



May 1, 2017

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree

The Franklin County Law Library was recently featured in a nationwide electronic journal for government law libraries. This new feature - Marketing Mavens - is published by the American Association of Law Libraries' Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section. Not only were we featured, but we were the first Marketing Maven. [You can see the publication here.](#)

GLL MARKETING MAVEN: ANGELA BALDREE, FRANKLIN COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

1. **What motivated you to market your library with the "Brown Bag Lunch Series" program?**

Part of my motivation was provided in my initial job description. When hiring a new director in 2013, the board made it clear that attracting new users was important to them. Our library serves the most pro se litigants in the state of Ohio and unfortunately that was keeping some attorneys away. I wanted to attract new attorney users to the library and thought programs, especially free CLE programs, would do that. Of course the public is welcome to attend, but our target audience has always been the local legal community.

2. **How has the program been received so far, and how will you evaluate its success?**

I am extremely pleased with how the program has been received so far. I try to schedule a variety of programs - legal information, book discussions, and human interest.

The legal information programs usually offer participants one hour of Ohio general CLE credit free of charge which drives up attendance. Past topics included tips for arguing in court from a 10th District Court of Appeals judge, adoption issues in Ohio after *Obergefell*, and freely available legal website and apps.

One of our common pleas judges (and library board member) asked to lead an annual book discussion. He has discussed *Defending Jacob* and *The Nightingale* so far. *Nutshell* is scheduled later this year.

Our hugely successful human interest programs have included: a local historian discussing Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, a former county prosecutor telling the history of the Franklin County Courthouse, and two common pleas staff attorneys debating both sides of the *Making a Murderer* documentary.

I don't really focus on evaluating the success of the program. As long as people are attending, I'll continue to schedule programs. The best part is that it virtually costs the library nothing. We pay the \$25 CLE credit application fee, but almost all speakers volunteer their time. We usually end up with at least one attendee signing up for a library card; also, people are contacting me now asking to present a program - I definitely call that a success!

3. **What "if only I knew!" advice would you give others wanting to replicate the program?**

The best advice is to provide CLE credit for participants if possible. We did not do that initially until one of our librarians suggested it. That one free hour of credit really entices people to attend. I would also suggest advance registration for programs. People tend to come to a program if they have signed up for it - or fear there won't be room for them. Our first year, we offered technology programs between November and January that were not as well attended. Topics included buying tips and instruction on new technology bought or received around the holidays; however, we had such low registration that we cancelled it and haven't offered those programs again. We do offer two programs each year on Westlaw and LexisNexis and they continue to draw a good crowd.

4. **What's the best way to spend a day off from work?**

I am an avid traveler and so most of my days off are spent seeing the world. I have traveled to 20 different countries on 4 continents. My favorite trips include Italy and my grandmother's family village, Switzerland, London, and Greece. I've also been to 34 states; some favorite domestic locations include Biloxi, MS, Austin, TX, and my hometown of Cleveland, OH. This year I have plans to visit Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Scotland.

If I'm not traveling, you'll probably find me at a sporting event. I have been lucky to attend an NBA Finals game of my Cleveland Cavaliers and a World Series game of my Cleveland Indians last year and am hoping for a repeat this year!

5. **What are you currently reading?**

I am a multi-book reader. Right now I am listening to the latest Outlander book - *Written In My Own Heart's Blood*. I came late to this series, starting my first one in 2014. The book is very bittersweet for me because, I know when I finish, I'll have a long wait for the next one. I highly recommend listening to them for anyone interested in the series; Davina Porter narrates them wonderfully.

I'm also reading *War, Spies, and Bobby Sox: Stories about World War Two at Home* by Libby Fischer Hellmann, which includes two novellas and one short story. Ms. Hellmann is a personal friend of mine I met on a trip to Cuba. She was researching a future book - *Havana Lost* - which, I am most honored, she dedicated to me. She also writes two strong female led detective series, Ellie Foreman and Georgia Davis. There are also some great stand-alone novels. Be sure to check her out.

I'm also reading *September* by Rosamunde Pilcher. As I said, I'm visiting Scotland later this year (mostly to scout Outlander locations) so am reading books that take place there. I just started the book so don't have much more to say about it yet.



Electronic Resources in the Law Library

May's Brown Bag Lunch Program

The Law Library's Reference Librarian will showcase all the electronic resources in the law library and how they can assist your legal research needs

The class will be offered on **Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 12:15.**

Reservations are mandatory; register by calling or visiting the law library. Participants should bring their own brown bag lunch. Participants may receive one general CLE credit.

