



# Supreme Court Law Library

Newsletter | July 2026 | Volume 7, Issue 7

## SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY: FY2026 ANNUAL REPORT

By: Stephanie Wilson, State Law Librarian

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### I. Summary

This report summarizes the work done by the Supreme Court Law Library (“SCLL”) and highlights accomplishments of the Fiscal Year (“FY”) period from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

The Supreme Court Law Library is an essential and integral component of the state court system. Located in the Supreme Court Building in Santa Fe, the SCLL is governed by the five Supreme Court Justices and managed by the State Law Librarian, who is appointed by the Supreme Court. The SCLL began in New Mexico’s territorial days and marks its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. The Law Library was referred to in the First Legislative Assembly’s 1851 appropriation act, which established the Territorial Library and protected its archives in the Palace of the Governors. In 1853, the Territorial Legislature passed an act for the Law Library’s preservation and regulation and, in 1915, the New Mexico Legislature formally established the “Supreme Court Law Library.” The SCLL is the only public law library in New Mexico and fulfills a critical need as the de facto state law library. Its mission is to provide legal information to the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government, the legal community, and the public at large. More specifically, the SCLL aims to increase the public’s ability to access the law equally, address the courts effectively, understand the legal system better, and conduct their affairs in accordance with the principles of law. The SCLL also has a special, distinct mission to support the New Mexico Judiciary’s legal research needs.

In FY2026, the SCLL staff worked diligently to promote, preserve, protect, and provide access to public records and legal information, as well as to increase library collections and services, and to expand public programs, in alignment with the Law Library’s mission and the Supreme Court’s stated goals and objectives, and in ways that benefit its statewide and local service communities. The SCLL provided research materials, reference resources, and reference and research services, with particular expertise in New Mexico law.

### *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.*

The SCLL is freely open to anyone, and 69.72% of the people helped by the Law Library in FY2026 were New Mexicans seeking legal information and assistance. The Law Library also provided an accessible space for the public and court staff to watch the Supreme Court's livestreamed oral arguments—an important part of ensuring vital access to justice for New Mexicans.

## **II. Accomplishments**

The SCLL's responsibilities are statewide in scope and include the provision of reference and research services to a wide variety of constituencies and the maintenance of a large research collection of over 276,358 cataloged volumes.

- A. Responding timely to all requests for information from people who walked in, called, emailed, and mailed for help with legal research, forms, library cards, document delivery, and other library services.** People from across New Mexico (including the judicial, legislative, and executive branches, other libraries, inmates, lawyers and law firms, and members of the public) and from other states and countries contacted the Law Library for reliable information and knowledgeable help with legal questions. 60% of the SCLL's patrons sought help in person at the Reference Desk, indicating that walk-in assistance continued to be the most popular method used by people to contact the Law Library.
- B. Updating the Law Library's collection of print and electronic resources with recent publications and supplements, and enhancing item records in the online catalog.** The State Law Librarian administered the budget to select and purchase library materials and renew subscriptions. The SCLL's subscriptions provided online access to Westlaw, HeinOnline, and the LexisNexis Digital Library's law eBooks to the Judiciary statewide and for public access via the patron computers. The SCLL acquired new print and digital materials from various publishers and updated its searchable Online Public Access Catalog ("OPAC") EOS.Web to maintain the collection and help patrons locate library resources more quickly and easily.
- C. Promoting the Law Library's services and collections and engaging in community outreach, education, and public relations.** State Law Librarian, Stephanie Wilson, was elected Chair of the New Mexico Commission of Public Records in June 2026. The State Law Librarian participated in virtual and in-person meetings of the New Mexico Commission of Public Records, the Supreme Court's Equity & Justice Commission, the Access to Justice Commission's Internet Portal Workgroup, and the First Judicial District Court's Pro Bono Committee. State Law Librarian Wilson was appointed to the West National Collection Service Area Steering Committee for the Federal Depository Library Program in April 2026.
- D. Providing free access to legal information and library services and a safe workspace for all patrons.** Staff administered the Law Library's website by maintaining links to statutes, rules, regulations, legal forms, cases, and other resources for public access, and information for self-represented litigants. 197 patrons used the library's public computers and microfilm scanner for free access to online legal research resources including NMOneSource, Westlaw Patron, HeinOnline, and the LexisNexis Digital Library of law e-Books, as well as for other resources such as the Internet, email, word processing software, and Wi-Fi. 867 patrons visited the library to read books, make copies, print documents, use the study alcoves and tables, watch court hearings, and conduct research in the physical space.

