

November 2023



Director's Corner

Jennifer Jones

November is a time of transition for the law library, but the changes you see will be subtle. I officially stepped into the position of director on October 30; however, I am not new to the law library. If you are a regular visitor to the law library, you have probably seen me working the reference desk in the afternoons. I have been part of the Franklin County Law Library staff since 2015, and I am honored to follow in the steps of our former director, Angela Baldree, who provided me with many opportunities as a law librarian. While you will not see Angela in the library going forward, you will continue to see the rest of our usual staff members. They may have slightly different schedules or perhaps take on different roles in the library from time to time, but they will continue to provide the same library services as before.

I do not feel the need to introduce myself since I have been here for nearly nine years, but I will share a few highlights from my career. I first started working in law libraries in 2013, serving as the assistant law librarian for Scioto County—my home county. Before that time, I had taught college English for over a decade but decided to go in a different direction and pursue my Master of Library Science, which I received late in 2010. The first library job that opened up for me was at the county law library—which I didn't even know existed before a friend suggested I apply for the job—and I loved it! I moved here in 2015 to work full time as a law librarian, and I also served as the director of the Statewide Consortium of County Law Libraries for six years and gained extensive knowledge on Ohio's county law libraries. For those of you who are not aware, every one of Ohio's 88 counties, by statute, has a law library. Ohio is unique—only a few other states provide similar types of libraries for the public. I feel privileged to be part of the county law library community.

I also feel privileged to lead the Franklin County Law Library. Let me share a fact with you that should indicate how much of an honor it is to serve as director here: Since our founding in 1887 until our former director's retirement last month, only seven people had held the position of library director. That averages to over 19 years of service for each director. To me, this is a clear indication that the Franklin County Law Library is a great place to work, and I am honored to be only the eighth director. It also reinforces my first statement about transitions: While they do happen here, they are subtle. We believe that our time of transition will be seamless for our patrons.

Please note, though, that one of our first minor changes is to rework the newsletter, so this is our last one for the year. Look for a revamped newsletter in January, and have a great holiday season. Also be aware of these upcoming closing dates for the law library:

- **Nov. 10: Closed**
- **Nov. 22: Closing at noon**
- **Nov. 23-24: Closed**

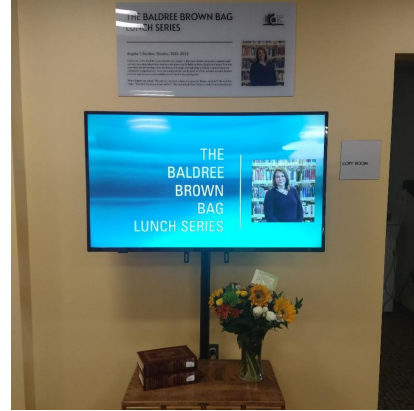
- Dec. 25-26: Closed
- Jan. 1: Closed

New Display Showcases the Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Series



Upon former director Angela Baldree's recent retirement, the Franklin County Law Library Board honored her with a new display showcasing the library's educational programs. The former Brown Bag Lunch programs are now known as the Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Series. Ms. Baldree started these programs in 2016, and they have evolved into several CLE opportunities each year.

Above is the picture of the area before the installation of the new display.



Programs for next year's Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Series have already been scheduled through June with one hour of CLE credit approved for the first three sessions. The new display, pictured above, will provide updated information on the 2024 programs. You can also find information below and on the library's website, lawlibrary.franklincountyohio.gov

Also, a new online registration form will be added to the web site soon, so check back for updates.

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,

Is foraging for wild plants allowed in Ohio's state forests, parks, and the Franklin County Metro Parks?

A Fan of Foraging

Dear Forager,

Ohio Administrative Code Rule 1501:3-2-06 states that "berries, nuts, fruits, cones, seeds, and mushrooms that are not an endangered species or threatened species as designated or governed by applicable state and federal statutes or regulations may be gathered and removed from state forests." A list of the rare plants for Ohio is available from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. According to Ohio Administrative Code Rule 1501:46-3-27, a permit is required to collect plants in state parks. A copy of the permit is available here. Rule 1.1 of *Rules and Regulations of the Franklin County Metropolitan Park District* indicates that visitors may not remove plants from the parks, "with the exception of collecting leaves, mushrooms, fruits, or seeds in general picnic areas and other regularly mowed surfaces."

Happy Hunting,
The Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

My attorney said we might be able to "pierce the corporate veil" in our lawsuit against a company. What does that mean?

A Curious Client

Dear Client,

“Piercing the corporate veil” refers to suing the shareholders of a corporation rather than suing the company itself. This is unusual because the whole point of incorporating is to shield the investors from personal liability. In Belvedere Condominium Unit Owners’ Ass’n v. R.E. Roark Co., the Ohio Supreme Court laid out the test for piercing the corporate veil. The three-pronged test requires the following: 1) control over the corporation by those to be held liable which is so complete that the company has no separate will or existence of its own; 2) control over the corporation by those to be held liable exercised in such a manner as to commit fraud or an illegal act against the person seeking to disregard the corporate entity; and 3) injury or unjust loss resulting to the plaintiff from such control and wrong. All three prongs of the test for piercing the corporate veil must be met.

The Reference Librarian

What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Minnie - *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell, *After that Night* by Karin Slaughter, and *The Heiress* by Rachel Hawkins

Susanna - *The Celebrants* by Steven Rowley, *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros, and *Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby



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