

PLL PERSPECTIVES

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SPRING 2002

VOLUNTEERING – THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

by Carolyn P. Ahearn

Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP, Washington, DC

Tucked away in my desk, I keep a folder labeled “ME” that I’ve maintained almost since the beginning of my law library career. Over the years, I’ve continued to collect items that relate to my professional life. Going through the contents of the folder for the first time in a number of years, I was amused by how everything in it was more or less arranged in chronological order. Moreover, the material reflected some clear stages in my professional development.

Early on, the folder contains details of things I’d done that I thought I might want to work into my resume for my next job. That was back early in my career when it seemed important to move around for challenges and better pay. Not long after, notes on my various Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC) volunteer activities begin to appear. Deeper into the file, copies of biographical statements submitted for elected office begin to materialize. Interspersed are notes on significant job accomplishments (for that resume again!). Further along, copies of articles I authored start to show up, and then outlines of presentations I’d given at different meetings become mixed in. The last entries in the file are copies of testimony on library issues I presented to various government offices from a year or so ago. I must admit I haven’t been as diligent (or as motivated) to file items in the last couple of years. I’m less interested in job-hopping, and I have become more selective as to what matters to me vis-a-vis my career highlights (if I can call them that!).

Taken as a whole, the file reflects something akin to an anthropological study exposing different levels of development appearing over time. Over the course of multiple millions of years, the human genus *Homo* changed over time with the different stages distinguished primarily by increases in cranial capacity. *Homo* progressed from *Homo habilis*, the first hominid to exhibit the marked expansion of the brain, to *Homo erectus* a more robust and larger brained species. The final stage, *Homo sapiens*, is characterized by yet larger brain capacity and a more gracile bearing. While my cranial capacity has probably not changed, my professional brainpower has altered significantly over the years; and I am certainly more graceful as a librarian! The progressive changes are reflected in the contents of the folder and are all, I believe, related to my experiences as a volunteer.

Librarian Habilis

LLSDC volunteer items appear early in the anthropological record and reflect the importance and value to me of volunteer efforts. In the early stages of my career, while my library brain was much less developed, fear was my motivation. I knew I didn’t know very much about libraries and even less about the law. I was terrified I’d screw up, humiliate myself and lose my job! This was before the advent of Law-Lib; and as a solo librarian, I had no cohort at the firm with whom I could exchange ideas or from whom I could learn. I truly felt alone in the wild!

The idea of volunteering for LLSDC activities seemed like a solution to my situation so I volunteered for a union list revision committee. Through that committee, I connected one on one with several other librarians from different types of law libraries; and I became familiar with a whole range of legal titles, which was very useful to me on my job. From that experience I went on to work on another committee that produced the first edition of the LLSDC Union List of Legal Looseleaves. These two books continue to make my job easier today.

As I learned more and met more librarians, the historical record reveals I volunteered to be on the Placement Committee. What a great way to look for that next job! As technology made its first incursion into private law firm libraries, I realized I needed more so I turned to my colleagues again, this time co-founding the DC Private Libraries On Line User Group (PLUG), an informal group of technology and non-technology savvy people willing to share their questions and their knowledge. This turned out to be another good tool for self-preservation at my law firm job!

Librarian Erectus

At some point, it becomes clear from the record that I began to volunteer more out of a concern for the profession and my colleagues than for my limited self-interest. I had entered the era of *Librarian Erectus!* While it may seem like ancient history now, there was a time when private firm librarians were a neglected niche within the profession. This bothered me, and I became involved in efforts to remedy the situation. This led me to work to establish the first special interest section within a chapter of AALL, the DC PLL-SIS. I later served as the first President. The

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PLL PERSPECTIVES

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Fall: August 15 **Winter:** October 15
Spring: January 15 **Summer:** April 15

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Patricia Keller, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP, Washington, DC

I would like to discuss the advantages of being a member of the American Association of Law Libraries, AALL. Most of you are currently members, so you all have your own reasons for being a member. When I think of AALL, the first thing that comes to mind is the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting provides librarians with a variety of educational programs. It also is a wonderful forum for meeting old friends and new acquaintances. I hope the following items will remind you of why you are a member of AALL.

