



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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Law Library in Duluth moves to new space; named to honor Alan Mitchell

The St. Louis County Law Library system, a free resource for residents and attorneys dating back 125 years, is about to become more accessible and is taking on a new name at its Duluth location. Representatives of St. Louis County, Minnesota's Sixth Judicial District, the County Attorney's Office and the local Bar Associations will join together Tuesday, August 5, at 2 p.m., for a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

The Law Library in Duluth is now located on the ground floor level of the courthouse. Previously it was on the fifth floor. It's also getting a new name in honor of a longtime County Attorney: the Alan Mitchell Law Library. Mitchell served as County Attorney from 1979 through 2006, and was a strong advocate for the Law Library. Mitchell will attend the dedication ceremony.

In addition to moving to a more accessible location, the Law Library Board has implemented a new program model that staffs the Law Library with an attorney Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota is responsible for staffing through a partnership with the Law Library Board.

"Laws are complex, and the legal process can be confusing at times," said Don Erickson, a member of the Law Library Board of Trustees and an attorney with Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A. "To have convenient access to not only the Law Library's extensive legal collection of books and online resources, but also to a trained professional who can explain the legal language, is a win for the citizens of St. Louis County, as well as the Courts; and the Law Library Board is pleased to have made this possible."

While there are law libraries and volunteer attorney programs available around the state, the St. Louis County Law Library is a new model that provides access to historic and current legal books and online services, while providing access to additional self-help materials.

“The Law Library Board of Trustees should be commended for putting together this tremendous partnership that will serve our citizens and the justice system so well,” said St. Louis County Board Chair Mike Forsman, “and so we are happy to provide the space for these libraries in our three courthouses. I’m also extremely pleased to see this one named in honor of Alan Mitchell, who I consider to be one of St. Louis County’s finest public servants.”

The St. Louis County Law Library system also includes branches in Virginia and Hibbing Courthouses. Each is open five days a week, with attorney assistance available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Virginia, and Wednesdays and Fridays in Hibbing.

The Law Library is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees, which is responsible for promoting the library’s resources to best serve judges, attorneys and citizens. More information about the St. Louis County Law Library and its resources is available online at stlouiscountymn.gov/lawlibrary.

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