



# The Starting Place

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

Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Fall/Winter 2011

## Growing Smaller, Growing Stronger

The State Law Library's budget has been cut by approximately 37% since 2009. We are currently evaluating all ways to reduce costs while continuing our high level of service.

We are reviewing books patrons use, always weighing what is available electronically with what our users say they need. Anyone using our library can access our databases at no charge. At our public computer center, we have Westlaw, HeinOnline (for law reviews), Shepard's (on LexisNexis), CCH (for employment and labor law) and the WSBA Deskbooks (on Loislaw).

Many popular publications are not available electronically or their costs far outweigh the print costs. If necessary, the library may skip a frequent supplement, updating the publication at a later time.

We are currently making changes in the layout of our collection to improve usability, so we want to give you a "heads up" to watch for these changes. We are removing print law reviews and periodicals which are duplicated on our HeinOnline database. The HeinOnline documents are in searchable PDF format, so the image is the same as in the book. Records in our [catalog](#) tell you whether the item is on HeinOnline or actually on the shelf. We will continue to keep print law reviews from the Washington law schools on the shelf, even though they are on HeinOnline.

We are removing statutes and cases from states outside the ninth circuit if the information can be found on Westlaw. Books from our prized Territorial Collection will remain

in the library. In coming months, books from our offsite storage and the lower level of the Temple will be shifted to the Mezzanine, above the Main Reading Room. Do not worry—these changes will make your research easier and you will have better access to more items than you currently do.

These changes are difficult but necessary. The end result will be a stronger, more focused collection that complements different research styles. As more patrons combine electronic with print research, our library will continue to provide access to needed information regardless of the format. We are ready to help all patrons locate information regardless of their level of research expertise with books or databases.

Anyone needing an item we no longer have in print, including the official print version of a statute or case, should contact the reference desk at (360) 357-2136 or [library.requests@courts.wa.gov](mailto:library.requests@courts.wa.gov). We have excellent working relationships with libraries in other states, and we can get the item to you within a few days, if not a few hours.

We email articles, cases, and statutes from our databases, and we scan sections from books when needed. We encourage you to continue to contact us when you need a document. We will find the fastest, most efficient way to deliver it to you.

If you have any questions regarding our budget or collection, please contact Kay Newman, State Law Librarian, at (360) 357-2136, [kay.newman@courts.wa.gov](mailto:kay.newman@courts.wa.gov).

## State Session Laws Now Online



The Office of the Code Reviser has posted session laws, starting in 1854, on their [website](#). These are scanned PDF images of each bound volume, so it may take some time to download the volume.

HeinOnline, available at our computer center, has full coverage of session laws for all 50 states back to inception. These are in searchable PDF documents. You can search a single year, across multiple years, or across multiple states.



## Driver's Guide Now on E-Readers

You can now view the state Department of Licensing's [Driver Guide](#) and [Commercial Driver Guide](#) on your Nook, Kindle, or other e-reader!

## Self-Help Resources in Spanish

The Public Trust and Confidence Committee of the Board of Judicial Administration has posted Spanish translations of their handouts for self-represented persons in [District Court](#), [Municipal Court](#) and [Superior Court](#).

Also, [Washington LawHelp's self-help website](#) is a great resource for information on family law, consumer protection, civil rights, housing, and court procedure. Many of their pages are available in multiple languages, including [Spanish](#).

## Thank You Pro Bono Attorneys!

October 23-29, 2011, was National Pro Bono Week. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize the more than 5,000 attorneys in Washington who provide free legal aid.

The general public makes up a significant amount of our library's patronage. We frequently answer questions from people across the state who are dealing with family law cases, probate, landlord/tenant issues, and neighbor issues. They do not know where to turn for help and they cannot afford an attorney, so they contact us.

While our reference staff does their best to refer patrons to available resources, we do not give legal advice. We refer patrons to legal aid programs and attorney referral groups in their local area.

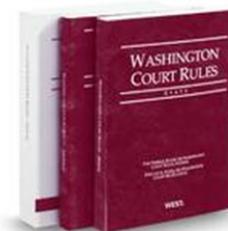
So we say "thank you" to all the attorneys we know who make a difference in the lives of our patrons.

More information about pro bono opportunities can be found on the [WSBA website](#).

[Washington LawHelp's self help website](#) has listings for legal aid groups across the state.

## New Court Rules

The 2012 [State](#), [Federal](#) and [Local Rules](#) volumes of [Washington Court Rules](#) are now available in the library. We also have rules dating back to 1885 in the Main Reading Room.



## Washington State Law Library

Temple of Justice  
415 12th Ave. SW  
Olympia, WA 98501

Visit us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library>

Email us at: [library.requests@courts.wa.gov](mailto:library.requests@courts.wa.gov)

Chat with us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.ask>

Chat hours: 10 am - 4 pm, M-F (staffed by King County Law Library 1-4)

Hours: 8 am-5 pm, M-F

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Comments Welcome!