

*access to justice  
through  
access to legal information*



# Report of the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

FISCAL YEAR 2024

CIRCUIT COURT FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

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# Anne Arundel County Public Law Library Anne Arundel County Circuit Court July 2023 – June 2024

**Vision** *access to justice through access to legal information*

**Mission** The Anne Arundel County Public Law Library serves the court, attorneys, government, and citizens of Anne Arundel County's by providing access to legal information resources; promoting access to these resources; creating educational opportunities that enhance the understanding of legal information; and facilitating legal advice programs.

## Introduction

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This report provides a picture of library use, programs, resources, services, staff, and finances. The strategic plan with goals and actions taken is included.

## Report Summary

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### Key Achievements

- **Successful Relocation:** Moved to a new, more accessible space in September 2023, co-locating with the Family Court Help Center
- **Significant Usage Increase:** 23,112 visitors (559% increase), 5,471 questions (82% increase), and 32,894 web hits (8.7% increase)
- **Enhanced Digital Resources:** Provided access to Westlaw, Lexis, National Consumer Law Center, and other online legal databases
- **Technology Expansion:** Implemented 13 computer stations (3 desktops, 10 laptops) to accommodate increased need for online access

### Service Statistics

- **User Demographics:** 89% public, 7% attorneys, 4% judiciary
- **Service Delivery:** 86% in-person, 9% phone, 5% email
- **Subject Matter:** Family law questions increased by 192% after co-location with Family Court Help Center

### Challenges & Recommendations

- **Staffing Limitations:** High turnover in the contractual assistant librarian position impacts service quality and efficiency
- **Recommendation:** Reinstate the permanent Assistant Librarian position to improve library productivity and service

## AACPLL Use Statistics FY2024

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23,112 visitors



5471 questions



32,894 web hits

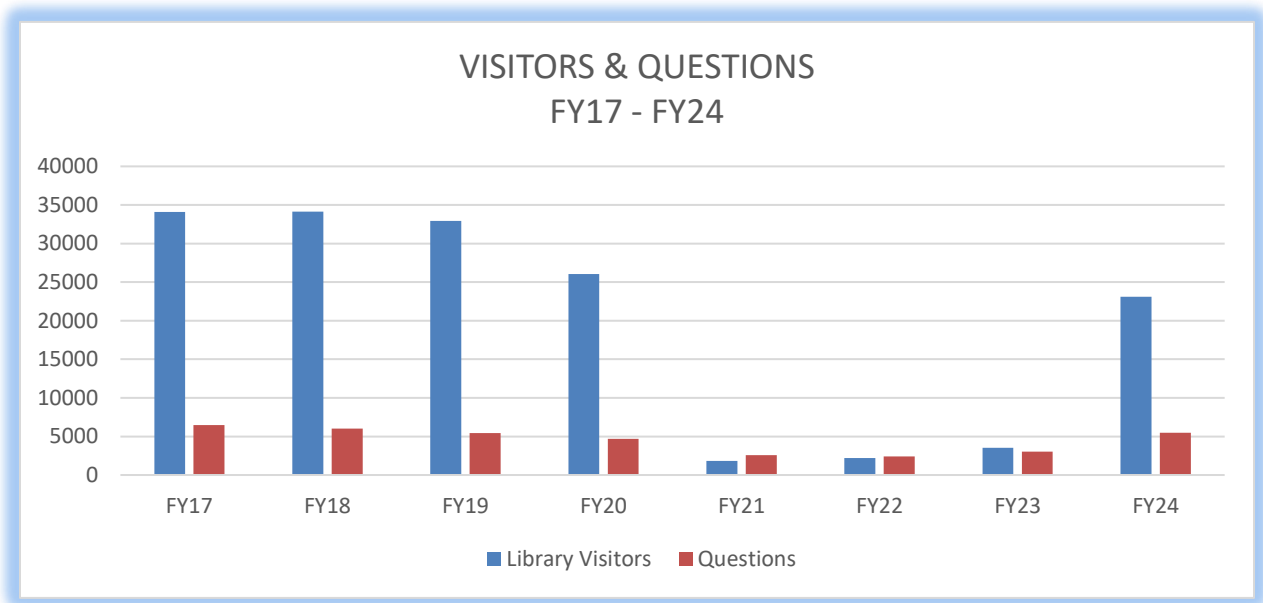


96 served by law library  
limited legal advice programs

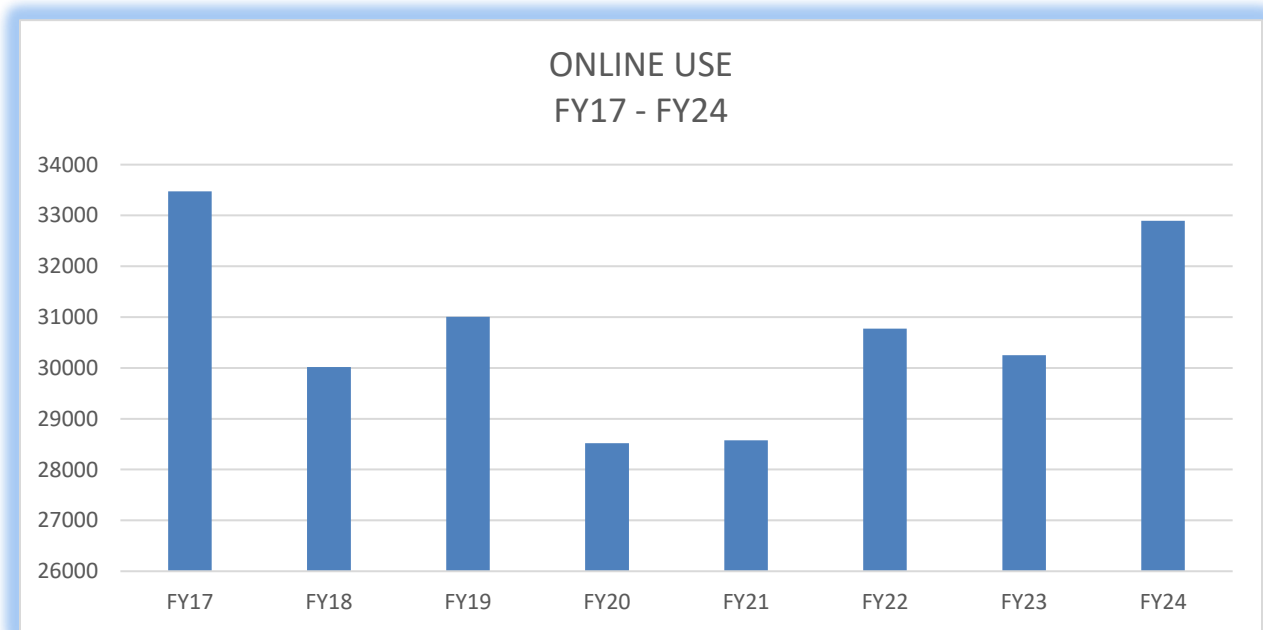
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The law library saw a great increase in library visitors and questions after the move to the new space in September of 2023. This increase can be attributed to the ease of access and visibility of the new space combined with again co-locating with the Family Court Help Center.

