

2018 Oregon Library Association Conference | April 20, 2018

Spotlight on Justice: How Small and Rural Counties Support the Legal Information Needs of the Public

Presented by

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Kate Lasky, Josephine Community Library District

Nate Pedersen, Deschutes Public Library

Moderator: **Sue Ludington**, Lane County Law Library

Introduction

- Moderator & panelists represent **Lane, Columbia, Klamath, Josephine, and Deschutes** Counties
- Goals of presentation:
 - Feature different **county law library models**
 - Showcase **specific, replicable programs & services**; identify key stakeholders
- Lengthy **Q&A** will follow *after* all panelist presentations



Overview of County Law Libraries

- Every OR county **statutorily required** to “operate a free law library (or) law library services” (ORS 9.815)
- Funded with **appropriation from OJD** as approved by Legislature every biennium
- **Administrative & governance structure vary**

A landscape photograph of a field with a row of trees in the background, overlaid with a white curved graphic element.

PAM DAVIS

Columbia County Law Library
St. Helens, OR

Columbia County Law Library

- Established in **1939**
- **Moved from courthouse** to current location 10-12 years ago
- Major **renovation/revitalization** in 2015
 - Commissioned by **Law Library Committee** of Columbia County Bar
 - Hired retired lawyer and librarian to **conduct study**
 - **Improved facility** with new lighting, new carpeting, computers, printer
 - Hired **Law Librarian**



Columbia County Law Library

- **New two-fold mission**
 - **Improve services** to local legal community
 - Honor **Access to Justice principles** by providing legal resource services to entire county, **particularly low-income and pro se litigation communities**

Columbia County Law Library

- **Hours of operation**
 - Open to the public Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30am – 3:00pm; and 2nd Wednesday of the month 4:00-8:00pm
 - Open to **local attorneys 24/7**





Columbia County Law Library

- **Administration**

- **Law Librarian:** reports to Law Library Committee and to Maddy Sheehan, local attorney and Law Library supporter
- **Law Library Committee:** composed of Bar members, District Attorney, & Law Librarian
- **District Attorney:** manages Law Library budget
- **County Commissioners:** final approval of all budgetary matters

Columbia County Law Library

- **“Lawyer in the Law Library”** workshops
 - **First** in Oregon
 - Very **popular** among Columbia County residents
 - **Unique model**: 2-hour workshops held at CCLL where local **attorney speaks on legal topic** of general interest, followed by **Q & A** (*which occasionally includes one-on-one, minimal legal advice*)



Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Selecting topics & speakers**
 - Law Library Committee decides on topics and **suggests local attorneys that specialize** in topic areas
 - Occasionally **non-lawyers drafted to participate** in workshops
 - Law Librarian **contacts recommended speakers** by email and phone

Columbia County Law Library


- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Written material**
 - Presenters send workshop materials **in advance**
 - Often provides **outline of topics** to be covered in workshop; frequently includes related **brochures or pamphlets**
 - Law Librarian **makes copies and distributes** to workshop attendees
 - CCLL **maintains file of materials** from all workshops

Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Publicity**
 - Promotional **posters and colorful flyers distributed around county** for each workshop
 - **Press releases** sent to all local media (newspapers, radio, websites)
 - Law Librarian **speaks to groups**, participates in **radio and newspaper interviews**

Columbia County Law Library

**FREE LEGAL CLINICS
FOR THE PUBLIC**



**NEW 2018
WORKSHOPS!**

LAWYER IN THE LAW LIBRARY

A SERIES OF WORKSHOPS ABOUT COMMON LEGAL PROBLEMS AT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY. A LAWYER WILL PROVIDE BASIC INFORMATION AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC OF THE EVENING

6-8 PM, ONE WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

- 1/10/18: LEGAL ISSUES FACING VETERANS
- 2/21/18: DIVORCE
- 3/14/18: SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
- 4/11/18: MEDICAID
- 5/09/18: REAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AND PROPERTY LINE DISPUTES
- 6/13/18: ID THEFT AND COMPUTER HACKING

COLUMBIA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY
270 S. FIRST ST • ST. HELENS, OR • 503-396-5344
CCLL@COLUMBIACL.LIB.ORG