Professional Development

I think one of the most important things that AALL provides its members is the professional development program. A program on Copyright is being held in Washington, DC, in February, and a program on Basic Law Cataloging will be held in Chicago, IL, in March. There is also a videoconference planned for April. More information on these programs can be found on the AALL web site, www.aallnet.org. These programs, along with the Annual Meeting and Institutes, provide an opportunity for librarians from all over the country to meet and share their collective knowledge of the group. AALL also gives a discount rate to members who want to attend the Annual Meeting.

Scholarships

AALL provides a variety of scholarship options. This information is also available on the web site. Vendors also sponsor some scholarships; however, some are completely provided by AALL.

Placement

As part of the Annual Meeting, AALL organizes placement services and provides a place for interviews. AALL also provides placement information throughout the year. There is a special section entitled “Find Your Dream Job” on the first page of the AALL web site.

Publications

The quarterly *Law Library Journal* publishes scholarly articles and practical pieces on law, legal information, and law librarianship. The *AALL Spectrum*, issued ten times per year, contains information about the activities of the Association. Published annually, the *AALL Directory and Handbook* is a complete listing of the Association’s membership and description of AALL operations. Subscriptions to all three publications are included in all categories of membership.

AALL Web Site

The AALL Web Site provides a great deal of information for law librarians. There is a section on “Education and Careers”, a section on the “Special Interest Sections”, a section on the “Discussion Groups” and other sections too numerous to mention.

Ultimate Joy

For me the ultimate joy of being an AALL member is the camaraderie and interaction with other librarians. It is exciting to network with librarians from other parts of the country, learn what other librarians do and what they like to do in their free time!

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Presidency of LLSDC followed and Board membership on AALL followed that. From there I was elected President of AALL and then went full circle, back again to serving as President of LLSDC. In each of these volunteer activities, I had the privilege of working with other very talented librarians, representing private firm librarian interests and playing a leadership role within the profession. This was very satisfying for me both personally and professionally.

Librarian Sapiens

Homo sapiens represent a fully developed species and since I view myself as a fully developed law librarian, I think I've reached my peak. (Not to say there isn't still more that I can and that I intend to learn!) While my anthropological archive doesn't have many filings from this era, what is in the folder from this time illustrates that my volunteer efforts have moved to a new stage. What I do in a volunteer capacity is now most often directed outside of myself and beyond colleagues. Copies of testimony I've given on library issues before the District of Columbia Council and the United States Congress show my interest now in representing the profession and the concerns of law librarianship to the outside world. Like *Homo sapiens*, compared to their forerunners, I am more graceful now as an advocate for librarianship and have the cranial capacity to undertake this representation.

Professional Evolution

The evolutionary advancement of culture occurred in conjunction with the development of hominoids over time. As the genus *Homo* experienced their surroundings, they learned behaviors that enabled them to grow and develop and ultimately become what the species is today. Like the progress of hominoids, each of the volunteer positions I've held filled various personal needs for me. Through all of them I've learned skills that have had direct impact on my success as a librarian.

From both LLSDC and AALL, I gained hands on experience in the strategic planning process and language. While I don't do a formal strategic planning process for my library I do use some of the strategies and language of strategic planning when presenting my budget. I tie my budget request to an outline of my strategic plan with goals and objectives. My strategic plan is constructed with an eye on the firm's plan, and so the dollar amounts I request tie in to objectives of the firm.

Fundamentally, I'm the kind of person whose eyes glaze over at the first sight of numbers and whose head begins to ache if any math is involved. Volunteer experience provided me with non-threatening assistance from other librarians in these skills. From structuring a committee budget to understanding and communicating the budget of a 5,000-member organization, I've learned that there is no magic in numbers and that with a little effort I can actually understand balance sheets and financial statements.

Negotiating with vendors to produce a reasonably priced union list or with a hotel for meeting space and a catered function served as great training for negotiating contracts with online vendors. I've learned what questions to ask, to figure out what the other side needs to get out of the deal, and that nothing is non-negotiable!

