

SCCLL News

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

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Maryruth Storer, Bylaws Committee Chair

SCCLL Chair Barbara Fritschel charged this year's Bylaws Committee (Venita Hoover and Maryruth Storer, Chair) to review the existing Bylaws and compare them to the Model SIS Bylaws developed by AALL's Bylaws & Resolutions Committee. We were also requested to solicit suggestions for Bylaws changes from SCCLL Committee Chairs and SCCLL's membership, particularly how the Bylaws might be revised to better reflect the SCCLL Strategic Directions.

The SCCLL Bylaws were last amended in July 2007 at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We compared them to the Model SIS Bylaws and noted several areas for revision:

- The existing provision regarding dues should be omitted (all aspects of that topic are controlled by AALL, so it does not need to be included)
- Establishing consistency in language, particularly in referring to Officers
- Changing the election procedure in the event of a tie (since the 1990s, AALL has required that SIS elections must be completed no later than 2 months prior to the AALL Annual Meeting)

Late last fall, we posted to the SCCLL list asking for suggestions for Bylaws changes connected to aligning them with the SCCLL Strategic Directions, and we received no responses. We then proceeded to draft proposed revisions to align the SCCLL Bylaws with the Model SIS Bylaws. Those revisions also resulted in re-numbering many of the articles. The draft Bylaws have been submitted, as required by AALL, to the AALL Bylaws and Resolutions Committee for its approval, and that committee found nothing substantive in the proposed bylaws that warrant changes.

The SCCLL Executive Committee plans to submit the proposed amendments to the section membership as part of the spring election process. Amendments to the Bylaws require a thirty (30) day notice to the membership by publication in the Section's newsletter, so this article constitutes that notice.



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American Association of Law Libraries

STATE, COURT AND COUNTY LAW LIBRARIES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION BYLAWS

Last amended July 15, 2007 at New Orleans, Louisiana

Article I: NAME

The name of this special interest section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) shall be the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section (SCCLL S/S).

Article II: PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section is:

- A. to improve the quality and services of the libraries represented in its membership, and
- B. to represent its members' interests and concerns within AALL.

Section 2. The Section shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the ~~Constitution and~~ Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any AALL member requesting affiliation with the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section as provided in the AALL Bylaws. Membership shall be renewable each year.

~~Article IV: DUES~~

~~Section 1. Dues will be established, collected and disbursed by the Treasurer of AALL in accordance with AALL Bylaws.~~

~~Section 2. The fiscal year will be the same as that of AALL, October 1 through September 30.~~

Article ~~V~~ IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Section held in connection with or during the annual meeting of AALL. The scheduling of the annual meeting during the annual meeting of AALL shall be cleared with the annual meeting program chair, or as otherwise provided in the AALL Bylaws.

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Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Meetings shall be open to all members of the Association (AALL), but no person may vote in any meeting who is not a Section member *in good standing*.

Section 4. The quorum for all voting shall be thirty (30) members present and voting.

Section 5. Voting at meetings will generally be by voice unless a ballot is requested. A majority vote of those present and voting will prevail on all business matters and elections.

Article ~~VI~~V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective office and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee *or the membership*.

Section 2. Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the annual business meeting.

Section 3. All vacancies in offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next regular election of officers, at which time said vacancies shall be filled by election, except the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect automatically will become Chair upon a vacancy in such office.

Section 4. The Officers shall be:

- A. Chair. Shall serve for one year and automatically become Past Chair.
- B. Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Shall serve for one year and become Chair for the following year at the close of the current annual meeting.
- C. Past Chair. Shall serve for one year.
- D. Secretary/Treasurer. Shall serve for three years and shall record the minutes of the meeting, keep the records of the organization, including the financial record, give a written account of the funds of the Section when requested to do so by the Executive Committee of the Section and prepare such documents as directed by the Chair.

Section 5. There shall be an Executive Committee to conduct the affairs of the Section between membership meetings. It is made up of:

- A. The ~~officers~~ Officers of the Section, named in Article ~~VI~~V section 4 above.

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B. Three (3) ~~members at large~~ *Members-at-Large* serving for three-year (3-year) terms staggered, one member at large being elected each year.

C. Newsletter Editor, appointed by the incoming Chair during even numbered years, who serves as an ex-officio member of the executive committee. The Editor shall serve for two (2) years and shall issue at least three (3) newsletters to the members per year.

Section 6. The Executive Committee is authorized to carry on business between membership meetings, as necessary, by telephone or email vote.