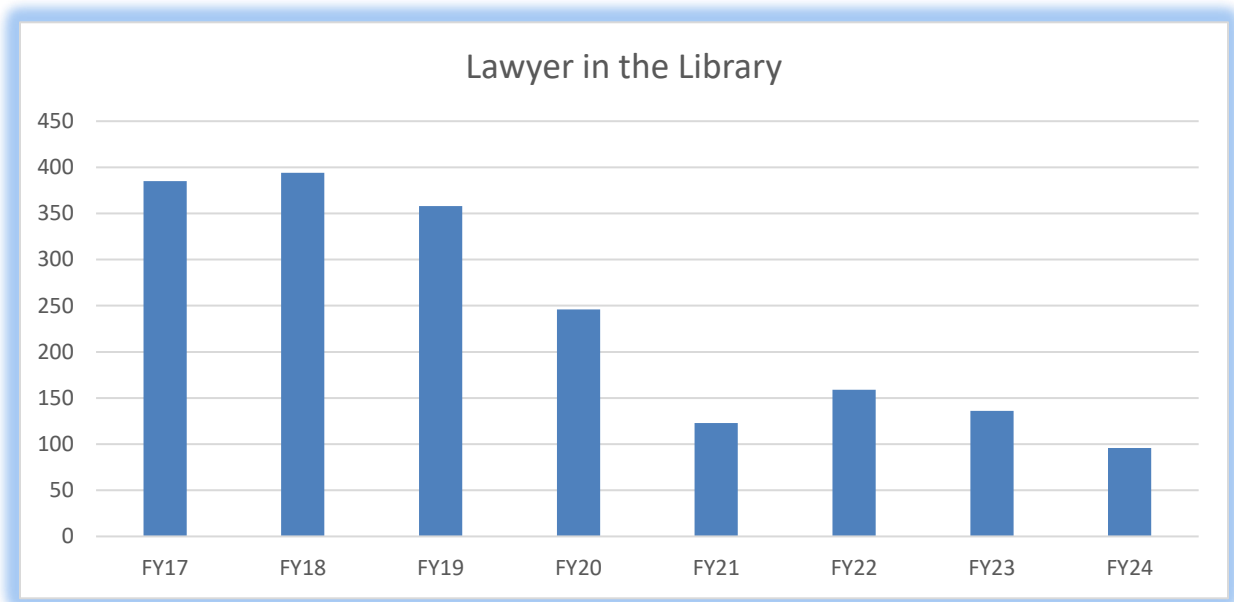
The average number of library visitors just about doubled when compared with FY23. Total visitors increased by 559% and the number of questions increased by 82%.



Online access to law library information was at its highest since FY17. Online use increased by 8.7% when compared with FY23.



The Lawyer in the Library program assisted 96 people this year. The program format continues to only be offered remotely. The monthly evening programs are no longer offered.



## FY2024 - Who



89%  
Public



7%  
Attorneys



4%  
Judiciary

## FY2024 - How



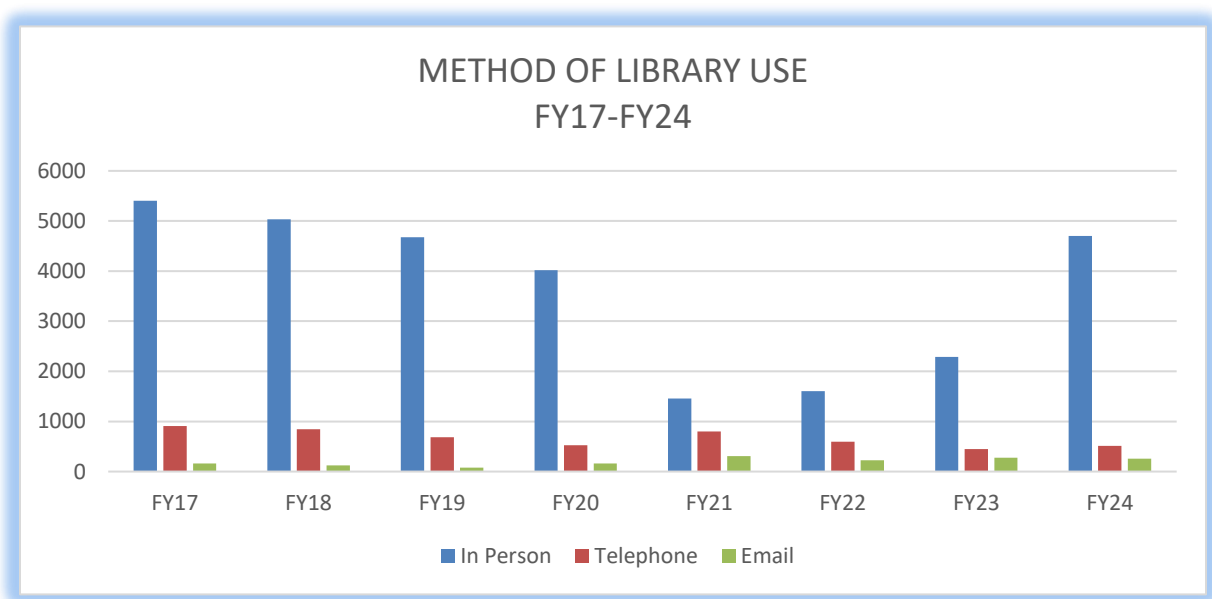
86%  
In Person



9%  
Phone



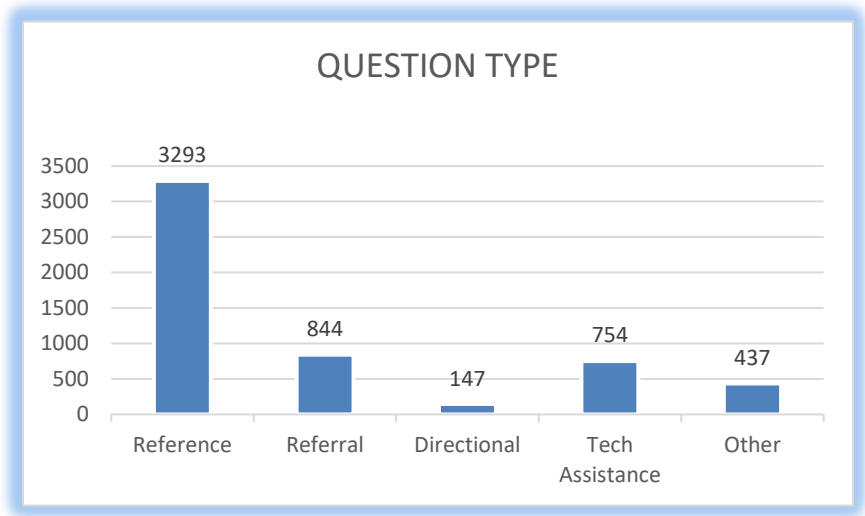
5%  
Email



In-person use has increased by 105% when compared with FY23 and is even more than it was in FY19. The library use statistics for FY24 reflect an increase in law library use that can be attributed to the library being more accessible than in the temporary location and again co-locating with the Family Court Help Center. The increases seen in FY24 show that library use is returning to pre-pandemic levels.

