the Head Law Librarian from 1983 until her retirement in 2014. Kate's tenure as Head Law Librarian was during decades of change for libraries and access to information. She was hired during a time when professional law librarianship was beginning to be highly valued. Under her leadership the library evolved from primarily

paper-based research to a modern combination of treatises and digital resources. A casual subject/author shelving system made way for the streamlined Library of Congress cataloging system. The library became a selective government document repository as well.

As technology continues to evolve and as the court system continues to change, Hampden Law Library will continue to find the best way to serve the bench, bar and public.



Springfield Hall of Justice, n.d.

Hampshire Law Library



Courthouse and First Church 1886

Established in 1662, Hampshire County was the fifth Massachusetts county and originally consisted of all of western Massachusetts. Split off from Hampshire County were Worcester County (1730), Berkshire County (1761), Franklin County (1811) and Hampden County (1812). Northampton is the county seat of Hampshire County.

Originally known as Nonotuck, Northampton was settled in 1654. In 1658, its name was changed to Northampton. Springfield (20 miles south of Northampton), settled in 1636, was the center of activity in western Massachusetts. Court sessions were being held in Springfield, but the trip from Northampton to Springfield was a hazardous one, involving crossing the Connecticut River, traveling over difficult terrain, and Indian attacks. In 1658, the Massachusetts General Court granted the local request for permission to have court sessions alternate between Northampton and Springfield.

First, Second & Third Courthouses

It is probable that the earliest court sessions in Northampton were held at the town's meetinghouse or at local taverns. Construction for the first courthouse was approved and began in 1737. Within 30 years, this wooden structure deteriorated so much that it was abandoned and replaced by a second larger courthouse that held its first court session in 1769. The second courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1822 and court sessions were temporarily held at nearby

Warner's Tavern. A third courthouse, designed by Isaac Damon, was erected the following year, in 1823. (see **APP. A**) The design of the new courthouse included space for "jurors or law library" (see **APP. B**), presumably intended to be a shared space. By the time the *Catalogue of the Hampshire Law Library...*¹ was printed in 1872, a library collection of American reports and treatises as well as a significant collection of English reports and materials had been assembled².

Fourth Courthouse

By 1885, the third courthouse had become inadequate and had outlived its usefulness. In 1886, a fourth courthouse was approved and the third courthouse was torn down. Construction of the current Hampshire County Courthouse designed by Henry Kilborn began immediately. Built in Richardsonian Romanesque style, its cornerstone was laid in 1886 (see **APP. C** and **APP. D**). The courthouse is constructed of Vermont grey granite which was cut on the construction site. The Hampshire County Law Library was originally located on the second floor of the building, to the rear of the large Superior Courtroom.

The next available information about the library is a printed catalog of the 550 book "*William Allen Law Library*"³ that was donated to the Northampton Bar in April, 1892, after the death of the former Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. It was a substantial collection of books consisting of Massachusetts materials, American treatises and English reports. And, the last "*Catalogue of the Hampshire County Law Library*"⁴ printed later in 1892, shows that the collection of legal materials had increased vastly since the 1872 printed catalogue⁵.

At the first formal meeting of the incorporators of the Law Library Association for Hampshire County, held July 7, 1908, the bylaws of the Law Library Association were approved. The corporate certificate of the Association was issued by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on Nov. 4, 1908 (see **APP. E**). Calvin Coolidge was one of the library incorporators named on the certificate.

In the 1930s more space was needed for court activities. A courthouse annex was constructed across the street from the fourth courthouse and the law library was moved to occupy half of the second floor of the building where it remained until 1974.

In 1974, a total renovation and expansion of the courthouse complex was begun. For 2 years, the law library was reduced in size and temporarily occupied a new superior courtroom which had been outfitted with transitional shelving in the renovated annex until the library's final move in 1976 to its current 5,000 square foot location on the ground floor of the old Hampshire County courthouse.

In 1979, the Court Reform Act⁶ transferred the administration of the law libraries and the ownership of library materials and equipment from the counties to the newly created Massachusetts Trial Court. The most significant benefit of this change was the hiring of a Law Library Coordinator, a professional librarian with public service background and experience. The Law Library Coordinator supported additional beneficial changes including professionalization of the law librarians, cooperation and communication between libraries, coordination of purchasing, acquisition of upgraded equipment, development of uniform policies and increasing the libraries' outreach to judges, lawyers, public libraries, and self-represented litigants.

Hampshire 2

The Friends of the Hampshire Law Library was incorporated in October of 1994 to assist the library with special expenses.

When county government was abolished in 1999, ownership of the old courthouse was transferred from Hampshire County to the newly formed Hampshire Council of Governments. Language in the enabling legislation specifically provides that the Hampshire Law Library be provided space at “nominal cost” for 99 years⁷.

Law Librarians

Unfortunately, there is no record of the individuals who served as law librarian in the earliest years of the library. Like most of the county law libraries, the early librarians were most likely local lawyers who oversaw the finances of the library on a voluntary basis or for a minimal stipend. Beginning in 1937, Frank Tuit, Hampshire County's Register of Probate, volunteered and acted as law librarian. For some 35 years, he cared for the library evenings and weekends until 1972, when the position of Law Librarian was created. The first professional law librarian hired was Barbara Mangarella (i.e., Barbara Fell-Johnson). Barbara came to Northampton with 5 years of experience working in the San Mateo County Law Library in California. For the next 41 years, Ms. Fell-Johnson shared her love of the law and her passion for service with the citizens of Hampshire County and served as mentor to many of her colleagues in other Trial Court Law Libraries.

Frank Tuit, 1937(?) – 1972 (Acting Law Librarian)

Barbara Fell-Johnson, 1972 - 2014

Susan Wells, 2014 (Acting Law Librarian)

Kathy Ludwig, 2014 -

¹*Catalogue of the Hampshire Law Library at Northampton, Mass.* Northampton, Metcalf and Co., Printers, 1872.

²In 1872 the library held almost 800 volumes of American reports, digests and treatises. It also included an additional 550 volumes of English law, mostly English reports.

³*The William Allen Law Library. Presented to the Northampton Bar, April, 1892.*

⁴*Catalogue of the Hampshire County Law Library*, by R. W. Irwin. Northampton, Metcalf & Co., Printers, 1892.

⁵The 1892 *Catalogue* includes more than 3,500 books, a combination of American and English volumes. It also includes the recently donated collection from the estate of William Allen.

⁶Chapter 478 Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1978.

⁷Chapter 300, sec. 20, Mass. Acts and Resolves of 1998.

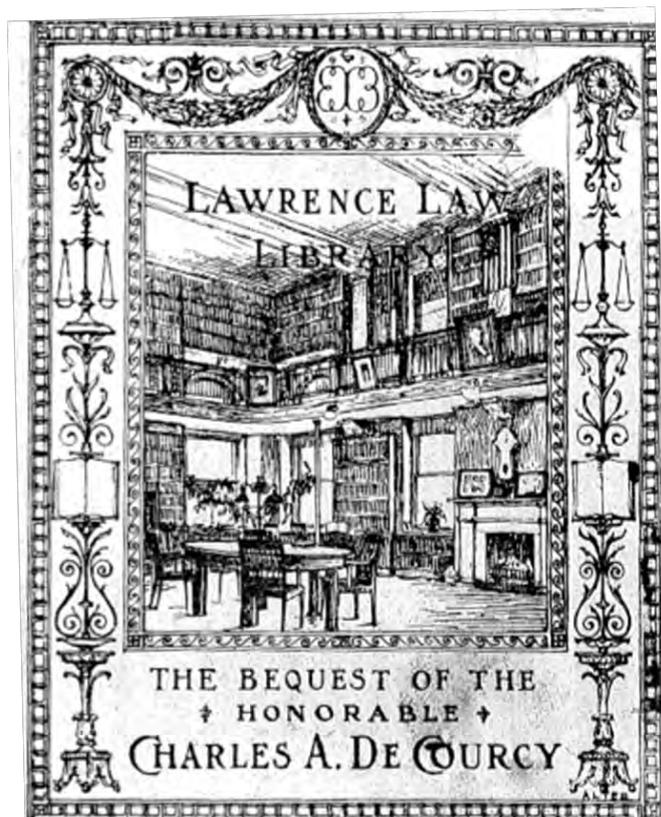
Lawrence Law Library

In 1897 the Lawrence Law Library was established by the Massachusetts Legislature.¹ It first opened its doors on the second floor in room 207 of the Superior Courthouse at 40 Appleton Street (later 43 Appleton Way) in Lawrence. In 1905 the Lawrence Bar Association appointed a committee of prominent Lawrence men to seek support for the law library, the Honorable Charles DeCourcy, Paul Clay, and Matthew Cregg.

These men were appointed by the bar association to seek funding for the Lawrence Law Library. Mr. Cregg being the most zealous library supporter petitioned both the Judiciary Committee and the Ways and Means Committee of the Commonwealth for funds to support the library and met with success when the Commonwealth authorized the sum of \$2,500 to be given for the library.²

Mr. Underhill was the first caretaker of the law library but he would not be the last. Taking over for him as far as the archives show was Mary Jordan, then Lucy Lee Hancock, and then Natalie Ballard took over in 1953 and served as librarian until 1988. Ms. Ballard was the librarian when in 1978 the Massachusetts Legislature passed the Court Reorganization Act which placed the administration of the Lawrence Law Library into the hands of the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice.³

On February 11, 1981 a fire swept through the largest of the second floor courtrooms in the Superior Courthouse miraculously leaving the library unharmed. Several years later in 1990 the library was relocated to leased space at 78 Amesbury Street in Lawrence where it remained until the Fenton Judicial Center opened for business in 1998. Currently the Lawrence Law Library is located on the second floor of the Fenton Judicial Center at 2 Appleton Street.



Librarians

(After the Court Reorganization Act of 1978)

Natalie Ballard (1978-1988)

Charlie Kalogeros Chattan (1988-1993)

Patricia Michalowskij (1993-1997)

Brian Archambault (1997-2008)

Catherine Mello Alves (2009 – present)

¹ 1897 Mass. Acts c. 367

² 1907 Mass. Acts c. 280

³ 1978 Mass. Acts c. 29A § 1

Historical Milestones of the Lawrence Law Library

1897: 1897 Mass. Acts c. 367: Lawrence Law Library Established.

1898: 1898 Mass. Acts c. 258: Appropriations for the Lawrence Law Library increased from five-hundred dollars per year to one thousand dollars per year.

1902: 1902 Mass. Acts c. 363: An additional one-thousand dollars per year appropriated for the library; Source: Naturalization fess collected by the Lawrence Police Court.

Superior Courthouse which houses the Lawrence Law Library is constructed at 40 Appleton Street (now 43 Appleton Way)

1904: Lawrence Bar Association Incorporated. One of its corporate purposes is to maintain a law library.

1906: 1906 Mass. Acts c. 209: Control over the Lawrence Law Library is given to the Lawrence Bar Association; title to all books to be in the name of Essex County.

1907: 1907 Mass. Acts c. 280: Funding for the Lawrence Law Library to come from the general county treasury at two-thousand five hundred dollars annually; naturalization fess will no longer fund the library.

1923: M.G.L. ch. 78 § 4: Appropriation for the library increased to three-thousand per year.

1978: 1978 Mass. Acts c. 478: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts takes over

all costs of maintenance and operation of the judicial branch, including all county law libraries with the signing of the Court Reorganization Act by Governor Dukakis.

- 1981: February 11, a fire sweeps through the largest courtroom of the Superior Courthouse; the law library escapes damage in spite of being located on the same floor.
- 1982: 1982 Mass. Acts c. 300: Title to the Superior Court building in Lawrence is transferred to the Commonwealth for reconstruction, renovation and maintenance; Essex County to contribute four –hundred thousand dollars to the project.
- 1990: Due to space constraints and other issues the Lawrence Law Library is relocated to leased space at 78 Amesbury Street until a new location for the law library is constructed.
- 1995: Groundbreaking in April for the twenty-three million dollar courthouse in Lawrence
- 1996: 1996 Mass. Acts c. 151 § 661: Lawrence Judicial Complex designated as “The Fenton Judicial Center” in honor of the Honorable John E. Fenton, Jr. and the late Honorable John E. Fenton, Sr.
- Internet access becomes a reality for the Trial Court Law Libraries
- 1998: Lawrence Law Library officially opens in their new space on the second floor of the Fenton Judicial Center, 2 Appleton Street, Lawrence.
- 1999:2000: The Fenton Judicial Center is officially dedicated on April 28th



Lowell Law Library



The first courthouse in Lowell was opened in 1836, using rooms in the old market building on Market St., constructed jointly by the county and the city.

The next courthouse was constructed in 1850, and is still in use. The city decided to enlarge the courthouse and constructed the “new” courthouse in 1898 in the prevailing Greek revival style with Ionic columns. The 1848 courthouse was moved back, using logs and horses, and attached to form a T shape. The decorative façade of the 1849 structure was lost.

The Middlesex Law Library Association, in conjunction with the county oversaw the law libraries in Cambridge and Lowell. It is likely that the Lowell collection was begun in the 1850 building, as the dedication of the 1898 building included significant space for the library on the second floor. At some point before the middle of the twentieth century, stacks and a mezzanine were added to the library, allowing it to house thousands of volumes.

Toward the middle of the twentieth century, we see there were some questions

about the responsibility for running the libraries in Middlesex county. The Association felt it had decision making powers, but the county held the purse strings. Salaries and materials were hard fought line items.

The law library opened for evening hours in 1967 and was open Monday through Friday 5:30 to 9:30. Many law students took advantage of the hours to study in the library for classes and for the bar.

The collection of the law library has changed over the years. The library formerly purchased the official state reports from many states, as well as law reviews from the top law schools. Rooms on the third floor of the “new” building originally housed much of the collection. In the 1980s the rooms originally set up for jurors to stay overnight were outfitted for the probation department. The law reports were still housed on shelves in the probation offices. Now, as we look forward to another new courthouse for Lowell, the collection is primarily secondary sources, while relying on electronic databases for primary law.

Librarians

Barbara Dunsford (1958?)

Madlyn Neillon Corey (1971 – 1983)

Karen Edwards (1984 – 1997)

Catherine Mello Alves (1997 – present)



Courthouse dedication 1850

Middlesex Law Library



"Middlesex County Courthouse, Cambridge, MA - oblique view" by Daderot - Own work. Licensed under Public Domain via Wikimedia Commons - http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Middlesex_County_Courthouse,_Cambridge,_MA_-_oblique_view.JPG#/media/

The Middlesex Law Library was founded in 1815 by the county lawyers following the passage of chapter 177 of the 1814 Acts and Resolves. The first meeting was held on the first Wednesday in June 1815 at the Hamilton's Hotel in Concord. At that meeting, the following officers were elected:

Loammi Baldwin, Jr., Clerk

Samuel P. P. Fay, Esquire, Librarian

Samuel Hoar, Jr., Esquire, Treasurer

Loammi Baldwin, Jr. practiced law for a few years before following his father's footsteps and became a prominent civil engineer working on the construction of the Middlesex Canal and the

Bunker Hill Monument.

Abraham Bigelow, Esquire, presided at this meeting.

The second meeting was held on the first Wednesday in December, 1815. According to Chapter 177, the oldest member present was to preside over the meeting. Joseph Locck Eyrinn being the oldest, presided.

Funding for all county law libraries was referenced in Chapter 202 of the Acts and Resolves of 1935 resolved that:

“The treasurer of each county shall annually pay for the support of law libraries therein such sums as may be appropriated therefor by the general court, and the county commissioners shall include in the estimates required...Sums so appropriated shall be applied to the purchase of books and maintenance of libraries for the use of courts and of citizens. In counties having any law library association the county commissioners shall secure from such association recommendations as to the amount deemed necessary for such maintenance.”

In the mid-1950s, the By-laws of the Middlesex County Law Library Association were amended to reflect that “Every member of the Massachusetts Bar in good standing and regular standing as an accredited practitioner in the Courts of the Commonwealth and residing in the County of Middlesex, shall automatically become and remain a duly constituted member of the Middlesex County Law Library Association”.

Annual meetings of the Association were to be held alternately at the Cambridge Law Library and the Lowell Law Library for the election of officers and for general business transactions. Reference was made that the annual meeting in December 1955 would be held in Lowell.