Another important skill I owe to my participation over the years in volunteer activities is communication confidence. Like most librarians, I was not comfortable speaking in front of any group larger than my husband and my dog during my *librarian habilis* period. As I gained confidence and as the need arose, I became more and more comfortable. Starting with working in a group on a committee, to generating interest in creating a new group, to running an LLSDC business meeting, to addressing the AALL membership at an Annual Meeting my courage and my comfort level increased and my abilities to advocate and express my opinions improved immensely. The ability to speak in public both formally and informally has been invaluable to me personally and professionally. Words are the tools of lawyers, and the ability to meet lawyers on their own level is a fundamental skill for success as a law librarian. Writing articles for professional journals enhanced my skills in organization and written presentation. As a result, in my era as *librarian sapiens*, I am comfortable and confident in expressing my professional opinions in my workplace. My bosses may not always agree with what I say, but I am always satisfied that I have expressed my ideas well.

Lastly, perhaps the most valuable skill I owe to volunteering is appreciation. I appreciate the varied talents of my colleagues of the species *librarian!* I appreciate how so many folks take time from their busy professional and personal schedules to volunteer in whatever manner suits them. I encourage anyone who wants to increase their cranial capacity and to contribute to the development of the species to become involved as a volunteer!

Full Page Advertisement

AALL CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

AALL Vice President/President-Elect candidates Janis L. Johnston and Kathie J. Sullivan present some of their views about the profession in the following interview. We thank them for their participation.

1. A Managing Partner, Faculty Member, Board Member or Chief Information Officer is standing at the doorway of your library and makes the following observation. “Now that everything is available on the Internet, we don’t really need all this space for books any more, do we?” How would you respond?

Kathie Sullivan: The web can be our best friend or our worst enemy. Much information is on the Internet but we can’t always trust its accuracy, authority, or comprehensiveness. Each search engine works differently, sites disappear daily, agencies change their names and design of web pages: we can’t put all of our trust in a media that is still developing and evolving. We have relied on the printed word and books for centuries; we don’t need to discard them because they are no longer “new.” I’d hate to rely completely on a media that is dependent on external power, the vagaries of progress, or obtuse web design when assisting our user groups. After all, we still use flashlights despite the invention of the light bulb! However, some information, as we all know, is best found on the web, but ALL information may not be there at any one time or ever. It’s a situation similar to the educational principle of “least restrictive environment;” in this case, the web may be the best place to put some documents and not the best for others. We have to think of the economics, the ease of access, the reliability, and the users when we talk about books vs. the Internet. The Internet is one of the tools we use to manage and navigate through information but it won’t be the only tool we use.

Janis Johnston: You know, that’s true, there is a lot of great information on the Internet, but not everything the legal researcher needs is there. There are some very good sites available but much needed information is still not in digital form. Many other sites aren’t always accurate, current or permanent. As yet no one has figured out how to archive digital information for the long term.

The virtual law library may be coming, but it hasn’t arrived just yet. Law librarians are working on creating standards for digital libraries to insure necessary information, whatever its format, is never lost or made inaccessible by limitations or changes in technology. But as information experts, we struggle with the basic question of whether access to information controlled by others is a viable substitute for permanently owning information. You just never know if an important database or file will simply disappear from the web.

Even with the advantages of electronic sources, many users still prefer books for many types of research. There are real advantages to seeing the hierarchy and organization of information that books are better able to provide. Have you ever done extensive code research online? I’ll take books for that task anytime!

2. Others have been sounding the death knell of our profession for several years, and yet, with the advance of information technology, most of us see a need for librarians now more than ever.

a) How do we redefine ourselves?

b) How do we continue to inspire and bring new people into the profession?

c) How do we create diversity?

JJ: Librarians will always be around because ours is a necessary profession that adapts well to change. But occasionally we do need to redefine ourselves, and in my mind that is a process with two dimensions. First, let’s analyze thoughtfully our core functions in a way that does not connect us to a particular information medium or a physical place. Then we can develop new terms and concepts to describe our expertise - not jargon or trendy phrases - but terminology that ties us more firmly to the future and reduces perceptions that we are pertinent only to the past. We know that whatever descriptors we use, our fundamental skills of gathering, organizing and accessing information will still be in demand. But a new way of talking about what we do might change attitudes as well as energize us for the future.

