Public Access to Basic Legal Research Materials in Hinds County, Mississippi

This brochure gives a brief overview of the basic legal research materials available for public use in the three most significant law libraries in Hinds County, which are located in downtown Jackson, Mississippi.
The Mississippi College School of Law Library, located within the Mississippi College School of Law in downtown Jackson, is a private research facility which primarily serves the students and faculty of Mississippi College School of Law. The library also serves members of the Mississippi College community, local attorneys, and other persons who need to perform legal research.

When classes are in session, the Law Library is open:
Monday - Thursday | 7:30 a.m. - midnight
Friday | 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday | noon - midnight

Most materials do not circulate outside of the library. These include periodicals, loose-leaf items, multivolume sets, microforms, and materials on Reserve or Reference. Materials which do circulate may be checked out only by Mississippi College students, faculty and staff, and attorneys with a valid library card which is available at a cost of $20 per year.

When classes are in session, the Law Library has a reference librarian on duty Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. No reference service is available on weekends. Very limited assistance is available at the Circulation Desk.

The reference librarians will assist patrons in locating and using library resources. Library personnel will not answer questions that ask for legal advice or interpretation of legal materials.

Self-service photocopy machines are located in the copy room on the main level of the Law Library. All of the copiers will reduce or enlarge original documents. All copiers accept coins or Mississippi College copy cards. The cost is 10 cents per copy. Copy cards may be purchased from the vend station in the copy room.

The Law Library maintains a room on the main level for use by attorneys and judges. The room is furnished with several large tables and contains a collection of Mississippi materials.

The Mississippi College School of Law Library is an official Depository Library for selected publications of the United States Government.

The majority of the Law Library’s holdings can be searched using the online catalog (http://mical.mc.edu/). MICAL is a shared catalog with all libraries of Mississippi College. Holdings of the libraries on the Clinton Campus are included.
The State Law Library is located across the street from the State Capitol in the Carroll Gartin Justice Building. This new facility contains both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. From the building’s east entrance, take the elevator or main stairway to the 2nd floor. The Library is adjacent to the courtroom of the Supreme Court.

The State Law Library collects, preserves, and makes available to all the foundation of Mississippi law. Chartered by the Mississippi Legislature in 1838, the State Law Library has the most complete collection of Mississippi’s state codes, general laws, house & senate journals, and local & private laws.

The general public most commonly requests background reading materials on relevant topics relating to leading cases and code sections. Federal cases, codes, regulations, and texts occupy a significant portion of the stacks, and a broad range of current Mississippi treatises are shelved behind the circulation desk.

There is no restriction on using materials within the library. Books with orange check-out cards can be checked out for three days; books with white cards can be checked out for two weeks. Other materials with green cards should be used in the library but can be photocopied for 15 cents a page.

Westlaw computer searches for all federal and state sources and selected secondary materials are free. Hinds County Bar Members do not pay for printing Westlaw documents. Other library users pay 15 cents a page after the first 30 pages. Computer searches on Hein Online, a major source of law journals, are available for use as well and follow the same pricing scheme.

Since the mid-1880s, the State Law Library has received numerous legal materials as a partial depository under the federal government documents program.

The library is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 until 5:00, except on state holidays. Parking is available on the bottom floor of the parking facility behind the Sillers Building.

The web site address for the State Law Library is http://www.courts.ms.gov/research/statelibrary/library.php. The library’s catalog is available online.
The Eudora Welty Library branch of the Jackson Hinds Library System has a modest collection of basic legal materials for use by the general public. The legal resources must be used in the library. Patrons who need assistance in using legal materials should ask at the Reference Desk.

The library reference collection includes:
- West’s Encyclopedia of American Law
- West’s Mississippi Rules of Court (State & Federal)
- Black’s Law Dictionary
- West’s Mississippi Digest
- Encyclopedia of the American Constitution
- Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law
- Mississippi Code
- Some Historical Jackson City Ordinances

In addition, every branch of the Jackson Hinds Library System has computer access to the WestLaw online database:
- Mississippi Code
- Mississippi State and Federal Court Rules
- Mississippi Supreme Court Cases from 1818
- Mississippi State Cases
- Mississippi Court of Appeals Cases from 1995
- United States Code Service Titles 1-50
- United States Code Service Federal Rules Annotated
- United States Supreme Court Cases, Lawyers’ Edition
- Federal Court of Appeals Cases
- Combined State Court Cases

Copies of materials are 20 cents a page for black and white, and 50 cents a page for color.

The Eudora Welty Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 to 6:00, and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 to 5:00.

The Jackson Hinds Library System’s branch catalogs and hours of operation are available online at http://www.jhlibrary.org.
HOURS OF OPERATION

EUDORA WELTY LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday | 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday - Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY

Monday - Thursday | 7:00 a.m. - midnight
Friday | 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday | noon - midnight

STATE LAW LIBRARY
OF MISSISSIPPI

Monday - Friday | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Hinds County
Board of Supervisors

District 1:  Robert Graham
District 2:  Darrel McQuirter
District 3:  Peggy Hobson Calhoun
District 4:  Mike Morgan
District 5:  Bobby “Bobcat” McGowan

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors provides lawyers access to legal research materials through the Hinds County Law Library, with branches in all the Hinds County Courthouses, and funding for public access to legal research materials at the Eudora Welty Library and the State Law Library.

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Hinds County Board of Supervisors

Partnered by

Jackson Hinds Library System
Mississippi State Library
Mississippi College School of Law Library
Capital Area Bar Association