

# Transcript



The items in our summer display, selected by Leslie LaCount, OCPLL's Technical Services Librarian, and Victoria Garrott-Collins, OCPLL's Government Documents Assistant, features materials received from the Federal Depository Library Program. Many thanks to both for a beautiful display.

Staff also wish to Congratulate and Thank Victoria for all her years of hard work and good-natured patience as the Editor of this newsletter, from 2001 to 2009. Thank You Victoria! 📖

Photograph by Kelsey Chrisley

## HELP FOR SELF-HELPERS

By John Patrick Quigley

In recent years, there have been both public and private efforts to facilitate self help in legal matters by the general public. In this article, we summarize the current help available, which generally *does not give legal advice*, but may help in procedural matters.

### Online Help

The website for the Orange County Superior Court, [www.occourts.org/](http://www.occourts.org/), contains links to local forms and Judicial Council Forms. Local forms are listed alphabetically by title and include "Pleading Paper" (L-0930), which can be used to type material on blank numbered pages. Filled out forms cannot be downloaded, but can be printed out.

The Court website has a link to "I-CAN! LEGAL", which can also be accessed directly at [www.icandocs.org/ca/](http://www.icandocs.org/ca/). It can help

you fill out the forms for Family Law, Guardianship, Harassment, Paternity, Name Change, Small Claims, Evictions, Notice of Motion, Orders to Show Cause, Domestic Violence, and Fee Waivers. It asks you simple questions and puts the answers on the forms in the correct places. It also prints out instructions to tell you what to do with the forms and offers short educational videos.

"I-CAN! E-FILE", at [www.icanefile.org/](http://www.icanefile.org/), performs a similar function for most Federal and State Income Tax Returns (but not State returns alone). Both of these applications are free, funded by various public and private entities.

Our library website, [www.ocpll.org](http://www.ocpll.org), links to our catalog, which can be accessed 24/7. You can also link to "Ask a Librarian", an e-mail reference service, which our librarians will answer within two days. Or you could just call our staff. Another Online Service is "ASKNOW", a consortium of law librarians throughout California, who give real

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time answers to questions (except on holidays) on Monday, from 8 AM to 5 PM & 6 PM to 8 PM, on Tuesday through Thursday, from 8 AM to 6 PM, and on Friday, from 8 AM to 5 PM.

[www.247ref.org/portal/access\\_law3.cfm](http://www.247ref.org/portal/access_law3.cfm)

You could also link to “AskNow” via the Library’s website.

### **Personalized Help at the Superior Court’s Self Help Centers**

Attorneys at these Centers don’t give legal advice, but they’ll help you fill out forms, using online resources where applicable, and give other assistance. They will help you with court cases involving Family Law, Landlord/Tenant, and most California civil matters, plus traffic tickets, and misdemeanor expungements. They have computers with internet access for use by customers, and paper copies of forms and form packets. If your papers are rejected by the Court, it may give you a sheet indicating the problem, and the Self Help Centers can help you correct it.

Family Law and Domestic Violence matters are handled by the Center at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in the City of Orange, (714) 935-7623. Other matters are handled at the Center in the Central Court in Santa Ana, (714) 834-2721, and the brand new Center in the West Court in Westminster, (714) 896-7350. Center hours are 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday, except when the Courts are closed.

Their website, accessible from the above Court website, describes services provided at the Centers in greater detail, and announces workshops at other locations, including one on evictions at our library, every Thursday morning starting at 9 AM. (Bring your summons and complaint, envelopes and stamps, and interpreter, if needed.)

### **Self Help Books in Our Library**

When the Self Help Centers are closed, you may get some assistance from books

in our library. Our books may also give legal advice not offered by the above sources. In any event, before talking with the Attorneys at the Self Help Centers, or any where else for that matter, it might be helpful to educate yourself with one or more of our several self help books.

Most self help books are published by Nolo Press, with a few by Sphinx Publishing. They are grouped together in a “Self Help” section next to the Reference Desk. So that they’re always available to patrons in the library, the books in that section do not circulate, but most have copies in the stacks that can be checked out, if you are members of our library. Many are also available at major general libraries.

The following lists some of the more popular topics, which are shelved in the same order in the self help section as they appear here: Social Security Disability, Credit Repair, Law Forms, Estate Planning & Administration, Partnership, Bankruptcy, Intellectual Property, Employment, Medicare, Immigration, Taxation, Criminal Law, and the following California topics: Conservatorship, Family Law, Adoption, Guardianship, Landlord-Tenant, Deeds, Probate, Corporation, Traffic Tickets, Workers’ Compensation, Power of Attorney & Medical Directives, Small Claims and other Court Procedures.

