

## Don't Miss:

- Invisible Children
- 2009 Officer Nominees
- SRLN Changes Strategy
- The SCCLL Toolkit

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## View From The Chair

Marcus Hochstetler, SCCLL Chair



A new day has arrived for our country with the inauguration of a new President. It is also a new day in some of our states with new legislation taking effect altering the way we do business. Nowhere is this more evident than in Ohio where HB420 was passed which attempts to repair some of the damage done by legislation in 2005 to the County law libraries. The new bill establishes the law library as more integrated with County functions. Angela Baldree explains some of the implications for the new law in this issue.

The SCCLL Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the newly-created Law Library Advocate Award. This new SCCLL award acknowledges and honors those individuals who are not part of our library staff but who advocate on behalf of our libraries. The Committee is also seeking nominations for the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession. The Ochal Award recognizes the significant contribution to the profession of a librarian who is recently retired or nearing the end of his or her library career.

The Special committee on County Law Libraries, lead by Larry Meyer and Laura Orr, is busy looking at ways to reach out to small county law libraries that may not be SCCLL or AALL members. The strength of our section is our commitment to help one another through these hard times, from which no one is immune. To help us focus on advocacy, we can use the AALL Government Relations Committee. They are sponsoring a full day workshop on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> in D.C. called *AALL Day on the Hill: Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training 2009*. This comes at a critical time in our efforts to keep our collective boats afloat in the tides of a down economy. Our libraries could be some of the first to see major hits to the bottom line.

We are grateful for those who are willing to run for the SCCLL Board this year. These members include the following: For Chair Elect: Kathy Carlson of the Wyoming State Law Library and Barbara Fritschel of the U.S. Courts Library, Milwaukee and For Member-at-Large: Joan Bellistri of the Anne Arundel Public Law Library in Maryland and Georgia Chadwick of the Louisiana State Law Library in New Orleans. Thanks to everyone who has agreed to run for leadership

positions.

If you come across an innovative way of dealing with your budget crisis, let us know. We can put something in the SCCLL toolkit on our website. Ask yourself if someone else may benefit from seeing your way of tackling a project. For examples, visit the toolkit to see what is already there.

SCCLL members are continuing to reach out to outside legal related groups. Last year, many law librarians attended the Equal Justice Conference in Minneapolis. This year the conference is in Orlando, FL, May 14-16<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in going, please contact Michele Finerty soon. Larry Meyer and Melissa Barr are each receiving \$800.00 grants to attend the conference and represent our section well. A new beginning to this year demands optimism even with a gloomy economic outlook. Our hopes are founded in our belief that we will pull through this time and be even stronger as a group.

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## From the Editor

Jennifer Dalglish, SCCLL News Editor

Welcome to the first edition of the *SCCLL News* for 2009! We have many interesting articles this issue. Jacqueline Cantwell provides us with a fascinating look at a book aimed toward an overlooked segment of our population - the children of incarcerated parents. Charley takes us on a trip to his corner of the universe where he's studying cognitive linguistics and the role meaning has in our lives, as law librarians. He also provides us with an account of the changes happening with the Self Represented Litigants Network. If you haven't already used it, you'll want to pay particular attention to the article written by Kate Rushforth Fitz on the new SCCLL Toolkit. Judith Seiss has also graciously provided us with a summary of the responses she received to her recent query posted on our listserv. These are just a few of the articles that might peak your interest in this issue. As always, your comments, suggestions and submissions are most welcome!

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**SCCLL News** is published three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is April 15, 2009.** Please contact the Editor, Jennifer Dalglish, at lawlibrary@co.clackamas.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.

## **Interactive Court Forms Program in D.C.**

**Sara Galligan, Ramsey County Law Library**

SCCLL-SIS members who plan to attend the D.C. conference can learn more about online interactive legal forms. LISP-SIS is sponsoring a program entitled "Online Interactive Court Forms for Self-Represented Litigants: The Library's Role." It will take place on Sunday, July 26 from 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM. Online interactive forms simplify the process of completing court forms and increase access to justice for self-represented litigants. The forms also improve the efficiency and effectiveness of legal aid programs, self-help centers, and the courts. In thirty-six states and two territories, legal aid programs and courts are working with online forms through the national document assembly projects, or National Public Automated Documents Online (NPADO). Speaker Kate Bladow is the NPADO Project Coordinator at ProBonoNet. Co-speaker Judy Meadows, Montana State Law Librarian, will describe law librarian support for these efforts and the critical role they play in connecting users with these resources.

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## **AALL Conference Grants for Members Available**

**AALL Grants Committee**

Thinking about attending the 2009 annual meeting, but need financial assistance? Apply now for an AALL grant to attend the AALL Annual Meeting or a workshop in Washington, D.C.! Grants are awarded to cover registration fees for the Annual Meeting or workshops presented at the Annual Meeting.

For the first time, two categories of grants are available: one for experienced members (5 or more years) who have a proven record of professional accomplishment and service to AALL and the other for Students/New Members (less than 5 years of professional experience) who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Previously, newer members and students were given a scoring advantage, but the committee feels that experienced members are also in need of assistance to attend AALL Annual Meetings or workshops.

The application deadline is Wednesday, April 1, 2009. Don't delay! For more information, see the Grants Committee website: [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grant\\_application.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/grants/grant_application.asp). Still have questions? Feel free to contact any member of the Grants Committee. Looking forward to receiving your application.

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## Invisible Children

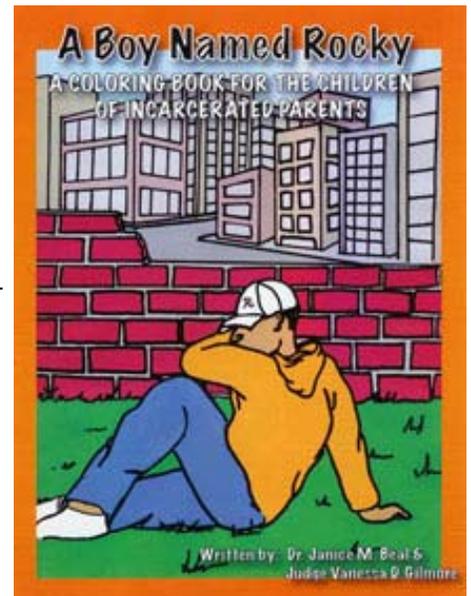
Jacqueline Cantwell, Brooklyn Supreme Court Library

This Christmas, I went to a party for children, but no children were in the house. Those of us who work in court systems knew about these absent children, the children of incarcerated parents, but we might not have known how troubled they were and how we could help them and their caregivers. These invisible children and caregivers were the true audience for the gathering, a book party for *A Boy Named Rocky: A Coloring Book for the Children of Incarcerated Parents*.

The authors, Dr. Janice M. Beal and Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore, spoke about their reasons for writing a coloring book. Dr. Beal had worked for many years in child and adolescent mental health. She saw how her young clients suffered grief and anxiety over their parents' incarceration. She often spoke to her friend, Judge Gilmore, about these troubled children. Professionally, Judge Gilmore also knew about these children. She received their letters pleading with her to reduce their parents' sentences. A poignant encounter moved her to action. She was asked to speak to a group of "bad" high school girls. She asked the 50 girls, "How many of you have an incarcerated parent?" Fifty hands went up. Judge Gilmore knew these girls were headed for trouble. Right then, Judge Gilmore decided she and Dr. Beal had to do something to stop the cycle of incarceration.

When the two friends could not find any materials for children of incarcerated parents, they decided to write a book that could help caregivers and mentors draw children out of their shells. Children found it hard to talk about their feelings and caregivers could be overwhelmed and unsure how to best talk to children about incarceration and feelings. To help children and caregivers, Dr. Beal knew that she would need to create a book for the child and a manual for the caregiver. She also needed to find a format that would help start conversation. She decided upon a coloring book. Dr. Beal had discovered in her practice that all ages responded well to coloring books. Something about coloring relaxed her patients and got them to open up. Caregivers also enjoyed sitting with coloring children. Coloring was a shared happy memory. The activity created the mood for intimate conversation.