Columbia County Law Library



Dedicated Law Library promotional space at public library

Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Partnerships**

Columbia County Bar Assn

St. Helens Public Library

Scappoose Public Library

Community Action Team

Columbia County Judiciary

Columbia County Trial Court

Administrator

OSU Extension Office

Oregon Dept of Human

Services

Columbia County Legal Aid

Chamber of Commerce

Oregon Council of County Law

Libraries



Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Upsides**
 - Workshops promote goal of **providing Access to Justice**
 - Very popular with **over 180 attendees** so far
 - Allows local attorneys to convey important legal information to county residents, often **attracting new clients** in the process

Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Upsides (con't)**
 - More than **12 local attorneys have volunteered** to speak (almost 25 % of Columbia Bar Association members)
 - Workshops and attendant publicity **keep CCLL in the limelight**

Columbia County Law Library





Columbia County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Law Library: Downsides**
 - **No registration required**, so no follow-up by CCLL with attendees
 - Often **not adequate time** for individual consultation with presenters

Columbia County Law Library

- **Future goals**
 - **Continue** the LITL program
 - Increase **frequency**
 - Possibly **supplement with one-on-one legal advice by attorneys**, similar to program offered by Deschutes Public Library



AMY DASARO

Klamath County Law Library
Klamath, OR

Klamath County Law Library

- Earthquake of 1993 **destroyed county courthouse**; not enough funds to include a law library in new courthouse
- **Inside the Klamath County Main Library** building since 1993
- Downsized from upper level of the library to **small open space** at back of library after 2011



Klamath County Law Library

- Staffed **25 hours/week** by two part-time employees
- **138 shelves** of print materials
- 3 public computers with **Lexis software and BarBooks**; patrons mainly use them for Child Support Guideline printouts

Klamath County Law Library



Klamath County Law Library

- Advantages: **Attorneys**
 - **Convenient** (next door to county courthouse)
 - Availability of research materials, including Lexis software and online Bar Books, **whenever main library is open**, including weekends (nearly 60 hours a week)



Klamath County Law Library

- Advantages: **Non-attorneys**
 - Access to **legal research materials** when main library is open
 - **Less intimidating space** than going into the courthouse
 - Can **buy specifically-named legal forms packets** from Reference Librarian when Law Library desk is not staffed

Klamath County Law Library

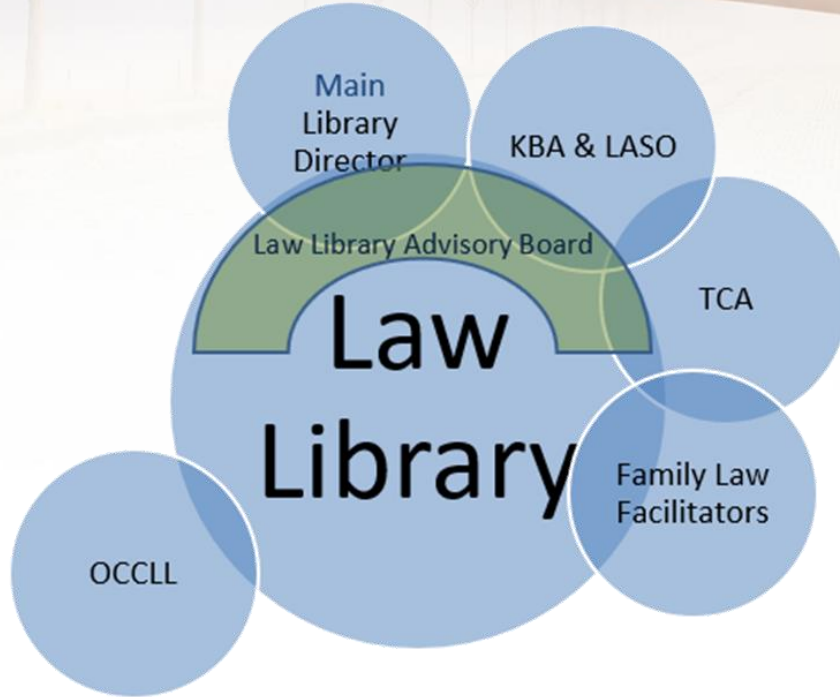
- Advantages: **Non-attorneys** (con't)
 - **Complements patron services** already available at the local library
 - Several **fluent Spanish-speaking public library workers** who kindly help Law Library staff with patrons needing translation assistance