These books are written specifically for non-lawyers, but are excellent for relatively simple matters. They’re written by California attorneys and are often used by them. If they do not fully address the issues in your problem, please ask at the Reference Desk for referral to more thorough materials.





## Looking at the Web

by Mora Prestinary, Reference Librarian

### Judicial Council of California

- Self Help Center [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/)

In Spanish: Centro de Ayuda  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/)

- California Criminal Record Cleanup  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/crimlaw.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/crimlaw.htm)

- Guardianship  
[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/guardianship/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/guardianship/)

### Miscellaneous

- ABA Legal Help  
[www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/findlegalhelp/home.cfm)

- California Bar Association – List of Pamphlets  
[www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar\\_generic.jsp?cid=10581](http://www.calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=10581)

Most pamphlets are available for downloading in English & Spanish – Click on title to see download options.


- Free Forms [www.allaboutforms.com/](http://www.allaboutforms.com/)

- LawHelp [www.lawhelp.org/](http://www.lawhelp.org/)

- Learn About the Law [public.findlaw.com/](http://public.findlaw.com/)

- Legal Documents <https://npado.org/faq/> This Web site helps people fill out legal documents.

- Nolo.com - Free Legal Information  
[www.nolo.com/](http://www.nolo.com/)

- Pleading Paper (fillable)  
[www.occourts.org/forms/local/1930.pdf](http://www.occourts.org/forms/local/1930.pdf) 

## Ask a Librarian

by Mora Prestinary, Reference Librarian



**Q** Where can I get help with my eviction case?

**A** Staff from the Self-Help Center of Superior Court run a weekly workshop at the Library:

“**Unlawful Detainer Document Preparation & Educational Workshop**”, Every Thursday, beginning at 9 am. Please bring: A copy of the Summons & Complaint, Your own interpreter (if needed), Envelopes & postage stamps

The following websites have excellent information for guidance and links to forms.

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/landten.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/landten.htm)  
Judicial Council of California Self-Help web page on Landlord/Tenant

[www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/index.shtml](http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/index.shtml) Free publication from the California Department of Consumer Affairs:  
“California Tenants - A Guide to Residential Tenant and Landlord Rights and Responsibilities”

[www.fairhousingoc.org/](http://www.fairhousingoc.org/)  
Fair Housing Council of Orange County 

# WHAT'S GOING ON

## @ the Library, @ the Civic Center

### Recent Developments and Proposed New Rules from the California Rules Revision Commission

A CEB "On Demand" Webcast MCLE program, 3 hour MCLE participatory credit, Ethics.

When: Wednesday September 16, 2009  
12 pm to 4 pm.

Where: Orange County Public Law Library

Cost: This webcast MCLE seminar is offered at the Library at No Charge. **Space is Limited & Registration is required by email to:**

[CEBOCLL@ocpll.org](mailto:CEBOCLL@ocpll.org)

Presents current info about what's new with the California Rules Revision Commission. In-depth examination of some key rules of Professional Conduct via discussion of key case developments and recent State Bar and local ethics opinions. Will cover potential changes in the Rules of Professional Conduct and how the changes could affect practice.

A catered lunch will be provided!

Email your **RSVP** to: [CEBOCLL@ocpll.org](mailto:CEBOCLL@ocpll.org)

### Children's Book Drive

The Library is participating in the Orange County Bar Association's Early Childhood Book Drive, to benefit the Orange County Early Literacy Program, in association with the Children & Families Commission of Orange County. The public can drop off new, or gently-used children's books throughout the months of August and September. Drop-Off box at Reference Desk.

### Book Sale

The Library has an ongoing sale of items de-selected from the collections. Includes many favorites such as Court Rules, Nolo press books, directories. Most items are \$5. Located on the shelves directly behind the Reference Desk.

### Unlawful Detainer Document Preparation & Educational Workshop

Every Thursday starting @ 9 AM. See page 3 for details.

### Court of Appeal

The Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, located at 601 W. Santa Ana Boulevard in Santa Ana, is now open for business in the new beautiful marble building on the corner of S.A. Blvd. and Ross. It boasts of Electronic Filing and FAX Filing Pilot Project. It also displays Opinions, Calendars and Court Minutes on its web site: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/4thDistrictDiv3/](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/courtsofappeal/4thDistrictDiv3/)



THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED:  
SEPTEMBER 7, LABOR DAY  
NOVEMBER 11, VETERANS DAY

**Monday-Thursday** 8 am - 8 pm  
**Friday** 8 am - 5 pm  
**Saturday** 9 am - 5 pm

[www.ocpll.org](http://www.ocpll.org)

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