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Redwood City, CA 94063  
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April 23, 2015

**BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**LAW LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda are available for public inspection at the Law Library during normal business hours.*

*Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact the Law Library at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the Law Library to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and materials related to it.*

*Members of the public may be heard on any item on the Agenda. Persons addressing the Board will be limited to five minutes unless the President of the Board grants a longer period of time. The Board will only allow comments by members of the public on an item on the agenda during discussion of the item.*

**THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015, 12:15 P.M.**

**AMENDED AGENDA**

1. **CLOSED SESSION**

- a. The Board will meet in closed session to discuss fiscal year 2015-2016 budget issues as they relate to staffing levels. At the conclusion of the closed session, the Board will report on any action(s) taken in closed session for which a report is required by law.

2. **REGULAR SESSION**

- a. Report of any action taken in closed session for which a report is required by law.
- b. Approval of Minutes of the March 26, 2014 meeting (see original agenda)
- c. Acceptance of Report of Expenses for Period 9 (March) of FY 2014-2015 (see original agenda)
- d. Informational Updates:
  - West Group and Lexis/Matthew Bender Library Maintenance Agreements negotiations (see original agenda)
  - Draft of Here-Say article for San Mateo County Bar Association (page 1)
- e. Report of the San Mateo County Bar Association
- f. Public open comment

3. ADJOURNMENT

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015**

**Mark Your Calendar!**

**2015 San Mateo County Law Library Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule:**

- May 28, 2015
- June 25, 2015
- No meeting in July
- August 27, 2015
- September 24, 2015
- October 22, 2015
- December 10, 2015

- DRAFT -

Article for San Mateo County Bar Association Here-Say publication

Next year, 2016 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the San Mateo County Law Library here in Redwood City. Unfortunately, there is little to celebrate. Due to the current funding crisis, 2016 will ironically also mark the last year of operation of the Law Library; the Law Library will be without sufficient funds to operate and remain open as a valuable legal resource for local attorneys and the general public.

Per the California Business & Professions Code, the California public law libraries rely almost exclusively upon revenue generated from civil court filings. Here in San Mateo County, filing income accounts for 96% of the Law Library's revenue. The remaining 4% is generated from our photocopier, overdue fees, and conference room rentals.

Filing fee income has dropped dramatically in the past several years, as much as 50% over the past 5 years, resulting in the lowest income received by the Law Library since February 2002. Accounting for inflations, our income is now equivalent to revenue of the 1970s. Unfortunately, operation costs, staff salaries, and print/electronic subscriptions have continued to rise over the past 40 years; they have not remained at 1970 rates.

In order to stay solvent, the San Mateo County Law Library has eliminated a substantial portion of our print and electronic resources in the past several years. In fact, we no longer have any current print or electronic materials in several key areas of law, such as bankruptcy, tax, foreclosure law, and MCLE audio tapes to name a few. This is a substantial loss of valuable resources to local attorneys and the public seeking access to justice

Unfortunately, revenue continues to drop and the Law Library continues to run a substantial deficit that will result in our closure in 2016 without even more substantial cuts. At present, the Law Library anticipates staff layoffs in the next two months and a reduction of 16 hours per week from our open business hours. Additionally, 30% of all our Matthew Bender titles and 50% West Group titles will be dropped as well as our LexisNexis electronic subscription. Even with these cuts, we will continue to run a deficit without an increase in filing fee income in the months ahead. In short, we are in desperate need of additional funding and support or a new source of funding in order to keep our doors open to the local attorneys and public into our second century.

Andrew Gurthet  
Director, San Mateo County Law Library