Secondly, it is time to examine further our training. We have skills of continuing importance, but we need additional skills that will heighten our public profile. We can and should teach users more about the research process and the complexity of information sources. Our communication skills could improve to insure our voice is heard when decisions concerning libraries and legal information are made. Individually and collectively we need to better understand the economics of legal information and build our influence in the marketplace. Expanding skills is critical to claiming our place in the future.

On a practical level, three things are needed to attract others to our profession: we have to make better salaries, we have to promote law librarianship at every opportunity, and we have to increase scholarship dollars. But inspiring others to join us takes additional tactics. I believe the most inspiring aspect of our profession is our commitment to service and to affordable legal information. We didn’t become law librarians for the big bucks, the high status or the glamour! We’re here because of our dedication. To inspire let’s expose others to our core values and to the importance of our profession to society.

We must seek diversity through aggressive activity. Our nation’s demographic makeup is changing and we want law librarianship to reflect the society we serve. Let’s begin working with career counselors

in high schools, colleges, library schools and law schools. Increased scholarship funds, grants and awards will encourage diversity, but additionally, law librarianship should be presented as a great career option when young men and women first think about their futures. And for those of us already in the profession, we need to insure that our community is a welcoming environment for all.

KS: Information is a commodity and a business needs information to sell itself. If we're visible, supporting the business goals of our employer, marketing, communicating, and creating connections between library users, we become an integral part of the parent organization. It's no accident our job titles have started migrating to "Knowledge Manager," "Chief Information Officer," and "Vice President" or "Executive Director." Librarians who have these job titles lead our profession by example and pass along their insights and best practices. Mentoring is synonymous with diversity; networking, mentoring, and seeking out people with specific skills helps strengthen our roles in our jobs but also strengthens our profession in general. Mentoring a diverse population of librarians and information workers and encouraging the sharing of skill sets ensures our profession will continue to flourish and produce leaders in the business of information.

The health of our profession and our association is part of a huge cycle: we learn a skill, we share it, we pass it on, we learn from others, we share it, etc. We need to give back to our profession to help it grow and stay healthy. We do this by encouraging a wide population of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and interests. I'm not sure we can CREATE diversity but we can encourage the INVOLVEMENT of a diverse population, achieving the same end results.

3. Librarians have been called gatekeepers of information, but many of our library users are receiving information directly from publishers and service providers. How can we demonstrate our value to our employers? How do we convince them that we are the information experts?

KS: Being an information gatekeeper can have a negative connotation of "withholding information," but I rather think we are "information consolidators" who package and synthesize information from a wide variety of sources and media to help our decision makers be more effective. Moreover, by anticipating the information needs of our users and being proactive, we demonstrate our value as the "keeper" of the institutional history. We provide the continuity in the information stream.

We, as the inside information professionals, know the value and limitations of attorney time. As gatekeepers, we make informed decisions to filter information to save key business people time and money. Of course, it's difficult to quantify the synergistic relationship between the information professional and user, but knowing the needs of users before the questions are asked creates our value and sets us apart from the outside entities that don't know the business.

JJ: No one knows better than we how to find and evaluate legal information - no one. Waiting for our users to come to us seeking assistance is part of a bygone era. We must create opportunities to demonstrate our expertise. For users who want to be direct consumers, offer training and techniques that show mastery of electronic resources. Develop high quality web pages as portals to the best sites. Impress users with your ability to wade quickly through the mass of available information. Anyone can find abundant information these days, but it is law librarians who have the expertise to order the chaos. I think the term "gatekeeping" is far too passive to describe all we do. We're more; we're the experts!

