

SCCLL News

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

View from the Chair: Change and Collaboration

Barbara Fritschel, Chair

“There is a technical term for people who don’t change. Dead.”

This has become a favorite quote, even though I don’t know who said it. Whether or not to change is no longer an option. The question has become how are we going to handle change—proactively, reactively or passively.

Related to this concept, even if it only makes sense to me, is collaboration. I see lots of commonalities with us and other types of libraries. The Academic Law Libraries SIS is developing a white paper on library marketing. Things that happened in private law libraries regarding space and other issues years ago are now facing my court library. Several of the wonderful sessions I heard in Boston indicated the need to collaborate, with groups outside the law library communities as well as with groups within it. We forget that what is old news to us may be new to other people.

My focus this year will be on collaboration. We already have some successful collaboration efforts such as the pro bono committee and access to justice committees. Other collaborative efforts I hope we will explore include:

Collaborating among ourselves. We have tremendously talented people in this SIS. Let’s share our marketing materials, user needs surveys, job descriptions, pro bono materials, etc. It’s easier to revise and adapt than start from scratch. Please send your materials to any member of the technology committee or to Amy Hale-Janeke to be included in our wiki.

Collaborating among our committees. Some projects seem to overlap between committees and so they will be working jointly to get those projects done.

Collaborating with other SISs. We need to share stories and concerns as well as resources. I will be exploring this and if you have suggestions, please let me know.



“Collaboration is not the only way, but it is one way we can proactively deal with change—from finding commonalities among our colleagues to sharing insights and information with those outside of our profession.”

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View from the Chair, continued

Barbara Fritschel, Chair

Collaborating with the legal profession. We can no longer assume that people will support libraries just because we are a library. We need to establish connections with bar members, judges, clerks and their profession associations as well as public libraries. This type of collaboration is best done on the local level, but we can share with each other what works.

I had the privilege of inviting Jim Waldron, the Bankruptcy Clerk of Court for the District of New Jersey to be a speaker. I hope he impressed the audience. I know we impressed him. He mentioned several times that he was unaware that law librarians had a professional association and how many law librarians there were.

We are an impressive, talented group of individuals. Collaboration is not the only way, but it is one way we can proactively deal with change—from finding commonalities among our colleagues to sharing insights and information with those outside of our profession.



From The Editor's Desk

Holly Gerber, Washington County Law Library (OR)

As the excitement of the annual meeting dies down and attendees start to implement ideas they learned at the conference, we can all celebrate the [success of the silent auction](#) and [view the conference through the eyes of a travel grant recipient](#). Taking to heart our new Chair's message about collaboration, this issue features news and ideas from our [law school library colleagues](#), the [National Center for State Courts](#), the [Equal Justice Conference](#), and the [Self Represented Litigation Network](#).

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 11th, 2013.** 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.

AALL Announcements

Save the Date – AALL Law Library Management Online Course

November 1-December 14 AALL will offer a six-week online course designed to help you achieve higher management performance and advance your career potential. You will have an opportunity to connect and collaborate with peers. Topics will include effective law library management, communication effectiveness, negotiation and making the case for library value, and more. Stay tuned—registration opens in October.



AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: [What Makes a Librarian Worth a Million Bucks? Valuing Staff, Resources, and Services When Dollars Are Scarce.](#)

At the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting, two law firm librarians gave a detailed presentation on how to prove the true value of law librarians. They demonstrated how hard data and soft skills can be used in a numbers-based evaluation that can be effectively used to show worth.

Using the framework of a value assurance cycle, the presenters showed how librarians can audit existing staff and services; align library goals; appraise operations by determining a quantifiable measurement of time, cost, and quality; and act on the gathered data by making changes in the library. In addition to showing the importance of hard data, librarians must also showcase their “soft skills” that are often excluded from libraries’ annual reports. The presenters emphasized the importance of including the librarian’s leadership qualities and emotional intelligence when illustrating the value of the library.

This session provides a detailed overview of how to implement quality-improvement projects to prove the value of librarians, resources, and services. All library managers who have been challenged to show the value of their libraries would benefit from watching this excellent program. This program is presented in streaming video with accompanying PowerPoint slides.

