

Spring 2024



Happy Spring, Happy Eclipse

The Franklin County Law Library staff is looking forward to warmer weather, more time outdoors, and the rare opportunity to witness a total solar eclipse on April 8th. **Because the eclipse has prompted school closures and travel notices throughout central Ohio, the Law Library will close at noon on April 8th.**

The picture below is our staff in 2017 viewing an eclipse from the top of the county parking garage. This was the last total solar eclipse in the U.S., but Ohio was not in the path of totality. The last time Ohio experienced a total eclipse was 1806, so the upcoming event truly is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and those willing to travel just a few miles outside of downtown can be in the path of totality.

For this newsletter, we are again focusing on an important yet underutilized library service, and we are still highlighting interesting reference questions. However, we also have included an overview of AI for our readers as we prepare for our next Baldree Brown Bag Lunch program: "Future of Law, Including AI and ChatGPT." Registration information is below, but class size is limited, and, based on our previous session in February, we expect a full class. Register now if you want to attend.

If you work in the Franklin County courts or other public offices and have news that would benefit our library patrons, reach out and let us know so that we can consider it for publication in an upcoming newsletter.

Jennifer Jones, Director
jdjones@franklincountyohio.gov



Library Services: Reference Email

The Franklin County Law Library has always provided prompt responses to reference questions, but many of our patrons are not aware that we have a dedicated reference email address, and it is the easiest and most efficient means for us to conduct reference when patrons are not here in person. We have two to three librarians that monitor our reference email inbox, so reference questions are answered every business day (even if your go-to librarian is on vacation).

The Law Library provides two easy ways for patrons to email a reference librarian:

1. Send the request directly to fcll-info@franklincountyohio.gov. This email is monitored by the reference librarian on duty. If you email an FCLL staff member directly and that person is out of office, you may not get a timely response. The reference email inbox, however, is monitored every day during business hours.
2. Go to the "Contact Us" tab on our web site, lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov, and click on "[Ask a Question.](#)" Fill out the form and submit it to us. Your question will go to our reference email, which, again, is monitored during business hours.

We know that many of our patrons prefer to call or email a particular staff member directly, which will still result in a response. However, there are several benefits to contacting us instead through our dedicated reference email address:

- When you email, we already have the request and your contact information. Sometimes this information does not get relayed clearly over the phone (or we might simply make a mistake when we write down your request or contact information), and the response takes longer. With the request already in writing and your contact info already on hand, we can simply reply and attach what you need.
- If you email a staff member directly and that person is not in, you may not get a response in a timely manner. Using the dedicated reference email address ensures a response from whichever reference librarian is available.
- Sometimes librarians are busy assisting others either in person or on the phone and you can't get assistance when you call (remember, we do have a small staff here). Reference emails,

however, are answered in the order received, as soon as a librarian is available. This means you won't have to keep calling and waiting for a librarian to be available during our busiest times.

- You can email whenever you are researching--even in the middle of the night--and we'll answer as soon as possible. Emails received overnight are generally answered first thing the next business day. You can contact us through email even when the library is closed.

Please consider the benefits of reaching out to fcl-info@franklincountyohio.gov the next time you have a reference question. You can also use this email to request information on library services, request a staff member register you for an event, or even request a library card (for central Ohio attorneys in good standing with the Supreme Court of Ohio). We look forward to responding to your email requests.



Closures

April 8: Closing at noon for eclipse

May 27: Closed for Memorial Day

June 19: Closed for Juneteenth

Board Meeting

May 15 at noon in the library

Baldree Brown Bag CLEs

April 17: The Future of Law, Including AI and ChatGPT (register [here](#))

June 5: Domestic and Juvenile Law (register [here](#))

Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Series 2024

Reservations for all classes are mandatory. Class size is limited to 15. Reservations can be made by calling or visiting the Circulation Desk.

Participants should bring their own lunch. All classes will begin at 12:15 pm unless otherwise noted and will run for one hour.

Each class is approved for 1 general CLE credit.

February 7

Sealing and Expungement Law

Last year's class was so popular we're bringing it back! The staff of the FCMC Self Help Clinic will break down recent changes to sealing and expungement laws.

April 17

Future of Law including AI and ChatGPT

Rebecca Fordon from the OSU Law Library will speak on this new and emerging subject.

