



ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



NEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Lisa A. Goodman
Texas A&M University School of Law

National election coverage has dominated the headlines in recent weeks, and here in the Newsletter, once again, election coverage is taking center stage. The ALL-SIS Executive Board election is upon us. The Nominations Committee has provided a remarkable slate of candidates for this year's open positions. Co-Chairs, Kerry Lohmeier and Deanna Barmakian, along with committee members Joe Custer, Kristen Moore, Jamie Sommer, Ron Wheeler, and Jessica Wimer, have worked diligently over the past few months to assemble this fine slate. I also am delighted to report that the ALL-SIS Executive Board approved the following candidates for this year's upcoming election:

“ ...election coverage is taking center stage.”

For Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

- **Tawnya Plumb**, Head of Collections, George W. Hopper Law Library, University of Wyoming College of Law
- **I-Wei Wang**, Reference Librarian, UC Berkeley School of Law Library

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FROM THE EDITOR

I am excited to bring you the Spring/Election 2020 issue of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*! The focus of this issue is the personal statements and biographies of the candidates for Chair/Chair Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. These candidates will shape the SIS for the next few years, so it is important to vote in the election. This issue also features two reviews of webinars, which are incredibly pertinent at this time. We also have information on all the ALL-SIS Grants and Scholarships available and a great article on revamping your teaching curriculum. I hope everyone in our community stays safe and sane during this difficult time, and I hope everything gets back to normal as quickly and safely as possible.

As you peruse this newsletter, also please remember that we are always looking for content. The *Newsletter* would not exist without interesting submissions from readers like you. We want to hear from you, so if you have any questions, suggestions, ideas or articles you would like to submit, please contact me, the Editor, Katie Hanschke at katie.hanschke@vanderbilt.edu. //

In this issue: [AALL2Go Offers Recordings of Educational and Conference Programs / Webinar Recap: Cross-Border Cultural Competency / 2020 ALL-SIS Grants and Scholarships / Using 'Backwards Design' to Update Your 1L Research Curriculum / ALL-SIS Candidates' Statements & Bios /](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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For Secretary/Treasurer:

- **Lei Zhang**, Student Services Coordinator, Tarlton Law Library, Jamail Center for Legal Research, the University of Texas at Austin
- **Shira Megerman**, Senior Legal Information Librarian, Boston University Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries

Many thanks to the Nominations Committee and to the candidates for volunteering to run for an Executive Board position. Your willingness to offer leadership and direction is what keeps this SIS going. I hope each one of you will take the time to review the candidates' statements and thoughtfully cast your vote. Please be on the lookout for a message from Secretary/Treasurer Ingrid Mattson regarding procedures for voting. //

AALL2GO OFFERS RECORDINGS OF EDUCATIONAL AND CONFERENCE PROGRAMS

Malinda Muller and Elaine Pham
LA Law Library

LA Law Library has operated an internship program for both law school and library schools students since the summer of 2013. Students conduct their field work in a law library, learn about and consider law librarianship as a career path through departmental orientations, take classes, shadow reference librarians and then provide reference assistance at the public desk, and complete legal research and other projects. One project option invites the intern to explore the main AALL educational page of course and conference recordings (<https://www.aallnet.org/education-training/elearning/aall2go/>) and select and write a summary of the selected program.

In the fall of 2019, LA Law Library intern Elaine Pham, a graduate student in the Masters of Library and Information Science program at the ISchool at Syracuse University, opted in to select and review one of the AALL2Go educational programs, the summary which follows.

ADDRESSING DIVERSITY AND IMPLICIT BIAS IN YOUR CLASSROOM AND YOUR LAW SCHOOL

Presented by Mike Martinez, Jr. from St. Mary's School of Law, Michelle Rigual from University of New Mexico School of Law, Sherri Nicole Thomas from University of New Mexico School of Law, and Ronald E. Wheeler, Jr. from Boston University School of Law. Moderated by Amy Carr, Greenberg Traurig, LLP.

