

ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES—SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

# The ALL-SIS Newsletter

## Message From the Chair

Kumar Percy Jayasuriya  
2011–2012 ALL-SIS Chair

In the early 90's one of the California bar review courses had an instructor who would end every segment with a celebratory "Look where we are!"

As we round the home stretch of the spring semester it is a great time to reflect on our year and our future.

### ALL-SIS on the go

The section has been active this year. Let me highlight three:

- **The Faculty Services Committee** conducted a successful email discussion of emerging issues for academic librarianship. I encourage you to review the discussions and invite you to continue the discussion through the section's e-group. Simply search for faculty services online discussion in the e-discussion homepage: <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Communities/discuss>
- In addition, please review the *Faculty Services Toolkit* the group created during the last two years. In the collection are useful materials and innovative examples of libraries partnering with law faculty. <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/committees/faculty/index.asp>. (Note: ALL-SIS login required. Username – "allsis"; Password – "allsis2011")
- **Task Force on Identifying Skills and Knowledge for Legal Practice** worked with the **Statistics Committee** to create a survey for lawyers and law firm librarians to explain the current realities of legal research.

### Inside this issue:

Lauren Collins	<a href="#">2</a>
Joseph Custer	<a href="#">3</a>
Courtney Selby	<a href="#">4</a>
Frances Brillantine	<a href="#">5</a>
Meg Butler	<a href="#">6</a>
Christine Hepler	<a href="#">7</a>
Anne Mattewman	<a href="#">8</a>

- **The Awards Committee** asks for your help to identify the winner of the next Hick's Award. Do you know an unsung ALL-SIS hero, either an individual or group? If so, please submit a nomination so that the section can officially recognize a leader in our field. Learn more about the Hicks Award at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/awards/criteria.asp>.

### The Future of the Profession – Reports from SXSW interactive

This month I was one of two Georgetown law librarians who attended the South by Southwest Interactive conference. I can honestly say that the discussions and events left me convinced that the world needs our skills now more than ever. What made the conference so interesting was the diversity of the presenters,

(Continued on page 9)

## Lauren Collins

### Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect Candidate

#### Biography



Lauren M. Collins is Law Library Director and Assistant Professor of Law at the North Carolina Central University (NCCU) School of Law. She teaches Advanced Legal Research and research courses in specialized areas including Administrative Law. Prior to NCCU, she was the Head of Reference Services at the J. Michael Goodson Law Library at

Duke University. She has held positions as a reference librarian at Duke Law, Wayne State University and the University of Miami.

Lauren serves on the Publications Committee of the North Carolina State Bar and has written articles for the North Carolina State Bar Journal. She has served on the Diversity, Membership Development and Annual Meeting Program Committees of AALL as well as the Special Committee: Developing Law Librarians for the Future. She has been actively involved in RIPS-SIS, SEAALL and MichALL. As a member of ALL-SIS, Lauren has served on the Nominations, Legal Research and Sourcebook and CO-NALL/Mentoring Committees. She has written articles for AALL Spectrum and a Book Review for Law Library Journal. She is active with the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI), having presented at CALI Conferences and written CALI Lessons on international legal research topics and cost effective legal research. In 2008, Lauren received the AALL Minority Leadership Development Award.

Lauren received a M.S. in Information from the University of Michigan (2003), J.D. from the

University of North Carolina (1994) and a B.A. in Communications from Howard University (1991). After graduating from law school, Lauren practiced employment and labor law in North Carolina and Michigan and provided anti-harassment training to UAW employees for a national law firm.

#### Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated for Vice Chair/Chair Elect of ALL-SIS. One of my favorite things about being a law librarian is our collective commitment to serving our profession. Anytime I am given a chance to serve our calling as librarians, I am delighted for the opportunity to do so. Service in Special Interest Sections, Chapters, Caucuses and on Committees allows us to promote and enhance our profession. The chance to serve in a leadership role is even more of a privilege. Not only does it allow us to give back, it puts us in a position to encourage others to do the same. As leaders, we can assist those who have had the desire to serve but just haven't known how to become involved. As leaders, we can inspire those who have had that desire but lost it somewhere along the way. In my career as a law librarian, one of the greatest rewards I have received has been the chance to support my colleagues and help some of them find opportunities shine. For academic law librarians, ALL-SIS is one of the most significant means to make a difference in our profession and to our colleagues. Participation in ALL-SIS provides opportunities to learn, share and otherwise benefit from the experiences of our peers. I am especially excited to be considered for service at a time when financial challenges make engagement and participation difficult. We must now figure out how to do more with less in service to our institutions, the Association and our profession. I look forward to becoming a part of the discussion and the work necessary to rise to the challenge.