*Rocky* was not meant to be an easy read. The tone was somber. The narrative told how Rocky's happy childhood was lost after his father left and his



mother got arrested for selling drugs. Rocky then had to make a decision: to repeat his mother's mistake, selling drugs, or to go to an adult for help coping with his feelings. Dr. Beal emphasized that a child needed an adult reading and talking with them over this book. The caregiver's manual contained 110 questions to support a therapeutic dialog addressing: "abandonment, grief and loss, anger management, decision making skills and communications skills." These five main points needed to be recognized so that the child could "open up, discuss their feelings and learn how to cope with what has happened in their lives."

Dr. Beal and Judge Gilmore closed their presentation by talking about the deep shame in the black community about incarceration and its distrust of therapy. The damage must not be ignored. The black community must draw upon itself and reach out to interested groups to help these children. The cycle of incarceration must be broken and can be "when children stop and think about their choices and the consequences of their actions."

Dr. Beal and Judge Gilmore reported that a mentoring group, Amachi Texas and Big Brothers and Big Sisters, had adopted this book. Regular adults would use the materials with children of incarcerated parents and help save the children's potential, so beautifully expressed in the meaning of the Nigerian word Amachi, "Who knows what God has brought us with this child?"

The book party developed into a discussion on incarceration and community prisoner re-entry programs. Dr. Beal's dream if she had limitless funds would be to give out 10,000 copies of *Rocky* and its manual. She asked the attendees to think of this book as a resource for the community.

Attorney Regina Darby, the party's host, gave a broad section of New York City's attorneys, judges, and professionals an opportunity to enjoy the holidays as well as to donate copies of *Rocky* to inmates of Bayview Correctional Facility, a medium-security women's prison in New York City.

Driving back from the party, I could not help but think over how such gatherings helped me withstand "the undertow of the world." I get disheartened. That evening, I saw judges and mental health professionals renew their professional and moral commitments by intensifying their efforts and developing community. They gave me a lesson on handling grief. I resolved that in the New Year, I will intensify my own efforts to

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support the judges and make the Library “a transformative public space”.

**Resources** - Dr. Beal’s and Judge Gilmore’s contact information is posted on their website, [www.4theloveofkids.com](http://www.4theloveofkids.com). Book orders can be placed through the website.

**Websites** - Googling the terms “children incarcerated parents” will pull up many organizations dedicated to the children of incarcerated parents. Local organizations will probably be the best place to start. The following sites looked interesting. All sites were up as of Jan. 7, 2009.

Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents: <http://www.e-ccip.org/>

Family and Corrections Network: <http://www.fcnetwork.org/>

National Resource Center For Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning (Click information services -- hot topics and go to Children of Incarcerated Parents): <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/>.

#### **Indexes and Abstracts –**

“Ebsco Academic Search Premier.” Author supplied keywords look more helpful than the subject headings. Try child visitation; incarcerated mothers, prisoners, women prisoners.

ERIC - Education Resources Information Center,” <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>. Thesaurus terms : Institutionalized persons is the thesaurus term used for prisoners; Parent child relationship. Looked surprisingly useful.

Index to Legal Periodicals (Lexis) Descriptors: Parent and child; prisoners/family relationships; child welfare; prisoners/visitation rights ; termination of parental rights.

Legal Resource Index. (Lexis). LRI descriptors do not seem to include a specific term like ILP’s prisoners/family relationships. You will have to play around with terms such as incarcerated; women prisoners, custody of children; imprisonment; influence.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Abstracts Database ,” <http://www.ncjrs.gov/>. This seems to be the best resource. Search using Children of incarcerated offenders and related terms; Effects of imprisonment; Parental influence; Family reunification and related terms.

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## Charley's Corner

### Researching A Moving Target

By Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library.

Back in 2006-07, I received a grant from the AALL Research Committee to prepare a bibliography and essay on cognitive linguistics for law librarians. My original proposal was rather open-ended, and I had to cut back on my plans when, due to competitive proposals, the committee asked if I could do it with one third the amount I originally requested. In retrospect, it was probably fortunate that I did not get the whole amount requested.

As you can guess, the project became much larger than I originally thought it would be. I dutifully completed just about all the work I had proposed, including an initial draft of the "final product." The final product, according to the rules of the Research Committee, is to be some sort of publishable item that gives the results of the research to the law librarian community. I knew that I could not produce a final product that would be very decent when I turned in that draft in the summer of 2007 because I had found out, among other things, there were a couple of major books coming out in the fall of 2007, including the *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics*. This 1300 page compilation of 49 articles written specifically for the publication by the world's leading cognitive linguists and scientists would obviously be needed in any decent cognitive linguistics collection.

So, giving myself an excuse for delay, I proceeded to try to determine just what it was I needed to include that would really be of service to law librarians. As it happens whenever one really begins to read in depth into a subject, one thing leads to another. I still have not finished, even though I write on it at least one afternoon each week and read, on average, two really technical books on cognitive linguistics, cognitive science, or neuroscience, a month.

Given the developments in the field, there is no way to be exhaustive and thus finish the project. There are more books being published each month than I can read and absorb. But exhaustiveness was never the goal. Instead, I needed to develop a sufficiently comprehensive understanding of the issues and theories to be sure that my condensation into an essay for my fellow law library colleagues would not lead people astray. I am developing a good, nuanced understanding. But now I have problem number two.



How does one convey the nuance in a short essay? Or better put, who is my audience, and what do they need to know? My original thinking was that this final product should go into *Law Library Journal*. The reason: *LLJ* is indexed for both the legal and librarianship professions. But I would also like to appeal to cognitive linguists themselves because, if we are ever going to get research into legal discourse enough to be helpful to us, we are going to need their professional research abilities directed toward law and the courthouse and law library settings.

I am reminded of a correspondence between Alexandre Koyré and Thomas Kuhn, the author of *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (the highly influential book, most known for coining the phrase “paradigm shift”). Koyré commented about *Structure* that “you have brought the internal and external histories of science, which in the past have been very far apart, together.” My whole turn toward cognitive linguistics is in response to the notion among legal scholars of the Legal Process school, the prevailing attitude among judges in the United States, that, as H.L.A. Hart says, law has a logic unto itself, i.e., it does not need outside disciplines to inform it. Of course, legal scholars of the Critical Legal Studies bent, the Law and Economics bent, and the other theories current among law school jurisprudence professors, disagree, wanting to employ “outside” patterns of thought to the legal process. My notion, following that of Steven Winter in *A Clearing in the Forest: Law, Life and Mind*, is that cognitive linguistics can help bridge the gap between the “inside” and “outside” views of law.

In particular, my concern is to enable those of us versed in legal discourse to help those who are not, i.e., self represented litigants, come to comprehend the *meaning* of law. *Meaning* is the primary concern of cognitive linguists, who maintain that all elements of language arise from the semantic (i.e., meaning) component. Grammar, symbol, phoneme, and lexeme are, to the cognitive linguist, created through the same cognitive devices that we (and other animals) use to make sense of the world. I figure that, if we pay attention to the details that cognitive linguists look at, we can do a better job relating the specialized meanings of law to those versed only in understanding generalized meaning patterns. We can connect the “inside view” to the “outside view,” the internal and the external sides of law.

Let me give a couple of examples:

- (1) “Deputy Jones served the papers on the respondent.”
- (2) “Once divorce proceedings have begun, it is unlawful to add any en-

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*“In particular, my concern is to enable those of us versed in legal discourse to help those who are not, i.e., self represented litigants, come to comprehend the **meaning** of law.”*

cumbrances to any real property owned by either party to the divorce, except for property managed in the normal course of a party's regular business.”

These two sentences are meaningful to nearly everyone who works within the legal community, yet they seem exceedingly strange to many self represented litigants. They would wonder why the first sentence uses the preposition “on” instead of the preposition “to”, as in “served the dish to the customer.” Sentence (1) might invoke an image to some people of a respondent lying prone on a sofa and Deputy Jones coming up to him and placing the papers on his chest. Some more literal-minded people might even imagine that Deputy Jones is using the respondent as a serving tray, with the papers sitting on him, while Jones places the respondent onto a table, i.e., that Jones is serving the papers to someone else entirely.