Find this and more than 100 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on [AALL2go!](#)



2012 Silent Auction Results

Gail Warren, Silent Auction Committee

The generosity of SCCLL members never ceases to amaze me! Members' donations of a variety of wonderful items for our two silent auctions, as well as their bids for items featured in the auctions and contributions to the "challenge" issued by Chair Barbara Fritschel during our Business Meeting in Boston resulted in a very successful fundraising effort. You ask, "How much money did we raise anyway??"



Online Only Auction conducted June 18 through July 6, 2012	\$378.00
Silent Auction at SCCLL Meeting in Boston, July 22, 2012	\$1019.00
Funds collected from "Barbara's Challenge" July 22-24, 2012	\$1521.00
Barbara's match to the Challenge	\$1600.00

TOTAL FUNDS for SCCLL-SIS 2012-2013 Grants: \$4518

Many thanks to members who donated and/or bid on items for our auctions - your support of SCCLL makes it possible for us to offer generous travel grants for members' attendance at AALL Annual Meetings and the annual Equal Access to Justice Conference. A special thanks to Barbara for her significant contribution to the auction and inspiring others to donate.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions for next year's auctions or other fundraising efforts, please contact me (gail.warren.56@comcast.net) or any member of the Grants Committee.



National Center for State Courts News

Claudia Jalowka, AALL Representative to NCSC

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) offers many events, publications and products that are of interest to SCCLL members and their institutions. Here are some upcoming conferences and recent publications and products of which to be aware.



Conferences

- [eCourts 2012](#) – December 10 – 12, 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. “This year’s conference will deliver two-and-a-half days of real-world solutions to the pressing technology problems facing your courts.” For more information visit the conference website at <http://www.e-courts.org/>.
- [Court Tech Conference \(CTC\) 2012](#) – September 17 – 19, 2013 in Baltimore, MD.

Publications and Products

- [Center on Court Access to Justice for All](#) – “The Center helps judges and courts advance access to justice, especially for poor and low-income individuals, by offering resources on 15 strategies and technical assistance. It works closely with the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators and other national court organizations to implement access-to-justice solutions.”
- [Coloring Book – Justice Files](#) – “The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) launched a public awareness campaign several years ago to educate the public about how the courts work. The central effort of this campaign was to develop a series of graphic novels, called **Justice Case Files**, which engage the reader while giving insight into how judges make decisions, how the courts protect the public, and why courts are so important to a democratic society.”
- [Harvard Executive Session for State Court Leaders in the 21st Century](#) - “Through its six meetings over three years, the Executive Session set out to both develop and answer questions that U.S. state courts will face in the foreseeable future, attempting to clarify what leaders of state courts can and should do to distinguish their role in our system of democratic governance.”

National Center for State Courts News, continued

Claudia Jalowka, AALL Representative to NCSC

Harvard Executive Session Papers Published to Date:

- [Opinions as the Voice of the Court: How State Supreme Courts Can Communicate Effectively and Promote Procedural Fairness](#)
- [A Case for Court Governance Principles](#)
- [Herding Lions: Shared Leadership of State Trial Courts](#)
- [Consortium for Language Access](#) - “The Mission of the Consortium is to inspire and enable its members to promote equal access to justice in courts and tribunals by eliminating language barriers for persons with limited English proficiency.”

Please visit the [NSCS](http://www.ncsc.org/) web site at <http://www.ncsc.org/> to learn more about the NCSC and these listings.

Going Beyond Stereotypes

Christine Napoleon, formerly of the Florida Coastal School of Law

“In the public psyche, a librarian is a woman of indeterminate age, who wears spectacles; a person with either a timorous disposition or an austere disposition, wearing a long sleeved blouse buttoned to the neck; someone who loves silence, likes books, and suffers people. Librarians don’t laugh. They are covered with a thin film of dust. They have pale skins, which, when touched (as if one ever could) might flake and prove to be reptilian scales.”

-From “Between the Stacks”, by Barry Bowes (London: Landesman, 1979)

A woman walked to the customs officer at the Canada-US border to get her visa in order to work in the United States. The customs officer looked her over and asked what work she would be doing. With barely contained excitement, she exclaimed, “I’m going to be a librarian.” Without bothering to mask his shock, the customs officer declared, “But you can’t be a librarian—you don’t look like one!” The woman could not resist asking, “What does a librarian look like?” The customs officer replied in all seriousness, “You



Going Beyond Stereotypes, continued

Christine Napoleon

know, older woman—with a bun, glasses, a frown and a cat or two! I met some librarians before and they seemed miserable!” He then concluded with a question, “Why would you want to be a librarian?”

