

For Pro Bono Attorneys

Public Law Library Services during the Pandemic—Remote Access to Resources

Attorneys who volunteer their time to assist those in need will find public law libraries eager to assist. Library support may involve access to helpful legal research resources, especially for the attorney who takes pro bono clients with issues outside the attorney's practice area.

Pro bono attorneys may contact the following law libraries about remote access to resources:

Minnesota State Law Library—651-297-7651

Hennepin County Law Library--612-348-2903

Ramsey County Law Library--651-266-8391

Pro bono attorneys in other metro area counties should also contact their local public law library to learn what resources they provide. A full directory of county law libraries is provided here:

<https://mn.gov/law-library/research-links/county-law-libraries.jsp>

Remote access to online legal research

Thomson Reuters has extended remote access to Westlaw during the pandemic. The Minnesota State Law Library, Hennepin County Law Library, and Ramsey County Law Library can help attorneys with remote access Westlaw. Attorneys may contact any of the law libraries for instructions. It's not known how long Thomson Reuters will offer remote access via public law libraries.

Other Remote Services

Minnesota State Law Library-- Reference services include email reference and emailing resources from Westlaw, Lexis, HeinOnline, National Consumer Law Center, and print resources like the MNCLE Deskbooks.

Hennepin County Law Library—also offers temporary offsite access to Lexis. Reference services also include research assistance and emailing resources from the library's extensive practitioner-oriented collection. For pro bono efforts around rebuilding after last summer's unrest, the library has robust construction and insurance law collections. Pro bono attorneys in Hennepin County may talk to library director Karen Westwood about getting member access, which allows attorneys access to Hein Online and Wolters Kluwer titles from their offices. This also goes for legal nonprofits.

Ramsey County Law Library—Pro bono attorneys may contact the library for documents that can be sent via email. This includes text from Minnesota Practice Series and Lexis Minnesota titles.

Other online resources—for Minnesota State Bar Association Members

The following online resources are available to MSBA Members: Fastcase for online access to primary legal materials; eBooks; mndocs and practicelaw for online forms templates and practice resources. Attorneys access these resources directly from the MSBA.