

The Library of the United States Courts for the First Circuit

John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse
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Boston, MA 02210
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Boston Library

According to 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.” Members of the public may use the library but have no borrowing privileges. The library is a selective Federal Depository Library. Government documents in the print collection, and online are provided.

Public Hours

The library is open to the public Monday through Friday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Use of the Boston Library

Persons using the library must sign in at the front desk. All library rules of conduct for use of the reading areas, collections and equipment must be followed.

Court Librarians cannot give legal advice, nor assist with filling out forms.

Public Access Computers (PACs). The library provides computers for use by public patrons and court staff. Internet access and word-processing software are provided. The standard daily time limit per user is two hours. A shared printer is available. A single print job must not exceed 50 pages. As a courtesy, the library provides up to ten sheets of paper the first time a person needs to print. A patron must provide their own paper for future printing.

Staff may adjust the time limit, e.g., in anticipation of closing, to allow other patrons the opportunity to use a computer, or to allow maintenance or repair of the computer. The library does not provide public access to Lexis Advance, Westlaw or PACER. If a person has a personal password to those systems, they can use one of the public computers to connect.

Laptop Computers/Tablets in the Library. Court personnel and attorneys may bring their laptops or tablet devices into the library. Wireless internet service is available. Other individuals are permitted to bring a laptop or tablet device to the library with *prior permission*. Call ahead to speak to a staff member for assistance. The necessary form will be prepared and left at the court security desk at the entrance to the courthouse. You will then be allowed to bring your device through security.

Circulation. Only court personnel and personnel from the Office of the United States Attorney for Massachusetts may borrow books.

Photocopying. A copier is available only for copying pages from books within the Library's collection. As a courtesy, ten sheets of paper per day are provided for this copying.

Cell Phone Use. Cell phones are permitted in the library if the use does not disturb other persons. For confidentiality or privacy reasons, it is recommended that cell phones be used in the public atrium area just outside the Library's main entrance. Public telephones are located on the Second Floor of the courthouse, outside the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts.

Library Rules. Food is prohibited in the Library. Beverages must be in a closed container. All items in the library are the property of the United States Government. Action will be taken for damaging or defacing books, furniture, or equipment. Library rules of conduct must be followed, and are posted in various locations in the library.

Revised 2/13/2026