

Minutes of the Solano County Law Library Board of Trustees (September 26, 2022)

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Law Library Board of Trustees was called into order by Court Executive Officer Brian Taylor (Chairperson) at 4:05 p.m. at the Jury Assembly Room (located at the Old Solano Courthouse, 580 Texas Street—Lower Level, Fairfield, CA 94533).

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

PRESENT: Court Executive Officer Brian Taylor (Chairperson); Judge Christine Carringer (Vice-Chairperson); Judge Wendy Getty; JoAnn I. Parker, Esq.; Mike Eitner, Assistant Director of Library Services for Solano County Library; Jonathan Watson, Law Librarian for Solano County Law Library

ABSENT Judge Daniel J. Healy; Supervisor John M. Vasquez; Suzanne Olawski, Director of Library Services for Solano County Library

CORRECTIONS TO MINUTES:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved: Ms. Parker moved that the minutes from the meeting of July 25, 2022, be accepted.

Seconded: Judge Getty seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the minutes of the meeting were approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved: Judge Carringer moved that the agenda be accepted.

Seconded: Ms. Parker seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously, and the agenda was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Developing a vision for Solano County Law Library's Services:

- At the July 2022 meeting, Mr. Watson stated that he had been working with Mr. Eitner and Supervising Librarian Jason Agnew to develop goals that will later be presented to the Board. Mr. Eitner confirmed that those goals have been finalized. The final draft has been sent to Solano County Library's Marketing Division to be formatted for presentation to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Revised Law Library Budget—ACTION / b. Lexis Digital Library—Survey results & more database details (with attachments):

- Mr. Eitner substituted for Ms. Olawski. He stated the following changes were made to the FY 2022-2013 budget that was originally presented at the April 2022 meeting:
 - Item #2250—*Other Prof. Expenses*: The **FY 22/23 REVISED** column showed the revised amount of \$231,203 to reflect an increase in estimated costs.
 - Item #2261—*Software Licenses*: Should the Board decide to subscribe to Lexis Digital Library (LDL), the **FY 22/23 REVISED** column reflected an increase from \$80,000 to \$82,000.
 - Item #8101—*Contingency*: The **FY 22/23 REVISED** column now displayed the amount of \$932,741 to reflect the addition of the anticipated \$214,743.00 in one-time funds from the State.
- As suggested by Judge Carringer at the last meeting, Mr. Watson worked with Mr. Taylor and Ms. Parker to develop a survey for distribution to the Solano County Bar Association, County Counsel, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office and the City Attorneys for Benicia, Vacaville, and Vallejo to gauge interest in LDL. Overall, there were 7 responses, and the results were contradictory. Although most respondents expressed interest in LDL, the percentages were evenly distributed among the choices of "a moderate amount", "a little" and "none at all" when asked as to how often they would use the database. At the last meeting, Ms. Parker had expressed reservations that the Law Library might end up paying a significant amount for a database that will be underutilized.
- Based on the results of Mr. Watson's research, the continuing analyses of the subscription costs, and low engagement with the survey, the Board has decided not to subscribe to LDL. However, as suggested by Mr. Taylor, this may change if the Law Library can enter a consortium with other county law libraries to lessen any financial burdens. It is known that Sonoma County Law Library and Yolo County Law Library subscribe to LDL.

- The ongoing debate of subscribing to LDL has been valuable to the overall discussion of the Law Library's vision of services. Judge Getty stated that having the visionary goals can help in best determining the Law Library's future location and size. Currently, the Law Library shares space with Solano County Superior Court. According to Judge Getty, there is the possibility that the new courthouse will lean towards a 100% state-run model. In such a setup, as a county department, the Law Library might not be eligible to be located within the building. A discussion ensued about the location of other county law libraries and how this might impact the Law Library's vision.
 - The Board voted to adopt the revised budget. Ms. Parker moved for a motion to adopt the revised budget, and Judge Carringer seconded it. The motion was carried unanimously.
- c. Appointment of New Trustee: Since the last meeting, Mr. Taylor contacted Supervisor Vasquez and is still awaiting a development as to the appointment of a new trustee.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Mr. Watson stated that Pete Rooney, Library Director for Sacramento County Public Law Library, gave permission for the Law Library to adapt his library's guides for Solano County residents so long as we provide attribution. Ms. Parker and Mr. Watson will be communicating in the next few months regarding the project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on October 24, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Taylor at 4:42 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jonathan Watson

**JONATHAN WATSON, SECRETARY,
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOLANO COUNTY LAW LIBRARY**