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### III. Highlights

- Staff posted on X (Twitter) and published the SCLL newsletter to connect with patrons.
- Staff guided 41 tours of the Supreme Court Building for the public, schools, community groups, and court staff, including appellate court law clerks and interns, a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice, Leadership Roswell, NM History Museum, Leadership Sandoval, UNM Wild Friends, Leadership Albuquerque, NM Department of Justice, NM State Library, UNM library staff, NM School for the Deaf, NM Office of the State Engineer, and the Conference of Court Public Information Officers.
- The State Law Librarian and Law Librarian 2 presented an educational program “Welcome to the New Mexico Supreme Court” at the New Mexico Library Association Annual Conference in October 2025.
- Staff curated 42 displays to engage visitors and promote library collections. Topics included the 2025 Rule of Law Program, Summer Reading, Resources for Law Clerks, National Constitution & Citizenship Day, Cybersecurity, Food and Farming, NM Legislature, International Day of Women Judges, National Library Week, Mental Health Awareness Month, Law Day, and more.
- Staff attended the virtual Federal Depository Library Program conferences in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.
- The SCLL hosted a graduate library student intern in Spring 2026.
- Staff attended six legal fairs in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, and Taos.
- Staff hosted information and exhibit tables at Law-La-Palooza, the NM State Bar Annual Meeting, the National Judicial Summit, the NM Library Association Annual Conference, and the Meow Wolf Archives Bizarre.
- Staff conducted research and provided materials for the NM State Bar’s *Bar Bulletin Commemorative Edition: Law & Legacy in New Mexico at America’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1776-2026*.
- Staff wrote biographies about New Mexico Supreme Court Justices and conducted research for the Supreme Court’s ongoing project to publish commemorative volumes of opinions written by former justices.
- Staff added the online versions of the Commemorative Appellate Opinions to the SCLL website’s Special Collections page.
- Staff completed a Guide to the Hall of Chief Justices portrait gallery, including a brief history of the New Mexico Supreme Court, the historic Building, the Supreme Court Law Library, and the Hall of Chief Justices. The paper Guide has been printed and made available to the public. Next steps will include adding the digital Guide to the SCLL’s website.
- Staff created lesson plans and educational materials for the Supreme Court’s Rule of Law Program, in which students observe an oral argument in a pending case as part of the Supreme Court’s civic education outreach activities. Next steps will include cataloging and binding print copies of the annual materials for the library collection.