Librarians

William J. Highgas, Jr., start date ? - 1980

Leonard Doyle, 1980 –August 29, 1982

Sandra K. Lindheimer, August 29, 1982 – October 1, 2003

Linda W. Hom, October 2, 2003 – present

William J. Highgas, Jr. worked at the Middlesex County Law Library and was listed as a Director in the Massachusetts Judicial Directory of 1999. He was the Executive Director of the Middlesex County Bar Association from 1974 – 1982 prior to his appointment to the Probate Court bench in



The Middlesex Law Library in Cambridge was spacious with two levels for materials and for quiet study.

Middlesex and Essex Counties from 1983 until his retirement in 1997. Governor Edward J. King had nominated him for this position at the end of his term in 1982.

Linda W. Hom is the first Asian-American Head Law Librarian to have joined the system. She joined the staff in 2001 as a Quadrant Law Librarian and was later promoted to Head Law Librarian when Sandra Lindheimer retired in 2003.

The Middlesex Law Library moved from the Bullfinch Courthouse in Cambridge to 40 Thorndike Street, also in Cambridge in 1974, oftentimes referred to as the “High-rise” for its towering appearance over the local residential buildings surrounding it. The building was designed by Edward J. Tedesco of Winchester and the Law Library was located on the fourth floor and the mezzanine above it.

In 2008, the Law Library, the Middlesex Bar Association, the Probation Department and the Middlesex Superior Court relocated to its current location at 200 Trade Center in Woburn, Massachusetts. Asbestos issues in the Cambridge location resulted in the relocation of not only these departments, but the Third District Court, the County Commissioners, and the District Attorney’s Office to other locations in Middlesex County as well.

The Middlesex Law Library has been a host to Law Librarians from around the world. In August, 2001 as part of the 67th General Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, also known as IFLA, the Law Library hosted a program titled: Strategies for Recognition: How to Promote Government Library Services.

Speakers and attendees came from the United Kingdom, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Kenya, Portugal, Russia and Slovenia.

In May, 2009, at the request of WorldBoston, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to promoting dialogue among leaders, cross-cultural exchanges, and public learning about work affairs, the Law Library staff hosted a delegation from Ukraine. The visitors were sponsored by the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program.

WorldBoston said the participants wanted to visit a Law Library and speak to the Law Librarians about current trends and challenges in preparing law students for practicing law and the modernization of the legal education system. It was the first time these visitors had ever traveled to the United States.



Head Law Librarian Linda Hom and Matthew Day, first assistant clerk magistrate.



Opened in 1972, The Middlesex Superior Court housed the library until 2008.

New Bedford Law Library



Superior Courthouse, County St. which opened in 1831.

The law libraries were to be established in every county within the Commonwealth by five or more attorneys by Chapter 177 of the Massachusetts Acts of 1815.

The New Bedford and Fall River Law Libraries were established by Chapter 423 of the Massachusetts Acts of 1894. The Act directed the Bristol County Commissioners to provide suitable accommodations for the law libraries in the respective court houses for the use of the courts and citizens. A sum not to exceed \$1,000 was to be expended annually for each library and the expenditures were to be made by the respective bar associations. The law libraries were to be under the control and direction of their local bar associations.

Under Chapter 442 of the Acts of 1903, naturalization fees were paid over to the treasurer of the county law library and distributed to each of the three Bristol County law libraries: Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton.

By 1908, the Legislature was involved in funding. The Library Committee of the bar association was authorized to prepare a bill for further appropriation for the library and to present a petition to the Legislature.

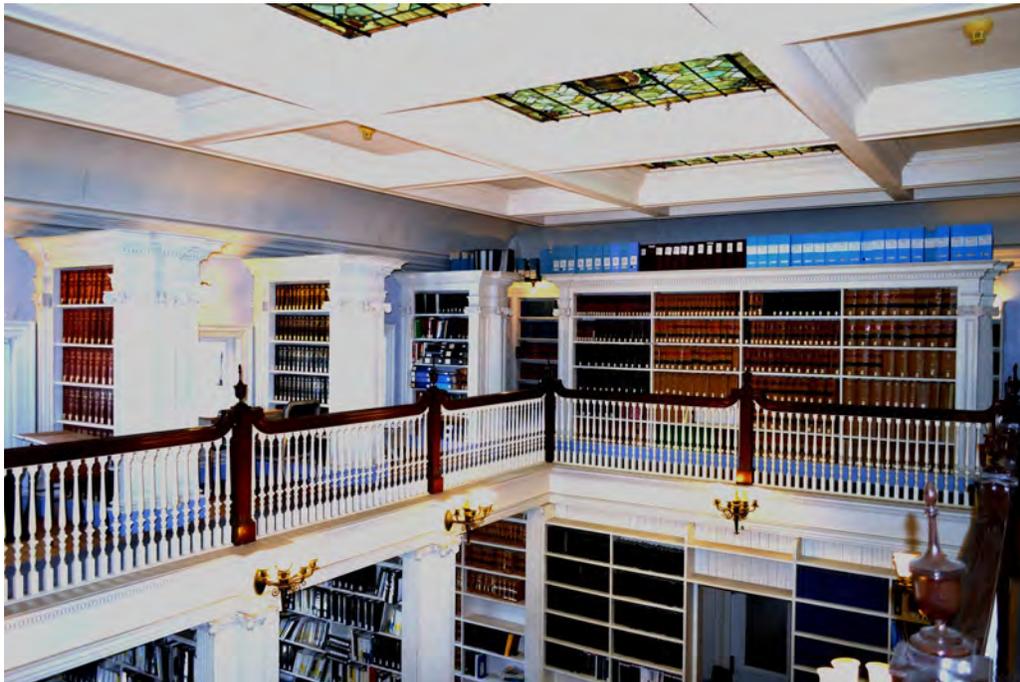
Chapter 400 of the Acts of 1930 directed County Personnel Boards to set up classification and salaries for county positions. In 1932, the Law Library Association turned over the funds to the Treasurer of Bristol County. Up until this time, both the Treasurer and the Librarian had received salaries.

The position of Librarian was appointed by the Law Library Committee and approved by the County Commissioners, until the Court Reorganization Act of 1978 when the New Bedford Law Library became part of the Trial Court.

Court House and Library

The New Bedford Superior Court House is done in Greek revival style. It was designed in 1829 by Mr. Russell Warren, a noted Rhode Island architect, who was swept up in the Greek revival moment of the era. The wooden columns on the front of the building are of Ionic design. This is demonstrated by the double scrolled capitals at the top of each column.

In the first quarter of the 19th century, the citizens of New Bedford, who



The law library has detailed woodwork and stained glass panels in the ceiling.
New Bedford 2

had by this time reached fairly high levels of economic prosperity, were outraged that they were required to travel to the shire town of Taunton to attend to business at the county court. Their clamor led the legislature to establish New Bedford as a half-shire town in 1828 and to authorize the Court of Common Pleas, the predecessor to the Superior Court, to sit in New Bedford commencing June 9, 1828. As the court house had not been built, the court sat in the town hall which was located in what is now the Free Public Library.

In 1831, the court was completed and the Court of Common Pleas began to have regular sittings at the courthouse.

The court building is deep-seated in tradition. Daniel Webster pleaded a case here in 1835. Webster's reputation as an orator and trial lawyer was such that on the day the case went to trial, the public schools of New Bedford closed for the day so teachers could see and hear Webster plead his case. Webster only half earned his keep because the jury could not agree, and the judge declared a mistrial.

The building is probably best known as the court house where Lizzie Borden was tried for the murder of her father and stepmother. The trial which began on June 5, 1893, focused the attention of the world on this courthouse and this area of the state.

Some time in the 1890's, the first addition to the original court house provided a single room as the office of the register of deeds.

Accepted by the County Commissioners and approved by the New Bedford Bar Association in 1899, an addition, 28 x 70 feet, estimated at the time to cost \$25,000, was erected on the west end of the original building. This added room for the law library, several additional rooms on the first floor and consultation and office rooms on the second floor.

In 1953, a \$300,000 addition to the court was constructed to provide for a probate courtroom, judge's lobby, additional library space, and a room for women jurors. Crowded library conditions on the second floor were relieved by building a stack room, 27 by 40 feet.

The library is an example of Neo-Classical architecture featuring Ionic columns with a balustrade railing on the second floor. There are seven antique brass light fixtures that adorn the central part of the library. About twenty smaller ones are hidden in various corners and alcoves upstairs and down. In the foyer area, there is a spiral staircase leading to the balcony. In the main library room, there are three stained glass windows that adorn the ceiling and a marble fireplace with the coat of arms of the commonwealth situated above the mantel.

Today, the only occupants of the courthouse are the Superior Court Department (civil session) and law library. However, after 121 years, the library will be closing its doors in 2015.

Librarians

1894-1914 Judge Milliken (From beginning, until 1914, the law library was conducted by the library committee, chiefly through personal service of Judge Milliken, its chairman)

1914-1922 Charles C. Connor

1922-1943 Thomas Quinn

1943-1951 George Nowell

1951-1962 Helen L. O'Leary

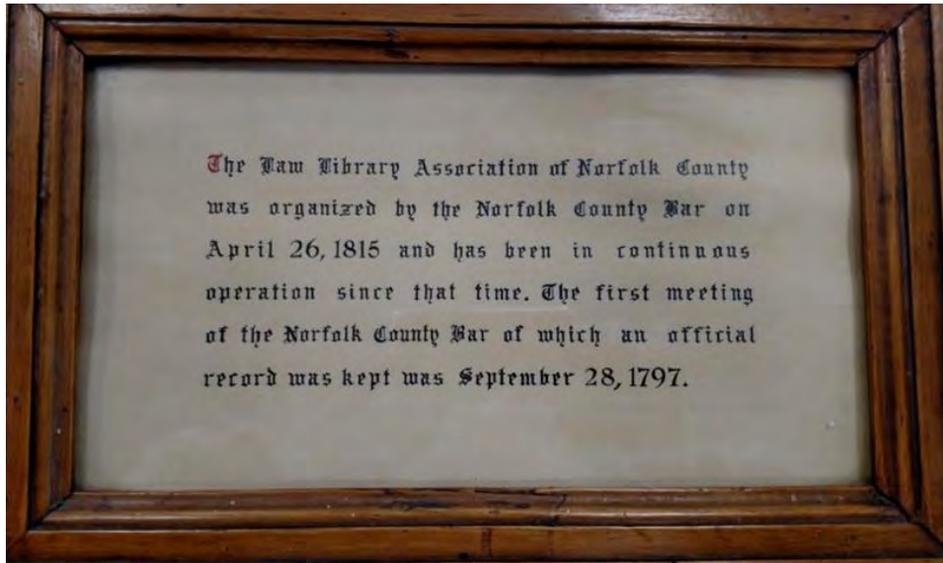
1962-2002 Margaretha E. H. Birknes

2002-present Jane E. Callahan



Margaretha Birknes and Pamela Vlcek-Claflin

Norfolk Law Library



In March 1793, the new County of Norfolk was created from Suffolk County, with Dedham as the “county town.” A framed document that has travelled with the library for many years memorializes the beginning of a library in Norfolk County. Its provenance is unknown.

In 1827, a purpose built courthouse was dedicated. It was designed in the style of an ancient Greek temple with Doric columns. By 1862 the structure was partially taken down and enlarged. A new front was created on High Street. The expanded building still retains this exterior presentation despite all its renovations.

A twenty page *Catalogue* of books held by the Norfolk County Law Library was printed by order of the County Commissioners in 1863. The catalogue also lists two pages of resources held in the Commissioners’ Rooms. The catalogue begins with a message to members of the Norfolk Bar announcing that it has been suggested that the Commissioners’ Rooms will be a convenient repository for plans and surveys and books and pamphlets. The reason stated for creating this designated place is that items were being lost due to lack of “a convenient place for their custody.”

A sampling of the materials held in 1863 includes the cases and statutes from neighboring states. Treatises cataloged included three volumes of *Chitty on Pleadings* and one volume of *Story on Bailments*. The Commissioners’ Rooms held *Ancient Sea Margins* by R. Chalmers and *Wellbeloved on Highways*.

The *Catalogue* mandates a circulation system that lives on in our 21st Century policies. Our library's staff now serve as the Messengers:

These collections are placed in the custody of the Messenger, and no document is to be removed from the rooms, unless his consent is first had, and a record of the taking made, at his office.

The final and most extensive expansion of the building was completed in 1895. “*A Souvenir of the Dedication of the Norfolk Court House*” provides meticulous descriptions of the building. A law library occupied second floor space in the new west wing. It was in a prestigious location across the corridor from the huge and majestic Superior Court courtroom. The dedication exercises *Souvenir* describes the facility:

The law library, facing this corridor, and having a look out over the Norfolk Street end, is 22 x 44.....In the private offices, judges' and jury rooms, the Clerk of Courts' private office and Law Library are open fireplaces.



Opening Day View 1895, Courtesy of Walter F. Timilty, Norfolk Clerk of Courts

By the late 1990s, the library had outgrown the space it was sharing with six to eight Superior Court law clerks and interns. In January 1998, the library moved to an office park at 57 Providence Highway in Norwood and remained there until September 2010. While in Norwood, the library patrons enjoyed spacious facilities, including a conference room. For the first time there was enough space and equipment for patrons to have access to computers and online resources and enough seating to conduct research comfortably. An outdoor book return was

installed by the Norfolk Law Library Foundation providing twenty-four hour service.

In 2010, the Trial Court decided to move many of its facilities out of rented space. In September 2010, the library reopened on the second floor of the Registry of Deeds Building in Dedham, in space previously occupied by the Norfolk Probate and Family Court, which had already moved to Canton. The library is now directly across the street from where it was founded in the 19th Century. The library shares the floor with Norfolk Superior Court Probation, the jury pool and the grand jury. The Registry of Deeds building was opened in 1905 and at that time housed county departments that had outgrown the Superior Court building after sharing the space for a century: Norfolk County Probate Court, the Court of Insolvency, the Registry of Probate and the Registry of Deeds and Land Court. The Registry of Deeds, Land Court and County departments still occupy the basement and first floors of the building.



Norfolk Law Library at Registry of Deeds Building 649 High St., Dedham, February 2015

Librarians

- Lois Kane (1972-1984)
- Emma Louise Hoagland (1984 -1985)
- Alvin Dong (1985 -1986)
- Carol Ewing (1986 – 2014) (part-time)
- Meg Hayden (1986 -1991) (part-time)
- Agnes Leathe (1991 – 2014) (part-time)
- Agnes Leathe (2014- present) (full-time)

History of the Plymouth Law Library



Photograph of the courthouse cupola from the Plymouth Law Library, 11 South Russell Street, 2007.

Library Staff

There is no complete record of the Plymouth Law Library staff. During the nineteenth century, the law library was probably overseen by attorneys. This theory was supported by an early reference found in the May 15, 1884 issue of The Old Colony Memorial. It was reported that Attorney Arthur P. Peterson under the direction of a committee of the Plymouth County Bar Association rearranged and indexed the reference and text books in the law library at the courthouse.

Ledger books (1917-1965) held by the Brockton Law Library provide names of persons paid to work part-time at the Brockton and Plymouth law libraries, but it is not always clear who worked at which location. The first name associated with Plymouth was John W. Herrick whose services were terminated on June 20, 1932. According to a certificate of employment dated August 16, 1932, Mr. Amedeo Sgarzi was paid \$200 as the part-time librarian for the Plymouth Law Library beginning on August 1, 1932.

From 1964 to 1983, the Plymouth Law Library was overseen by Attorney Kenneth MacMullen, the Brockton Law Librarian. In 1983 Alice Campbell was hired as a part-time law librarian for Plymouth. A permanent full-time law librarian position was created in 1985. Louise Hoagland transferred from the Norfolk Law Library to the Plymouth Law Library in November 1985 and became the first full-time Trial Court law librarian in Plymouth. She still holds the position in 2015.

