

# ALL-SIS Newsletter

news from the ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES–SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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## Message from the Chair

The Chair of the ALL-SIS Nominations Committee, Irene Crisci, is pleased to report that we have an outstanding slate of candidates for open positions this year. The ALL-SIS Executive Board has approved the following candidates for this year's upcoming election:

### For Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:

- Jessica Wimer, Assistant Dean and Director of the Law Library, University of California Irvine School of Law.
- Prano Amjadi, Librarian and Co-Director of Law Library, Santa Clara University School of Law

### For Member-at-Large:

- Patrick Meyer, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

- Kate Irwin-Smiler, Reference Librarian  
Wake Forest University School of Law

In accordance with Article VI, Section 6 of the ALL-SIS Bylaws, Secretary-Treasurer Susan David deMaine will prepare and distribute official ballots to all members of ALL-SIS. All candidates shall be notified of the results of election by May 5.

I wish to thank Irene and her fellow committee members, Kristina Alayan and Wendy Law for all their effort in putting together this fantastic slate. Keep an eye out for an ALL-SIS posting by Susan David deMaine containing information about procedures for voting. Please vote—it is quick, easy, and vital to the organization's continued success and growth! 🗳️

## Prano Amjadi

### Candidate for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

#### Biography

**P**rano is Co-Director of the Heafey Law Library at Santa Clara University School of Law. She began her career at Santa Clara in 1988 as the Catalog Librarian. Over the years she has also been a reference librarian, electronic services librarian, Head of Reference, and Director of Public Services. Her instructional duties at Santa Clara have included teaching Advanced Legal Research and Advanced Legal Research for Intellectual Property.

Prano is an active member of AALL and her local chapter, NOCALL. She has coordinated several educational programs for AALL annual meetings, has served on the Copyright Committee and the Membership and Retention Committee, and has chaired the Diversity and AALLNet committees. Prano has also served as chair of the Social Responsibilities SIS and was the section's newsletter editor for four years. She is a past president of NOCALL, and was honored to receive their Professional Achievement Award in 2013. Prano was also a member of Lexis' TRIALL Council (Teaching Research in Academic Law Libraries) for the 2002 and 2004 workshops presented in Orlando and Boston.

Prano earned an A.B. from Duke University, an M.S.L.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a J.D. from Santa Clara University.

#### Personal Statement

Many of the services that ALL-SIS offers have been personally vital to me throughout my years in the profession. From the ability to ask questions of colleagues across the country on the listserv, to attending programs and those all-important roundtables during the annual meeting, to the resources available on the newly designed website including the teaching and marketing toolkits and the clearinghouse for collection development policies, and the wonderful discussion on the e-forums, ALL-SIS is the first place I look when I have questions specific to academic librarianship. As a new director, I am so



grateful to have resources and tools provided by ALL-SIS to help me make informed and strategic decisions.

Serving in the leadership of ALL-SIS is one way that I can give back to this section which has provided so much to me. Now, more than ever, it is important for academic libraries to work together to redefine the spectrum of what an academic law library can be. Many of our libraries are facing challenges involving space, staffing, and collections. As we discard print materials and replace them with digital access to information, it becomes even more important to share our best practices, successes, and failures.

As our law schools adjust to the changes affecting legal education, academic law librarians have an opportunity to engage in law school activities in ways that may not have existed before. This is a wonderful opportunity for us. It would be an honor to work with this group during this very exciting time of change and redefinition.

## Jessica Wimer

### Candidate for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

#### Biography

Jessica Wimer has been the Director of University of California Irvine, School of Law Library since July 2014, where she previously served as Acting Director. She is responsible for the daily operations of the law library, oversees a team of fifteen librarians and staff, and teaches in the 1L legal research program. Jessica eagerly joined UCI when it first opened its law school in 2009 as the Associate Law Librarian for Public Services. Prior to joining UCI, Jessica was at the USC Gould School of Law from 2001-2009, where she served as Head of Research Services, supervised the Research Services Department, and was heavily involved in preparing legal research curriculum.

Jessica is active in local and national professional associations, often taking leadership roles. Nationally, Jessica has participated in the AALL Mentor Program and has served on the Grants and Scholarships committees. She served multiple terms on the ALL-SIS Legal Research and Sourcebook Committee and the ALL-SIS Faculty Services Committee, later chairing both of these committees. Locally, Jessica served as SCALL's Vice President/President Elect, President, and Past President, and along with her committee

members, she planned a successful two-day SCALL Institute in 2008. Jessica is serving her third term as Treasurer and has chaired the Budget and Finance Committee and co-chaired the Public Relations Committee. She currently is a Co-Editor of the SCALL Newsletter, which is published five times per year. Jessica has written a number of book reviews published in the Law Library Journal, and recently had an article highlighting the UCI Law Library published in AALL Spectrum. Jessica is an active member of the Librarian's Association of the University of California-Irvine (LAUC-I), where she held the Member-at-Large position on the Executive Board, and served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws.