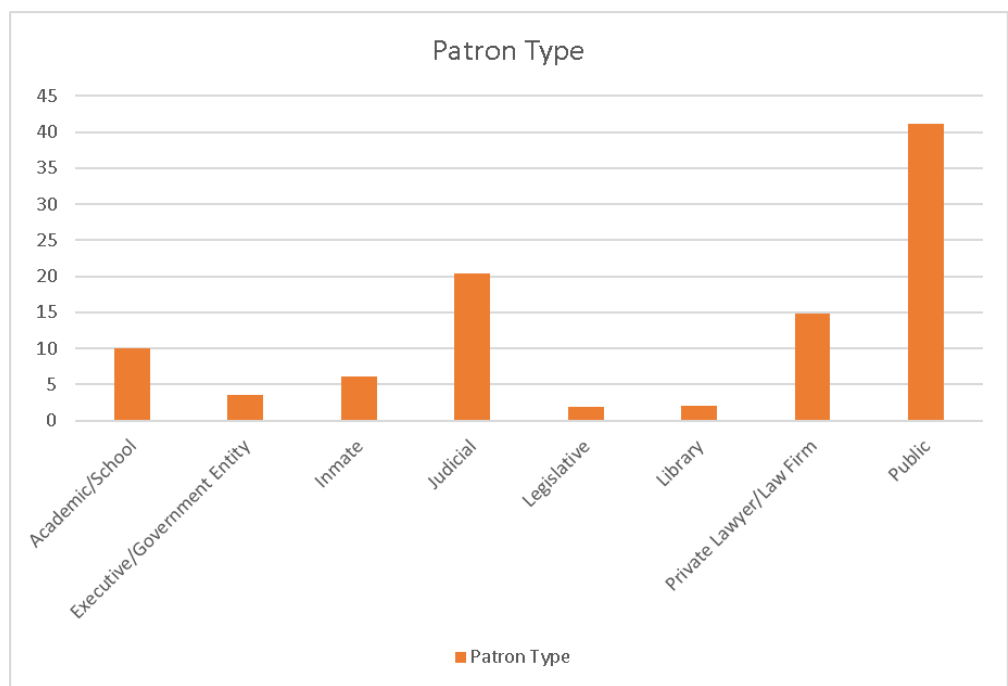
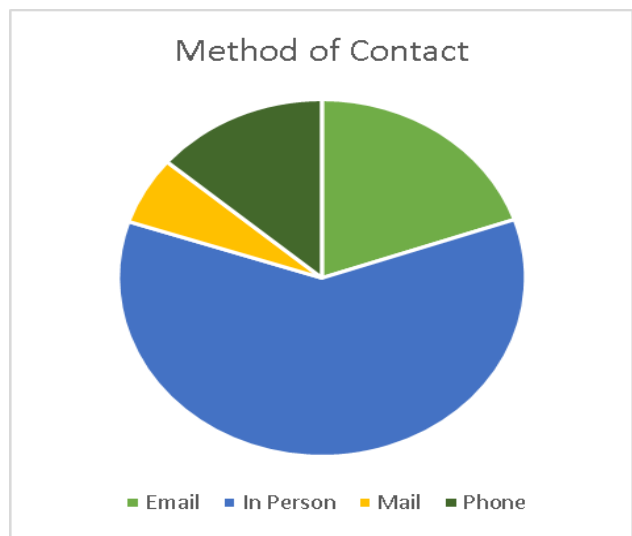


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**IV. Statistical Summary**

- ⇒ 2,583 reference interactions
- ⇒ 162 responses to letters from prisoners
- ⇒ 42 new patrons registered for library cards
- ⇒ 2,194 circulation transactions
- ⇒ 34 interlibrary loan requests
- ⇒ 41 tours provided
- ⇒ 42 displays curated
- ⇒ 142 new titles cataloged
- ⇒ 446 existing titles enhanced and updated in the library catalog
- ⇒ 1,077 new items added to the library catalog
- ⇒ 141.25 staff hours spent updating books (loose-leaf filing and supplements)
- ⇒ 33,070 website views



