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## LAW LIBRARY SERVICE TO PRISONERS 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



State Law Library, Minnesota Judicial Center, Room G25 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-6102 (651) 297-4969

## **2017 Index**

- 9869 DOC inmates (as of 01/01/2017)
- 95 MCF prison visits
- 9459 Estimated miles travelled
- 1282 Inmate interviews
- 2404 Individual inmates assisted
- 36801 Inmate requests processed
- 750 Estimated hours worked by volunteer

The mission of LLSP is to provide law L library service to inmates incarcerated in Minnesota. We do this by providing access to legal materials, both at the correctional facilities and the Minnesota State Law Library (MSLL). Circuit-riding prison law librarians, based at MSLL, conduct monthly visits at eight adult correctional facilities to meet with inmates. Questions that cannot be answered on-site using the prison collections of core legal materials are researched at MSLL. Inmates write or call LLSP for assistance with their legal research. We also provide law library services to Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) inmates housed in other facilities, such as county jails, state hospitals, and other states. In addition, we offer law library service to DOC staff.

LSP, funded by an inter-agency agreement between the State Law Library and the Department of Corrections, began as a pilot project in 1984. Today, the staff includes: full-time librarians Jean Anderson, and Stephanie Thorson, half-time librarian Susan Trombley, a part-time clerk, Deb Kitzman, and volunteer Joan O.

**Overview of 2017.** The Department of Corrections strives to make inmate legal research services and materials as consistent and uniform as possible in all Minnesota correctional facilities. Throughout 2017, the staff of LLSP continued working closely with DOC staff to implement this goal.

LLSP staff created *At A* Glance binders with basic information on the following:

- Case Law Analysis
- FAQ Reference Snippets
- Briefs
- How Laws are Made
- Jurisdiction

Additionally, staff wrote articles for the prison newspapers on the following topics:

- Minnesota Rules
- Black's Law Dictionary
- Pre Charge Delay

**Conclusion.** LLSP's priority is to provide the best possible service at the least possible cost. By educating inmates and providing access to the legal information LLSP provides meaningful legal access.



ABBREVIATIONS FOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES USED ABOVE AND BELOW: FRB - Faribault, LL – Lino Lakes, ML – Moose Lake/Willow River, OPH – Oak Park Heights, RC – Rush City, RW – Red Wing, STC - St. Cloud, SHK – Shakopee, STW – Stillwater, UC/DOC – Minnesota under Contract and Department of Corrections Staff

