

American Association of Law Libraries

Legal Information Services to the Public SIS

Summer 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to the Summer 2009 Newsletter of AALL's Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section! This Newsletter highlights several undertakings of our section, including the election of LISP-SIS officers for the 2009-10 year, this year's recipients of the Kathy Garner Grants, this year's VIP at the Annual Meeting, volunteer opportunities to work on the state-specific Public Library Toolkits project and LISP's activities at the Annual Meeting.

Election of LISP-SIS Officers

During June, an election was held to select new officers of LISP for the July 2009 to July 2010 year. Bret N. Christianson was elected to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Bret will serve in this position during 2009-10 then serve as Chair during 2010-11. Dan J. Baker was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer during 2009-10.

Terrye Conroy, Reference/Public Services Librarian at the Coleman Karesh Law Library of the University of South Carolina School of Law, will serve as Chair during 2009-10

As officers of LISP, Bret and Dan will also serve on the LISP Executive Committee, together with the LISP's 2009-10 Chair, Terrye Conroye, and Betty Agin, who will be the Immediate Past Chair.

The LISP Executive Committee thanks the Nominations Committee, Mon Yin Lung (who served as chair), Joan Blaylock, Liz Reppe and Melanie Solon for their diligent efforts in finding members willing to seek office!

2009 Kathy Garner Grants Awarded

Kathy Garner was a beloved librarian at the Southern Illinois School of Law Library for 14 years, an active member of AALL, and a past chair of LISP. After her death in 2005, in honor of her memory, LISP established a travel grant to help members receive financial assistance to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

A motion was approved at the 2008 business meeting to open up the Kathy Garner Grant to all AALL members, while retaining a preference for LISP members. Also, this year the amount of the two grants provided was increased from \$500 to \$850.

The recipients of the Kathy Garner Grant for 2008 are Scott G. Burgh and M. Claire Williamson. Scott is the Chief Law Librarian at the City of Chicago Department of Law Library. Claire is a librarian at the Morgridge College of Education in Denver, Co. She is also a LISP member.

The LISP Executive Committee greatly appreciates the work of the 2008 Kathy Garner Grant Committee. The committee was very ably chaired by Janet Hedin, and included Joel Fishman, Nancy Strohmeier, and Lisa Rush.

Richard Zorza to be LISP-SIS's VIP at 2009 Annual Meeting

The LISP-SIS Executive Board has chosen Richard Zorza to serve as the SIS's "Valuable Invited Participant" at the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, July 25-28.

Richard Zorza is an attorney and independent consultant who has worked for the past seventeen years on issues of access to justice. He is the coordinator of the Self Represented Litigation Network and is a consultant to the Harvard Law School Bellow-Sacks Project on the Future of Access to Civil Justice. He participates in and supports Selfhelpsupport.org.

He is also a long-term strategic consultant to the Pro Bono national network of access to justice web sites www.lawhelp.org.

His book, The Self-Help Friendly Court: Designed from the Ground Up to Work for People Without Lawyers, was published by the National Center for State Courts in 2002. He speaks and writes broadly on access to justice and ethics issues, including an article on judicial neutrality in pro se cases in the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics.

Additional information and publications are available on Zorza's website, www.zorza.net.

Zorza will attend and contribute to the programs which discuss self-represented litigants.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, LISP is co-sponsoring a program entitled "Law Libraries and the Access to Justice Revolution, at which Richard Zorza will speak.

Volunteer Opportunity - State-Specific Public Library Toolkits

LISP-SIS's state-specific public library toolkits project, <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/toolkit.htm>, is designed to assist non-law public librarians and pro se patrons in conducting legal research in their state. There are still a number of states for which no toolkit has been prepared. LISP needs volunteers to complete this project. If you know the legal research resources in one of the states not included in the toolkit, please consider volunteering to prepare a toolkit for a state lacking one.

New kits for Alabama, Georgia, New Hampshire and Wisconsin have been added thanks to the efforts of Myra Sabel, Laureen Adams, Mary Searles and Jane Colwin. Barb Golden participated in the revision of the Minnesota kit and Christopher Dykes in the Texas kit.

AALL Annual Meeting Activities

At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, LISP is co-sponsoring a program entitled “Law Libraries and the Access to Justice Revolution, at which Richard Zorza will speak with LISP member Charles R. Dyer as moderator.

The program will address the revolutionary transformation that the legal system is undergoing, changing from a case resolving system into a system of access to justice for all. This is marked by the increasing numbers of self-represented litigants and the court’s recognition of their obligation to respond to that challenge through using technology as a self-service gateway and other means. Richard Zorza will analyze these critical trends and their implications for law libraries.

LISP is also coordinating a program entitled “Online Interactive Court Forms for the Self-Represented Litigants: The Library’ Role.” presented by Judy Meadows of the State Law Library of Montana and Kate Bladow, coordinator of the National Public Automated Documents Online project at ProBonoNet. They will be discussing the support of these efforts by law librarians and the critical role they play in connecting users with these resources.

In addition, LISP is co-sponsoring the annual Joint Roundtable on Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners with SR-SIS and SCCLL-SIS. The Roundtable will include a discussion on library policies on service to prisoners, including policies on responses to letters from prisoners, which will be moderated by Amy Hale-Janeke of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit Library; information on the Self-Represented Litigation Network presented by Marcus Hochstetler of the King County Law Library; and an update on the Equal Justice Conference by Larry Meyer of the Law Library for San Bernardino County.

Last but not least, the LISP Business Meeting will be held on Monday, July 27, at 5:30—6:30 in Room 144 C of the Convention Center. All LISP members are invited to attend.

A Special Thank you!

As Chair, I wish to extend a special thank you to Past Chair, Luis Acosta. Without his help, guidance and support, I would not have been able to carry out my duties as Chair. He has seen me through a difficult and challenging year. I am grateful for all the hard work he has offered in helping LISP and myself. Thanks.

Betty Agin, Chair , LISP