

SCCLL News

A Newsletter of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

View from the Chair

Amy Hale-Janeke, SCCLL Chair

As I sit in my chair, I think back to the time I first attended an SCCLL business meeting and sat waaaay in the back of the room, awed by the knowledge of those around me. I started out as a rookie county law librarian and my mentor, Beth Schneider, sometimes literally took me by the hand and introduced me to people she knew were innovators and leaders - Larry Meyer, Cossette Sun, Jean Holcomb, Gail Warren, Sara Galligan, the list goes on. In my first job I worked for Charlie Dyer, a leader in the self-represented litigant movement. That experience helped me understand the special place that state, court, and county law libraries occupy in the legal world.

What really shocked me was the willingness of all of these people to share their knowledge. They WANTED me to succeed! They WANTED other people to benefit from their efforts. This spirit of collaboration seems to be sorely lacking in the legal realm, especially when it comes to helping regular people access the justice system. It was certainly opposite of what I learned in law school, which was to cut the other guy's throat before he cut yours.

I've been a part of this SIS for ten years now and what we seem to lack as an SIS is a way to pull together all the great pathfinders, exercises, PowerPoints, articles, and other custom-created information in a way that all SCCLL members can access it. We also need one stable place to save this valuable material for future projects.

Therefore, I have christened my term The Year of the Wiki. If you don't know what a wiki is, think of it as an online drawer with folders in it. Technological whiz Kate Fitz (kfitz@saclaw.org) from the Sacramento County Law Library has set up a wiki for SCCLL at <https://scclltools.wordpress.com>. She has directions there on how to post information. If you need help, she can walk you through it. I can help you, too. This site will be an especially valuable resource for our solo county law librarians. Categories so far are Advocacy, Best Practices, Collection Development, Disaster Planning, Job Descriptions, Mission Statements, Policies, Presentations, Pro Se Forms, Self-Represented Litigants, Space Issues, Strategic Planning, and Unauthorized Practice of Law. If you have suggestions for other categories, please let Kate know.



"What really shocked me was the willingness of all of these people to share their knowledge. They WANTED me to succeed! They WANTED other people to benefit from their efforts."

Inside this issue:

AALL Travel Grant Essay	3
Montana Law Library Wins Legal Forms Case	4
Changes to AALLNet SIS Lists	6
SCCLL at AALL 2011 in	7
Access to Justice and Law Librarians	8
County Law Library Mission Statements	11
Rural States, Legal Services, and Legal Education	23
AALL Announcements	25
The Back Page	27

View from the Chair, continued

Amy Hale-Janeke, SCCLL Chair

The ultimate goal is for the site to be both an archive and an active resource for all SCCLL members. Please contribute something from your files to the wiki.



From the Editor's Desk

Holly Gerber, Washington County Law Library (OR)

When I took on the role of newsletter Editor, I had that nagging worry from past editing experiences: that nobody would submit articles and I would be scrambling to fill the newsletter at the last minute. I really should have known better, as our special interest section is brimming with librarians ready and willing to have their news, ideas, and experiences published and shared. From the State Law Library of Montana's experiences successfully litigating a case against a legal forms "company" to Marnie Warner's suggestions on promoting access to justice, the article submissions showcase everything we have to offer as law librarians. I look forward to receiving more excellent submissions for future issues, and I hope everyone enjoys all this issue has to offer.



SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is January 13, 2012.** Please contact the Editor, Holly Gerber, at holly_gerber@co.washington.or.us with questions, comments, suggestions and submissions.

The State Court & County Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in SCCLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCLL SIS.

2011 AALL Travel Grant Essay

Jennifer Frazier, Kentucky State Law Library

As one of the 2011 SCCLL Annual meeting travel grant recipients, first, I want to say thank you to the entire membership. I last attended the AALL Annual meeting six years ago in San Antonio and enjoyed my experience but it doesn't compare with the experience I had this year.

I was impressed by the number of great programs the SCCLL-SIS put on about pro se litigants. As a member of the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission, these programs are invaluable to me to see what other states are doing in this regard. I am also anticipating the recordings of the sessions when they become available so that I can re-listen to programs I attended and hear for the first time some of the programs I missed. There were so many programs available that attending everything of interest was nearly impossible. Without covering everything I did in Philadelphia I found three things to be the highlight of my experience:

1. Meeting people whom I've only know through social media. I am a frequent user of Facebook and follow many librarians on Twitter. Last year, I followed Twitter during AALL to see what was being said about the programs, receptions, exhibitors and Keynote address. I even watched several of the live feed programs offered last year. This made me feel connected to the experience and increased my desire to attend in person this year. I was not disappointed. I was able to meet a dozen librarians whom I'd only known online and I can now say they not just contacts but friends whom I hope to see again at future Annual meetings.

