



Supreme Court Law Library

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Our Mission:

The mission of the Supreme Court Law Library is to provide and produce legal information for the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government, the legal community, and the public at large so they may have equal access to the law, effectively address the courts, make laws and write regulations, better understand the legal system, and conduct their affairs in accordance with the principles of law.

SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY: FY2026 –2 SERVICES & STATISTICS SNAPSHOT

By: Stephanie Wilson, State Law Librarian

The New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library is the state's public law library, freely open to all. It has been serving the Judiciary, government, legal community, and public throughout New Mexico for 175 years. The Legislature established it as the Territorial Library in 1851 and as the Supreme Court Law Library in 1915. During the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 (October-December 2025), the library staff worked to benefit and engage with our statewide and local service communities, in support of our Mission Statement. Some of the highlights include:

A. Reference, Research, and Circulation Services accomplishments:

- **Responding to all 594 requests for information from patrons, who emailed (22.7%), mailed (5.9%), called (16.5%), or walked in (55.1%) for help with legal research, legislation, forms, library cards, document delivery, and other types of library services.** People from across New Mexico and the U.S. -- including the judiciary (23.1%), government (4.5%), legislative (1.5%), academic organizations (1.9%), other libraries (5.4%), inmates in New Mexico, other states, and federal facilities (5.9%), lawyers and law firms (19.7%), and the public (43.3%) -- contacted the Law Library for reliable information and knowledgeable help with their legal questions. In-person interactions via walk-in remained our patrons' most preferred method of contacting us. Library staff also assisted people from national, international, and tribal communities, including Arizona, California, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Vermont, as well as from China, the Navajo Nation, and the Pueblo of Acoma.

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- **Providing access to online legal research information and services and a safe workspace for all Library users.** Library staff administered the Law Library’s public website by providing information about statutes, rules, regulations, legal forms, cases, legal referral services, and many other resources. **The library’s public computers were used by 41 patrons** for free access to specialized research resources, including NMOneSource, Westlaw Patron, Lexis Patron, HeinOnline, and the LexisNexis Digital Library of law eBooks. Patrons also used the public computers for free resources such as the Internet, email, word processing programs, apps, and Wi-Fi. Also, **229 people used the library** to read books, make copies, print documents, attend events, use the study alcoves and tables, watch livestreamed Supreme Court hearings, and conduct research with its extensive collection of over **276,153** cataloged books and documents.

B. Technical and Collection Management Services accomplishments: Managing the Library’s collection of print and electronic resources; evaluating, updating, organizing, processing, inventorying, repairing, and shelving materials; and cataloging and classifying materials. The library acquired new print and digital material from various publishers and updated the EOS.Web Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) to keep the collection current and to help patrons find library resources quickly and easily. Check the monthly [New Titles List](#) posted on the Library’s online catalog for more information.

C. Outreach, Public Programs, and Education Services accomplishments: Promoting the Law Library’s services and collections, providing library and legal research instruction, and engaging in public relations with the community. The State Law Librarian attended meetings of the New Mexico Public Records Commission, the First Judicial District’s Pro Bono Committee, and the New Mexico Archives & Archivists Special Interest Group. Library staff posted weekly on the Library’s X (Twitter) account and published the Library’s monthly SCLL Newsletter. Library staff curated monthly thematic displays on a variety of topics to highlight areas of the book collection. Staff assisted with **43 tours** (self- and staff-guided) of the Law Library and Supreme Court Building for the public and court staff. The library staffed exhibitor tables at the Law-La-Palooza Legal Fair in Albuquerque, the Meow Wolf Archives Month event in Santa Fe, the New Mexico Library Association Conference in Albuquerque, and the First Judicial District Court’s Legal Fair in Santa Fe to provide information about library services, to answer questions, to hand out free resources, and to promote access to justice. At the New Mexico Library Association Conference, State Law Librarian Stephanie Wilson and Law Librarian Cassandra Wenzel presented an educational program to fellow attendees about the Supreme Court Building and the Supreme Court Law Library.