June 5

Domestic and Juvenile Law

Join us as Magistrate Anne M. Cogan gives an overview of all things Domestic and Juvenile and answers questions from participants.



Franklin County Law Library
369 S. High St., 10th floor
Columbus, OH 43215
614-525-4971



Recent Reference Requests

Susanna Marlowe, Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

Can I appeal if I did not object to the magistrate's decision and the trial court adopted said magistrate's decision?

**Signed,
A Potential Appellant**

Dear Potential Appellant,

No, not unless the trial court made a plain error. Oh. Rule of Civ. Proc. 53(D)(3)(b)(iv) provides that “[E]xcept for a claim of plain error, a party shall not assign as error on appeal the court's adoption of any factual finding or legal conclusion, whether or not specifically designated as a finding of fact or conclusion of law under Civ.R. 53(D)(3)(a)(ii), unless the party has objected to that finding or conclusion as required by Civ.R. 53(D)(3)(b).” Furthermore, the Ohio Supreme Court held in Goldfuss v. Davidson, 1997-Ohio-401 that the “plain error doctrine is not favored and may be applied only in the extremely rare case involving exceptional circumstances where error, to which no objection was made at the trial court, seriously affects the basic fairness, integrity, or public reputation of the judicial process, thereby challenging the legitimacy of the underlying judicial process.”

Signed,
The Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

I work for a consultancy that serves medical professionals. I am looking for the

Signed,
A Consultant

Dear Consultant,

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) is a federal law that protects patient health information. 42 U.S. Code § 1320d-6 prohibits wrongful disclosure of individually identifiable health information without the patient's consent. The federal regulations pertaining to securely storing medical records are in the Code of Federal Regulations at 45 CFR Subpart C: Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information.

Signed,
The Reference Librarian



A Quick Review of AI

FCLL Staff

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly growing throughout the world. Mokhtarian (2018)* estimates: "Within a decade, AI will be ubiquitous, with billions of active bots influencing nearly every industry and daily activity." Various databases within the legal industry have been incorporating AI features for a while now, such as predictive research suggestions that allow users to type in search terms and get accurate type-ahead suggestions or litigation analytics of docket data (cases, judges, courts, attorneys, law firms, etc.) that help attorneys strategize for better case results.

Ultimately, as with any technological advancement, AI use requires a balance between strengths and weaknesses. FCLL Law Librarian Aaron Coldren has researched recent academic articles on AI and has experimented with some AI features built into the legal databases. Here, he highlights some key pros and cons of using AI in the legal field:

Pros:	Cons:
Predictive legal analytics and data	Legal Compliance
Identify litigation trends and judicial tendencies	Ethics rules (potential misrepresentation, improper contact with parties, jurors, courts)
Reduce costs and labor	Potential violations of "terms of service"
Track attorney success rates, loss events and compare win rates and bill rates	Invasion of privacy
Assess lawyer performance	Civil liabilities
Spot trends and outliers of court cases	Copyright protection

Despite some cons, a major appeal of AI is the time it can save legal researchers, and legal vendors continue to expand AI capabilities. FCLL Director Jennifer Jones has met with vendors for demonstrations of some of the newest AI features available in legal research databases. With AI, attorney users can now ask natural-language legal questions and receive answers that link to relevant cases and statutes. Without AI, this task would require a carefully constructed search of keywords and terms and connectors, and the outcome would be a results list--not an actual answer to a legal question. Additionally, AI tools can compare and analyze uploaded legal documents, and the most advanced AI tools can even produce drafts. Of course, as legal publishers like to emphasize, these time-saving tools are supposed to be a starting point--not an end point--for research, and attorney users still need to check their citations and verify their results.

AI tools are incredibly helpful, yet they do result in additional subscription costs (another con to consider) and may be unaffordable for some attorneys. Additionally, law libraries may not be able to afford the newest features, and some of those features are currently unavailable for public access. Time will tell if the increasing popularity of AI legal research tools will make them more widely accessible for all litigants.

* Mokhtarian, E. (2018). The Bot Legal Code: Developing a Legally Compliant Artificial Intelligence. *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law*, 21(1), 145+. <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A589127599/LT?u=cana89207&sid=bookmark-LT&xid=235c049b>

What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Minnie - *The Fury* by Alex Michaelides, *The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise* by Colleen Oakley, and *A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking* by T. Kingfisher



Susanna - *Wellness* by Nathan Hill, *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis, and *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson



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