

STATE, COURT



& COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES

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A Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

SERIALS

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UNIV OF WASHINGTON
GALLAGHER LAW LIBRARY

Chair's Message

Since the convention in New Orleans, I have spent a lot of time thinking and acting on new directions for State, Court and County Law Libraries. Our Special Interest Section is comprised of innumerable professionals with unique talents and interests. Of all the AALL sections, ours is the least homogeneous and the most challenged.

Our challenges come from many directions. Funding is unpredictable and tenuous for most of us. During the current economic crisis for public entities, most of us are facing stagnation at best, and severe budget cuts in the worst instances. Even the California county law libraries, now celebrating both their 100th anniversary and their recent success in having filing fees increased, had years of status quo, hard work, and temporary setbacks.

We are challenged by our sense of not being recognized appropriately by either our parent institutions or our national association. Your frustrations were heard during our strategic planning in New Orleans. You want to get your bosses more involved in what you do; you want greater opportunities for participation in both the Section and AALL. We need to know more about what all of us have in our collections and how we handle common problems.

Many of you want the opportunity to meet more than once a year. During our institute last winter in Williamsburg, I heard again and again how rewarding that opportunity was for you. We will do our best to provide you with similar opportunities. I have asked our new Membership Committee to work with the AALL Chapters in providing meeting time and space for our members to gather during chapter meetings.

You will see other references to our Strategic Plan in this newsletter. Our goal is to have the Plan finalized and approved by the Board of Directors before our meeting in San Francisco. I hope that all of you will keep in mind that Strategic Planning is a dynamic process, not a document or an event. We will modify it, improve it, and update it in the years ahead, but only with your determination and help.

I have learned that Mead Data Central has again sponsored a conference on teaching legal research. This year's was held in Dallas and focused on private law firm librarians. Last year's was called the Graylyn Conference, and was designed for the academic law librarians. I have written to Mead, and asked them to keep in mind that members of our Section are actively involved in teaching online research. I suggested that not only would we learn at a research conference, but that Mead would benefit tremendously from taking advantage of our expertise.

(Continued on page 4)

Strategic Planning Phase II: Survey

At the end of this newsletter is a survey regarding the next phase of our strategic planning process. It's very important that you take a few moments to fill it out and return it, as your input and ideas are essential to our SIS's future.

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Message from the Editors

Last year we learned a great deal regarding editing this newsletter. We think that the experience will benefit the members of our section and we look forward to working with our committee members this year. We will publish 4 issues during 1991/92, and the publication dates are listed below. We plan to adhere to them and ask for your cooperation.

Issue	Deadline for Submission	Projected receipt by members
Fall 1991	9/4/91	10/91
Winter 1992	12/1/91	1/92
Spring 1992	2/1/92	3/92
Summer 1992	5/1/92	6/92

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter and will definitely welcome input from our members. We are in this together. The content and quality of this publication is up to all SCCLL members.

Kathy Coon and Regina Smith

State Court and County Law Libraries 1991/92 Officers

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*Judy Meadows,
State Law Library of Montana*

VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR ELECT

*Pamela Gregory,
Circuit Court Library
for Prince George's County*

SECRETARY, TREASURER

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Clark County Law Library*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

*Charles Dyer, (1990-1993)
San Diego Law Library*

*Brenda Woodruff-Kelley, (1989-1992)
Toledo Law Association Law Library*

*Regina Smith, (1991-1994)
Jenkins Memorial Law Library*

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

*Joel Fishman
Allegheny County Law Library*

Special Interest Sections Dues Increase

The membership of AALL approved a dues increase from \$5 to \$12 per year for members of its Special Interest Sections, beginning with the 1992 dues year. Half of the SIS dues goes back to AALL headquarters for the support and assistance provided to the Sections. The current amount of \$2.50 per member that is received by SIS's does not permit us to do much more than distribute a quarterly newsletter. Our Section this year could not afford to even conduct a mail ballot for officer elections.

AALL also has announced that beginning in 1992 libraries will be able to subscribe to a package plan for Section newsletters. At the present, a library has to have a staff member join an SIS in order to receive its newsletter. Consequently we have a number of academic librarians on our membership list. These members will undoubtedly drop out of the Section when the package plan becomes available.