Library Locations

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Plymouth Law Library was situated on the second floor in the rear of the District and Superior courthouse above the first session of the District Court. At some point in the 1970s, it was relocated to the third floor of the County Commissioners' Building above the District Court second session courtroom. The County Commissioners' Building was built in 1884, and the Plymouth Police Department rented part of the building from the early 1900s to the 1960s. Eventually, the County Commissioners' office moved from the first floor to the second floor, and the County Treasurer's Office occupied the first floor. The building was located between North and South Russell Street behind the main courthouse, and in 1992 it was given the address of 11 South Russell Street. After the County sold the building to the Town of Plymouth, it was scheduled to be demolished in 2015 in order to construct town offices on the property. The law library occupied approximately 1,300 square feet. The only access was via an open metal staircase, and there was no second means of egress. In July 1990, funding was secured to have risers welded to the steps so the staircase was no longer open. The law library was one room with a concrete floor, windows on three sides, and seven foot tall metal book stacks which occupied most of the space. The windows provided a view of the courthouse cupola and Plymouth harbor. Changes to the physical space occurred in 1986 when new lights and air conditioners were installed. The following year new furniture was purchased and carpeting was installed to improve the décor. There were 2 small study carrels and a reading table in the front of the library and one reading table in the back. The staff area consisted of a desk inside the door of the law library and a table in the rear next to the restroom. There was one computer for public use and two computers for staff.

At the end of August 2007, the law library moved to the basement level of the new courthouse at 52 Obery Street. This meant that the law library was in a Trial Court (state owned) building and no longer renting space in a county owned building. The public uses an elevator to gain access to the basement level. The new library has approximately 6,000 square feet including 2 offices, a tech services room, multi media room, an audio visual room, storage room, and a kitchenette area. There are 8 computers in the main reading room, 6 computers in the multi-media room, 4 staff computers, and 2 Intranet computers. Seating for patrons consists of 2 large and 3 small reading tables and 8 wooden study carrels. There is a custom built wooden reference/circulation desk with space for 2 staff members as you enter the library. The collection is housed on 3 half height and 17 full height ranges of metal book shelves with wooden end caps. Although there are some windows next to the study carrels, they look out onto a window well and the wall underneath the District Court clerk's office on the first floor. The beautiful outdoor view of downtown Plymouth is gone, but the larger library space and free

parking make it more comfortable and accessible for library users.

“The Key Controversy”

Correspondence between Attorney Philip Cronin, President of the Plymouth County Bar Association, and Judge James R. Lawton of the Probate Court indicates that, prior to 1974, members of the Bar had keys to the Plymouth Law Library. In 1974 the County Commissioners decided not to issue keys to lawyers and law students and requested individuals to contact the custodian for evening access until 10pm. This created some strong reaction as evidenced in a letter dated May 7, 1974 to Bar President Cronin from Attorney Mario Alfieri. He said “I have made informal inquiries of several members of the Bar regarding the proposed after-hours sealing of the Law Library, and the reaction of all was that the unavailability of the Law Library was a disservice to the Bar and to the functioning of the Judicial system.” The key issue arose again in 1997 when the Plymouth District Bar Association proposed a key be given to the President who would sign the key out to dues paying members for weekend access to the Plymouth Law Library. This request was denied by the Administrative Office of the Trial Court. This issue will no longer arise, because employee ID badges have replaced physical keys to get into the building and law library. (Only Trial Court employees are allowed to have badges used to swipe into the new courthouse.) Also with heightened security concerns, public access is now more tightly controlled within courthouses.

Worcester Law Library



Worcester Law Library Reading Room, 1911.

Although not officially incorporated until 1844 there is evidence that Worcester County maintained a law library for the use of the members of the bar as early as 1828. A copy of “Rules of the Bar of the County of Worcester, 1828” included five pages titled “Rules and Regulations of the Law Library Association of the County of Worcester”. These Rules required an annual meeting of the Association and no action could be taken without a quorum of 15 members. Three members of the Bar, were elected every year, comprised a Committee to “purchase such Law Books as they may deem most useful to the Association”. Any member of the Association who removed a book from the building was fined 50 cents – that would be over \$10.00 today.

The lawyers of Worcester County were evidently content with the services provided by the existing Law Library Association because it took two more pieces of legislation for the Law Library Association to pass bylaws. A meeting of the Association was held in response to Chapter 94 of the Acts of 1842, but no action was taken. It was

not until the passage of Chapter 157 of the Acts of 1844 that the lawyers of Worcester County met to draft bylaws. Records indicate that the bylaws were approved by the membership on September 7, 1844.

Up until 1923, the Librarian, Clerk and Treasurer were elected by the members of the Association. The Librarian was a practicing lawyer and the day-to-day operations were left to the clerks. The Elected Librarians were:

Francis H. Dewey – 1844-1847
Elisha Fuller – 1847-1849
Addison Prentiss – 1849-1858
Joseph Mason – 1858-1873
Samuel Utley – 1873-1874
Joseph Mason – 1874 – 1877
William T. Harlow – 1877-1885
Theodore S. Johnson – 1885-1932.

It appears that the duties of maintaining the Law Library Association became too much for the elected lawyer-librarians for in 1892, the Association hired its first Deputy Librarian, “Miss.” Fannie Mason. She served as Deputy Librarian from 1892 – 1898.

In 1921, the Association’s by-laws were amended to allow the appointment of a librarian to oversee the running of the Library. In 1923, Dr. George Wire, who had been overseeing the library as Deputy Librarian since 1898 was appointed as librarian. Since Dr. Wire’s retirement in 1929, there have been eight librarians at the Worcester Law Library:

Lydia Kirshner 1929-1946
Ruth Woolner – 1946-1947
James Tibbits – 1948-1954
George Straight – 1954-1958
William Scott – 1958 – 1962
Mary Terpo – 1963 – 1989
Suzanne Hoey – 1989 – 2015
Peter Anderegg – 2015 –

Originally formed as a library for the lawyers of Worcester County, the Worcester Law Library has had a long-standing tradition as a library that serves all members of the Worcester County community. Lawyers, judges, members of the general public and students ranging from elementary school through college have been frequent visitors to the Worcester Law Library. Library staff have always tried to quickly and accurately determine the needs of the users so they are fast on the path to answering their legal question. As Dr. George E. Wire wrote in 1935:

...do not give a person a textbook without being reasonably certain he can use it. I have known a reader to sit and turn the leaves back and forth in an aimless

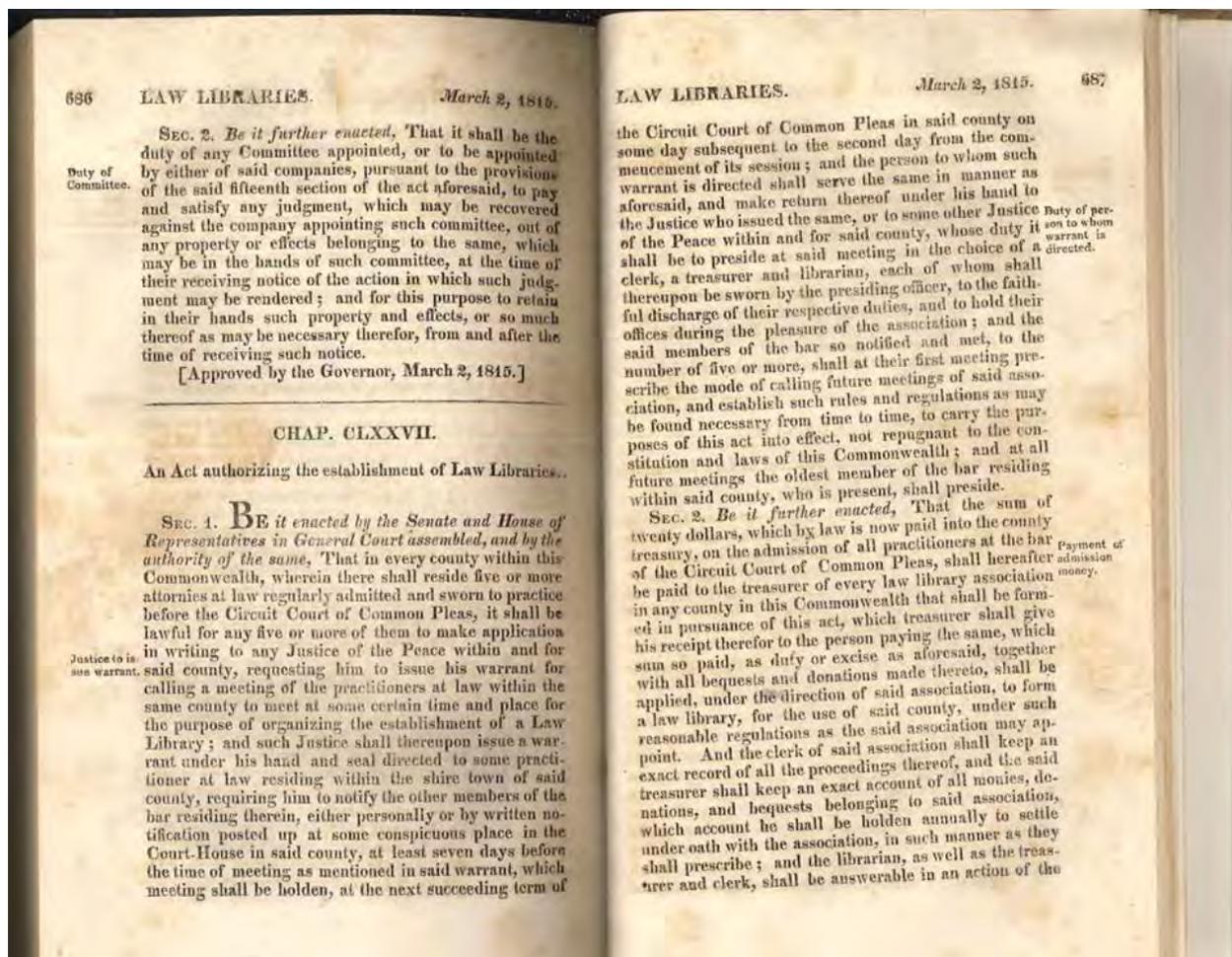
manner; he simply could not find his way about in the volume. The only thing to do in such cases is gently, but firmly, to attempt to plumb his ignorance, not the whole of it, and put your finger on the page and paragraph . 28 *Law Libr. J.* 194 (1935).

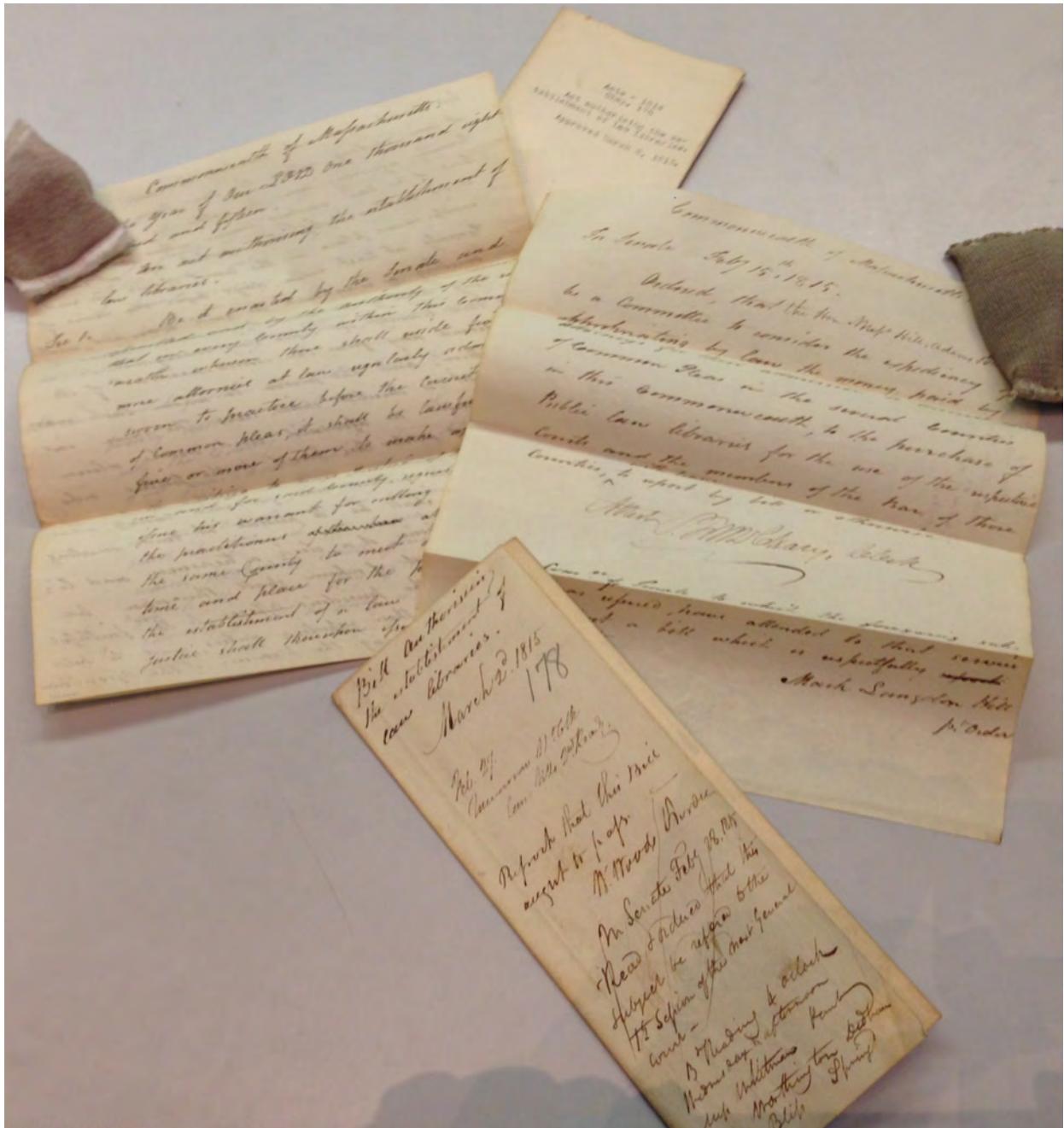
Since 1856, the Worcester Law Library has been funded by public monies. Through the years, the legislature designated an amount to be set aside for the use of the County Law Libraries from court filing fees and the General Court. Many lawyers of Worcester County, however, chose to augment this funding with donations of materials and money. Newspaper accounts and library reports reflect donations to the Law Library ranging from \$20 to \$10,000. County lawyers donated thousands of books which later became the foundation for the library's comprehensive collection of historic legal documents. This tradition continued even after the Court Reorganization Act of 1978 which pulled all of the county courts and the Law Libraries under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Trial Court. When the Law Library moved to leased space in 2009, the Worcester County Law Library Trust provided funds for the restoration of a number of library and courthouse historical relics that are now showcased in the library.