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Advertisement

VOLUNTEERING IN AN AGE OF UNCERTAINTY

by Michael Saint-Onge

LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group, Los Angeles, CA

It has become cliché to say that everything has changed in light of September 11, 2001 – but it is certainly true in my life. Though untouched directly by the magnitude of human loss as a result of the events of that day, I nonetheless have felt, as you may have, as though the world we knew has been turned upside-down. I have begun to look at my own life differently — noticing things that I hadn't noticed before with a heightened sensibility. My priorities have been reordered. There is a sense of the fleetingness of life, and a realization that I need to find meaning and purpose in the here and now.

Don't get me wrong: I've been very pleased with my life up until now. I have been blessed with family and friends and a job I love. I hope you can say the same about your life. But I am also conscious of the fact that it is now even more important to find that elusive sense of contentment in both my personal and professional life. Looking back over my career, I find there have been many things that have made my job satisfying, and volunteering in my professional association has been one of them. I believe that I am a better law librarian for having the chance to work with other librarians. I believe that I am more challenged, more connected, and ultimately more content as a result.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and the Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL-SIS) provide many opportunities in which to serve. Many of you feel overwhelmed by the amount of work that you are already asked to do by your firms and have a hard time seeing how you can take on additional tasks. The truth is that there are many different chances to get involved – some that require significant time commitments, but others that require just a few hours of your time to make a real difference in your professional association. (That's another thing that surprised me when I first started getting involved: the association and special interest section is small enough for one person to make a real impact!)

In addition, many of you work for firms that do not support or encourage your involvement in professional associations. This is an unfortunate reality, but it does not necessarily mean that you should stop trying. In fact, many of your colleagues have continued to get involved

on their own time and have then made certain that the firm's management knew the benefits they have derived from that involvement. One librarian recently shared with me her struggle to get the firm to support her involvement, despite their reluctance. She was persistent, though, and it ultimately paid off. If the librarian secured an answer to a difficult reference question, or snagged a particularly difficult-to-locate interlibrary loan, she made certain the firm's decision-makers knew that she was able to accomplish this task through the professional contacts she made through her volunteer efforts. Eventually they began to realize that their librarian's participation in her professional association had a direct benefit to them.

There are many success stories out there of librarians convincing the powers-that-be that their involvement in AALL and PLL bears real fruit for the firm, once they see the librarians' commitment to their profession. In fact, if you are directly involved in an educational program, committee work or holding elective office, quite often your firm will be even more willing to have you attend the AALL Annual Meeting or take time out of your work week to serve in that capacity.

But more important, I think that volunteering brings a sense of satisfaction that makes the day-to-day challenges of modern law librarianship more tolerable. When you feel as though you are making a difference in the profession as a whole, those little irritants just don't seem as important. I have now worked in three different legal communities (Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Los Angeles) and have met a great many law librarians through my job, and I honestly believe that the happiest law librarians are the ones who have gotten involved in their profession. It is investing in something bigger than yourself that makes all the difference in the world.

Now I am not naïve enough to suggest that volunteering for your professional associations will radically alter the world. Bad things and bad people will still exist. But I am suggesting that our lives should take on a sense of purpose, and giving back to your profession in a meaningful way is an excellent way to foster that feeling. One person can still make a difference, and that's a comforting thought in this age of uncertainty.

Full Page Ad

PLL-SIS CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

The following pages contain biographical information about and statements from the candidates for PLL office for the coming year. Please read them carefully, and be sure to vote.

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Holly M. Riccio

Current Position

Librarian/Marketing Research Specialist
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
San Francisco, CA

Former Positions

1997-1999

Librarian

Long & Levit LLP
San Francisco, CA

1996-1997

Reference Librarian

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP
New York, NY

1994-1995

Reference Librarian

New York County Lawyers' Association
New York, NY

Professional Activities

- AALL (Member, 1992-Present)
Grants Committee Member, 1998-1999
Grants Committee Chair, 1999-2000
Bylaws Committee Member, 2000-2002
- PLL (Member, 1992-Present)
Technology Committee Chair, 1997-1998
Secretary, 1998-2000
Newsletter Advisory Committee Member, 2001-2002
- NOCALL (Member, 1997-Present)
Union List Committee, 1997-1998
Membership Committee Chair, 2001-Present
- LLAGNY (Member, 1994-1997)
Board Member, 1996-1997
- Speaker, "The Invisible Web,"
Glasser LegalWorks San Francisco, 2000
- Speaker, "The Virtual Library: Sources, Services and Trends,"
LegalTech San Francisco, 2001
- Council Member, Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries
(TRIPLL) 2002

Publications

The Virtual Library: Past, Present and Future.