## 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](mailto: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/>



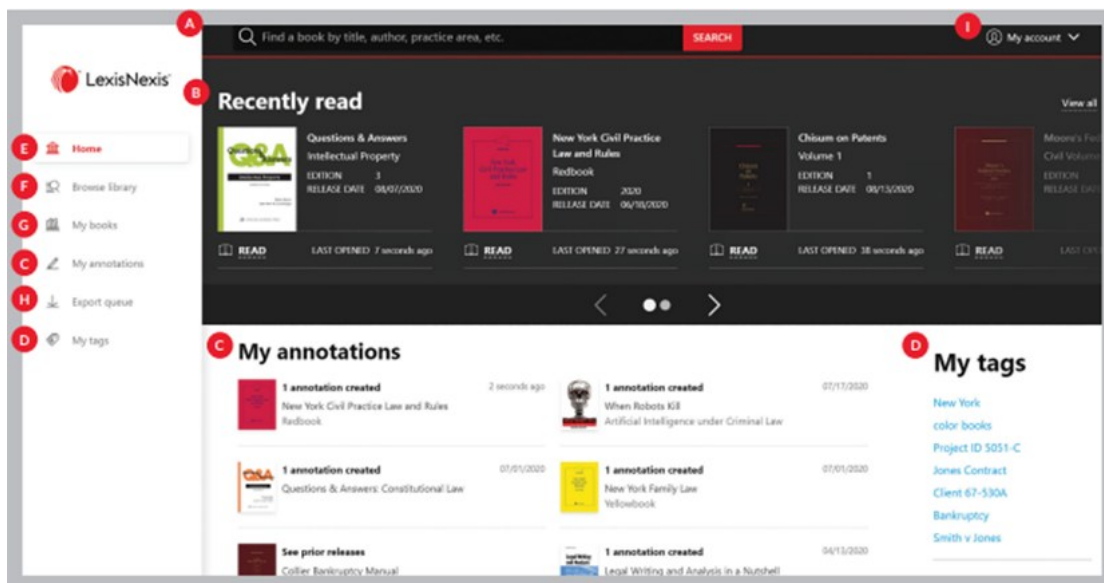
## LIBRARY RESOURCES SPOTLIGHT: LEXISNEXIS DIGITAL LIBRARY

By: Amy Schaefer

Did you know that the Supreme Court Law Library’s subscription to the LexisNexis Digital Library (“LNDL”) provides online access to law eBooks 24/7 from anywhere? You can also use the app for easy offline reading, and with the device of your choice. It is easy to sign up, easy to use, and available to you now! Public patrons will need to have a Supreme Court Law Library card account in good standing, and to fill out a [registration form](#). Judges and employees within the New Mexico Judiciary can fill out a registration form or contact the Law Library to request access.

The LexisNexis Digital Library eBook platform, powered by OverDrive, gives you anytime access to expert treatises and other content. Most of the LexisNexis digital eBook titles are also available as print books in our collection. The interactive platform helps you research more efficiently by offering full-text search capability and shareable notes. You can also highlight, annotate, and bookmark the text, and the notes you take are always available to you. LNDL provides each user with a customized homepage that allows you to easily resume your work from wherever you left off. As you read eBooks, take notes, and add personal tags, your home page populates. The homepage includes:

- A. A search bar that enables you to find eBooks by title, author, or practice area within your collection.
- B. A list of recently read eBook titles that appear front and center for quick access.
- C. Your “My annotations” area shows you the most recent eBooks in which you have added notes and highlights. To view all annotations, click the “Go to My annotations” link or “My annotations” in the left navigation bar.
- D. Your “My tags” area displays all the titles you have tagged for easy access.
- E. Home brings you back to the main page.
- F. Browse library allows you to view curated collections, sort by relevance, or browse by filter.
- G. “My books” displays your history as well as shared, expiring, and downloaded titles.
- H. Your Export queue makes it easy to view all selected annotations and to select and export passages.
- I. “My account” includes features like download settings, help, and sign out.



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There are many titles in the LNDL collection and with so many great features, a LNDL account may help make your work more mobile and efficient. Popular available titles include: Moore's Federal Practice, Bender's Forms of Discovery, Powell on Real Property, Larson's Workers' Compensation Law, and New Mexico Workers' Compensation Laws and Regulations. Preview a title list [here](#) or visit our online [Library catalog](#). Registration is easy! To request access to the LexisNexis Digital Library, contact the Law Library at 505-827-4850, email at [libref@nmcourts.gov](mailto:libref@nmcourts.gov), visit the Law Library's [online resources page](#), or walk-in during regular business hours Monday-Friday 8-12 and 1-5. For more information about the Law Library, visit our [website](#). ♦