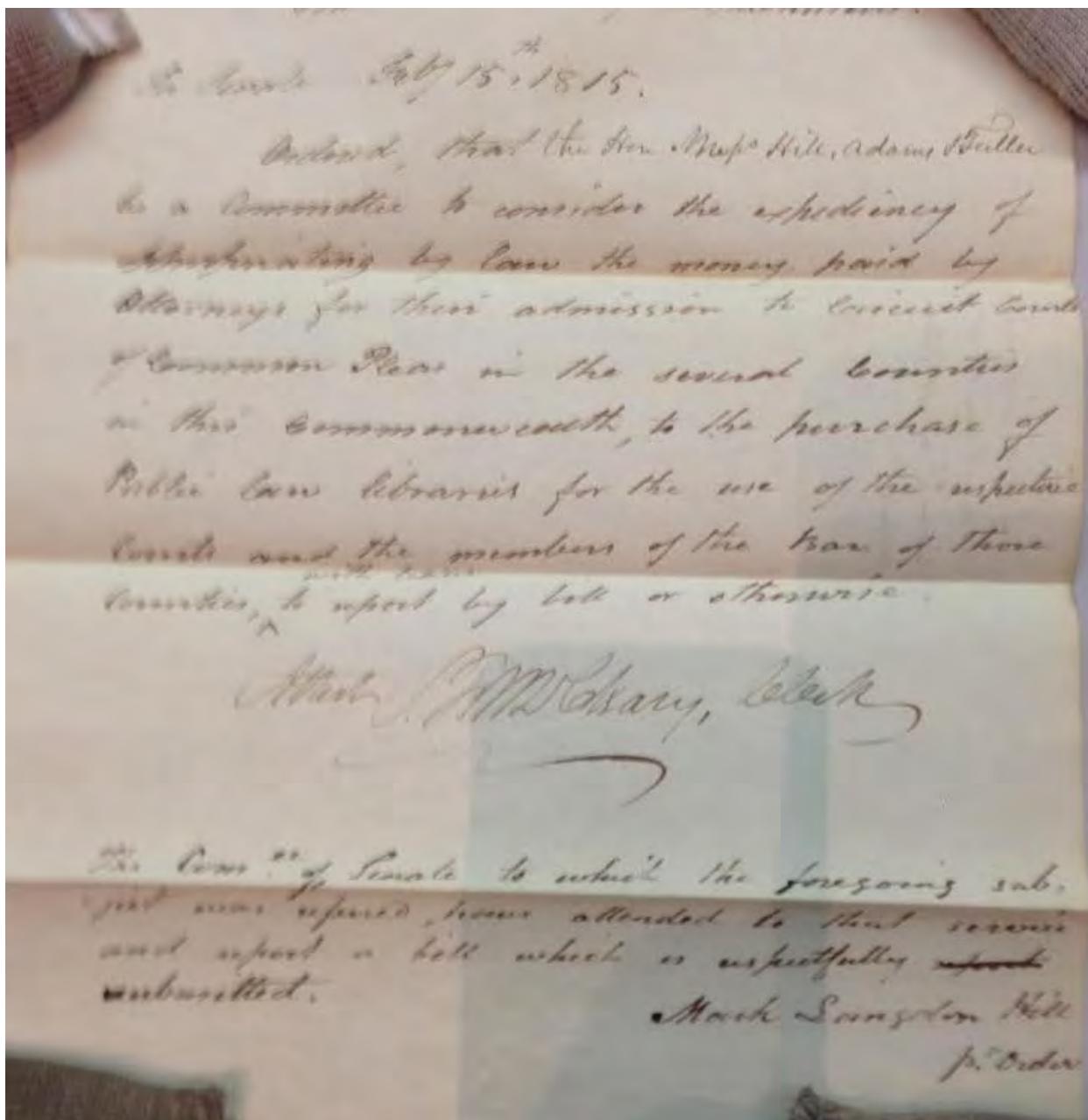
The former Worcester County Courthouse.

Appendices and Photographs





The bill and petition from 1815.



In Senate February 15th, 1815

Ordered that the Hon. Mrrs. Hill, Adams and Fuller be a Committee to consider the expediency of appropriating by law the money paid by attorneys for their admission to Circuit Courts of Common Pleas in the several counties in the Commonwealth to the purchase of Public law libraries for the use of the respective courts and the members of the Bar of these Counties with leave to report by bill or otherwise.

The Committee of Senate to which the foregoing subject was referred have attended to that service and report a bill which is respectfully submitted.

Mark Longdon Hill

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
In the year of Our LORD One thousand eight
hundred and fifteen.
An act authorising the establishment of
law libraries.
Sec 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and
House of Representatives
assembled and by the authority of the same
that in every County within this Common-
wealth wherein there shall reside five or
more attorneys at law regularly admitted and
sworn to practice before the Circuit Court
of Common Pleas, it shall be lawful for any
five or more of them to make application
in writing to any Justice of the Peace in
and for said County, requesting him to
issue his warrant for calling a meeting of
the practitioners ~~at~~ at law within
the same County to meet at some certain
time and place for the purpose of organizing
the establishment of a law library; and such
justice shall thereupon issue a warrant under
his

Closeup of the bill from 1815.



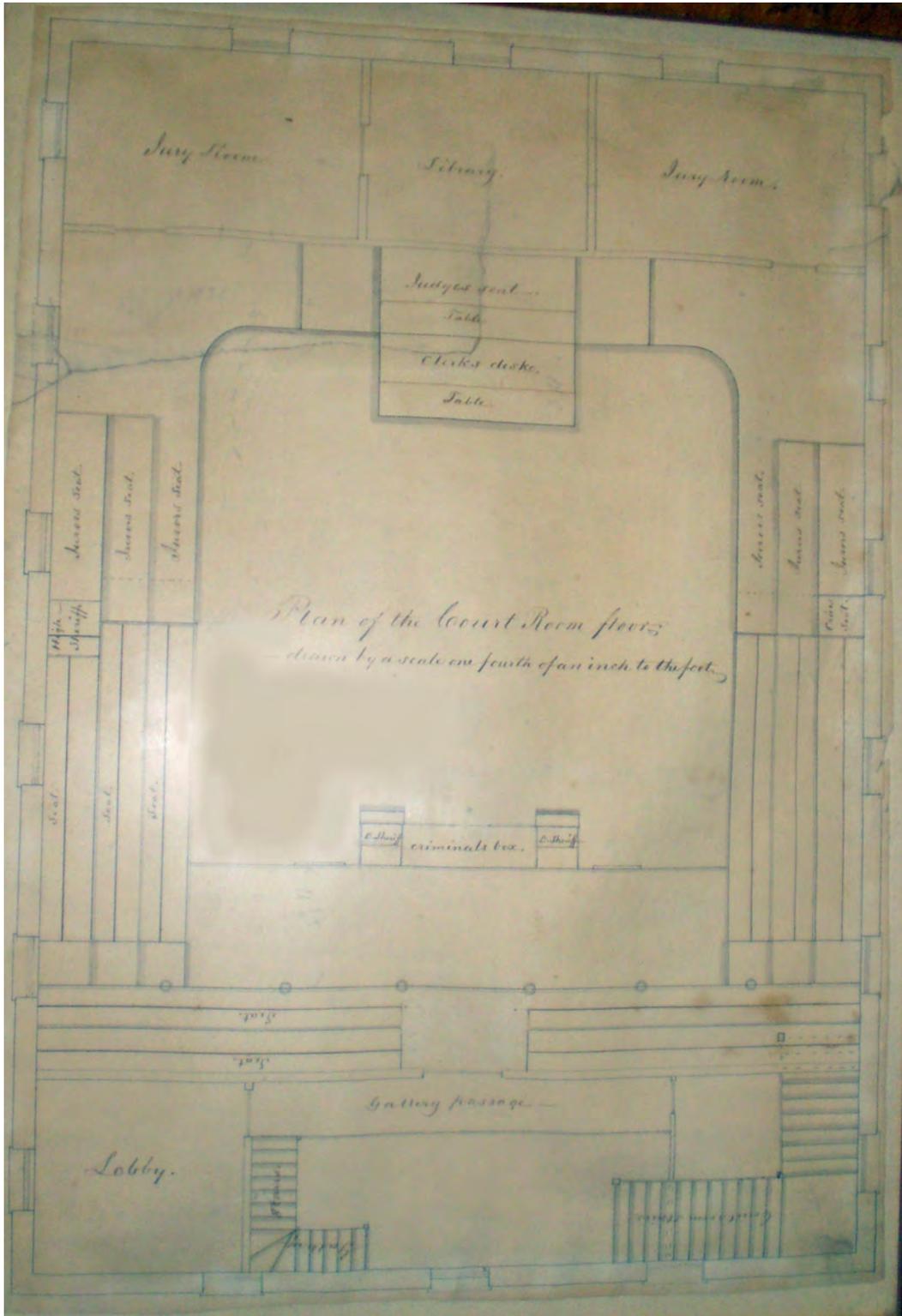
Marenda Flood, Janet
McLaughlin, Meg Hill,
2009.





BERKSHIRE COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

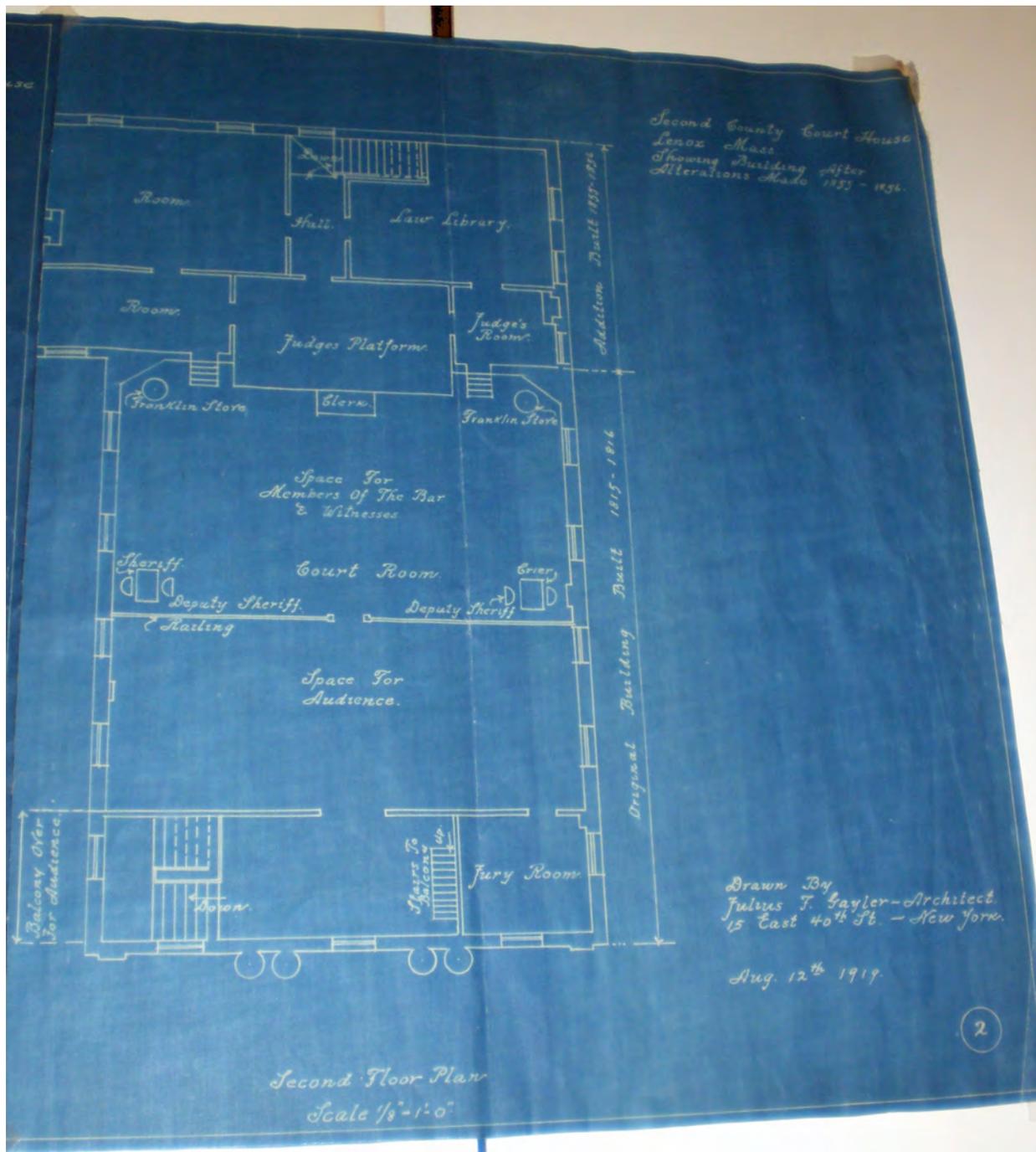
“Berkshire County Court House”. Pittsfield, MA. 1871.
from *History of Berkshire County Massachusetts* (New York : J.B.
Beers & Co., 1885), p 326.



“Plan of the Court Room floor – drawn by a scale of one fourth of an inch to the foot”

Plan of the Second Berkshire County Courthouse built in 1815 by Captain Isaac Damon in Lenox, MA.

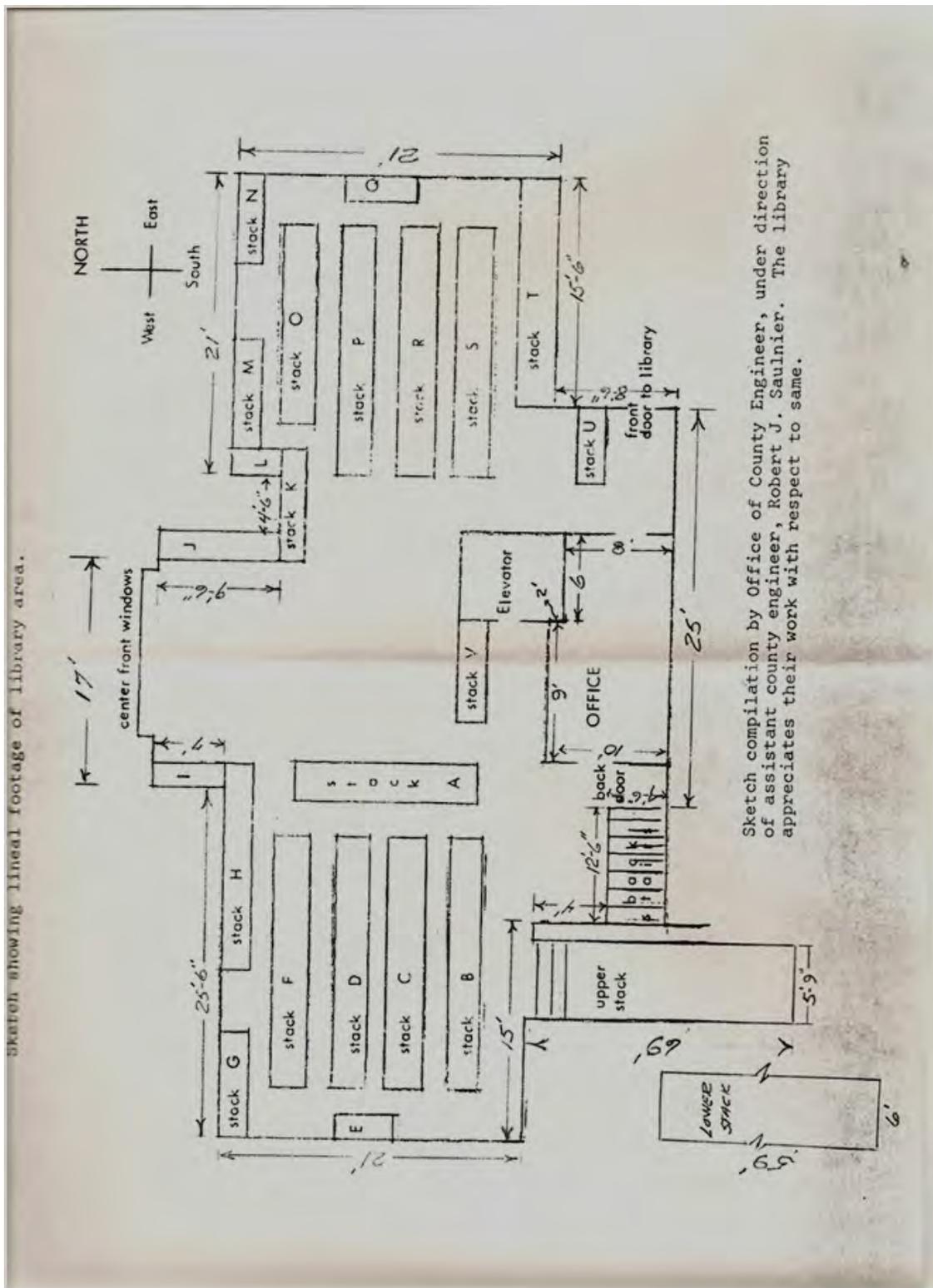
Courtesy of the Lenox Library.



“Second County Court House, Lenox Mass.
 Showing Building After Alterations Made 1855-1856
 Drawn by Julius F. Gayler – Architect
 15 East 40th St. – New York, Aug. 12th, 1919.”

Courtesy of the Lenox Library.