LLRX.com, <http://www.llrx.com/features/virtuallibrary.htm>

Personal Statement

I am running for the office of PLL Vice Chair/Chair-Elect because I want to give back to my colleagues in a much bigger way than I have in the past. I have served on committees and even on the board of PLL, but I had never thought about taking on the exciting challenge of Chair...until now. My goal is really twofold – to focus on our own professional development and learning and to communicate our value to our employers. I want to work on getting all of our members involved in our professional activities and growth, bringing together the knowledge of more experienced librarians and the fresh perspective of newer librarians, pooling our insight and enthusiasm to provide great learning opportunities for law librarians. In addition to working together and learning from each other, and I think more important, I want to work to get the word out to others in the private law firm arena – attorneys, legal assistants, administrators – about the value we add and what we can do for them and for the firm. Now, more than ever, people are being overwhelmed with information and are starting to see how librarianship is adapting itself to a new environment; but we need to start providing concrete examples of where we can fit in, add value, and contribute to the bottom line. There are so many new ways that law librarians are making a difference in law firms — many of which are not things we have taken on or done before — and it is by telling our employers about these new things, and taking the initiatives to do them, that we will continue to thrive in our work environments. As the largest SIS, PLL could and should have a lot of influence on the direction that our profession takes, but it will take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. I would gladly take on the responsibility to try to achieve this goal.

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ruth Carter Armstrong

Current Position

Director of Information Resources, 2001
 Goodwin Procter LLP
 Exchange Place
 Boston, MA 02109

Former Positions

1992-2001
 Director of Library Services
 Foley Hoag LLP
 Boston, MA

1988-1992
 Automation Librarian
 Social Law Library
 Boston, MA

1978-1988
 Assistant Director
 Hofstra University Law School
 Hempstead, NY

Professional Activities

- Speaker, “Advanced Intellectual Property Research,” Nov. 2001
- Association of Boston Law Libraries, Secretary, 1999-2001
- Westlaw Advisory Board, 1997-1999
- Lexis Billing Board, 1995-1996
- Chair, AALL Automation Section, 1990-1991

Statement

There are three things that I feel need to be focused on if I am elected Chair of PLL: 1) We need to be more pro-active as a group. Specifically, I mean being pro-active about the information decision process at the management levels within our firms and also about analyzing the space needs in our collections. We tend to be too RE-actionary instead of PRO-actionary. It is okay to try for the things that you want or to be the first to try something new. Although there are many of us that have made this leap into the corporate structure of the organizations in which we work, there are still many of us in PLL who could become more involved in our own organizations. 2) We are the information professionals and knowledge managers and have been for many decades. (Have you ever tried asking a person in your I.T. department to do research?) We need to take back our role as Information Providers in order to have management recognize the talent and depth of expertise each librarian brings to the position. 3) It is obvious that we simply cannot afford to continue in future years to maintain print, CD-ROM, online and web-versions of the same

products. We need to focus on how to streamline our collections towards “one-media”. Our common failing has been to let the publishers dictate the format and pricing of information. I say that it is all negotiable no matter what the size of the organization. A partial sale is better than no sale! Let’s make PLL the strength and leader of these decisions!

SECRETARY

Elizabeth Ledoux

Current Position

Reference Librarian
 Preston Gates & Ellis LLP
 Seattle, WA

Former Positions

Library Manager
 McDermott, Will & Emery,
 Los Angeles, CA

Branch Supervisor
 San Diego County Public Law Library,
 Vista, CA

Head of Legislative Reference Services
 Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin and Oshinsky,
 Washington, DC

