

March 2023

Director's Corner

Angela T. Baldree



Spring thaw is just about here. Last weekend I visited family in West Virginia. Many of them I haven't seen for years. Not only did Covid disrupt family visits, but the election of 2016 cooled some relationships.

However, I visited several people over two days where no one spoke about politics. We had lovely chats about family and growing up. We shared good food and made plans to get together again soon.

Driving home, I felt not only the spring thaw but the bitter partisan thaw as well.

Don't forget the law library has two upcoming Brown Bag Lunch Programs - Working with Sovereign Citizens and Expungement Law. Participants can earn one general CLE for each class. Class size is limited to fifteen so call now to register - 614-525-4971.

Franklin County Law Library
2023 Brown Bag Lunch Series

March 15
Working with Sovereign Citizens

Erin Waltz and Michelle Graff from the SCO Law Library will discuss ways to handle requests from sovereign citizen.

Classes are from 12:15—1:15
Class size is limited to 15
Reservations are required
Bring your own lunch
1 general CLE credit is available
369 S. High Street • 614-525-4971



Recent Reference Requests

Susanna Marlowe, Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

My spouse recently passed away without a will. We owned most of our assets jointly, but I found out after her death that she had a bank account without my name on it. She had no listed beneficiaries and the bank is refusing to release the money to me unless I show them “letters of authority.” Do you know what they are and how I can obtain them?

Signed,
A Widower

Dear Widower,

I am very sorry for your loss. Settling your wife’s estate can be stressful, but it is necessary. Letters of authority are documents you obtain from the probate court identifying you as your late wife’s representative and giving you the legal power to act on behalf of your wife’s estate. There are two kinds of letters of authority. If your wife had named you as her executor in her will, you would need a letter testamentary. Since your wife did not have a will, [Oh. Rev. Code Sec. 2113.01](#) says that “upon the death of a resident of this state who dies intestate, letters of administration of the decedent’s estate shall be granted by the probate court of the county in which the decedent was a resident at the time of death.” The Franklin County Probate Court’s website has forms for [Asking for Authority to Administer Estate](#) and an [Entry Appointing Fiduciary; Letters of Authority](#). Once you obtain the Entry, you can show a copy of it to the bank, which should allow them to release the money to you. If you need help, the Columbus Bar Association’s Legal Referral Service can suggest an attorney for you. The phone number is 614-221-0754.

Signed,
The Reference Librarian

Tech Talk - Password Vaults

Steve Stultz, FCLL IT Coordinator

Exactly three years ago, I wrote about password vaults to store your passwords securely. There have been some important changes in the password vault market, so let’s do this again.

It’s important to make your passwords as long as possible, but sadly some websites put a limit on the length. This runs contrary to security standards which say to make your passwords 25 characters or more (the longer the better). Some websites limit you to as little as 16 characters — not enough — but we have to work with what they stipulate. But non-Internet-facing passwords (for example, your Windows login) *do not* have to be as long or complex. It’s the Internet-facing passwords we’re worried about.



Don’t store your passwords in the clear; that is unencrypted. There’s a better, much more secure way to store all of those passwords: in a password vault. A password vault is a software app and service where you put passwords, social security numbers, bank and credit card account numbers, security questions and answers, ATM PINs, and anything else in way of sensitive data to know that it’s all safe and

secure. Then all you have to remember is the one single password to the vault.

There are a number of password vault apps and services available. But a good password vault will be cloud-based to prevent data loss and will use “trust nobody encryption,” or encryption for which only you have the encryption password. A good one will also have an app that plugs into your computer browsers as an extension, installs on your mobile device as an app, and can auto-fill usernames and passwords on your devices when your password vault is unlocked. A good vault should also support two-factor authentication and should have a random password generator (so you don’t have to think up a long, complex, and unique password for each new website login). Finally, it needs to be easy and convenient to use.

I used to recommend LastPass, but my favorite password vault is now BitWarden. Why? LastPass, as it turns out, lied to us and told us that their encryption had enough “entropy” and “hash cycles” to keep hackers from being able to crack the encryption. Turns out it did not. And they only encrypted the passwords themselves, not the website addresses and other data associated with each password. BitWarden does everything correctly that LastPass promised to do but did not. And, if you have already started storing passwords in LastPass (or one of a variety of other password managers), BitWarden will import those for you without much trouble. And if you stored passwords in LastPass, because of its shortcomings and because LastPass was recently hacked, you need to change all those passwords.

I can now recommend three password managers based on what we know today, based on current security standards, and in this order:

1. BitWarden: <https://bitwarden.com>
2. 1Password: <https://1password.com>
3. Dashlane: <https://www.dashlane.com>

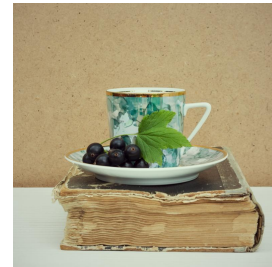
What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Angela - *Fairy Tale* by Stephen King, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark T. Sullivan, and *Blue Ticket* by Sophie Mackintosh

Minnie - *The Night Eaters* by Marjorie M. Liu, *Galatea* by Madeline Miller, and *All the Dangerous Things* by Stacy Willingham

Susanna - *Every Summer After* by Carley Fortune, *Beartown* by Fredrik Backman, and *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi



X X X X X

Franklin County Law Library

369 S. High Street, 10th Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614.525.4971

Fax: 614.525.4978

FCLL-info@franklincountyohio.gov

<http://lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov>



[Unsubscribe abaldree@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:abaldree@franklincountyohio.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by abaldree@franklincountyohio.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!