

# State, Court & County Law Libraries **NEWS**



Volume 31, Number 1

Winter 2005

## Chair's Message: Time for a Renewed Commitment

Best wishes to SCCLL members for a great new year. I'm not one to make resolutions and don't recommend them for others but I do recommend making a **renewed commitment to be involved in SCCLL SIS**. Involvement in SCCLL might mean some extra work but you will receive rewards of a network of professional colleagues and the support needed to do your job. Several ways to be involved are described below: I. comment on new VIP Selection process, II. attend AALL/TRICALL and apply for SCCLL travel grant if needed, III. volunteer for a committee if you have not already done so, IV. apply to be part of the mentor/mentee program, V. submit articles for our newsletter and VI. contribute to advocacy program by sharing work you are doing such as state plan/vision statement.

I. VIP Selection: We are able to select a VIP for our SIS for the first time. Our SCCLL Executive Board would like your input concerning the VIP selection process and possible VIP's. Please respond by January 31 to me ([smarz@mail.co.washoe.nv.us](mailto:smarz@mail.co.washoe.nv.us)). AALL will pick up the registration and our SIS must pay for travel, hotel and meals. We should expect to provide escorts for the VIP

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We are able to select a VIP for our SIS for the first time.

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during the annual meeting. Our goal is to pick at least one VIP and pay for his/her visit to our annual meeting in San Antonio. Please comment on suggested criteria below and/or submit names of VIPs to me. Final selection of at least one VIP will be made by Trustee Development Committee. I'll send a note to our discussion list with final criteria. It is suggested in the AALL timetable that we start the invitation process to our VIP in February.

VIP Criteria:

1. Since we regularly invite a court speaker to our trustees luncheon, the speaker would be one of the first candidates we would invite as our VIP (they tend to be in the area, thus minimizing travel and lodging expenses)
2. Other related VIPs would be any SCCLL program speakers (this would broaden the group to judges and other public officials; it is more likely, though that travel and lodging expenses would apply).
3. Trustees in general who attend the annual meeting who are not already sponsored by a chapter (other expenses apply.)
4. Other public officials with an interest in SCCLL or who can benefit by the AALL conference (maybe a governor, first lady or court admin-

istrator) –(other expenses apply)

Note: We could ask our VIPs to voluntarily provide some formal feedback regarding their experience with AALL and SCCLL. Some suggestions might be a follow-up speaking opportunity to a local chapter or a report or article that provides their impressions/gains regarding conference participation.

II. Grants for AALL Annual Meeting/TRICALL in San Antonio: Come to our annual meeting. I always find myself talking to someone who has not attended our annual meeting because they had no travel money. Please apply for these grants if your organization has restricted travel funds. They are for YOU. More travel grant information will be available on our discussion list in February from Chair, Scott Burgh. Also, start thinking about what you can contribute to our Silent Auction. The Silent Auction is responsible for raising most of our travel grant funds.

III. Committees: If you have not volunteered already, you can still volunteer for a committee by sending an email to me. If you have volunteered, committee names, chairs and members can be found in this newsletter. Your chair should be contacting you soon if not already.

IV. Mentors/Mentees: This committee chaired by Cossette Sun will be looking for mentors/mentees for our next meeting. See the article on page 23.

V. Newsletter: Contribute an article to the newsletter. Contact Barbara Fritschel,

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newsletter editor at [5satlib-Beaumont@ca5.uscourts.gov](mailto:5satlib-Beaumont@ca5.uscourts.gov)

VI. Advocacy: Please send me state plans/vision, etc. done to enhance law libraries in your state which we can use as examples to share with others on our website.

HERE'S TO A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2005!

Sandy Marz, Chair SCCLL SIS  
[smarz@mail.co.washoe.nv.us](mailto:smarz@mail.co.washoe.nv.us)



## What does it mean to be "strategic"?

To watch the way the road is changing ahead rather than looking at the pothole one is about to drive into.

David P. Whelan, Cincinnati Law Library Association  
Strategic Directions Discussion for State, Court, and County Law Librarians.

Can we build a road that will be immune from potholes? From a Minnesota perspective, the answer is a resounding no. But we can prepare to be strategic drivers, nimbly avoiding problems by following different routes to

the same destination at a moment's notice.

As we help AALL create a new five year plan, SCCLL is nearing the end of its two-year plan cycle. The 2003-2005 Strategic Plan listed two "simple" objectives:

- 1. Advocate the value of law libraries and law librarians in a rapidly changing legal information environment.**
- 2. Provide expanded educational opportunities for members.**

Under the able leadership of Chairs Charlie Dyer and Sandy Marz, advocacy for libraries assumed the larger role. As reported in previous newsletters, much has been accomplished, but much work remains.

As your Vice Chair/Chair Elect, I have been charged with helping the Executive Board to create a new two-year strategic plan for SCCLL. Do we remain on the advocacy highway or are their forks ahead? We welcome your input.

[NOTE: The entire 26 page 2003-2005 Strategic Plan (including survey report, environmental scan and marketing report) is available on the SCCLL website at [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/scell/pdfs/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2003-2005.pdf](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/scell/pdfs/Strategic_Plan_2003-2005.pdf)  
I would also be glad to email you a copy.]

Barbara L. Golden, Vice Chair/Chair Elect  
Minnesota State Law Library.

# SCCLL Executive Board

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Claudia Jalowka  
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Maureen Wells  
co-chairs

Resource Guide: Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair, Shirley David and Jean Holcomb

## FROM THE EDITOR:

Barbara L. Fritschel, Editor  
5th Circuit Satellite Librarian,  
Beaumont, TX

Do you believe in serendipity? In a recent interview, I was asked what was one of the most pressing problems facing law libraries today. The interviewer, a partner at one of our larger firms in town, assumed it was electronic vs. print resources and I had to explain how that really was passé. No, I explained, it was the funding of law libraries which serve the public.

