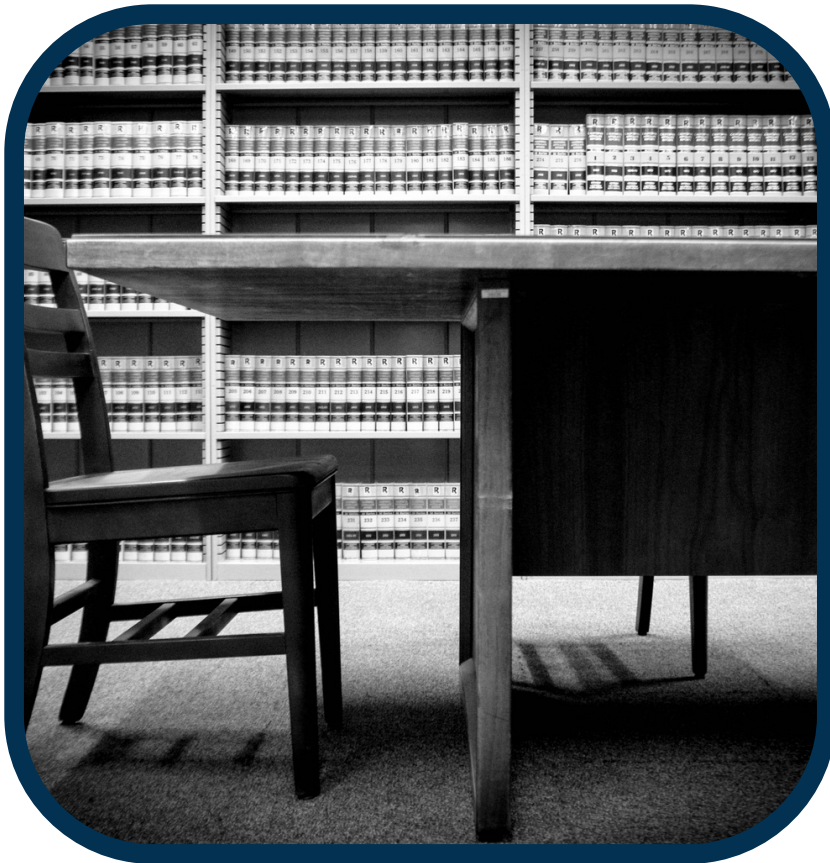


SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



701 Ocean Street, Room 70 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
www.lawlibrary.org



WHO WE ARE:

Established in August of 1896, the Santa Cruz County Law Library has been providing free community access to legal materials for 127 years. The law library has undergone many changes during this time, including multiple location changes, sharp declines in filing fee revenue, and a global pandemic.

Amongst all of these changes, the constant has been the law library's commitment to its mission to provide free access to all persons interested in legal information.

Each year there is a new challenge that impacts how services are delivered. For more than a decade the instability of funding and underfunding of California county law libraries has created an environment that does not allow us to keep up with the needs of our users.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Law Library Trustees and the Superior Court has allowed our law library to maintain a level of services that otherwise would not exist.

How We Are Governed

California County Law Libraries are governed by California Business and Professions Code sections 6300 et. seq. We are separate public entities governed by a Board of Law Library Trustees.

Each individual Board is allowed to enter into agreements with other agencies for the management of the county law library. In 2006, The Santa Cruz County Board of Law Library Trustees entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Santa Cruz Superior Court. This MOU provides the library support with staffing and other administrative services.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Law Library Trustees governs the policies, operations, budget, and future direction of the law library. The Board regularly meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Board member appointments are in accordance with the Business and Professions Code section 6301. This section requires the Superior Court to appoint four or five of its members. These members may designate others to serve in their place. The Board of Supervisors makes two appointments. Appointments from the Superior Court or Board of Supervisors may be attorneys, judges, or members of the general public. However, we are limited to no more than two members of the general public. Appointments are made on an annual basis for the calendar year.