Klamath County Law Library

- **Disadvantages**
 - **Additional administrative and budgeting burden** for Main Library director
 - **Less shelf/meeting room space** for burgeoning Main Library



Klamath County Law Library



Acronyms defined

KBA: Klamath Bar Association

LASO: Legal Aid Services of Oregon

TCA: Trial Court Administrator

OCCLL: Oregon Council of County Law Libraries

Klamath County Law Library

- Public **Library Director** role:
 - **Administration**, including personnel, budget, janitorial, security
 - Offers **back-up assistance** for difficult patrons
 - Holds position on **Law Library Advisory Board (LLAB)**
 - Facilitates hosting of **Lay Person Legal (LPL) programs** and provides print/media promotion

Klamath County Law Library

- **Trial Court Administrator (TCA) role:**
 - Holds position on **Law Library Advisory Board**
 - Oversees the **Family Law Advisory Committee (FLAC)**
 - Gives **LPL presentations**, such as how to prepare for court and Small Claims Court basics
 - Has **broad experience** from other US states on the legal needs of self-represented litigants (SRLs)



Klamath County Law Library

- **Family Law Facilitators** role:
 - **Training on Family Court procedures** ensures efficient assistance that doesn't violate the unauthorized practice of law (UPL)
 - Notification of **changes in court procedures or paperwork**
 - Serve as backup via telephone to **assist with challenging patrons and clear up questions**

Klamath County Law Library

- **Family Law Advisory Committee** role:
 - Invites Law Library staff to participate in **quarterly meetings**
 - Enable Law Library staff to **become familiar with each entity of the team for custody and divorce proceedings**, including:
 - Mediators
 - Child In Between Facilitator
 - Crisis Center Directors
 - Klamath Basin Behavioral Health psychiatrist
 - DHS representatives



Klamath County Law Library

- **Klamath Bar Association & LASO** role:
 - A member of each sits on **LL Advisory Board**
 - Helped to develop **Lay Person Legal program** and serve as LPL presenters
 - Help with **difficult patron questions**, and take referrals from us
 - LASO provides copies of **printed booklets on tenants' rights and family law** issues

Klamath County Law Library

- **Law Library Advisory Board role:**

- Meets quarterly for **oversight and setting policy**
- Approved Law Library's **mission statement:**

“The Loyd De Lap Klamath County Law Library is dedicated to providing legal research material to members of the bar and the community at large. The Law Library delivers value to our citizens through books, online access, and other resources for legal needs in a convenient, efficient, and respectful manner.”

Klamath County Law Library

- Patron services: **Forms**
 - **Forms approved by County Court** made available; prices vary (\$.10/pg – most expensive is \$9.00; will email PDF for no charge)
 - **Pre-printed forms in packets**, downloaded from Oregon Judicial Dept (OJD) website
 - **Local instructions** from our Family Law Facilitator, stapled on top of package

Klamath County Law Library

- Patron services: **Forms**
 - PDF **masters kept in binders** on staff computer for easy printing
 - **Clear verbal instructions** appreciated by those with literacy/language challenges
 - Inform SRLs of steps of process, but **never give time estimate**
 - Family Law Facilitators **review petitions** *before* SRL signs & files
 - **Fee waiver/deferral** application available

