



American Association of Law Libraries
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

SNELLA Southern New England
Law Librarians Association

Senator Toni Harp
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106

Representative John C. Geragosian
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building
Room 2702
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Dan Debicella
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee
Senate Republican Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford CT, 06106

Representative Craig Miner
Ranking Member, Appropriations
Committee
House Republican Office
Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

May 18, 2009

Dear Chairwoman Harp, Chairman Geragosian, Ranking Member Debicella and Ranking Member Miner:

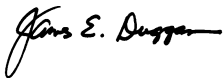
It has come to our attention that the latest version of HB 6365, An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2011, completely eliminates funding for print and electronic resources for all Judicial Branch law libraries in FY 2010 and FY 2011. This particular language is not readily apparent in File Copy 771, the latest version of this bill, but is clearly stated in the Appropriations Committee's JF Report on this bill issued April 2, 2009. Although we understand the difficult budgetary situation Connecticut faces, this proposal would have severe consequences for state court law libraries and their users.

The Southern New England Law Librarians' Association (SNELLA) represents more than 125 law library personnel from Connecticut, Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts. SNELLA is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), a nonprofit educational organization with over 5000 members nationwide. AALL members serve the information needs of the legal community and the public at more than 1900 academic, firm, state, court and county law libraries nationwide. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

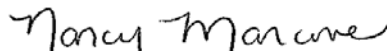
Elimination of funding for Connecticut's Judicial Branch law libraries will profoundly impact the judges, practicing attorneys, court personnel and members of the public who today are able to access the most current print and electronic legal resources by visiting these libraries during business hours at the state's courthouses. Not only will legal books and materials, many of which are subscription based, no longer be updated, but access to important electronic databases such as LegalTrac and HeinOnline will no longer be available. Solo practitioners, attorneys in small firms and pro se litigants will be especially hard hit because they will no longer have access to the legal information they need.

We urge you to restore funding to the court law libraries for FY 2010 and subsequent years. These law libraries are vital to meeting the legal information needs of Connecticut's attorneys, judges and members of the public. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



James E. Duggan
President
American Association of Law Libraries



Nancy Marcove
Vice-President / President Elect
Southern New England Law Librarians' Association