Some cognitive linguists spend a considerable amount of time studying prepositions. Given the huge vocabulary of English and most modern languages, it seems strange that there are so few prepositions. Although they have a lot of uses in abstract concepts, prepositions are all based on meanings derived from direction or force, two very basic concepts that every child perceives very early on. According to cognitive linguists, all the other uses for the prepositions come through metaphorical extensions from their original grounded perceptual sense. Sentence (1) employs “paper” as a metonymy for “served process on,” which in turn is derived from the phrase “service of process” with “service” being an abstract sense, not the physical sense that the self represented litigants think is meant. In other words, we law types use the “papers” as a physical representation of the abstract concept (similar to saying that “the White House said ....”). The jargon word “process” itself is shorthand, i.e., another type of metonymy using a part of the whole (like calling a baseball pitcher a “good arm”), for the concept of “starting the process (in the ordinary sense) of a lawsuit through the following of prescribed procedures, without which the process stops.”

Now we have some clue why self represented litigants might be confused by sentence (1). Given that, if I were authoring a plain language instruction sheet, I would be inclined to avoid the word “service” altogether. Use another phrase like, “Send the papers to the person you are suing and follow the steps below exactly when you do it.” If the instructions are intended to give a full meaning to the litigant, as opposed to simple steps,

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*“We are good at  
what we do, but  
what are we doing?”*

I would include an explanation as to why the procedure is more complicated than simply mailing the papers to someone. “To be fair to the other side, you have to make sure that they actually get the papers, and the court wants to have proof of that.”

Most of us within the legal community would likely presume the difficulty with sentence (2) is the definition of a person’s “regular business.” Indeed, there has been significant litigation on that, but the real stumbling block is the word “encumbrance”. Anyone not particularly versed in secured transactions or real property law might presume the word meant its ordinary dictionary definition, “a thing or object blocking a path.” One could take the sentence to mean that you are not allowed to place concrete bulwarks across the road leading onto the property or perhaps even not allowed to lock the front door of the house. Trying to make sense of such a ridiculous statement, an abused wife in a messy divorce might think that the sentence meant that she could not change the locks on the doors, even though she had a restraining order placed “on” the husband.

Sentence (2) came up in a discussion on the Plain Language Association List Serve. Using their common sense, the members of the list came up with a good solution. They recognized, although they did not say it this way, that the term “encumbrance” is a metaphorical extension, and the underlying metaphor is “Steps in a Process = Steps on a Journey.” The group came up with a good alternative, effectively using a form of the dictionary definition and making the metaphor explicit. They did what a cognitive linguist would suggest they do.

But the members of the Plain Language Association List did not invoke cognitive linguistics, or the underlying metaphor, or any of the types of terms that linguists routinely use, when discussing the matter. Had they had the cognitive linguistics background, they might have been able to do the work faster, and with more assurance as to what they were trying to achieve. Indeed, it was only their practiced skill and knowledge of the use of the sentence in context that enabled them to reach the good rewording that they did. They were intuitive, if you will, which is another way of saying they were experienced enough to get the job done while not employ an elegant theory to spell it out for them, somewhat like engineers before Isaac Newton.

We employ this same kind of intuitive understanding at the reference desk when we help self represented litigants. We are good at what we do,



but what are we doing? I am in hopes that cognitive linguistics will help us along.

Thomas Kuhn was trained as a physicist. His ability to combine his in-depth understanding of the physics and mathematics and his broader understanding of the cultural aspects of scientific discovery was what made *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* such a landmark book. He combined the history of science with the philosophy of science, which is somewhat what Koyré was referring to. Yet, Kuhn later lamented that his book was practically unknown among undergraduate science and math majors, but was on the reading list for practically every other discipline. It is hard to remember history when one is doing the day-to-day grind of finding the next bit of information, the next bit of truth.

Fortunately, for us librarians and lawyers, history is a part of our discipline thanks to *stare decisis*. So maybe when we get this going, it will come more naturally than I think.

Keep up the good work!

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## The Case of the Misleading Court Website

By John Cannan

What happens when a pro se/self represented litigant relies on court information provided for his or her benefit on a website and something goes wrong with their case as a result? An answer was recently given by the Delaware's Court of Common Pleas in Kent County in the case of *Huff v. Nevins*, No. 08-06-0015 (Del. Ct. Com. Pl. Nov. 20, 2008) available at [www.courts.delaware.gov/Opinions/\(5nsxuinzwzpovh55plfgefyt\)/download.aspx?ID=114190](http://www.courts.delaware.gov/Opinions/(5nsxuinzwzpovh55plfgefyt)/download.aspx?ID=114190).

Last year, Robert Huff had a problem. He was trying to sue Mary Nevins for injuries he suffered from a car accident. His difficulty was that he lived in Delaware and she lived in Maryland.

Huff was representing himself and consulted the Court of Common Pleas web site to find out how to serve the defendant. The site contained a description of how to serve an in-state defendant but did not discuss, nor did it distinguish, how to serve an out-of-state defendant under the Delaware's long arm statute. Thus

when Huff served Nevins, he failed to comply with the proper out-of-state service requirements. This fact was not lost on Nevins' attorney who filed to dismiss the case on those grounds.

The Delaware court refused to dismiss the case. It held that Huff's error was excusable because it was caused by the "misleading" information on the web site—the failure to make a distinction between in-state and out-of-state service. The court then gave Huff another chance to serve Nevins properly.

*Nevins v. Huff* is an anecdote more than a cautionary tale, but it does raise two important points. The first is that even if courts or law librarians post legal information on the web, there is no way to determine all the purposes and ways for which it will be used and relied upon. This creates the quandary of putting on too much or too little legal information resources on a web site. At the very least, it is probably a good idea to put a link to online court rules with any information on procedure a court does provide over the Internet.

The second is that even if someone is "injured" by misreading or "misleading" information, the end result is not that the court or librarian gets sued. Courts have tools at their disposal to right any wrongs that might result from excusable erroneous use of information.

It will be interesting if more cases like *Huff v. Nevins* start appearing in courts throughout the land. Keep an eye out for it.



## **SRLN Changes Strategy**

**By Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library.**

Given the hard economic times, the Self Represented Litigation Network, under the direction of Richard Zorza, Network Coordinator, has developed a new strategy to help the courts, law libraries and other agencies continue to innovate and create new and better services for self represented litigants.

Previously, the SRLN's Information, Marketing and Outreach Working Group and the Law Librarians Working Group had focused considerable energy on creating conferences at which court and other leaders received training in working with self represented litigants. Most of those took the form of "train the trainer" courses, so that the leaders could return to their local environments and spread the word themselves among their colleagues. It is now apparent that funds for

travel to conferences, especially special conferences, is diminishing, so the SRLN will probably not be hosting such conferences for awhile. The SRLN will continue to provide regular programming to professional association meetings, such as the upcoming Equal Justice Conference in May in Orlando (4 programs and 2 strategy sessions), the AALL Meeting in July in Washington, DC, (3 programs, plus another on SRLs created by other librarians) and next fall's NLADA meeting.

Instead, the SRLN has been repackaging some of the wonderful modules from last year's Court Solutions Conference into a program of seven steps that can be implemented by courts to improve services to self represented litigants, while saving money. A general description of the new program was published as Frank Broccolina and Richard Zorza, "Ensuring Access to Justice in Tough Economic Times," pages 124-128 in the Nov.-Dec. 2008 issue of *Judicature* and is available on the front page of the [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org) website as a PDF.

Step number Five is "Law Libraries as a Partnering Resource," based on the module "Supporting and Integrating Law Library Services," created by Marcus Hochstetler and others, for last fall's Court Solutions Conference. So, if one of your judges happens to read *Judicature*, don't be surprised if the judge approaches you.