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AALL2Go

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Although the webinar focuses on classrooms and law schools, the facts are clear: diversity and implicit bias are important to understand, and vital to work on, throughout all library contexts, including government law libraries. According to the discussion, the biases we carry can be understood similarly to an iceberg. The tip of the iceberg is the collection of biases that people are aware they have. Underneath the water, where the majority of the iceberg lies, is where fears or unacceptable thoughts of which people are unaware of reside. This latter part is called implicit bias: it can be defined as the attitudes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in unconscious ways. It causes us to judge others by appearance rather than by merit.

Despite implicit bias's influence, individuals are often fearful of addressing it due to the possible consequences, including reproof from colleagues. However, the presenters implore us to care for a few reasons. First, librarians will develop relationships with patrons from all types of backgrounds; therefore, librarians must learn about how they interact with patrons and how patrons interact with them. Second, librarians have the responsibility to be instructors in every way. Alongside information literacy, librarians must also model to patrons how to be informed professionals. As law librarians, then, it is imperative to act in accordance with the reality that our implicit bias can impede equal access to legal knowledge and to the legal profession. To begin addressing this issue, the presenters suggest raising awareness and facilitating discussion.

“ ... our implicit bias can impede equal access to legal knowledge and to the legal profession.

The work we need to do in order to undo our implicit bias can be hard and will take honest self-evaluation. However, cultivating these abilities will help librarians exercise critical decision making skills. As a result, there will be safer, more equitable access for all. To learn more about the presenters' experiences and strategies to address implicit bias, listen to the webinar here: <https://www.aallnet.org/recording/diversityimplicitbias/> (February 28, 2019)

Elaine Pham is a graduate student in the Masters of Library and Information Science program at Syracuse University. In her undergraduate career, she majored in Sociology. Subsequently, she has developed a passion for social services and education. She is a supporter of information literacy and lifelong learning for all peoples, including historically marginalized groups. Elaine will be graduating in June 2020 and would greatly appreciate any comments or feedback that can help prepare her for a career in libraries. She can be reached at pham.elaine.m@gmail.com.

The LA Law Library internship program is managed by GLL's (Government Law Libraries SIS) Membership and Mentoring Committee chair Malinda Muller. The GLL Membership and Mentoring Committee maintains the direct peer-to-peer Mentoring Skills Inventory where new and seasoned AALL members can connect, one on one, for guidance and input on all matters of our day jobs. Access the Mentoring Skills Inventory program at the GLL website: <https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/resources-publications/mentoring-skill-inventory/>.

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WEBINAR RECAP:

**CROSS-BORDER CULTURAL
COMPETENCY****Jesse Bowman**
Pritzker Legal Research Center

On Thursday, December 6, the Foreign, Comparative & International Law SIS and the Academic Law Libraries SIS jointly sponsored an online panel entitled, “Cross-Border Cultural Competency: Teaching Foreign Law Students and Training International Lawyers.” The moderator, Jessica Pierucci, Research Law Librarian for Foreign, Comparative, and International Law at UC Irvine School of Law, guided a discussion with four knowledgeable and experienced speakers:

- Jodi Collova, Director of LL.M. Legal Research and Writing at Berkeley Law,
- Karina Condra, Foreign, Comparative & International Law Librarian at University of Denver Sturm College of Law,
- Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, Director of the Law Library at Northern Illinois University College of Law, and
- Mike McArthur, Head, Foreign Comparative & International Law and Collection Development at Duke Law.

A variety of insightful suggestions were provided by each of the speakers. Regarding the challenge of helping foreign-trained lawyers understand the U.S. legal system and practice, Collova explained that foreign students, whose experience lies within the civil law system, often struggle with both analogical reasoning and the plain English writing style required by the U.S. system. Each of the speakers emphasized the usefulness of having foreign students work in small groups and Condra, in particular, stressed the effectiveness of this approach when teaching classes comprised of a mixture of foreign L.L.M. students and domestic J.D. students. In this mixed-group setting, Kuehl relayed that she incorporates a series of short assignments throughout the semester, as opposed to a single, large final assignment.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of openness and friendliness toward foreign students. At Duke, McArthur organizes and participates in extracurricular, small-group discussions with foreign L.L.M. students, before which he circulates short, topical articles for discussion. He also mentioned that it’s important to remind foreign students that, unlike what may be the case in their home countries, they are indeed welcome and encouraged to visit with their professors outside of class.