## **New Mexico Workers' Compensation Laws and Regulations**

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New Mexico Workers' Compensation Laws and Regulations, Rel. EB25-26E Ch. 52

• Ch. 52 »

### **CHAPTER 52 WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

#### **Article**

1. Workers' Compensation
2. Subsequent Injuries [Repealed and Recompiled.]
3. Occupational Disease Disablement
4. Health Care Providers
5. Workers' Compensation Division
6. Group Self-Insurance
7. Workers' Compensation Oversight Committee, [Repealed.]
8. Self-Insurers' Guarantee Fund Act
9. Employers Mutual Company
10. Release of Medical Records

# WHAT IS LOOSE-LEAF?

By: Cassandra Wenzel

The Supreme Court Law Library maintains a variety of material types to serve its patrons. These formats include print and digital, but also different types of print and digital items. One of the kinds of books that the library uses is loose-leaf, also spelled looseleaf. Law Library staff work to keep loose-leaf books up-to-date and usable by Library patrons.

Loose-leafs are sometimes what librarians describe as a continuing resource, or what the Library of Congress [describes](#) as “publications issued over time under the same title and with no predetermined conclusion”. However, it can also be an integrating resource, which the [Program for Cooperative Cataloging](#) defines as a “resource that is added to or changed by means of updates that do not remain discrete but are integrated into the whole.” Regardless of whether a loose-leaf title is a continuing or integrating resource, the definition provided by Lembke and Beck in [Cataloging Legal Literature](#), stating, “A unit of extent consisting of one or more sheets bound or fastened together to form a single unit in such a way that individual sheets can be easily removed or replaced, and new sheets added.” provides an overview of what loose-leafs are. In short, these items are updated with pages that are loose prior to their insertion into the book or binder. These updates help keep the title up-to-date and the removed pages are typically recycled or discarded, rather than being retained.

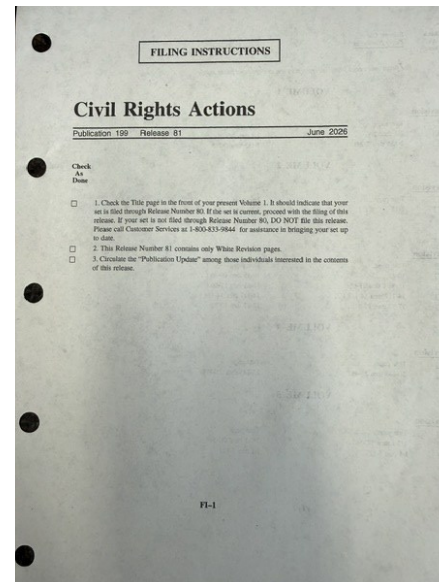


Image of loose-leaf title filing instructions, first page.

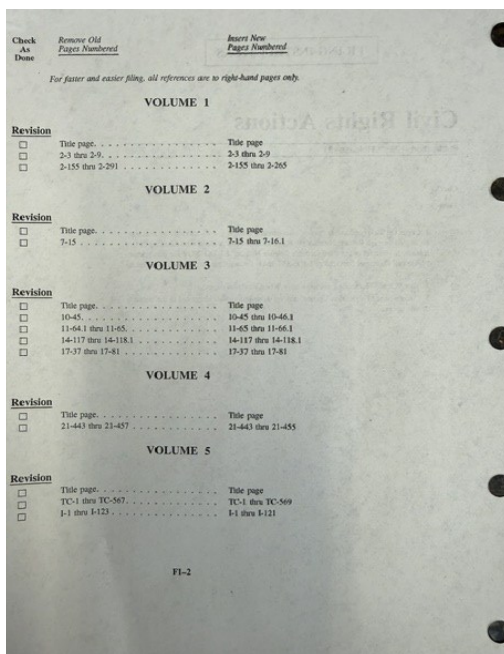


Image of a loose-leaf title filing instruction, second page, showing pages to be removed and added.

