

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY LAW LIBRARY**

301 WEST FIRST STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3100  
(213) 629-3531 \* FAX (213) 613-1329  
E-MAIL: LACLL@LALAW.LIB.CA.US

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

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RICHARD T. IAMELE, SECRETARY



RICHARD T. IAMELE, LIBRARY DIRECTOR

September 23, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**HEARING ON PROPOSED LAW LIBRARY FEE INCREASE (ALL DISTRICTS)  
(3-VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD AFTER THE PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Approve an increase of \$2.00 in the Law Library component of the civil filing fee from \$14.00 to \$16.00 in the Superior Courts, effective January 1, 2004.
2. Exclude the \$2.00 increase from the definition of "total filing fee" under Government Code Sections 26820.6 and 72055.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The Board of Law Library Trustees of Los Angeles County has approved a resolution to implement provisions of Business and Professions code Section 6322.1(b) to seek an order from the Board of Supervisors increasing the Law Library's component of the civil filing fee in Superior Court from \$14.00 to \$16.00 effective January 1, 2004 in order to defray the expenses of the Law Library (see Attachment A). Business and Professions Code Section 6322.1(b) permits a fee increase for that purpose and authorizes your Board to exclude the \$2.00 increase from the definition of "total filing fee" under Sections 26820.6 and 72055 of the Government Code.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION** (continued)

It has been three years since your Board approved a \$2.00 increase in the Law Library filing fee from \$12.00 to \$14.00, effective January 1, 2001. Since that time the cost of legal publications and general operations have increased faster than increases in revenue (see Attachment B). While the number of lawsuits has begun to increase after a general trend downward (see Attachment C) they still have not recovered to the volume of 1997/98. Yet during this period of decline there has been no corresponding decrease in the use of the Law Library's resources. The current filing fee is not adequate to defray the expenses of the Law Library (see Attachment D). The Law Library filing fee in Los Angeles County is one of the lowest in the State (see Attachment E). Business Professions Code Section 6322.1(b) permits a fee increase in such a situation.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

An increase to \$16.00 is expected to raise \$812,000 annually for the Law Library. Because the increase will take effect on January 1, 2004, the Library will only receive five (5) months of income in Fiscal Year 2003/2004, a total of \$338,000. There will be no increase in revenue to the general fund. The increase must be used to offset increased Law Library expenses. Because the increase is excluded from the definition of the "total filing fee" in Government Code Sections 26820.6 and 72055, there will be no reduction in the portion of the civil filing fee due to the County, the State, the courts or any other agency.

The filing fee increase will have no effect on the County budget since the filing fee is paid by litigants.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Los Angeles County Law Library is a local government agency established by State law, which is not part of County government. It is a public law library serving judges, government officials, attorneys and residents of the county. Eighty-six percent (86%) of its funding comes from a portion of the civil filing fee in the Los Angeles Superior Court. It receives no funding from the County, State, Federal or City governments.

A public hearing is required pursuant to Government Code Section 66018 prior to the approval of an increase to an existing fee.

A notice of public hearing has been published by the Executive Office in accordance with Section 6062a, as required by Section 66018 of the Government Code.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Counsel's Office.

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**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

An increase in the law library filing fee will enable the Law Library to continue to provide first class legal collections and services to the residents of the County, and will help close a \$902,000 deficit in Fiscal Year 2003/2004. The Board of Law Library Trustees has recently increased service fees, reduced operating hours at the Main Library and the Branch Libraries, reduced book collections in the Branch Libraries, increased security deposits, and instituted new fees, including annual borrowing fees/dues. The revenue from a \$2.00 filing fee increase, together with the other measures already taken, is a critical component in closing the deficit. If an increase is not approved, the Board of Law Library Trustees will be faced with more difficult choices, all of which will affect the residents of the County. These include further reductions in operations and collections, and the closing of a minimum of three Branch Libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard T. Iamele  
Law Library Director and Secretary of the  
Board of Law Library Trustees

RTI:tg

Attachments ( 6 )

cc: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Auditor-Controller

## ATTACHMENT A

### **RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF LAW LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AT ITS SPECIAL MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2003**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is empowered by Section 6322.1, subsection (b) of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California to increase the Law Library Filing Fee over ten dollars (\$10) by no more than two dollars (\$2), if it excludes the increase from the definition of "total filing fee" under Sections 26820.6 and 72055 of the Government Code of the State of California, for each event provided in Sections 6321 and 6322 of the Business and Professions Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is empowered by Section 6322.1, subsection (c) of the Business and Professions Code to make any increase in the Law Library Filing Fee effective January 1 of the year next following adoption by the Board of Supervisors; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Law Library Filing Fee is not sufficient to defray the expenses of the Law Library; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the finding of the Board of Law Library Trustees of Los Angeles County that a fee increase of two dollars (\$2) in the Superior Court. is needed in order to defray the expenses of the Law Library;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles is requested to order that the filing fee for the Law Library be increased to sixteen dollars (\$16) in the Superior Court for each event described in Sections 6321 and 6322 of the Business and Professions Code of the State of California, effective January 1, 2004; and

**BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County exclude the two dollars (\$2) increase from the definition of "total filing fee" under Sections 26820.6 and 72055 of the Government Code of the State of California.,

## ATTACHMENT B

### COMPARISON OF 2000/2001 (Year of Last Increase) TO BUDGETED 2003/2004

	00-01	03-04	Difference	% Change
FILING FEE REVENUE	5,114,000	5,684,000	570,000	11.10%
TOTAL REVENUE	6,276,000	6,623,500	347,500	5.50%
OPERATING EXPENSES	6,269,000	7,491,350	1,222,350	19.50%
EQUIPMENT EXPENDITURES	46,000	35,000	-11,000	-23.90%
BOOK EXPENDITURES	2,372,000	2,693,550	321,550	13.60%