## Joseph Custer

### Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect Candidate

#### Biography



Joe Custer has been Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Omer Poos Law Library of Saint Louis University since July of 2010. Before becoming a Director, Joe worked at the University of Kansas Wheat Law Library where he was the Associate Director for twelve years and prior to that he was Reference/Collection Development Librarian for three. Before working at the University of Kansas, Joe held the position of Director of Information Services and Attorney at the law firm of Gage and Tucker in Kansas City, Missouri.

Joe has a M.L.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a J.D. from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. He will complete a M.B.A. from the University of Kansas this upcoming May. He teaches Advanced Legal Research and has authored and edited several articles and books. He won the 2009 AALL/LexisNexis Open Division Call for papers with the paper “The Truthiness of Thinkable Thoughts Versus the Facts of Empirical Research.” His most recent article is called “Making the Leap to Being a Law Library Director” published in the 2011 volume of *Trends in Law Library Management and Technology*. He has also authored, along with University of Kansas Wheat Law Library colleague, Christopher Steadham, the textbook “Kansas Legal Research.” He is currently working with Christopher on writing and editing the 4<sup>th</sup> edition to the “Kansas Legal Research and Reference Guide,” due for publication later in 2012.

Joe serves on the Saint Louis University Law School Scholarship, ABA Site Visit and Building Committees. He was chosen this year by the Saint Louis

University Law School student chapter of the legal fraternity of Phi Alpha Delta to be a Law Faculty member of PAD. His selection was based on his interaction with law students. Joe has served on AALL’s Recruitment, Mentoring, Training the Next Generation of Law Librarians, AALLNET, and LLJ and AALL Spectrum Committees. He was Vice Chair and Chair of the LLJ and AALL Spectrum Committee. He currently serves on the Economic Status of Law Libraries Committee. Joe has been on the ALL-SIS Legal Research and Continuing Status/Tenure Committees. He was also on the Advanced Legal Research Web Sourcebook Subcommittee. He was Vice Chair and Chair of the Continuing Status/Tenure Committees. In 2010-2011, Joe was President of the Conference of Law Libraries of the Association of College Jesuits and Universities. Joe is also a past President of the Mid-American Association of Law Libraries and is currently the Secretary for the Mid American Association of Law Libraries Consortium.

#### Personal Statement

I’m very humbled by my nomination. When I think of all the outstanding academic law librarians in ALL-SIS, I wonder why my name even came up. This is not false modesty; it is just how I feel. I know Courtney Shelby and she is an awesome law librarian who works incredibly hard. She would be a great Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Unfortunately, I do not know Lauren Collins, but I have heard great things. Just to be named with these two makes me think I am doing something right.

As far as I am concerned, I do have some experience and views to offer like all the rest of you. I have served as a law librarian in both the firm and law school environment. I’ve worked in the hinterlands and in the cities; in college towns and down-

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Courtney Selby

### Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect Candidate

#### Biography



Courtney Selby is currently serving in her first year at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University as the Associate Dean for Information Services, Director of the Law Library, and Associate Professor of Law. Prior to her appointment there, she served as the Collection Development and Instructional Services librarian at the University of Tulsa College

of Law. Over the past ten years, Courtney has taught both Introduction to Legal Research and Advanced Legal Research, and she will be teaching two specialty research courses in the summer and fall of 2012. Both a Practice-Ready Research Skills course and an Administrative Legal Research course are new additions to the Hofstra curriculum.

Courtney has been actively involved in AALL since 2004 and has taken a number of leadership roles within the association. She has served on the AALL Leadership Development Committee, as the Chair of the SR-SIS, Chair of the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues for the SR-SIS, Chair of the ALL-SIS Collection Development Committee, and Contributing Editor for Collection Development to the *Technical Services Law Librarian*, a quarterly publication of TS-SIS. Her work in ALL-SIS also includes a year of service on the Legal Research Committee, and she was selected to present a program at the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting on collection development tools. Courtney has been involved in our organization at both the national and chapter levels, serving as the treasurer for the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries.

Not only has Courtney demonstrated her dedication to the profession in her willingness to take on leadership roles, she has also sought out opportunities to give presentations and craft publications that allow her to remain continually engaged in the exchanges essential to the continued evaluation and development of law librarianship as a discipline.