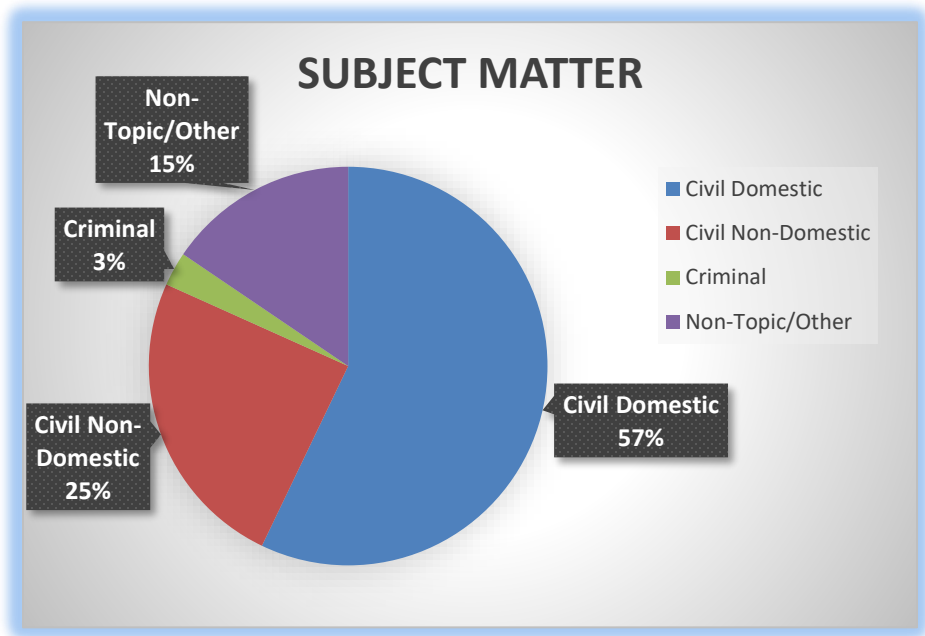


## FY2024 - Question Type



60% OF  
QUESTIONS ARE  
REFERENCE

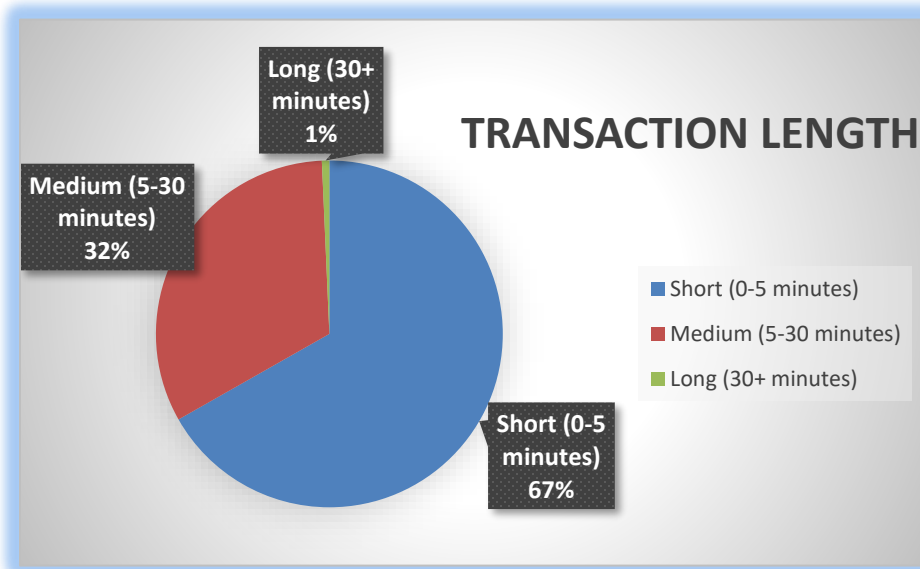
## FY2024 – Subject Matter



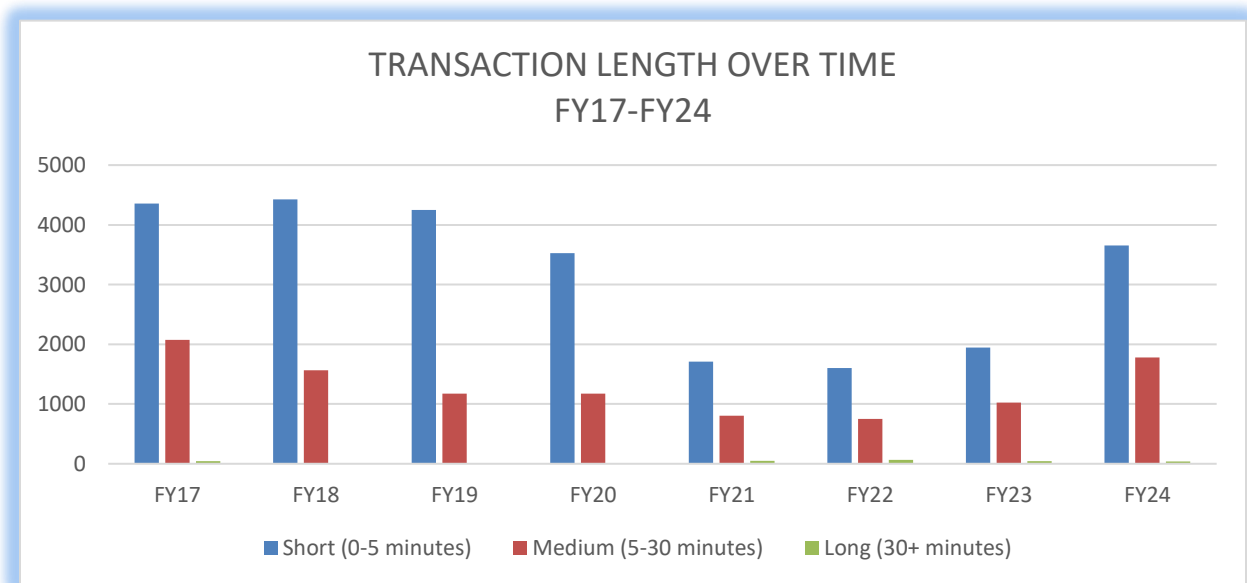
82% OF  
QUESTIONS  
INVOLVE CIVIL  
ISSUES

With the return to co-location with the Family Court Help Center, the law library saw questions involving family law matters increase by 192%.

## FY2024 - Transaction Length



67% OF  
TRANSACTIONS  
TAKE 5  
MINUTES OR  
LESS



The number of questions that take between five and thirty minutes was the highest since FY17.

## Law Library Space

The law library moved into its new space in September and is again co-located with the Family Court Help Center. The law library is now in the former jury office making it more accessible and visible to court visitors.

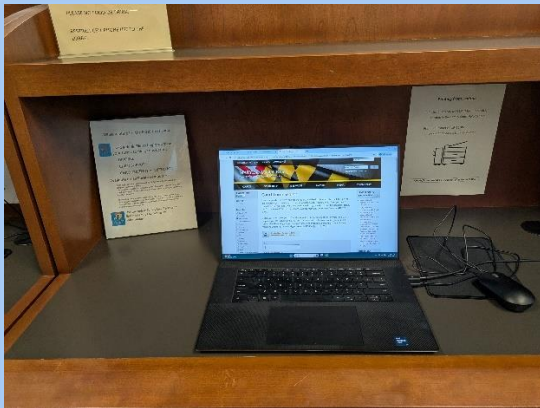
After much planning with the assistance of James Durham, Director of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library, and Linda Holmberg, retired engineering draftsman, the law library was ready for its new space. All was in its place by the end of the move day, **thanks to the help** of Doug Hofstedt, Kim Klein, Nika Hawkins and Mandy Smith from Court Administration, and library staff, Denise Wolf. Mike Pack and Shaun Wilson got the computers up and running. Robert and Nancy Wallace came back from retirement to help with the positioning and hanging of law library artwork. Sara Magette had the Family Court Help Center open and ready to go.



**Maryland materials** have been retained in print. While floor loading limited the number of books that could be shelved in the new location, the historic code collection with the Laws of Maryland, the Maryland Register, the Maryland Reports, the Maryland Appellate Reports, and Opinions of the Attorney General are still available upon request though not shelved in the new space.



To accommodate the increased need for **online access** due to the law library's shift from print, the law library opened with thirteen computer stations comprised of three desktop workstations and ten laptops.



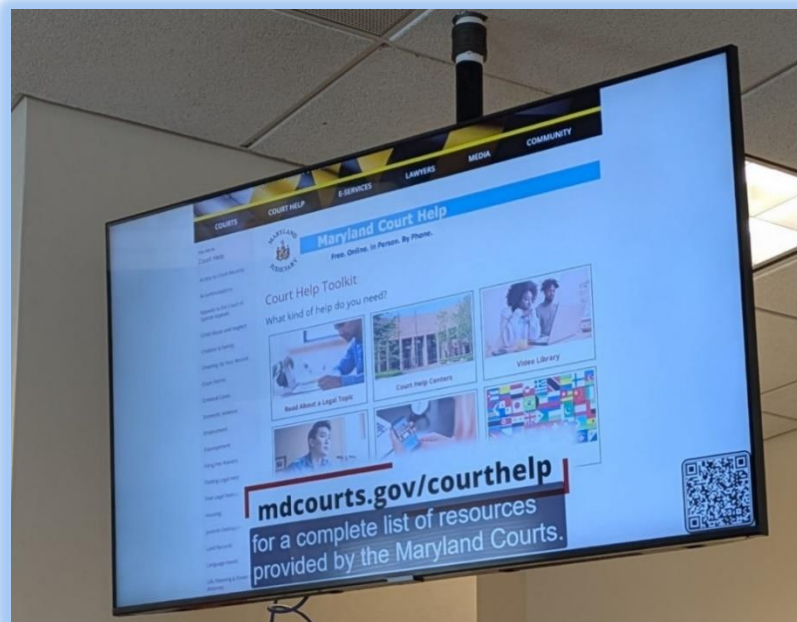
The **Family Court Help Center (FCHC)** has two enclosed offices for attorney consultations. The waiting area consists of tables and access to library laptops that have links to family law resources and the FCHC sign-in page. There is a separate stand-alone computer with a touch screen for FCHC sign-in. Those using the Family Court Help Center have access to all library resources including