Law Library History: Ohio's Un-Special Laws

Jennifer Jones

Ohio's first constitution, approved in November of 1802 and fully in effect by March of 1803, contained only one reference to local law - a provision for the election of officers. As a result, the responsibility of passing special acts for the incorporation as well as the government of municipalities fell upon the General Assembly. Eventually, the Assembly was burdened with too many local acts. For example, in the article "[Municipal Government in Ohio Before 1912](#)" by Harvey Walker (*Ohio State Law Journal* vol. 9, no. 1, 1948), the author gives the following example to illustrate the overwhelming amount of attention to local laws: "The local laws passed by the Forty-eighth General Assembly occupy 767 pages as compared with the 129 pages of general laws" (p.7). Because of the overwhelming amount of time and attention the General Assembly was devoting to local laws, the second constitution for the state, passed in 1851, gives the General Assembly the power to pass general laws "for the organization of cities, and incorporated villages" but prohibits the Assembly from passing special acts "conferring corporate powers" (see [Article XIII](#), Sections 1 and 6). The 1851 constitution has been amended significantly but remains in effect today.

The provision in the constitution prohibiting special acts did not solve the problem of local legislation. Instead, the General Assembly relied on a classification system to pass "general laws" for cities and villages based upon their population. Cities were divided into two classes, first and second, with each class containing multiple grades. The Assembly then passed acts for certain classes and/or grades of cities. However, many acts were so limited in their application that they applied only to one location, resulting in special acts disguised as general acts-and some ridiculous wording. As Walker explains, under the new constitution, "...it was impossible to enact laws for each city by name. So the subterfuge of dividing the cities into classes was resorted to instead" (p. 10).

Some excellent illustrations of the absurdity of these "general acts" are the resulting law library statutes, particularly Revised Statutes sections 2678, 2679, and 2680. Here are just a few early examples from *Laws of Ohio*:

§2678 and §2679: The common pleas judges were to appoint and fix the compensation of the law librarian in...

- "...all counties in the state containing in their limits a city of the first class, with a population at the last federal census of less than one hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants and more than fifty thousand inhabitants" (69 v. 165, 1872 - applied only to Cleveland).
- "...all counties as have within their limits a city, the population of which by the last federal census was less than ninety thousand and more than thirty-one thousand five hundred inhabitants" (70 v. 141, 1873 - applied only to Toledo and Dayton).
- "...all counties in this state which may contain within their limits a city of the first class having a population of more than two hundred thousand inhabitants" (70 v. 162, 1873 - applied only to Cincinnati, which became the only city in §2678).
- "...any county containing a city of either the second or third grade of the first class, or a city of the second grade of the second class" (82 v. 216, 1885 - this combined Cleveland, Toledo, and Dayton under §2679).
- "...any county, other than the county described in section 2678" (84 v. 34, 1887 - all counties/cities except Cincinnati were grouped together in §2679).

§2680: Police court funding was available to...

- "...said law library association of said county" (69 v. 165, 1872-only Cleveland).
- "...the next two preceding sections" (89 v. 51, 1892-all established under §2678 or §2679).
- "...such law library associations mentioned in the next two preceding sections, except those in cities of the first grade of the first class" (91 v. 296, 1894 - all but Cincinnati).

These statutes were confusing because funding kept expanding but some cities were either excluded from police court funding or had no police court. The statutes had to address these issues without naming those specific cities; however, the Revised Statutes often published notes for clarification and did name specific cities or counties in the notes. For example, by 1902, §2680 had four different subsections in order to address specific problems in certain counties without naming them. Under §2680a, "all counties which at the last federal census had a population of not more than 42,965 nor less than 42,958" but did not have a police court were allowed alternate funding from common pleas and probate courts. For clarification, the *Bates Annotated Revised Statutes* printed the following information in brackets next to the section number: "Certain fines to use of library in Darke county."

Sections 2678, 2679, and 2680 changed over a dozen times between 1872 and 1910 compared to only a couple of times between 1910 and the first publication of the Ohio Revised Code in 1953. By 1910, all distinctions based on city size were eliminated, and all law library associations located within any city were eligible for both the appointment of a law librarian and police court funding. Additionally, the Ohio Supreme Court "finally balked at giving its approval to such legislation [based on the city classification scheme]" and indicated through several decisions after 1900 "that it was no longer willing to go along with these excessive and absurd classifications" (Walker, p.11). Then, the

constitutional convention of 1912 made significant amendments to Ohio's constitution, including [Article XVIII](#), which allows for self-government of municipal corporations.

Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center

Susanna Marlowe

The Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center is a Columbus-based non-profit that provides both free legal representation to victims of crime throughout Ohio and free Victims' Rights Training to hospitals, victim advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, and the community to promote awareness of the rights of victims and to ensure consistent implementation of victims' rights laws.

Please visit their website at <https://ocvjc.org/> to volunteer, donate, register for a training, or sign up to host a training. This website also houses the [Crime Victims Rights Toolkit](#), which is a self-help resource for crime victims. The Toolkit is a database of Ohio and federal crime victims' rights laws, best practices, and form letters to help victims exercise their rights. It is the first such resource in the nation.

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