It was a rather enlightening interview for both of us. The lawyer thought about the funding, realizing that our county law library, which is not staffed, was reduced to about 1/4 its' former size. I tried explaining how hard it was for people to get the resources they need. The new county law library will be relying on CALR, but how are pro se litigants to know how to use CALR, especially when there is no staff?

It was also enlightening for me as I realized that this partner had no idea of what a professional law librarian did, that there were law librarians with both the J.D. and the M.L.S. and that we had a professional association.

## SCCLL List

To subscribe, follow the instructions at:  
[http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/membership/  
listserv.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/membership/listserv.htm)

To send a message to everyone on the list, send e-mail  
to:  
[sccll-sis@aallnet.org](mailto:sccll-sis@aallnet.org)

Then I read Charley's article. His comments about relevant stakeholders sensitivities seemed to be exactly what was happening here. The bar really didn't care what happened to the county law library since most of the influential members do not use it. Their "legal reality" is limited to their own experiences and law firm practices and libraries.

It reminds me that we still have lot of work to do. We need to stop thinking in terms of the stakeholders we see every day, and realize that everyone in the legal profession is a stakeholder in the area of justice. Even those who do not use professional law librarians should be aware of their role in justice and society.

### SCCLL News

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**The deadline for the next issue is May 1, 2005**

Articles and forms should be submitted via electronic mail to:

Barbara L. Fritschel, SCCLL News Editor  
5th Circuit Satellite Librarian, Beaumont, TX  
**Email:** [5SatLib-Beaumont@ca5.uscourts.gov](mailto:5SatLib-Beaumont@ca5.uscourts.gov)

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 Awards Committee

## *A Call for Nominations:*

### *The Connie E. Bolden Publications Award*

Deadline: March 30, 2005

Anita Anderson

MN Attorney General Library

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award. We welcome input from all SCCLL members. To make a nomination, please include the following information:

- Full name and current address of the nominee
- Current and past employment of the nominee
- Short narrative explaining why the nominee should receive this award
- Your contact information, should the Awards Committee require additional information.

*About the Award:* Given triennially at the SCCLL Annual Meeting, the Connie E. Bolden Publications Award is presented to a State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section member to recognize scholarly publication.

The deadline for submitting nominations is March 30, 2005. Send or e-mail copies of nominations to:

Frances M. Jones

Director Library Services

California Judicial Center Library

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 4617

San Francisco, CA 94102

[Fran.Jones@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Fran.Jones@jud.ca.gov)

## The Florida Saga Continues..... Article V Update- Part 2

Florida's County Law Libraries continue to be ravaged by the fallout from Article V (Fla. Stat .sect. 939.185 [laws of 2004]), as state legislators struggle to find a "one size fits all" solution to the funding crisis. However, one of the problems inherent from the beginning of the Proposition 7 process is the lack of homogeneity of the County Law Library System. Of the 67 Counties throughout the state of Florida, only 28 or so of them have a County Law Library in some shape or form. Therefore, the funding problem only applies to **less than** ½ of the total Counties in the State. This problem is compounded by analyzing the financial condition of the 28 Counties that have Law Libraries. Of these, 8 Libraries are projected to experience/are actually experiencing the benefits of the new legislation, because of funding quirks under the old law. This means that only about 20 Counties, or **less than 1/3** the total state-wide, are projected to experience budget shortfalls of varying degrees- hardly a number to prompt legislators to respond quickly to remedy the problem.

A quick review of the funding arithmetic brings the projected shortfall into a sharp focus-2003 County Law Library revenue derived from civil filing fees totaled almost **\$8 Million**. In 2004, a \$65 "local option" criminal fine was substituted for the civil fees by the legislature. This new funding source was to be shared between 4 beneficiaries, including County Law Libraries. Funding was also essentially reduced by weakening the second part of the funding equation, the mechanism for collection of the criminal fines.

Two restrictive clauses in the statute combined to lower the potential collection rates. The first of these restrictions

deems the "**disbursement of costs collected under this section**" as "**subordinate in priority order of disbursement to all other state- imposed costs**". The second clause states that if the court orders a person to pay the \$65 fine and if that person is determined to be indigent, the clerk shall "**defer payment of this cost**". Thus, the average state-wide collection rate of only 48 % is estimated to be significantly lower for many jurisdictions. This will result in an anticipated revenue **loss of over \$3.5 Million** state-wide, with some counties like Miami-Dade, bearing potentially insurmountable shortfalls.

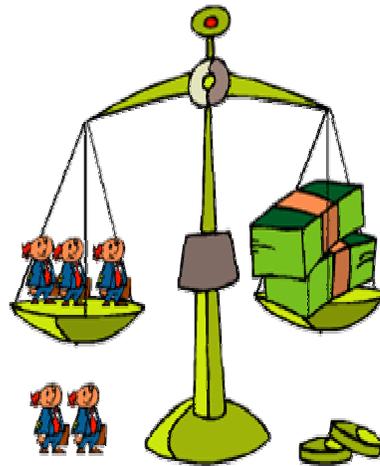
County Governments are not generally rallying to replace the lost Library revenues through fresh infusions of General Revenue funding. Instead (with some exceptions), most Counties are funding their Law Libraries through a combination of drawing upon Law Library Reserve Funds, supplemented by the revenues derived from the criminal fees. Plans are in the works for addressing potential revenue shortfalls through various combinations of reductions in Library staffing, services, or collection size and composition. In some Counties, plans call for the potential consolidation of the County Law Library into the local Public Library.

