

# State Court & County

## Law Libraries

# NEWS

Vol. 24, No. 1 Fall 1997

Newsletter of the State, Court and County SIS of the American Association of Law Libraries



You'll notice the empty box to the left of this message. What gives? My predecessor, Frank Herch, set the tone for his year as chair by providing the newsletter editors with the catchy saxophone clip-art and "Jazz from the Chair" in each issue. As the newsletter deadline for this issue approached, the creative part of my brain fizzled. I am at a loss for an "appropriate" logo to represent my year as chair, so I've decided to enlist the assistance of the collective creativity of SCCLL members—a contest of sorts. Help me fill this blank box with a snappy logo.

Details: Submit a logo "suitable" for me. The individual who submits the winning entry will receive a \$30.00 gift certificate to their choice of Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble bookstores \*Entry deadline: November 10, 1997 \*Mail, fax entries to: Gail Warren, Va. State Law Library, 100 N. 9th Street, 2nd Floor, Richmond, VA 23219, fax: (804) 786-4542 \*Contest judges: Rick Stroup, Beverly Rubenstein and Jean Holcomb

If you have Internet access, have you subscribed to the State, Court and County Law Libraries list serv? If not, do so soon or you'll miss information about committees, events and colleagues! The SCCLL SIS will offer many new opportunities this year for SIS members. In July, the SCCLL Executive Board approved creation of a Grants Committee, currently chaired by Kathy Carlson and ably assisted by Michele Finerty and Georgiana Gekas Wellford. Look for more information about this committee and funding opportunities for professional development in coming issues of this newsletter.

Charlie Dyer and Regina Smith are already two months into plans for the Trustee Development Committee. Regina has written and submitted a proposal to the Anaheim Program Selection Committee (AALL) for a Trustee Workshop to precede the Anaheim meeting. Charlie is working closely with AALL to ensure the Gates Library Foundation funding for public libraries includes public law libraries.

Enough information from me. Your perusal of this issue of the newsletter is better spent eyeballing the roster of committee members, reading news from the AALL Annual Meeting and programs in Baltimore, and learning about new opportunities for our SIS.

*Man is not the creature of circumstances.  
Circumstances are the creatures of men.*  
--Benjamin Disraeli, 1826.

—Gail Warren  
Virginia. State Law Library  
Richmond, VA 23219

### CONTENTS

AG LAW LIBRARIANS ROUNDTABLE	PAGE 15
BALTIMORE MEETING MINUTES	PAGE 4
BETHANY J. OCHAL AWARD	PAGE 15
BOOK REVIEW	PAGE 17
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS	PAGE 11
LIBRARIAN ATTACKED BY SHARKS...	PAGE 8
NOTES FROM BALTIMORE	PAGE 13
SCCLL COMMITTEES	PAGE 12
SCCLL LISTSERV	PAGE 12
SCCLL ANAHEIM WORKSHOP	PAGE 17

# **Minutes of the SCCLL Business Meeting**

**SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1997  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

Chair Frank Herch called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Herch asked that SCCLL members respond to the AALL Salary Survey now in progress.

Chair-Elect Gail Warren announced that a preliminary committee roster was distributed, but that more volunteers are needed for all committees.

### **Managing Court Libraries in the 21st Century**

Erick Low of the National Center for State Courts announced that a seminar is scheduled for November 1997, *Managing Court Libraries in the 21st Century*. There are scholarships available for this seminar sponsored by West Publishing. A mailing about this seminar will go to each SCCLL member.

## **WEBSITE/INTERNET COMMITTEE**

Jerry Watson has volunteered to serve as the webmaster for the SCCLL web page. Possible contents of the page will include the newsletter, bylaws, brochure, and committee charges and members.

## **BILL AND MELINDA GATES LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

Charles Dyer and Jean Holcomb initiated an effort to assure that the Gates Foundation's definition of public library be interpreted to include public law libraries, in order that we be eligible for Foundation funding. The SCCLL Trustees Committee will focus on this opportunity. Judy Meadows is establishing a special committee on Law Library fundraising. [Wes Cochran will chair this AALL committee.] It was suggested that Patricia Glass Schumann be contacted regarding this opportunity. She is a speaker on one of the programs this week.

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT**

Minutes of the Indianapolis meeting, published in the Fall 1996 newsletter, were approved. SCCLL is financially healthy. As of May 30, 1997, the balance in the treasury was \$8,428.17.





## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Awards - Shirley David, Chair**

In addition to awarding the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to Edgar Bellefontaine and Maria Sekula, the Awards Committee was given the following charge: to develop written criteria for all awards; brainstorm ways to encourage nominations; perhaps create nomination forms; and review criteria of 20 year pins. Henceforth, SCCLL members will qualify for 20 year pins if they have been members of SCCLL for 10 years and in AALL for 20 years, rather than 20 year members of SCCLL. The James O. Werner Award was expanded to recognize not only persons with disabilities but also those who have provided or arranged for significant services to persons with disabilities. The Bethany Ochal Award will no longer be confidential, but will be included in the AALL Awards brochure, distributed to all annual meeting registrants in their registration packet, giving the recipients greater visibility throughout AALL.

### **Newsletter - Beverly Rubenstein, Co-Editor (on behalf of Rick Stroup, Co-Editor)**

Four issues were published this year for the first time since 1992. William S. Hein & Company continues its generosity of support by publishing our newsletter at cost and arranging for its mailing.

### **Nominations - Carol Billings, Chair**

The committee developed a quality slate of Jean Holcomb and Kathy Carlson for Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Jacqueline Wright and Tim Lewis for Board member. Jean and Jackie were elected. The Committee also submitted names to the AALL Nominations Committee for consideration for AALL office. Carol asked that all members provide input to this year's Chair, Brenda Kelley.

### **Publicity and Membership Committee- Anita Anderson, Chair**

Eight members received 20 year pins and certificates: Joanne R. Beal, Rosemarie Chrisant, Shirley David, Joel Fishman, Anne Grande, Peggy Hall, Carol Meyer and Jonathan C. Stock. Certificates of appreciation were given to Deborah Norwood and Jan Ryan Novak as outgoing Board Members.

### **Standards Committee**

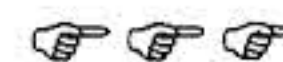
The most recent versions of the standards were published in Law Library Journal, Fall 1996. An appendix of definitions relating to employment is being developed.

### **Statistics Committee - Frank Herch, Chair**

Frank Herch reported that he, Ann Koto and Kalyn Gabriel will be doing a survey of SCCLL members in the coming year on a variety of topics, loosely based on the model of the ABA questionnaire for academic law libraries.

### **Strategic Planning - Anne Matthewman, Chair**

The committee discussed SIS strategic planning with planners from other SIS groups. This year, the committee will draft a plan.





## THE BETHANY J. OCHAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Shirley David presented the *Bethany Ochal Award* to Maria Sekula and Edgar Bellefontaine, the text of which follows:

**Whereas**, Maria Sekula, Assistant Librarian, Social Law Library, Boston, Massachusetts has advanced the educational and professional missions of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries by serving in various official capacities, including those of Program Chair for the Professional Status and Classification Program at the Houston meeting in 1982-83, member of the Nominations Committee in 1987-1988, and Newsletter Co-Editor in 1990-91, and as a Charter Member of SCCLL SIS; and

**Whereas**, Maria Sekula has advanced the educational and professional missions of the American Association of Law Libraries by serving in various official capacities, including those of Chair of the AALL Nominations Committee in 1991-1992, and as Faculty at the AALL Winter Institute in 1996; and Whereas, Maria Sekula has promoted the profession of law librarianship by also serving as President of the Law Librarians of New England in 1973-1974; and

**Whereas**, Maria Sekula has made a significant contribution to legal research and scholarship, and to public access to legal information with the publication of Basic Law Collections for Massachusetts Public Libraries; and

**Whereas**, Maria Sekula has worked effectively with her colleague, Edgar J. Bellefontaine, for several decades in managing and developing the Social Law Library, Boston, Massachusetts so it could attain its current prominence as a center for legal research and legal history;

**Whereas**, Maria Sekula has proudly and elegantly served her chosen profession as a partner in what may be the most powerful team in the history of law librarianship;

**Now, Therefore Be It Resolved**, That the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries hereby bestows on Maria Sekula The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, That The Bethany J. Ochal Award be presented to Ms. Sekula at the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section Meeting on July 20, 1997, in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Whereas**, Edgar J. Bellefontaine, Librarian, Social Law Library, Boston, Massachusetts has advanced the educational and professional missions of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries by serving in various official capacities, including those of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect in 1981-82, Chair in 1982-83, Chair of the Funding Committee in 1987-88, Chair, Alternative Sources of Funding Committee in 1990-91, Chair of the Trustees committee in 1996-97, and as a Charter Member of SCCLL SIS; and

**Whereas**, Edgar J. Bellefontaine has advanced the educational and professional missions of the American Association of Law Libraries by serving in various official capacities including those of Chair of the AALL Local Arrangements Committee in 1975-76 for the Boston meeting, Chair of the AALL Certification Board from 1980-1984, as Chair of the AALL Special Committee on Public Relations from 1990-92, and as a member of several committees of the American Association of Law Libraries; and

**Whereas**, Edgar J. Bellefontaine has promoted the profession of law librarianship by also serving as President of the Law Librarians of New England, and as Chair of the New England Law Library Consortium; and