Article ~~VII~~VI: ELECTIONS

Section 1. There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, upon recommendation of the incoming SCCLL chair, to consist of three (3) members, none of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and none of whom shall be a candidate for office at the succeeding election. Each member of the ~~committee~~ *Committee* shall serve for a term of one (1) year. The Chair of the Committee shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Committee shall nominate at least one (1) candidate for the position of ~~Vice-Chair/Chair Elect~~ *Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect*, ~~Secretary/Treasurer and~~ *Member-at-Large and Secretary/Treasurer (for the years that position is on the ballot.)* All candidates shall be members *in good standing* of the Section.

Section 3. Names of candidates, together with their written acceptances, shall be presented by the Nominating Committee to the Chair in sufficient time to enable the Chair to inform the members of the nominations, by mail, in the newsletter, or broadcast email as the Chair decides.

Section 4. Further nominations may be made upon written petition of ten voting members in good standing. Such petitions, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominees, must be filed with the Secretary/Treasurer no later than March 15. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition.

Section 5.

A. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee the distribution of the official ballot to each member of the Section no later than April 1.

B. The ballot shall be sent electronically. Members may receive a mail ballot upon request to the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall

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ensure that the electronic balloting is fundamentally fair and preserves the right of secret ballot. Electronic ballots should be returned no later than April 20.

C. In the event of a mail ballot, ballots shall be marked, sealed in plain envelopes and returned to the Secretary/Treasurer no later than April 20 in covering envelopes bearing on the outside the name and address of the member voting.

D. The Secretary/Treasurer shall verify current membership of each voter.

E. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. The Nominating Committee shall notify the Chair and all candidates of the election results at the earliest possible time and report the results at the annual meeting.

~~F. In case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held at the annual business meeting. Run-off elections shall be by secret ballot. The ballots immediately shall be counted and the candidate with the largest number of votes declared elected. In case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held by special mailing/distribution.~~

Article ~~VIII~~ VII: COMMITTEES

There shall be such standing or special committees as the Executive Committee or the membership of the section shall create.

Article ~~IX~~ VIII: AMENDMENTS

~~These Bylaws may be amended, adopted, or repealed at the annual meeting of the Section, by a majority of the members present and voting, assuming a quorum is present. Notice of proposed bylaw changes must be given to members of the Section at least thirty days before the vote is to be taken on the amendment change. At its discretion, the Executive Committee may schedule a vote by electronic or mail ballot as an alternative to conducting a vote at the annual meeting. If an electronic or mail ballot is used, these Bylaws may be amended, adopted, or repealed by a majority vote of the members voting. Any amendment must be presented to the AALL committee on bylaws for review.~~

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Section by a majority of the members present and voting, or by majority of the votes cast by a mail or electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. Notice of proposed amendments shall be provided to the Section's members, or be published in the Section's newsletter, thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting, or of the mailing or distribution of ballots.

Proposed Bylaws Changes, continued

Section 3. Any amendment must be presented to the AALL Committee on Bylaws and Resolutions for review.

Article ~~X~~ IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The SCCLL SIS will conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries. The rules of order mandated by AALL's Bylaws shall govern all deliberations of this section.

Article ~~XI~~ X: DISSOLUTION OR MERGER

The membership has the authority to dissolve this Section or merge it with another section or organization within AALL by majority vote at a regular meeting provided a notice of said dissolution or merger is given to the entire membership of the Section in writing at least thirty days prior to said meeting. Said dissolution or merger does not become effective until after it has been approved by both the Executive Committee of the Section and the Executive Board of AALL.

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SCCLL Nominations

Judy Meadows, Nominations Committee Chair

This year the SCCLL Nominations Committee has three outstanding candidates for the 3 vacancies in office we need to fill. Even though there is no competition, the nominating committee is very enthusiastic about the caliber of these candidates, and we feel the SIS is very lucky that they are willing to serve on the SCCLL Board.

For **Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect**, we are nominating Mary Ruth Storer, Director of the Orange County (California) Public Law Library. We are nominating Jennifer Murray, Director of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Law Library to be your next **Secretary/Treasurer**. And for the open position of **Executive Board member** we have selected James Durham. Following is brief biographical information for the candidates, their Candidate Statements, and photos.

SCCLL Nominations, continued

Maryruth Storer—Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Maryruth has been at the Orange County Public Law Library as Director since 1988. Before that, she was the law librarian for O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles and she served briefly as Associate Law Librarian for the University of Tennessee. She received her M.L.L. from the University of Washington in 1978, her J.D. from the University of Oregon in 1977, and her B.A. from Portland State University in 1974.



Maryruth has been very active in AALL. In addition to serving on the Executive Board from 1999 – 2002, she has chaired many committees. She has been an officer of the Southern California Association of Law Libraries Chapter and the Council of California County Law Librarians. She also has chaired several of our Section's committees over the years.