Another strategic direction that SRLN is taking is to create awareness of the need in these times for even more effort to be put to helping self represented litigants. The numbers of self represented litigants facing foreclosures, evictions, and divorces is increasing, just as court budgets are diminishing. The SRLN has sent in a proposal for \$35 million as a suggestion to be a part of the stimulus package being prepared by the Obama transition team. There is considerable backing from several organizations, such as the American Bar Association, for the proposal. The three areas suggested in the proposal are a national effort to improve foreclosure forms (Plain Language, etc.), funding and expanding self help centers, and taking the Justice Corps national. The Justice Corps is an Americorps project at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, wherein young people are trained to aid self represented litigants in preparing their documents and getting ready for court. The program has been very successful.

Another strategic direction is the creation of and creating awareness of new materials via video, so that training can be distributed without having to use costly conferences. For example, there are two videos on limited



scope lawyering (unbundling) now available, one on the PLI website (free for a year) and the other on the ABA website. The King County, Washington, Superior Court has produced a video, called “Your Day in Court” for self represented litigants, found at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/kcsc/yuflash/home1.htm>. The King County Law Library is mentioned several times in the video.

The other working groups within SRLN are not so outreach oriented and continue to work on their regular objectives, but they are now emphasizing those which aid the courts and other agencies in these hard economic times. For example, the Compliance Group is examining the cultural competency problems arising with compliance to court orders. It is hard to comply if you don't understand the order. These problems increase during hard economic times. Two pilot projects are in the planning stage at this point.

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## **Join the AALL Advocacy Team by Attending AALL's Day on the Hill**

**Emily Feldman, Advocacy Communications Assistant, AALL**

A warm winter's greeting from the AALL Government Relations Office! As we write to you from our offices just blocks from Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. is abuzz with excitement as the country prepares to welcome a new Administration and new Congress. With these new beginnings come great possibilities for law libraries. However, as you know, the current economic environment means uncertainty and the possibility of budget cuts for some state, court, and county law libraries. That's why now is an essential time to learn to make your voice heard by becoming an effective advocate for law libraries.

The Government Relations Office and our Government Relations Committee invite you to attend AALL's *Day on the Hill: Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training 2009*. During this year's Advocacy Training, you'll learn about AALL's legislative agenda, improve your communications skills, network with new colleagues, and spend the afternoon on Capitol Hill. This special event will take place right before the Annual Meeting on Friday, July 24, 2009 from 8:30a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Thanks to the support of the Executive Board, there is no registration fee for AALL members.

By attending our Advocacy Training, you'll learn about the important issues on AALL's legislative agenda, including:

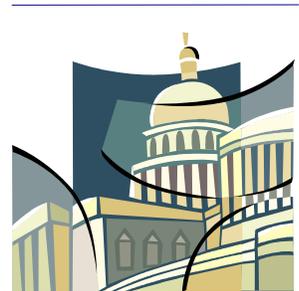
- *Adequate annual funding to the Administrative Office of the*

*United States Courts (AOUSC) for no-fee public access to PACER.* AALL strongly supports the PACER Pilot Program, which provides users with free public access to federal court records to users at sixteen depository libraries, including ten law libraries in fourteen states. In 2006, the AALL Executive Board endorsed a “Resolution on No-Fee FDLP Access to PACER” which requested that the Government Printing Office work with the AOUSC to allow users of federal depository libraries to access PACER at no-fee.

- *A public domain citation system for legal information; and*
- *The repeal of Section 215 (the so-called “library” provision) of the USA PATRIOT Act which is due to sunset on December 31, 2009.*

This year’s Advocacy Training will also feature a special guest speaker, “Advocacy Guru” Stephanie Vance, who will lead an educational and fun session on the who, what, and how of becoming an effective advocate. With the knowledge and skills you gain from the morning session, you’ll be prepared to meet with your own Congressional delegation in the afternoon.

The *AALL Day on the Hill* is the perfect opportunity to learn about AALL’s policy agenda, hone your communication skills, and make your voice heard on Capitol Hill. By attending the Advocacy Training, you’ll also learn how to become a more successful advocate for your own library in your state. To register, contact AALL Advocacy Communications Assistant Emily Feldman at [efeldman@aall.org](mailto:efeldman@aall.org). We look forward to seeing you in July!



## **Get Your Grants, Here!**

**Michele Finerty, Pacific McGeorge School of Law**

The SCCLL Executive Board is making available five grants of \$950 each to attend the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., July 25-28, 2009. Link to [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/annual\\_meeting/scholarships.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/annual_meeting/scholarships.htm) for application information. The application deadline is April 1, 2009.

## The SCCLL Toolkit: A Unique Resource by and for Law Librarians

By Kate Rushforth Fitz

Need to write a job description, and want some samples from other public law libraries? Want to take a look at other public law libraries' collection development policies? Looking for information about self-represented litigants and libraries' role in assisting them, or the border between assistance and the unauthorized practice of law?

For these and many other questions about public law library service, your first stop should be the SCCLL Toolkit (<http://aallnet.org/sis/sccll/toolkit/index.html>). The Toolkit sections are also listed along the right side of each page of our website.

The Toolkit is a unique resource. Law librarians have generously provided samples of actual job descriptions, collection development and other policies, and strategic plans used at their libraries.

Tap into the collective wisdom of your peers: the "Best Practices" section contains summaries of SCCLL listserv discussions on funding avenues beyond civil filing fees, making your library wireless, how law libraries can help DAs, and many more.

See approaches and documents used by other law librarians in advocating for funding and legislation in the "Advocacy" section. Learn about estimating shelf space needs from the experience of others under "Space Issues." Click directly to the SCCLL's Public Law Library Standards and Appellate Court Standards from the Toolbar menu on each page.

Our two newest sections were created because of members' suggestions: "Self-Represented Litigants" and the "Unauthorized Practice of Law."

The "Self-Represented Litigants" section lists websites your patrons might find useful, such as a mini-research class from the Council of California County Law Librarians (<http://tinyurl.com/a53njc>) and a page on deciding whether to represent yourself from "shlep: the Self-Help Law ExPress" (<http://tinyurl.com/7kpatd>). It also links to resources for law librarians, such as the National Center for State Courts' "Self-Representation Resource Guide" (<http://tinyurl.com/6ux5gf>) and selfhelpsupport.org's "Starting a Self-Help Center for

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*"Law librarians have generously provided samples of actual job descriptions, collection development and other policies, and strategic plans used at their libraries."*

the Self-Represented: 12 Core Resources” (<http://tinyurl.com/6umylo>).

The “Unauthorized Practice of Law” section collects resources discussing the line between legal advice and legal information. There are links to court guidelines from various states, including an in-depth 2007 task force report from Arizona (<http://tinyurl.com/7mzfw>) and accompanying handbooks. You will also find links and a citation to well-known articles by John Greacen on the topic.

The Toolkit exists only because of the generous contributions and helpful suggestions of SCCLL members. We all have some resources that deserve to be shared. Please share the tools *you* use at your library that can benefit other law librarians. Send them to [kfitz@saclaw.org](mailto:kfitz@saclaw.org). Thank you!

## **\$50 AALL Member Appreciation Discount for 2009 Annual Meeting & Conference**

AALL wants to help during these tough economic times. Members who **register by March 31** will receive an additional **\$50 Member Appreciation Discount** off the already reduced early registration rate. Register by March 31 and save up to \$150! (Registration link: [www.aallnet.org/events/09\\_registration.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/events/09_registration.asp)).

## **Tools for Success in Today’s Economy**

In response to the U.S. recession and its impact on law libraries, AALL has created a wiki of Tools for Success in Today’s Economy. On the wiki you will find:

- Tips for operating your law library with a tight budget
- Advice on negotiating contracts with vendors
- How to interview effectively for your next job
- Resources for professional development
- And much more

Any AALL member can add material to the wiki, so we encourage you to **use the tools and share more resources** that will help our friends and colleagues in AALL. (Wiki link: <http://aallnet.pbwiki.com>; attached logo for wiki).

- “AALL wants to help during these tough economic times. Members who **register by March 31** will receive an additional **\$50 Member Appreciation Discount** off the already reduced early registration rate.”

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## New Law Library Advocate Award

### SCCLL Awards Committee

The Awards Committee of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section is soliciting 2008-2009 nominations for the Law Library Advocate Award.

The Law Library Advocate Award is a new State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section award that is presented to a law library supporter in recognition of his or her substantial contribution towards the advancement and improvement of a State, Court or County law library's service or visibility.