#### Personal Statement

I am both excited and honored to be nominated for the ALL-SIS Vice-Chair/Chair Elect position. I strongly support creating ties with and understand the value of learning from our librarian colleagues. I have actively participated in ALL-SIS committees, and have attended ALL-SIS programs and roundtables at AALL Annual Meetings. ALL-SIS has been a great resource for me as I grapple with various questions, from how to manage collections and budgets, how to best teach legal research, how to market the library, and what kind of faculty and student services should be offered.

Law libraries of all types are doing their best to operate in the new normal, which includes shrinking budgets, changing formats, and the impact of technologies. I feel strongly that the best way to develop optimal solutions is to work together and tackle these problems together. ALL-SIS is the ideal venue for this type of problem solving and cooperation. We're an active group of librarians with shared interests who are invested in the best possible outcomes. Working on ALL-SIS committees and communicating with my colleagues reminds me of what a great community we have and how collaborating is the key to success. It would be my honor to work with and lead the ALL-SIS membership.



## Kate Irwin-Smiler

### Candidate for Executive Board Member-at-Large



#### Biography

**K**ate Irwin-Smiler is a Reference Librarian at Wake Forest University School of Law, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She works closely with members of the schools three journals in her capacity as the supervisor for interlibrary loan operations, and is the coordinator of the library's Federal Depository Library collection. She has teaching responsibilities in the first year JD curriculum, as well as the Master of Studies in Law and LLM programs. She has been at Wake Forest since 2008. Prior to her arrival at Wake Forest, she was the Senior Research Librarian at Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Massachusetts from 2002-2008. At Western New England, Kate was responsible for supervision of interlibrary loan services, provided reference services to faculty and students, and wrote instructional materials for the webpage. From 2000-2002, she was on staff as a librarian at the New York State Defenders Association. She received her JD from Western New England College School of Law in 2007 and her MLS from the University at Albany (NY) in 2000.

Kate is an active member of SEAALL and the Government Documents Special Internet Section (GD-SIS),

currently serving as the treasurer and vice chair/chair elect, respectively. She is also a member of the Government Publishing Office's Depository Library Council advisory board (2013-2016). She was previously a member of LLNE. She has previously served on ALL-SIS Program committees and is currently a member of the Legal Research & Sourcebook committee.

#### Personal Statement

I am honored to have the opportunity to run for Member at Large of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section. ALL-SIS was one of the first SISes I joined as a new member of AALL and it continues to serve an important role for academic law librarians at all levels of experience.

Law schools, as anyone knows who isn't living under a rock knows, exist in a challenging financial environment, and libraries are an obvious target for budget cuts. Each of us face difficult decisions in our own libraries every day, and we can make those decisions easier by working together to share information and best practices so we can all succeed. The work we are all asked to do individually can be done better together.

We are lucky to work in a profession with generous colleagues, and even on sunny days, our work is better when we share ideas: ideas about teaching, new resources, services, and outreach. My best ideas come in collaboration with others. It usually starts with an offhand comment and someone adds to it. Someone else adds in, and before long, we have a great thing going. I believe it is the role of a group like ALL-SIS to foster conversations like this: create the forums in which they can flourish and keep them going, even when we are far flung across the country and the world. That is my goal.

## Patrick Meyer

### Candidate for Executive Board Member-at-Large

#### Biography

Patrick Meyer is Library Director at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where he manages the library budget, staff, and collection, serves as Vice Chair of the Curriculum Committee, teaches Advanced Legal Research, and manages the research modules for the legal writing course. His writing interests include law firm research requirements and curricular revision.

Patrick previously served as Acting Library Director and Associate Library Director at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and as Electronic Resources Librarian and Foreign and International Law Librarian at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.

Patrick is the current MichALL Vice President and will soon take on the duties of President. He is currently an executive board member of the Society of Academic Law Library Directors. Patrick previously was the President of SCALL and served five years on its executive board.



#### Personal Statement

Academic law libraries continue to provide quality services with fewer resources during this time of decreased enrollment. This contraction presents us with a golden opportunity to improve our position within the law school. ALL-SIS equips us to take advantage of this opportunity in many ways, such as by offering mentors and the CONELL experience to newer librarians, best-practices resources for libraries, data on legal research practices, and modern collection development materials, to name a few.

I believe that my varied experiences and long commitment to academic law librarianship will add value to ALL-SIS. I look forward to doing my part if so elected.

## ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES–SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

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**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Cynthia Guyer** cguyer@law.usc.edu  
**Board Member**

## 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 provides opportunities for all librarians to contribute to the overall betterment of the entire academic law community. ALL-SIS has grown to approximately 1,200 members and is the 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 [here](#). (you will have to log in to AALLNET).

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/sections/all](http://www.aallnet.org/sections/all) for other vital information about the special interest section and its activities and resources.

Electronic versions (PDFs) of archived issues the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*, along with an index, are available on the website, under the Popular Resources menu. The *Newsletter* is also available to subscribers via Hein Online.

### Deadlines for 2014-2015 Academic Year

Your contributions are what keep the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* going.

Are you working on an interesting special project at your library? Have you recently attended a meeting and learned something new to share? Are you just itching to speak up about an issue relating to academic law librarianship?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, please contribute. Electronic formats (attached file or email text) are the most helpful for Newsletter production. Please submit articles and announcements to the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* Editor.

The submission deadline for the Summer issue is May 15, 2015. Thank you for your contributions and for your consideration.