Maryruth's Statement:

The Strategic Direction for SCCLL 2010 states that the Core Purpose of SCCLL is that it provides advocacy, leadership and education for its members. During my years as an SCCLL member, I have benefitted greatly from the collective efforts of SCCLL members who provided advocacy, leadership and education, and I've participated in many activities aiming to advance those efforts.

As government law librarians, these advocacy efforts are particularly critical to obtaining political and financial support for our libraries, which are under great pressure during these current tough budgetary and political times. SCCLL has long provided opportunities for all members to share our expertise and experiences in our ongoing efforts to provide legal information to our constituencies. We can each grow stronger by standing together to face these challenging times. I'd be honored to serve the SCCLL membership as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

SCCLL Nominations, continued

Jennifer Murray— Secretary/Treasurer

Jennifer's title is Public Access to Court Services Administrator for the Maricopa County Superior Court. In this capacity, she not only directs the law library, but she is also in charge of the self-help center and creation of the legal forms developed for self-help litigants. She received her M.L.S. from the University of Arizona and her J.D. and B.S. from Arizona State University. Before going to Maricopa County, Jennifer worked at Greenberg Traurig LLP in Phoenix, the Ross-Blakely Law Library at Arizona State University, and the Call Law Library of the University of Southern California.



Jennifer has been a member of AALL since 1999, was AALL Council of Chapter Presidents, and she has worked on two AALL committees. She has served on two SCCLL committees, and chaired the Research and Instruction Patron Services SIS.

Jennifer's Statement:

During my tenure at the Maricopa County Superior Court, access to justice has become a personal passion. On a daily basis, I see self-represented litigants struggle to navigate the legal system. I am proud of the work SCCLL does, not only to benefit its members, but also to benefit the patrons our libraries serve. It would be my privilege and honor to become a member of SCCLL executive board and aid in the excellent efforts of our SIS.

SCCLL Nominations, continued

James Durham—Executive Board Member

James received his B.A. and M.L.I.S. from the University of Illinois, and his J.D. from The Ohio State University. He has been the Deputy Director of the Maryland State Law Library since 2011. He previously served as the Head of Public Services for Touro Law Center's Gould Law Library and as Reference Librarian at South Texas College of Law. During law school James worked as an intern in providing legal assistance to members of the Navajo and Hopi Nations in Window Rock, Arizona.



In addition to his membership in SCCLL, James is also a member of the Legal Information Services to the Public SIS. He is a member of the Law Library Association of Maryland Chapter of AALL.

James's Statement:

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Each of us comes to the table with a particular set of talents, skills, and enthusiasms (and probably a few liabilities). The success of any leader hinges on how well she or he assembles an array of individuals who complement one another, who inspire movement toward a goal, and who take collective action. When obstacles arise, the group calls on individual strengths and on collaborative efforts to move the agenda forward.

Like any candidate for a position of leadership, I have my own set of enthusiasms and liabilities. By joining hands with the talented and varied officers and members of SCCLL-SIS, I feel confident that we can maximize our talents for the greater good.

I am a newcomer to state court and county law libraries. Before arriving on the doorstep of SCCLL-SIS, I served for thirteen years as an academic reference librarian. During that time, I contributed in several capacities to the efforts of ALL-SIS (Academic Law Libraries – Special Interest Section) and to SR-SIS (Social Responsibilities – Special Interest Section). My participation in various subcommittees deepened my understanding of librarianship and improved my professional performance. More importantly, many of my collaborative efforts kept the organizations moving consistently toward important common goals.

SCCLL Nominations, continued

Since joining the Maryland State Law Library in 2011 as Deputy Director, I have become acquainted with many of the concerns facing state and county law libraries. My colleagues in the Conference of Maryland Circuit Court Law Library Directors have been very kind in supplying me with information about service to self-represented litigants, collection development with restricted budgets, and the importance of collaborative efforts in continuing education, advocacy, and digitization. The same generosity is true of my friends in the Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM).

Also, over the past year, I have served on the Maryland Judiciary's Task Force on Circuit Court Libraries. This group and its subcommittees (comprised of state judges, attorneys, and law librarians) are assessing the current condition of the state's law libraries and soon will issue a report to the Chief Judge with recommendations for the development and future path of law library services within the state. Part of this assessment process has included interviewing state and county law librarians around the country regarding organizational structures, budgeting, and services.

This fall, I joined the SCCLL-SIS Education Committee and helped evaluate program proposals for the upcoming annual meeting in Seattle. Now, with the intention of becoming more involved with the SIS, I've thrown my hat in the ring for a Board position. I'm enthusiastic about involvement – and hope to have the chance to work with each of you while tackling tasks for the greater good of our organization and of those we serve.



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 June 21, 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.

SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2012-13

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