#### Personal Statement

The people I have met and the opportunities I have been given as a result of my involvement in ALL-SIS have had a marked and incredibly positive impact on my life, both professionally and personally. I have learned so much about academic law librarianship by working with my colleagues across the country, and I am currently enjoying immeasurable benefits from the mentoring I have received from other academic law library directors as I have embarked on this new journey in my career. It is this unwavering intellectual stimulation, professional support, and broad-based encouragement that I want to help perpetuate within our organization. It is my sincerest hope that by joining the ALL-SIS Executive Board, I will have an opportunity to lend my energy, enthusiasm, and vision to our continued exceptional work.

## Frances Brillantine Secretary / Treasurer Candidate

### Biography



As Head of Access Services at the Catholic University of America Law Library, Frances Brillantine oversees circulation, interlibrary loan, stacks maintenance, course reserves, student satisfaction surveys, and library security. She also manages the circulation and ILL modules of the law library's ILS and regularly attends conferences

devoted to the ILS. Frances enjoys creating displays and has mounted several for the law library and law school, the most recent being a history of the school's Law & Public Policy Program. Frances has worked at Catholic for over twenty years, since her days as a student enrolled in CUA's School of Library and Information Science.

Frances is currently serving on the ALL-SIS Student Services Committee and has previously served on the Awards Committee and the Middle Managers' Breakfast Meeting committee. She is also an active member of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington DC (LLSDC), having served as president, treasurer, and board member.

Frances has an M.S.L.S. from The Catholic University of America and a B.A. in English from George Mason University.

Frances enjoys writing and presenting, particularly in the area of student satisfaction surveys. Most recently, she presented the ALL-SIS program *Developing and Using Patron Satisfaction Surveys* at AALL in 2011, and wrote "How to Create an Effective Survey" for the ALL-SIS Student Surveys Subcommittee.

### Personal Statement

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is helping to train students to become librarians. We are fortunate to have three full-time scholarship positions as well as several part-time positions for students enrolled in CUA's School of Library and Information Science. When we hire new students, I hope to see those intangible qualities that are not always evident in a resume, but which I think are crucial to being a successful librarian: flexibility and the willingness to learn new things, especially new technologies. For that is what librarians do: look for ways to improve existing procedures and services. To me, this is the great benefit of ALL-SIS: the opportunity to learn and collaborate with colleagues in order to give our patrons the best service possible. I am honored to be considered for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. If elected, I welcome the chance to contribute to the excellent job ALL-SIS does of providing its members the opportunity to learn and grow as librarians.

## Margaret (Meg) Butler

### Secretary / Treasurer Candidate

#### Biography



Margaret (Meg) Butler is the Associate Director for Public Services at the Georgia State University College of Law Library. At Georgia, she oversees all aspects of public services while performing reference duties and teaching a required legal research course for 1L students and advanced legal research. Before moving to Georgia, she served as the International Law Reference Librarian/Interlibrary Loan Supervisor at New York Law School and also taught upper division legal research courses.

Since joining ALL-SIS, Meg served as Public Relations Committee chair, filling in when the prior chair stepped down mid-year and continuing on that committee for another two years. She currently serves as the chair of the Program Committee. Meg is a member of several other SISs, currently completing her term as the SR-SIS Chair. Meg has also been active on the chapter level, serving as on the newsletter committee and later as editor for the Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY) newsletter (member 2006-2010, editor 2009-2010).

Meg's scholarly interests include the pedagogy of legal research, leading her to participate in the Boulder Conference on Legal Education in 2010. She later received the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award (New Member Division) for the paper she shared at that conference. Additional areas of interest include library management and faculty services.

#### Personal Statement

I would be honored to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer for ALL-SIS. I support ALL-SIS's mission of providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on academic law libraries and representing member interests at the association level. My experience as an SIS chair gives me perspective about what to expect as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Secretary/Treasurer can be critical in assuring that the SIS remains on track, for example by timely providing meeting minutes that allow participants to keep track of their commitments and follow through accordingly. As Secretary/Treasurer I will be an enthusiastic participant in meetings, prioritizing the needs of ALL-SIS in my time and communicating well with my fellow board members.

ALL-SIS members have helped me learn and grow as a professional librarian, and I want to support the group that has enabled me to enjoy a happy professional life.

## Christine Hepler

### Secretary / Treasurer Candidate

#### Biography



Christine I. Hepler has been the Associate Director of the Garbrecht Law Library at the University of Maine School of Law for six years. As the Associate Director, she is responsible for the day to day operations of the Public Services department; she oversees the Collection Development Team and monitors the Library's budget. In addition,

Christine teaches Legal Research as a part of the first year Legal Writing and Research program and she teaches Legal Research for the Maine Practitioner, an advanced legal research class.

