

Facility Management

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Facility Management

10-01 COURTROOM STANDARDS

A. Introduction

The Michigan Courthouse Study was published in 1981. That study summarized the results of a two-year inventory and evaluation of state court facilities in Michigan. The project, sponsored by the Judicial Coordinating Committee of the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan, was carried out by the Architectural Research Laboratory of the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Through Administrative Order 1983-2, the Michigan Supreme Court endorsed the use of the study's Design Guidelines for all future construction, remodeling, or renovation of court facilities in the state.

Since the development of the first guidelines, many advances in design and technology have occurred. Current court facility design standards incorporate advancements in building technologies, as well as address the impact of the rapid changes in information technology that affect efficient trial court operations.

The Michigan Court Facilities Standards Project Advisory Committee was appointed to assist the State Court Administrative Office in the review and revision of the prior trial court design guidelines. The update of the 1981 Design Guidelines is intended to again highlight those components of a courthouse that require special consideration in designing a new facility or expanding an existing courthouse.

Facility standards are at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/#facility>.

B. Authority

In Michigan, circuit and probate court facilities are the financial responsibility of county government. (MCL 45.16, MCL 46.7) Depending upon the class type, district court facilities are the financial responsibility of either the county or the political subdivision(s) where the court sits. (MCL 600.8261, MCL 600.8262, MCL 600.8263)

Through Administrative Order 1983-2, the Michigan Supreme Court endorsed the use of the 1981 Design Guidelines for all future construction, remodeling, or renovation of court facilities in the state. Administrative Order 1983-2 can be accessed on-line at <http://courtofappeals.mijud.net/rules/documents/3AdministrativeOrders.pdf>.

10-02 COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

A. Authority

The Legislature shall provide by law for the establishment and support of public libraries which shall be available to all residents of the state under regulations adopted by the governing bodies thereof. All fines assessed and collected in the several counties, townships, and cities for any breach of the penal laws shall be exclusively applied to the support of such public libraries and county law libraries as provided by law. (Const 1963, art 8, § 9)

B. Funding – County Law Library Fund

In each county, the county treasurer shall credit semiannually to a fund to be known as the county law library fund, from the library fund, an amount as follows: (MCL 600.4851[1])

1. In counties having a population of 250,000 or more, but less than 1,000,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$8,500.
2. In counties having a population of 50,000 or more, but less than 250,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$6,500.
3. In counties of 35,000 or more, but less than 50,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$4,500.
4. In counties of 20,000 or more, but less than 35,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$3,500.
5. In counties of 10,000 or more, but less than 20,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$2,500.
6. In counties of less than 10,000 inhabitants, the sum credited shall not exceed for each year \$2,000.

There is no other state funding provided and additional funds, if any, must be supplied by appropriations by the county board of commissioners of the individual counties.

C. Expenditures – Purpose and Approval by Chief Circuit Judge

All money credited to the county law library shall be paid out by the county treasurer only upon the order of the circuit judge in multi-county circuits or upon the order of the presiding judge in single county circuits for the purpose of establishing, operating, and maintaining a law library for the use of the circuit, district, and probate court in the county and for the officers of the courts and persons having business in the courts. (MCL 600.4851[2])

D. Expenditure Report

The county law librarian, or other person as the circuit or presiding judge shall designate, shall make a detailed report before January 2 of each year of the sums expended for books for the county law library. The annual report shall be filed with the county clerk. (MCL 600.4851[3])

E. Minimum Standards for County Law Libraries

The State Court Administrative Office, along with the State Law Library, has approved minimum standards for county law libraries. The standards can be accessed on-line at http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/standards/cllib_stds.pdf.