## ATTACHMENT C

### COURT FILINGS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

	Probate	Family	Motor Vehicle P.I.	Other P.I.	Other Civil	Limited	Total All Filings
1989-90	19,194	40,909	35,348	18,079	26,082	226,424	366,036
1990-91	17,350	39,823	33,178	16,071	28,537	230,553	365,512
1991-92	16,782	39,865	26,917	17,519	30,354	244,873	376,310
1992-93	14,513	36,351	17,755	15,729	27,954	217,341	329,643
1993-94	14,322	36,855	14,739	13,823	28,206	197,975	305,920
1994-95	14,104	37,107	13,791	11,973	28,172	204,404	309,551
1995-96	13,628	38,026	14,578	11,092	28,312	197,789	303,425
1996-97	12,654	37,501	12,332	8,476	31,649	200,880	303,492
1997-98	12,272	35,706	11,928	9,625	29,489	198,989	298,009
1998-99	12,498	36,025	11,928	8,995	29,028	187,709	286,183
1999-00	12,997	36,551	12,226	8,933	28,507	168,156	267,370
2000-01	12,691	38,850	14,851	9,956	29,820	177,149	283,317
2001-02	12,941	40,468	15,358	10,183	33,901	184,679	297,530

## ATTACHMENT D

### LAW LIBRARY REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES 1991/92 TO 2003/2004

	<b>Filing Fee Revenue</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Over/(Under)</b>
<b>1991/92*</b>	<b>5,666,000</b>	<b>6,698,000</b>	<b>5,244,000</b>	<b>1,454,000</b>
<b>1992/93</b>	<b>5,202,000</b>	<b>6,161,000</b>	<b>5,873,000</b>	<b>288,000</b>
<b>1993/94</b>	<b>4,776,000</b>	<b>5,694,000</b>	<b>5,804,000</b>	<b>(110,000)</b>
<b>1994/95</b>	<b>4,520,000</b>	<b>5,523,000</b>	<b>5,689,000</b>	<b>(166,000)</b>
<b>1995/96</b>	<b>4,452,000</b>	<b>5,471,000</b>	<b>5,649,000</b>	<b>(178,000)</b>
<b>1996/97**</b>	<b>4,571,000</b>	<b>5,542,000</b>	<b>5,692,000</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>
<b>1997/98</b>	<b>4,834,000</b>	<b>5,811,000</b>	<b>5,815,000</b>	<b>(4,000)</b>
<b>1998/99</b>	<b>4,919,000</b>	<b>6,033,000</b>	<b>6,067,000</b>	<b>(34,000)</b>
<b>1999/00</b>	<b>4,854,000</b>	<b>5,961,000</b>	<b>6,114,000</b>	<b>(153,000)</b>
<b>2000/01***</b>	<b>5,114,000</b>	<b>6,276,000</b>	<b>6,315,000</b>	<b>(39,000)</b>
<b>2001/02</b>	<b>5,881,000</b>	<b>6,890,000</b>	<b>6,624,000</b>	<b>266,000</b>
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>5,669,000</b>	<b>6,594,000</b>	<b>7,175,000</b>	<b>(581,000)</b>
<b>2003/04****</b>	<b>5,684,000</b>	<b>6,623,000</b>	<b>7,526,000</b>	<b>(903,000)</b>

\* Filing fee increase from \$5 to \$10

\*\* Filing fee increase from \$10 to 12

\*\*\* Filing fee increase from \$12 to \$14

\*\*\*\* Projected

## ATTACHMENT E

### COUNTY LAW LIBRARY FILING FEES 2003 (Arranged by Amount of Fee)

County	Law Library Fee	County	Law Library Fee
Sacramento	38	Tuolumne	23
Santa Barbara	32	Yolo	23/21/13
San Luis Obispo	31	Lake	23/18
Humboldt	30	Monterey	22.50/20/20
San Francisco	30	Kings	22
San Mateo	29.5	Amador	20
Marin	29	Del Norte	20
San Diego	29	Glenn	20
Alameda	28	Imperial	20
Butte	26	Inyo	20
Madera	26	Mariposa	20
Mendocino	26	Merced	20
Orange	26	Modoc	20
Placer	26	Mono	20
Santa Clara	26	Napa	20
Santa Cruz	26	Nevada	20
Siskiyou	26	Plumas	20
Solano	26	San Benito	20
Sonoma	26	San Joaquin	20
Tulare	26	Shasta	20
Ventura	26	Sierra	20
Fresno	26/23/23	Tehama	20
Calaveras	26/21/18	Colusa	20/12/12
Lassen	25	Kern	18
Contra Costa	23	Stanislaus	15
El Dorado	23	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>14</b>
Riverside	23	Alpine	12 average
San Bernardino	23	Yuba	7
Trinity	23	Sutter	7 & 3 & 3

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Board of Supervisors regarding increasing the Law Library portion of the civil filing fee from \$14 to \$16 in the Superior Court effective January 1, 2004 and excluding the increase from the definition of the "total filing fee" in Government Code Sections 26820.6 and 72055.

Said hearing will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ at 9:30 a.m., in the Hearing Room of the Board of Supervisors, Room 381B, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street (corner of Temple Street and Grand Avenue), Los Angeles, California 90012.

The Board of Supervisors will consider and may adopt the fee schedule. Further, notice is given that the Board of Supervisors may continue this hearing from time to time.

Written comments may be sent to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors at the above address. If you do not understand this notice or need more information, please call (213) 629-3531, ext. 319.

Si no entiende esta noticia o si necesita mas informacion, favor de llamar a esta numero (213) 629,ext. 319.

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VIOLET VARONA-LUKENS, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Los Angeles