

NEWSLETTER

Montgomery County Law Library Resources Board Members:

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TRANSITION OF LAW LIBRARY MANAGEMENT TO NEW CLLRB IS UNDERWAY

As of July 1, 2009 a newly formed County Law Library Resources Board has taken the reins in planning for 2010 and beyond. Five board members, appointed by local, elected officials, along with two transition board members appointed by the trustees of The Dayton Law Library Association, held their first meeting on July 13, in the offices of the board of county commissioners.

The scope of operations of the new CLLRB was discussed in relation to the provisions of ORC sections 307.51 through 307.516. The primary responsibility of the board is to provide legal research, reference, and library services to the county and to the municipal corporations, townships, and courts within the county and to manage the coordination, acquisition, and utilization of legal resources. [ORC 307.51(B)] In addition, the CLLRB will act as a clearinghouse for the approval of purchases by all county offices of any legal research or reference material. [307.51(G)] The code sections do not specify the maintenance of a law library facility; however, the board is required to adopt rules for *public access and hours of operation of the law library*. [ORC 307.51 (D)]

As of January 1, 2010, the statutorily provided funds heretofore disbursed to The Dayton Law Library Association for its operation will be deposited into a special fund in the county treasury for use by the new CLLRB.

In a very short period of time the CLLRB must submit an estimate of 2010 expenditures to the board of county commissioners for approval. Although the decision-making authority of the CLLRB does not begin until January 1, 2010, the process of determining a "budget" for next year will certainly indicate the intention of the board with respect to the retention of a law library facility for the use of the public, including members of the practicing bar.

In many respects the provisions of the new code sections are unclear and subject to interpretation by each county's board. It is expected that local decisions will be made to serve the legal research needs of the state's various communities. For areas with larger populations, such as Montgomery County, the identification of user groups and the levels of service may be complicated. The members of the new CLLRB are well-poised to consider the needs of the various county agencies and balance them with the requirements of a well-informed bar.

Members of The Dayton Law Library Association will be kept apprised of any decisions of the Association's board or of the new CLLRB as they affect the library facility. Suggestions or concerns may be directed to Law Librarian Joanne Beal.

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