D. FY26-2 Law Library Statistics Summary:

- ⇒ 594 reference interactions
- ⇒ 34 responses to letters from prisoners
- ⇒ 16 new patrons registered for library cards
- ⇒ 553 circulation transactions
- ⇒ 14 interlibrary loan requests
- ⇒ 508 items of mail received and processed timely
- ⇒ 39 new titles cataloged
- ⇒ 100 titles enhanced and updated in the catalog
- ⇒ 261 new items added to the catalog
- ⇒ 206 federal government publications received free via the Federal Depository Library Program
- ⇒ 51-plus staff hours spent updating books with loose-leaf filing and supplements
- ⇒ 8,059 views of the Law Library’s public website



ABOUT THE LAW LIBRARY

The Supreme Court Law Library has been providing legal reference services and access to legal information to the courts and people throughout New Mexico for 175 years.

- ◆ Our Reference team welcomes your questions! We can assist you by walk-in, telephone at (505) 827-4850, mail, or email at libref@nmcourts.gov.
- ◆ Law Library hours are Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00. The Library is closed 12-1.
- ◆ The Law Library has books, forms, government documents, online resources, public computers, study alcoves, a public microfilm reader/scanner, a public copier and printer, document delivery services, and free internet access.
- ◆ Visit our website at <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov>
- ◆ Request a tour at <https://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov/about/tours/>



OUR DOCUMENT DELIVERY SERVICES

By: Kendra Patlak

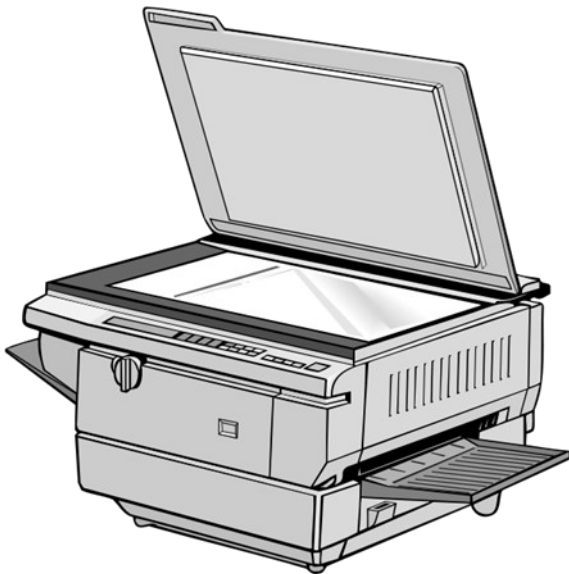
This month, the Supreme Court Law Library is highlighting one of its most frequently used services: Document Delivery Services. What do we mean by Document Delivery Services? Typically, this means converting a tangible document to a digital form, that is, scanning a book and then providing those copies to the library patron. Generally, we scan a relevant portion of a book in compliance with copyright law, along with its title and copyright pages. However, we also offer the opposite option: printing a digital resource.

Anyone can utilize our Document Delivery Services, but requests often come from lawyers and legal researchers, especially from those located far from Santa Fe or out of state.

We receive requests for Document Delivery Services at least once monthly. Sometimes, we receive multiple requests simultaneously, so we suggest that patrons submit requests with enough time for us to complete them before a pertinent deadline.

We recommend emailing Document Delivery Requests to our Reference Desk, but patrons can also make these requests in person, over the phone, or via USPS mail. We ask that people provide us with as much information as possible about the document itself. For example, the title, author, volume, edition, publisher, year published, and relevant chapter(s), section number(s), and page number(s) are all helpful. People often forget that we also need to know how and where we should send the document once it is ready.

Once patrons confirm that they want to proceed with Document Delivery Services, we determine how many pages the document contains and send a detailed invoice. The Law Library requires payment prior to emailing or mailing the requested document. The cost is 15¢ per page, plus postage (if they choose to have a document mailed), which is calculated and included on the invoice. After payment is received via credit/debit card, cash, check, or money order, the document is provided by the requested method – pick up, email, or U.S. mail.



This service is important because many resources are still available only in print. Even if a document is available online, it may require account creation or be behind a pay-wall. The Law Library's Document Delivery Services help to expand access to information and legal research resources for patrons.

For more information about the Law Library's services, visit our [website](#). ♦

Source: [Free SVG](#).

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

By: Cassandra Wenzel

January 19, 2026, is the fortieth anniversary since the first observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a federal holiday on [January 20, 1986](#). The history of the federal effort to pass the bill enacting this federal holiday spanned over fifteen years. On the fortieth anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, it seems appropriate to take a closer look at this history, nationally and in New Mexico, and the documents that it involves.