Nominees for this award are any person who has had a significant influence on a state, court or county law library and who is not a member of the law library staff. Examples of nominees include, but are not limited to, trustees, legislators, state/county/municipal officials, court managers, and judges.

The purpose of this new award is to acknowledge and honor those individuals who are not part of our library staff but who advocate on behalf of our libraries. These individuals value our institutions and work tirelessly to insure our success and, in these difficult economic times, our existence. These individuals give of their time and expertise because they passionately believe in our missions and goals. They are the voice outside our library that calls others to value and support our library. Their voice, action and work has a direct and resounding impact on the success of the library.

Given today's economic and political environment it is important that we recognize these individuals and say a collective thank you. We need to acknowledge their actions and work on our behalf and encourage others to follow their examples.

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*"The purpose of this new award is to acknowledge and honor those individuals who are not part of our library staff but who advocate on behalf of our libraries."*

## AALL 2009 Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee Launches Website

Start planning for AALL's 2009 Annual Meeting by visiting the Local Arrangements Committee web site, <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aall2009/>. The site offers D.C. guides (restaurants, music venues, government buildings, museums, and more), dine-around and volunteer sign up, forums for finding a roommate or trading an event ticket, and more.

## Bob Oakley Memorial Symposium: The Future of Today's Scholarship

Jennifer Locke Devitt, Georgetown Law Library

The Georgetown Law Library will be holding a symposium on the topic of preserving the research value of blogs on July 25, 2009.

We believe that blogs have become part of the canon of legal scholarship and that future legal researchers will turn to blogs as sources for their scholarship. This conclusion, however, presents great challenges for future researchers of material currently populating the blogosphere. How will these future researchers of today's blog scholarship find valuable, historic blogs? How will they be assured of perpetual access to this scholarship? How can any researcher be confident that documents posted to blogs are reliable?

This symposium will bring together academic bloggers, librarians, and experts in preservation to brainstorm and debate these topics and to develop best practices to ensure that the value of blog scholarship is not easily lost.

Our first panel will lay the groundwork for these discussions by presenting librarians' and legal scholars' views on the future research value of today's blogs. Will future legal scholars turn to legal blogs as reputable and reliable sources of information? In this panel, experts on legal research will analyze the much-debated issue of whether future legal scholars will be interested in the analysis found in blogs or the documents posted to blogs. In addition, the panel will also address the rise of legal blogs and blogging as a phenomenon.

Our second panel will assemble a group of national experts and leaders from a variety of backgrounds to share their perspectives, experiences and visions with respect to the problem of blog preservation. Specifically, this panel will discuss who is responsible for blog preservation; how will we begin the process of prioritizing and collecting legal blogs; and what are the current standards, as well as the technological, economic, and social considerations that must be addressed, in Web harvesting and digital preservation.

Our third panel will be devoted to examining the issue of the reliability of legal documents uploaded to blogs. From *Newsweek's* posting of the "Torture Memos" to ScotusBlog's postings of Supreme Court briefs, news agencies and bloggers regularly upload legal documents to support their stories. Although these web sites and blogs are often the only sources for these documents, few

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*"We believe that blogs have become part of the canon of legal scholarship and that future legal researchers will turn to blogs as sources for their scholarship."*

electronic documents have any verifiable proof of reliability. Future researchers wanting to rely on these documents must be aware of this issue and must be able to confirm that the posted document is complete and unaltered from the version authorized for publication by the author. This panel will discuss this issue and the current standards for proving the authenticity of a document in order to foster a system for preserving the value of blogs and documents found on blogs for future researchers.

The symposium will conclude with a working group break out session to create a uniform standard for preservation of blogs for bloggers and librarians.

Our late director, Bob Oakley, firmly believed that librarians have an obligation to ensure access to information and was committed to meeting the challenges posed by information in a digital form. In this spirit, we dedicate this symposium to him.

Details about the symposium can be found at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/ftls/>.

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## **Legislation Passes to Ensure the Future of Ohio County Law Libraries**

**Angela Baldtree, Lake County Law Library**

In March 2005, Ohio Legislators added language to the Biennial Budget Bill (HB 66) radically changing the way Ohio Law Libraries operate. Previously, County Law Library Boards were comprised of members of their county Bar Association. Money from fines and penalties went toward the purchase of legal resources for the library. The County Commissioners were responsible for providing space in the county courthouse, the shelving in the library and the salaries of up to 3 library employees.

HB 66 gradually took those responsibilities away from the Commissioners. In 2007 the Library began paying 20% of their employees' salaries and benefits. In 2008 the Library paid 40% of the salaries and benefits as well as 20% of the rent for their space. These percentages were to increase until 2011 when the Libraries would pay 100% of salaries and benefits and 2012 when they would pay 100% of their rent. Needless to say, these increased expenses would be devastating to

most County Law Libraries.

With the help of a lobbyist hired by 20 Ohio County Law Libraries, in May, 2008, language to restructure Ohio County Law Libraries once again was included in the budget correction bill. However the Senate president decided at the last minute to remove the Law Library language. That language was then introduced as SB 345 in June before the legislators went home for the summer.

The legislators were back in early November to begin the lame duck session. Sponsor testimony was heard on SB 345 on November 12 and opponent/proponent testimony was scheduled for November 13; however, none was necessary since there was no opponent testimony. Following the two days of testimony, SB 345 became an emergency amendment to HB 420 and up for a vote on the Senate Floor on December 2 where it passed by a vote of 27 Yeas to 2 Nays. On December 17 this bill came back to the House for concurrence where it passed by a vote of 92 yeas to 1 nay.

This means that the new County Law Library Resource Board (CLLRB) will be created by July, 2009. This board will be appointed by the county commissioners, judges, and prosecuting attorney. Not only will this new board be responsible for the maintenance of the County Law Library, but will also manage the coordination, acquisition, and utilization of legal resources for the entire county.

In 2010 a statewide consortium will be created. Each County Law Library will be required to contribute 2% of their revenue to this consortium. This consortium will negotiate statewide contracts, catalog resources currently held by County Law Libraries, provide consultation to Law Libraries, and develop guidelines to assist Law Libraries.

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*“This means that the new County Law Library Resource Board (CLLRB) will be created by July, 2009.”*

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## 2009 Candidate Nominations

### SCCLL Nominating Committee

The SCCLL Nominating Committee (Donna Bausch, Janet Camillo, Sandy Marz and Anne McDonald, Chair) is happy to announce the following candidates for the 2009 election:

#### Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (2009-2010)

Kathy Carlson, Wyoming State Law Library, Cheyenne, WY

Barbara Fritschel, U.S. Courts Library, Milwaukee, WI

#### Member-At-Large (2009-2012)

Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library, Annapolis, MD

Georgia Chadwick, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

The election will be held electronically, with ballots distributed no later than April 1.

Please keep in mind that the SIS Bylaws (Article VII, Section 4) allow for 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. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, including nominations by petition." We encourage our members to use this process if desired.

The Nominations Committee thanks the candidates for their willingness to take a leadership role in SCCLL. We also thank those who have nominated colleagues or themselves for helping to keep our Section active.