2. I am also a member of the Legal History and Rare Book SIS and attended two LHRB sponsored events. First, I attended the program on "Collaborative Law Library Digital Collections" because of the small staff of my library it is often impossible to execute large digitization projects. We have worked with vendors and the University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law Library on projects in the past. This program furthered my desire to continue such relationship and to keep working towards having all of our historic legal materials online. I was even able to speak with a vendor during one of the many receptions about a future digitization project and he seemed as excited as I am about getting these materials into a digital format. Second, I attended



the “LHRB Roundtable and Luncheon with the Morris Cohen student Essay Contest Paper Presentation”. It was a wonderful presentation on what became of the federal judges, appointed by John Adams at the end of his term, after Congress repealed the Act creating the judgeships. Additionally, one of the Judges appointed was from Kentucky and I may do research of my own to find out what became of this judge.

3. Lastly, I truly enjoyed the SCCLL roundtable breakfast, although I did not enjoy scrapple. The SCCLL-listserv is a source for me to reach out to other similarly situated librarians and ask questions or seek advice, and I appreciate having such an outlet year round. However, nothing beats the live interaction sitting down to breakfast together gave me with my fellow State, Court and County librarians. The relaxed atmosphere allowed conversations to flow easily, while at the same time we had topics submitted prior to the meeting that were of interest to the group to discuss. I talked with librarians who are similarly understaffed as well as librarians with so much staff they need a multi-tiered staff structure. It is important to be part of such an active and diverse special interest section.

What I carried away with me the most is the knowledge that I am not alone and the desire to continue to make good contacts and good friends at the Annual Meeting. Hopefully, I'll see you all next year in Boston.

■

State Law Library of Montana Wins Legal Forms Case

Judy Meadows, State Law Library of Montana

The Montana Supreme Court's Commission on Self-Represented Litigants (the Commission) and Montana Legal Services Association have spent years developing, reviewing, editing and approving legal forms that are easy to understand and compliant with state law. These forms are then posted on the State Law Library of Montana's website, as well as on MontanaLawHelp. The purpose of the forms is to help people access the legal redress they are seeking, and to get on with their lives. These are almost universally low income Montanans who cannot afford attorneys.

These forms have been registered with the United States Copyright Office. On each page of each form is language stating that the forms cannot be used by



commercial entities, and providing the copyright notice.

There is a business listed in the Helena phone book as “Legal Aid Assisted”, 406/443-3041. When someone calls that number, a recorded message states that documents will be prepared for customers involved in divorce, child custody, and other matters typically faced by people who cannot afford lawyers. In late March, 2010, a citizen and resident of Montana called the above telephone number (which is still in operation) and contracted for the preparation of legal documents. She was required to pay \$389. The form that was sent to her was identical to the free forms that are available on the State Law Library’s website, and included the statements of copyright and restriction for only not-for-profit purposes.

The Commission took action upon finding out about this theft. Represented by pro bono attorney extraordinaire Bob Lukes of the Garlington Lohn & Robinson firm in Missoula, we filed a complaint in federal district court for copyright infringement. On June 29th, 2011, Judge Donald Molloy issued his Order and Conclusions of Law. In it he said that Legal Aids’s action had been willful and malicious, and he entered a judgment against the Defendant for \$20,000. He also enjoined the firm from using any more of our forms. We now are pursuing collection of the judgment, using a debt collector located in Florida, where the firm is located.

This is not the first time we have had to take legal action against national forms companies who steal our information and sell it to unsuspecting individuals who either “Google” a search or call a phone number that gets transferred to another state. Legal Zoom was the first company we had to stop from the practice. Since the time of this current judgment I have learned that people in Butte were charged \$250 for our forms.

If you hear of this happening, please let me know who the victims are, who they contracted with, and which of our free forms were sold. It is only with continued and national attention to this bilking of our citizens, that we can stop these charlatans.



Changes to AALLNet SIS lists

Kate Fitz, Sacramento County Public Law Library

Your friendly neighborhood webmaster/list admin here. As you probably know, the AALLNet site is in the process of changing formats.

The way the SIS discussion lists work changed August 1st. The new AALLNet site manages messages via "eGroups" instead of the listserv. Here's what you need to know:

You are automatically a member of the "eGroup" for any SIS to which you belong. There are also eGroups for caucuses, and AALL members can create eGroups to match their interests as well.

Getting Emails

You can receive emails as they are posted, once a day, never* or by RSS feed instead of email. To change that setting, log in to www.aallnet.org, navigate to "My Communities" (an option under the "Member Communities" menu).

Under the "Discussions" menu, click on "My Subscriptions." You can adjust frequency and format from that page.

