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Spotlight on the Housing Court

A good source for understanding the eviction process is chapter 13 in a book called [Legal Tactics: Tenants Rights in Massachusetts](#)

Other helpful landlord tenant print sources:

[Landlord and Tenant Law with Forms](#), West, Mass. Practice vol. 33-34

[Residential & Commercial Landlord Tenant Practice in Massachusetts](#), MCLE, 2009

Spotlight on the Housing Court

The Housing Court Department has jurisdiction over the use of real property as it affects the health, welfare, and safety of any resident, occupant, or member of the general public. This means that the court handles landlord tenant cases and nuisance cases that affect neighborhoods. Housing Court also has jurisdiction over zoning matters, criminal offenses (i.e. building, fire code, [state sanitary](#), and [lead paint violations](#)) and the consumer protection statute (see [Mass. General Laws chapter 185C sec. 1-23](#)). The southeastern division of the Housing Court was created in 1987 and covers Bristol and Plymouth counties with offices in Fall River, New Bedford, Brockton, and Plymouth. The clerk's office is located on the first floor in the Plymouth courthouse, and cases are heard in courtroom D on the third floor. There are housing specialists who can answer basic procedural questions for landlords and tenants as well as mediate summary process and civil housing cases to help parties reach a satisfactory resolution. The Housing Court has an extensive question and answer section on their website [Housing Court Q & A](#). For relevant court forms, go to [Housing Court Forms](#).

Landlord tenant information can also be found on the Trial Court law libraries website. [Mass Landlord Tennant Law info](#)

10 ways to beat the winter cold and still get your legal research done:

1. Get a cup of hot coffee or tea at the courthouse café outside of the library while you're visiting us.
2. Borrow audio CDs to listen to MCLE seminars.
3. Use the [TCLL website](#) to get the [Massachusetts court rules](#) and [CMR sections](#) available on the Internet.
4. Access Massachusetts cases via RetrieveLaw and law reviews via HeinOnline using your library card.
5. Call or email the law library for copies of cases, statutes, regulations, law reviews, or sections of treatises.
6. Use the free public access to LEXIS and WESTLAW in the library.
7. Have recess time? Take advantage of the library's free WIFI access.
8. Use your Trial Court law library card to renew borrowed materials online.
9. Use Google scholar to retrieve cases from your home or office computer.
10. Sign up for webinar legal research training. See below for further details.

NEW TRAINING OPTION AVAILABLE:

The Plymouth Law Library in conjunction with Lexis is pleased to announce a pilot project to offer webinar training to our library patrons. This means that library patrons who have access to a computer and telephone either at their home or office, can join a Lexis training class without having to come to the law library. You do *not* need to have your own Lexis subscription or a Lexis password. Patrons who register for a class call a phone number and enter a conference code number. After connecting to Lexis via phone, you log onto a website and enter a meeting number. You will listen to the Lexis trainer as they explain what they are showing you on the computer screen. The sessions last 15-20 minutes, and the content can be tailored to a specific topic. Examples of topics are: learning the top 5 features of Lexis, searching by legal topic, using Shepard's citations service, how to construct a terms and connector search, Massachusetts criminal law research on Lexis.com, Massachusetts domestic relations law research on Lexis.com, Massachusetts landlord tenant research on Lexis.com, and customer requested topics. Please contact the library to let us know which days (Mon-Fri) and times are best for you as well as topics of interest. We will coordinate with the Lexis trainer to arrange the sessions.

New Book Acquisitions

[Building Your Practice with Limited Assistance Representation](#), MCLE, 2009 (KFM 2477 .A75 B85 2009)

[Construction Law](#), (Mass. Practice series) West, 2009 (KFM 2480 .M3 vol. 57)

[Guardianship and Conservatorship Practice Under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code](#), MCLE, 2009 (KFM2960.L8 G79 2009)

[Hardly Common Defenses to Common, But Hard, Criminal Cases](#), MCLE, 2009 (KFM 2966.5 .H37 2009)

[Representing Insolvent Commercial Landlords and Tenants](#), MCLE, 2009 (KF593 .C6 R47 2009)

New Audio CDs:

[The Art of Trying Your Case Before a Jury](#), MCLE, 2008

[Family Court Judicial Forum](#), MCLE, 2009

[Keeping the Family Home and Avoiding Foreclosure](#), MCLE, 2009

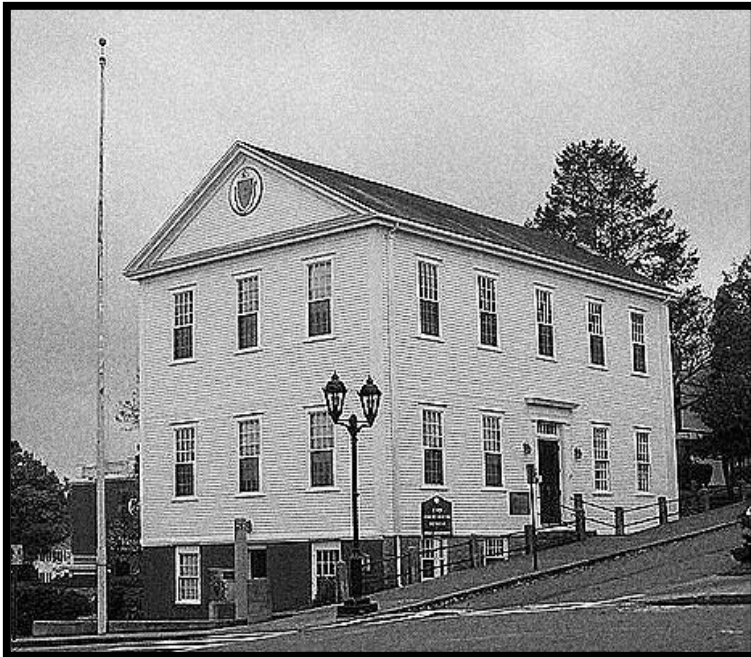
[Litigating OUI Cases](#), MCLE, 2008

[MCLE Basis Plus, Estate Planning](#), MCLE, 2009

[The New MUPC Guardianship and Conservatorship Rules](#), MCLE, 2009

[Solving Waterfront Property Disputes](#), MCLE, 2008

[Warrantless Seizures](#), MCLE, 2008



Town of Plymouth 1620 - 2020

Historical Information Needed:

In anticipation of the 400th anniversary celebration of the town of Plymouth, the law library is beginning to compile information about the history of law in Plymouth. If anyone has photos, post cards, articles or books about the Plymouth courthouses, famous Plymouth cases, judges, or lawyers, the law library would be interested in looking at them. Please let us know if you have anything to share.

Call 508-747-4796 or email plymouthlawlibrary@hotmail.com.