Board of Law Library Trustees for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Superior Court Appointees

Hon. John Gallagher 2007

Emily Dubois, Esq. 2019

Nancy Miller, Esq. 2023

Eric Nelson, Esq. 2022

Dinah Sapia, Esq. 2020 - 2022

Hon. Timothy Volkmann 2008

Board of Supervisor Appointees

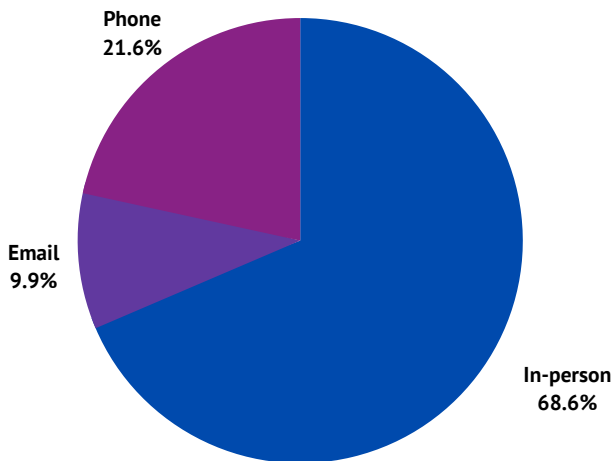
Cheryl Ferguson, Esq. 2022

Julia Hill, Esq. 2008

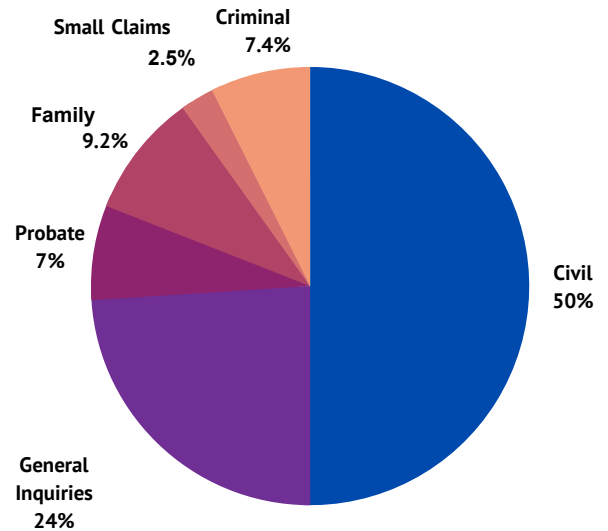
LIBRARY USAGE

With COVID our in-person hours were reduced to 20 hours per week. At the end of July 2022, we expanded our hours to 29 public hours per week. Remote services are provided outside of our in-person hours.