Also, please add the following to your safe senders list:

noreply@egroups.aallnet.org

noreply@notifications.aallnet.org

Posting Messages to the List

Log in as above. Under the "Discussions" menu, click "Post a Message." Select the group or groups to post to and fill out the form. You can include attachments. The message will go out to the entire SIS. When I tested it this morning it seemed pretty slow, so be patient and don't navigate off the page until you get the ok message.

One really nice feature of posting this way: You won't get "out of office" replies.

Responding to Messages

When you get the message it will include links to reply to the eGroup or reply just to the sender. (It will make you log in to the AALL site to do so, however;



you can't just hit "reply.") If you choose the HTML option in your preferences, you will get additional options right in the email, such as view the discussion as a thread, etc.

Archives of Current Listserv

The contents of the current listserv will be available indefinitely at the current location (<http://share.aallnet.org/read/search/?forum=sccll-sis>). I'll look into importing them if desired; I'm not sure if it's feasible.

Changes to SCCLL Website

The website located at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/> will also be changing; I'll send out more info in a later message.

* You can still see them by logging onto the website.

SCCLL At AALL 2011 In Philadelphia

Maryruth Storer, 2010-2011 Membership/Mentoring Committee Chair

Two SCCLL committees, Membership/Mentoring Publicity and Public Relations, promoted our SIS during the AALL Annual Meeting by having a SCCLL table at the CONELL Marketplace and in the Exhibit Hall Activities Area. Incoming SIS Chair Amy Hale-Janeke suggested we use patriotic-themed give-aways to tie into the Philadelphia meeting location, so we had "Historic Patriotic Rubber Duckies", bookmarks listing the US Presidents and state capitols, metallic patriotic star necklaces (red, blue and silver), and USA flag wrapped buttermints. We handed out our newly revised flyer, and at the Exhibit Hall Activities Area table we had display information about the Jenkins Law Library.

These SCCLL members helped in staffing the tables: Steve Anderson, Carol Ebbinghouse, Ann Fessenden, Kate Fitz, Ruth Gervais, Paula Hoffman, Fran Jones, Karen Lutke, Jennifer Murray and Maria Sosnowski. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help SCCLL!



Access to Justice and Law Librarians

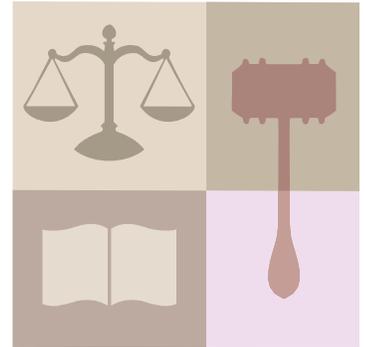
Marnie Warner, Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

When Laura Orr, Law Librarian for the Washington County Law Library in Oregon, contacted members of the State, Court and County list-serv to find out who was involved in access to justice activities, only twelve states responded, including Maine and Massachusetts. More of us need to be involved.

As law librarians, we need to be part of the access to justice movement for at least two reasons. First, given the increasing numbers of self-represented seeking relief in the courts, we need to help our patrons better understand how to work with these litigants who are, by and large, inexperienced, uncertain, and more apt to make errors than seasoned attorneys. Public law librarians help both self-represented litigants and the judges who preside over their cases; law firm librarians help their attorneys dealing with self-represented litigants as an opposing party; and academic librarians help their students understand the parameters of limited assistance representation. Second, given that many states have initiated collaborative activities between the courts, bar associations and legal aid organizations, not participating in these activities deprives us of an opportunity to demonstrate what we do every day which, in turn, helps us avoid being marginalized. Libraries have a place at the table. We need to be visible and vocal, to help shape the vision of how access to justice will be achieved in our states.

How can libraries get involved?

- Find out what your state is doing. Currently, there are 30 states with access to justice commissions or organizations. Enter your state's name and "access to justice" in an online search to find out what's happening. If a law librarian is not involved, call your colleagues and figure out a strategy to get a law librarian into the mix. If it's impossible to place a librarian at the commission level then volunteer on working committees that are relevant, such as committees working on self help centers. The point is have librarians taking part in the decision making processes, not merely helping out but educating decision-makers about what law libraries are already doing.
- Educate yourself on resources within your state. What have others already done that you can draw upon to show your community? In Massachusetts, I



was on the Committee on Self- Represented Litigants that decided all people involved with working with self-represented litigants would need additional guidance. Using materials from other states as models, we developed materials. Now the Massachusetts Trial Court has three publications available:

For the self-represented litigants:

Representing Yourself in A Civil Case:

Things to Consider When Going to Court

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/admin/ji/repyourself.html>

For court staff:

Serving the Self-Represented Litigant: A

Guide By and For Massachusetts Court Staff.