This webinar featured an array of helpful suggestions and we encourage anyone who is interested in this topic to view the recording and materials, available at <https://www.aallnet.org/recording/teachingforeignlawstudents/>.

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ALL-SIS SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS COMMITTEE: 2020 ALL-SIS GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Colleen Williams
University of Arkansas School of
Law

The All-SIS Awards Committee has three grants to award for attendance at the 2020 Annual Meeting. All grant applications must be sent to committee chair Colleen Williams (ccwillia@uark.edu) by April 15, 2020.

The **ALL-SIS Active Member Stimulus Grant** is for \$1,000 and is intended for a law librarian with a record of service to ALL-SIS. Current ALL-SIS Executive Board members and Awards Committee members are not eligible for this grant. Applications must include:

1. A statement (500 words maximum) addressing the applicant's service to or activity within ALL-SIS, how attending the AALL Annual Meeting will benefit both them and their library, and their current financial need. This statement should include the applicant's name, current employer, position title, and dates of AALL and ALL-SIS membership
2. Current resume
3. Two letters of recommendation

The **ALL-SIS Regular Member Stimulus Grant** is also \$1,000 and is for an ALL-SIS member with demonstrated financial need. Current ALL-SIS Executive Board members and Awards Committee members are not eligible for this grant. Applications must include:

1. A statement (500 words maximum) addressing how attending the AALL Annual Meeting will benefit both the applicant and their library, as well as their current financial need. This statement should include the applicant's name, current employer, position title, and dates of AALL and ALL-SIS membership
2. Current resume
3. Two letters of recommendation

The **ALL-SIS CONELL Grant** is available for two newer law librarians, for \$500 each. The purpose of the CONELL Grant is to promote participation by newer academic law librarians in AALL and ALL-SIS. The grant is presented annually at the discretion of the ALL-SIS Awards Committee, so there is no requirement that the grant be given every year. Current ALL-SIS Executive Board members and Awards Committee members, as well as previous CONELL Grant winners, are ineligible. Grant recipients are chosen, in large part, based on demonstrated financial need. Applications must include:

1. Current resume
2. Two letters of recommendation from current or former teachers or employers that discuss the applicant's potential to contribute to the field of academic law librarianship and need for the grant

In addition to the grants, the Awards Committee is seeking nominations for four awards. All nominations must be sent to committee chair Colleen Williams (ccwillia@uark.edu) by April 15, 2020. Self nominations will be accepted. Unless noted, current ALL-SIS Executive Board members and Awards Committee members are ineligible for nomination.

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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The **Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship** recognizes an individual or group that has made outstanding contributions to academic law librarianship. The award is presented annually at the discretion of the Awards Committee. Preference is given to members of ALL-SIS.

Nominees should demonstrate extended and sustained contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- History of contributions to the field of law librarianship through research, publications, and/or other activities displaying an active participation in the advancement of academic law librarianship
- Achievement in a particular area of academic law librarianship
- Service to AALL
- Service to ALL-SIS

Nominations must include:

1. A letter of nomination or a completed nomination form (<https://www.aallnet.org/allsis/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2020/03/ALL-SIS-Hicks-Nomination-Form.docx>), including the candidate's full name, title, and institution name and address. If the candidate is retired, include name, home address, and most recent former employer
2. A statement supporting the nomination, including a discussion of the candidate's contributions to academic law librarianship
3. The name, email, and phone number of the nominating party

The **Outstanding Article Award** recognizes contributions to serialized academic law library scholarship. Awards may not be presented in a given year if the Awards Committee members' consensus is that the submissions do not meet the award criteria.

Nominated articles for this award must have been published in 2019 for the 2020 award and be authored by an ALL-SIS member. For co-authored articles, at least one author must be a member of ALL-SIS. ALL-SIS Executive Board and Awards Committee members are eligible for nomination. Articles may have appeared in any publication (paper or electronic) including AALL publications (except Law Library Journal or AALL Spectrum), chapter newsletters, non-AALL publications, or in-house publications. If the work is behind a paywall, a copy must be made available to the Committee. Submissions will be evaluated on:

1. Relevance of the topic to some aspect of academic librarianship, including but not limited to public services, technical services, administration, legal research, or teaching
2. The quality of writing
3. The effectiveness of communication technique

The **ALL-SIS Publication Award** recognizes significant contributions that do not fit into the category for the Outstanding Article Award. Such contributions to scholarly legal literature may be in a variety of publication types (examples include but are not limited to books, book chapters, bibliographies, blogs and periodical columns.)