In response to this gloomy forecast, County Law Librarians are preparing for another

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uphill struggle with the State Legislature, and are laying the foundation for a legislative alternative to the current scenario. We hope and trust that our friends and colleagues in the Library Community will continue to support us in our struggle to restore adequate funding, and preserve Florida's County Law Libraries in their current format.

Robert Riger  
Director, Miami-Dade County Law Library



## State Law Library Website Wins "Webbie"

The Wisconsin State Law Library (WALL) website has won the 2004 Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) "Webbie" Award for the Best Reference Site. The award was announced November 3, 2004 during the WLA annual conference in Lake Geneva. The WSLL website was one of nine nominees in the Best Reference Site Category.

The WSLL website <http://wsll.state.wi.us>, launched in March 1999, provides access to Wisconsin, federal, tribal and other states' online legal resources such as statutes, regulations and case law. It also includes an index of over 300 legal topics, each with links to relevant web resources and pertinent statutes and regulations. The library's catalog and monthly newsletter are available as well as links to legal forms, law reviews and a wide variety of directories and general reference tools. The website is designed and maintained by WSLL staff members Elaine Sharp, Technical Services Librarian and Amy Crowder, Web Resources Librarian/Cataloger.

## **Charley's Corner: My Middle-Aged Career Change**

by Charles R. Dyer, Director of Libraries, San Diego County Public Law Library

*Nothing in this column represents the view of my Library or its Board of Trustees. These are just my personal opinions.*

This summer I will be stepping down as Director at the San Diego County Public Law Library. I will be taking my retirement benefits, but I don't plan to retire. Rather I am changing careers.

I plan to write about law and library science and philosophy. I have hopes that some of my writings may help law librarians when they train or aid people to do legal research. I hope to provide some foundational thought regarding legal informatics.

One impetus for my taking this career path is my observation that the several power brokers and stakeholders of the American justice system, i.e., the courts, the bar associations, and ultimately the legislative and executive branches as well, fail to recognize the importance of the face-to-face contact with legal researchers that law librarians provide. When they create commissions to study how the justice system might handle the ever-growing population of self-represented litigants, law librarians are left out of the mix. Many of the appointments to such commissions are lawyers, judges, or court administrators who are politically active, trying to put in a good ef-

fort, but more concerned with rising within their own ranks. If we're lucky, they will add a token law librarian who will placidly offer a comment or two, just in hopes that law libraries are not left out altogether. I have a feeling that many of the participants have never even talked to a self-represented litigant except in an official courtroom capacity. They tend to be concerned more with how to handle the onslaught as cheaply and efficiently as possible. They rarely examine the sense of justice or lack of it that self-represented litigants feel.

Obviously, getting more and louder law librarians to serve on such commissions would help. But we remain a politically weak group, often hired by and subservient to these stakeholders. So, we also need to get to them earlier.

Most of the relevant stakeholders went to law school. Had their sensitivities to these issues been honed there, perhaps we would not have the barriers we now have. So I have been looking at the scholarship provided in law journals as being somewhat representative of the sensitivities of the law professors, the issues that are important enough for them to write about. There are fringe components of the problems barely touched in a few areas. Critical legal studies and culture and law studies have dealt with some of the issues, but the authors' purpose is rarely to discuss the matters I consider important. Many articles include case studies, but they are generally rarified events far removed from the tide of self-represented litigation. Such topics as the Nuremberg trials or the graduate assistants' strike at

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N.Y.U. are more typical than the distress of the single mom who will be evicted in three days. Why is that? Well, you write about what you know, and law professors don't study the people we see every day. (There is some good stuff on people on death row, probably due to the rise of the clinics that help overturn wrongful convictions. But these cases are still lawyer-driven, and the lawyers representing the criminals provide the interface to the justice system that self-represented litigants don't get.)

Obviously, getting more and louder law librarians to serve on such commissions would help.

So why me. Here is some background, probably not much different from many of you. I went to the University of Texas with a double major in physics (wanting to be an astronomer) and an honors program in liberal arts. I couldn't make up my mind. Eventually, I landed in philosophy, with a minor in math (with all my math credits earned before any of my philosophy credits). I went on to Northwestern University and earned an M.A. I had an interest in phenomenology, the prevailing continental philosophy of the time, and ethics seemed to be my strongest area of concern. I left to go to law school, and went back to the University of Texas, planning to go back and get my Ph.D. after I got my J.D. Instead, I began working at the Tarlton Law Library and found librarianship to my liking. So I gave up my plans to

get a Ph.D. and went for the M.L.S. instead. After I completed that in 1975, I began my long career in law libraries.

I decided to go to law school after reading a book called *Phenomenology of Law*, written by some European philosopher. At the time, I thought he "didn't know crap," if you will pardon my French (and I think he was French). I had admired much more a couple of philosophy professors who also had law degrees whom I had as teachers. I now realize that he was writing from the perspective of a citizen of a civil law country. Anyway, I thought I could do better.

The other thing that disappointed me was that a young assistant professor at Northwestern that I admired was denied tenure. He had introduced me to Thomas Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* and similar books which contributed greatly to the development of post-modern thought in America. His tenure denial was supposedly based on the Philosophy Department's need to keep some spots open for prospective hires when funding was tight and no older faculty was near retirement. I frankly think he was too much ahead of his time, and the older faculty did not understand him.

So when I was working at the Tarlton Law Library, I got the choice assignment of going around to professors' offices to collect books they wanted to return to the Library (or ones we hoped they would grudgingly return). I got

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to know some law professors much better than most law students do, almost to the level of a graduate student in a liberal arts graduate program. I found that law professors taught because they wanted to, not because that was the only job available in their field. They were considerably happier than philosophy professors. I simultaneously got to work with a very strong bunch of librarians who mentored me into law librarianship.