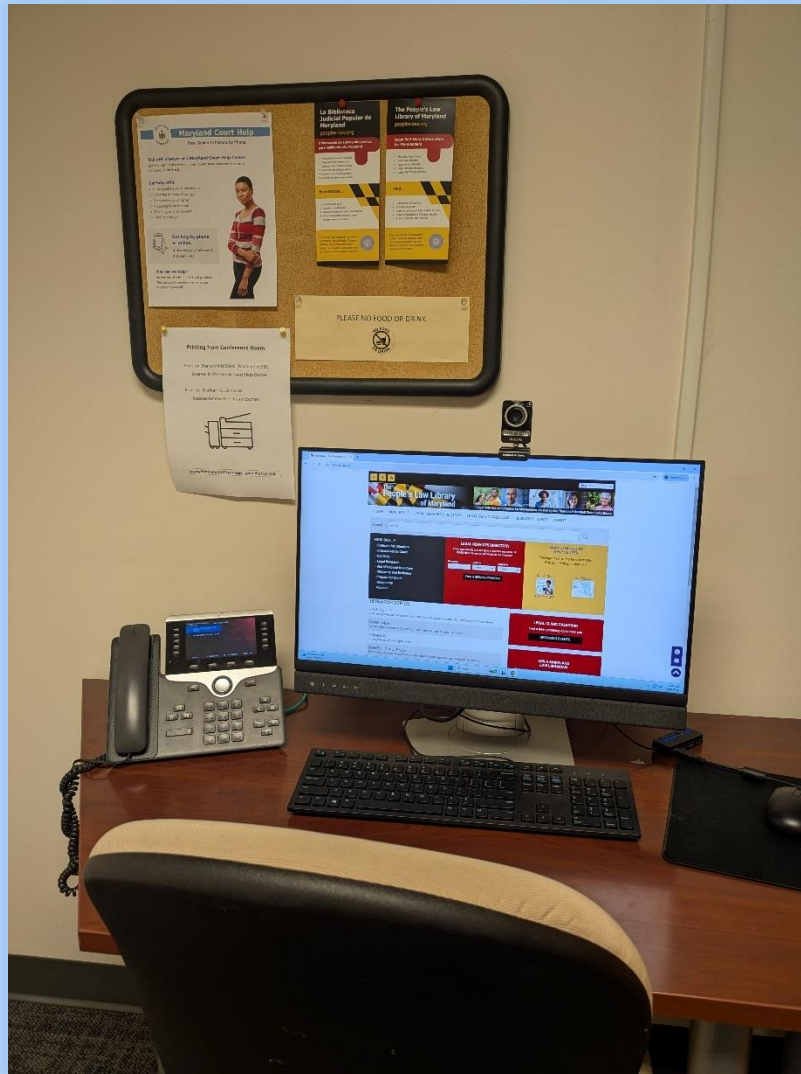
computers with access to Family Law Information and Forms packets, print materials and online databases.



The Judiciary's Access to Justice Department arranged for the installation of two monitors in the FCHC area for viewing **Court TV**, a series of A2J informational videos on civil and family law topics.



The law library has a **small conference room** that contains a computer with video-conferencing capability. This space is used for remote Zoom court hearings by attorneys and self-represented litigants. There is also a phone for access to the Maryland Court Help Center phone line.



The law library is the new location for contract **court interpreters** to sign-in and pick up equipment. There is a room in the back of the law library where they can wait in between court assignments. This is an extra benefit as they can help with non-English speakers in the Help Center and law library if needed.



More photos can be found in this [Law Library Blog post](#) with a slide show of the new space.

## Cataloging Project

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In addition to keeping up with new editions in the law library, there are still historic titles to be added to the catalog. The historic project is close to complete. The law library will continue to add online resources to the catalog.

## Library Services

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The law library serves the court with:

- Research assistance
- Management of chambers resources
- Maintenance of information resource SharePoint site
- Westlaw password and Lexis E-book access
- Online query formulation
- Maintenance of the chambers reserve collection
- Circulation of legal texts and treatises
- Law clerk orientation
- Court staff training and tours

The law library serves the bar with:

- Research assistance
- Legal research training and instruction
- Online query formulation
- Research co-browsing
- Document delivery
- Technology and MDEC assistance
- Pro bono coordination
- Circulation of legal texts and treatises

The law library serves the public with:

- Research assistance
- Legal research training and instruction
- Legal services referrals
- Technology and MDEC assistance
- Access to self-help resources
- Curated online information
- Legal advice programs
- Access to the MCHC (Maryland Court Help Center)
- FAQ Templates

The law library continues to provide quality service using the comprehensive resources in print and online to fit the needs of the varied groups of those who use the law library. The conversion of the general law collection to print has

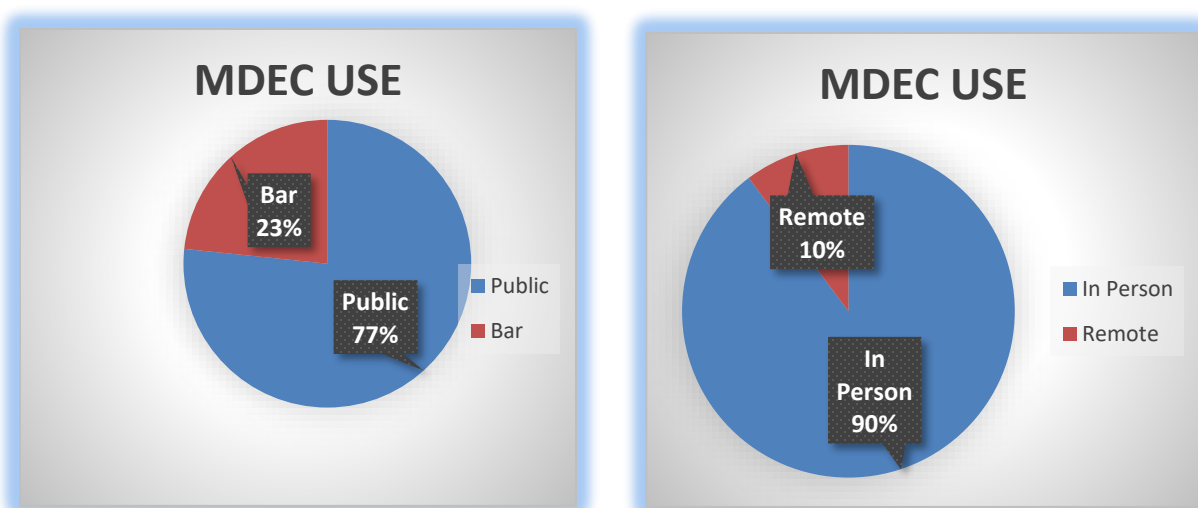


provided an efficient and economical method of delivery of the print resources that users had been accustomed to having available.

The law library maintains a **Virtual Reference Desk** for easy access to remote library services. Remote services continue to be available to those who do not need or want to visit the court in-person. Copies of requested information can be sent via email using online resources. Online research sessions using screen sharing allow users to search databases with librarian assistance in real time remotely.

The law library provides **access to legal databases** and online programs. They include Westlaw, Lexis, the National Consumer Law Center, Nolo Legal Information Reference Center, SasiCalc, VitalLaw, HeinOnline and West Academic. As a result, most print titles once found in the original library space are still available.

With the adoption of **MDEC**, law library staff have increasingly assisted the bar and public with performing electronic filings and accessing electronic case documents. The law library has two laptops with access to the Public Kiosk portal. Law library staff are trained to assist attorneys and the public with basic MDEC needs.



The [AACPLL BLOG – Law Library News](#) is one of the methods that the law library uses to reach users online. This year posts included new Maryland laws, [Free Legal Clinics in Anne Arundel County](#), [Researching Supreme Court Cases and](#)








[Briefs](#), special Pro Bono events such as the [Tangled Title Clinic](#), and the [law library move](#).

[Wiki FAQs](#), including the **Family Law Resource Packets**, contain links to the law, online articles, forms, and videos, as well as lists of resources in the library pertaining to topics that are most often asked by the public. **Library FAQs and Family Law Resource Packets** contain a QR Code and are also used as handouts. Email templates allow for quick and efficient response to remote requests and provide links to the [Wiki FAQs](#) and/or [Family Law Resources](#) as well as [legal assistance referrals](#). Law Library staff reviews information sources and revises the guides as needed.



The **Family Law Packet Poster with QR CODES** is on display in the Family Court Help Center. The **Family Law Packets** double as checklists for finding the print forms that are available on the FCHC “wall” of forms.