Christine has served on the Executive Board of Law Librarians of New England, for several years, in several capacities, including serving as President for the organization in 2010-2011. She currently holds the position of Immediate Past President. As a member of ALL-SIS, Christine has served on the ALL-SIS Legal Research and Sourcebook Committee and was a member of the Planning Committee for the ALL-SIS Legal Research Roundtable for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

#### Personal Statement

I am honored to be considered for the Secretary/Treasurer position of ALL-SIS. This position is an important one for any organization and that is especially true with ALL-SIS because of the numerous constituencies that must remain informed of its activities-- the SIS membership, other SIS groups and the leadership of AALL. ALL-SIS has always been a very active and engaged group and plays a vital role in the promotion and progression of our

profession. Maintaining the smooth flow of information to and from the SIS will insure the groups vitality and continue its tradition of great work. To that end, I believe I have the leadership skills and work ethic that will make this happen.

Furthermore, I have thoroughly enjoyed my involvement in Law Librarians of New England. It has been a great way to learn from my local colleagues, share ideas with others and develop educational opportunities for LLNE's membership. I look forward to doing the same at this level of our organization-learning from my colleagues in ALL SIS, sharing my ideas with others and developing educational opportunities for the ALL-SIS membership.

It would be an honor to serve the section as it Secretary/Treasurer. Thank you for your consideration.

## Anne Matthewman

### Secretary / Treasurer Candidate

#### Biography



Anne Matthewman has been the Chief Law Librarian at Dalhousie University since 2010. As well as managing the Sir James Dunn Law Library, she teaches Advanced Legal Research and one section of the Legal Research and Writing course. Anne sits on a number of committees at Dalhousie including the University Librarian's

Senior Management Team and an ad hoc committee working on the restructuring of the Law School's research, writing and advocacy program. Prior to being at Dalhousie, Anne was the Library Manager/Executive Director of the Toronto Lawyers Association for many years.

Anne has held a number of positions with AALL the most recent being the Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee for the 2012 Annual Meeting in Boston and a member of the Program Committee for the 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. She was the 2010-2011 Chair of the Special Interest Section Council and was Chair of the SCCLL SIS in 2009-2010. From 2001-2004 Anne was AALL Treasurer. She has also served on the LLJ/Spectrum Advisory Council and she chaired the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting in 2000, also held in Philadelphia. Anne was President of the Canadian Association of Law Librarians from 2007 to 2009 and continues to be active in that Association.

Anne has a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Windsor and an M.L.S from the University of Western Ontario.

#### Personal Statement

Many years ago I was asked to be the Co-Chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northeast Regional Conference, NE '95 – Libraries Without Borders. It was one of my first opportunities to work together with law librarians from all types of law libraries and it was a wonderful experience for me. I learned that we all have the same goal – to provide the services and materials our clients need to succeed no matter where they are in their legal career. Since then I have taken every opportunity to work together with my colleagues and also to take part in AALL activities, committees and SISs.

As one of these entities, our SIS offers opportunities to help build our skills and also provides a collegial support network to each of us. As academic librarians we have the same goal of providing the services and materials our clients need to succeed and we face many of the same external forces as our colleagues in other types of law libraries. However, our responses differ given our user groups, governing bodies, and internal structure. The support that ALL-SIS offers is targeted to our needs. I have made great use of this support as I adapted to being an academic librarian and now I would like to contribute to ALL-SIS.

Both my work experience and my past responsibilities with AALL have given me wide-ranging experience with financial management and with secretarial functions. I value my membership in ALL-SIS and hope you will give me an opportunity to leverage my experience as Secretary/Treasurer.

## Joseph Custer (cont'd)

### Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect Candidate

*(Continued from page 3)*

towns. Regardless of where we are stationed, we are all dealing with many of the same issues, such as the necessity and challenges of technology, how to work together on our collections from across town or across states, how to be current with our websites and what we should preserve on our servers, and don't forget status.

To sum up, a vote for Courtney or Lauren is a great vote because I'm convinced that either one of them will do an outstanding job. All I can add is what the privilege of being the Vice Chair/Chair elect will mean to me. It means a great opportunity to work, learn and collaborate with outstanding professionals to make ALL-SIS even better than it is today. If this responsibility is placed on me I will face it with the utmost respect, seriousness and hard work it deserves. I think we can all agree that there is plenty to consider in our profession today. I think a quote from Bobby Kennedy makes a lot of sense for what we are currently confronting: "All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don't. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity."