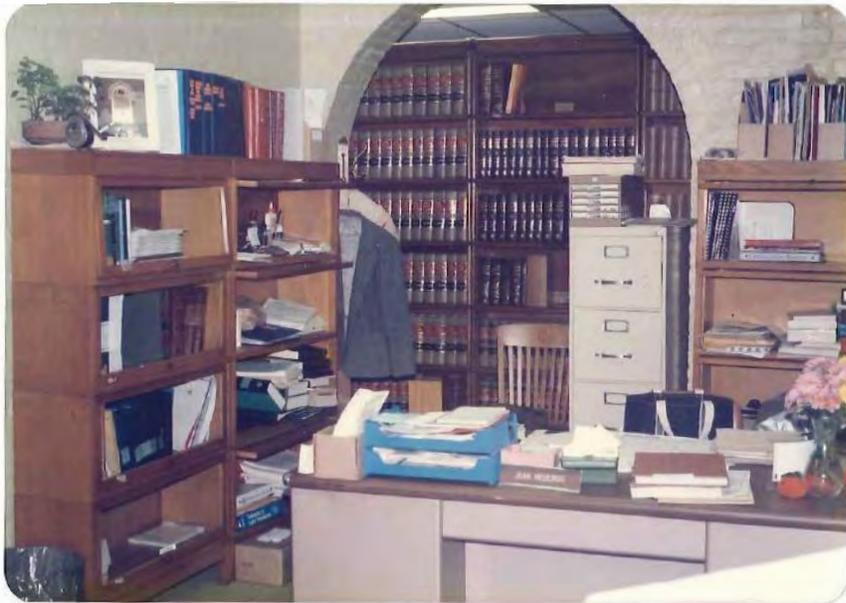
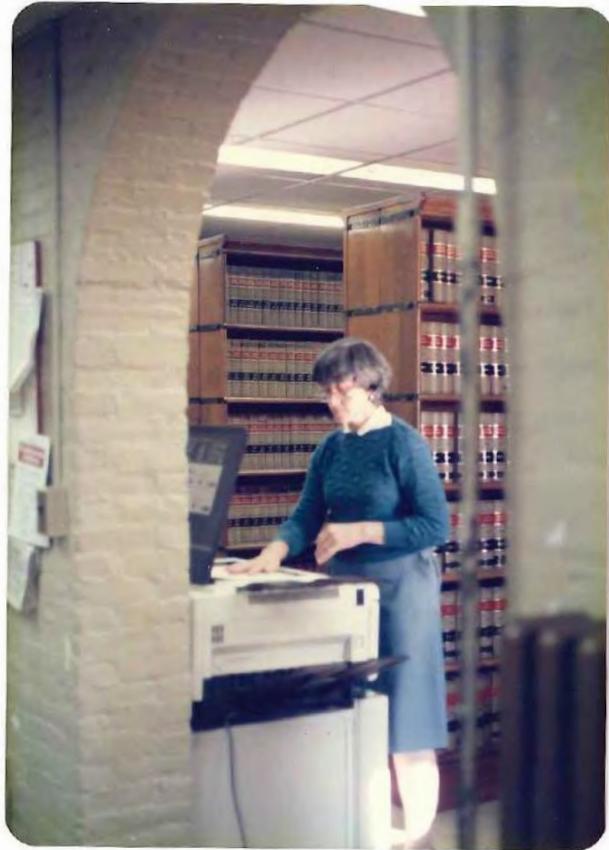
Sketch showing lineal footage of library area.



“Sketch compilation by Office of County Engineer, under direction of assistance county engineer, Robert J. Saulnier.”

Berkshire Law Library. 1980. Prepared for Chief Justice of the Administrative Office Arthur M. Mason’s Advisory Committee on Law Libraries. Berkshire Law Library copy.

*Photograph of Gerri Cummings at copier,
November 1985.*



*Photograph of staff desk in
main library,
November 1985.*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF PLYMOUTH
OFFICE OF CLERK OF THE COURTS
PLYMOUTH

GEORGE C. P. OLSSON
CLERK
JENNIE R. SIMMONS
ASSISTANT CLERK

August 27, 1929.

Hon. William G. Rowe,
Justice of the District Court,
Brockton, Massachusetts.

Dear Sir:-

Mrs. Stella R. Churchill informs me that she is to complete her employment at the Brockton Law Library on the thirty-first day of this month, having been discharged from her duties as librarian.

The purpose of this letter is not to attempt to dictate or to interfere with your duties or that which you, yourself, are directly responsible for. However, I feel that because of the unofficial connection of Mrs. Churchill with my office and the work that she has done therefor while also employed in the Library calls for an explanation on my behalf in justice to yourself and Mrs. Churchill. Because of an unexpected and unprecedented inflation in the naturalization business of this County Mrs. Churchill was called upon to put in a great deal more time than, under ordinary circumstances, she would be expected to do. Of course, I realized that this took some time from her other duties but, as far as I could ascertain, Mrs. Churchill was taking care of her library duties to the best of her ability, and was not affected by the lack of time.

There was an unusual situation that confronted me; and Mrs. Churchill was the only one who could be of any real assistance to me. A large number of persons in the community desired to be naturalized or to take the preliminary steps on or before July 1st, 1929. I felt that it was up to me as one of the duties of my office and as a personal civic duty to see that everybody that desired to be naturalized or to take steps toward naturalization should be able to do so in so far as my office or myself was concerned. Mrs. Churchill put in a great deal of time and energy, and showed unlimited patience in dealing with the people who came before her.

W.G.R.

- 2 -

8.27.29

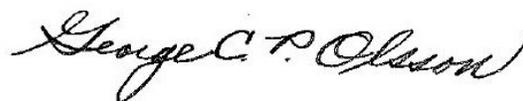
The naturalization laws and rules are such that unless a certain volume of work is done it is not possible to hire clerical assistants. That is, unless a certain volume of business is done the Federal Government will not provide a fund from which clerical assistants may be paid. This volume is far in excess of any ever done in this County, and I do not believe that we ever will do the amount necessary to entitle this office to hire a regular naturalization clerk.

The amount of remuneration that Mrs. Churchill received for the naturalization work that she did would in no way compensate her for the amount of work that she performed, and it would be impossible to have paid her in proportion to the amount of work that she did. However, Mrs. Churchill was willing to assist the prospective citizens of this country out of a sense of civic duty and an unlimited interest in the work that she was doing.

Of course, these are just my views as a result of my observations of Mrs. Churchill during the last year. As a result of this work she has been able to be of great assistance to the Republican Party of Brockton in connection with the registration work conducted by the different ward workers. I do not mention this as a matter that should be given any consideration, but merely as incidental to the preceding facts.

I hope that you will give these facts your earnest consideration and if they affect your sense of judgment in this particular case that you will reconsider the matter.

Yours truly,



Clerk of Courts.

P. S. I have made several attempts to communicate with you during the mornings that I have stopped at Brockton, but you have been busy in the performance of your duties and, therefore, I have been unable to see you.

GCPO.C

Date July 1, 1932

TO BE SENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

COUNTY Plymouth DIVISION OR INSTITUTION Court House (Brockton)
DEPARTMENT Library

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILL A VACANCY OR TO ESTABLISH A NEW POSITION

To THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Under the provisions of Sections 48-56 of Chapter 35 of the General Laws and the rules and regulations approved thereunder, I (we) hereby give notice that I (we) propose to appoint/promote/demote or transfer as follows:

TITLE OF POSITION Law Librarian (Part Time) at Brockton Law Library
Permanent Yes; Temporary _____; To begin July 1/32 end _____
Full time No; Part time Yes; Extent, if part time Average of 2-3 hours daily
Proposed salary rate \$.45 Per Hour _____
Maintenance, if any, -- Full _____; Meals _____; House _____; Room _____; Other _____

NEW POSITION? Yes; If so, why necessary? To prepare index and catalogue books in order to prevent theft, and to replace books on shelves. (Some of this work was formerly done by Judge Rowe)

VACANCY? No; Previous incumbent _____; Salary \$ _____
Service terminated _____; Cause _____
Is the position to be filled by PROMOTION? _____; If so give name, present title and salary rate of person to be promoted _____

DUTIES, in detail if new position, if vacancy with same duties as previous incumbent, mark "no change"
As stated above, and to find books for members of the bar and judges of the courts.

Changes, if any, entailed by this as affecting other positions
None

Title of immediate superior Officers of Law Library Association
Positions to be supervised, -- title and number None

Note
County Commissioners will return this copy with record of their action noted on reverse side to Appointing authority.

(Signed) Maurice J. Murphy
Treasurer of the Law Library Association
Appointing authority.



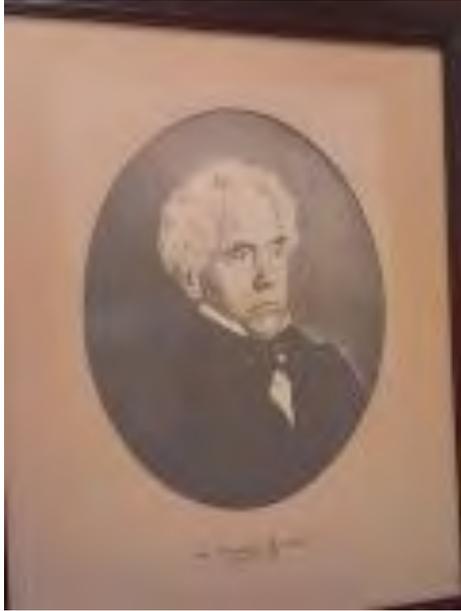
A: Records of the Franklin Law Library Association, cover and p. 1

To Rodolphus Dickinson Esq. One of the Justices
of the Peace within and for the County of Franklin

We the Subscribers attorneys at Law regularly
admitted and sworn to practice before the Circuit
Court of Common Pleas request your Honor to
issue your warrant for calling a Meeting of the
practitioners at Law within the County of
Franklin aforesaid to meet at the Court House
on wednesday the fourteenth day of August
current at six of the Clock P. M. for the purpose
of organizing the establishment of a Law Library
according to the Law of the Commonwealth of
Massachusetts in such cases made & provided.

(Dated at Greenfield in said County the first
day of August A. D. 1826.)

Richard C. Seymour
C. Howard?
Thos. Beavitt
Geo. Grennell Jr.
Franklin Tipton



B: Framed charcoal drawing of Hon. Richard E. Newcomb

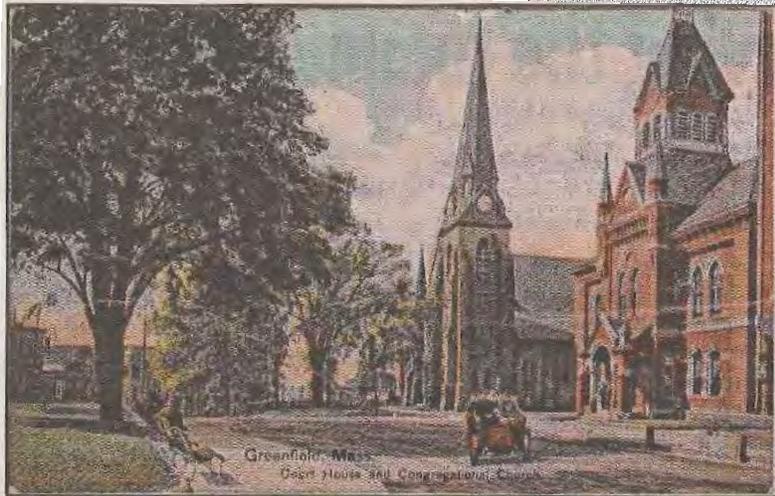


file photo

Franklin County's first courthouse

Franklin County's first courthouse, located on Bank Row, was designed by Asher Benjamin and erected in 1813, a year after the establishment of the Franklin County Bar Association.

C: Franklin County Courthouse, Bank Row, Greenfield (1813)

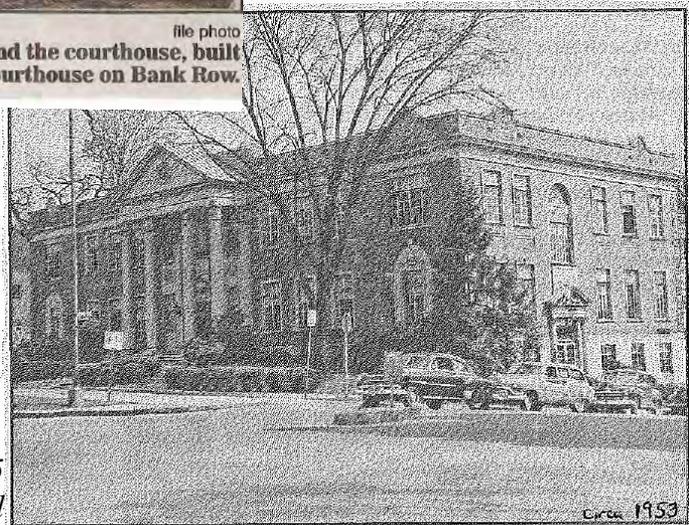


Greenfield, Mass.
Court House and Congregational Church

file photo

Early postcard shows the Congregational church and the courthouse, built in 1848, facing the common, across from the first courthouse on Bank Row.

D: Franklin County Courthouse, Bank Row, Greenfield (1848)



Circa 1953

Recorder file photo/Al Dalgie

E: Franklin County Courthouse, 425 Main Street, Greenfield

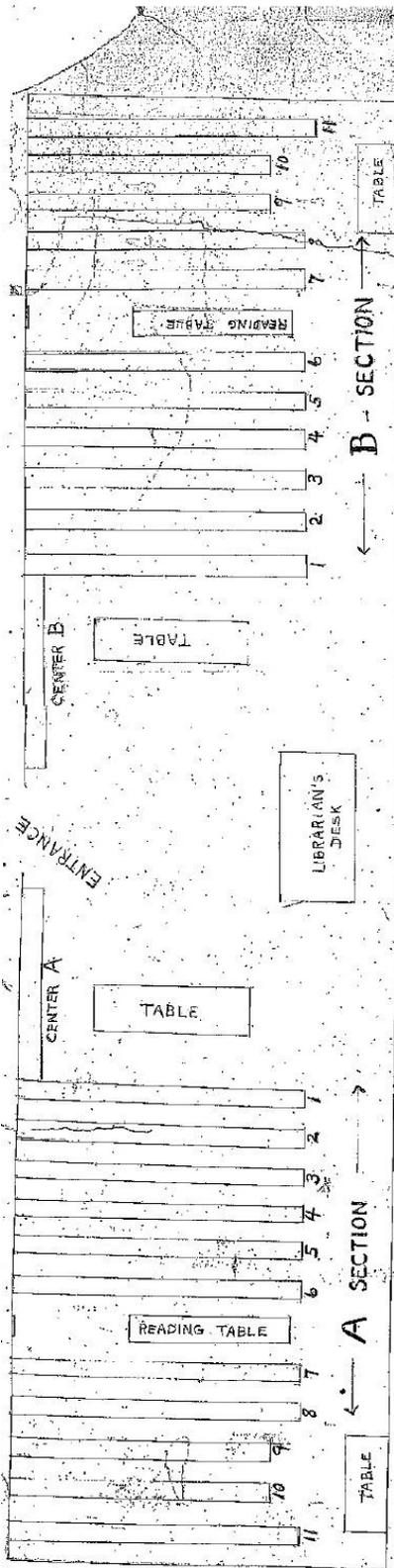


CHART OF LIBRARY AND GUIDE TO ARRANGEMENT OF BOOKS

- DICTIONARIES**
 - LAW DICTIONARIES - 4 center
 - WORDS AND PHRASES - 4 1/2 south-west Books
 - Webster's English Dictionary - 1 A center
- DIGESTS**
 - FEDERAL - center A
 - AMERICAN DIGEST SYSTEM - 6 B right
 - ENGLISH - (News) - 7 B right
 - Other digests with respective reports
- LEGAL PERIODICALS**
 - CURRENT - center, table
 - OLDER (bound) - 4 B left
 - OLDER (single) - 5 B left
 - U.S. and U.S. Supreme Court - 3 A left
 - L.R.A. and A.L.R. annotated - 4 B left
 - MASSACHUSETTS - center B
 - American and English Annotated Cases - 4 B left
- REPORTS**
 - U.S. and U.S. Supreme Court - 3 A left
 - L.R.A. and A.L.R. annotated - 4 B left
 - MASSACHUSETTS - center B
 - American and English Annotated Cases - 4 B left
 - NATIONAL REFORMER SYSTEM
 - Alabama - 2 A right
 - California - 2 A right
 - Florida - 2 A right
 - Georgia - 2 A right
 - Illinois - 2 A right
 - Indiana - 2 A right
 - Iowa - 2 A right
 - Kansas - 2 A right
 - Kentucky - 2 A right
 - Louisiana - 2 A right
 - Maine - 2 A right
 - Maryland - 2 A right
 - Massachusetts - 2 A right
 - Michigan - 2 A right
 - Minnesota - 2 A right
 - Mississippi - 2 A right
 - Missouri - 2 A right
 - North Carolina - 2 A right
 - Ohio - 2 A right
 - Oregon - 2 A right
 - Texas - 2 A right
 - Vermont - 2 A right
 - Virginia - 2 A right
 - Washington - 2 A right
 - West Virginia - 2 A right
 - Wisconsin - 2 A right
 - Wyoming - 2 A right
 - FEDERAL CASES - Circuit - District Courts - 1880 - 1 A left
 - AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY REPORTS (bound) - 3 B right
 - INSURANCE CASE SERIES
 - Automobiles - 7 B left
 - Other - 7 B left
- STATUTES**
 - FEDERAL - center A
 - U.S. of LARGE - 4 A right
 - CANADIAN - 6 B left
 - ENGLISH - 7 B right
 - Others with respective reports
- STATE REPORTS**
 - Ter. Alaska - 4 A
 - Alabama - 4 A
 - Arizona - 4 A
 - Arkansas - 4 A
 - California - 4 A
 - Colorado - 4 A
 - Connecticut - 4 A
 - Delaware - 4 A
 - D.C. Appeal Cases - 8 A
 - Florida - 4 A
 - Georgia - 4 A
 - Idaho - 5 A
 - Illinois - 5 A
 - Indiana - 5 A
 - Iowa - 5 A
 - Kansas - 5 A
 - Kentucky - 5 A
 - Louisiana - 5 A
 - Maine - 5 A
 - Maryland - 5 A
 - Massachusetts - 5 A
 - Michigan - 5 A
 - Minnesota - 5 A
 - Mississippi - 5 A
 - Missouri - 5 A
 - North Carolina - 5 A
 - Ohio - 5 A
 - Oregon - 5 A
 - Texas - 5 A
 - Vermont - 5 A
 - Virginia - 5 A
 - Washington - 5 A
 - West Virginia - 5 A
 - Wisconsin - 5 A
 - Wyoming - 5 A