The Supreme Court Law Library keeps statistics on the number of loose-leaf books updated by our staff during each fiscal year. During Fiscal Year 2026 (July 2025 through June 2026), we spent approximately 140.75 hours updating loose-leaf titles. Put another way, 140 hours and 45 minutes is over 5 days of work (5.864583 days) managing this one aspect of the Law Library’s collection. This includes removing material according to the filing instructions provided by the publishers, checking for accuracy in filing, and noting any previously missing material to ensure the books are maintained properly and accurately. Loose-leaf books comprise a large part of the Law Library’s legal treatise collection. The Law Library could not provide many of its current legal resources in print to patrons without looseleaf books. In addition, the [LexisNexis Digital Library](#) collection allows the Law Library to provide many of these looseleaf titles as eBooks, too.

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To search for loose-leafs and other books, patrons can use the [Online Library Catalog](#). Patrons who have questions about loose-leafs or other types of items or services that the Supreme Court Law Library offers can [contact](#) the Law Library in person, on the phone, or online. For more information about a variety of topics, check the Library's [Special Titles lists](#) and the [website](#). ♦

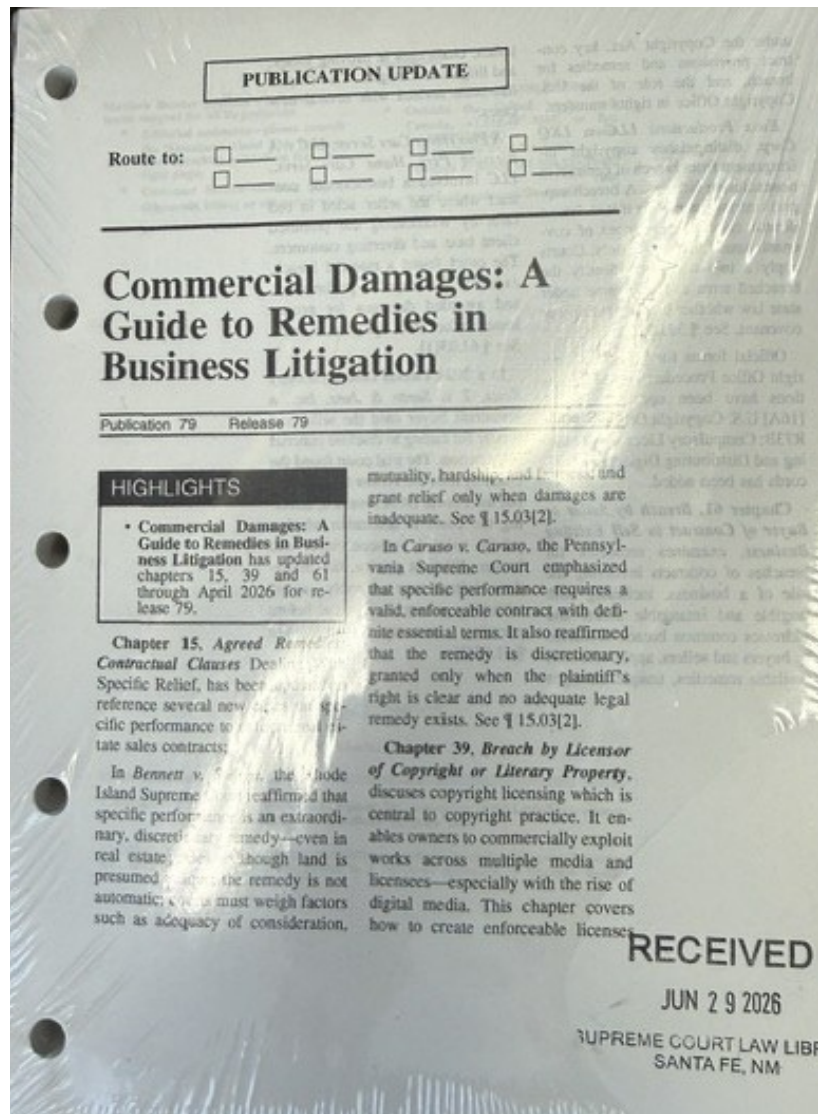


Image of a loose-leaf title in full packaging with publication update describing what changed in the new release.

