

CMCLLD SPRING 2025 ZOOM MEETING NOTES

March 6, 2025

In attendance: Florence Barnes, Tonya Baroudi, Sandy Brewer, Zachary Gunther, Audrey Dingler, Catherine McGuire, James Durham, Julia Viets, Kim Viera, and Joan Bellistri with special guest Julia Topper.

- **Introductions**

- **Welcome Julia (Roberts) Topper, Head of Reference, TMSLL**

Julia introduced herself. She is the new Head of Reference Services at the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. Julia directly supervises four staff members, as well as reference services work of all library staff. She has worked at TMSLL for six years, previously in digital collections and reference.

- **Round the Room - Member Updates**

- Zach Gunther reported that **Washington County** had their first expungement clinic. Turnout was good, and all went well. Zach is taking the ICM.
- Tonya Baroudi in **Prince George's County** is working with the project manager for the law library's renovation. The law library has an intern with library science interests who works the reference desk and is creating a reference guide on sociology and the law. The law Library contributes to the Court Newsletter with library book reviews.
- James Durham Director of the **Thurgood Marshall State Law Library** reported that a new Library Assistant, Becca Tucker, will work the evening shift. They also have a new Reference Librarian, Joni Gordy, who also works the evening shift. The TMSLL has just posted a Technical Services & Systems Librarian position. The most recent Library Committee meeting approved major decisions concerning collection review. Audrey Dingler, TMSLL Outreach Coordinator and Reference Librarian, hosted visits and tours for Kim and Zach.
- Kim Viera described the new **Charles County** kiosk known as Charlie. The kiosk has had 882 users in the Help Center. Charlie has FAQs to assist in pointing users in the right direction. They are working on adding a Spanish option for use. Books that have been pulled from the collection will be offered to the jail library. Charles County has seen a post-holiday increase in use by attorneys.
- Sandy Brewer in **Howard County** reported that the law library hosted a volunteer appreciation breakfast for the clinic attorneys – turnout was great. The library is sending out a survey to the volunteer attorneys to receive feedback on the free legal advice programs. Also, the evening clinic hours will begin a bit earlier; new hours will be 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

- Julia Viets reported that **Montgomery County** is busier than ever. The law library hosted a Valentine's Day event that provided morale for the court and promoted the library's collections. The library now closes at 4:00 for the public and 4:30 for staff. The law library is now working on setting up a senior judge library.
- Flossie Barnes in **Carroll County** provided a tour for a professor and business students at the community college. She gave out pocket U.S. Constitutions. The most recent Library Committee meeting reviewed new library rules. The historical reference book section of the library was re-organized.
- Joanie Bellistri in **Anne Arundel County** reported that the co-located Family Court Help center has been in transition that resulted long wait times. Library staff will consist of only one part-time going full time while the other part-time staff member is on an extended medical leave. The law library is looking forward to a visit by Ever Hanna of the Baltimore County Access to Justice Center.

- **FY2024 Annual Report – Member Discussion**

 [FY2024 draft Annual Report - with comments.docx](#)

The final draft of the Annual Report with added testimonials and links to law libraries of the Annual Report is now ready. Joanie will send a pdf version so that everyone can see the formatting. Members are asked to review and send any edits within three days.

- **CMCLLD Statistics – Joan Bellistri**

Joanie asked that statistics be added to the spreadsheet more frequently and to update the spreadsheet to bring it current. Audrey and Joanie hope to discuss with Ever Hanna of Baltimore County next week to see if we can get statistics from them again.

- **Update: Md Law Libraries Directory – Audrey Dingler**

The [Maryland Court Law Library Directory](#) is being revised based on updates requested in December. The directory is designed to act as a starting point with links to law library websites. Those with staff are highlighted. It will be helpful for referrals. It is easy to see which libraries are staffed.

- **Update: Laws of Maryland – Joan Bellistri**

Per Carol Mihm (3/4/2025): *The only news that's "fit to print" at the moment is that I have very recently, but finally, rearranged job duties among staff and assigned one person in particular to get the ball rolling on catching back up with our publication printing as quickly as possible once the session wraps up. Our intent is to be sure that we print the 2025 volumes in a timely and normal fashion this year, as well as start backfilling the prior years that we need to catch up with. Until he's fully on board at the beginning of the interim, I don't think I can come up with an actual valid timeline for when things will indeed be going to print, other than to say they will indeed finally start going to print. I'm sorry I don't have more detail for you at the moment, but at least now I can for sure say that progress will be made in the near future.*

- **Committee Updates:**

Revisions to the Recommended Titles for the Core Collection – Catherine, Audrey, Joanie, and Julia

The Committee has a plan and has created a Teams Channel/SharePoint folder.

Survey of Chambers Collections & Other Court Department Collections - Flossie and Joanie

Responses: Anne Arundel, Carroll, Charles, Prince George's, TMSLL and Washington. Shared spreadsheet (in process) in Teams/SharePoint - Core Collections Channel/Folder. Committee will format information and contact those who have not responded and those that have for clarification.

Promotion of Court Law Libraries: Marketing/Outreach Inside/Outside the Law Library – Committee of the Whole

Audrey and Catherine will be attending the meetings of the Conference of Court Administrators and the Conference of Court Clerks in April. Audrey will be updating the CMCLLD "postcard." The revised postcard will be made available at the law library table at the DLA/MLA Conference in May.

- **USB/Flash drive use and policies.**

Flossie asked if USB/Flash drives could be used in State-issued library computers. Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel and TMSLL reported that only in computers that were not used for the MDEC kiosk. Carroll County now has a separate County-issued non-networked computer for USB use.

- Catherine asked if law libraries were still assisting with MDEC. All reported that they still have requests for help.
- After receiving the CMCLLD Meeting Notes by email from our October '24 meeting, Judy Rupp replied that that it was nice to see so many libraries engaged in law clerk training and appreciates the Committee work on identifying core collections.
- **Summer (Date TBD) CMCLLD In-Person Meeting: Who would like to host at their Courthouse?**

A request to meet in Baltimore County will be made. Baltimore City will be considered in the future.