F: Chart of Library and Guide to Arrangement of Books, at 425 Main Street (date unknown)

n.d. (found 2002)

At a Meeting of the Members of the Law Library Association of the County of Franklin holden at the Court house in Greenfield in said County on Wednesday the Thirtieth day of November 1874 at six o'clock P.M. the following Resolutions were adopted.

1. Resolved, That the Gentlemen of the Bar, at all times during the session of the Courts in this County, have free access to the Library, with liberty to carry any book into the Court house or to their rooms they being responsible for the good usage and safe return of the same at the rising of the Courts.

2. Resolved, That no book be taken out of the Library at any time, excepting during the session of the Courts.

3. Resolved, That any Gentleman of the Bar shall have the right to resort to said library room in vacation, for the purpose of examining and perusing any of the Books in

said Library, to find an authority, which may be applicable to any case, which he may have under consideration.

4. Resolved, That the Judges of the Courts, may at all times during their Session, have the use of any Books in said Library, either at their lodgings, in the Court Room, or in the Library Room.

5. Resolved, That the Librarian shall keep a Book, in which he shall make an entry of every Book by him delivered to any person. Resolved, That the Librarian, shall have the liberty to use in his professional practice, any of the Books in said Library, but shall not permit them to be studied by students at Law, in his Office, & he shall be responsible for their good usage while in the Library.

7- Resolved, that all future Meetings of the Association shall be warned on the application of any two members of the Association to the Clerk of said Association by posting up a notification on the Door of the Court-house two days at least before said Meeting)

8- Resolved, that the annual Meeting for the choice of Officers, shall be on the Wednesday of the first term of this Court in each year to be notified as aforesaid.

9- Resolved, that the foregoing be considered as the regulations and bye-laws of said Association, until altered and amended by a majority of any Meeting of said Association -

10. Voted, that Sylvester Maxwell, Samuel C. Allen and Elijah Johnson Esquires, be a Committee to purchase books for said Library -

11- The Meeting was dissolved -

(True Record
Attest, G. De Witt, Clerk. -

The Members of the Law Library Association of the County of Franklin, are hereby notified to meet at the Court-house in said County so that their arrangements for the choice of Officers will be taken at the Court-house on Wednesday the 23rd of April next at 10 o'clock P.M. At which time every place, or general attendance of the members is required -

Attest, March 20th 1819. Asher Sawitz Clerk of said Association

True copy
Attest, S. Mrs. G. Clerk

I: Records of the Franklin Law Library Association, pp. 8-9



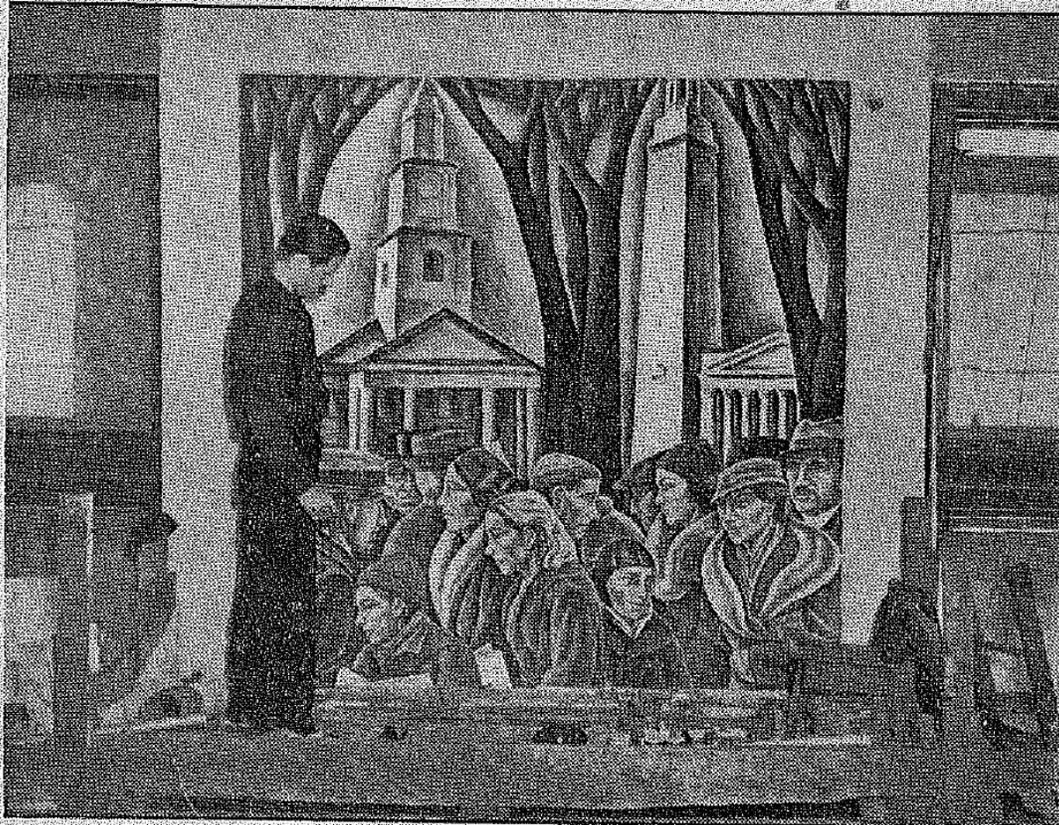
G: *Franklin County Courthouse, 101 Munson Street, Greenfield*

H: *Courthouse at 425 Main Street under renovation (Feb. 2015)*



J: *Picture of Marilyn Lee, published in The Recorder, Sep. 16, 1989*

FIRST OF FOUR MURALS WHICH WILL
DECORATE HAMPDEN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY



[Springfield Union Photo.]

Howard Cook, Springfield painter, on scaffold before mural he is painting in County Law Library on CWA Commission.

29 SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1934

THREE SWORN IN
AS BAR MEMBERS

Judge Lewis Goldberg in superior court yesterday admitted three young members of the bar of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. The new lawyers are Thomas D. Murphy of Chicopee, Irving Maurice Cohen of this city and Joseph Furtak of Chicopee.

2966 The motion for the admission of the petitioners was made by Atty Charles H. Beckwith, member of the state board of bar examiners, and in granting it Judge Goldberg wished them a successful and honorable career. He urged them to take seriously the oath administered to them by Assistant Clerk of Courts Lewis A. Twitchell.

Atty Murphy is a graduate of Boston college, and was recommended by Atty Francis I. Gallagher. Atty Cohen is a graduate from Northeastern university, and was recommended by Atty John M. P. O'Malley, and Atty Furtak was graduated from Harvard law school, and was recommended by Atty Stanley P. Clossis.

Howard Cook, Springfield painter, on scaffold before mural he is painting in County Law Library on CWA Commission.

**"Springfield Industry" is Theme
Of Second Panel at Courthouse**



(Photograph by Richard Elwes Pope)

"Springfield Industry" is the theme of the second panel in the law library of the Hampden county courthouse.

**Howard Cook's Second Panel Shows
Springfield's Industrial Present**

**Fresco in Law Library of Courthouse Also Proves
Craftsmanship and Esthetic Powers of Artist —
Follows Historical Panel**

The completion of the second Howard Cook fresco, at the Hampden county courthouse, brings renewed assurance that Springfield is fortunate to possess examples of the work of this young local artist. Produced as they were under great pressure of time (a condition not conducive to peace of mind when the laborious physical labor of the true fresco technique is remembered), these frescoes nevertheless represent an important art heritage for the future.

Howard Cook may do other frescoes elsewhere in the United States or in Mexico, where his first frescoes were executed, and no doubt as his experience with the medium ripens he will do far more impressive and important

frescoes. But from the historical and biographical point of view these frescoes, done in the city where the artist was born and educated and had his first instinctive reachings out to art, have a sentimental and historical value, which perhaps has not so far been enough appreciated.

Sound Craftsmanship Evident

This is not to imply, however, that the frescoes do not live in themselves, and by reason of their own inherent esthetic worth. Distinctly they do, as repeated visits to the law library prove. The solidity of the painting and the careful construction of all the volumes and the masses of the composition are sufficient guarantees of the artist's sound craftsmanship and conscientious feeling of design. The method by which he conceived and executed the frescoes is also another evidence of this sound formal and classical attitude of the artist toward his creation.

For example, the days spent by Mr Cook at the Bosch plant, where he studied machinery and workmen, not with the idea of reproducing them in an unimaginatively representational manner, but with the desire to catch the spirit and the tempo of Springfield's industrial life, these hours and hours of toil preliminary to the actual painting are the best proof of the sincerity of his purposes. The best proof one should add, besides the internal evidence of the fresco itself.

Represents Industrial Present

"Springfield Industry" is the theme of the second fresco. Today the old historical genesis of this city is suggested in the first fresco, "Court Square," while its present-day life as a modern industrial city is symbolized in the second. The original public works of art project for Mr Cook contemplated four frescoes in all; lack of funds and time make it necessary that only the two central panels be carried out. The two which have been done are, however, completely admirable.

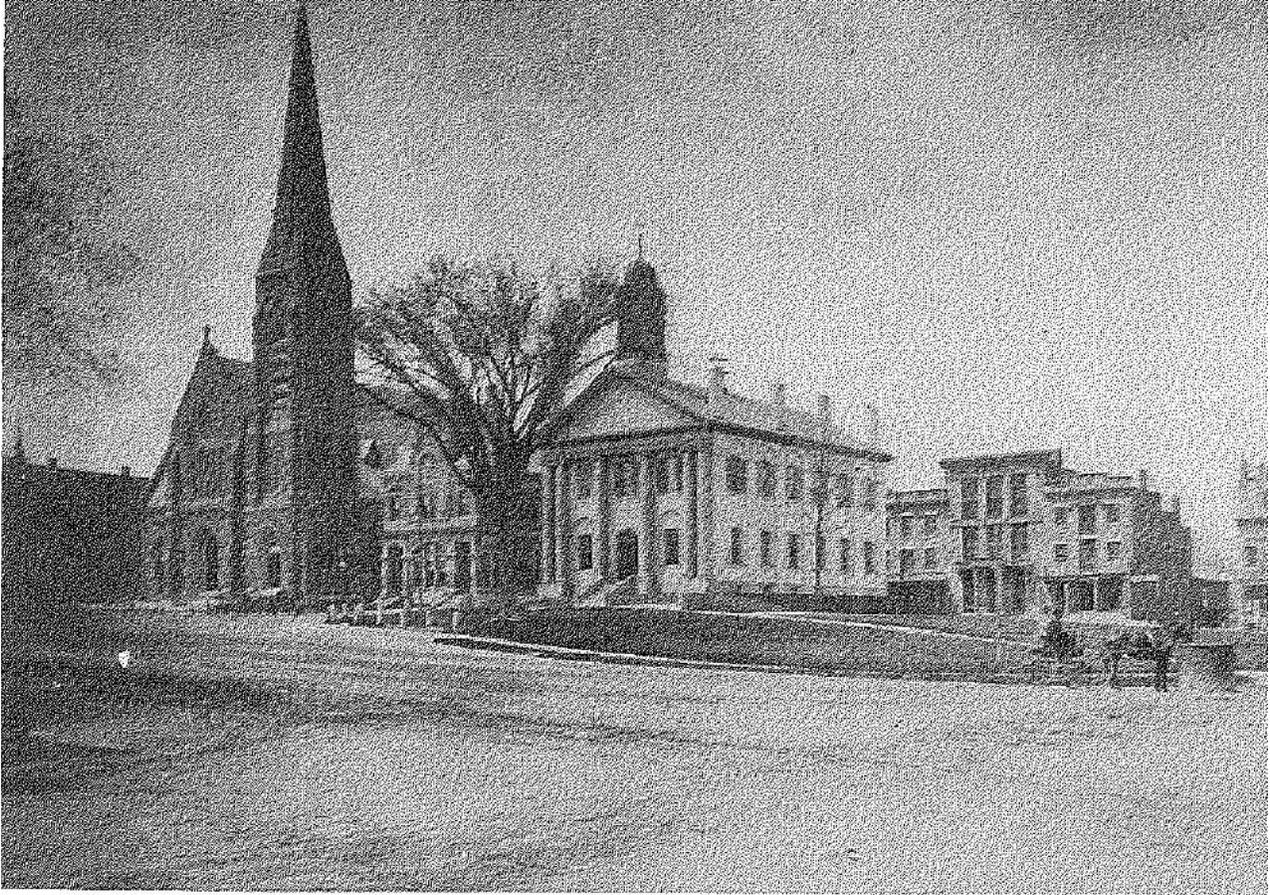
It is not derogatory, therefore, to add that the second is probably the better of the two, because it is painted with greater fluency, and with a more colorful palette. It was executed also under somewhat less external pressure; and this is bound to give it a sense of greater freedom and looseness. Ideally a fresco should grow in the unhurried way that a plant does, metaphorically taking years to reach fruition, as was true with the communal art of the Mayas. But since these ideal conditions do not exist, it seems evident that just getting into the rhythm of the medium, into its stride, as it were, had favorable results for Mr Cook's work.

Geo. Pappas (p. p. a.) vs. Wm. Kuzmick et als.

