# Tuesday, December 10th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Royal Oak Public Library– Mini Version of: *Michigan Legal Help: How the Public Librarian Can Assist Those Representing Themselves in Court.*

Workshop presented by Laura Mancini, attorney and librarian of the Adams-Pratt Oakland County Law Library.

The program objectives are to:

1. Introduce attendees to the Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) and why he/she exists.
2. Examine why SRLs use the Public Library for assistance in their legal matters.
3. Discuss concepts of Legal Information and Legal Advice: What a Librarian can and cannot do.
4. Discuss problems Librarians encounter assisting the SRL and ways they can address them.
5. Give an overview of the Michigan Legal Help website.

The Michigan Legal Help Website contains:

1. Legal resources for low-literacy users
2. Legal information in multiple areas of law
3. Easy-to-use interactive forms
4. Self-Help instructions for common legal problems
5. Multimedia training and education
6. Referrals to free or other legal services

The workshop was very educational and well presented, and will definitely assist librarians with those “legal” questions that everyone hopes they don’t get asked. Since legally, as librarians and not attorneys, we cannot give legal advice, to help with that issue, there were librarian/patron role playing exercises. You will learn to distinguish between what is giving advice and what is giving information. The website, <http://michiganlegalhelp.org/> is filled with helpful information that can help you lead patrons to the information they need, even if it is not in your library. I felt a lot better about answering those types of questions after the workshop.

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