The legal referral display was transferred to the new law library location adjacent to the Information Desk.

Family Law Packets	
Links to Forms and Information	
	<a href="#">Divorce Packet</a>
<a href="#">Child Custody Packet</a>	
	<a href="#">Child Custody and Visitation Modification Packet</a>
<a href="#">Emergency Relief (Emergency Custody) Packet</a>	
	<a href="#">Child Support Packet</a>
<a href="#">Child Support Modification Packet</a>	
	Find a full listing of <a href="#">Family Law Packets and Resources</a> here and on all law library computers.

With the co-location of the **law library and the Family Court Help Center (FCHC)**, the law library and the FCHC have become one integrated service. The services of the law library and FCHC are not delineated by space as before which allows for a seamless flow from one service to the other.

The law library continues to revise the Clerk of Court **Cheat Sheet** of referral information as needed.

The law library provides a tour and information session as a part of the judges' **law clerk orientation**.

Law library staff participates in **Clerk of the Court events** such as Bring your Child to Work Day and provides tours to new employees and summer interns of the Clerk's office.

## Access to Justice Initiatives

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### Brief Legal Advice Services

[Lawyer in the Library](#) provides the opportunity to consult with a volunteer lawyer for at least 20 minutes about civil, non-family legal issues for free. The program continues to be offered remotely in partnership with the Anne Arundel Public Library and the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The law librarian helped with the coordination of brief legal advice clinics including the **Tangled Title Clinic** in October 2023 and the **Family Law Day** held at the Chrysalis House in January 2024.

### Maryland Justice Passport

The Maryland Justice Passport is a project of the Maryland Judiciary, Civil Justice, and A2J Tech. A passport is a digital portfolio of information to assist Marylanders seeking legal help. The law library partners with the Maryland Justice Passport to assist in creating and promoting passports. The law library can provide the technology, access to computers and scanners, for passport creation. The library made 18 specific Passport referrals this year.

### AABA President's Pro Bono Award

The Anne Arundel Bar Association reinstituted the President's Pro Bono Award at the request of the Local Pro Bono Committee in 2016. The law librarian creates an online nomination form used for the award. Award recipients are listed [here](#).

### Anne Arundel Pro Bono Committee

The law library supports the work of the Pro Bono Committee by maintaining [information pages](#) on the [AACPLL Self Help and Pro Bono WIKI](#). Information there includes meeting minutes and reports.

## Staff

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Law library staff consisted of the Law Library Director, Joan Bellistri, and one full time contractual position. (With the retirement of Nancy Wallace in 2011, the law library lost its permanent assistant law librarian position. The law library was then allotted one contractual FTE position.) The contractual position was shared by Denise Wolf and Sarah Green until Sarah left for another position in May of 2023. Jeff Ross returned to help until October 2023. Kristin Lord joined the staff in November 2023 and worked until April 2024. Mariemily Rodriguez, who is pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science at the University of Maryland, has been with the library since May of 2024.

There have been fifteen people in the assistant law librarian position since the permanent position became contractual in 2011. Ever-changing staff requires extensive and ongoing training requirements. These training periods adversely affect law library productivity and service as do periods without any support staff. The law library worked most efficiently with two full-time positions and the one part-time position that was funded by the now discontinued Maryland State Law Library Grant program. There were no backlogs and at least two staff members were almost always available in the law library. Reinstatement of the Assistant Librarian position would improve library productivity and service.

## Staff Highlights

Joan Bellistri continued to work with Catherine McGuire, Deputy Director of the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, Reena Shah, Executive Director of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, and Maryland court law library staff to provide online legal reference training to public librarians with presentations of “Law on the Frontlines: Resources for Public Library Reference.”

As chair of the American Association of Law Libraries Government Law Libraries Best Practices for Access to Justice Committee, Joan Bellistri worked with the Self-Represented Ligation Network’s (SRLN) Law Librarians Working Group to create a national Survey of Law Library Services to the SRL that updates the 2019 survey and collected information on the effects of the pandemic on law library service to the SRL. The survey results are now available as a Story Map, [Open to the Public – 2024 How Law Libraries are Serving Self-Represented Litigants Across the Country](#). Survey results and background information can be found at the [SRLN webpage](#).

The Anne Arundel County Public Law Library hosted the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors in April of 2024. Joan Bellistri was elected to be the vice-chair starting in July. She will work with Florence Green, Law Librarian in Carroll County, the new chair.

## **Professional Participation, Presentations, and Publications**

### **Memberships – Joan Bellistri**

- Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors, member 2007 – present (Chair, 2007-2009)
- Anne Arundel County Local Pro Bono Committee, member, (Chair, 7/2011 – 6/2015)
- Maryland Judicial Council Court Access and Community Relations Committee, Self-Represented Litigant Subcommittee (2015 - present)
- Maryland Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service, Public Member, 05/12/2010 - present
  - Liaison to Anne Arundel County Local Pro Bono Committee
- Pro Bono Coordinating Council, member, 2013 - present
- LLAM (Law Library Association of Maryland) Member, 1982- present
  - GRC\Vendor Relations, Chair, 2006 - present
- Maryland Library Association, Member
  - LLAM Representative on the Legislative Panel, 2005 – present
- GLL (Government Law Libraries, American Association of Law Libraries Special Interest Section) Member, 1980- present (Chair, 2018-2019)
  - Best Access to Justice Practices Committee, 2021- present (Chair, 2022 -2024)
- LISP (Legal Information Services to the Public, American Association of Law Libraries Special Interest Section) Member, 1996-present
- Self-Represented Litigation Network, Member, December 2008 - present
  - Law Librarians Working Group, Member, 2008- present (Chair, 2012-2013)
- Access to Justice Commission Public Library Training Workgroup, 2016 – present
- Pro Bono Resource Center, Partners for Justice Conference Planning Committee, 2016 – present