E. Kerigan

Stimpson, Clason & Callahan

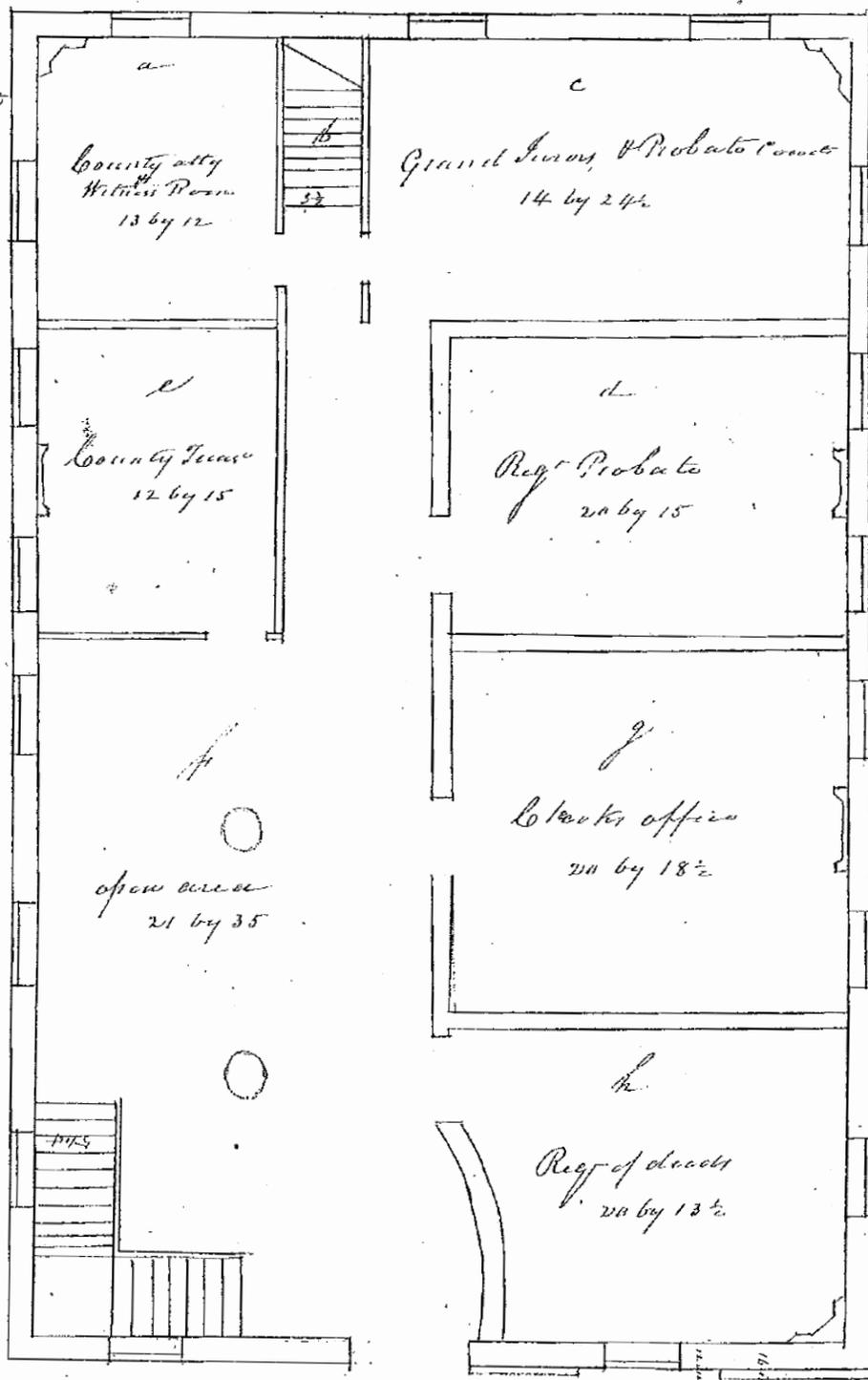
"Springfield Industry" is the theme of the second panel in the Law Library of the Hampden County Courthouse.



CHURCH, BANK, COURT HOUSE ABOUT 1880

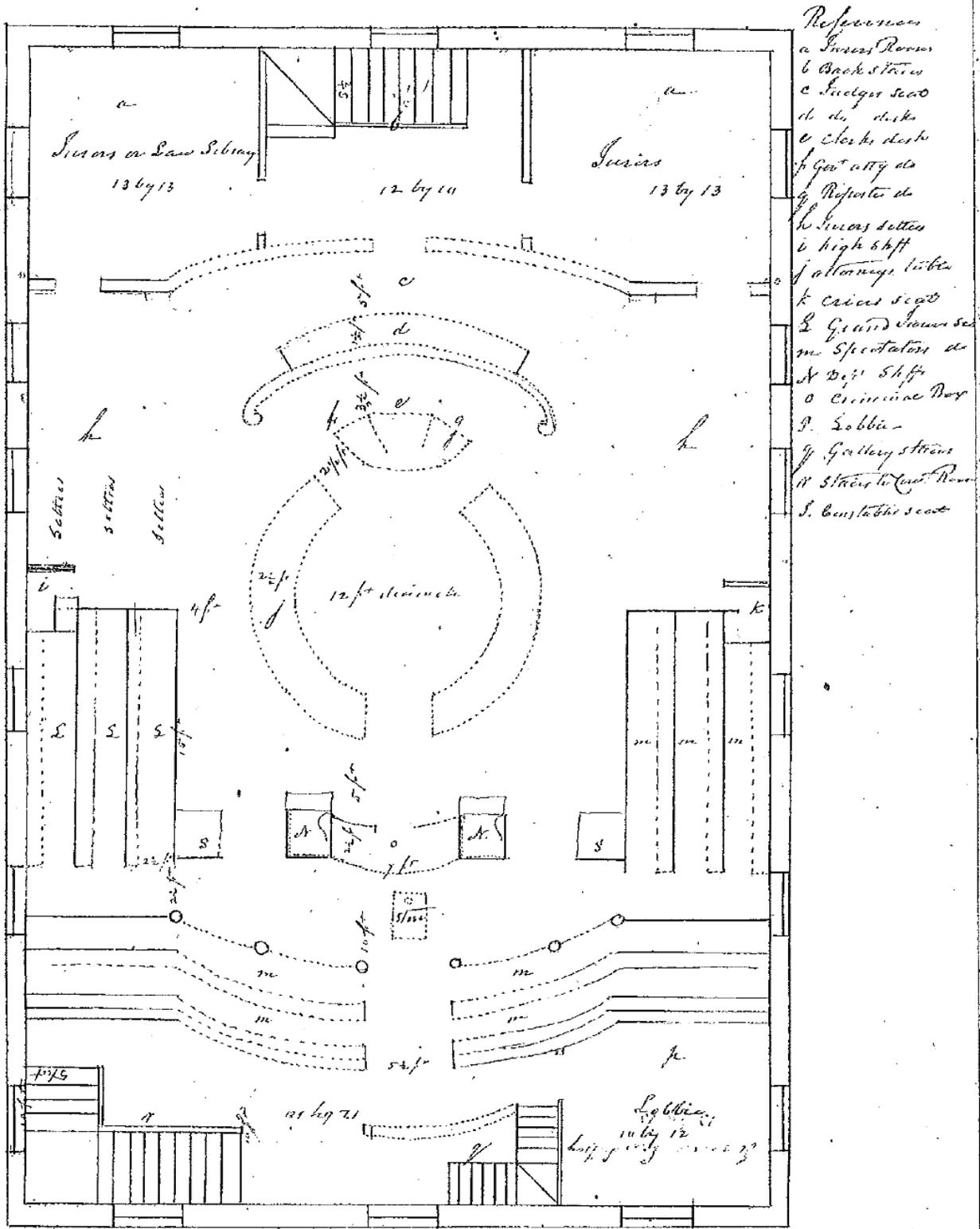
APPENDIX A: 3d Courthouse (1823), pictured in 1880

- References
- a. atty office
 - b. stairs back way
 - c. G. Jurors Probate Court
 - d. Reg. Probats
 - e. County Treas
 - f. open area
 - g. Clerks office
 - h. Reg. deeds office

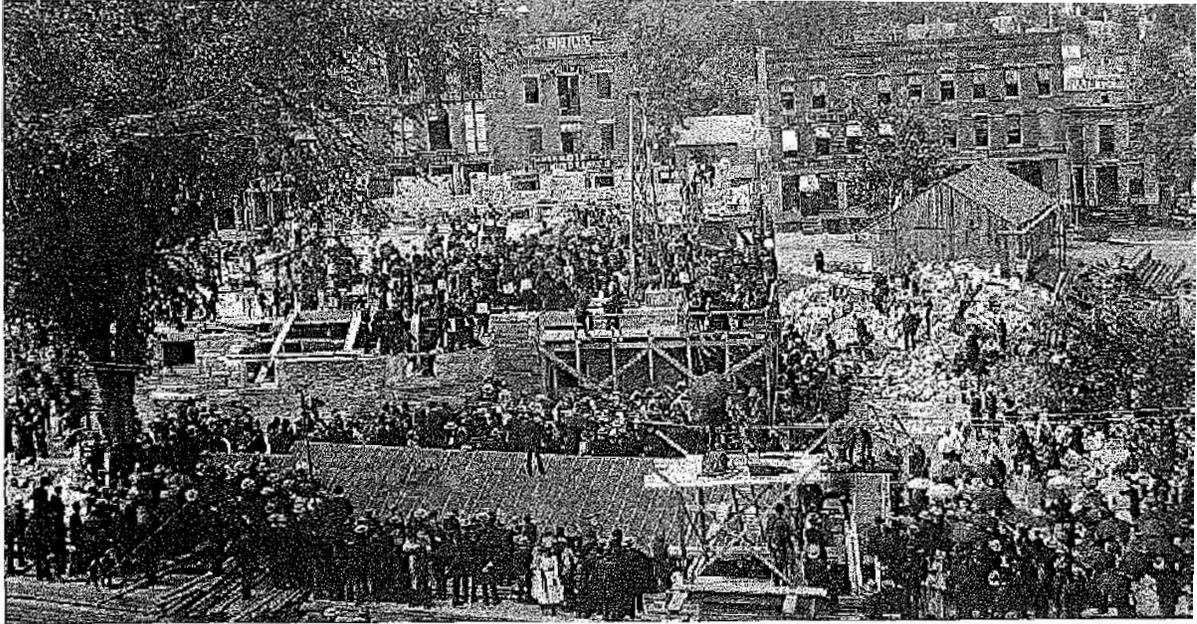


New Court House built 1823. County offices - Building 45 by 68 outside walls

Appendix B Third Courthouse (1823) Floorplans 1823.



Appendix B Third Courthouse Floorplans 1823.



1886 - LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Appendix C



Appendix D : Old Hampshire County Courthouse, Northampton MA" Photo by John Phelan.

Hampshire Appendix 4

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Be it known That whereas William P. Strickland, Walter L. Stevens,
John A. Crosier, Charles N. Clark, John W. Mason, Richard W. Irwin, Thaddeus
Graves, Rufus H. Cook, George P. O'Donnell, Henry P. Field, Calvin Coolidge, Arthur
Watson, Thomas J. Hammond, John C. Hammond, William G. Bassett, Edward L. Shaw,
Timothy G. Spaulding, John B. O'Donnell, John T. Keating, A. J. Morse, William J.
Reilley, David H. Keady, William H. Feiker and N. Seelye Hitchcock

have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the
name of the Law Library Association for Hampshire County,

for the purpose of holding and managing the law library belonging to said County of
Hampshire,

and have complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth in such
case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the

President, Treasurer, clerk and Directors

of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations and recorded
in this office :

Now, Therefore, I, WILLIAM M. OLIN, Secretary of the Common-
wealth of Massachusetts, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that said William P. Strickland,
Walter L. Stevens, John A. Crosier, Charles N. Clark, John W. Mason, Richard W.
Irwin, Thaddeus Graves, Rufus H. Cook, George P. O'Donnell, Henry P. Field, Cal-
vin Coolidge, Arthur Watson, Thomas J. Hammond, John C. Hammond, William G. Bas-
sett, Edward L. Shaw, Timothy G. Spaulding, John B. O'Donnell, John T. Keating,
A. J. Morse, William J. Reilley, David H. Keady, William H. Feiker and N. Seelye
Hitchcock,

their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as, and are
hereby made, an existing corporation under the name of the

Law Library Association for Hampshire County,

with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and
restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the Great
Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, this
fourth day of November in the year of
our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight.

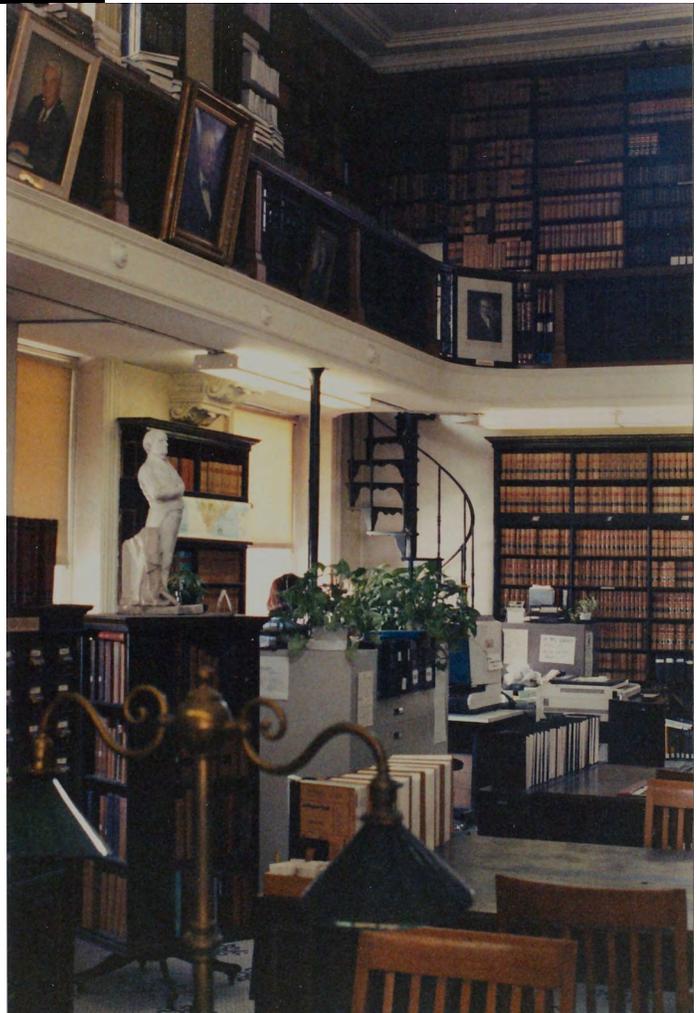
Wm M Olin

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

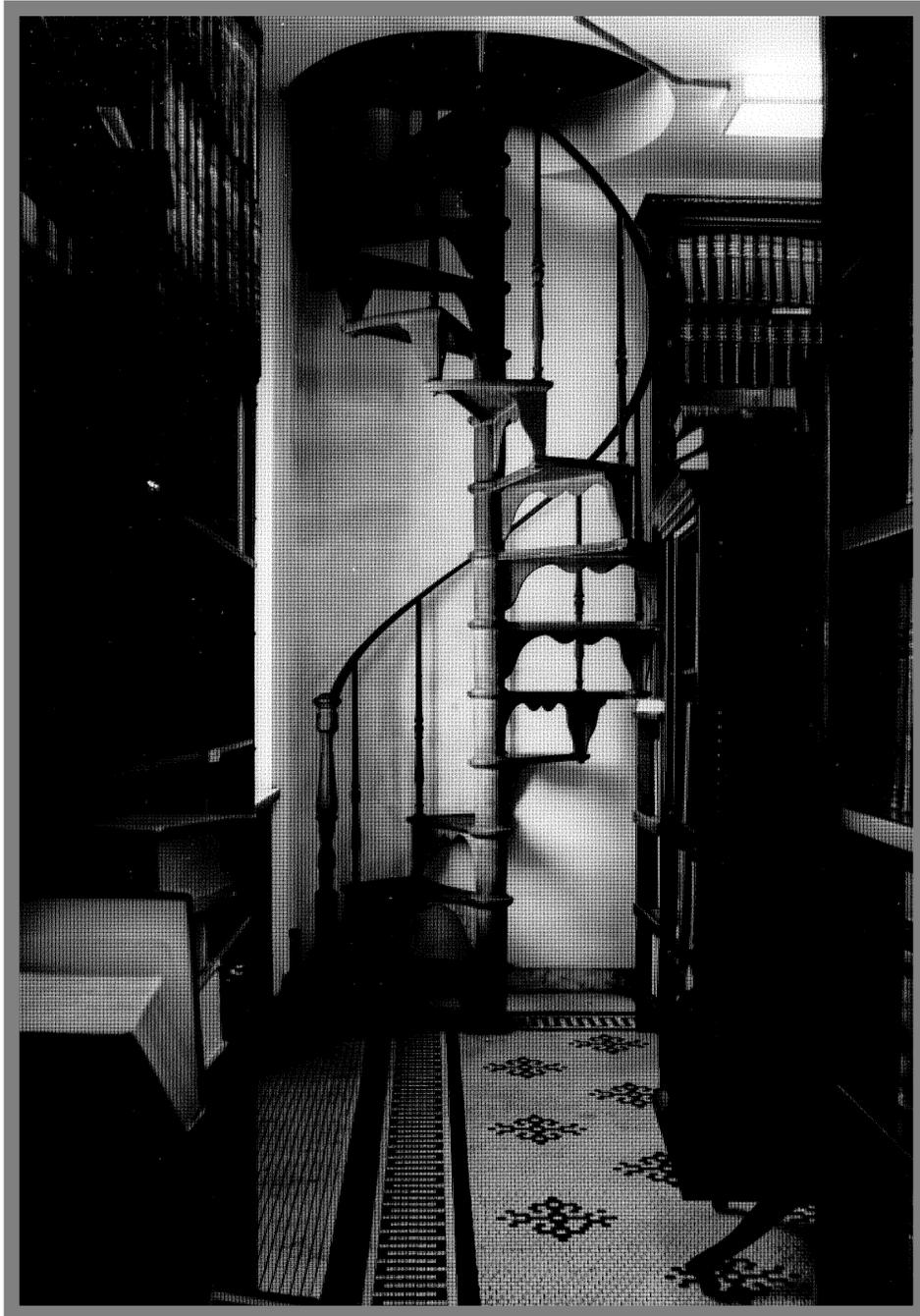
Appendix E :Hampshire Corporate Certificate 1908