How people contact us

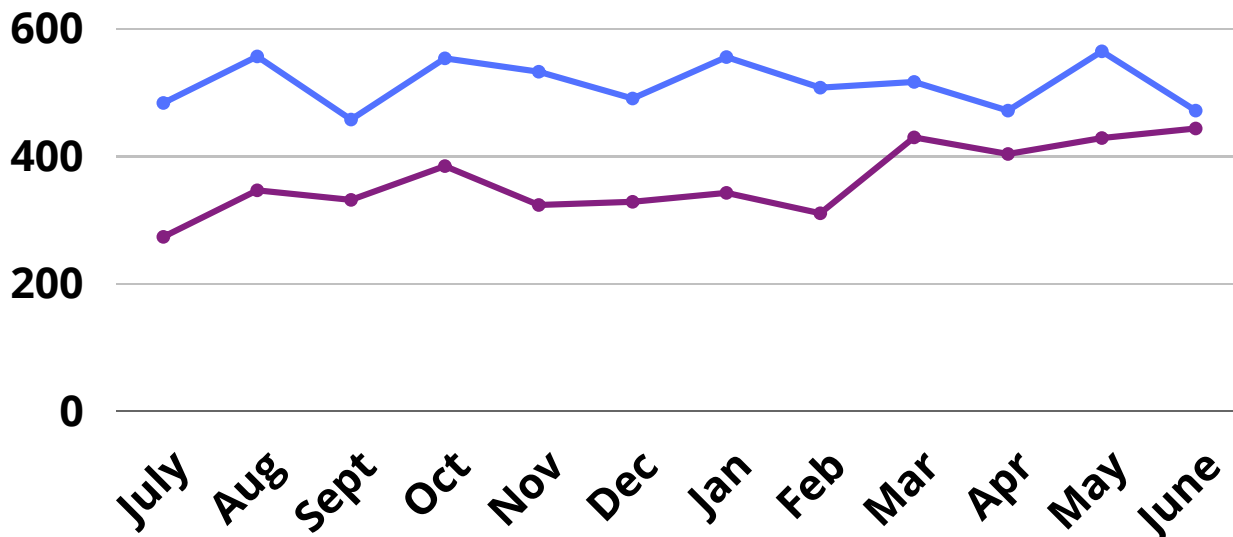


What areas of law people ask about



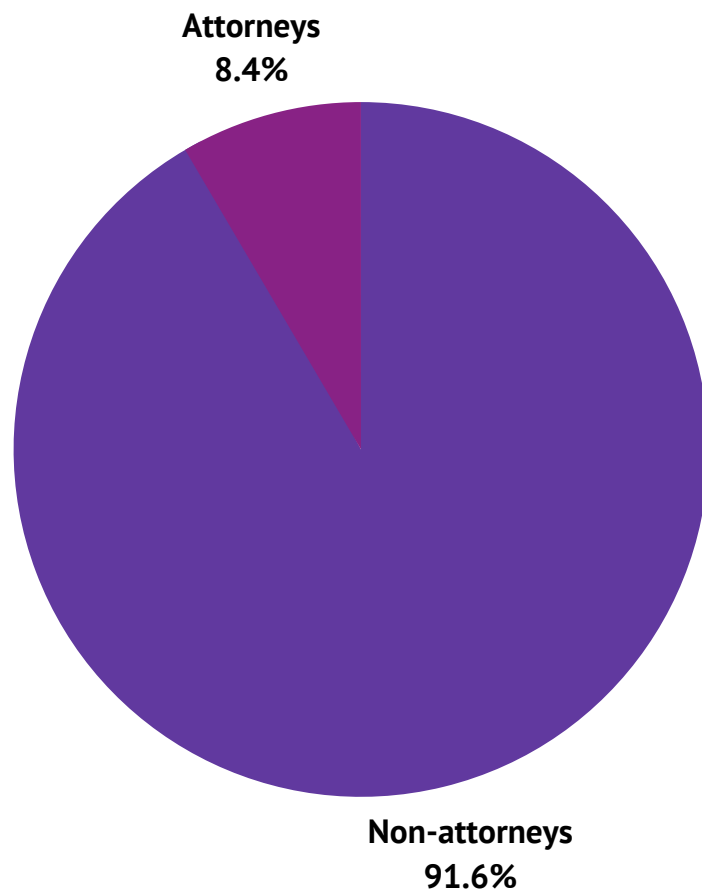
IN-PERSON USAGE COMPARISON

The purple line below shows our in-person usage in fiscal year 21-22. The blue line shows our in-person usage for the fiscal year 22-23.

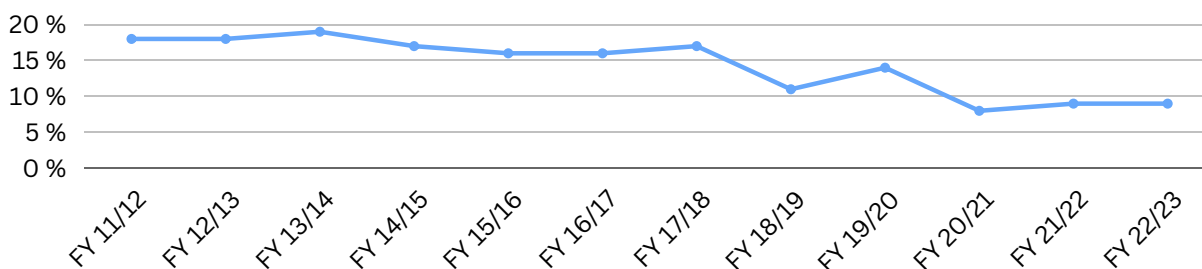


WHO USES US

Non-attorneys have made up the majority of our users for years. Lately, we have seen even more of a decline in attorney users. Our primary function is to provide information, resources, and procedural guidance to non-attorneys navigating the court system. In 2021-2022, we had 6,167 in-person visits. We don't categorize emails or phone assistance by attorney or non-attorney.