Why wouldn't I want to be a librarian? I remember thinking, “Who wouldn't want to be a librarian?” I reminded myself that I had to keep my cool and not jeopardize the visa process because I needed the visa for my fellowship. I think that I just smiled and said that none of the librarians I knew fitted the description that he gave me. In the year since that incident at the border, I have experienced numerous instances where I have not only questioned why I want to be a librarian, but also how I would like others to perceive me as a librarian.

Looking back, I realize that one of the reasons that I was so shocked by the customs officer's comments was that I had never paid attention to librarian stereotypes. Maybe, it is because I grew up in India and Kuwait and we did not have the same stereotypes. In addition, for the past twenty years, I have lived in North America and I have used libraries in both Canada and the United States and I can honestly say that I have not met a single librarian who fits the customs officer's idea of a librarian.

As far back as I can remember I have always been friends with librarians. My sister still teases me about the fact that I had all my high school librarians sign my yearbook my senior year. I did not think anything of it, but my high school library in India had approximately an equal number of male and female employees. I remember them fondly because the librarians saw something in me and encouraged me to spend as much time as I wanted in the library. My friendship with librarians continued after I moved to Canada. Even before I found work, or filled out my college application, I had a library card. I found the librarians who worked in the public libraries to be just as helpful as the librarians in my schools had been. Every research paper that I have ever written has turned out better because a librarian encouraged my curiosity, questioned my methods, and challenged me to look for information that I had not considered.

Back then, I had not heard of the stereotype of the spinsterish librarian with hair in a bun and glasses. I remember that a couple of the librarians were young, friendly and often hung out with the students at the snack bar.

“I have experienced numerous instances where I have not only questioned why I want to be a librarian, but also how I would like others to perceive me as a librarian.”

Going Beyond Stereotypes, continued

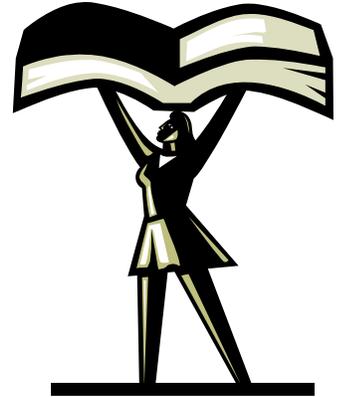
Christine Napoleon

One of the librarians had children who were in some of my classes and although he seemed really stern, he always had a story to tell me about different writers. I cannot remember if any the librarians had cats, but I do remember that they were pleasant and never miserable towards the students. In fact, their friendliness is what I remember the most! I do not remember any of the librarians fitting the traditional stereotypes—while I knew some middle-aged librarians, the majority of the librarians (both males and females) I came in contact with were only a few years older. The librarians I knew did not sit at home with their cats, but sang in my church choir, went camping, and traveled the world.

I did not consider becoming a librarian until I was in my second year of law school. In fact, I did not know that law librarianship was a viable career option until I joined my law school four years ago. I knew from the beginning that I did not want to be a traditional lawyer and that I did not intend to practice law. It was the librarians in my law school who provided me with the guidance and direction I needed. First, it was Colleen Manning, the assistant director for public services, who—after a short conversation with me at the end of my 1L year—asked me to submit a resume for the position of student reference desk attendant. Other librarians at the school patiently answered the numerous questions I had about the profession. After a month at the reference desk, I knew that law librarianship was for me. After graduating law school, I accepted the reference librarian fellowship at my law school.

None of the librarians here really fit the common stereotypes—not one of the sixteen librarians wears their hair in a bun. Six of the librarians are males and are definitely not spinsterish. There are some librarians, here, who do have cats but others have dogs and one librarian keeps a pet lizard. One librarian is also a military reservist and she has been deployed at least three times since I have been here. I have also met librarians who go whitewater rafting, lift weights, dance or teach classes in their spare time. Some of us have even gone skydiving together and are making plans to do some bungee jumping. Most importantly, I discovered that librarians are actually pretty popular with students!

My decision to become a librarian has invited all sorts of comments from the people who know me. I have heard everything from “but you’re not a boring person” to “you’re not going to make any money.”