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*Candidate Resumes and Statements can be found on the following pages (pg. 23-29).*

## Kathleen B. Carlson

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

### Education

Capital University Law School	Columbus, Ohio	Juris Doctor	May 1980
The University of Iowa	Iowa City, Iowa	M.A.	Library and Information Science Dec. 1986
The Ohio State University	Columbus, Ohio	B.A.	Political Science Aug. 1977

### Relevant Work Experience

- 10/1988-Present** Wyoming State Law Librarian  
**8/1999-2004** Adjunct Instructor Legal Research and Writing in ABA certified paralegal program at Laramie County Community College  
**9/1987-10/1988** Wyoming Assistant State Law Librarian  
**5/1987-8/1987** Law Clerk, United States District Court Eastern District of Kentucky  
**9/1980-8/1983** Editor, Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company

### Professional Activities

- American Association of Law Libraries  
 Executive Board Member (2003-2006)  
 Indexing Legal Periodical Literature Advisory Committee (1993-1996, Chair, 1994-1996)  
 Scholarship Committee (1996-1998)  
 Uniform Citation Formats Committee (1998-2000, 2002-2004)  
 Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee (2007-2009)  
 Fair Business Practices Special Committee (2000-2002)  
 Nominations Committee (2008-2010)  
 Coordinator and Speaker at 1991 AALL Convention Program "The Paralegal as Patron"  
 Coordinator at 1993 AALL Convention Programs "Electronic Networking: Bringing Everyone Into the Next Generation" & "Putting the Next Generation in Touch with a Past Generation: Colonial Legal Materials"  
 Co-Coordinator at 1994 AALL Convention Program "A Day in Ancient Alexandria: How to Determine the Value of Your Collection and the Types of Insurance You Need"  
 Coordinator at 2002 Annual Meeting "Town Meeting: Fair Business Practices Guide"  
 Speaker 2008 AALL Convention Program  
 Coordinator 2009 AALL Convention Program
- State Court and Counties Special Interest Section  
 Awards Committee (2007-2009)  
 Secretary/Treasurer (1992-95)  
 Education Committee (1991-92, 1998-1999, Chair 2000-2001)  
 Grants Committee (1997-1998)  
 Nominating Committee (1998-1999)  
 Membership Committee (2000-Present, Co-Chair 2000-2001)
- Western Pacific Association of Law Libraries (WestPac)  
 President (1996-1997, 2003-2004)



Government Relations Committee monitor for Wyoming (1990-Present)  
Local Arrangements Chair 1994--Jackson, Wyoming  
Local Arrangements Chair 2004—Estes Park, Colorado  
Wyoming Library Association  
Secretary Academic and Special Library Section (1990-1992)  
President (1994-1995)  
Bibliographic Center for Research (Denver, Colorado)  
Board of Trustees (1991-1995, Executive Committee 1994-1995)

### **Publications**

*Quick Index to Wyoming Statutes Annotated*. Annual. In-house publication.  
"Citing Unpublished Decisions in Federal Courts," 31 *Wyoming Lawyer* 45 (February 2008),  
"Digital Attachments Are Here...Or are They" 10 *Law Librarians in the new millennium* 3 (Thomson/West  
September/October 2007)  
"The Paralegal as Patron," 84 *Law Library Journal* 567 (1992).  
Assisted in Drafting AALL Uniform Citations Manual  
Assisted in Drafting AALL Guide to Fair Business Practices  
Assisted in Drafting AALL Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee White Paper on Uni-  
versal Citation Format [In Process]

### **Other Qualifications**

Beta Phi Mu, International Library Honorary Association.  
Board of Directors Wyoming Council Girl Scouts U.S.A.  
(1990-96, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President 1990-1992, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 1993-1996)  
Cheyenne Board of Adjustment (2001-2007, Chair, 2006-2007)  
Member of Ohio Bar (Inactive Status).  
Zonta International (Local Club President 2002-2003, District Parliamentarian 2006-2008)

### **Candidate Statement**

The country is in the midst of an economic crisis that is going to affect publicly funded law libraries dramatically. We have already seen an announcement that the Supreme Court libraries in Tennessee will be closing. This is an indication that we must work harder to advocate for the value of public law libraries. SCCLL has already developed a number valuable advocacy publications and tools. However, with a crisis at hand, it is time for SCCLL to think of ways to expand our educational efforts.

Additionally, SCCLL should be at the forefront in assisting the AALL Government Relations and Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committees in their efforts to advocate for the authentication of electronic legal information. We are seeing reference requests for direction to electronic information by pro se litigants increasing daily and we should be confident that we are directing people to materials that have been authenticated and are reliable sources of legal information. Along with authentication, we should also be making our voices heard regarding permanent access to all government information.

As stated in our Bylaws, the purpose of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section is:

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

I am a strong believer in this mission and would be honored to work as to promote this purpose and other matters which may affect the Section.

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## Barbara L. Fritschel

### Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

#### Employment

Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, Branch Library, Milwaukee, WI, 2006-present

Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, Branch Library, Beaumont, TX 1992-2006

Assistant/Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, United States Air Force, 1981-1985

#### Education

M.L.S., University of Washington, Seattle, 1992

M.A., Theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA 1987

J.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1980

B.S., History/Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, 1977



#### Selected Professional Activities

- S American Association of Law Libraries 1991-
- State, Court, and Court SIS, 1992-
- Silent Auction Coordinator, 2008-
- Board Member 2005-2009
- Newsletter Editor, 2003-2005
- Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, 2006-
- Special Libraries Association, 1999-

#### Selected Publications

“Trends in Library Collaboration to Provide Access to Legal Information”, 2007 Future Trends in State Courts, 84

“An Index to Special Court Sessions in West’s Federal Reporters”, 93 Law Library Journal 109 (2001).

#### Candidate’s Statement

As a board member, it has been my privilege to work with the great leadership this SIS has had the last several years. Funding, budgets, finding educational opportunities and providing access to legal information are issues still facing many of our member libraries. If elected, I will continue to work on these issues. I hope to expand the number of members who participate in the leadership opportunities available and to look for ways we can continue to support each other.

## Joanne Bellistri

Member At Large

### Employment

Anne Arundel County Public Law Library, Director, 1980-present

### Education

M.L.S., University of Maryland, College Park, 1982

B.A., University of Maryland, College Park, 1976

### Selected Professional Activities

AALL (American Association of Law Libraries) Member, 1980-present

Volunteer Chair for Local Arrangements Committee, 1997

SCCLL (State, Court and County Law Libraries, SIS) Member, 1980- present

Standards Committee, Chair, 2002 and 2008-2009 and Member, 2000, 2001 & 2007

Bylaws Committee, member, 2005

LLAM (Law Library Association of Maryland) Member, 1982- present

Chair, GRC\Vendor relations, 2006-present

Liaison & member MLA Legislative Panel, 2005 -present

Awards Committee, Member, 2007

President, 2004-2005

Immediate Past President, 2005-2006

Vice-President/President Elect (Program Chair), 2003-2004

Board Member, 1986 & 1997

Conference of Maryland Court Library Directors, Chair, 2007-2009

Maryland Access to Justice Commission, Member, 2008-

Self Represented Litigation Network, (new) Member - December, 2008

Maryland Circuit Court Library Study Committee, Chair, Standards Subcommittee, 2000-2001

Maryland State Bar Association, Disaster Preparedness Committee, Non-attorney Member, 2008-present

### Presentations and Publications

Column in local bar newsletter @your library, beginning January, 2009

Speaker, AALL Annual Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training, "County Law Libraries: Facing Challenges, Finding Solutions," July 2008

"SCCLL, the AALL's Representatives Program, Baltimore and Las Vegas Visits : Court Solutions Conference: Solving Court Business Problems," SCCLL News, Spring/Summer 2007, vol. 33, no. 2

Co-presenter, Program for the Maryland Correctional Institution for Women, "How to Conduct Legal Research: Finding the Law," January 18 & 26, 2006



Co-author, AALL LISP Public Libraries Toolkit for Maryland, updated 2007  
Co-Presenter, LLAM Legal Research Institute, "Top 10 List: Where to Find the Law", March, 2004

### **Statement**

SCCLL supports its members with a wide range of services from which I have benefitted for years. The website allows easy access to tools that help in members' day-to-day work. Especially valuable in these hard economic times are the standards and advocacy efforts as resources that aid member libraries in justification of library programs and services to decision makers. The most valuable resource of SCCLL is its members who are there to support and assist each other with new ideas and shared experiences.

SCCLL, as an association and as individuals, has been reaching out and connecting with other organizations dealing with issues of mutual concern such as service to the self represented litigant. By spreading the word of our value by action we can acquire advocates for our libraries outside of the law library world.

After taking advantage of so much that SCCLL has offered for so many years, I am happy to offer to contribute to the work of the SCCLL board.