Nominated articles for this award must have been published in 2019 for the 2020 award and be authored by an ALL-SIS member. For co-authored articles, at least one author must be a member of ALL-SIS. As with the Outstanding Article Award, ALL-SIS Executive Board and Awards Committee members are eligible for nomination. Awards may not be presented in a given year if the Awards Committee members' consensus is that the submissions do not meet the award criteria.

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GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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Submissions will be evaluated on:

1. Relevance of topic to some aspect of academic librarianship, including but not limited to public services, technical services, administration, legal research, or teaching
2. The quality of writing
3. The effectiveness of communication technique

The **ALL-SIS Outstanding Service Award** honors an ALL-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to ALL-SIS in areas of section activity and in professional service.

Nominees must be an active or retired member of ALL-SIS. Examples of areas where nominees excel can include but are not limited to:

- Outstanding leadership in ALL-SIS, at meetings, and in committee
- Special and notable service to ALL-SIS, such as participation in special projects
- Participation in ALL-SIS education programs and public speaking activities
- Mentoring activities which encourage others in ALL-SIS

Nominations must include:

1. A letter of nomination, including the candidate's full name, title, and institution name/address. If the candidate is retired, include name, home address, and most recent former employer
2. A narrative supporting the nomination, to include a discussion of the candidate's contributions to ALL-SIS
3. A curriculum vitae of the candidate
4. The name, email, address, and phone number of the nominating party

Please contact Awards Committee Chair Colleen Williams at cwillia@uark.edu with any questions. //

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USING ‘BACKWARDS DESIGN’ TO UPDATE YOUR 1L RESEARCH CURRICULUM

Meredith Capps
Vanderbilt Law School

In the quiet early summer of 2019, the teaching librarians at Vanderbilt University Law School met to discuss our first year legal research program, as is common practice during such a lull in the academic calendar. From the fall of 2017 to the spring of 2019, our team of librarians at the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library fully turned over but-for our director, and as such, we thought it worthwhile to examine our instructional perspectives and preferences as a newly-constituted group. Based on the positive feedback we had heard from our colleagues, we scheduled a meeting with Derek Bruff, the director of our university’s [Center for Teaching](#). We expected little beyond a few teaching tips, but instead, we received a thoughtful lesson in “backwards design,” and ultimately engaged in meaningful rethinking of our 1L curriculum.

First Year Legal Research Instruction at VULS

By way of background, Vanderbilt’s 1L legal research program is embedded in the legal writing program, with librarians each teaching five to six research classes in each semester. Research constitutes 20% of the students’ writing grade in the fall and 15% in the spring, and we provide students two or three graded assignments each semester. Each librarian is assigned individual sections, and though we provide all students the same assignments and in-class exercises, we enjoy some freedom in the classroom to teach the material in our preferred manner. In recent years, we evenly divided responsibility for course design amongst ourselves, such that each librarian drafted at least one graded assignment per year, one in-class exercise, and one class overview per semester. Though this approach means that no one librarian bears the burden of creating all of their own teaching materials, consistency suffers, and the content covered in each class/assignment is driven by each individual librarian’s judgment, rather than a commonly understood set of objectives or desired outcomes.

Designing, Backwards

In our session with Bruff, he challenged us to consider, first individually, and then as a group, the learning objectives underlying our 1L curriculum as classified in the following categories:

- “transfer,”
- “enduring understandings,”
- “essential questions,”
- “to know,”
- “to do,”
- and “worth being familiar with.”

It will not surprise readers of this newsletter that we had no trouble assembling a lengthy list of objectives, some of which we had assigned to different or multiple categories. Objectives ranged from quite broad, i.e. “the research process is iterative and nonlinear,” to quite specific, “identify the title and part of a CFR citation.”