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/serving-self-rep-guide.pdf>

For judges:

Judicial Guidelines for Civil Hearings

Involving Self-Represented Litigants

<http://www.mass.gov/courts/judguidelinescivhearingstoc.html>

For attorneys, the Committee developed a Limited Assistance Representation (LAR) program in which people can contact an attorney for specific tasks or court events. The LAR program is currently available in the Housing, Probate and Family, and the District Courts for civil cases only. The materials for attorneys are located at

<http://www.screencast.com/users/VLP/folders/LAR%20Training>

Publicize existing services for self-represented litigants. Recently, I've found myself wondering if the word "library" isn't somehow intimidating to some segments of the population. People assume a "law library" is for judges and attorneys, not for an average citizen looking for help with a legal question. I've wondered whether libraries shouldn't publicize services as "self-help centers" and skip the word "library." The Hidalgo County Law Library in Edinburg, TX installed a "Self-Help Legal Workstation" featuring a computer, a printer, and an online connection directly to TexasLawHelp.org, a legal aid website. All public computers in the Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries

"Educate yourself on resources within your state. What have others already done that you can draw upon to show your community?"

(MA TCLLs) have Internet access and are attached to printers. Maybe we ought to promote them as “Self-Help Workstations.” It might change people’s perception of the “law library.”

- Use your website or an organization’s website to provide legal information so people are able to become more self-reliant. Internet access provides people with a means of answering many of their legal questions at any time day or night. The MA TCLLs website, <http://www.lawlib.state.ma.us/>, offers a “Law About...” page which pulls together information on over 150 topics. To continue as leaders in the provision of legal information, libraries need to be visible on the Internet.
- Get public librarians and public libraries involved. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored national training sessions for public librarians to get them involved in access to justice. Research finds that “public libraries provide access to government agencies that now offer many forms and services online. More than 26 million people used public library computers to get government or legal information or to access government services” From *Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries*, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, March 2010.

In a perfect world, everyone needing legal advice or representation would find it at an affordable price but our world is not perfect. Today, more people are choosing to represent themselves either by choice or by necessity, and the courts, legal aid organizations, and libraries are grappling with what that means to in terms of real access to justice. Law libraries are a part of that equation, and we need to tap into our wealth of day-to-day experience addressing these challenging problems to help decision-makers in this state and national movement. Also, we must explore how we might adapt to better serve the self-represented. Clearly, there is a huge need. Now how do we help to make access to justice a reality?

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County Law Libraries: 50 Mission Statements

Greg Lambert, King & Spalding, Houston, TX

For a project I'm working on, I asked a number of county law librarians to share their mission statements with me in order to see how individual law libraries view their services for the community they serve. In addition to the mission statements that were sent to me, I also attempted to go through a list of large US counties (marked with an asterisk*) to see if they listed their mission statements on their websites. Most of the libraries I found online do list a mission statement, but not all. Surprisingly, some of the largest counties specifically don't have a mission statement at all.

Most of the mission statements listed the county law library's mission as providing access to legal information and research services to the members of the local community. A "Wordle" of the mission statements points out those common phrases. Although a mission statement may not be necessary to run a county law library, but it does seem that it would be important if you are intending to let everyone know what your scope of business is as well as the value you are bringing to the community. Also, not all county law libraries are "public." Some are subscriber based or have limited public access because the monetary support for the law library comes from members or from the local bar association. In addition, not every county has a law library. For example, Detroit (Wayne County) Michigan uses the law school libraries as a de facto county law library.

In the era of online research through Westlaw, LexisNexis or Bloomberg, the assistance of services like LegalZoom, and the ease of Google to do your basic research, many may think that the idea of a public law library may seem passé. Fortunately, there are many county law libraries that still seem to believe that they serve a purpose to the community to enhance knowledge of the law and to facilitate access to the justice system (see King County, Washington.)

Just in case you have a county law library mission statement, I've listed these all out on an open [Google Docs page](#). Feel free to add yours to the list!

"Fortunately, there are many county law libraries that still seem to believe that they serve a purpose to the community to enhance knowledge of the law and to facilitate access to the justice system."

Maricopa County (Arizona)*

For over 90 years, the Superior Court Law Library has provided legal research assistance to the bench, the bar, and the public in Maricopa County, one of the fastest growing counties in the country. The Law Library is a public-court law library with a collection of over 150,000 volumes and a broad array of legal databases. These resources aid the Law Library in the fulfillment of its mission to provide open, reliable access to legal information.

Yavapai County (Arizona)

The Yavapai County Law Library's mission is to provide access to legal information – print and non-print – and information services to the general public and the citizens, legal community and court staff of Yavapai County in a prompt, impartial, economical manner. The Law Library assists library and self-service users in locating resources to facilitate their research and provides access to legal forms for filing in the Superior Court of Yavapai County.

Alameda County (California)*

Mission: The Mission of the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library is to provide access to current legal information to the public, attorneys and residents.

