



# The Starting Place

*Washington State Law Library's  
quarterly e-newsletter*

Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Fall 2015

## Library of Congress: Stepping into the Future?

This little bit of library news may have escaped you, but as of October 1 there has been a change at the helm of the institution that many consider to be the nation's library. Acting Librarian of Congress, [David S. Mao](#), has stepped into the position vacated by longtime Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington. Billington was appointed to the position in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan, well before the Internet was a "thing" for most Americans.

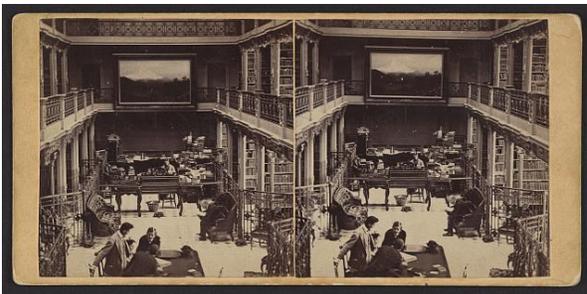
Why is this important? Not only does the Librarian of Congress manage the largest library in the world, but just as importantly, heads the U.S. Copyright Office. In this role, the Librarian of Congress makes copyright policy decisions that affect the lives of everyday consumers, largely by granting [exemptions](#) to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). In a world where we rely heavily on our devices, the Librarian of Congress holds great power.

With government watchdog [criticism](#) of past

mismanagement and many in the library community expressing a lack of leadership in a time of great technological change, the spotlight has turned to President Obama and who he will appoint to be just the fourteenth Librarian of Congress since the library's establishment in 1800. In the past, the Librarian of Congress served a lifetime term, but that has changed with the [passage](#) of a [bill](#) to limit the term to ten years that was signed by the president on November 5.

While the library did spearhead some digital preservation projects under Billington, such as [American Memory](#) and [Chronicling America](#), and brought congressional information to the masses with [THOMAS.gov](#) (now [Congress.gov](#)), it has come under fire for taking a back seat to projects such as the [Internet Archive](#), [Google Books](#) and the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Now many in the library community have [urged](#) the president to appoint a professional librarian to the position. The future of the Library of Congress may very well depend on it.

## Library of Congress Online



Interior of Library of Congress. Photo by G. D. Wakely, 1866. Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Online Catalog: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010646112/>

[Archived Web Sites collection](#)

[Law Library of Congress Indigenous Law Portal](#)

[Prints & Photographs Reading Room](#)

[Mobile Apps from the Library of Congress](#)

[American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#) (in partnership with [WGBH](#) public broadcaster)

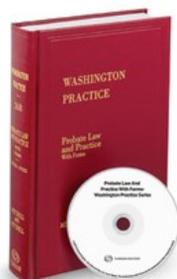
[The Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) exhibition website

## Updated WA Practice Volumes

New on the shelves in our Main Reading Room are updated and revised editions of [Washington Elder Law and Practice: Basic to Advanced](#), [Washington Elder Law Handbook](#), and [Probate Law and Practice with Forms](#).

The elder law titles have been updated to address significant changes in Medicaid regulations and their effect on estate planning and long-term care.

*Probate Law and Practice*, now in its second edition, has been extensively revised and reorganized. Notably, this new edition has been expanded to include discussion of testate and intestate types of non-intervention and full intervention probates. New chapters have been added highlighting selected probate cases and statutes for use as a starting point for further research.



## U.S. Treaty Research

Dreading treaty research? HeinOnline's [U.S. Treaties and Agreements Library](#), available at our public computers, can help. Treaties and agreements to which the U.S. is a party are the focus of this database. The library includes major sources of U.S. treaties, along with important unofficial publications and indexes. Searching can be limited to in force or not currently in force treaties.

### Treaty Research Guides

[Arthur W. Diamond Law Library's Guide to Treaty Research](#)

[International Legal Research Tutorial — Treaties & Agreements](#)

## New MCLE Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2016, new mandatory continuing legal education requirements are coming for state bar members. The new [APR 11](#) does away with the "live" credit requirement of the old rule, which was burdensome given the increasing availability of on demand CLE's through the Internet. The new rule also expands the approved subject areas of CLE courses and adds participation in mentoring programs as an approved MCLE activity. Read more at the WSBA [website](#) and in the [July/August 2015](#) issue of [NWLawyer](#).

### Infographics

[WSBA New MCLE Rules](#)

[WSBA Smart Education: A quick reference guide](#)

### Mentoring

[Guide to Mentoring Young Lawyers](#)

[WSBA MentorLink](#)

[MCLE Board Mentoring Program Proposals](#)

## On Your Next Visit

**Meet** our new reference librarian, Laura Edmonston. Laura worked as a Legislative Research Librarian for the Louisiana House of Representatives. She has also worked as a paralegal and has an extensive background in education. Please stop by and welcome her!



**View** our new display on the [50th anniversary](#) of Medicare and Medicaid. See items in our collection, old and new, on the subject and read about the history of these transformative programs for the country's most vulnerable citizens.



## Washington State Law Library

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Comments Welcome!