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## Georgia Chadwick

### Member At Large

#### Employment

Director, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA, 2007-Present  
Associate Director, 2006-2007  
Head of Technical Services, 2005-2006  
Collection Development and Documents, 1996-2005  
Reference Librarian, 1978-1979, 1983-1984  
Librarian, Gordon, Arata Law Firm, New Orleans, LA, 1995-1996  
Branch Librarian, Johnson and Wortley Law Firm Washington, D. C., 1990-1994  
Manager of Library Services, Jenkins & Gilchrist Law Firm, Dallas, TX 1985-1988  
Reserve/Circulation Librarian, Tarlton Law Library, Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX, 1981-1983  
Assistant Librarian, Gulf Companies Law Library, Houston, TX, 1979-1980



#### Education

M.A. in Librarianship, University of Denver, Graduate School of Librarianship, 1978  
B.A., Newcomb College, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, 1976

#### Professional Activities

American Library Association, Member  
American Association of Law Libraries, Member 1978- Present  
Annual Meeting 2007, Local Arrangements Committee, Hospitality Co-Chair  
GOVDOCS-SIS Grants Committee 2000-2001; VIP Committee Chair 2005-2007  
SCCLL-SIS Member 1996-Present  
SCCLL-SIS Nominations Committee, Member 2006-2007, Chair 2007-2008  
Louisiana Federal Depository Library Council: Chair 2001-2003  
Louisiana Library Association, Member  
Louisiana State Documents Depository Program Study Committee: Member 1999-2000  
New Orleans Association of Law Librarians: President 2001-2002, Treasurer 2002-2004  
Southeastern Chapter, American Association of Law Libraries, Member 1995-Present  
Annual Meeting 2006, Panel Participant SEAALL Institute on Disaster Preparedness  
Board Member, 2004-2006  
Membership Committee Member, 2001-2002  
Nominating Committee Member, 2007-2008, Chair, 2008-2009  
Placement Committee Member, 2003-2004  
Program Committee Member, 2002-2003  
Special Libraries Association, Member

#### Publications

Regular contributions to *De Novo*, the newsletter of the Law Library of Louisiana  
“AALL Centennial Celebration: 1907 Annual Report of the Superintendent of Documents,” Vol. 28, No. 1, *Jurisdoks* (Spring 2006), pp. 5-8  
Bibliography on Sandra Day O’Connor published in the 1983 Supplement to Mersky & Jacobstein’s *Supreme Court Justices of the U.S.*, William S. Hein Co., 1978, pp. 613-637

“Spotlight on Federal Depository Library Collections.” Vol. 66, *Louisiana Libraries* (Winter 2004) pp.17-18 with Howard Coy and Pat Ferguson  
“Old Library, New Digs: Collection Retro-fitting,” Vol. 16, No. 2, *Trends in Law Library Management and Technology* (2005) pp. 1-2, with Janice Shull  
“Joachim Bermudez: Early New Orleans Jurist,” Vol. 33, Issue 2, *SCCLL News* (Spring/Summer 2007) pp. 12-15  
“Legal History: A Trio of Justices,” Vol. 56, No. 4, *Louisiana Bar Journal* (December 2008/January 2009) p.286

## Statement

As I look back on my twenty-five years as a law librarian, I wonder why after having worked in quite a variety of law libraries, I am not able to forecast what the future holds for our library collections. I find that I have one foot in the print world, but the other foot is stepping forward into the electronic world. I rely on the publications and other materials on the SCCLL website, on interaction with talented SCCLL members, and on the informative programs presented at AALL each year to keep me moving forward. If given the opportunity to serve on the board, I look forward to contributing to SCCLL’s efforts to provide practical information to our members regarding the best ways to maintain collections in order to effectively serve our patrons.

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## Court and Spark

### A FUTURE WITHOUT LIBRARIES? A RADICAL NEW IDEA

by Judith Siess, President, Information Bridges International, Inc., Champaign, Illinois

I put the following post on various librarian electronic lists, including MEDLIB, LAW-LIB, LIBREF, and SOLOLIB.

“I can envision a future without libraries. Yes, without libraries...but with more librarians. Why?

1. More and more resources are online. Even ones formerly available only in print are now also online. And many are available only online.

2. Users increasingly want resources only if they are online. They don't want to have to go to the library to answer their questions.

3. Is it fiscally responsible to require users to spend their valuable time to come to the library?

4. Is it fiscally responsible to allow users to spend their valuable time looking for information online when they a) do not know where to search, b) do not know how to search (effectively), and c) probably do not know how to determine if the information they find is correct or reliable?

So, I can see a future without physical libraries but with librarians embedded within the units of the organization. These librarians would be professionally trained (degreed) not only in librarianship, with an emphasis on customer service, but also in the subject matter of the users. This would be a reasonable scenario for corporate, medical, law, and non-profit organizational libraries. It could also work in school libraries with classroom collections and a librarian that visits each classroom on a frequent schedule (or as requested) to teach and answer questions and help with research projects. This system could even work with academic institutions, with the distribution of the main library (which often serves as a sort of archives where 98 percent of the books never leave the shelves) to departmental collections and librarians in each department.

I know that this is a radical departure from current practice. However, I am at a point in my career (almost retired) where I am free to look back and forward at the same time, leading to this type of thinking. What do **you** think of my idea?”

#### Response

In a few days, I got a total of 99 replies, of which 62 were usable. Thirty-three (53 percent) agreed with me, while twenty (32 percent) disagreed to varying degrees. The other nine (15 percent) expressed mixed emotions. Most who agreed with me said that it is essentially what they are doing right now. “I ceased managing a physical library here many years ago. With databases and interfaces be-

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“So, I can see a future without physical libraries but with librarians embedded within the units of the organization.”

coming more and more user friendly and more geared towards the end user, I don't see a lot of growth opportunity in information searching, although there will still be a role for librarians as expert searchers for the high-end requests and as information educators. Where I do see a growth opportunity for librarians is in looking at the bigger picture of information flow and usage within an organization: where it comes from, how it is used, etc. All too often, this role gets taken on by the IT department who, unfortunately, are usually strong technology people but not strong information people. In my place of work, there are already tons of people who understand the subject matter and can do information searches, but few that can understand the bigger information picture— and that's where we can come in."

A medical school librarian wrote that "academic science departments would be much better served by a model like the one you propose. Instead of a librarian, with a library degree and a supervisor and office in the library structure, have another professor—with a Ph.D. in the subject area, and a specialty in library/information science. Many professors teach, some have administrative responsibilities...maybe some should have library responsibilities. I think faculty members and even students are much more likely to communicate with someone in the department, with known expertise and credentials, than with the unknown quantity librarian. There are certain important purposes physical library spaces still serve even for my patrons—study space, internet access, etc.—but in my case these needs could often be met by spaces other than the Library."

"I don't think this will happen. The 'power of place' is very potent." This sums up the feeling of many of the respondents. Another's concern with space was different, "I have known only one institution with that arrangement and the librarian there was weak. Physical territory still bespeaks power." Most respondents didn't think this model will work for public libraries. "I don't know what I'd do without public libraries. I can't afford to buy all the books I want to read and I don't have room anyway." And, for the record, I agree. We need public libraries, but increasingly as gathering spaces, not for reference. "People may want to be online, but want to be near other people and communicate with other people in a physical space while they are online. I think that sitting alone all the time with your computer ends up not being fun after awhile." This is how many teens already use the library.

Another place where a virtual library may not work is at school. "Regarding the classroom library, what if someone's research crosses two or more subject areas? Are the physical books then unavailable to the student from a different disci-

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*"I don't think this will happen. The 'power of place' is very potent." This sums up the feeling of many of the respondents. Another's concern with space was different, "I have known only one institution with that arrangement and the librarian there was weak. Physical territory still bespeaks power."*

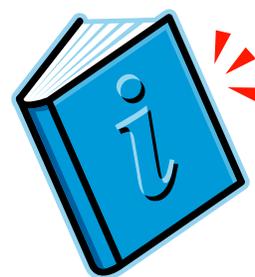
pline? Who needs them? (*i.e.*, on classroom or discipline or practice area “owns” them.) Regarding the roaming librarian, what if someone needs to get help before the librarian is scheduled to stop by the classroom?” The last bastion of the physical library will probably be the academic institutions, since they are required for accreditation. However, since the accrediting body for hospitals decided that a library and degreed librarian were not necessary—just “**access** to appropriate medical information,” it’s not out of the realm of possibility that the same could happen in academia, too.