Implementation

Objectives in hand, we then examined our course schedule (Research Methods, Secondary Sources, Statutes, and Cases in the fall, Administrative Law, Legislative History, Court Rules and Local Ordinances, and Practice Resources in the spring) and assigned our many objectives to the appropriate classes. Some of our

'USING' BACKWARDS DESIGN

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broader objectives were appropriate for most or all classes, resulting in quite a bit of repetition, while some were specific to particular sessions. Having a master objective list of this nature proved immensely helpful given the decentralized nature of our content drafting—now, for example, whomever was responsible for drafting our Legislative History assignment, had a slate of objectives to consult in creating an assignment that met our collective goals.

This exercise motivated us not just to thoughtfully consider our learning objectives but to consider how to better use our limited time with students and encourage them to think more critically about the research process. We incorporated pre-class assignments, something we had abandoned several semesters ago, back into the curriculum. These assignments prime students to consider the week's material before class, allow us to determine their existing level of comprehension regarding the concepts introduced, and provide an added opportunity for us to offer individual feedback. An additional upshot: the exercises foster familiarity with the course management software and our expectations for submissions, resulting in far fewer submission errors on graded assignments! We created a course LibGuide, where we posted the shorter PDF overviews we had offered in prior semesters, but also enhanced content such as resource links and screenshots. Finally, we carefully considered our prior assignments, including their overall structure and the nature of the questions presented. Given time constraints, we opted to maintain the somewhat guided nature of our assignments, but we challenged ourselves to include more open-ended questions asking students to evaluate sources and processes.

Looking Ahead

We will, no doubt, reflect on the year this summer and further refine our approach. However, we can already say that formulating shared learning objectives has brought cohesion to our course design process, and through this process, we have offered students a more robust curriculum. We also shared our experience with the librarians in our other campus libraries at Vanderbilt's 2019 librarian teaching "bootcamp," an opportunity that allowed us to offer valuable insight to our colleagues, most of whom do not teach for-credit courses, and to promote the Center for Teaching as a valued campus partner.

If you feel that your research curriculum needs a reset, consider "backwards design"! //

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CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

I-Wei Wang
UC Berkeley School of Law



BIOGRAPHY

I-Wei Wang is a reference librarian at the Law Library of the UC Berkeley School of Law, where she has been for the past thirteen years. I-Wei is an active and career-long member of AALL and ALL-SIS. Her activities include serving on the editorial board of *Law Library*

Journal (2018-21), and on the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee (2012-13); for the section, she currently serves on the Continuing Status and Tenure Committee; was Editor/Chair of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* for four years and continues to serve on the Newsletter Advisory Board; co-chaired the Faculty Services Committee; and served on the Bluebook Task Force. I-Wei has an A.B. in history and English literature from Brown University, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and an M.L.I.S. from San José State University. She was a member and Executive Editor at *Harvard Law Review*, and has published articles in *Harvard Law Review* and *Law Library Journal*. She is active in her union, the UC-AFT—which represents professional librarians throughout the University of California system—most recently serving as a member of the negotiating team, which achieved historic gains in salary and other terms, as well as a new policy to include librarians expressly within the UC’s protection of academic freedom. Outdoor adventure, reading, and researching/writing (and eternally revising) novels in the genres of historical fiction and murder mystery are her primary outside pursuits.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated for the office of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Throughout my career as a “plain old reference librarian,” ALL-SIS has been at the core of my professional development. I have been fortunate to have so many opportunities to work with and learn from academic colleagues from across the country, and to collaborate with many of you on the issues—both the big picture stuff and the day-to-day minutiae—facing law libraries and law schools. I know what a resource ALL-SIS can be as a national, professional network for sharing knowledge and experience, and would love to participate in leading the section.

If elected, I would seek to help ALL-SIS continue to serve as an integral force in moving our profession forward and supporting the efforts and career aspirations of our members. We face exhilarating changes in academic librarianship, legal education, and the broader law profession. ALL-SIS has the challenge to harness the incredible creative talents of our members to champion our values while also demonstrating our value to our institutions. We can continue to fulfill and grow this crucial role through our programming, our publications and online collaborative forums, and many other formal and informal modes of sharing and spreading our knowledge, experiences, and successes. I would also like to explore ways to strengthen and leverage our ties with “sister SISs”—such as DET-SIS, PLLIP-SIS, and RIPS-SIS—with which we share potential synergies. Most of all, I hope to engage our committees and all our section members in the collaborative effort of sustaining and growing ALL-SIS. It would be a privilege to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of ALL-SIS. //

CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Tanya Plumb
University of Wyoming Law Library

BIOGRAPHY

Tawnya Plumb joined the University of Wyoming College of Law library in 2004 and after a few title changes is now the Head of Collections. In this position, Tawnya is responsible for the licensing and processing of all electronic and print information sources, the digital archive, and the supervision of staff in these areas. She also provides reference service in the library and teaches two sections of legal research to first-year students. Tawnya appreciates this diversity of tasks and embraces her given board game character status of “Professor Plumb in the library with a candlestick.”