Going Beyond Stereotypes, continued

Christine Napoleon

Of course, the recent Forbes article declaring the MLIS degree as the worst degree for jobs right now has not really been a ringing endorsement for librarianship. In addition, the article mentioned that librarianship is not a growing profession.

One reason could be the negative image that seems to live on in the public psyche. It is up to us to change this image—maybe through some active promotion. We need to show our patrons that librarians are nothing like how we are portrayed in the media. We need to demonstrate that the MLIS degree is for vibrant people who are excited about teaching others about organizing and accessing information. After all, I decided to become a librarian because of the librarians who have been in my life. While we may never be able to completely change public perception, we might be able to influence a few brave souls to fall in love with librarianship.

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“While we may never be able to completely change public perception, we might be able to influence a few brave souls to fall in love with librarianship.”

Using Social Media for Marketing & Outreach in Law Libraries

Endia Sowers, Howard University School of Law Library

“Does the organization have a Facebook page?”

“Is your company on Twitter?”

These questions have become commonplace over the past five years, and are often more frequently asked than, *“Do you have a business card?”* Using social media has become the telltale sign of a modern business. Law libraries can also benefit from utilizing social media websites for marketing and patron outreach. These websites allow librarians to express creativity, educate library users, announce events, and brand their law libraries.

Of all the great reasons for law libraries to join the social media trend, one of the biggest benefits is cost. Facebook, Twitter, and most other avenues of social media are free to use. In a time when many libraries are being more budget conscious, free and low-cost marketing opportunities should be maximized. Participation in popular social media websites also allows law

Using Social Media for Marketing & Outreach in Law Libraries, continued

Endia Sowers, Howard University School of Law Library

libraries to reach larger audiences and serve patrons from across the globe. This may only seem attractive to academic law libraries and those that cater to pro se litigants, but librarians in law firms can also use social media to serve offices in multiple locations. Another positive thing about social media websites is that they are often user-friendly. Millions of people access these sites for personal use, so many librarians are already familiar with how to navigate popular social media websites, and require minimal training.

There are some possible disadvantages to consider when determining whether your law library would benefit from using social media. With there being so many forms of social networking available, some people are experiencing social media fatigue. This fatigue is not just a potential issue for library patrons, but also for law librarians who feel overwhelmed with trying to keep up with weekly or daily blog posts, status changes, and tweets. This information overload can be prevented by being selective in which avenues of social media your law library employs. Setting clear objectives and outreach goals for your law library will ensure the selection of the best social networking forum for your organization. This also aids in preventing deviation from your law library's mission or brand, which is another possible disadvantage of engaging in social media.

Whether it is through the use of a library blog, daily tweets, or tutorial videos on YouTube, tapping into the social media trend is one way to build bridges between law libraries and their patrons. Here are ten ways that law libraries can use social media to enhance their marketing and outreach efforts:

1. Use Facebook pages to announce upcoming workshops and to promote contests and giveaways.
2. Create a Twitter account and tweet the arrival of new acquisitions and popular books.
3. Record a video of the law library's most frequently asked questions and upload it to YouTube.
4. Create virtual bulletin boards on Tumblr or Pinterest that highlight special collections and rare books.



Using Social Media for Marketing & Outreach in Law Libraries, continued

Endia Sowers, Howard University School of Law Library

5. Publish blog postings to introduce new staff members to the community or interview current employees for "A Day in the Life" series.
6. Encourage interaction with the surrounding community by advertising library events on MeetUp.com.
7. Pin desired book covers and resources on Pinterest so that library supporters can select titles to donate. Link these titles to a bookstore website for quick and easy ordering.
8. Use a Facebook mobile app that allows patrons to quickly access library information on the go.
9. Tweet tips on how to locate free legal resources on the Internet.
10. Setup circles on Google+ for everything from author and editor feedback, to reference chat sessions.

The opportunities are endless for law libraries to carve out a unique corner of the social media trend to improve outreach, marketing, and patron services.

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"The opportunities are endless for law libraries to carve out a unique corner of the social media trend to improve outreach, marketing, and patron services."

The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network: Opportunities for Law Librarians to Showcase the Value of Law Libraries

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

Through the generosity of an SCCLL grant I was able to attend the Equal Justice Conference (EJC) held in Jacksonville last spring. The EJC is presented by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. As in previous years the Self Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) held a pre-conference in conjunction with the EJC. I have been participating in the work of the SRLN Law Librarians Working Group and thought that this would be a good opportunity to further that participation. The fact that I had agreed to present a program at the request of Sara Galligan made the grant assistance even more appreciated.