### **Presentations – Joan Bellistri**

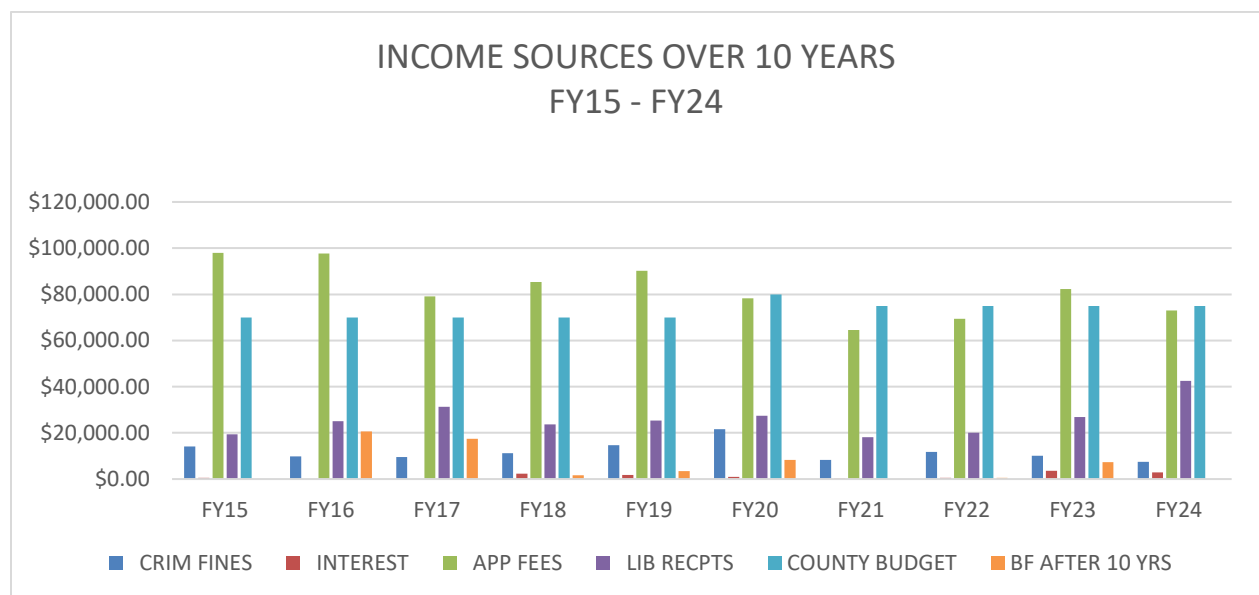
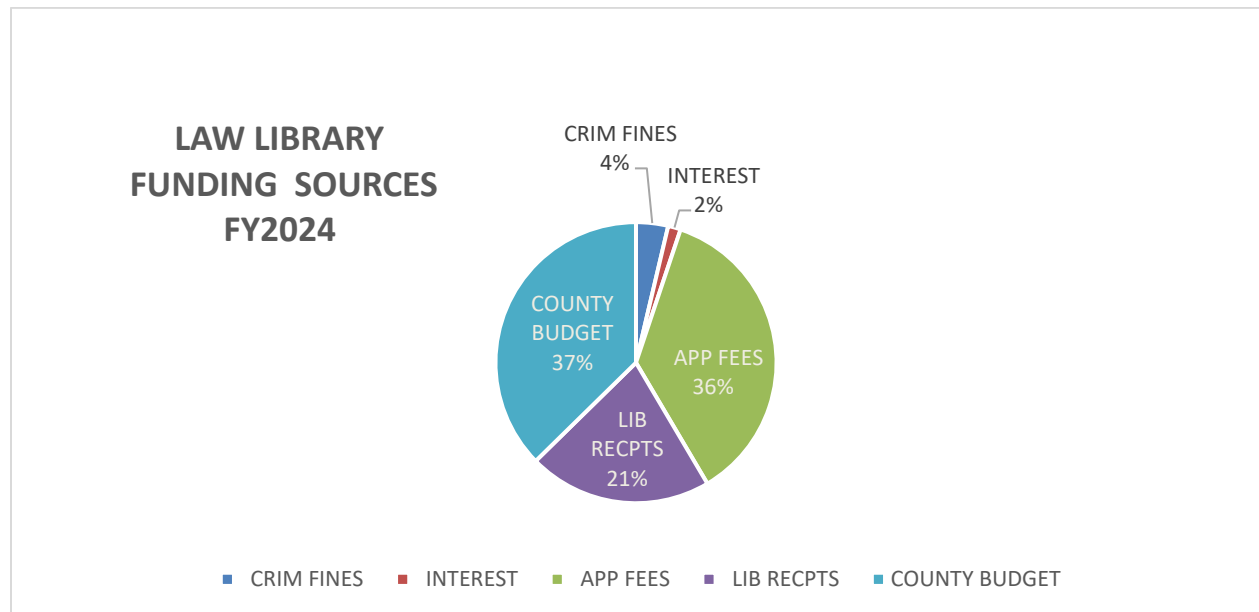
- “Law on the Frontlines: Resources for Public Library Reference,” Online Webinar, ongoing



# Law Library Financial Report FY2024

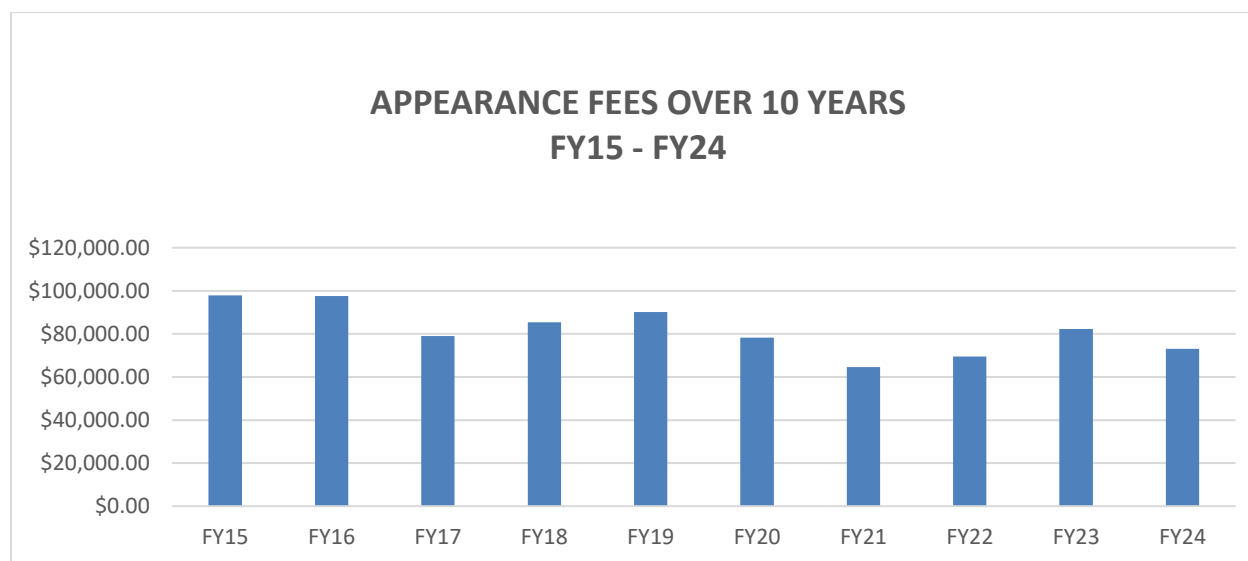
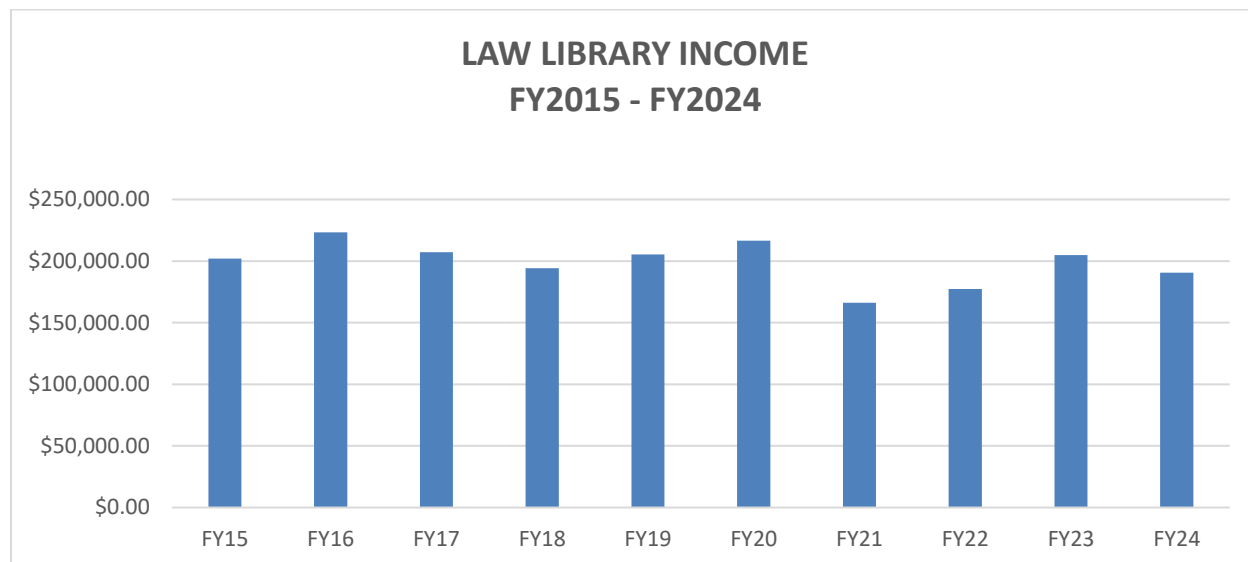
## Funding

The law library is funded by a budget appropriation, appearance fees, criminal fines, bond forfeitures held beyond ten years and miscellaneous library receipts that include court reporter charges.