Vision: The Alameda County Law Library is a public Law Library. The Library envisions a future in which all people have effective access to justice. To bring about this vision, it provides access to information required for participation in the legal system, resolving legal disputes, engaging in commerce, and tending to personal affairs and academic projects.

Orange County (California)*

None found.

Los Angeles County (California)*

Vision Statement: The LA Law Library is the leader in providing public access to legal information.

Mission Statement: The LA Law Library provides access to legal information through effective, efficient and collaborative services in order to support current and emerging user needs in a dynamic legal environment.

Riverside County (California)*

The goal of the Board of Trustees for the Riverside County Law Library is to



make available to the judiciary, state and county officials, members of the state and local bar, and all residents of the county, current legal materials, modern facilities and adequate trained staff, which will enable them to perform the highest level of research and practice." (Adopted April 1984).

Sacramento County (California)*

Vision Statement

The Sacramento County Public Law Library staff strives to provide excellent service to all members of our diverse community, to respect the dignity and individuality of each community member, and to acknowledge the importance of each member's access to legal information.

Mission Statement

Towards the fulfillment of our vision, it is the mission of the Sacramento County Public Law Library to:

Assist our customers in their effort to use the legal system effectively

Continually improve our services

Cultivate new technologies to best serve customers

Exhibit our values in our daily work

Seek to maximize our customers' research dollar

Support each other in our individual and team efforts to improve the library

San Bernardino County (California)*

Our mission is to provide public access to current legal information. The Law Library maintains a comprehensive legal reference research collection, including state and federal cases and statutes, national and California treatises, legal periodicals (law reviews), legal encyclopedias, electronic databases, and self-help materials.

San Diego County (California)*

Vision: The San Diego County Public Law Library uses its staff, its collections, and the other tools and programs it develops to promote relevant, pertinent and timely legal information to the residents of San Diego County in order to provide them with access to justice.

Mission: Focus on meeting the needs of the library's users.



Create a county-wide community resource that promotes interaction and collaboration in the dissemination of legal information.

Maintain a practical, timely and relevant collection and electronic access to legal materials that will meet the needs of the library's users.

Make legal information available to users in the most appropriate and relevant format possible.

Provide professional library staff that demonstrates excellent communication skills and uses technology to improve workflow and enhance the flow of legal information.

Develop facilities and spaces within the law libraries that enable study and collaboration.

San Luis Obispo County (California)

It is the mission of the San Luis Obispo County Law Library to provide current legal materials that meet the legal research and information needs of Law Library users in San Luis Obispo County. We serve all members of the community and county government.

San Mateo County (California)

The mission of the San Mateo County Law Library is to provide access to legal materials to all persons interested in the law. To meet this end, the Law Library is a resource library open to the Judiciary, members of the State Bar of California, and all residents of the County of San Mateo and the State of California for the purpose of legal research and the examination of law books and other legal materials.

Santa Clara County (California)*

Mission: To empower our residents to do their own legal research

Stanislaus County (California)

The Stanislaus County Law Library provides free access to legal information for the judiciary, members of the State Bar, public officials, and to all residents of the county for the purpose of education and research.

Brevard County (Florida)*

The mission of the A. Max Brewer Memorial Law Library is to collect, preserve, and provide access to legal resources and information to Brevard



County judges, attorneys, government officials and the public

The A. Max Brewer Memorial Law Library strives to provide courteous, confidential, and cost-effective service to all members of the community.

Hillsborough County (Florida)*

Mission: Collect, maintain, and make available legal research materials in print and electronic format not generally obtainable elsewhere in the County for use by the bench, Bar, students, and the general public.

Miami-Dade County (Florida)*

None Found.

Palm Beach (Florida)*

The Palm Beach County Law Library serves the legal and law related information needs of the county, including county residents, judges, attorneys, students, county officials and pro-se patrons. It provides legal reference and referral services, within the guidelines of Florida Statute 454.23.

The law library cooperates with the community to enhance knowledge of the law and to facilitate access to the justice system.

Our goal is to provide the patrons with accurate up-to-date legal information.

Pinellas County (Florida)

The Pinellas County Law Library is committed to providing cost effective and timely access to significant print and non-print legal resources at the local, state, and federal level useful to the Courts of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the practicing Bar, Pinellas County Agencies, and the public in their search for law-related information and their pursuit of justice.

Cook County (Illinois)*

Provide a practitioner focused legal research facility; Maintain a practice-oriented collection of legal material in print and electronic format; Provide legal and legislative research assistance; Operate in a manner consistent with sound fiscal management.

Champaign County (Illinois)

The Mission of the Champaign County Law Library is to provide access to legal research materials to members of the public, lawyers, judges and other



county officials in order to facilitate the just and equitable disposition of cases heard in Champaign County.

