

Southeastern Association of Law Libraries 2010-2011 Annual Report

The SEAALL officers for 2010-2011 were Karen B. Douglas, president; Carol A. Watson, vice president/president-elect; Sally Irvin, secretary; Dee Wood, treasurer; and Francis Norton and Sarah Mauldin, members-at-large. Newly elected officers for 2011-2012 are Ed Hart, vice president/president-elect; Billie Blaine, treasurer; and Jason Sowards, who will replace Sarah Mauldin as member-at-large.

SEAALL held its annual meeting April 14-16, 2011, in Columbia, SC. The theme of the meeting was “Confluence: Communicate, Collaborate, Create.” Melanie Huggins, the executive director, Richland County Public Library, provided a keynote speech emphasizing customer experience.

The Program Committee experimented with offering programs in a variety of formats. For example, one of the keynote sessions was a moderated panel discussion on the future of legal publishing. Poster sessions, Ignite presentations and a hands-on e-book reader demonstration were also included. There were programs on a variety of topics such as succession planning, all-digital libraries, authentication of digital information, and creative conflict.

This year’s pre-conference institute, “Assessing the Effectiveness of Legal Research and Writing Instruction: Are Our Students Learning What We Teach?” was well attended. Academic librarians, law firm and court librarians, and recent law graduates all presented their perspective on legal research and writing instruction. Participants learned what legal employers think about the skills of recent graduates. Law students and alumni described their recent experiences with legal research. The institute ended with a panel discussion of teaching cost effective legal research methods.

Planning for the 2012 meeting in Gulfport/Tampa, FL, is underway and will be hosted by Stetson University College of Law. The theme of the meeting will be “In Step with the Future.” The 2013 meeting will be held in Decatur, GA.

Our standing committees accomplished quite a bit this year. The Education and Publications Committee had three SEAALL-sponsored programs accepted for this year’s AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and has also been working on a major revision of the SEAALL Handbook. The Community Service Committee coordinated a campaign to donate books as well as \$1,000 to *The Nurturing Center*, a South Carolina therapeutic treatment center for child abuse and neglect. The Placement Committee posted 30 jobs on the SEAALL website. The Newsletter Committee began featuring law library profiles of member libraries in each newsletter issue. The Scholarship Committee awarded more than \$15,000 for scholarships and grants.

Carol A. Watson
President, 2011-2012