The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

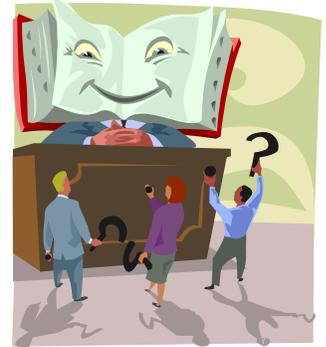
Law librarians are an essential element in the access to justice movement. By attending the SRLN pre-conference and the EJC, law librarians are able to demonstrate their contributions to self-help and pro bono initiatives and be recognized by other key stakeholders.

The Self Represented Litigation Network

The Self Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) was created in 2006, according to the website www.srln.org, to “bring[s] together courts and access to justice organizations in support of innovations in services for the self represented. The participants are cooperating in a wide variety of collaborative efforts and working groups. These efforts include providing information about innovations for the self represented, promoting best practices in such areas as the setting up of self-help offices, the use of forms, and e-filing, discrete task representation, and judicial practices and education programs, establishing a research agenda, and working for integration with the system as a whole and for long term funding to support access to justice for the self-represented.” Law librarians have been involved from the beginning of the SRLN as active members of the various working groups. Those groups include the Information, Marketing and Outreach Working Group (now the Strategy and Outreach Working Group), the Distance Services Group, the Law Librarians Working Group and the newly formed Federal Courts Self Represented Access Working Group. Resources for the SRLN and those working in self-help can be found at selfhelpsupport.org.

The SRLN pre-conference was attended by legal aid attorneys, judges, members of access to justice commissions, court administrators and law librarians Larry Meyer, Sara Galligan, Janine Liebert, Charley Dyer (retired) and me. A national report of the self-help issues provided information on a wide variety of topics. The program continued with a number of presentations by SRLN members on topics of significance to serving SRLs. Two of those were covered by law librarians.

Janine Liebert of LA Law Library reported on the state of service to the self represented litigant in the federal courts. She pointed to the report,



The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

Assistance to the Pro Se Litigants in U.S. District Courts at www.fjc.gov. The report details the challenges faced by the courts with growing numbers of pro se. Judges and clerks of the U.S. District Courts now face such challenges as poor quality pleadings, frivolous suits, increased caseload and a higher demand on court resources. Janine is the chair of the SRLN Federal Courts Self Represented Access Working Group formed after last year's panel on the topic. This working group is working on a number of issues including information collection and knowledge sharing, the development and sharing of best practices, funding, education and training of judges and court staff, outreach and innovations. Current projects are creation of a listserv for attorneys and clinic staff, an information folder at selfhelpsupport.org and information on program funding.

“Larry characterized law libraries as having feet in two worlds, the legal world and the library world, which is the perfect position in which to bring the two together in providing services and legal information to SRLs.”

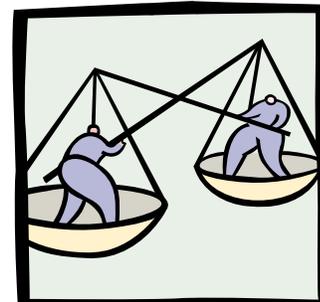
Larry Meyer, as the AALL representative to the SRLN, was responsible for the segment devoted to law libraries. He began by referencing his, i.e., the San Bernardino County Law Library's, [interactive map](#) showing the location of public law libraries in the United States and encouraging all to find their own law library as an important resource in serving SRLs. Larry mentioned Richard Zorza's report, "[The Sustainable 21st Century Law Library: Vision, Deployment and Assessment for Access to Justice](#)," that discusses the role of law libraries in providing assistance to the self-represented litigant. Larry characterized law libraries as having feet in two worlds, the legal world and the library world, which is the perfect position in which to bring the two together in providing services and legal information to SRLs. Law libraries have always provided triage as all patrons do not always need legal reference assistance but could instead require a referral to a program or agency that could provide a needed service. This could be a legal organization but could just as easily be a social service organization. Larry was able to demonstrate how libraries can collaborate with the courts and self-help centers to provide service to the SRL. The Sacramento County Public Law Library is an example of a law library that actually provides the self-help center as part of the library's services. Other law libraries collaborate with self-help centers by providing workshops. Larry concluded by recommending that participants look to their local law library for

The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

assistance in providing service to the SRL. He was also able to get in a plug for UELMA and the importance of authenticated legal material online.

