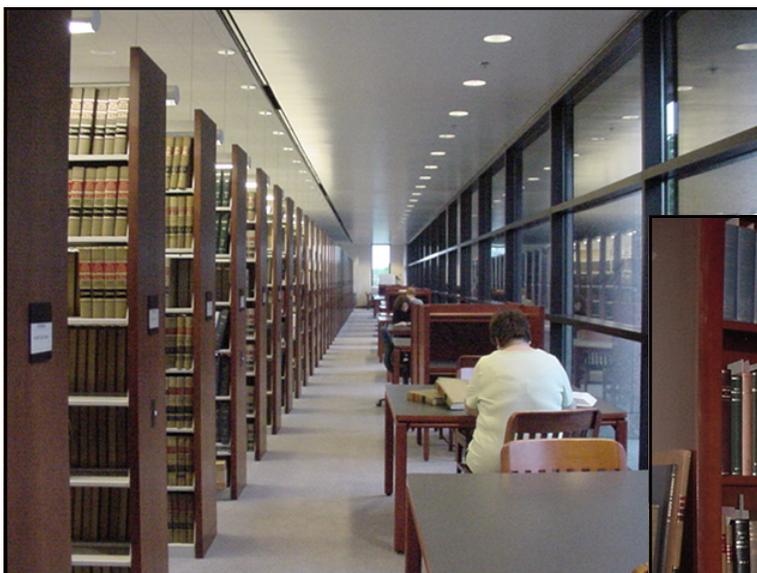


Insider's View: Minnesota State Law Library

RANDI MADISEN
Minnesota State
Law Library

Where can you find the second-largest law collection in Minnesota? At the State Law Library!

As you might expect, we have statutes and case law for all states and the federal government, publications of the federal government distributed through the Federal Depository Library Program, and law reviews and other legal periodicals. Our library is also the source for Minnesota appellate court briefs for Supreme Court decisions, Court of Appeals published decisions, and pending cases. We have items incorporated by reference in *Minnesota Rules*, Minnesota Continuing Legal Education publications, and self-help materials for *pro se* patrons. We have the debates and proceedings of state constitutional conventions, and we publish the *Minnesota Justices Series*, biographies of Minnesota Justices.

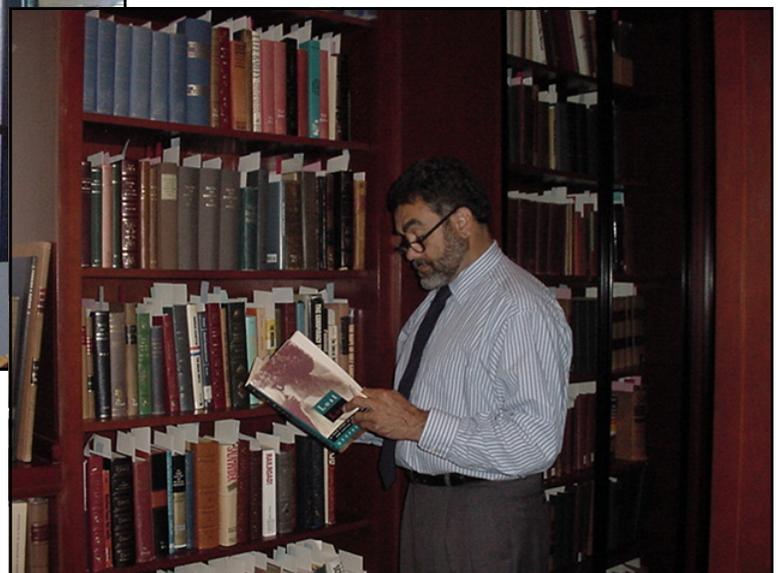


In 2004:

- 243,233 print/audiovisual items
- 415,289 microfiche
- 1,106 serial subscriptions

In 2004:

- 17 full- and part-time staff
- 191 total years working in Library
- 815 volunteer hours



Our staff of seventeen includes three circuit-riding prison law librarians working for the Department of Corrections-funded Law Library Service to Prisoners. These librarians conduct regularly scheduled visits to eight adult correctional facilities to meet with inmates. Questions that cannot be answered on-site using the prison collections of core legal materials are researched at the State Law Library. Inmates can write or call for legal information between visits.

In 2004:

- 120 prison visits
- 9,552 miles traveled
- 1,776 inmates helped
- 29,037 items delivered



Our library is also the home of the County Law Library Program. The State Law Library is required by law to advise and assist development of county law libraries throughout the state. The Program Coordinator makes on-site visits to the libraries and submits recommendations for solving problems or addressing issues confronting the boards of trustees. The coordinator also provides training in law library management and develops cooperative programs.



The State Law Library reference service serves primarily court staff and the public. We encourage law firms and lawyers to use our library, and we offer free circulation services to anyone with an attorney registration number. We provide excellent reference service via phone (651-296-2775) and email (askalibrarian@courts.state.mn.us). For users visiting the library, we offer free access to both Lexis and Westlaw and other online resources.

In 2004:

- 14,000+ questions answered
- 53 questions per day
- 536 email questions
- 2,344 items circulated

For those who can't visit the library, check out our Web site at <http://www.lawlibrary.state.mn.us/index.html>. It includes wonderful resources like our list of Internet legal resources, links to Minnesota city and county ordinances, and the *Directory of Minnesota County Law Libraries*. The library also archives opinions of the Minnesota appellate courts from May 1996 to present, maintains a database of issues in Minnesota briefs from January 2000 to present, and produces the *Minnesota Legal Periodical Index*, which is hosted by LawMoose.

Whether to take a tour, use the collection, or just lounge in our comfy chairs, stop by anytime. We're open 8:30 – 5:00 Monday through Friday. §

