

SCLL NEWSLETTER

STATE AND COURT LAW LIBRARIES
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Volume 2, Number 2 - Box 1841, Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 - April, 1975

MARGARET SETLIFF ADDRESSES STATE COURT ADMINISTRATORS

On August 15, 1974, Margaret H. Setliff, SCLL Chairperson, addressed the Conference of State Court Administrators at their meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. Mrs. Setliff is the Librarian of the Hawaii Supreme Court Library. The following is the text of her speech.

Good Morning. I was very pleased when Les Cingcade asked me to tell you about our new law library organization. I should warn you that my favorite occupation is lobbying and that I intend to lobby with you.

We have all watched the increased development of attention to administration of the Judicial branch of government in the last twenty years. The American Judicature Society and the Institute of Judicial Administration were pioneers in the field. The National Center for State Courts initiates and supports research into problems of courts and helps set standards of judicial administration. Your own organization is holding its twentieth meeting now. Continuing education.

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L.C. APPOINTMENT STILL PENDING

A resolution recommending the appointment and confirmation of Raymond M. Taylor as Librarian of Congress was passed by SCLL at its 1974 annual meeting. Since that time, the Presidential Personnel Office has been working on assembling a final list of qualified persons to submit to the President. Various sources indicate that the list has been narrowed to five or six names. Action is hoped for in the "very near future." John A. Shaw, Associate Director of the Personnel Office, confirmed that Taylor is one of the people being considered.

CLOSER AFFILIATION HOPED FOR

The hope that SCLL and AALL can become more closely allied "before long" was expressed recently by AALL President Marian Boner when she explained that the AALL Executive Board has declined to act on SCLL's petition for affiliation on the ground that such status is available for local or regional organizations only.

Stating that the AALL Board is powerless to act in view of limitations in the AALL Constitution, Mrs. Boner said that the AALL Executive Board has referred SCLL's petition to both the AALL Task Force on Reorganization and the AALL Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

How to establish the most appropriate relationship between SCLL and AALL will be discussed by the SCLL Executive Board at its June 21 meeting in Los Angeles, and later that day at the organization's general business meeting. Chairperson Margaret H. Setliff urges all members to be present.

SCLL meets on Saturday, June 21, 1975, the day preceding the opening of the AALL Annual meeting. Be sure to make hotel and travel arrangements accordingly.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

In his opening remarks to the 1974 SCLL meeting, Raymond M. Taylor envisioned three purposes for SCLL: 1) to educate ourselves, 2) to educate other librarians, and 3) to educate those in authority. Again this year, the SCLL annual meeting will provide us with the opportunity to work on all three areas. We will have a chance to learn about Canadian law libraries. Our relationship with AALL will be under consideration. And the place of the law library in the administration of justice will be explored.

One of the major problems our library has encountered in the attempt to take our proper place in the developing philosophy and technology of judicial administration is an inability to define and specify the law library's role in the administration of justice. This year's SCLL theme is a thrust toward finding those definitions and specifications.

The more SCLL members and prospective members that attend, the better the chances are for finding some of the answers that we seek. The answers come to the surface in workshop sessions, in committee meetings and around the banquet table. It will be an educational and entertaining event. Y'all come, hear!

kcs

SCLL REPRESENTED AT NATIONAL APPELLATE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

The January 23-26, 1975, National Conference on Appellate Justice held in San Diego, California, was attended by O. James Werner, Librarian of the San Diego County Law Library, as an SCLL representative. Mr. Werner reported in a January 29 letter to SCLL Chairperson Margaret Setliff that he attended two evening sessions and the January 24 morning group working sessions. The first group session covered such topics as the value of oral argument, unpublished opinions, inadequate financing of the judiciary, and a centralized court staff. The second session concerned the kind of central court staff that appellate courts ought to have. In a later letter, Mr. Werner noted that "the people with whom I spoke...did not seem surprised that I, as a representative of SCLL, was there. They usually acknowledged that it made sense for such librarians to be interested in the appellate justice system.

"Some of the things they discussed were certainly of direct interest to the law librarians, things like the publishing of intermediate appellate court decisions,

and some of it would certainly be of more interest to those who work in court libraries...."

SCLL has committed itself to establishing contact with court administrators, judges and justices, and others "in authority." By attending meetings and conferences of these groups, the interests of all court and state law librarians are well served.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS SLATE

The Nominating Committee has listed the following slate of names for SCLL officers for the year 1975/76:

Chairperson: William J. Powers
Vice-chairperson: Bethany Ochal
Secretary: Laura Pershing
Treasurer: Vivian Bryan
Executive Board: William C. Younger
Marcia J. Koslov
Rosemary McCormick

Committee Chairman Elmer J. Dewald reminds SCLL members that additional names can be submitted from the floor during the annual business meeting.

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cation for judges through the National College, the American Academy, and other institutions is now well organized and accepted. With the creation of the Institute for Court Management, your own group took on a new professional capability. And when publication of the *Justice System Journal* began, I knew that court administration had really arrived as a profession.

Your law librarians want to join in this trend of increasing professional service to the courts. In an article published in the May 1974 issue of *Law Library Journal* on State law libraries and Supreme Court law libraries, William and Laura Pershing of Idaho identified as one of the problems of our profession the recognition of law librarians in state government as a professional group. That article is an updating of an extensive study published in 1953.

One of the most dramatic and important changes to take place in court law libraries in that time has been the advent of the court administrator. The evolving tendency is to place fiscal and administrative control of state law libraries in the administrator's office. In at least eleven states responsibility for law libraries has shifted from a supreme court to an administrative director.

It is my personal belief - one not shared by all my colleagues - that law library services are properly part of an administrative office of the courts. Libraries are a part of the total administrative support services for the court system, and law librarians have a useful place on the court management team. I note the very human resistance to this change of authority on the part of some of my colleagues and eager acceptance of the opportunity to participate in the central administration of court services by others. If we can all focus on organizational improvement with mutual respect and understanding of our respective roles, we can work together toward our common goal of improved administration of justice.

The Pershing article states at page 242, "The legal system is no better than the written materials upon which it is founded, under which it operates and by which

the legal profession and the public become informed."

Hans Lawton, National Center for State Courts, put it very well at our State and Court Law Libraries St. Paul meeting in June when he remarked that as a scientist needs and uses his laboratory, judges need and use their law libraries.

I assume that as administrators you want a competent professional team, including a competent librarian, and that you're not likely to have either the time or the technical skills to run the library yourself. If your librarian needs more training to improve his skills, the AALL offers continuing education institutes. Librarians can also benefit by participation in management and budgeting courses and institutes. For example, managers in the Hawaii Judiciary, including the librarian, will soon complete a 9-day systems analysis session meshed with preparation of our Judiciary's biennial PPBS budget. I find that the more I know about the operations and needs of the entire Judiciary of Hawaii, the better I am able to plan library services to support the overall goals.

In addition to meeting the research needs of the judges, the library can also serve you as administrators. With the growing proliferation of material in the field of judicial administration, you need someone to acquire, organize, and make available to you the information you require to do your job. That someone is your law librarian.

Law librarians, too, have a professional organization. The American Association of Law Libraries is an association of about 2,000 law librarians representing all fields of service - academic, corporate, bar associations, governmental, including court, state, and county law libraries. The AALL holds excellent annual meetings, publishes the *Law Library Journal*, holds training institutes for continuing education, and gives certification to law librarians. Although we all benefit greatly from AALL, those of us in court and state law libraries felt a kind of identity crisis last year at the AALL annual meeting in Seattle. Raymond M. Taylor, that capable Marshal and Law Librarian of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and I

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