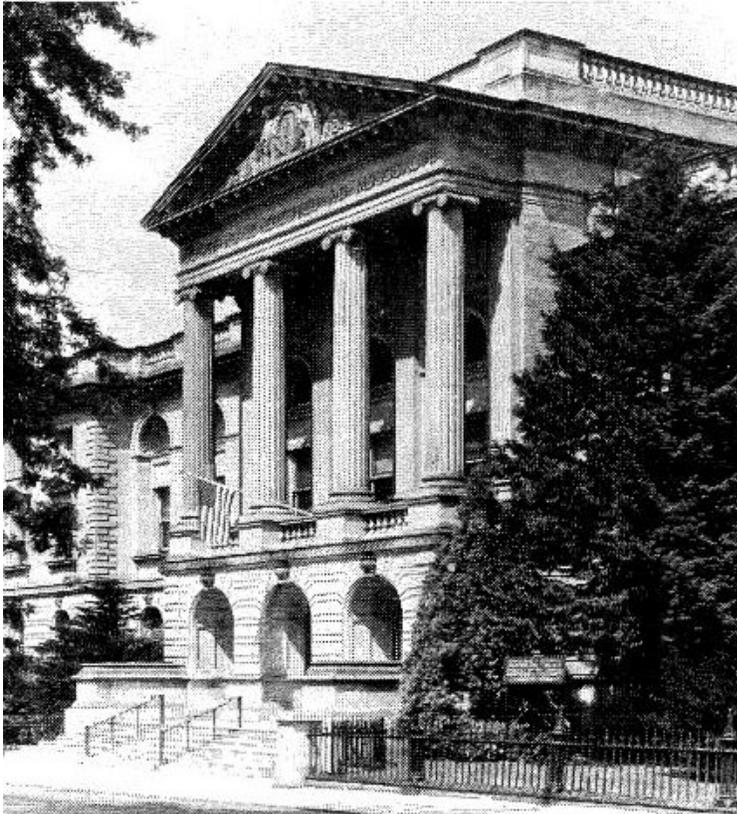
July 1974



Lawrence Appendix



Interior of the Lawrence Law Library in Superior Court, 1974.



1984 Photograph by Keller & Peet Associates

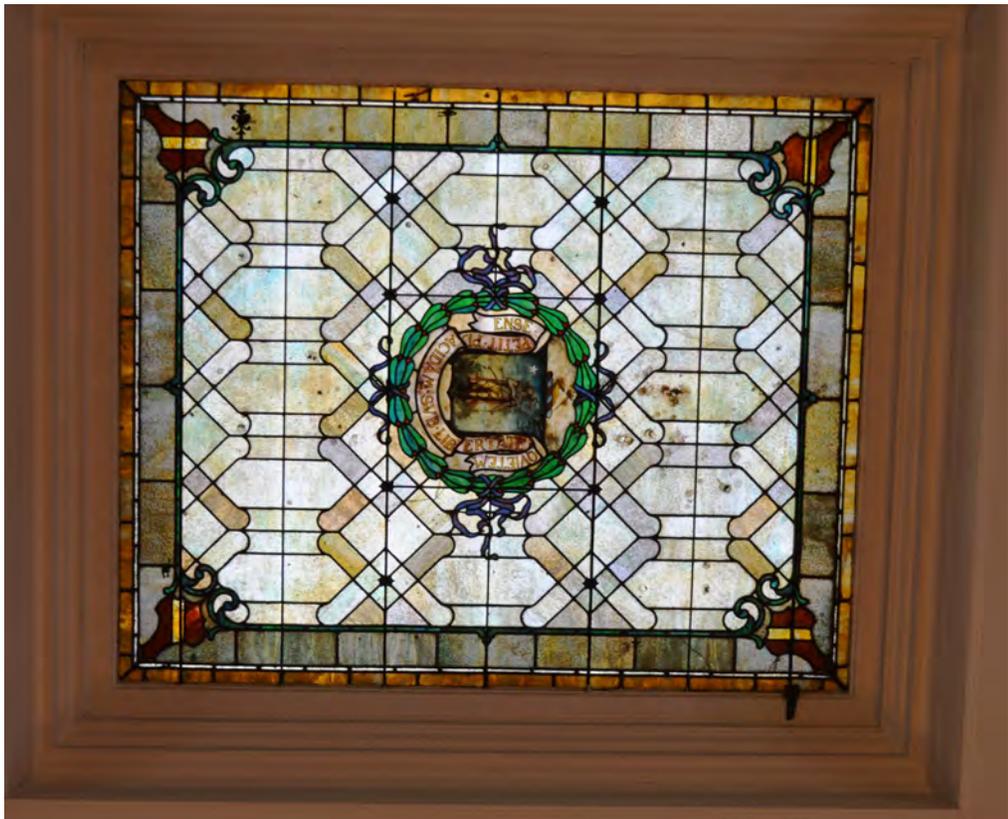
“New” courthouse dedicated in 1898.



Proposed design, new Lowell Judicial Center.



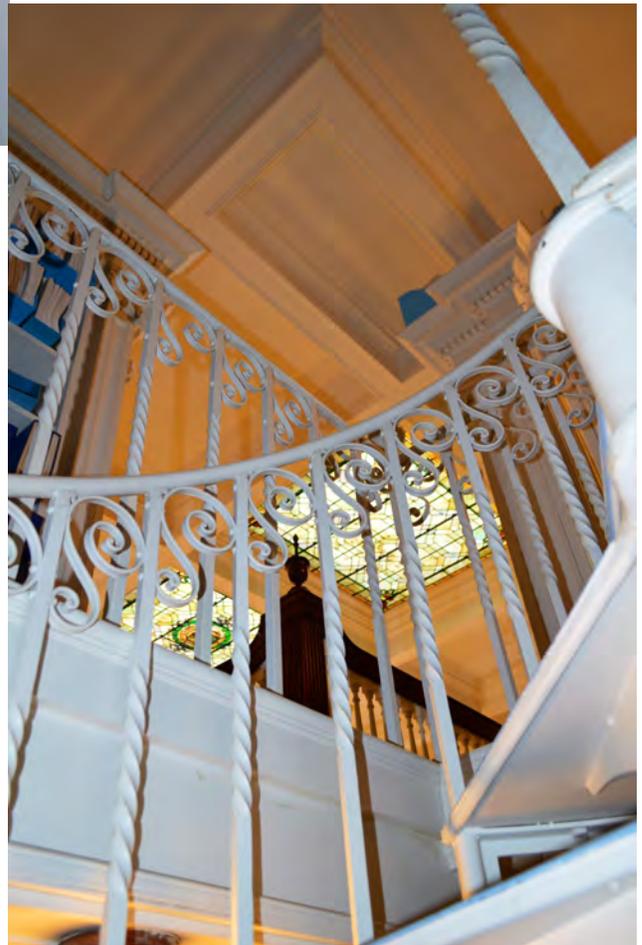
The interior of the law library, 2015.



One of the stained glass ceiling panels, 2015.



Some of the detail in the New Bedford Law Library, 2015.



New Bedford Appendix 2



Library in 1986 before moveable shelving.



Original library doorknob, Norfolk superior courthouse



Moveable shelving, 1997.



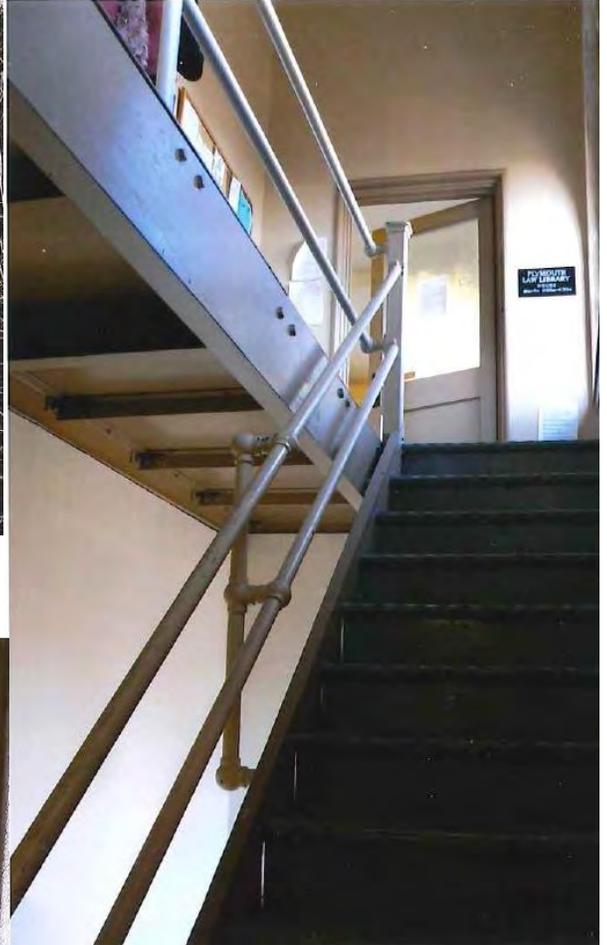
Norfolk Law Library in Norwood, 1998-2010.



Norfolk Appendix



Photograph of the County Commissioners' Building, 11 South Russell Street, 2007.



Photograph of the Plymouth Law Library stairwell, 11 South Russell Street, 2007.



Photograph of the interior at the front of the Plymouth Law Library, 11 South Russell Street, 2007.



Photograph of the rear seating area of the Plymouth Law Library, 11 South Russell Street, 2007



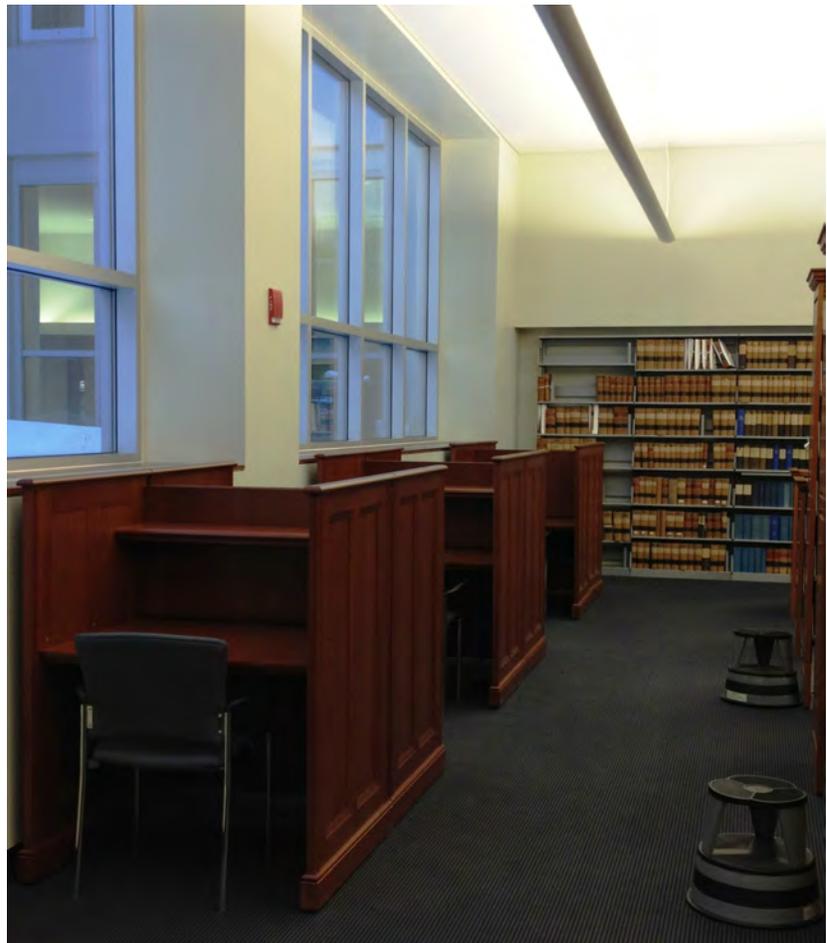
Photograph of the Massachusetts treatise collection in the Plymouth Law Library looking from the reference desk, 52 Obery Street, 2015.



Photograph of public computers, reading tables, and general American treatise collection in the Plymouth Law Library, 52 Obery Street, 2015.



Photograph of reference desk, public computers and office area in the Plymouth Law Library, 52 Obery Street, 2015.



Photograph of the study carrels in the Plymouth Law Library, 52 Obery Street, 2015



Worcester's new location combines some of the old in a bright new leased space across the street from the new Worcester Courthouse.



Approximate Value
of
Law Library
Property

1927-28

Books	\$ 225,000.-
Portraits	33,600.-
Steel stacks	8,000.-
Furniture	2,000.-
Equipment	1,200.-
Supplies	200.-
	<u>\$ 270,000.-</u>

Books

\$ 225,000.-

Previous valuation

1903 \$75,000.-

Added since

1903 150,000.-

Steel stacks

\$ 6,000.-

Stacks installed

1908 = \$5385.-

1933 = 450.- +

Portraits	\$ 33,600.-	Supplies	\$ 200.-
Known cost			
Buggy	2060.-		
Horse	1000.-		
Hall	1000.-		
Johnson	800.-		
Total for 4.	\$ 4860.-		
Average for 1	1200.-		
28 portraits	@ 1200.- =		
	\$ 33,600.-		

Equipment	\$ 1200.-	Furniture	\$ 2000.00
Binding	725.-	35 chairs	\$ 400.-
Typewriter	75.-	20 tables	100.-
Elevator & motor	250.-	4 desks	150.-
Book trunks	150.-	5 catalog cases	200.-
	<u>1200.-</u>	2 steel lockers	50.-
		1 " filing case	50.-
		3 atlas cases	50.-
		book cases	1000.-
			<u>2000.-</u> +

By-Laws
of the
Worcester County Law Library Association

"1st There shall be an annual meeting of the Corporation (on the Wednesday evening of the first week in the March Term of the Court of Common Pleas) every year, at which the officers for the current year shall be elected by ballot; and all officers elected shall hold their offices till others are elected & qualified in their places.

2nd All meetings of the Corporation shall be called by posting up notices thereof in some conspicuous place in the Court Room when the Court is sitting, at least twenty four hours before such meeting, which shall be done by the Clerk, or in his absence by the Treasurer or Librarian. And it shall be the duty of such officer to call such meeting whenever any five members of the Corporation shall request it in writing.

3rd At all the meetings of the Association any number may constitute a quorum for adjourning the meeting; but there shall be at least five members present for the transaction of any business.

4th The Clerk shall keep a true record of all proceedings of the Association which shall be preserved & transmitted to his successor in office, and be open to the inspection of all members of the Association.