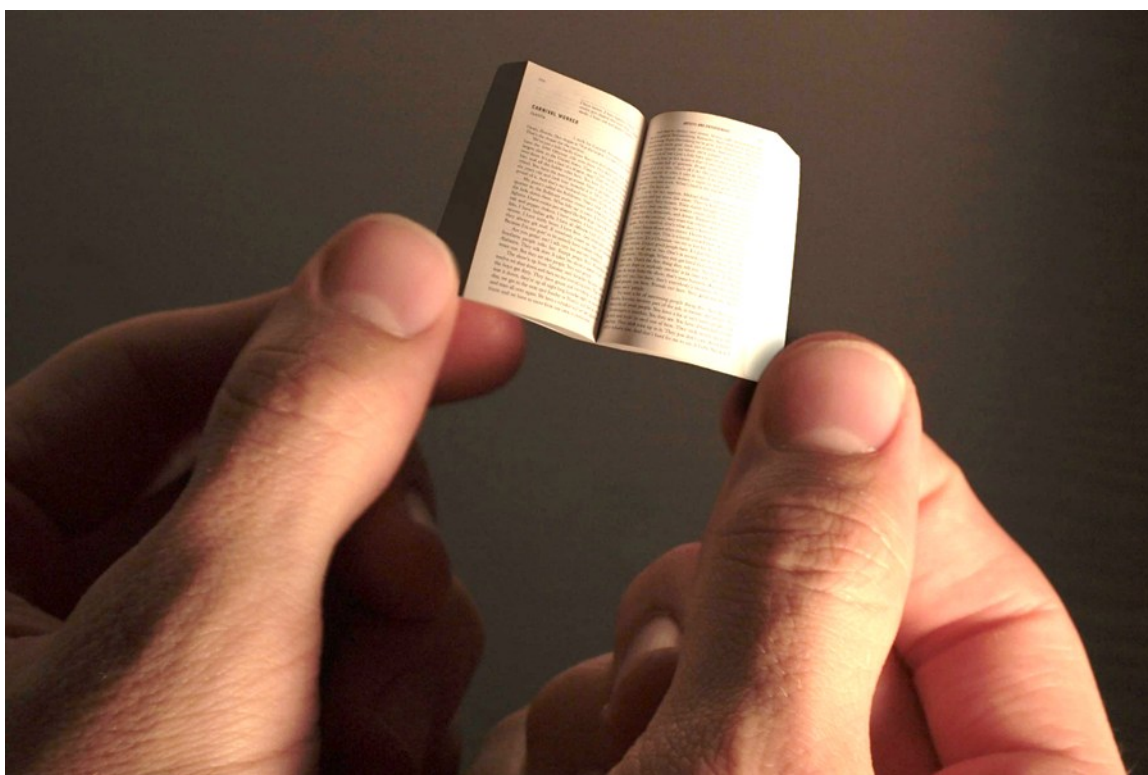
## LITTLE BOOKS OF LAW

By: Kendra Patlak

Within its print collection, the Supreme Court Law Library has several distinct treatise series from a variety of publishers. For example, one of this month's displays features the "Little Book" series, which is published by the American Bar Association. *See Library Displays*.