Through it all, I believe I landed in a pretty good spot. After ten years as director at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, trying to work in a very elaborate and burdensome bureaucracy with all the woes of academic administration, I looked elsewhere and went to the San Diego County Law Library in 1987. Serving the public and the legal community, getting out where the action is, these had some appeal. Through my academic years, I had continued to look at philosophy and jurisprudence. I still had the feeling that there was a disconnect between them and law as it is practiced on the street.

So, in a sense, my whole career has been leading me toward my new venture. I doubt that I would have the same insight were I to have remained on the path of being a philosophy professor. Indeed, I would not have even know what were the right questions to ask.

I also think I would have burned out much earlier, and I don't believe my skills and understanding were strong enough to have made much contribution back then. I have always been a plodder, not a quick thinker. Even as a law school library director and law professor, in conversations in the faculty lounge,

I never had the ability to discuss points of jurisprudence in quick repartee. I was always trying to figure out what was just said to me, to analyze it in order to prepare a response, when the discussion had already moved on before I could say anything. I was always listening, and never coming prepared with my own arguments ahead of time to spin out in immediate response. And it was common for me to realize later that often the response given so glibly actually missed the point of the first speaker's contention. Days later, I'd think of something good to contribute.

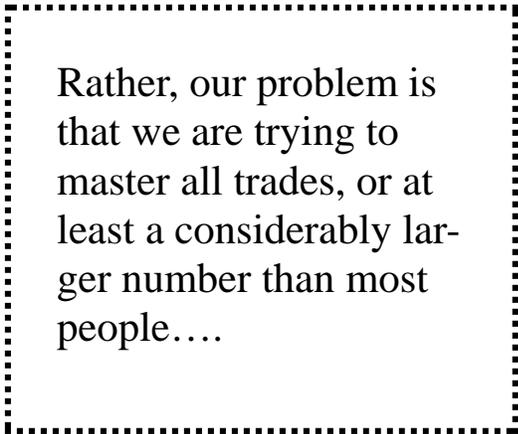
Indeed, that is what  
librarianship is about:...

It is typical for many professors in many fields to make their greatest contributions during their thirties and forties and to rest on their laurels in their fifties and beyond. Many of the world's great geniuses did all their great work in just a twenty-year period. Most did them when younger and then lived much longer. Einstein is an example. But a few lived for quite some time before beginning. An obscure German teacher did not really flourish until his sixties. That was Immanuel Kant, who wrote the *Critique of Pure Reason* at 70. Luckily, he lived into his nineties and wrote some good things through his eighties. Sometimes, it takes

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longer to get one's act together.

There has been much written about slower-moving inductive reasoning: "Sleep on it," Gestalts, the tacit dimension. Components of these ideas underlie some of the post-modern examinations into the cultural bias in language as we individually use it. We develop our personal vocabularies. So, perhaps, some get built earlier in life and become the theme for those people throughout their lives, hardly varying or growing. Others develop slowly. Some people come to their understanding of the world, or at least the understanding they plan to stick with, later in life.



Rather, our problem is that we are trying to master all trades, or at least a considerably larger number than most people....

I like librarians. I think that, somewhat better than most of the population, we are capable of maintaining a good, useable vocabulary, but continuing to add to it throughout our lives. Occasionally, some of us begin to sound like a broken record, or we get too caught up in one issue and stop other things. But for the most part, we try to stay on top of things, which is another way of saying that we continue to absorb practical ideas and useful theories. Indeed, that is what librarianship is about: knowing the neatest,

newest thing, and bringing it to others, while remaining mindful of the history of things and the good old, still useable things.

The problem for most of us is that we don't write this stuff down. We continue to learn in small bits because we do not have a good professional literature. We learn more at professional association meetings because, not only don't we have time to read the books, we don't have time to write the books. We'd rather listen to someone else tell a story, then move to the next hour's program. And I think there is that fear within each of us that we know there is more out there to learn before we ourselves will begin to commit our thoughts to paper.

Part of our problem is that our field of vision is too broad. We can't take it all in in one sitting. It's not that we are generalists, jack of all trades and master of none. Rather, our problem is that we are trying to master all trades, or at least a considerably larger number than most people try to master.

I remember a very good criminal law professor who was a friend of mine while I was at UMKC, Mark Berger. One time while at their house, he showed me a light-heat-vent he had installed in his bathroom. He was very proud of it. It looked exactly like the one I had put into my house a year or so earlier. I was surprised that he made such a big deal of it until his wife told me it took him 36 hours of work. As I had installed mine in

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about a fourth that time, even with patching the ceiling, I was shocked. Then I realized that he had done something unlike anything he had ever done before, whereas I routinely did such jobs. He was rightly proud of the new skills he had learned. But mostly, it was that he decided to do it and to learn the new things he had to know in order to do it. Frankly, I was glad he did not electrocute himself. It was then also that I realized that there was some recognition among the faculty, at least the thoughtful ones, for the skills that we librarians develop routinely. We know how to clear paper jams. We know how to plug in PCs. We know a wide variety of things because it is practical for us to have these skills.

Another part of our problem is that communication with our users is and must be a component of our work. I am sometimes astounded at the grants given to library science professors to do empirical studies of things we do every day. Why not just come on down to the library and sit with us a spell. The very thing that keeps us too busy to write the books is the very thing that is lacking in the books, our personal interaction with our users.