## Income

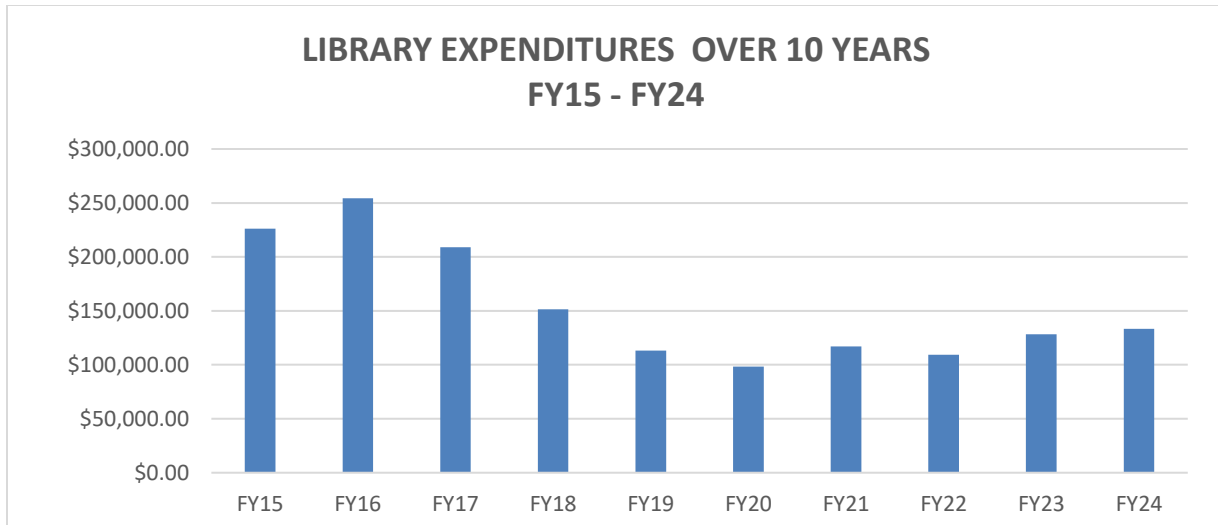
Income decreased by 7% this year. After the county budget appropriation, appearance fees were the law library's largest source of income.



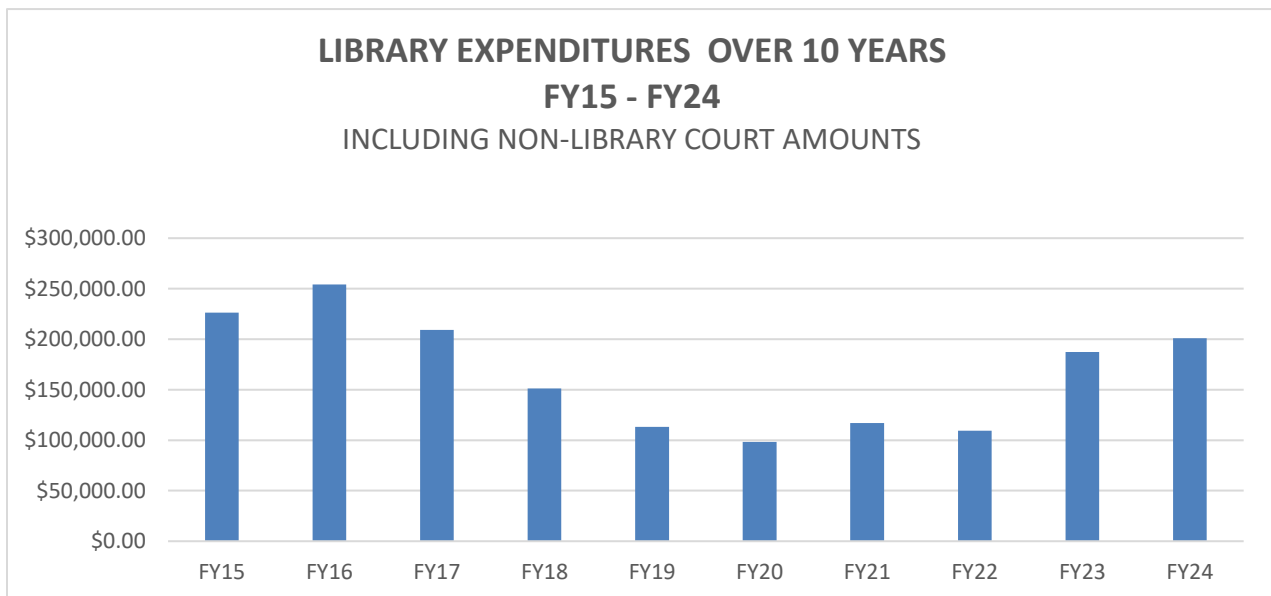
## Expenditures

Law library expenditures increased by 4% when compared to last year. This increase is attributable to the increase in cost of updating existing library materials and subscriptions. However, expenditures are 41% lower when compared with FY15.





There were additional non-library expenses again this year for courthouse supplies and projects. Still, even with the increased non-library expenditures, the amount is still 11% less than 10 years ago.



## Circuit Court Special Fund

The Circuit Court Special Fund is a non-lapsing fund that can be used for maintenance and improvement of the Court's facilities, equipment, and programs in addition to the funding of the law library per § 4-11-113 of the Anne Arundel County Code.

## Goals / Conclusion

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Goals for the next Fiscal Year include:

- Update the law library's Marketing and Outreach Plan to increase awareness of law library services using traditional methods and social media to increase library use both in-person and remotely.
- Continue cataloging the historic collection and re-organizing the area dedicated to house this collection.
- Improve the interface on the library's public computers so that users are able to find what they need independently.
- Create an Access database to replace the current obsolete database for library financial information.
- Continue to update and revise the strategic plan to guide the law library in the coming years to make the best use of resources and to provide the highest quality of service to all who use the law library.
- Revise the collection development policy.
- Explore the use of GenAI as a legal research tool and method of streamlining library tasks and processes.
- Begin succession planning by reviewing documentation of library procedures.

In conclusion:

FY2024 marked a period of significant growth and enhanced accessibility for the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library. The move to a new location, increased public engagement, and the continuation of vital legal assistance programs demonstrate the library's essential role in promoting access to justice. Future efforts will focus on sustaining these improvements, enhancing technological

resources, and advocating for stable staffing to ensure continued service excellence.

The law library looks forward to continued service to the court, attorneys, and citizens of Anne Arundel County.

## Words of Appreciation

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From **attorneys**:

***This is such a nice space.** You will be so busy now. I just want to say you are such a nice person and have helped me so much over the years.*

*I showed this 1992 Article 27 to the prosecution, and they agreed that client could not be charged - **saved me 8 hours of driving.***

*I was looking for Article 27 section 12 from 1995 (the law changed in 1996) especially assault with intent to murder. Thank you so much! Really, you have no idea how much it meant to me yesterday that you took the time to help me dive into a legal issue that I had been getting nowhere on myself. **You have been SO incredibly helpful; you have no idea!***

***Thanks so much - that [use of small conference for Zoom presentation] worked out great.***

***Thank you for this great service to the community.** We are on day 2 of a 5-day trial and appreciate having the space to spread out, make copies and prepare.*

From the **court**:

*Thank you!! This is very helpful! I am going to look at these more closely, but I believe **this is what we are looking for.***

From the **public:**



*You are the **best thing in this courthouse** - thanks for your help.*

*Thank you so much - **I got what I need.***

***You make this world a better place.***

*I went to file my mandamus and found out I needed exact change to file my case and went to the ATM which cannot dispense \$165 so I needed change and **bought these flowers to get the change and want to give them to you to say thank you.***

# Strategic Plan: Status Report

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The law library developed a strategic plan to make the best use of resources and to provide the highest quality of service to all who use the law library. The plan follows the Strategic Plan for the Maryland Judiciary. The plan with goals and actions taken over the last year follows. Actions may address more than one goal as indicated by the numbers following each action.

## GOALS

### 1. Provide access to justice

*“The Maryland Judiciary ensures equal access to justice. The courts develop services and programs that facilitate access to and understanding of court processes.”* To meet this GOAL, the Anne Arundel Public Law Library will:

- Provide cost-effective and equal access to legal information resources in multiple formats.
- Identify and respond to information needs of the judiciary and attorneys.
- Identify and respond to areas for which self-represented litigants request assistance to legal information.
- Remove barriers that may prevent access to legal information and services.
- Ensure that people who come to our courts without a lawyer know that legal resources are available to them through the law library.
- Strengthen public awareness and understanding of the Judiciary through library resources and programs.
- Expand self-help programs and resources.
- Continue outreach through partnerships for such programs as the Lawyer in the Library program.