DuPage County (Illinois)

The mission of the DuPage County Law Library is to provide legal information services to all licensed attorneys, judges, as well as members of the public. Our goal is to provide our patrons with accurate up-to-date legal information. To achieve this goal we are committed to increasing the law library's collection to meet the needs of the legal community. At its present pace, the collection will double in size every nine years. Presently the DuPage County Law Library contains more than 26,000 volumes including compilations of statutory and case law accessible through state and federal statutes, digests, encyclopedias, regional reporters, treatises and legal periodicals.

Kane County (Illinois)

Mission Statement

In support of its governing statute, 55 ILCS 5/5-39001, the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center staff strives to provide outstanding service, recognizing, supporting, and furthering open and equal access to legal and governmental information for all.

Vision Statement

Towards the fulfillment of our mission, it is the vision of the Kane County Law Library & Self Help Legal Center to openly advocate for and fiercely support equal access to justice through:

Assisting the public in their efforts to understand and use the legal system effectively and efficiently

Creating informed consumers with realistic expectations of the legal system

Ensuring equal access to legal and governmental information in the most cost effective manner

Continuing to educate ourselves and others about new technologies and services and supplying those technologies and services deemed appropriate at no or low costs

Actively advocating at local, state and national levels individually and through professional associations for open and equal access to legal and governmental information



Supporting not only the Judiciary, County Personnel and those in the legal professions, but the public and its diverse membership in their quest for legal and governmental information.

Creating positive contacts and experiences between the public and the legal system

Jefferson County (Kentucky)

The mission of the Jefferson County Public Law Library (JCPLL) is to provide the community with a current collection of legal reference materials based upon the belief that access to knowledge and information is essential to the promotion of justice and respect for the law.

Oakland County (Michigan)

The Oakland County Library provides free and open access to specialized collections and services generally not found in local public libraries for its residents, elected officials and county employees.

Wayne County (Michigan)

No law library - Relies upon the local law school libraries.

Middlesex County (Massachusetts)*

None found

Dakota County (Minnesota)

To provide adequate and timely legal information to the judiciary, governmental employees, the members of the bar and the citizens of Dakota County, in the form most comprehensible to all types of users, bearing in mind that ready and convenient access to such information is vital to the justice system of a democratic society.

To collaborate with existing organizations to maximize the delivery of legal information and to avoid costly and ineffective duplication.

To utilize information technology to deliver legal information wherever financially feasible and acceptable to users.

Hennepin County (Minnesota)

Our mission is to provide access to legal information, a basic component of access to justice, to all citizens of the County, in ways that are reliable, efficient, respectful, innovative, and economical.



Ramsey County (Minnesota)

Mission. The mission of the Ramsey County Law Library is to provide the best legal information services to its patrons, using print and online material, in the most cost effective manner. Legal information is a basic component of access to justice.

Clark County (Nevada)*

VISION STATEMENT: A research library dedicated to providing equality of access to sources of law, related information and community resources.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Clark County Law Library provides access to the most recent precedents and the best available commentary regarding legal issues.

Bronx County (New York)*

The primary mission of the law libraries of the Unified Court System is to contribute professional library services to the process of providing just and timely resolution of all matters before the courts.

In order to fulfill this mission, timely, adequate, accessible, and effective resources are provided in an efficient, cost-effective manner. Library staff manage, acquire, evaluate, store, distribute and clarify information deemed appropriate to the mission of the library.

Kings County (New York)*

The library's mission is to serve the bench, the bar, & the public by providing professional library services.

Nassau County (New York)*

The library's mission is to serve the bench, the bar, and the public by providing professional library services.

New York County (New York)*

To acquire, process, and to provide access to legal information resources in all formats including digital, to library patrons; To provide research support and training for court personnel and other library users; And to provide library related technology support, including opportunities for web based searching and access to materials for library users throughout the Unified Court System.



The library also responds to reference queries from throughout the world if time and resource permit.

Queens County (New York)*

The library's mission is to serve the bench, the bar, and the public by providing professional library services.

Suffolk County (New York)*

None Found

Cuyahoga County (Ohio)*

** Dues-Paying Membership – Public access only on Wednesdays from 8:30-5:00 only **

Lane County (Oregon)

Mission Statement: The Lane County Law Library is dedicated to providing a high-level of service to all members of the community. As part of this mission, the Law Library strives to provide access to legal materials and related resources needed for legal research by members of the bar, the judiciary and the public.

Vision Statement: The Law Library will be recognized within Lane County as a major contributor to programs providing access to and use of legal resources.

Allegheny County (Pennsylvania)*

The Center for Legal Information advances the effective and efficient legal research competencies of the law school's faculty and students, the local legal community, and the general public in a collaborative community environment.