Tawnya’s current scholarly focus is on access to justice initiatives. She contributed a chapter on artificial intelligence and access to justice in *LAW LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE AGE OF AI* published by the American Library Association last fall. This semester she is taking legal research on the road by traveling her state, engaging rural library constituents, and offering legal research trainings. For lists of additional interests, publications, and presentations, kindly view her faculty webpage.

Previously, Tawnya worked as a law librarian at Hughes & Luce, LLP and at the Texas State Law Library. She has volunteered or worked in school libraries, public libraries, community college libraries, and in a beloved bookmobile. She also spent three years teaching abroad through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. She received her M.L.I.S. from The University of Texas at Austin and her B.A. in English from the University of Wyoming.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I fondly recall my first AALL conference in 2005 when I attended the ALL-SIS reception at St. Mary’s School of Law in San Antonio. ALL-SIS receptions have since become one of my favorite conference traditions as librarians join together to appreciate the physical space of another’s academic law library, talk about conference programs, compare our libraries, and form lasting friendships. Fortunately, our section extends this

sense of community back to us in our offices as well. I regularly find myself searching for teaching ideas within the Sourcebook for Teaching Legal Research, exploring our various toolkits, and participating in member webinars. Our newsletter keeps us well informed, and our listserv is filled with supportive colleagues to ask for assistance in times of need. For all of these reasons, and more, I value my ALL-SIS membership and would be honored to serve as your Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect.

I strive to give back to our section by volunteering for committee assignments. I have learned much from my time spent on the Faculty Services, Continuing Education, Awards, CALL, Student Services, and Membership committees. I am grateful for the mentorship offered by committee chairs and enjoyed co-chairing the membership committee. Being active within the section has provided me with a well-rounded appreciation for many of the routine accomplishments of our committees and the hard work of our membership.

Having served as a CS-SIS chair, I am experienced in leading a SIS through strategic, program, and event planning and am comfortable with organizational governance. My time spent as WestPac secretary developed my communication and collaboration skills. AALL placements on the AALLNET Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Bylaws Committee provided me perspective on how our section fits within the larger structure of AALL. Finally, my AALL participation on the New Product Award and Innovations in Technology Award juries nurtured my appreciation of innovation and motivated me to be forward thinking.

I am thankful for this nomination, and I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy.



CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Lei Zhang
Tarlton Law Library

BIOGRAPHY

Lei Zhang is Student Services Coordinator and Lecturer at the Tarlton Law Library and Jamail Center for Legal Research at The University of Texas School of Law, where he has been since July 2015. In addition to his reference and instructional responsibilities, he helps facilitate and promote library services to law students, including the library's student technology support. Previously, he was a Reference Librarian at Western State College of Law. Before beginning his career in law librarianship, he practiced corporate and securities law in Los Angeles.

Lei actively participates in AALL. He served on the CONELL Committee from 2014-16 and chaired the ALL-SIS Local Arrangements Committee for the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in Austin. He is currently a member of the ALL-SIS Student Services Committee and is involved with the Asian American Law Librarians Caucus.



Lei received his BA in History from the University of California at Berkeley, his MLIS from UCLA, and his JD from Duke University School of Law.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I have been an academic law librarian since early 2013. ALL-SIS has been an invaluable resource for me every step of the way. These seven plus years have flown by, and in that short time, I have learned so much about being a better researcher, instructor, and most importantly, colleague. I am honored to have this opportunity to run for ALL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer and support all my academic law librarian colleagues who do the vital work of serving law school communities.