### Message from the Chair (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 1)*

exhibitors, and the audience. Programs were led by doctors, lawyers, engineers, governmental officials, non-profit organizations, journalists, computer designers, and lots of librarians.

The major theme of the conference was "Big Data." The information compilers may have a clear understanding of the information they have. The technology staff may know how to build a platform to manage the data. However, only a librarian has the skills to identify the user's needs,

the relevant information, the appropriate delivery platform, and related legal considerations.

One moving example was a SXSWi program about providing pre-natal health care information to women in remote parts of Africa. The women were at great risk of death during pregnancy. Most lived without mail or reliable telephone services. They often live up to a 3 day drive from the nearest hospital. The presenters were physicians from Doctors without Borders, an international organization of health providers to troubled parts of the world. The group recognized the need to protect the women's private medical records while communicating over SMS text messaging services, the only reliable communication system. In the end they created a partnership with the Microsoft Health Cloud service to manage their records and relay vital information via SMS text.

The need for information specialists is global. The final keynote speaker was the founder of Code for America. She told inspirational stories of how her group changed Boston and other US cities by sending innovative computer and information experts to local governmental agencies. Together they created local services that connected people with sources of information and inspired citizen involvement. One example was a program to solve the problem of fire hydrants that were plowed in after a snow storm. They created an online application which helped people adopt their local hydrants and cooperate to keep them accessible.

These are just two ways that our skills can change the world. The executive board and I welcome you to participate in this discussion about our present and future.

Your first step could be to vote for two more innovative and energetic ALL-SIS executive board members. Barbara Traub has created this informative issue to help you learn about our candidates.

**Look where we are.** Are you ready to change the world?

## ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES—SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

Barbara Gellis Traub, Editor  
 Head of Reference & Instructional Services  
 Rittenberg Law Library  
 St. John's University School of Law  
 8000 Utopia Parkway  
 Jamaica, N.Y. 11439  
 Phone: 718-990-1668  
 Fax: 718-990-6649  
 traubb@stjohns.edu

### General Information

ALL-SIS was established in 1979 to promote interest in and to address issues of common concern to those employed in academic law libraries. The SIS serves as the umbrella organization for all interests--administration, collection development, consortia, directors, fees for service, interlibrary loan, public services, technical services, middle management, etc.

### ALL-SIS Officers

Kumar Percy Jayasuriya, Chair	<a href="mailto:hrp6@law.georgetown.edu">hrp6@law.georgetown.edu</a>
Leah Sandwell-Weiss, Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect	<a href="mailto:leah.sandwell-weiss@law.arizona.edu">leah.sandwell-weiss@law.arizona.edu</a>
Jack McNeill, Immediate Past Chair	<a href="mailto:jmcneill@law.pace.edu">jmcneill@law.pace.edu</a>
Edward T. Hart, Secretary/ Treasurer	<a href="mailto:hart@law.ufl.edu">hart@law.ufl.edu</a>
Deborah Person, Executive Board Member	<a href="mailto:dperson@uwyo.edu">dperson@uwyo.edu</a>

ALL-SIS provides opportunities for all librarians to contribute to the overall betterment of the entire academic law community. ALL-SIS has grown to more than 800 members and is the second largest SIS in AALL. Our members come from all aspects of academic law librarianship. Because of the SIS's broad coverage and subtopic focus, all those working in academic law libraries can benefit from membership and are encouraged to join.

### The ALL-SIS Discussion Group

The ALL-SIS discussion group, aka mailing list, is used for official ALL-SIS announcements, news from AALL, and discussion of topics of interest to our members. To read or post to the discussion group go to <http://community.aallnet.org/AALLNET/Discussions/AllDiscussions>. If you are not logged into AALLNET, you will have to do so. You can then choose the ALL-SIS Group from the list of eGroups. For more information consult the AALL My Communities Quick Start Users' Guide available at

<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Communities/discuss/mycommunities-qsguide.pdf>

### ALL-SIS on the Web

Visit the ALL-SIS Home Page at [www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/allsis/). Electronic versions of The ALL-SIS Newsletter are available on our website, as well as other vital information.

### Newsletter Information & Deadlines for 2011 - 2012 Academic Year

Please submit all articles and announcements to the ALL-SIS

Newsletter Editor. Are you working on any interesting special projects? Have you attended a meeting and learned something you want to share with colleagues? Do you just want to rant and rave about some problems related to academic law librarianship? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please send your thoughts. Any format, printed, faxed, or e-mailed will do, but it would be easiest for Newsletter production if the article is sent either as an attached text or word processing file or as the body of an e-mail. The **deadline** for this year's remaining issue is **May 21, 2012**. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.