Klamath County Law Library

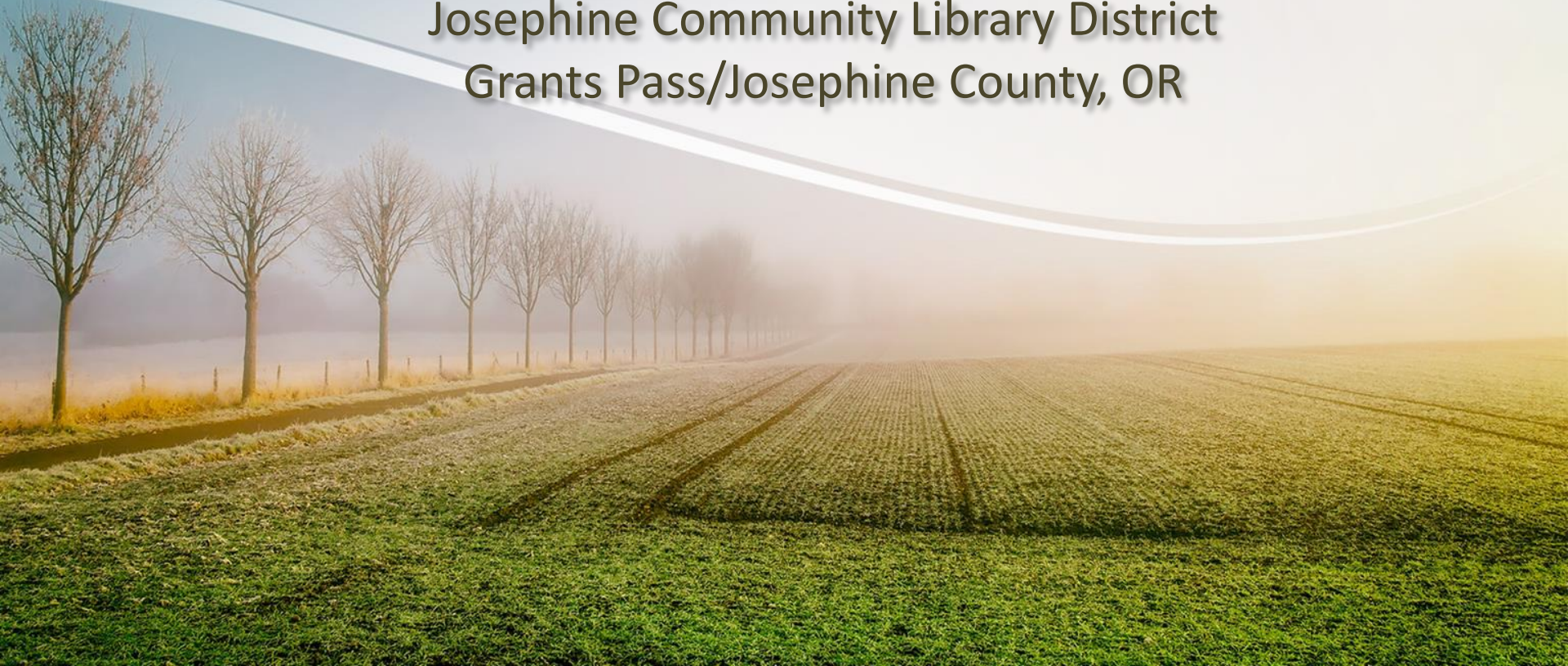


Klamath County Law Library

- Patron services: **Forms – Cash & Tracking**
 - Use **Excel spreadsheet** to track patrons and forms sold
 - **Cash only**, petty cash on hand for change, no bills larger than a \$20
 - Report and **send cash to County Treasurer** at end of day

BEECHER ELLISON & KATE LASKY

Josephine County Law Library &
Josephine Community Library District
Grants Pass/Josephine County, OR



Josephine County Law Library

History

- Founded in **1939**
- 2017-19 OJD appropriation = **\$157,423**
 - Funding **always decreasing**
- Part-time **Law Librarian**
- **Separate from public library**
 - Legal Counsel Department
 - Law Librarian for legal research

Sustainability

- Public **libraries closed** 2007
- Law Library **remained open**
- Public library reopened 2009
 - **Limited capacity**
 - Referred patrons to law library

Josephine County Law Library

Services

- **Walk-ins**
 - Help navigating the legal system
 - Understanding **forms** (not just photocopies)
- **Partnerships**
 - Women's Crisis Support Team
- **Outreach**
 - Newsletters
 - **Media support**, front page article

Josephine County Law Library

Future Opportunities

- Possible **programs**
 - **Database** workshops
 - **Lawyers in the Library** revisited
- **Outreach** collaboration
 - Increased **referrals**
 - Newsletters

Increased Hours and Sustainability

- Both law library and public libraries have **increased hours and staff**
- **Full-time** Law Librarian and Reference Librarian



