



# Library Briefs

January 2009

## Welcome to the 124th Legislature

As we begin the new session

The Law Library extends a warm welcome to new and returning members of the 124th Legislature and to new legislative staff. We anticipate seeing many new faces in the halls and in the Law Library. We enjoy what we do and look forward to putting our skills and resources to work to meet your information needs.

## Research Services

Got a question you need help with?

The Law Library has a staff of librarians specially trained, and with many years of experience, in researching legal and legislative information. We can help refine your question and then identify and retrieve appropriate resources to meet your needs. You may contact a reference librarian whenever the Legislature is in session by:

- stopping by the Reference Desk,
- e-mailing us at *lawlib.reference@legislature.maine.gov*, or
- phoning us at 287-1600 and asking for the Reference Desk.

Just let us know what you need and we will have it ready or deliver it to you as soon as we can, any way we can!

## Catalog

So what do we have in our collection?

The Law Library's classified collection includes titles written for the layperson as well as the legal professional and includes treatises, encyclopedias, reports, self-help titles, and historical documents. The Law Library is part of the University's URSUS catalog which is available on the web at <http://ursus.maine.edu>. Items we own have *LEG* in the *Location* field of the catalog record.

## Interlibrary Loans

If we don't own an item you'd like to read—

We have several ways of finding out who does have it and then requesting it for you. The *Interlibrary Loan* (ILL) and the *Requestor* services connect us to libraries across the country. Often items arrive in a day or two via an in-state van delivery service or they may be e-mailed to us within hours. Other items can take much longer, so please let us know if you need an item before a certain date. You may make borrowing requests by contacting a reference librarian as described above.

## Recreational Resources

New audio book titles

The Maine State Library has replaced the audio book collection, housed at the Law and Legislative Reference Library, with about 50 new titles. If you enjoyed the convenience of the audio books collection during the prior legislative session, you



can look forward to some good “listens” again this session. Please stop by to see what’s available.

## *Legislative History*

What is a legislative history and why might it be useful?

Sometimes it might be useful to see the changes made to a particular statutory section over time—to get an idea of how it has evolved and perhaps why certain changes occurred. We can trace any section back to its original enactment, or as far back as is helpful, and identify the individual bills, their enacted amendments, and any accompanying summaries. We can also look for any floor debate on those bills, or for newspaper clippings or testimony submitted at the public hearing, if any exist. It is also sometimes useful to research what changes were proposed but not enacted, and why that happened.

Legislative histories are a major part of our work at the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Our librarians compile legislative history not only for legislators and legislative staff, but also for the judiciary, agencies, and attorneys working with particular statutory provisions.

### **New Library staff member**

*Welcome Elaine  
Apostola!*

Elaine Apostola recently joined the staff of the Maine State Law and Legislative Library, becoming the Principal Law Librarian for Public Services.

Elaine returns to the Statehouse after 21 years as a professional law firm librarian, first at Perkins Thompson in Portland, Maine, and then at Mirick O'Connell in Worcester, Mass. While earning a Master's in Library Science from Simmons College in Boston, Elaine was a reporter assigned to the Augusta and Boston bureaus of United Press International.

Since 1996, she has taught legal research at Northeastern University and other colleges in Central Massachusetts. She is active in the American Association of Law Libraries and a former board member of the Law Librarians of New England.