

Appendix C

CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

California's county law libraries were organized in 1891 to serve all county residents, the judiciary, state and county officials, and members of the state bar (1891 Cal. Stat. 430). The operation and governance of county law libraries was later codified in [California Business and Professions Code §§ 6300 et seq.](#)¹ Each library is governed by a board of trustees, which is comprised of one to five superior court judges (depending upon the size of the county) and two attorneys appointed annually by a county's board of supervisors.

Collections:

A typical county law library collection will include current and historic California primary (statutes, cases, and regulations) and secondary (treatises, practice guides, and formbooks) resources in print, microfiche, and/or digital formats. The collections of larger county law libraries (those located in or adjacent to larger municipalities) will also include primary and secondary resources from other states and foreign countries as well as special collections of California appellate briefs, self-help legal materials, legislative history documents, historic voter pamphlets, and archival county/municipal codes. Several county law libraries are designated as official depositories of state and federal government publications, which guarantees the availability of selective government publications at the library (in print or a digital equivalent).

Services:

County law libraries offer reference and research assistance (not advice) in person, by phone, and through live chat/remote access. The libraries provide free access to the Internet and to legal databases such as Westlaw, Lexis Advance, Loislaw, Fastcase, etc., as well as software for creating legal pleadings or calculating family support (through Word, Dissomaster, or XSpouse). Many

¹ At the Legislative Counsel's [California Legislative Information](#) Web site, click the California Law tab, select BPC in the Code dropdown box, and enter 6300 in the Section search box. Click Search. Section 6300 will appear. Use the Previous and Next links to move through the sections. For an authenticated copy of the section, click the PDF link.

libraries offer MCLE classes for attorneys, as well as legal research instruction for paralegals and pro se litigants. Almost all California county law libraries offer photocopies of library materials through a fee-based document delivery service and interlibrary loan service with other libraries.

This appendix contains a list of links to California's county law libraries (or court self-help centers, if no county law library exists). The list is divided into two parts: *Southern California* and *Northern California*.² The Northern California section is organized in three parts that coincide with the following regions: (1) the Central Coast, Northern Coast, and the San Francisco Bay Area; (2) the Shasta Cascade; and (3) the combined areas of the Central Valley, Gold Country, and High Sierra.

To locate the county your city resides in, the League of California Cities provides an [alphabetized listing](#) of California's 482 cities and their respective counties, as well as a list of [cities by population rank](#) that provides the county for each city. You might also review the location information posted for each law library provided by the [California County Public Law Libraries](#) Web site. For the counties listed below which do not link to a law library or self-help center, contact your local public library and/or superior court and inquire whether those institutions provide public access to legal materials.

Please consider visiting your county's law library to see what it can do for you. The mission of county law libraries remains the same: to provide free access to legal materials or access to justice.

Contents:

- [*Southern California*](#)
- [*Northern California*](#)
 - [*Central Coast, Northern Coast & San Francisco Bay Area*](#)
 - [*Shasta Cascade*](#)
 - [*Central Valley, Gold Country & High Sierra*](#)

² The [California County Map](#) from the California State Association of Counties may help you to visualize the location of counties in California.

Southern California

This section contains an alphabetical list of the county law libraries located in the following ten counties: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

[Imperial County Law Library](#)

[Kern County Law Library](#)

[LA Law Library](#)

[Orange County Public Law Library](#)

[Riverside County Law Library](#)

[Law Library for San Bernardino County](#)

[San Diego Law Library](#)

[San Luis Obispo County Law Library](#)

[Santa Barbara County Law Library](#)

[Ventura County Law Library](#)

Northern California

Central Coast, Northern Coast, and San Francisco Bay Area

This section lists the law libraries for the following fifteen counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

[Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library](#)

[Contra Costa County Public Law Library](#)

Del Norte County ([Self-Help Center](#), Del Norte County Superior Court)

[Humboldt County Law Library](#)

[Marin County Law Library](#)

[Mendocino County Law Library](#)

[Monterey County Law Library](#)

[Napa County Law Library](#)

San Benito County ([Self-Help Center](#), San Benito County Superior Court)

[San Francisco Law Library](#)

[San Mateo County Law Library](#)

[Santa Clara County Law Library](#)

[Santa Cruz County Law Library](#)

[Solano County Law Library](#)

[Sonoma County Law Library](#)

Shasta Cascade

The Shasta Cascade is located in the northeastern part of the state. The area shares borders with Oregon and Nevada. This section lists the law libraries for the following eight counties: Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity.

[Butte County Public Law Library](#)

Lassen County ([Access to Justice Center](#), Lassen County Superior Court)

Modoc County ([Self Help Center](#), Modoc County Superior Court)

[Plumas County Law Library](#)

[Shasta County Public Law Library](#)

[Siskiyou County Public Law Library](#) (in the Yreka Branch of the Siskiyou County Public Library)

[Tehama County Law Library](#)

Trinity County ([Self-Help Center](#), Trinity County Superior Court)

Central Valley, Gold Country, and High Sierra

This section lists the law libraries for the following twenty-five counties, plus the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library in Sacramento: Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kings, Lake, Mariposa, Madera, Merced, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.

Alpine County ([Self Help Services](#), Alpine County Superior Court)

[Amador County Law Library](#)

[Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library](#)

Calaveras County ([Self-Help Legal Center](#), Calaveras County Superior Court)

[Colusa County Law Library](#) (at the Colusa County Free Library)

[El Dorado County Law Library](#)

[Fresno County Public Law Library](#)

Glenn County ([Self-Help Center](#), Glenn County Superior Court, under Willows Court Services section)

Inyo County ([Self-Help Center](#), Inyo Superior Court)

[Kings County Law Library](#)

[Lake County Law Library](#)

Mariposa County ([Self-Help Center](#), Mariposa Superior Court)

[Madera County Law Library](#)

[Merced County Law Library](#)

APPENDIX C: CALIFORNIA'S COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

[Mono County Law Library](#)

[Nevada County Law Library](#)

[Placer County Law Library](#) (Sparks Law Library of Placer County)

[Sacramento County Public Law Library](#)

[San Joaquin County Law Library](#)

Sierra County ([Self-Help Center](#), Sierra County Superior Court)

[Stanislaus County Law Library](#)

Sutter County ([Self-Help Center](#), Sutter County Superior Court)

[Tulare County Public Law Library](#)

[Tuolumne County Law Library](#)

[Yolo County Law Library](#)

Yuba County ([Self-Help Resources](#) and [Self-Help Center](#), Yuba County Superior Court)