Many librarians expressed mixed emotions. For example, “Where I agree: I work in a government department. I know that one or two departments have embedded librarians. I know when I talk to people in departments without libraries, I always tell them that they need the librarian, but don’t need the library. Where I disagree: While I don’t think that clients will come into the library, I think that there are times where the historical collection is important.”

### **Law Librarians’ Responses**

Most law librarians didn’t like my scenario. The major reason was the nature of the law and the difficulty of doing some legal research online. “For anything you don’t need to browse—case law, law reviews, periodicals—when you just need a piece out of the whole—electronic is so much better. But for materials like treatises and statutes, to name two categories, where you need to interact with the print material I think the demand for print will continue.” “In water law, old law is good law. More than once I’ve had to use books from the 1800’s to research water law issues.”

Other issues that came up were reliability of information “Few jurisdictions (if any) give us much confidence about the authenticity of such key primary source documents as statutes or administrative regulations.”; cost “I don’t think our law firm, with 70 attorneys, would want to spend the money to hire one librarian for each practice group. It seems much more cost effective to have two of us work for all practice groups” and “Sure I can see a world without libraries, a more costly (the online vendors will greatly profit) and less efficient one.”; overstepping your bounds “There is a point in a law library where you cross the line and begin to ‘practice law’ by selecting material that answers the question. That is both dangerous and unauthorized.”, and people who do not have neither access to computers nor the training to use them “My patron base is primarily unrepresented litigants looking for information for their cases, unrepresented citizens looking to solve their legal problems such as getting a will, dealing with a consumer problem, etc.”. On the last issue, it is up to libraries and librarians to pro-



vide both the access and instruction. However, at least one court librarian felt that the proper place for court librarians is to be embedded solidly within the judiciary's other research organizations," as seen with staff counsels. Several law librarians felt rather pessimistic about the future. "I don't think that it will be libraries or embedded librarians. I think a likelier scenario be no library or organized information service." "Electronic research is one kind of research, but it's not the only kind, and it's not always the best. I think you're right that it will happen, I'm just not convinced that it will be always the right choice."

### **Some final comments**

"I do see some merit in the idea of the embedded librarian...my only question would be, why use a librarian for this role? Don't you think a bunch of chemists would rather have some kind of chemical technician as a research person, or doctors someone with a medical background?"

"I agree that the librarian will outlast the library, should the library ever come to an end. The information explosion that accompanied the dawn of the digital age made librarians more critical as gatekeepers and facilitators." I threw this idea out for the specific purpose of getting people thinking and talking about these issues. Obviously, I succeeded, but don't stop thinking and Talking, yet—the future is out there waiting for us to create it. ■

## **2008 Silent Auction Huge Success!**

**Barbara Fritschel, Silent Auction Coordinator**

The 2008 silent auction was a huge success. Between the silent auction and the challenge grant, we raised over \$6,000 for grants to the Equal Access to Justice Conference and the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. As library budgets get tighter, these grants become more important to our members. A big thanks to everyone who supports this program. Our tremendous support of grants is going to be highlighted in an upcoming article in the Spectrum that will look at the interaction between AALL and SISs.

It's not too early (well, maybe it is) to think about the 2009 Silent Auction in Washington D.C. If you are a crafter, think about making two hand made articles and donate one to the SCCLL silent auction and the other to the Knitting Group's silent auction which occurs at the SCCLL table in the exhibit hall. The silent auction is a great place to "regift" those quirky Christmas presents. If you have any questions about what might be an appropriate item to donate or questions about the auction in general, please contact me at [Barbara\\_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov](mailto:Barbara_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov). The online blog will go active June 15, 2009. Watch for more information in the next newsletter. ■

## SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2008-2009

<p><b>Chair</b>            Marcus Hochstetler            (206) 296-0940            marcus.hochstetler@kingcounty.gov</p>	<p><b>Vice Chair/Chair Elect</b>            Anne Matthewman            (416) 327-6012            amatthewman@tlaonline.ca</p>	<p><b>Past-Chair</b>            Sara Galligan            (651) 438-8080            sara.galligan@co.dakota.mn.us</p>	<p><b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>            (2007-2010)            Amy Hale-Janeke            (504) 310-7797            ahjaneke@ca5.uscourts.gov</p>
<p><b>Board Member</b>            (2006-2009)            Barbara Fritschel            (414) 297-1698            Barbara_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b>            (2007-2010)            Karen Quinn            (401) 222-3275            kquinn@courts.state.ri.us</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b>            (2005-2008)            Meg Martin            (307) 777-8564            mmartin@courts.state.wy.us</p>	<p><b>Board Member</b>            (ex-officio)            Jennifer Dalglish            (503) 655-8248            jenniferdal@co.clackamas.or.us</p>

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### Bono Partnerships

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## The Back Page

### Member News & Announcements



**Creighton J. Miller and Annmarie Zell**, editors of the book review column in the *Law Library Journal*, would like to solicit reviewers for the column. We welcome new reviewers and those who have written reviews in the past. We hope to find reviewers from a diverse range of experiences and settings.

You do not have to have any titles in mind: we will share with reviewers a list of titles, and you can select a title that interests you. Writers generally have between five to six weeks to write a review.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Annmarie Zell at [annmarie.zell@nyu.edu](mailto:annmarie.zell@nyu.edu). Please indicate if you are interested in submitting a review for the Fall 2009 issue or would like to be considered for later issues. Reviews for the Fall 2009 issue will be written in April and May.

If we receive more volunteers for the Fall 2009 issue than we need, we will contact you for future issues.

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**Laura Orr**, the Washington County (Oregon) Law Librarian, prepared a petition in favor of the formation of an Oregon Library Association (OLA) Legal Reference Round Table (LRRT) and on January 15, 2009, the OLA Board approved. Over 60 public and academic librarians signed the petition, accompanied by many a "great idea!" The full text of the LRRT Bylaws will be available at the OLA website ([www.olaweb.org](http://www.olaweb.org)). Here is a précis:

"The objectives of this organization [LRRT] shall be to provide a practical framework for information sharing, continuing education opportunities, professional interactions, and a support system to those library workers engaged in providing legal reference services in all types of Oregon libraries. This organization shall aim to share ideas, plan, and improve legal reference services in and among libraries and foster fellowship, cooperation, and professionalism among its members."

Any OLA member may join (there are no additional LRRT dues). The inaugural meeting of the Round Table will be at the 2009 Oregon Library Association Annual Meeting, April 1-3, in Salem (day and time not yet determined). Please contact Laura if you want more information: [laura\\_orr@co.washington.or.us](mailto:laura_orr@co.washington.or.us) or 503-846-8870.

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**Joel Fishman**, Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library has published the following works:

**BOOKS:** Co-author, *PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL RESEARCH HANDBOOK*. 2d ed. (2008); *INDEX TO FIDUCIARY REVIEW (1933-2007)* (2008); co-editor, *ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS ORPHANS= COURT DIVISION REPORTS (2000-2005)* (2008); co-author, *BISEL'S NEW JERSEY MUNICIPAL LAWSOURCE, 2008-2009 ed.* (2008). **ARTICLES:** Franklin, Benjamin @ *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship & Sexuality Through History. Volume 4 The Colonial and Revolutionary Age.* (Merril D. Smith, ed. Greenwood Press 2008). pp.85-86; Index to the *Pennsylvania Family Lawyer*, Volumes 27-29 (2005-2007), *Pennsylvania Family Lawyer* 30 no. 1 (2008): 50-91; The First Amendment, the Declaration of Rights, and Pennsylvania Constitutional Jurisprudence, (Food for Thought Column). *Legacies*, 8 no. 1 (May 2008): 40-41; co-author, State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS, @ (AALL Special Interest Section Recommended Book Lists), 100 *Law Libr. J.* 748-50 (2008); A Failed Legal Periodical of Mid-Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania: *Olwine's Law Journal* (December 29, 1949 to May 18, 1850), *LH&RB Newsletter*, 1 no. (Winter 2008): 1, 5-9.

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