

Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section (ALL-SIS)
2019-2020 Annual Report

The 2019-2020 ALL-SIS Executive Board Members were: Lisa A. Goodman, Chair; Sabrina Sondhi, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect; Ingrid Mattson, Secretary/Treasurer; Amanda Bolles-Watson, Member-At-Large; and Anna Lawless-Collins, Immediate Past Chair.

The work of ALL-SIS this year included the continuation of a few projects that began in the previous academic year. As part of the current ALL-SIS strategic plan we continued to explore opportunities to collaborate with other Special Interest Sections. One of these endeavors included working with the Technical Services Special Interest Section, the Law Repositories Caucus, and the Computing Services Special Interest Section to address concerns regarding the US News/HeinOnline faculty scholarship impact report/ranking announced last year. Our joint effort to express our concerns culminated in drafting a set of principles that we collectively believe any faculty scholarly impact ranking should take into account. Our goal is to share these principles with the AALL Executive Board and, provided we secure AALL Executive Board approval, share the principles with US News and other interested parties. Another initiative that continued from last year, also inspired by the strategic plan, was the internal review of our committee structure. Amanda Runyon, our previous board Member-At-Large, along with Vice-Chair Sabrina Sondhi continued the work on the review. This year, Sabrina and Amanda surveyed former committee chairs and vice-chairs regarding the structure, composition, charges, and continuing utility of our various standing committees. The data from these surveys will inform the project going forward and given the comprehensive nature of the review, it will continue into the next year.

In further efforts to collaborate with other SISs, ALL-SIS joined the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section and the Private Law Libraries & Information Professionals Special Interest Section in working with CRIV to address the announcement that Bloomberg Law would no longer publish in print the *ABA/Bloomberg Law Lawyer's Manual of Professional Conduct*. As a result of our SISs jointly expressing concern over this development to CRIV, CRIV was able to work with Bloomberg Law to ensure that standalone electronic access to the *Manual* would be available without requiring libraries to subscribe to the entirety of Bloomberg Law, which is quite often cost-prohibitive.

Following the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, and the resulting protests that erupted around the country and the world, the ALL-SIS Executive Board issued a statement to our membership affirming our belief that Black lives matter and committing to do our part in eliminating systemic racism. In addition to issuing the statement, the ALL-SIS Executive Board committed to creating a Diversity & Inclusion Task Force to develop the charge for an ALL-SIS standing committee on the same subject. Further, the Executive Board memorialized our efforts to increase the diversity of ALL-SIS leadership through the Nominations Committee process.

This year the Executive Board worked with our Local Arrangements Committee and the Programs Committee to plan activities for the AALL Annual Meeting that was to be held in New Orleans. However, due to the COVID-19 cancellation of the in-person Annual Meeting, we deftly pivoted to hosting virtual events in conjunction with AALL's Virtual Annual Meeting. The ALL-SIS sponsored educational program was "Copyright Issues in the Connected and Digital World," presented by Jef Pearlman, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Director, Intellectual Property & Technology Law Clinic, University of Southern California Law School, and Mary E. Rasenberger, Executive Director, The Authors Guild. The program was

coordinated and moderated by Cindy Guyer, Senior Law Librarian, University of Southern California Law School.

The Local Arrangements Committee planned and presented a Virtual Middle Managers' Breakfast with the theme "Managing through COVID-19 from the Middle Manager's Perspective," featuring speakers Eileen Santos, Associate Director, Howard University School of Law Library; and Christina Glon, Associate Law Librarian for Research Services, Emory University, Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library. The presentation was moderated by Local Arrangements Committee Co-Chair Brian Barnes, Director of the Law Library, Loyola University College of Law. The Committee also planned and presented a Virtual Directors Breakfast on the topic "Social Movements in Times of Change: How Law Libraries Can Support Student Wellness and Success," featuring speaker Ronald Wheeler Jr., Director of the Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries and Associate Professor of Law, Boston University. It was moderated by ALL-SIS Chair, Lisa A. Goodman, Executive Professor and Director, Dee J. Kelly Law Library, Texas A&M University School of Law.

The Awards Committee selected several award recipients, who were acknowledged and gave brief remarks during our Virtual Annual Business Meeting as we opted not to hold a virtual awards reception. This year, the awards were sponsored by LexisNexis. Jennifer L. Behrens, Associate Director for Administration & Scholarship and Senior Lecturing Fellow at Duke University's J. Michael Goodson Law Library received the ALL-SIS Outstanding Article Award for "*Unknown Symbols*": *Online Legal Research in the Age of Emoji*, 38 *Legal Reference Services Q.* 155 (2019). Linda Tashbook, FCIL Librarian at the University of Pittsburgh's Barco Law Library was presented the ALL-SIS Publication Award for her work, *Family Guide to Mental Illness and the Law: A Practical Handbook* (Oxford University Press). Richard Leiter, Director of the Schmid Law Library & Professor of Law, University of Nebraska College of Law, was recognized with the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for Outstanding Contributions to Academic Law Librarianship.

The Awards Committee also selected several grant recipients this year. The following recipients received grants for the AALL Virtual Annual Meeting: Susan Azyndar, Reference Librarian at Moritz Law Library, The Ohio State University; Nathan Delmar, Reference and Scholarly Services Librarian at Maloney Law Library, Fordham Law School; and Stephanie Ziegler, Reference Librarian at Moritz Law Library, The Ohio State University. The following recipients were awarded grants in the amount of \$1250 to attend AALL's Leadership Academy: Brittany Persson, Head of Public Services & Associate Professor, Seton Hall University School of Law, and Margaret Kiel-Morse, Faculty Services Librarian, Indiana University School of Law.

The Continuing Education Committee, chaired by Jesse Bowman, Associate Law Librarian for Technology Initiatives & Instruction, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, co-sponsored along with FCIL-SIS a webinar entitled "Cross-Border Cultural Competency: Teaching Foreign Law Students and Training International Lawyers." A detailed summary of the webinar was published on the FCIL-SIS *DipLawMatic Dialogues* blog.

Complete committee reports from all ALL-SIS committees may be found in Volume 39, Issue 4 of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*.

At several points throughout the year the Executive Board attempted to embark on a wholesale revision of the ALL-SIS Operations Handbook. Given the sheer breadth of the task, the Board was unable

to make significant progress. As a result, the Board decided that an ad hoc committee will be appointed in the upcoming year for the sole purpose of revising and updating the Operations Handbook. The Handbook Revision Committee will be chaired by Lisa Goodman in her role as Past Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Goodman
Chair, 2019-2020