(Joint partnership with Duquesne University Center for Legal Information)

Philadelphia County (Pennsylvania)*

** AKA “Jenkins Law Library” - Member Library... Not Public**

Our mission: Since its founding in 1802, the Jenkins Law Library has been dedicated to bringing people and information together within the legal community. As the nation's oldest law library, it is committed to providing value through its outstanding service, comprehensive access to legal and other



information, relevant educational programs, the latest technologies, and a hospitable place to work and visit.

Our vision: Jenkins Law Library will be seen as a destination to an ever expanding clientele, as a result of innovation and adherence to an excellence in maintaining, preserving and providing access to legal information by the public and legal communities.

Bexar County (Texas)*

The Bexar County Law Library provides the bench, bar, governmental agencies and the public with cost-effective access to the most recent statutes, case law and the best available commentary regarding legal issues.

Cameron County (Texas)

The Cameron County Law Library's mission is to provide access to legal information to the citizens of Cameron County in ways that are reliable, efficient, respectful, innovative and economical.

Collin County (Texas)

The Law Library's mission is to serve at a place that is both convenient and accessible and to maintain a legal reference for the judges, litigants, and residents of Collin County. The Law Library Fund is provided by fees collected in connection with civil suit filings.

Dallas County (Texas)*

None found

Grayson County (Texas)

The mission of the Grayson County law Library is to provide specialized legal reference resources in a variety of formats to the legal community, litigants, and residents of Grayson County, TX.

Harris County (Texas)*

None found

Hidalgo County (Texas)

The Hidalgo County Law Library's mission is to provide access to information



on legal research for the Judiciary, State, and County Officials, Members of the State and Local Bar Associates, and all Citizens of Hidalgo County with the best collection of law books and services available.

Tarrant County (Texas)*

The Tarrant County Law Library serves the legal research needs of the Tarrant County legal community and the general public.

Fairfax County (Virginia)*

To Promote Justice by Providing All Citizens with Access to Legal Information.

The Fairfax Public Law Library provides citizens with access to information about laws and legal procedures. Its resources include more than 35,000 books and legal periodicals as well as several public computer research terminals. The legal resources available in the law library are not available to the public at any other single location within the County of Fairfax. Although staff may not offer legal advice, they provide bibliographic instruction and assist more than 70,000 patrons each year in locating legal information and sample legal forms. The library is available to all, including members of the general public, members of the legal profession, and public officials such as judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. The Fairfax Public Law Library is a critical component of the county's efforts to provide meaningful access to justice.

King County (Washington)*

The Public Law Library of King County serves the legal and law related information needs of the county, including the judges, county officials, members of the Bar and other county residents. The Public Law Library cooperates with the community to enhance knowledge of the law and to facilitate access to the justice system.

The Public Law Library will be conducted as statutorily directed in a fair, honest and courteous manner while avoiding debt and extravagance. The Public Law Library's goal shall be to exceed user expectations by reason of superior performance and dedication by the Public Law Library's employees.

Pierce County (Washington)

The mission of the Pierce County Law Library is to provide legal information services to the bench, bar, state and local governments and the public to as-



Rural States, Legal Services, and Legal Education

Deb Person, University of Wyoming College of Law

Every state has isolated rural communities that are more difficult to reach for delivery of legal services. For those states with a substantial percentage of their population in rural areas it is a constant struggle. And the struggle is not only to serve the population but the legal community as well, a community that begins with law students.

At a recent AALL session, "The Struggle for Information Access and Instruction in Less Populous Areas," Paula Doty from the Nevada Supreme Court Library and I sought to address some of the ways that states with large percentages of rural populations differ in the services they provide and the training of their attorneys. I looked at the differences in educating attorneys who would likely practice in more rural environments, and Paula addressed the issues of services and how states are seeking to meet the needs of their population. The goal of this recap is to identify other librarians like us with an interest in this issue.

Situated in Wyoming, I come from the state with the second lowest population per square mile (after Alaska). Laramie, where the University of Wyoming is located, is the third largest city in the state, a state of around 560,000 people. The College of Law at the University of Wyoming, similar to other law schools in the region with high rural populations, admits 50%-60% residents, and, though it's difficult to collect exact figures from peer institutions, it appears that a similar percentage stay in state to practice law.

We believe the educational experience in law schools with a large rural community varies from schools that serve a more urban population in small but important ways. Some of the characteristics of these schools are a holistic approach to admittance, including high resident requirements imposed by the state legislature, which, in low-population states tends to lower the pool of LSAT-acceptable candidates, slightly older student, and in some rural states throughout the West, a lack of diversity. Law schools that fell into this loosely-defined category of rural schools tended to rank among U.S. News and World Report's former third and fourth tiers, and that may be attributed in some degree to those factors listed above.