Professional Activities

- Member: American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
 Law Librarians of Puget Sound (LLOPS)
- Past Member: Law Librarian’s Society of Washington D.C. (LLSDC), Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL)
- Teaching Research in Private Law Libraries (TRIPLL), April 1991
- Faculty member, PLI program on Private Law Libraries, 1992
- Chapter author, *Locating the Law*, SCALL 1994
- AALL Grant Committee 1992-1994
- Secretary/Treasurer, LLSDC Legislative Librarians Special Interest Section, 1995-96
- Speaker, AALL annual meeting in Pittsburgh, “Training reference librarians: A new reference librarian’s responsibility to train themselves”, 1995
- AALL Government Relations Committee 2001-2003
- AALL Private Law Libraries SIS (PLL-SIS) Education Committee member 2001-2002
- LLOPS Government Relations Committee Chair 2001-2002

Statement

For the last year I have been thinking about how and where I would like to get involved in AALL. I was appointed to the Government Relations Committee, but I kept thinking about the “thing” that would spark my enthusiasm, that would engage me in such a way I would know I had something to bring to the table, something that I would understand so well I would have a vision for where things were going — whether it was a chapter or a committee or an SIS.

After AALL last summer I became inspired by my involvement on the Government Relations Committee. I could see how I could make a difference to AALL and to the public access of information generally, but especially on the PLL Education Committee. Going to the PLL Business meeting, the lunch and the Education Committee meetings opened my eyes to all that is being done, and where the SIS is going. I was amazed that we can shape the issues that private law librarians are talking about and give a voice to our profession at the ABA and Association of Legal Administrators (the other ALA). As Secretary to PLL, I will be able to support the agenda that has been set in motion and learn about PLL from the inside out. I can’t wait to get involved.

SECRETARY**Terry Allan Seale****Current Position**

1985-present

Associate Research Center Director
Greenberg Traurig,
Miami, FL

Former Positions

International distribution

Westinghouse, Colt Firearms and others.

Professional Activities

- Immediate Past President, South Florida Association of Law Libraries
- Volunteer, Citizens Crime Commission, Court Program
- Poll Watcher, Dade County, FL, 2000 General Election

Statement

Perhaps the greatest joy I have experienced as a law librarian has been the work with other librarians in association work. Reluctant to be involved because of fears about politics and committee negotiations, I was persuaded—kicking and screaming—to accept a candidacy for our local association. I am forever grateful for that persuasion because of the personal gratification and achievements that we enjoyed during my tenure. Perhaps my desire to avoid aggrandizing power and amassing popularity has served my fellowship with a different sort of leadership. I would like to serve the PLL section and my calling in any ways in which my skills and talents can best be used. We are a generous profession and law firms are not generally overloaded with

excessively generous people. Librarians need encouragement, fellowship, ideas, reality checks; networks to best serve our purposes. I think I have some skill in encouragement and diligence if not persuasion and advocacy. I would appreciate an opportunity to serve.

BOARD MEMBER**DORIS L. NUDING****Current Position**

Firm Librarian
Uerrey & Harrow LTD
Chicago, IL

Former Positions

1981-1991

Legal Assistant/Secretary
Arnstein & Lehr
Chicago, IL

1980-1981

Secretary/Assistant
Abbell & Associates
Chicago, IL

1974-1983

Independent administrative support staff in home-based (meaning ran this aspect from my home) office. Served as assistant to director/editor of publishing. (Critiqued several publications in the ‘80s for publication by NCPCA – publications written by psychologists.)

National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, Chicago, IL

1972-1974

Secretary/assistant to both Director/Editor of Publishing and Director of Achievement Motivation Programs.
W. Clement & Jesse V. Stone Foundation
Chicago, IL

1968-1970

Corporate and Personal Trust Legal Department
Continental Illinois National Bank
Chicago, IL

Professional Activities

- CALL - Paraprofessional Committee 1999-2002
- AALL - Member
- Published article in Eighth National Legal Research Teach-In Manual (West Group)
- President (1996-1999), American Legion Auxiliary Post 1198
- Vice-President - 1999-Present American Legion Auxiliary Post 1198
- CLS - Member

Certification

September 1987

Paralegal Certificate, Lawyer's Assistant Program
(Honors in Legal Research), Roosevelt University
Paralegal Certificate of Mastery, Lexis-Nexis 1999

Education

1991-Present

Extensive Lexis-Nexis, Westlaw, Internet training.

