



## LANE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Virtual (GoToMeeting)

**Tuesday, January 26 | 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

*Committee Charge: Advise the Law Librarian and Board of County Commissioners regarding the operations, policies, and financial requirements necessary to maintain adequate law library facilities and services. Make recommendations for project priorities and long-range planning goals.*

#### **1. Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Shane called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. (quorum met)

#### **2. Welcome/Introductions**

Shane welcomed everyone, and introductions were made for the record.

Members present: Shane Davis, Erika Hente, Marc Friedman, Kari Malone, Kristynn Johnson

Staff/Ex-Officio: Sue Ludington, Law Librarian

Members absent (excused): Jenny Jonak, Victoria Nguyen

#### **3. Public Comment (none)**

#### **4. Review and Approval of Minutes (October 28, 2020 meeting)**

Erika moved to approve the October meeting minutes as submitted; Kari seconded.

#### **5. Updates to Agenda (none)**

#### **6. Announcements/Reports**

- a. The November 2020 election for Lane County Commissioners resulted in Laurie Treiger replacing the outgoing Pete Sorenson. We initially thought she would fill his place as liaison to the LLAC; however, Sue was informed that Commissioner Pat Farr is to take over that role. Erika mentioned that she was neighbors with Commissioner Farr at one time; from Sue's prior interactions with him, she anticipates he'll be interested in LLAC endeavors.

#### **7. Old Business**

- a. Legal Aid priority issues survey. Sue discovered the link to last fall's Legal Aid survey was still live and asked Erika if it was indeed still open (since it was supposed to close on 12/31/2020). Erika said the survey should in fact be closed.
- b. LLAC bylaws. Sue provided some information on Roberts Rules of Order regarding voting by email, but clarification from County rules is still needed.

ACTION: Sue to seek out clear direction on this matter.

- c. Lexis contract expiration/renewal. Sue reminded all that she opted to revise the staff-only Lexis subscription when it came up for renewal last fall. In order to provide opportunity to

compare Lexis and Westlaw “patron access” subscriptions, she signed a 2-year contract with Lexis. This will allow the Library to decide – after evaluating usage statistics – whether to keep one or both databases, when both contracts conclude in December 2022. Both databases are currently accessible remotely due to COVID, although this is not specifically tied to the Library’s specific subscription.

## 8. **New Business**

- a. LSTA grant opportunity via State of Oregon Library, in collaboration with Springfield-Eugene Tenant Association (SETA). Sue described her ambitious grant application project, which has a submission deadline of February 1. The proposal, tentatively titled “Averting a Potential Eviction Crisis: Creating and Disseminating Legal Information and Resources, and Facilitating Mediation Assistance for Tenants and Landlords,” aspires to provide not just legal information on landlord/tenant law but also to establish a mediation program opportunity prior to landlords filing for eviction.

Kari mentioned the existing mediation program affiliated with Small Claims Court matters. The biggest hurdle has been getting mediators. All mediation is handled remotely: The court sends the notices, parties meet, and if the matter isn’t resolved, then they go to trial. Kari felt these types of mediation programs could be good for mediators who want to get experience. Right now, SCC has 2 mediators (after starting with 5). Circuit Court staff created all the rules.

Marc shared that there’s a history of mediation with the court, and cited prior work particularly in probate. He feels SCC is very different than other circuit court trials, since they’re dealing with smaller monetary figures. He believes there’s still no mandate to participate in mediation, but if a judge recommends, most people follow. Regarding mediation with landlord/tenant matters, he felt it really depended on the nature of the landlord (eg. owner-landlord vs. property management company).

Payment of mediators possibly an option, but \$100 probably not sufficient. Some retired lawyers might consider; UofO Law School also has/had a mediation center.

- b. Imminent purchase of self-service photocopier/printer software & equipment upgrade. Sue wants to go ahead and create a technology set-up for patrons to use for virtual hearings, depositions, attorney consults, etc. Kari shared how difficult FED trials can be for parties, particularly tenants who are often pro se, with specific aspect to submitting and displaying exhibits. These parties also don’t always know how to use file and serve, nor do they have the technology to convert exhibits to PDF. Kari thinks it would be a great idea if the Law Library had a set-up that parties could make use of. She also agrees that creating guides on how to use the file & serve tools (and also potentially educate Judge Steve Morgan) might be a good role for the Law Library.

## 9. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 30, 3:30-5:00pm**

## 10. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.