

The Library of the United States Courts for the First Circuit

John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse 1 Courthouse Way, Suite 9400
Boston, MA 02210
Phone: (617) 748-9044

Access

First Circuit United States Court of Appeals [Local Rule 46\(d\)](#)

The law library of this court shall be open to members of the Bar, to the United States Attorneys of the Circuit and their assistants, to other law officers of the government, and persons having a case in this court, but books may be removed only by government employees, who shall sign therefor.

The library is a selective Federal Depository Library. Government documents in the print collection and online are provided.

The library is open to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., unless otherwise posted. All patrons must sign in upon entering the library.

The library provides Internet and word-processing for use by the public. The standard daily time limit is two hours. The library does not provide public access to fee-based information databases, or PACER.

Attorneys may bring their laptops and mobile devices into the library. Wireless internet service is available. Other members of the public may bring a laptop or tablet into the library *with prior permission*. Call ahead to speak to library staff for assistance. The necessary form will be prepared and left at the court security desk at the entrance to the courthouse.

Conduct

Library patrons are expected to comply with all library rules and to engage in acceptable conduct. Court Security Officers will be called to assist the library staff as needed.

The following conduct in the library is prohibited:

- Stealing, damaging, altering, or inappropriately using government property.
- Physically or verbally threatening or harassing library staff or other patrons.
- Trespassing in non-public areas of the library.
- Refusing to leave the library at closing time or remaining in the library without permission after closing time.
- Creating a disturbance by constantly making noise, talking loudly (including cell phone use), or engaging in other disruptive behavior.
- Interfering with another patron's privilege to use the library or with the ability of the library staff to perform their duties.

- Soliciting legal advice from court staff or other library patrons.
- Using the library while barefoot, shirtless, or otherwise attired so as to disturb the library environment.
- Exhibiting offensive odors, lack of personal hygiene or other conditions that may be disruptive to the library environment or health of other patrons and library staff.
- Consuming food in public areas of the library. Food will be confiscated by library staff. Note: Beverages in spill resistant containers are allowed in the library except in the public computer area.

Services Provided To Public Patrons

Library staff can:

- Locate publicly available court information and materials.
- Provide basic instruction in use of the library catalog and legal research materials.
- Provide basic reference information.
- Locate and/or verify citations.
- Provide basic instruction for using the photocopier, public access computers, and microform machines.
- Suggest other libraries to contact for materials we do not own.

Library staff cannot:

- Provide legal advice, opinions, or interpret any laws or legal documents.
- Assist with preparation of cases or legal forms.
- Provide in-depth reference service or access to fee-based information databases.
- Check out library materials or borrow items from other libraries for public patrons.
- Photocopy or make telephone calls for patrons.
- Allow use of office equipment, telephones or supplies.

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