If a law professor wants to do a cultural study, he should go down to his nearest public law library. Just listen in for a while, and he'd catch on to the wide variety of interpretations of what law is that our users bring to us. We have to disavow our users of these notions and teach them to learn something somewhat closer to the accepted norm. The "accepted norm" is, in this case, what the courts will accept, not what the average general citizen thinks. We operate under a coercive, hegemonic system of creating the proper interpretation, called *stare decisis*

and precedent. The "normal" vocabulary is familiar to the law professor, but our users are not as smart as law students, nor as pliable, nor do they have the time or energy, so we have our job cut out for us.

So, obviously, I will need to stay in touch with you even as I set myself up in my new occupation. I will be leaving San Diego, since cashing in on my home equity is part of the package enabling me this freedom. I am not sure yet where I'll land, but I'll let you know. Please feel free to write me now, or as I get more substantive materials sent to you. I plan to keep my column as long as you'll have me. [cdyer@sdcpll.org](mailto:cdyer@sdcpll.org) for now.



See page 24 to find out why Jason Raymond and Judge John L. Holahan, Hennepin County District Court, Fourth Judicial Branch, are smiling.

## SCCLL Slate of Candidates

The SCCLL Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the 2005 election. Biographies of each candidate are included in this issue of the Newsletter.

Note: The SIS Bylaws (Art. VII, Sec. 4) allow additional nominations: "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."

For the office of Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:

- Catherine Lemann, Associate Director - Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

For the office of Member-at-Large (2005-2008)

- Daniel R. Campbell, Head of Reference and Computer Research Services - U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit, New York, NY
- Lisa Rush, Law Librarian, Travis County Law Library, Austin, TX

Continuing on the SCCLL Executive Committee will be:

Chair - Barbara Golden, Minnesota State Law Library, St. Paul, MN

Past Chair – Sandra Marz, Washoe County Law Library, Reno, NV

Secretary/Treasurer – Marcus Hochstetler, Mahoning Law Library Association, Youngstown, OH

Member-at-Large (2003-2006) – Anne Morrison, Circuit Court of Prince George's County Law Library, Upper Marlboro, MD

Member-at-Large (2004-2007) – Terry Long, Virginia State Law Library, Richmond, VA

The Committee thanks the candidates for their willingness to be considered for the leadership positions of our section.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Grande, Chair

Ann Fessenden

Gail Warren

## Candidate: Catherine Lemann

### Employment

Associate Director, Law Library of Louisiana, 2000 - present  
Electronic Resources/Reference Librarian, Law Library of Louisiana, 1996 - 2000  
Reference Librarian, Law Library of Louisiana, 1991 - 1995  
Associate Attorney, Polack, Rosenberg, Rittenberg & Endom, 1981 - 1991

### Education

M.L.I.S., Louisiana State University, 1991  
J.D., Tulane University School of Law, 1980  
General Practice Certificate, Institute for Paralegal Training, 1974  
B.A., Carleton College, 1974

### Selected Professional Activities

#### American Association of Law Libraries:

Member 1990 - present; Secretary 2002 - 2005; Government Relations Committee 1999 - 2001; Membership Development and Retention Task Force (Chair) 1999; Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee 1998 - 1999; Information Technology and Implementation Working Group 1996 - 1998

#### State Court and County Law Libraries SIS:

Member 1992 - present (Executive Board 2001 - 2004; served on Membership and Mentoring, Standards, Strategic Planning, and Program Committees)

#### Southeastern Chapter, American Association of Law Libraries

Member 1992 - present; Bylaws Committee 2003 - 2005; Chapter Handbook Editor 2001 - present; Past President & Bylaws Committee Chair 2001 - 2002; President 2000 - 2001; Vice President/President-Elect & Program Committee Chair 1999 - 2000; Service to SE-AALL Committee 2002; Bylaws Committee 2000 - 2001; Government Relations Committee 1998 - 1999

#### New Orleans Association of Law Librarians

Nominating Committee Chair 1998; Special Projects Committee Chair 1997 - 1998; President 1996 - 1997; Vice President/President Elect 1995 - 1996; Public Relations Chair 1994 - 1995; Newsletter Co-Editor 1992 - 1994

### Selected Publications and Presentations:

The Opportunity of a Lifetime: George A. Strait Scholarship Enables Students, Fosters Diversity in Profession, AALL Spectrum (Vol. 8, No. 4, February 2004); From the Secretary column, AALL Spectrum, 2002 - 2005; Fahrenheit 451 Revisited: Protecting Attorney Reading and Research History in view of the Homeland Security Act, Primetime CLE, December 19, 2003; Contributor, New Orleans Bar Association Briefly Speaking (Quarterly newsletter) April 1993 - present; "It's Not All Online: Resources at the Law Library to Assist in your Practice," Louisiana State Bar Association, 2001 Summer School Revisited, CLE, December 13, 2001; Internet Strategies for Paralegals in Louisiana, seminar, April 27, 2001; Greeting our Lay Patrons at the Gateway: Who Are They and

*(Continued on page 16)*

How Can We Help Them? 2000 AALL Annual Meeting, presenter; "Internet Access to the Courts: Louisiana Supreme Court," The Internet and Your Law Practice: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century is Here, Loyola University CLE, November 11, 1999; "New Paradigms in Legal Research," Law & Technology: Preparing to Practice in the Digital Millennium, Louisiana State Bar Assn. CLE, September 24, 1999; "Internet Access to the Courts: Louisiana Supreme Court," Using the Internet in Your Law Practice, Loyola University CLE, December 4, 1998; "Electronic Dissemination of Court Opinions," Southeastern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, March 13, 1998;"Legal Research in the Next Millennium," AIDS LAW of Louisiana, CLE, December 4, 1997; "The Other Side of the Table: Important lessons learned when the ITIWG exhibited at recent conferences" AALL Spectrum, November 1997; "Purchasing and Maintaining the Paperless Law Library," 43 Louisiana Bar Journal 364 (1995); "AIDS in Public Libraries: A Look Back and A Look Forward," RQ, Summer 1993 (portion of Masters Degree Thesis); Covenants against Competition in Franchise Agreements, Alabama chapter, Peter J. Klarfeld, editor, (ABA Forum on Franchising, 1992)