Small softcover books, these "concise and accessible guides" provide "a practical understanding of the law in an engaging and user-friendly format." LexisNexis, *Five Law Books to Read this Summer from the American Bar Association* (June 10, 2024), <https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/insights/legal/law-books/b/law-books/posts/our-top-five-book-choices-for-summer-from-800-american-bar-association-titles>. Intended for "individuals, professionals, and students," this series spans "various legal topics – including but not limited to BBQ, boating, golf, wine, and fishing." *Id.* Generally, each book contains "real-life examples, relevant case examples, and practical tips." *Id.*

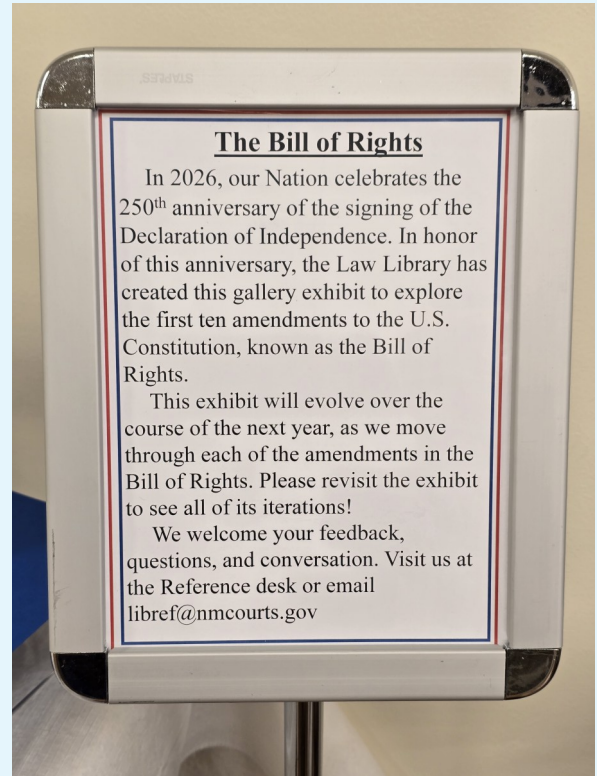
If you need to introduce yourself to or familiarize yourself with a particular practice area ([Elvis law](#), perhaps?), consider picking up one of these books at the Law Library. You can find much of the "Little Book" series in a Special Titles List [here](#). ♦



Source: [flickr](#).

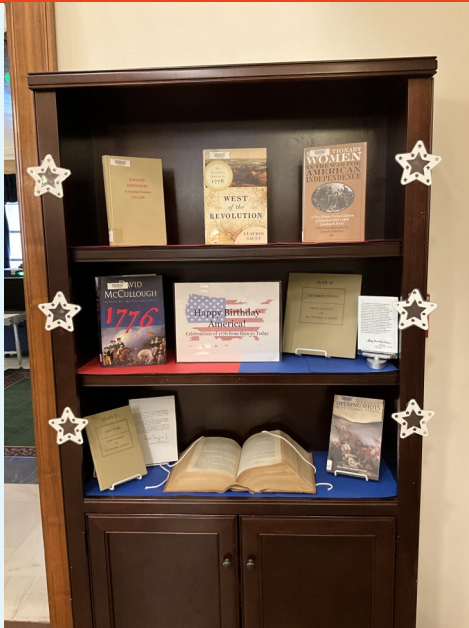
## GALLERY EXHIBIT IN THE LAW LIBRARY— “The Bill of Rights”

The Law Library’s current Gallery Exhibit on the 2d floor highlights the Federal Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution). Approximately every 2 months, we will move to the next amendment or group of amendments (a few amendments are grouped together either because they have less written about them or because they work well as a pair). Some books that are relevant to the Bill of Rights as a whole will remain on display. Books and display items that are specific to an amendment will change. For the First Amendment, the Library staff created signs illustrating notable case law from the U. S. Supreme Court.



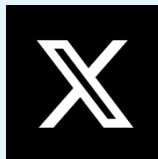
## BOOK DISPLAYS IN THE LAW LIBRARY— in July

**Top left: Happy Birthday America (1st floor); Top right: Little Books of Law (1st floor); Bottom left: NM History & Culture (2d floor); Bottom right: Summer Books (2d floor)**



**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](mailto:libref@nmcourts.gov)  
Web: [lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov](http://lawlibrary.nmcourts.gov)**