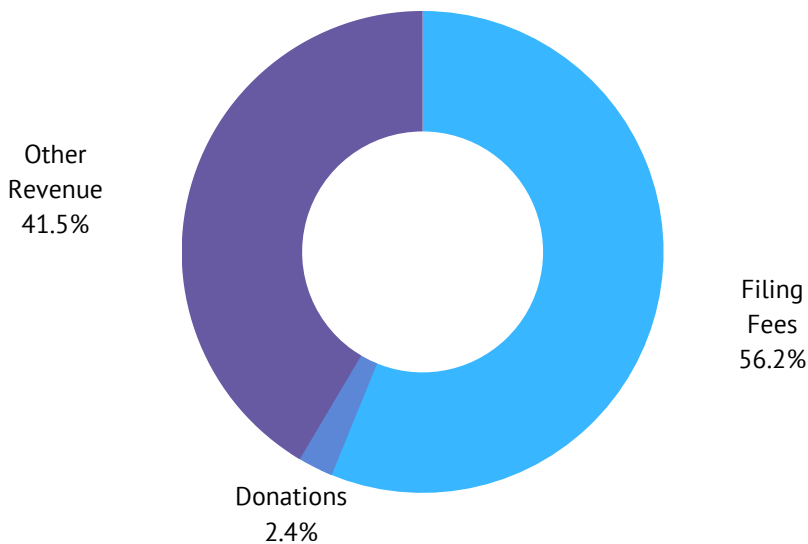
We started tracking how many attorneys were using us in Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012. The percentage of attorneys has been declining as shown in the graph below.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A little over half of our funding comes from a portion of first-paper civil filing fees. The amount we receive in Santa Cruz County is \$35 per unlimited civil action, \$12 for each limited civil action and \$2 for each small claims. When COVID began the money we collected for copies, and after-hours access sharply declined. We have yet to recover. Fortunately in 2022-2023, we received a funding allocation in the State Budget and a small grant to help offset these losses.

Revenues:



Filing Fees: \$142,193

Donations: \$5,960

Other revenue: \$105,032

Expenditures:

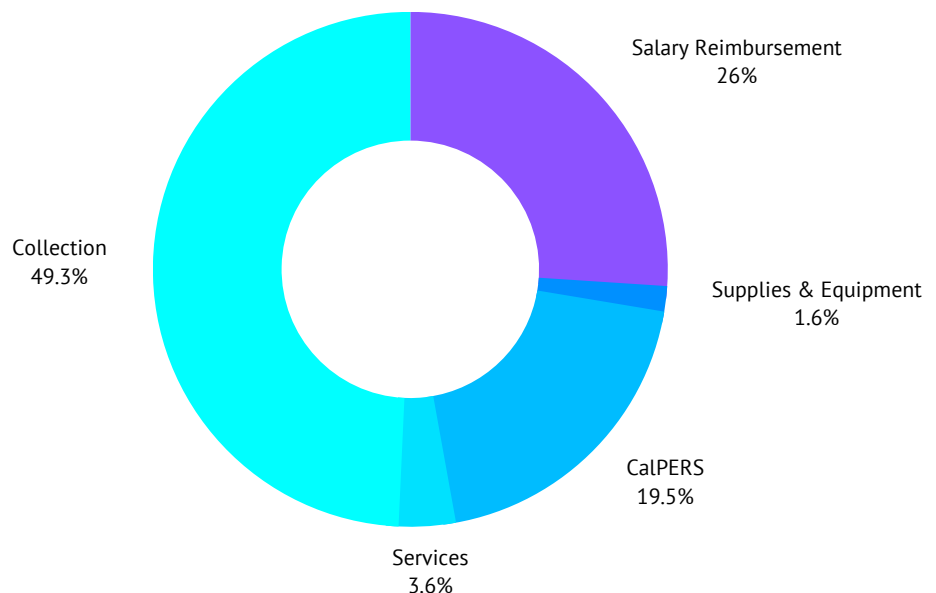
Salaries: \$60,000

Collection: \$113,535

CalPERS: \$45,602

Services: \$8,280

Supplies: \$3,661



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

County Law Libraries primarily derive revenue from a portion of first paper civil filing fees collected by the superior court in the county where the law library is situated. This funding structure has remained unchanged since our establishment by statute in 1891.