We ALL-SIS members are a diverse bunch. We work at academic law libraries of different sizes, wearing different hats, spread out across different parts of the country. We read different books, laugh at different jokes, and root for different teams. Despite those differences, our shared passion for law schools and law libraries unites us and gives us our strength as a special interest section.

Just as its members power ALL-SIS, ALL-SIS in turn empowers its members. ALL-SIS has been tremendously successful at addressing members' needs and concerns, and I will do my best to continue that tradition. I will help promote resources and activities that are relevant and interesting to our members. I will bring my enthusiasm to every ALL-SIS Executive Board meeting, working with fellow officers to ensure that we responsibly administer ALL-SIS affairs. The note-taking skills and attention to detail from my days as a law firm junior associate should prove beneficial. And of course, I will keep my door open to all members.

This spring, I ask for your vote so that I can help ALL-SIS continue being the dynamic special interest section that we are all proud to be members of.

CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Shira Megerman
Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries

BIOGRAPHY

Shira Megerman is a Senior Legal Information Librarian at the Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries at Boston University School of Law. In addition to her reference responsibilities, she serves as liaison to the intellectual property law faculty, the Startup Law Clinic, Technology Law Clinic, and the Journal of Science and Technology Law. She also teaches in the first year lawyering program, and an upper-level IP law research course. Additionally, Shira is the student serves librarian, planning events for the library, and creates library marketing. Previously, Shira was the Student Services Reference Librarian at the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center at the University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

Shira is an active member of AALL and LLNE. She is co-Education Director of LLNE, and received LLNE's Continuing Education Scholarship in spring 2018. She is published in *AALL Spectrum*, and co-authored a white paper in *Law Library Journal* with the ALL-SIS Marketing and Outreach Task Force. Her activities include serving as chair of the Volunteer Service Award Jury, and the Annual Meeting Poster Session Award Jury. She is the founder of the Jewish Law Librarians Caucus, and currently serves as co-chair. Shira also served on the ALL-SIS Bylaws Committee, the Nominations Committee, the Membership Committee, and the Marketing and Outreach Task Force, and she was the first chair of the Marketing and Outreach Committee when it was established. She also attended the Leadership Academy and the Management Institute.

Shira received her MLIS from the University of Missouri, her JD from Washburn University School of Law, and her BA from the University of Texas. Shira is a member of the State Bar of Kansas. Outside of work, Shira loves to travel. In the past few years, she enjoyed visiting Morocco, Faroe Islands, Ireland, Cuba, Philippines, and Sweden. Mostly recently, she enjoyed traveling to Kansas City to watch the Chiefs Super Bowl victory parade, the first in her life. Her favorite event at AALL is Karaoke with Ken.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The theme for the annual meeting this year is: Unmasking Our Potential. I am the type of person who believes in volunteering, even when the position is new and unknown to them, and I am humbled I was nominated for this position. Although I have not served in a secretary or treasurer position on a committee in AALL, I am excited at the potential of this new opportunity. Almost every position and connection I made in my career I can trace to ALL-SIS, and my potential would not be unmasked had I not joined this special interest section. I can truly say being a member of ALL-SIS is career changing for me, in the best ways possible. I tell new academic AALL members I meet it is the must join special interest section.

If elected, my goal is to serve with purpose, transparency, and an enthusiasm towards the continued success of ALL-SIS. I am dedicated to ALL-SIS and its future, as evidenced through my committee work, which began as a member of the By-Laws Committee in my first year as a librarian in 2010, and continued on many other committees to this day. ALL-SIS is also the first SIS in which I volunteered, and is the SIS in which I am the most active. In this position, I will continue to give ALL-SIS the same attention, energy, and forethought I give all my committee work, and I as an experiential learner, I know I will achieve this goal.



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DEADLINES FOR THE 2019-2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

We rely on member contributions to keep the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* going strong. We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas to help make this quarterly schedule a reality.

Are you organizing or presenting at an event of interest to your academic law library colleagues? Is your library working on a special project? Have you recently attended a professional development activity and learned something new to share? Or are you just eager to speak out about an issue of concern to academic law librarians?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please contribute! Member News announcements may also be submitted to the column editors, or directly to the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* Editor.

The remaining submission deadline for the 2019-2020 academic year will be—

- Summer issue: (posts mid-June): May 18, 2020

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.