Participation in the SRLN is a great way for law librarians to keep abreast of developments in the self-help movement and to share and collaborate with other organizations and entities. In turn, the value of a law library becomes evident to those organizations with which we work.



Equal Justice Conference

We, as law librarians, know that law libraries are essential in providing access to justice and can be recognized as such through participation in the Equal Justice Conference. The goal of the Equal Justice Conference is to “celebrate the ongoing collaboration between pro bono and legal services; explore additional partnerships that must be created, the resources that must be tapped, and the new issues facing clients.” This is certainly a goal that should involve law libraries. There were three programs with law librarians on the panel.

Stacey Bowers of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law Westminster Law Library was on the panel for “Librarians Collaborating to Meet the Need for Access to Legal Information” with Liz Keith of Pro Bono Net and Glenn Rawdon of the Legal Services Corporation. Glenn Rawdon spoke about LSC funding for the development of statewide legal information websites through lawhle.org. Listings of the state websites can be found there. There are two elements necessary in order for the websites to be successful in reaching those in need of the information: broadband access and libraries aware of those resources. Glenn Rawdon reported on the conference held on public libraries and access to justice (funded by a Gates grant to the NCSC with the SRLN and the Legal Services Corporation) held in Austin in 2010 that brought together teams from a number of states for intense training on the availability and use of online legal resources. The take away from the conference was teams ready to train public librarians. Post conference mini grants were available for the development of online training. I was already aware of the Maryland team’s webinars created in collaboration with the Maryland State Law Library. (They are archived on the [merlin website](http://merlin.org) under

The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

the “Synchronous Training Project.”) Liz Keith then described how Pro Bono Net is producing four national training webinars for librarians, in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society of Louisville, Central Minnesota Legal Services and Legal Services State Support (MN). Those webinars are just recently becoming available at <http://www.probono.net/librarywebinars/>. Keith provided examples of statewide legal websites and library collaborations. In Montana where there are areas with no Legal Aid office, public and law libraries provide work stations with free printing for access to the website <http://www.montanalawhelp.org/>. In Illinois, Legal Aid has partnered with libraries and courthouses to provide legal information throughout the state with the [Legal Aid Online Website](#). Liz Keith encouraged librarians to look for opportunities for state website involvement as outreach partners and content contributors. In describing the creation of the [Colorado Law Project of the University of Denver](#), Stacey Bowers provided a template for developing a legal information website. The grant-funded project began with research using an online survey and focus groups to determine information needed and used in public libraries. Development included the training and further feedback from public librarians. Marketing included links on the partner websites of public libraries, the Colorado Supreme Court and the university, articles in library publications, blogs, presentations and word of mouth. The website continues to be evaluated using Google Analytics and LibGuides usage statistics. In addition to the benefit of the information made available on the website for users, there were the benefits of newly formed relationships and opportunities for collaboration and an improved presence for the library.

Janine Liebert of the LA Law Library coordinated the panel for “Programs to Assist Self-Represented Litigants in the Federal Courts: Continuing an Open Conversation.” The program began with a discussion of how law libraries work with the federal courts to serve self represented litigants. The LA law libraries collaborate with the Public Counsel’s Federal Pro Se Clinic to provide triage and referrals for SRLs involved in federal matters. Law librarians can refer to the clinic and the clinic will refer to the law libraries those who do not qualify using a prescription pad indicating the information needed. The program continued with descriptions of different self-help programs in the federal courts. The programs vary from court to court.



The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

Some have panels of pro bono attorneys to whom cases are referred. In the U.S. District Court of Florida in Jacksonville, membership on the panel is voluntary but the NDNY Federal Court Bar Association, Inc. [Pro Se Assistance Program](#) is not optional. The Florida program works through the clerk's office and in Minnesota, Tiffany Sanders coordinates a program that is a collaboration of the court and the bar. Services of the Minnesota program include a website, [Representing Yourself \(ProSe\)](#). There is a bankruptcy court pilot program in New Jersey created to make filing easier through the use of technology tools. The [Bankruptcy Court of New Jersey's website](#) provides forms that are filled out using an interview process. If the user registers with the site, the information can be saved and used upon return to the session.