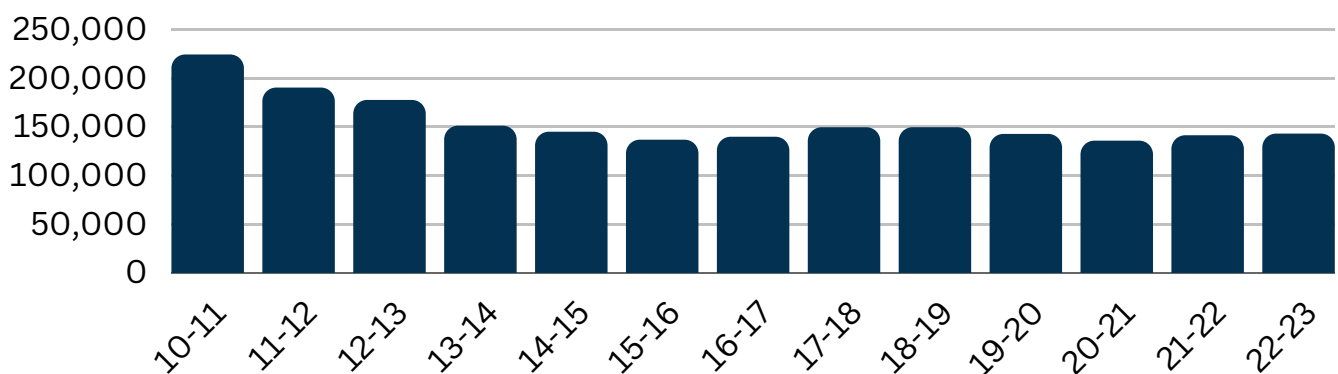
Prior to 2006, county law libraries had the flexibility to approach their County Board of Supervisors periodically, seeking an increase (not to exceed \$3) in their share of filing fee revenue. The last opportunity for an increase occurred in 2008.

The year 2009 marked a significant downturn in filing fee revenue statewide. Today county law libraries receive 35% less funding than in 2009. Some counties have faced even steeper declines. Meanwhile, operational costs continued to rise, adversely affecting all county law libraries, and leading to closures or significant reductions in hours and services.

Recognizing the urgent need for increased funding to maintain their crucial role in facilitating access to justice, the Legislature allocated 16.5 million to county law libraries in 2018. The amount was chosen to restore funding to the 2009 levels.

The global pandemic further disrupted funding for county law libraries, prompting the State to allocate \$7 million in 2020 and two consecutive years of \$16.5 million in 2021 to support county law libraries.

Each of the allocations in the State Budget resulted from the tireless work of individual county law libraries and our supporters.



Filing Fee Revenue by Fiscal Year

TRUST FUND STATEMENT

California Business and Professions Code 6230 requires all of our money to be deposited with the county treasurer, who must keep the same separate and apart in a trust or trust fund. Our trust is pooled and a small amount of interest is paid during the year. Our small reserve helps offset unexpected revenue losses like we experienced during COVID. Our reserve fluctuates annually providing us with between two to five months of expenses.

Equity in pooled cash as of 6/30/2022:	\$88,057.02
Outstanding Liabilities:	\$6712.45
Revenues:	\$253,537.71
Expenditures:	\$234,292.25
Fund Balance as of 6/30/2023:	\$100,590.03

OUR COLLECTION

We strive to provide access to the best resources possible within our budgetary constraints. As our filing fee revenue continues to decline, and the cost of resources rise, this becomes more challenging.

We currently provide access to three online databases:

- Westlaw
- LexisNexis
- Legal Information Reference Center (Self-Help Resources)

Print Materials:

Number of volumes as of 6/30/2022:	11,011
Number of volumes withdrawn:	93
Number of volumes added:	103
Number of volumes as of 6/30/2023:	11,021