1981-1991

Computer training and computer applications seminars.
Office management/secretarial and communications seminars
(Fred Pryor seminars).

Honors

- Listed in Who's Who in American Law, 1998-2001.
- Listed in Strathmore's Who's Who, 1999.

Statement

I have been involved not only in learning legal research, but also in teaching it in-house at our firm, whether on an individual one-on-one basis or with the assistance of vendors such as West Group, Law Bulletin and/or Lexis-Nexis. I believe my experience might be an enhancement to the organization in providing insight and gaining more knowledge from the sharing of information provided by making acquaintances in such an organization. By being on the Board of Directors, I can have an active part in possibly developing, with the assistance of other members, the organization as a whole. While with the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse in the '70s, I worked with psychologists and staff in order to develop their public awareness campaign. This experience, combined with my past and present law firm experience, might very well help to enhance the purpose of this organization. Working with other people to grasp new ideas, inventiveness and an interesting basis for running a library in a small, medium or large law firm setting is crucial in present times. By merely sitting behind one's desk at the office, this opportunity is minimized. However, by becoming a cog in the wheel of at least one organization, one's personal potential and that of that organization can grow, enhance and give one a sense of accomplishment.

BOARD MEMBER**Terri L. Lawrence****Current Position**

Director of Library & Information Resources/TKWebmaster
Thompson & Knight LLP
Dallas, TX 75201

Former Positions

1990-1994

Director of Resource Center
Meeting Professionals International
Dallas, TX

1985-1990

Senior Analyst/Manager
Syscom Corporation
Newport, RI

Professional Activities

- American Association of Law Libraries, 1994 - present
- Association of Legal Administrators, 1996 - present•
- American Records Management Association, 1994 - present
- Dallas Law Library Association, 1994 - present
- Institutes Committee, 1997
- Union List Committee, 1998-1999
- Technology Committee, Chair, 1999- present
- Special Libraries Association 1983 - present
- Thompson & Knight L.L.P Library Liaison Committee: Chair, 1995 - present
- TKWebmaster and Intranet Development: Chair, 1999 - present
- West Group Online Advisory Board 1998 - present
- DALL, Spring Institute, 1997 – Library Marketing Techniques — Instructor
- Resume Clinic, National Library Week Event for local community colleges, 1999 – Coordinator
- T&K, Internet 101, Advanced Internet, Ongoing – Instructor
- Dallas City Attorney General Office, February 2000 – Internet & Legal Research – Instructor
- Lexis-Nexis, May 2001 – Partnering with Vendors
- Special Libraries Association, Annual Meeting, July 2001
Fun in the Stacks – Presenter

Published Research

Authored *Diversity Calendar*, *Diversity Resource Guide*, *Robert's Rules of Order-at-a-Glance*, and *All-Purpose Tipping Guide*, currently being sold by Meeting Professionals International.

Selling your Services to the Meetings Market, Bill Quain, 1993

Winning with Diversity, Donald N. Norris & M.C. Noelle Fignole Lofton, 1994

Legal Research on the Internet, Bruce Sostek, 1999

Special Recognition

Recipient of 1991 Outstanding Young Women of America Award

Recipient of 1993 Meeting Professional Employee of the Year Award

Statement

At this juncture in my career I believe my working knowledge of librarianship can be of value to other librarians. I am extremely devoted to the library profession and would like an opportunity to work with my colleagues to enhance the profession for private law librarians. I would like to assist PLL/SIS in expanding relations and to enrich our profession by sharing skills such as knowledge sharing, knowledge management, business/vendor relations, communication, technology and records services. I would like to assist in creating stimulating educational programs for conferences, seminars, or the Internet. I am extremely excited at the opportunity to get involved at the national level of AALL and meeting new people who share my enthusiasm for the profession. Professionally, I have been very fortunate because many librarians and several vendors have nurtured me along the way, particularly in the legal community – in their honor I would like to give back to the profession and to devote time and energy to the continuous development of librarianship.

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