Sara Galligan, law librarian at the Ramsey County Law Library in Minnesota, asked Jennifer Doyle, librarian at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi and me to redo a LISP program from the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting on wikis and pro bono. The program, "WIKI Collaborations: Mapping a Path for Pro Bono Partnerships," highlighted wikis created to support pro bono attorneys. Jennifer Doyle and Trudi Busch, Director of Information Services at Oppenheimer, Wolff &. Donnelly worked to create the [Volunteer Librarians Coalition wiki](#) to support the pro bono work of the Volunteers Lawyers Network. The wiki contains basic legal information and pro bono resources accessible to anyone who comes to the wiki. However, the VLC also supports the attorneys' pro bono work by providing legal research services via questions posted to the wiki. VLC librarians can research using Westlaw through a special pro bono subscription program. These services are available only to the VLN lawyers. Jennifer provided a tour of the wiki and a viewing of the "how to use the wiki" video embedded on the wiki. I began my segment of the program by explaining just what a wiki is and the steps one might take to create a wiki. I was able to demonstrate wiki functions such as how to create a page or add links to pages by using [AACPLL Self Help and Pro Bono WIKI](#) to illustrate. The wiki supports the library's "Ask a Lawyer" programs and the Local Pro Bono Committee administratively by providing access to information needed such as schedules, the limited legal advice agreements, fliers, minutes, and agendas, in addition to self-help information, resources and referrals.



The Equal Justice Conference and the Self-Represented Litigation Network, continued

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library

I have highlighted the programs involving law librarians but there were many programs of interest even though they were not directly related to law libraries. Remote access, development of online information for mobile devices, tips for running pro bono volunteer programs, provision of forms through document assembly, and the civil right to counsel are examples of topics covered in the programs I attended. Videos of keynote speakers and links to program handouts are at the [conference website](#). In addition to the programming, we were able to take advantage of the social events to meet attendees from courts, legal aid offices, self-help programs and bar associations and to find out more about the services they provide and at the same time spread the word about law libraries.

It is important for law librarians to not only be aware of self-help and pro bono programs for referral but also to contribute to the process of developing and evaluating programs in our libraries and courts. The Equal Justice Conference is the perfect venue to find the information necessary to do so and to showcase the value of law librarians to other professions involved in pro bono and self-help. The next Equal Justice Conference will be held in St Louis, May 9 - 13, 2013. I would recommend the conference to law librarians with a desire to be involved and recognized as partners in access to justice. Please don't forget that SCCLL offers grants for attendance. ■

"It is important for law librarians to not only be aware of self-help and pro bono programs for referral but also to contribute to the process of developing and evaluating programs in our libraries and courts."

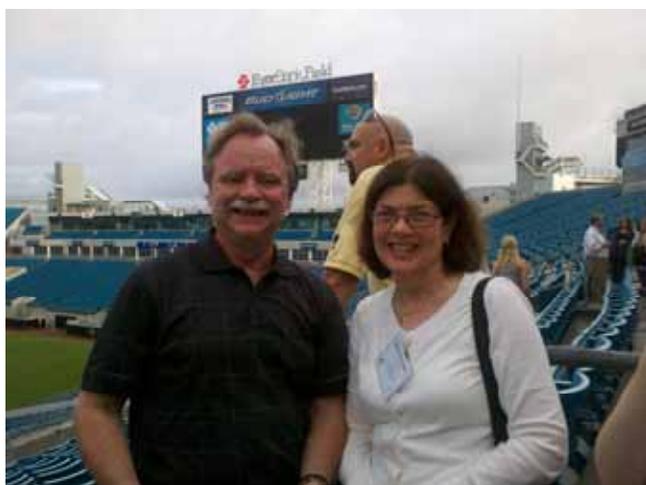


Photo of Larry Meyer and Sara Galligan at the EJC Host Committee-Sponsored Reception at the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars stadium.