#### Awards and Honors

1999 Margaret T. Lane Award, Louisiana Library Assn Gov't Documents Round Table;  
2001 O. James Werner Award for Distinctive Service to People with Disabilities, from State, Court and County Law Library Special Interest Section  
2001 Spirit of Law Librarianship Award

#### Brief Statement

State Court and County Law libraries, and the librarians who work there, provide access to legal information to a larger variety of users than other law librarians. Many of us work for publicly funded libraries that are continuously struggling with funding issues. SCCLL is a valuable resource for our members. We share information, laugh and cry together over our problems and successes, and provide invaluable support to each other. I am honored to have the opportunity to strengthen these bonds and to help guide SCCLL as we continue to provide unparalleled service.

## Member at Large Candidate: Lisa Rush

### Employment

January 2000 to present – Manager of the Travis County Law Libraries in Austin, Texas

May 1996 to December 1999 – Research and Records Analyst/Technical Writer, Travis County Records Management and Communication Resources. Duties included supervision of the county print shop, mailroom, and copier fleet.

Spring semester 1999 – Austin Community College Instructor (Taught *Intro to Records Management*)

Fall semester 1999 – Austin Community College Instructor (Taught *Document Imaging*)

### Education

2003 – University of Texas Legal Assistant Program

1996 – MLIS from the University of Texas in Austin

1994 – BA in Journalism from Texas A&M University

1994 – BA in History from Texas A&M University

### Professional Affiliations and Activities

SCCLL Awards Committee, Chair 2003-2004

Member, AALL 2000 - present

Member, SLA – 2004 – present

Texas Equal Access to Justice Forms Subcommittee Co-Chair 2003-present

Member, Western Pacific Chapter of American Association of Law Librarians 2003-present

Member, Austin Law Librarians 2001-present

### Candidate's Statement

Whenever I travel I make a special effort to visit county law libraries because I know the experience will be both instructive and enlightening. To date, I have visited county law libraries in Maryland, Texas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Arizona.

In each library, the librarians welcomed me and generously shared their knowledge and experiences. They discussed their difficulties, challenges, and solutions. I left each library feeling connected to that county law library and aware of the unique difficulties that public law libraries face. On return to my library I often incorporated the best practices and solutions the librarians shared.

SCCLL builds similar connections among its member libraries. If elected member-at-large I would work to help SCCLL to further develop and strengthen the connections that allow best practices and solutions can be shared on a nationwide scale.

## Member at Large Candidate: Dan Campbell

### Employment

Head of Reference and Computer Research Services - Law Library, United States Courts for the Second Circuit, New York, NY, 2002-Present

Head of User Services, Rutgers Law Library-Newark, Newark, NJ, 2000-2002

Head of Circulation, Rutgers Law Library-Newark, Newark, NJ, 1998 -2000

Law Librarian, Schenck, Price, Smith & King, Morristown, NJ, 1997-1998

Reference Librarian, Hannotch Weisman, PC, Roseland, NJ, 1993-1996

Legal Assistant, General Counsel's Office, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rutherford, NJ, 1992-1993

### Education

M.L.I.S., Rutgers University - New Brunswick, NJ, 2002

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law - Newark, NJ, 1997

B.A., Jersey City State College - Jersey City, NJ, 1991

### Professional Affiliations and Activities

American Association of Law Libraries:

Member, AALLNET (Advisory Committee), 2004-Current

Member, LLJ and AALL Spectrum Editorial Board (Advisory Committee), 2001-2004

Member, Council of Chapter Presidents, 2001-2002

Member, Council of Newsletter Editors, 2001-2001

SCCLL SIS:

Member, Newsletter Committee

New Jersey Law Librarians Association (NJLLA):

Chair, Technology Committee, NJLLA, 2002-Current

President, NJLLA, 2001-2002

Vice President, NJLLA, 2000-2001

Past Chair, NJLLA Archives Committee

Past Chair, NJLLA Placement Committee

Past Chair, NJLLA Newsletter Committee

Past Member, NJLLA Government Affairs and Legal Information Committee

Past Member, Nominating Committee

Past Member, Program Committee

Past Member At Large, NJLLA Executive Board

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## Publications

Encyclopedia entries for: East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, and Union City, Encyclopedia of New Jersey, Edited by Maxine N. Lurie, Marc Mappen, & Michael Siegel, Rutgers University Press, 2004

Introduction to Disaster Plans: Yes It Can Happen to You. LLRX.com (January 2002), URL: <http://www.llrx.com/features/disasterplan.htm>

Perspectives: A Members Forum, Law Librarians Must Redefine Their Roles in the Era of Information Technology, AALL Spectrum, Vol. 6 No. 3 (November 2001)

Professional Development Committee Article Series, Digital Preservation Strategies: What's Good. What's Bad. What Should You Do? AALL Spectrum, Vol. 5 No. 4 (December 2000)

Labor and Employment Law Pathfinder - June 2000, URL: <http://law-library.rutgers.edu/resources/labor.html>

Basic Legal Research Materials in a Law Library Pathfinder - March, 2000, URL: <http://web.archive.org/web/20021009221523/andromeda.rutgers.edu/~drcampbe/basicpf.html>

Book Review - Freedom of Information Law in Ireland, by Maeve McDonough, Law Library Journal, Fall 1999