### 2. Be responsive and adaptable to changing community needs

*“The Maryland Judiciary provides responsive leadership, ensures a respectful forum for justice, and proactively addresses the changing needs of its constituents*

*and employees. With the aim of helping families and our communities and, in particular, our most vulnerable citizens, children and seniors.”* The AACPLL will:

- Retain a sufficient amount of print-based legal information to meet the needs of those with limited computer skills who access the courts.
- Wisely experiment with newer technologies, such as e-books, “discovery” tools (online catalog) and expanded databases.
- Provide access to resources to assist the non-attorney and self-represented litigant.
- Promote and use language access resources.

### 3. Communicate effectively with stakeholders

*“The Maryland Judiciary communicates effectively to inform and educate the public, the bar, justice partners and staff.”* The law library will:

- Provide legal research training to Judiciary staff, as needed.
- Provide programs for courthouse staff on legal resources available to the public.
- Provide training to the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library staff on legal research, reference, and referrals.
- Create and develop talks, open to the public and courthouse staff, on topics relating to “Everyday Law.”
- Provide information about library resources and referrals to local government departments and elected officials.
- Continue to partner with the local bar association, legal service providers and public libraries to provide “Lawyer in the Library” programs.
- Keep current and distribute law library information brochures.
- Create, update, and distribute local legal referral information.
- Continue to work with the Anne Arundel County Local Pro Bono Committee to promote pro bono service by Anne Arundel attorneys.
- Promote library resources of interest to the court and bar through the use of varied communication methods.
- Create and maintain online information sources for the general public.

#### 4. Improve systems and processes

*“The Maryland Judiciary is forward-thinking and focused on continuous improvements to systems and processes, helping the courts to better serve the people and provide for prompt, efficient and just resolution of cases.”* To achieve this GOAL, the law library will:

- Maintain Mutual Aid Agreements with other Maryland court law libraries as part of the Court’s Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).
- Provide access to computers and programs needed for document creation and e-filing.
- Review and revise law library procedures as needed to meet the information needs of users.
- Coordinate with court IT so that technology needed to provide the services needed by all is available.

#### 5. Be accountable

*“The Maryland Judiciary holds itself to the highest standards of excellence and administers justice with diligence and integrity.”* The action plan to reach this GOAL includes:

- Adhering to CMCLLD standards for library operation and resources.
- Providing reports to court administration on library operations.

#### 6. Assure the highest level of service

*“Because a dedicated and professional workforce is essential to providing quality service to all, the Maryland Judiciary trains, develops, and supports a professional and skilled workforce.”* Our action plans include:

- Providing the training needed for professional development of court library staff.
- Participating in continuing education.
- Participating in professional library and legal services organizations.
- Providing access to the information to meet the needs of all user communities.

## 7. Build partnerships

*“The Maryland Judiciary works collaboratively with its justice partners and the public to fulfill its mission.”* This action plan includes:

- Collaborating with the Anne Arundel Bar Association to promote pro bono in Anne Arundel County.
- Supporting the work of other court departments to ensure they have the information needed for the work of the department and those they serve.
- Collaborating with the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors in matters relating to the operation, management, and leadership of court law libraries.
- Coordinating with the Judiciary’s Access to Justice Department to enhance library programs and resources.
- Participating in the work of the Judicial Council Community Access and Community Relations Committee SRL Sub-Committee to provide the perspective of court law libraries.
- Communicating with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission to ensure awareness of law library programs and resources.
- Working with the Anne Arundel County Public Library to expand law library services and programs.
- Developing and continuing partnerships with Maryland legal service providers to provide services to those of low and middle income.
- Collaborating with Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) to coordinate legal information resources needed to support the Family Court Help Center.
- Participating in the work of the American Association of Law Libraries and its Special Interest Sections; the Self Represented Litigation Network Law Librarians Working Group; the Law Library Association of Maryland; and the Maryland Library Association.
- Collaborating with Civil Justice, Inc. to provide access to Maryland Justice Passports.

## 8. Use resources wisely

*The Maryland Judiciary uses public funds wisely to assure sufficient resources for personnel, facilities, programs, equipment, and technology, all with the aim of*



*efficiently administering justice and providing exceptional public service.* This action plan includes:

- Providing transparent budgeting processes.
- Leveraging additional assistance through the use of library interns and volunteers.
- Sharing resources through inter-library loan and document delivery.
- Assessing resources for relevancy to the needs of all user groups.
- Working with vendors to maximize library material/resource dollars.
- Retaining and maintaining the historic code collection for legislative history research.

## ACTIONS

- The law library provides and maintains online family law form packets to support the work of the Family Court Help Center. The packets include links to online forms as listed in results of the mdcourts.gov forms finder as well as links to online information and listings of resources in the law library. Packets include QR codes. A Family Law Resource poster with QR codes with links to the online family law form packets provides access to these resources. [\(1, 2, 3,4 6, 7](#)
- The law library updates the Clerk of Court **Cheat Sheet**. [\(1, 2, 3, 7](#)
- The law library maintains a legal referral display. [\(1, 2, 3, 4](#)
- As chair of the American Association of Law Libraries Government Law Libraries Best Practices for Access to Justice Committee, Joan Bellistri worked with the Self-Represented Ligation Network's (SRLN) Law Librarians Working Group to create a national Survey of Law Library Services to the SRL that updates the 2019 survey and collected information on the effects of the pandemic on law library service to the SRL. The survey results are now available as a Story Map, [Open to the Public – 2024 How Law Libraries are Serving Self-Represented Litigants Across the Country](#). [\(1, 3, 7](#)
- The law library continues to offer the Lawyer in the Library Program remotely in partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public Library and

the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service (MVLS). The program is held every Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. [1](#), [2](#), [6](#), [7](#)

- The law librarian helped with the coordination of brief legal advice clinics including the Tangled Title Clinic in October 2023 and the Family Law Day held at the Chrysalis House in January 2024. [1](#), [2](#), [6](#), [7](#)
- The law library maintains a Virtual Reference Desk to better serve library users remotely. [1](#), [2](#), [6](#)
- The law library creates the online nomination form and compiles results for the AABA President's Pro Bono Award, a project of the Anne Arundel County Local Pro Bono Committee. [1](#), [7](#)
- Joan Bellistri with CMCLLD members in conjunction with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission continued to virtually present *Law on the Frontlines: Resources for Public Library Reference*. [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [7](#)
- JIS networked computers are now available in the law library for access to MDEC and Thurgood Marshall State Law Library resources. Two stations are dedicated to MDEC Public Kiosk use. [2](#), [4](#), [8](#)
- Law library maintains a SharePoint site providing information on resources available to the court. ( [3](#), [6](#) [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [7](#)
- Continued to maintain and distribute the Pro Bono Services Directory and the law library brochure to the court information desk and online. QR codes are included. [3](#), [6](#)
- Law library maintained legal information [FAQ pages](#) on the [AACPLL Self Help and Pro Bono Wiki](#) and published [Law Library News](#) via the blog. [3](#), [6](#)
- The online catalog continues to be updated with the addition of records for all primary sources, current and historic to the [library online catalog](#) so that all library resources are discoverable. [1](#), [2](#), [5](#), [6](#), [8](#)

- Financial reports are provided quarterly to court administration. ([5](#))
- Law library staff participated in activities of professional organizations including the American Association of Law Libraries, the Law Library Association of Maryland, the Maryland Library Association, and the Self Represented Litigation Network. ([6](#))
- Pro bono hours incurred by Lawyer in the Library volunteers are compiled and sent to the lawyers in time for their annual reporting. ([4](#), [7](#))
- Joan Bellistri is a member of the Judicial Council Court Access and Community Relations Committee SRL Sub-committee. She is also the public member of the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Pro Bono. ([7](#))
- The law library partners with the Maryland Justice Passport to assist in creating and promoting passports. ([1](#), [7](#))
- Law library participates in the court's new law clerk orientation by providing information on resources available to chambers. ([3](#), [6](#), [7](#))
- Law library participates in Clerk of the Court programs such as the Bring Your Child to Work Day and provides tours for summer interns and new employees of the Clerk's office. ([3](#), [6](#), [7](#))
- Law Library provides research assistance in the use of all library resources, both print and online. ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#),)
- Law library manages Westlaw access for the court. ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [6](#))
- Law library manages Chambers library resources for the court. ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [6](#))
- Law library provides technology and MDEC assistance to the court, attorneys, and the public. ([1](#), [6](#))
- Law library provides access to legal databases and instruction in their use to the court, attorneys, and the public. ([1](#), [6](#))