Mead Data Central Awards Section \$1,000

Robert Willard, Director of Government Marketing for LEXIS/NEXIS, presented to the State, Court & Counties Special Interest Section a gift of \$1,000 during our annual meeting in July. For several years during our annual convention, Mead Data Central has hosted the government law librarians at appropriate government-related institutions, such as the National Judicial College in Reno and the Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta. This year Mead was unable to make arrangements at an organization of its choice in New Orleans, and decided to donate the money in lieu of hosting a reception.

Section Chair Judy Meadows thanked Mr. Willard for Mead's continuing generosity, and explained to him that this gift came at a very opportune time for the Section. Our account balance was getting uncomfortably low, and the cash gift will allow the Section to provide better assistance to its members.

Membership News

Beverly Rubenstein, formerly Assistant Librarian at the Baltimore Bar Library is now at the Maryland Attorney General's office.

Joel Fishman, Law Librarian, Allegheny County Law Library, has been elected to the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Regional Library Center (PRLC) for a three-year term; he is co-compiler of the following publications: Allegheny County Discovery Opinions Volume 2 (1989-1990); Philadelphia County Discovery Opinions (1987-1991); Allegheny County Orphans' Court Decisions Volume 1 (1990); The Legislative History of the Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act of 1988. All four volumes can be purchased from the Library; contact Joel for prices.

SCC / SIS Committee Assignments, 1991-1992

	<u>Type Library</u>	<u>State</u>
Strategic Planning:		
Marcia Koslov, <i>Chair</i>	S	WI
Marita Paparelli	C	PA
Linda Smith	F	MI
Kay Schlueter	S	TX
Newsletter:		
Regina Smith, <i>Chair</i>	M	PA
Kathy Coon, <i>Co-Chair</i>	M	PA
Catherine Eason	F	CO
Keith Blough	C	OH
Janice Shull	S	LA
Debbie Norwood	S	WA
Membership:		
Jackie Wright, <i>Chair</i>	S	AR
Scott McCurdy	F	OR
Peggy Martindale	C	TX
Maria Sekula	M	MA
Fay Henexson	C	CA
Education:		
Jean Holcomb, <i>Chair</i>	M	VA
Clayne Calhoun	C	VA
Kathy Carlson	S	WY
Betsy Knauff	F	CA
Tim Lewis	S	AL
Charlie Colokathis	C	MA
Sue Dyer	C	CA
Trustee Development:		
Charles Dyer, <i>Chair</i>	C	CA
Shirley David	C	CA
Molly Walker	C	CO
Marjorie Price	S	WV
Standards:		
Sandy Marz, <i>Chair</i>	C	NV
Nancy Cheng	S	UT
Evelyn Brandt	F	CA
David Voisenet	C	VA
Eric Low	*	VA
Statistics:		
Pam Gregory, <i>Chair</i>	C	MD
Frances Campbell	S	CO
Jackie Jurkins	C	OR
Ann Koto	S	HI
Janet Wishinsky	F	IL

Constitution & ByLaws:

Thaddeus Bejnar, <i>Chair</i>	S	NM
Linda Corbelli	F	DC
Betty Scott	C	WA

Nominations:

Ann Fessenden, <i>Chair</i>	F	MO
Carolyn Posten	C	CA
Gail Warren	S	VA
Martha Cox	C	OH
Kai-Yun Chiu	M	MD
Sandra Howell	C	GA

S = State Law Library
M = Membership, Subscription
F = Federal
C = County
* = National Center for State Courts

Trustee's Manual Project Up and Running

On August 16th Charles Dyer (San Diego County), Shirley David (Sacramento County), and Judy Meadows (Montana State) met in Sacramento to brainstorm on the creation of a trustee and library committee member manual. Public libraries for years have supplied their policy makers with tools which assist them in understanding both what the libraries' mission is and what the duties of the board member are. More than half the libraries that have members in the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries have some form of governing body. We know that these people (judges, attorneys, civic leaders, lay members) need assistance in fulfilling their responsibilities.

The Trustee Development Committee intends to write a manual that can be generic enough that any board-governed law library will benefit from using it, but that it will still contain the specifics of the public law library's uniqueness. The California County Law Libraries' Trustees Manual will be used as a base, and manuals from the public libraries around the United States will be studied so that a national scope will be ensured.

The next step in the process is application for funding from AALL's Special Projects money. The Section intends to apply for the funds on a loan basis, which would be paid back to the Association with proceeds from the sale of the book. It is our intention that the manual would be published as part of the AALL Publications Series.

