

Law Library Board of Trustees Minutes

Annual Meeting – June 01, 2023 (held in person and via Zoom)

Present: Hon. Patrick Robben (President of the Board), Tom Walsh, Lisa Buck, Hon. Nelson Peralta, Hon. Joe Klein (online)

Absent: Mike McCarthy (Vice-President of the Board), Angela Conley (Hennepin County Commissioner)

Also Present (Non-voting): Karen Westwood (Law Library Director), Patti Hetrick (Hennepin County Library CFO), Dan Rogan (Interim Hennepin County Library Director), Allie Sanford (Law Library Associate Librarian)

Judge Robben called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Adoption of Minutes

Judge Klein moved for approval of last year's minutes (dated June 30, 2022); Lisa Buck seconded. Judge Peralta abstained. Approved.

Elections

Judge Klein nominated Judge Robben to continue as President. Approved unanimously. Judge Klein nominated Mike McCarthy to continue as Vice-President. Approved unanimously.

Approval of 2022 Receipts and Disbursements and 2024 Budget Request

Judge Peralta moved to approve 2022 receipts and disbursements and the 2024 budget request, Walsh seconded. Patti Hetrick, Hennepin County Library CFO was present to respond to questions regarding the budget.

Approved unanimously.

Discussion of Judge Barnette's Standing Order reinstating law library fees on criminal convictions

Judge Patrick Robben explained the standing order. There had been an order in 2017 that vacated the existing standing order on collecting the \$3 fee on criminal convictions, and yet the fee continued to be ordered in criminal cases, collected, and disbursed pursuant to Minn. Stat. 134A.09. It appears the order was inadvertently vacated during a time of cleaning up old orders. Judge Robben worked with the court to have Judge Barnette issue a new standing order to reauthorize the collecting of these fees and clarify that fees collected between 2017 and the new order were proper.

Director's Report

Director Westwood reported on 2022, highlighting reference, circulation services, and partnering with the public library on legal research.

The CLE programs continue successfully in an online format and on-demand CLEs are now being offered. The most moving CLE was "Suicide Awareness and Prevention," the liveliest CLE was "Lawyer Registration Updates" and the most robustly attended CLE was on public student loan forgiveness. Average CLE attendance in 2022 was 276. Four on-demand courses currently offered with 605 total views for those.

HCLL profile outside the county: Director presented at American Association of Law Libraries annual meeting in Denver, proposed two programs to Minnesota Library Association meeting that were

accepted, presented a CLE on county law library services for legal aid attorneys, and delivered trainings and presentations for Hennepin County librarians. Outreach Librarian Marlena Okechukwu participated in numerous outreach presentations and events; she spoke at the national ACRL meeting (Academic and College Research Libraries) and presented at the American Library Association.

Enhanced jail program. Now in addition to receiving and responding to letters, we visit different jail living units each month to explain how to do legal research and how to understand the material they receive from the law library.

Discussion of Subscriber Fee Income Trends

Judge Robben asked about how the trend of private law firm attorneys more often working from home, has that changed or affected trends of subscribers. Director Westwood noted that subscriber income has been trending downward over the past several years but did not make a recommendation to raise the annual subscriber fee at this time.

Judge Robben asked if the moving of offices and restacking of the C-tower in Government Center will affect the Law Library. Judge Robben and Director Westwood will continue to watch the unfolding plans to move some county attorney functions out of the Government Center to the former Thrivent Building and move family court operations back into the Government Center.

Greetings from Interim Hennepin County Library Director Dan Rogan

Interim Library Director Rogan brought greetings from the public library system and described the process to hire a new Director in the coming months. He presented an overview of Hennepin County Library and how things are coming back post-pandemic. Wifi usage, computer, and book checkouts have begun to bounce back. Director Rogan emphasized the ongoing and collaborative work between the public library and law library. Discussed virtual meeting/conference rooms available to the public in some HCL locations, similar to how the law library and courts worked together during the pandemic.

New Business

Judge Robben mentioned a bill going through the legislature to study the future of law libraries in the state and a taskforce to look at this. Important to keep an eye on that legislation. Director Westwood mentioned how this is important in investigating how to equitably fund law libraries in the state.

Peralta moved to adjourn, Buck seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.