AALL Travel Grant Essay

Konya Lafferty, Supreme Court of Illinois—Chicago Branch

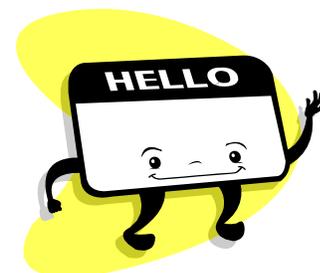
Awarding grants for educational opportunities shows that SCCLL is committed to the growth of profession. I am thankful for your investment in my growth as a librarian and it is with much gratitude that I report my experience at the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston.

I took advantage of as many sessions and as much networking as I could. I found the AALL community to be inviting as well as informative. I have been able to call on my new contacts and their areas of expertise for help with legal research and I also have been called on for Illinois information.

The sessions have proven practical for me. I find the legislative history session to be the most applicable. Another state agency in Illinois is experiencing a shortage of research staff following the retirement of their librarian, and I have been able to step in and train their paralegal in legislative history while they reorganize their research staffing needs. I picked up more skills in at the "What Were They Thinking and Where Do I Find It?: Strategies for Starting Legislative History Research" session and have been glad to pass those new skills along to those learning to conduct a legislative history. The legislative advocacy session has helped my ability to explain the legislative process to library patrons.

The legislative advocacy session was also informative as to the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). The promotion of UELMA is one of the main concerns of the Digital Access to Legal Information Committee (DALIC). This year, I was appointed to serve on DALIC, so it was a high priority for me to meet with this committee in Boston for our first meeting of the year. I also serve on the Government Relations committee for my local chapter (CALL), and what I learned regarding UELMA is important to that committee as well.

While in Boston, I toured the Harvard Law School Library and was surprised to find them in the midst of restructuring their library system regarding staff, as well as acquiring more electronic materials in lieu of print materials. I also made an impromptu visit to the library at the Suffolk University Law School and was glad to see that instruction was a high priority to the librarians there. I find visits to be a good way of keeping the mind open to new ideas as I see what is working and not working for the needs of different libraries.



AALL Travel Grant Essay, continued

Konya Lafferty, Supreme Court of Illinois—Chicago Branch

It has been invaluable for me network, meet with DALIC, attend sessions, visit other libraries, and to make use of AALL2go for missed sessions. I appreciate the generosity SCCLL-SIS has shown and I am looking forward to 2013 in Seattle!



SCCLL Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting

Paula Doty, Awards Committee

The 2011-2012 Awards Committee (Paula Doty, Donna K. Bausch, Diane Forge Bauersfeld, and Emily Carr) presented the O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities, the Law Library Advocate Award and the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award at the SCCLL Breakfast on Sunday, July 22.

Jessica Van Buren, Director of the Utah State Law Library, received the O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities for her work with the Utah State Library for the Blind and Disabled. Ms. Van Buren was present at the breakfast and business meeting to receive her award.

"She is a firm believer that "Reading is for Everyone" and demonstrates this by lending her voice so the blind and disabled can enjoy a wide variety of books." - Mari Cheney, Reference Librarian at Lewis & Clark Law School

The Committee presented the Law Library Advocate Award to the Honorable William J. Lavery, Connecticut Appellate Court Judge Trial Referee, in recognition of outstanding work to improve law library service in the state of Connecticut. Judge Lavery was unable to attend the Annual Meeting and Jonathan Stock accepted on his behalf.

SCCLL Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting, continued

Paula Doty, Awards Committee

“He understands the interplay between new media and old, the real challenges imposed by technology, and visions of what may be the Future of Law Libraries as well as that of libraries in general. He counters those who believe librarians are superfluous and print materials are needless when all knowledge flows ‘free and easy’ on the internet.” - Camilla Tubbs, Head of Instructional and Faculty Services, Lecturer in Legal Research at Yale Law School

Joel Fishman, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Allegheny County Law Library, and Dittakavi Rao, Associate Director of the Law Library, Center for Legal Information, Duquesne University, were the 2011-2012 recipients of the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award for their book *Navigating Legal Research & Technology: Quick Reference Guide to the 1,500 Most Common Questions about Traditional Online Legal Research*. Mr. Fishman was present at the breakfast to receive his plaque and he also accepted on behalf of Professor Rao.

This is the first book that takes general legal research topics and arranges them in a question-answer format. Twelve chapters deal with legal research similar to most other legal research books, four chapters deal with internet, world wide web, search engines, law firm/law practice/courtroom technology.



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The Back Page

Member News & Announcements



New SCCLL officers being sworn in at the Annual Meeting in Boston