New Jersey Legislative Histories on the Internet: For Free! In Brief (New Jersey Law Librarian's Association Newsletter) Vol. 11, No. 4, page 10, (Summer 1999)

Chapter Two, Art of Advocacy: Discovery, August 1996 Cumulative Supplement, Matthew Bender Hendrickson's: A Bayonne Landmark, From Township to City: Papers about the Founding of the Municipality of Bayonne, edited by Carmela A. Karnoutsis, Bayonne Historical Society, 1996

## Presentations

Legal Research in the Federal Courts, Legal Research, Yale Law School, Spring 2004

Academic Law Library Employment Opportunities, NJLLA Law Library Career Seminar, Rutgers University School of Communications, Information and Library Studies, Spring 2002

Labor & Employment Law Research, Advanced Legal Research Seminar, Rutgers Law School-Newark, Spring 2002

Brief Statement: Having worked in a law firm, law school and now a federal court setting, I have experienced the many cultural, bureaucratic, and work-related differences inherent in these organizations. While this has required me to undergo occasional periods of adjustment, it has also provided me with the opportunity to develop a broad understanding of the common professional traits that we must possess in order to effectively manage our libraries and serve the various customers we assist on a daily basis.

My varied professional experiences have provided me with a unique insight that I hope I can share with the SCCLL Executive Board and if elected, I would be honored to work with such a dedicated group of librarians who are committed to enhancing the professional lives of our public, court and agency libraries - ultimately improving the provision of information to those we serve.

## Keep It “Simple”

By Ken Kozlowski

Do you find it increasingly difficult to keep on the latest happenings in the world of law, politics, and possibly technology? The evolution of “current awareness” on the Internet has taken a giant leap in recent months with the mainstreaming of the web log, or blog, or blawg.

Previously, you could read the newspaper, listen to the radio, or perhaps watch television news on the local stations. Cable television upped the ante, but also made the choices more difficult. You have ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, CNNH, MSNBC, CNBC, Fox, Fox News Channel, and some people even profess to keep current on the news by watching *The Daily Show* on the Comedy Channel. Attorneys can also relax in front of CourtTV and watch live trials. The Internet made it even easier to keep current. One could subscribe to mailing lists or listservs®, surf news sites, or access legal portals like FindLaw, MegaLaw, or law.com. The web log has now changed the way I keep current on a variety of things. In essence, I’ve had an epiphany, and its name is “blog.”

First things first. Blog is simply the shortened term for web log. Blawg is short-hand for a web log that is law-oriented. The “simple” referred to in the title of this article is part of the term “Really Simple Syndication,” or even more simply, RSS. RSS is an XML-based (Xtensible Markup Language) format for content distribution. It’s a news feed, similar to what would come across a teletype (do those still exist?) from the Associated Press or United Press Inter-

national in the days of yore. The great thing about all of this is that you need to know absolutely nothing about RSS, XML, or any other portion of the alphabet soup associated with it. A nice page offered by the web site **c|net** explains a lot of this, if you are interested.

<http://www.cnet.com/4520-6022-5115113.html>

One thing you will need is a news aggregator, and a little time to subscribe to your feeds. The aggregator I started using after my epiphany is Bloglines. <http://www.bloglines.com>

You must sign up for the service, usually with just an e-mail address and password. After you do that, you’re ready to go.

How do you subscribe to newsfeeds? If you use Bloglines, they offer a list of blogs that you want to use. The other way is to surf over to the web site associated with the blog. Before doing that however, you want to load a little “bookmarklet” that allows easy subscriptions to blogs without any hassle. There will be a link to it on the Bloglines page. It will direct you to drag the bookmarklet to your Links toolbar. This can be done by those using either the Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox web browsers. Trust me, it’s *easy*. Next, find a web log, any web log. You might have seen one referenced on a web page or a newspaper story. Doesn’t matter. You might also use a web log search mechanism like <http://blawgs.detod.com/> to help in finding a relevant one. One you can use for practice is Robert Ambrogi’s LawSites, located at <http://www.legaline.com/lawsites.html>.

You will see one of these symbols:

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**XML** or **RSS**

That means that there is a feed available. What you should then do is click on your Bloglines subscribe bookmarklet and the subscription process begins. If that doesn't work, you may have to click on the XML or RSS icons first, then the bookmarklet.

Here is what your Bloglines subscription frame will look like once you've subscribe to a few things:



Here a few of the more "legal" type of blawgs you might want to check out:

- Bag and Baggage <http://bagandbaggage.com>
- Inter Alia <http://www.inter-alia.net/index.php>
- Legal Marketing <http://legalmarketing.typepad.com>
- PDF for Lawyers <http://www.pdfforallawyers.com/>
- beSpacific <http://www.bespacific.com/>
- LawLibTech <http://www.lawlibtech.com/>
- How Appealing <http://legalaffairs.org/howappealing/>
- Ernie The Attorney <http://ernieattorney.typepad.com/>

- SCOTUSBlog <http://www.goldsteinhowe.com/blog/index.cfm>
- Overlawyered <http://www.overlawyered.com/>
- The 10b-5 Daily <http://www.the10b-5daily.com/>
- GrepLaw <http://grep.law.harvard.edu/>
- Blonde Justice <http://blondejustice.blogspot.com/>

All of the above blawgs cover some aspect of the law, whether it's legal research, appellate practice, or the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a great way to keep current on a myriad of subjects.

There are literally thousands of web logs out there, perhaps millions. Some are good, some are garbage. You should discern the reliability of a blog on your own or rely on a trusted opinion. You can use a different news aggregator other than Bloglines, it's just the one I chose to use for illustrative purposes. If you need help with any of this RSS stuff, please send me an e-mail and I'll be glad to offer some tips.