The first Congressperson to propose a bill for a national holiday honoring Dr. King was John Conyers in 1968, [four days](#) after King's assassination. Representative Conyers [reintroduced](#) this legislation every year from then on. After the creation of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center on June 26, 1968, informal observances of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day [started on January 15, 1969](#), as January 15 was Dr. King's birthday. By 1971, three million signatures had been gathered and presented to Congress to petition for a holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1978, the National Council of Churches joined this call for a holiday. In 1979, Coretta Scott King, Dr. King's widow, testified in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee and in front of Joint Hearings of Congress. With the support of President Jimmy Carter and a petition signed by at least 300,000 Americans, the King Holiday bill was brought to the floor of the House of Representatives. [This bill](#) ended up five votes short of a two-thirds majority with a 252-133 vote count. Between 1980 and 1982, Coretta Scott King continued to lobby the public and state legislatures for recognition of a holiday. In February 1982, Ms. King again [testified](#) before a Congressional Committee for recognition of the holiday.



Image, [Martin Luther King, Jr., head-and-shoulders portrait, facing right, at microphones, after? meeting with President Johnson to discuss civil rights, at the White House, 1963] / WKL. From: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/ds.00836/>

By 1983, the King Holiday [bill](#) was presented to the House of Representatives for a vote once more, sponsored by Representative Katie Hall and Representative Jack Kemp, with the date of observance being on the third Monday of every January. This time, the bill passed the House of Representatives by 338-90 votes. When it reached the Senate, the corresponding bill was sponsored by Senator Ted Kennedy and passed by 78-22 votes, though not without a threat of filibuster. On November 3, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law, which became [97 Stat. 917](#), enacting Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a federal holiday, to be celebrated three years after the signing of the bill.

By the time the holiday was first celebrated in 1986, seventeen states had adopted the holiday, although New Mexico was not one of those states. It was not until [1987](#) that New Mexico became the [forty-second state](#) to recognize a state holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On August 23, 1994,

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President Bill Clinton signed the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, [108 Stat. 1565](#), turning the federal holiday into the day of service that it is known as today. New Mexico's own Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission, created in 1991 by [NMSA 1978, 28-19-1 through -4 \(1991\)](#), honors Dr. King and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in this fashion, with [programs](#) developed around service and nonviolence.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, it is easy to forget that behind the holiday, like many other observances, there is history involved. Whether, like in New Mexico, it is called Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, or like in Arizona and New Hampshire, it is [combined](#) with Civil Rights Day, it can be a reminder to read about the history of the United States. The Supreme Court Law Library has titles that can assist with this, including print versions of many of the documents linked in this article, such as the Statutes at Large and the New Mexico Statutes Annotated. If you have any questions about history, federal documents, or other topics, please contact the Reference Desk at libref@nmcourts.gov, by phone at 505-827-4850, or come to the Law Library in person, and we will be glad to help you. ♦



THE LAW LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH
FOR THE MLK JR. DAY HOLIDAY



SEVEN AMAZING LIBRARIES WITHIN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

By: Amy Schaefer

If you are a book-lover looking for ideas for your upcoming summer vacation, the Supreme Court Law Library has a few ideas for you! There are seven stunning libraries located within UNESCO World Heritage Sites, in seven different countries around the world. There is bound to be one that sparks your interest.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works to preserve and protect cultural and natural heritage. In 1972, UNESCO adopted the [Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#). In order for a country to have sites added to the World Heritage list, the country must first sign the Convention. Having the World Heritage site distinction can help raise awareness and facilitate protection and conservation efforts. In some instances, countries may also receive financial assistance to help protect sites. Sites designated as World Heritage sites are deemed to be “of outstanding universal value to humanity” (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/faq/19>). More than 1,200 properties currently have World Heritage site designation. Explore them with this [interactive map](#). Even with this designation, UNESCO has deemed 53 of these sites to be in danger, as laid out in [Article 11\(4\) of the Convention](#). Now on to the libraries!

[The Strahov Library](#) is located in Prague, Czech Republic, within the Strahov Abbey buildings complex. The history of the Strahov Abbey dates back to 1140. Through time, the library took many forms. In the 17th century, the Baroque Theological Hall, the oldest part of the library, was completed, and the Classicist Philosophical Hall was completed in the 18th century. The 200,000 items in this collection cover a huge diversity in subjects including religious, juridical, medical, and astronomical. There are medieval manuscripts and even a cabinet of curiosities. Explore the [3D tour](#) of this jaw-dropping library.