Using Wyoming as a model, we sought to identify some of the differences. Smaller schools have fewer curricular choices; it's more difficult to attract faculty; and graduates will not be walking away with the power of a big-named university behind them. On the other hand, we offer a very respectable faculty-student ratio; competitions and law review are open to all students; on-sight oral arguments of the Wyoming Supreme Court usually involving our own clinic students; and a faculty that has taught a significant portion of the current state bar association, making them somewhat influential within the state and providing students with solid references to prospective employers.

How, then, do we move from the instructional aspect of our states' attorneys to practicing within the state? Paula addressed some of the issue in her state that we believe are common to rural areas.

States like Nevada and Wyoming, with low populations, do not have intermediate appellate courts, meaning every appeal goes directly to the state's highest court, congesting their court system. In Nevada, a recent survey indicated that some rural county law libraries are unstaffed, housed in other county offices such as that of the district attorney, or supervised by judges' clerks. Some counties do not have law libraries at all. With the availability of low-end primary law contracts for Westlaw and Lexis, some counties are providing online resources, but no training is provided to staff or patrons. Much of the population that lives within an acceptable distance of the state capitol still has to travel fifty or sixty miles to use the resources of the state law library, and many are traveling much farther. Some of the smaller towns do not have any attorneys and citizens may have to drive over an hour to find one. And, while constitutionally, those convicted of crimes have access to public defenders, any treatment programs that are ordered by the courts may not be available in their county.

These are big problems. Some of the steps towards improving the access problems in Nevada are integrated technology to provide the use of video and telecommunication tools for court hearings and electronic filing of court documents, the standardization of regularly used forms, districts and counties allowing the use of court forms that are easily accessible from other districts, and self help web sites collecting links to state social and legal services, <http://www.nvlawdirectory.org/linksall.html>.

"In Nevada, a recent survey indicated that some rural county law libraries are unstaffed, housed in other county offices such as that of the district attorney, or supervised by judges' clerks. Some counties do not have law libraries at all."

In California, Vanessa Uribe, Library Director at El Dorado County Law Library, has set up a Facebook page for staff in small counties as an open forum, and the State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section is addressing some of these issues, too.

Academic and state court libraries may seem like an unlikely pairing, and admittedly, larger law schools may feel that they are pretty distant from these problems. But smaller schools, where the alumni are the leadership of the state bar association, the state legislature, and the state government, may find real opportunities here. We'd like to begin the conversation. If you find your state is experiencing similar problems, if you have happened upon some really good solutions, if you would like to see your law school working to prepare students for this environment, please contact one of us.

¹ I selected schools from states with only one law school, and though I found trends across the board, the greatest similarities seemed to be regional.

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AALL Announcements

The AALL 2011 [Biennial Salary Survey and Organizational Characteristics](#) is now available online free for AALL members.

This new edition is the only source for up-to-date information about salaries for law librarians and other law library employees who work in academic libraries; private firms and corporate libraries; and state, court, and county law libraries. The survey was carried out this summer in complete confidentiality by Association Research, Inc., a professional research firm in Rockville, Maryland, that works exclusively with nonprofit organizations.

Printed copies of the survey will be available for purchase and shipment in mid-November; \$110 for AALL members and \$175 for nonmembers (contact orders@aall.org).



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The Back Page

Member News & Announcements



Court of International Trade Library Staff Wins NYC Federal Executive Board Award

The New York City Federal Executive Board (FEB) recently honored a group of United States Court of International Trade (CIT) Law Library employees for a research project that documented the lives of 28 judges who served on the United States Customs Court - the predecessor to the CIT.

The team volunteered to take on the project in lieu of using an external research service and completed it within a very short time frame, thus providing the Court with significant savings.

The team included Library staff members Dan Campbell, Herb Crenshaw, Rosemarie DiCristo, Anna Djirdjirian, Mary Finnegan-Hurley, Fred Frankel, Glenn Johnston, and Mildred Randle, Executive Assistant to Senior Judge Thomas J. Aquilino, Jr.

The project's goal was to locate various biographical materials for each judge and to assemble them in a way that provided a detailed and consistent overview of the judge's life. These materials were then used to assist the profile author with creating an individual life story for each judge.

These profiles, along with a photograph or other likeness, were then framed and will be displayed in the Courthouse. The research materials will be made permanently available to historians and other researchers upon request.

Congratulations on a job well done!



Pictured: **Award Ceremony at Wall Street Cipriani's on May 6th, 2011.**

From left to right:
 Keynote Speaker, General Duncan J. McNabb,
 Commander, U.S. Transportation Command
 Herbert Crenshaw
 Anna Djirdjirian
 Frederick Frankel
 Mildred Randle
 Chairman of the FEB, Carmine Gallo, Regional
 Administrator, FAA
 Daniel Campbell
 Glenn Johnston
 Tina Potuto Kimble, Clerk of the Court
 Mary Finnegan Hurley
 Senior Judge Thomas J. Aquilino, Jr.