©Ken Kozlowski, 2004

## July 16-20, 2005 AALL comes to San Antonio, Texas!

President Tory Trotta's theme? Strategize, Values, Visions, Vistas.

As co-chairs of the Local Advisory Committee, you might say Mary Forman and I (a/k/a/ M&M) are already implementing Tory's theme as we "strategized" to gather chairs for the subcommittees. Well, we'll call it strategize, but others might say we got them at a weak moment. Either way, we are now organizing for the first AALL annual meeting to visit Texas in 22 years!

Among the excellent programs and opportunities for networking, there will be time to discover the beautiful vistas of San Antonio and her surrounding areas, the ethnic diversity of the area, fabulous food and historically significant sites. "But" you say, "Texas, in July!" Well, there's not much we can do about the thermometer, but hey, Texas has some of the most efficient air conditioning in the country. You might need short sleeves outside, but you'd better pack a jacket for the inside! In the coming months we'll be sending out some survival tips (like drink lots of water or other cold beverage of your choice, wear a hat, carry a portable fan, walk slowly and enjoy the smell of some of the best food south of the Red River) and we'll highlight the multicultural experiences that make up San Antonio.

The Preliminary program will be out soon, so look for the fascinating library tours (one of which is the very private library at The Alamo), the fun trips

like tubing down the Guadalupe River, and information about a fantastic closing banquet. Come visit San Antonio, relax, and enjoy our Texas hospitality!

Monica M. Ortale  
The Fred Parks Law Library  
South Texas College of Law  
Email: [ortale@stcl.edu](mailto:ortale@stcl.edu)

Editor's Note: If you have any interest in the Alamo Library, this is an excellent opportunity to see it, so make sure you sign up early. This is a very rare opportunity—when the Special Libraries Association had their meeting in San Antonio, they were unable to get a tour or access to this library. Congratulations go out to the Local Arrangements Committee for getting a tour arranged.



## SCCLL has several programs accepted for the San Antonio meeting.

Marcus Hochstetler and the Education Committee did a great job of guiding a group of program proposals through the selection process for the annual meeting. Be sure to check out the following programs:

May it Please the Court: Strategies for Discovering Just What Pro Se Services Judges Crave. Judith Flader and Jason Raymond.

Improving Your Virtual Reference Service. Sarah Sabasteanski

The Great Disappearing Act: Preserving URL's Cited in Judicial Opinions. Barbara Golden.

Not Just for Bedtime Anymore: Using Storytelling Skills as a Leadership Tool. Jean Holcomb.

Short Cuts to Safer Keyboarding. Susanne Pierce Dyer.

There was also an independent submission.

Beating the Boardroom Blues: How to Give Better Presentations. Amy Hale-Janeke.

Now I don't want to brag, but did you notice in the Sep/Oct 2004 issue of the AALL Spectrum review of the annual meeting, how many of the sessions they highlighted were by members of this SIS? (I

count three out of four). A sure indication that the above sessions will be well worth attending.

Barbara Fritschel  
editor

## Share the wealth, knowledge or whatever—be a mentor

The purpose of the mentor project is three-fold: to provide an informal personal source of information for newer members; to provide an avenue by which experienced law librarians may meet promising new members of the profession; and to provide a network for members who are contemplating moving to another type of library.

The Mentor Project is open to librarians from all types of libraries. Each participant will be assigned to a member whose profile matches, as closely as possible, his or her request. Applications will be reviewed by the Mentoring Committee and participating Special Interest Sections.

If you have previously participated as a mentor or mentee and would like to be matched in a new mentoring relationship, you are welcome to reapply.

Forms and more information are available on the AALL Mentor Project Website.

[http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor\\_project.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html)

## SRLs, Judges and Jackalopes What happens now that my proposal is accepted

Getting a program accepted for the 2005 AALL Annual Meeting is only the first step. With approval of our program, “May It Please the Court: Strategies for Discovering SRL Services Judges Crave” in our pocket, we began working with the judges on our panel during the only time we had available from work: over the Thanksgiving Holiday.

To facilitate the conversation, Jason drove to Minnesota to meet with Judge John L. Holahan (4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District) and Chief Judge Edward Toussaint (Court of Appeals). In between tailgating before and after a successful rout of the Detroit Lions by the Vikings and checking out the local English Cocker Spaniel breeders (Jason and Judy both now have new puppies!!!), Jason delivered important licenses, signed by Justice Barton Voigt, Wyoming Supreme Court, to both the MN judges, who are now licensed until death to hunt Wyoming’s wily pronghorn Jackalope. Jason also kindly provided Jackalope decoys, but we suspect those will never make it out of the hands of the Judges’ respective grandchildren.

For those not in the know, the Jackalope (*Pedigrus Lapsalopus Ineptus*) is considered by some to be the rarest animal in North America. In appearance the Jackalope may resemble a jackrabbit or a hare, with a few bits of deer DNA thrown in (mostly the bits related to antlers). Among its many mysterious features is the Jackalope’s ability to sing, effectively imitating the human voice, although those who claim to know them best discount the stories about Jacka-

lopes gathering together to sing in harmony. Scientists have determined that the average Jackalope can imitate a human singing voice better than three-quarters of the contestants on American Idol.

A few misguided souls do think the Jackalope is actually just some kind of mythic creature (except for the America Idol part). But however you skin it, the mystery which began in 1829 continues to this day.

Judith A. Flader  
County Law Librarian  
Washington County Law Library

D. Jason Raymond  
Public Services Law Librarian  
Wyoming State Law Library



Jason presents the Honorable Chief Judge Edward Toussaint, Jr., Minnesota Court of Appeals, with his jackalope decoy.