

Winter 2026



Goodbye to 2025

The Franklin County Law Library staff hopes you had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. Our staff gathered for a holiday dinner at Harvest in the Brewery District (pictured below) and enjoyed having some down time together outside of work. Of course, we also enjoyed the amazing food!

We are excited for what 2026 may bring, but first, we want to provide a quick look back at 2025:

- Overall, usage of the library and library resources/services declined a bit in 2025 when compared to 2024; however, 2025 was still a successful year for us, with nearly 7,000 direct requests for assistance filled by our staff. Staff members have reported that despite the statistics, they felt busier in 2025 than in previous years, perhaps because many patrons required a higher level of direct assistance than usual. Usage fluctuates every year, and we keep thorough statistics that allow us to consider how we can adapt and better serve patrons going forward.
- In 2025, we maintained all services and resources while working with reduced staffing and a very tight budget. However, our goal is to do more than just maintain; we want to adapt and look for new or different services to better serve our patrons. With that in mind, in 2025, we added charging stations, a scanning terminal, and new displays.
- Our CLEs in 2025 covered several interesting topics such as pet law, cannabis law, and gambling law. Local attorneys earned a combined total of 66 hours of CLE credit through the 2025 Baldree Brown Bag Lunch sessions. We are grateful to all of the speakers who worked with us to offer these programs.

For 2026, we are already working on important initiatives. One of our largest projects will be working with Franklin County to ensure our web site is compliant with ADA accessibility requirements by the April 24th deadline. We are also working on a large project to update our contact information for library cardholders. Plus, we have already scheduled most of the year's Baldree Brown Bag Lunch programs, with topics such as immigration law, attorney retirement, city zoning, and vicious dogs.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026. Please stop in or email us to let us know how we can assist you in your legal research needs.

Jennifer Jones, Director
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Inclement Weather Information

The Law Library usually closes for Snow Emergency Level 2 and always closes for Level 3. Generally, if the Common Pleas Court is closed, then the library is also closed. In the event of inclement weather, staff will post closures on our [Facebook](#) page as soon as possible. If you plan a visit during bad weather, consider calling first.



Holiday Closures

- **February 16:** Closed for Presidents Day

Board Meeting

- **February 18** at noon in the library

Baldree Brown Bag Lunch Programs

- **February 25:** Immigration Law - register [here](#)
- **April 8:** End Game (Attorney Retirement) - registration opening soon



Recent Reference Requests

Susanna Marlowe, Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

What are the rights of people with disabilities? My daughter and her children are facing several issues.

A Concerned Grandma

Dear Grandma,

For general information, the Franklin County Law Library has an online Disability Law research guide, available at <https://fclawlib.libguides.com/disabilitylaw>. You can also contact [Disability Rights Ohio](#), a local nonprofit corporation with a mission of empowering people with disabilities.

The Reference Librarian

Dear Reference Librarian,

I am looking for information about the cy pres doctrine. My firm has a client who is probating his father's will, which names a charity as a beneficiary. This charity no longer exists. The will does not say what should happen to the charity's share in this situation.

An Estate Planning Paralegal

Dear Paralegal,

First off, the cy pres doctrine allows a court to modify charitable bequests when the original charitable purpose becomes impossible or impracticable, preventing the gift from failing by directing funds to a new purpose that closely approximates the donor's original intent. [Oh. Rev. Code Sec. 5804.13](#) codifies the cy pres doctrine. In turn, this section refers to [Oh. Rev. Code Sec. 109.25](#), which requires that the Ohio Attorney General must be made a necessary party when a charitable bequest is being modified due to cy pres. The Charitable Law Section of the Ohio Attorney General's office website has some helpful information at <https://charitable.ohioago.gov/Charitable-Transactions>.

The Reference Librarian

Library Cardholders, We Need Your Help!

The Law Library is updating its patron records, as many patrons’ circumstances may have changed since our last update. To help us maintain accurate records, we kindly ask that you share your current contact information if your address, phone, or email has changed since you first signed up for a library card. If you are unsure, go ahead and send us current information and we can check to see if changes need to be made. Please feel free to call the library at 614-525-4971 or email mozbeytemur@franklincountyohio.gov with your information. We may also reach out to you to ask for updated information. Thank you for your assistance. We appreciate your support!

What We're Reading

Law Library Staff Share Their Favorites

Minnie - *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, *The Gifts of Imperfections* by Brene Brown, *A Different Kind of Power* by Jacinda Arden, *The Three Lives of Caty Kay* by Kate Fagan, and *Dark Sisters* by Kristi DeMeester

Susanna - *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin, *Hamnet* by Maggie Farrell, and *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans



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