NATE PEDERSEN & ERIKA HENTE

Deschutes Public Library & Legal Aid/Oregon Law Center
Bend/Deschutes County, OR



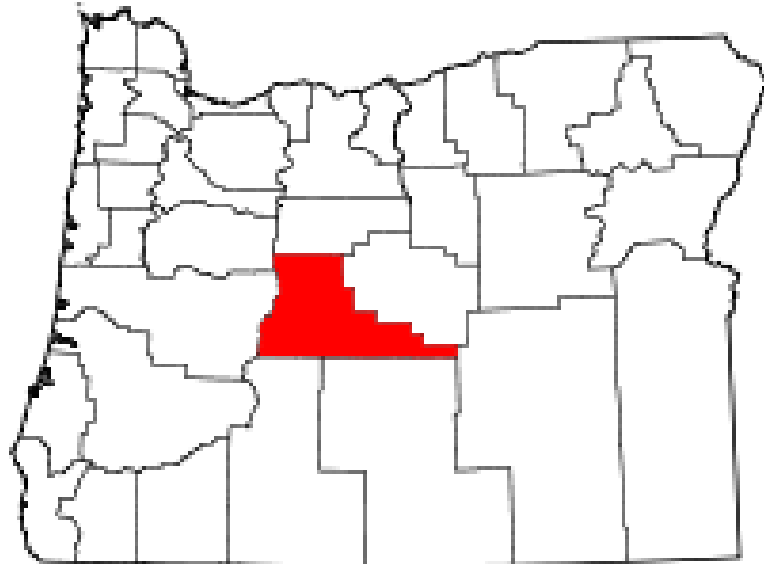
Deschutes County Law Library

- 2015: Deschutes Public Library (DPL) contracted by Deschutes County to **serve as County Law Library**



Deschutes County Law Library

- 2016: Oregon's first **Access to Justice Committee** forms in Deschutes County



Deschutes County Law Library

- Access to Justice (ATJ) Committee **composed of:**
 - **Trial court administrator**
 - One circuit **court judge**
 - Two representatives from **Deschutes County Bar Assn**
 - One representative from **Legal Aid**

Deschutes County Law Library

- ATJ Committee (con't):
 - One representative from **public library**
 - One **local government representative** appointed by Board of County Commissioners
 - One **citizen representative** appointed by ATJ Committee Chair

Deschutes County Law Library

- ATJ Committee **purpose & objectives**
 - **Improve access to justice for all** citizens of Deschutes County
 - Promote & support **pro bono opportunities**
 - Provide greater **access to legal services for individuals who do not qualify for legal aid**, but have difficulty affording legal services
 - Identify needs and develop strategies to **reduce barriers to access**

Deschutes County Law Library

- **“Lawyer in the Library”**
 - Modeled after **similar programs in California**
 - Free **30-minute consultations**
 - Way to **meet charter objective:**
 - “Provide greater access to legal services for individuals who do not qualify for legal aid, but have difficulty affording legal services.”*

Deschutes County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Library**
 - Wednesday **evenings**, 5:30 – 8:00
 - **Two attorneys**, two rooms
 - Able to see **ten people total** each evening (five per room)



Deschutes County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Library: Attorney Guidelines**
 - Attorney **recruitment** through DCBA
 - Volunteers must **attend an Access to Justice CLE** (Continuing Legal Education seminar)
 - Volunteers must **shadow a more experienced attorney** for two sessions before taking a “lead” role

Deschutes County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Library: Participant Guidelines**
 - **10 slots** available each week
 - 6 can be **registered ahead of time** on website or by telephone
 - Registration opens at **two week intervals**
 - **4 slots for “drop ins” only**
 - Numbers for drop in appointments handed out starting at 4:00 p.m. at reference desk



Deschutes County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Library** by the numbers:
 - Launched **October 4, 2017**
 - Hugely **popular**
 - Held **11 sessions** in 2017
 - **10 volunteer attorneys**
 - **103 people served!**

Deschutes County Law Library

- **Lawyer in the Library by the numbers: January 1-April 11, 2018**
 - 164 participants
 - Areas of law
 - 75 **family law**
 - 13 **probate / estate**
 - 11 **consumer issues**
 - 10 **housing**
 - 6 **immigration**
 - 112 encouraged to **seek counsel**
 - 15 **Legal Aid referrals**
 - 127 **exit surveys**
 - 126 found attorney helpful
 - 124 would recommend to a friend
 - 52 male 76 female
 - 24 disabled
 - 15 veterans



Deschutes County Law Library

- **Participant quotes:**
 - “It was very empowering having free access to this resource. Thank you so much for providing the **opportunity to speak with a lawyer** without having to provide a retainer!”
 - “Very grateful for your help. Very **helpful and reassuring** program.”
 - “Thank you! I **now know where to begin.**”

Q & A

Thank you!