Strahov Theological Hall - Original Baroque Cabinets, Prague

The Haeinsa Temple in Gayasan National Park, South Korea, includes the [Janggyeong Panjeon Depositories](#) (library) for the Tripitaka Koreana Woodblocks. This is a collection of approximately 80,000, 13th century woodblock engravings of Buddhist texts, laws, and scripture. It is considered to be the oldest depository of the Tripitaka. Unfortunately, there are restrictions on entering the repository; however, visitors can walk the paths on the exterior of the buildings. Learn more and view some of these exquisite tablets via UNESCO’s [educational video/tour](#) of this amazing site.

[Biblioteca Laurenziana](#) (Laurentian Library) in the historic center of Florence, Italy, was designed by Michelangelo and constructed from 1525 to 1571. The collection is extensive and includes the private library of the Medici family as well as Greek and Latin papyri from Egypt, one of the three complete collections of Plato’s *Dialogi*, and thousands of 16th century printed books.

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[Palafoxiana Library](#) in the Historic Center of Puebla, Mexico, is recognized as being the oldest public library in the Americas. It was founded in 1646 with a donation of 5,000 books from the bishop of Puebla, Juan de Palafox y Mendoza. Today, the collection has over 45,000 volumes dating back to the 15th century and includes books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and broadsides, including a copy of The Nine Books of the History of Herodotus from 1473. The building construction was completed in 1773 and includes a 43-meter-long hall with a vaulted ceiling.

The [Biblioteca Joanina](#) (Joanina Library) inside the University of Coimbra in Alta and Sofia, Portugal, is home to thousands of volumes, many of which are rare, with the oldest items dating back to the 15th century. Construction on this Baroque style library was completed around 1728; interestingly, this ornate structure was built over what used to be a prison. The library is also unique in that its structure was specifically designed as a sort of vault to preserve books; the exterior walls are 6 feet, 11 inches thick. In order to visit the library, you must participate in a guided tour.

[Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial](#) (Library of the Monastery of El



Library of the Monastery of El Escorial

Escorial) in Madrid, Spain, is one building in the vast monastery complex. The library was completed in the 16th century by King Phillip II. The Main Hall (currently the only room open to the public) is ornamented with fresco paintings from the late 16th century. Despite having lost many works to fire and other disasters over the centuries, it still maintains a collection of over 40,000 items. Among its vast collection are the Latin codices, but there are many works in Greek, Arabic, and Hebrew, as well. Within the Main Hall, books are shelved with their spines facing in rather than out, displaying the gilt-edged pages, and titles are also written on the edges.

[Abbey Library inside the Abbey of St. Gall](#), St. Gallen, Switzerland, has a history that dates back to the Middle Ages, a hermit community, and Gall, an Irish missionary. It was not until 1553, however, that a building was constructed to house the library. The building was replaced in 1767. This collection of early European history includes Medieval manuscripts dating as far back as the 8th century, many of which are available for researchers. The library still actively collects items, including modern journals.



Abbey Library inside the Abbey of St. Gall

Libraries around the world are as unique and intriguing in their structures and histories as they are in their content. If you enjoy learning about the history of books and libraries, you may want to explore some of the books on our special titles list, [History of Libraries and Books](#). To learn more about the Supreme Court Law Library, take our [virtual tour](#) or request an [in-person tour](#). ♦

EVENTS

The second annual Supreme Court of New Mexico Day was held on January 8, 2026, to observe the 114th anniversary of the establishment of New Mexico's highest court. Senior Justice Michael Vigil gave a talk about the history of the Supreme Court, and the events were livestreamed in the Law Library.



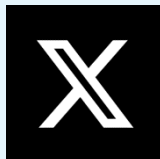
BOOK DISPLAY IN THE LAW LIBRARY— in January

Welcome to the Kickoff of the 2026 Legislative Session!



Visit the Law Library:

**Supreme Court Building
237 Don Gaspar Avenue
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501**



Contact the Law Library:

**Phone: (505) 827-4850
Email: libref@nmcourts.gov
Web: lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov**