



ACADEMIC LAW LIBRARIES  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



Volume 40, Issue 2  
Winter 2021  
ISSN 2169-0715

# NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Sabrina Sondhi  
Cornell University Law Library

I want to wish a belated “Happy New Year” to everyone, with sincere hopes that this next year treats us all well or at least better than the last one did.

In my last Message from the Chair I remarked on how the COVID-19 pandemic had changed so many aspects of our professional lives. We have all worked hard these past few months to create new service models and to support students and faculty with smiles on our faces. Some of us have faced job insecurity or widespread hiring freezes and all the stress and extra effort that brings. Now we are facing the start of the spring semester with varying levels of readiness. And yet for all our struggles and travails, we are still reading this newsletter together as proud members of ALL-SIS.

“...we are still reading this newsletter together as proud members of ALL-SIS.”

My colleagues on the ALL-SIS Executive Board and I have been working hard on your behalf. Our new Taskforce on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has been formed and will be ably led by Dr. Michele Villagran. The taskforce’s objective over the next few months is twofold: to develop a charge and goals for a standing ALL-SIS Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and to begin identifying opportunities for ALL-SIS to support diversity initiatives in academic law librarianship, including within the law school pipeline to the profession. If you have ideas for what ALL-SIS can and should be doing in this regard, I invite you to bring them to my attention ([ss203@cornell.edu](mailto:ss203@cornell.edu)) or to contact Michele ([michele.villagran@sjsu.edu](mailto:michele.villagran@sjsu.edu)) directly.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Katie Hanschke  
Vanderbilt University  
Law Library

First of all, I want to thank I-Wei Wang and the rest of the Editorial Board members for putting together a fantastic issue of the fall *Newsletter*. We are lucky to have I-Wei as our Vice-Chair! We have put together what should be an interesting winter issue of the *ALL-SIS Newsletter*. Since the coronavirus pandemic continues, we have provided a recap of the Student Services Town Hall that includes some great ideas for outreach during these unusual times and an interesting piece on how the Vanderbilt Law Library adjusted our service offerings to meet patron needs during a pandemic. In *A Law Librarian in the Dark*, Yasmin Sokker Harker reviews “The Fight,” a timely and important documentary on the ACLU’s legal battles during the Trump administration. Also included in this issue are highlights from the SIS Lightning Talks & Discussion on Active Steps to Increase Diversity & Address Racism and a great article on Harvard’s approach to creating open casebooks. Finally, as always, check out the updates on your colleagues provided by *Member News*!

As you peruse this newsletter, 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](mailto:katie.hanschke@vanderbilt.edu).

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

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As AALL President Emily Florio mentioned at an AALL Connection webinar in November, the organization and the SISs are in the midst of getting ready for the AALL Annual Meeting. The timeline for submitting program proposals to AALL was greatly delayed this year, so while ALL-SIS put in their sponsorship bid for two programs we still do not know which one will be selected by the Annual Meeting Program Committee. Regardless of whether the Annual Meeting takes place in person or online, based on the program proposals I have seen, I know there will be a wealth of programming directed at our members. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this educational opportunity in whatever way they can.

When we receive confirmation that an in-person Annual Meeting will occur, I plan to form a Local Arrangements Committee for ALL-SIS for this current 2020-2021 year. If you live or work in the Cleveland area, or have lived or worked there in the past, and would like to participate and share your knowledge, please email me. My own personal knowledge of Cleveland is quite dated as I have not lived there since 2003!

In the meantime, several of our committees have been busy creating and planning webinar content for the more immediate benefit of us all. The ALL-SIS Student Services Committee held a Town Hall on November 9, the recording and transcript of which will be available on their committee page on the ALL-SIS website. In December, the ALL-SIS Continuing Education Committee held the first in a series of webinars focusing on equity and inclusion in different aspects of library work. More online programming is expected soon. Please look for announcements on the ALL-SIS listserv regarding webinars and roundtables being offered throughout the winter months.

Finally, in closing, while we are all becoming accustomed to the “new normal” this fall semester was still vastly atypical for so many of us. That kind of broad change and upheaval can be unsettling; you may find yourself unduly stressed or tired compared to how you usually feel at this time of year. I myself am finding it impossible to be excited about the spring semester the way I usually do. So, as I continue to remind myself, be kind to yourself and to others. Take breaks, be honest with yourself and others as to what you can achieve in the next day/week/month, and say ‘no’ occasionally. Schedule virtual meetings with your friends or time alone as needed to unwind. Be safe. I hope to see you at an ALL-SIS or AALL webinar soon and hopefully in person next July. //

**STUDENT SERVICES TOWN HALL****INSPIRATION FROM A DISTANCE**

**Geraldine Kalim**  
University of Georgia  
Law Library

**Edna Lewis**  
Berkeley Law

**Kimberly Mattioli**  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Law Library

**D**rawing on inspiration and the creativity of others has long been a hallmark of the Student Services Librarian. Never before, however, have we needed each other quite as much as we have during this wild ride of an academic year.

Motivated both by a desire to bring us all together and out of our own need to find inspiration, the three of us hatched a plan to host a Student Services Town Hall. We purposely scheduled the event far enough into the semester that some of us could report on successful (and not-so-successful) attempts to continue Student Services work during socially distanced in-person, hybrid, or completely remote fall semesters.

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## STUDENT SERVICES TOWN HALL

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We gathered over Zoom on Monday, November 9th and were pleased to attract almost 50 attendees. Our planned discussion topics included activities and engagement, student communication, the library space, and the positive pivots we would like to keep going forward.

Several libraries reported using videos to reach their students. Some examples include the [Monday Morning Minute](#) at the University of South Dakota McKusick Law Library and [Meet the Librarians](#) at the UC Berkeley Law Library. Perhaps no video compares to Duke's [Library Takeout](#).

Many librarians are coming up with creative virtual stress relief activities. If you are interested in turning some of your usual stress busters virtual, check out some of the puzzles created by the librarians at Berkeley and UGA: [Bay Area Beauty](#) and [Law Hawk](#). You may also want to consider organizing Zoom trivia events for your students using one of the games from [Jackbox.tv](#). Some librarians also have had success with posting trivia questions on law library Instagram accounts.

For more ideas — geocaching, library escape rooms, pet forums (Show and Tail, Paws and Relax, Pet Therapy Room, Pet Parade), stress buster and wellness guides, seating strategies — the Zoom recording and chat transcript are available through the [ALL-SIS blog](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique challenge for law librarians who are focused on student wellbeing and engagement. This is a very difficult time for our students, and librarians are worried about those who may be struggling. The Town Hall made it clear that ALL-SIS members are dedicated to their students and will come up with creative and innovative services to help guide them through the remainder of this pandemic. //

## PROVIDING PATRON SERVICES DURING A PANDEMIC

Ashli Wells  
Vanderbilt Law Library

There have been many challenges and changes to providing services to patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic, and our library is not unique in this sentiment. The law school administration made numerous changes to the building and library, including creating a classroom in one of the main library spaces, which impacted the services provided to our patrons. Since so many factors impact the ability to offer in-person classes and services, many of our plans in the library were in limbo until just a few weeks before the fall semester began. These unknowns made planning challenging, but it allowed us to problem solve how we could still provide a high level of service to our students and faculty.

### MATERIALS

As previously mentioned, part of the library was converted to classroom space, and the classroom made our stacks inaccessible for our students and faculty. This new arrangement also eliminated the availability of our typical circulation desk. How to provide physical materials to our patrons was a crucial issue to solve. Fortunately, the university's library system created a book pick-up service during the summer that helped provide the framework for the upcoming semester. This service allows patrons to request materials through the catalog using a form that routes the request to LibAnswers. The librarian on virtual reference for that day determines whether the book is available electronically and, if not, passes the book request to the staff members working in the physical building. Once one of the staff members receives the item request, they retrieve the item from the shelf and check it out to the patron. If it is for an on-ground law student, the

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## PROVIDING PATRON SERVICES

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item is placed on the designated pick-up shelf in the library, and we make sure to cover the title of the item to protect the student's privacy. If the item is for one of our law journals, the item is placed directly on the designated range for that journal, and requests from faculty members are placed directly in their mailboxes. If an item request is made by a student who is local but taking their classes virtually, a staff member arranges a time and date with the student to meet outside of the library for a socially distanced pick-up. We can mail physical items that are not available electronically to students who are not in the area, but these requests are extremely rare. The law school building is only accessible by current students, faculty, and staff associated with the law school. Any law items requested by patrons outside of the law school are routed to the main campus library, where their staff contacts the patron to arrange pick-up. Depending on the volume of requests, most requests are completed within a couple of hours, but we have guaranteed that all requests will be filled within 24 working hours of submission. We make sure to update the patron if there are issues with locating an item, and we also update the ticket in LibAnswers to notify them when items are available for pick-up or placed on the law journal's shelf.

The types of items we loan and how long we loan them have changed this semester as well. We are not loaning out any library laptops or chargers this school year since it would be challenging to disinfect these items after every use. The quarantine period for these items was also unclear at the beginning of the semester, and we decided it would be easier to eliminate these as an option, out of an abundance of caution. Laptops are not in great demand this semester because we have many students taking classes remotely, and we updated the students of this change at the start of the semester. Additionally, we extended the checkout periods for our study aids and other items that previously circulated a day at a time. Our on-campus students are not in the building every day, and we decided that extending these items to seven days would help give students ample time to return their items the next time they are on campus. The library system's access services committee voted to grant automatic renewals for library items currently checked out to faculty, students, and staff, and this has helped patrons not accrue any late fees associated with their items. Students receive a notification that their items will be due soon to serve as a reminder, but the due date is automatically extended before actually being considered overdue.

“ The types of items we loan and how long we loan them have changed this semester. ”

Items are quarantined for a specific number of days designated by the university and based on the results from OCLC's REALM project testing. When items are returned, they are checked in and placed in an area to quarantine for a set number of days before either shelving the items or routing items that are owned by the other libraries on campus. Staff members must wash or sanitize their hands after handling the materials that are placed in the quarantine area as a precaution against transmission of the virus. Items that are returned to us through other libraries on campus do not go through a quarantine period since those libraries practice the same quarantining measures before routing the items back to the law library.

## ON-GROUND STAFFING

To avoid population density on campus, most of our library's staff work remotely during this time. At the beginning of the semester, we were unsure what the volume would be for physical materials, but the staff members that work in the building have made this the top priority. Some members of the collection services department assist with physical item requests; this has allowed for cross-training opportunities in our library. With such a limited staff working in the physical library building, these individuals have been extremely helpful with many aspects of access services. We do have three student workers this semester who are also available to help fill requests and assist with other projects, but they are only available in the afternoons. Most of our item requests arrive overnight and are filled first thing in the morning.

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## PROVIDING PATRON SERVICES

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Since schedules vary for staff members working in the building, a calendar was created and shared with the remote library staff. This calendar has helped to avoid confusion regarding questions submitted online that should be answered by on-ground staff members. Our library's administrative manager coordinated the creation of an email distribution list that messages only the members that work in the physical building. This email list is useful for both our remote librarians and staff, and for our students. Since we do not have a circulation desk this year, students can email this list to alert staff about issues with our copiers or to address any needs students may have in the building. In order to divide the work up as evenly as possible, we created an on-call schedule for the building staff to designate who is responsible for responding to concerns during a particular timeframe. One of our librarians created signs with the appropriate contact information, and our administrative manager was instrumental in displaying these signs throughout the law library and law school to make this information visible to our students.

We were unsure of how quickly we could meet users' needs if the volume became overwhelming. We informed our students upfront about what they could expect from the library and how we were working to meet their needs. Setting expectations for our users was essential so that our staff members could fill requests within a reasonable amount of time without feeling any additional pressure associated with meeting the demands of our users.

Numerous changes were made during this time, but these are just a few of the adaptations we have made to continue to provide services to our students, faculty, and staff. I am pleasantly surprised by how smoothly everything has gone during the changes and challenges, and I am extremely proud of how we have provided services to our patrons throughout this pandemic. Our processes are continuously changing, and we have had to adapt to the ways we do certain tasks as we learn what works and what could be improved. However, it would be problematic to paint this experience as simple or easy. Not only did we have logistical challenges to sort through, but we also had to address staffing concerns. Due to limited staffing, our library has missed out on a lot of institutional knowledge and experience during this time, but we have made everything work, all things considered. While it has been an opportunity to try new things and adapt to the current environment, it has taken a lot of hard work and time by numerous people. It has been and will continue to be a group effort by everyone in our library to assist our users during the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. //

## A LAW LIBRARIAN IN THE DARK

### THE FIGHT

Yasmin Sokkar Harker  
CUNY School of Law

Shortly after Donald Trump announced his executive order barring the entry of people from Muslim majority countries, the ACLU found itself so flooded with online donations that its website crashed. The donations – totaling over 24 million dollars in just one weekend – came from hundreds of thousands of individual donors, many of whom were first-time donors. ACLU executive director Anthony D. Romero previously released a [statement](#) promising that the ACLU would be “eternally vigilant” for the duration of the Trump presidency. Since that time, the ACLU has held to its promise to remain “eternally vigilant” and has filed over 400 cases against the Trump Administration.

*The Fight* is a documentary that highlights four of these legal battles and celebrates the attorneys who continue to fight them. Produced by Kerry Washington, *The Fight* focuses on ACLU lawsuits about family separations at the border (*Ms. L. v. ICE*), reproductive rights for undocumented persons (*Azar v. Garza*), the participation of transgendered persons in the military (*Stone v. Trump*) and voting rights and the census citizenship question (*Dept. of Commerce v. New York*).

*The Fight* deftly juxtaposes multiple story lines about the work of ACLU lawyers as they race against time and

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**LAW LIBRARIAN IN THE DARK**

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meticulously build cases. Immigrant rights attorney Lee Gelernt rushes to Tijuana to interview distraught parents as he earnestly tries to determine how many children have been separated from their parents, where they have been taken, and how to build a class action suit to reunite them. Reproductive rights attorney Brigitte Amiri works late into the night, furiously crafting arguments on behalf of an undocumented immigrant who has been blocked from obtaining an abortion by the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Dale Ho, voting rights attorney, spends hours mooted his argument before the Supreme Court as he works to preserve the voting rights that would be eroded through a census citizenship question. Chase Strangio, transgender justice attorney, fields phone calls and discusses strategy as he fights the Trump administration's ban on transgendered persons in the military.

Of particular interest to law students is the documentary's focus on both the mundane and exciting aspects of legal work. It follows the attorneys as they choose clients, travel by train and plane, confer with colleagues, pore over research, strategize, build arguments and word-smith. In a tour of the ACLU offices, we see a roomful of interns concentrating in front of their laptops their laptops and a conference room in which attorneys practice their oral arguments repeatedly.

**The Fight does not shy away from the different struggles the lawyers face.** ”

*The Fight* does not shy away from the different struggles the lawyers face, both within the organization and within themselves. It addresses controversial ACLU representation of white supremacist clients, including the Unite the Right organizers in light of the tragic murder of Heather Heyer by a right-wing terrorist at the Unite the Right Rally. It also follows the internal struggles of the lawyers as they read the voluminous hate mail that streams into their offices, spend late nights away from their families, and deal with emotionally traumatic client stories.

I highly recommend *The Fight*, particularly for students interested in civil rights work. It is inspiring.

*The Fight* is distributed by Magnolia Films and is available through several streaming services. //

Welcome to A Law Librarian in the Dark! This column reviews movies for law libraries and law library feature film collections. Movies about lawyers, law schools, litigation, famous trials, crime and punishment, or movies that contain “legal themes” are all possible topics. If you have a title that you would like me to review, e-mail me at [yasmin.harker@law.cuny.edu](mailto:yasmin.harker@law.cuny.edu). //

ILLUMINATING LIGHTNING TALKS:

## LAW LIBRARIANS SHARE DEI IDEAS



I-Wei Wang  
Berkeley Law

Sarah Gotschall  
University of Arizona  
Law Library

Katie Hanschke  
Vanderbilt Law Library

On November 12, 2020, ALL-SIS joined several other special interest sections in sponsoring a roundtable, Active Steps to Increase Diversity and Address Racism. Nine speakers gave a “lightning talk” on a program, initiative, or proposal, and then participants joined breakout rooms to further discuss with the speakers. The lightning round presented a great variety of ideas. Speakers from law schools and other academic institutions offered their perspectives, and a law firm librarian and librarians involved with professional organizations provided multifaceted, unique proposals and active steps as well. Some of the speakers presented about outward, patron-facing programming and tools such as research guides, community programming or speakers’ series, and course content and pedagogical tools; while others focused on inward, organizational initiatives, such as developing a code of conduct, internal structures to support anti-racism efforts, and ideas for addressing diversity in recruitment. Both “heavy lifts” and ideas for lighter, incremental steps were covered. This article covers just a few of the nine topics presented.

**Kristina Alayan**, Law Library Director at the Howard University School of Law, discussed her efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in her library in the wake of George Floyd’s murder. She touched on a variety of important topics during her presentation and the breakout session.

Alayan described how, at her library staff meeting after the murder of George Floyd, she threw out the agenda and invited everyone both to share their thoughts and feelings about the murder and discuss what they could do next to improve diversity and inclusion at the library. Though it was a nerve-wracking experience for her, the discussion was productive! The idea emerged to hold a series of formal diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations to continue the discussion of DEI feelings and strategies. During the breakout session, Alayan was questioned about the difficulty of creating an environment where these types of discussions are acceptable. She described her efforts to facilitate DEI discussions as simply making a space for sharing. She communicates to her staff that the issue is important and that she encourages, not requires, participation. Acknowledging that these discussions can be fraught, she recommended stepping back to allow them to be directed by the staff.

Another attendee noted the problem of facilitating diversity and inclusion discussions at a time when university DEI experts are in high demand around campus. In their absence, if a library staff member steps in to facilitate a discussion, what should be done about the possibility of it going off the rails? Alayan agreed that this possibility is ever-present, even with campus experts! She noted that some situations are beyond our control, so if things go badly, all we can do is contain the damage by determining who wants to hear from us and who is looking to us for guidance.

Alayan noted that we are all responsible for the diversity of our applicant pools and need to “own our own pipelines.” She recommended a holistic approach to diversity, stressing that it is important not only for recruiting and hiring but for retention as well. In order to expand the diversity of the hiring pool at her library, they have incorporated a diversity statement into their application process. After one attendee questioned whether the requirement might create an additional barrier and perhaps have a chilling effect on some applicants, she acknowledged the possibility. Alayan stressed the need to be clear that the diversity statement does not request disclosure of trauma. She said that the statements they had received so far were diverse, with some white applicants reflecting on their privilege and some BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) candidates reflecting on their challenges.

She raised the issue of library paraprofessionals being more diverse than librarians at many libraries, and lamented that, in her experience, the paraprofessionals who are promoted to librarians are disproportionately white. When asked

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## ILLUMINATING LIGHTNING TALKS

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about this promotion phenomenon, Alayan said that we need to do better at mentoring paraprofessionals and letting them know they are valued. In addition to disseminating opportunities for professional development, it is necessary to actively encourage participation by including professional development time in the workday for all employees.

She pointed out that librarians do not have to be experts in DEI or reinvent the wheel in order to initiate improvements in our workplaces. As we were doing by attending the webinar, we can all learn from each other.

During the lightning round, **Khelani Clay** shared two research guides — “[Racial Justice & Diversity Resources](#)” and “[Resources for Supporting Protestors](#)” — hosted by the American University Pence Law Library. She also mentioned the library’s hopes to start documenting students’ participation in the recent protests advocating for civil rights and social justice. In the group discussion portion of the event, Khelani had the opportunity to drill deeper into the questions, issues and opportunities that were associated with the Pence Library’s efforts. Several key issues surfaced.

The first issue centers around archiving the law students’ participation in the protest. Documenting an institution’s involvement in a national conversation about race in this country is something in which any library should be involved and interested; however, it comes with its own practical challenges. First, with students off-campus this semester, it was harder to solicit student submissions of protest participation. Conversations about the signs and the library’s goals concerning an archive are much easier to have in person. Khelani also expressed concerns about character and fitness reviews the students will later undergo; to avoid showing students in a potentially compromising position, information will need to be shared and stored in a way that preserves anonymity. The library also will need to make students comfortable with that process. The end goal is to share the signs in the school’s Digital Repository/Digital Commons.

The second issue relates to institutional support for the research guide. According to Khelani, American University is a private, diverse university that takes its mission seriously. The name within the guide shows a clear side taken; however, not all institutions will be as accepting of such a guide. Other, less flexible organizations may hesitate to sanction a guide on a topic some might consider controversial. In order to avoid pushback, the guide’s content and title could present a more objective, neutral image.

Finally, there was substantial discussion around the multitude of individualized research guides on this issue. Since there are quite a few in-depth guides on allyship, diversity, the Black Lives Matter movement, and similar topics, individual libraries are hesitant to add further guides that cover the same information provided by other institutions. However, the library staff at the institutions without a guide are concerned that library patrons will not feel supported by the library. One solution proposed compiling a list of all the guides in one location. Another solution proposed linking to an established guide from the institution’s own list of guides. Finally, Khelani pointed out the main benefit of the guide is that it directed patrons to American’s resources, so it is possible to pull the pertinent resources from the already established guides and supplement with institution-specific resources. There also is a benefit of putting together a law school guide that is useful across campus since law librarians offer unique expertise.

**Nicholas Mignanelli** presented some ideas for overcoming implicit bias in hiring decisions, to combat “insider preference” — a form of implicit bias where the interviewer favors candidates who “fit in” with existing people in the organization, thus tending to replicate existing imbalances or lack of diversity. Noting that law student populations tend to be more diverse than library staff, Mignanelli proposes that, instead of considering “Would I enjoy working with candidate X?”, we should be asking “Would candidate X connect with our patrons?” Beyond making this mental shift in the framing of the interviewer’s or search committee’s inquiry, Mignanelli proposes leveraging patron diversity in the library hiring process as a way to make concrete this focal shift. He notes the power of student activism in advocating for increased diversity in faculty hiring, and suggests making student participation a standard part of library hires. This could include not only inviting students to attend job talks and serve on search committees, but also convening a focus group consisting

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## ILLUMINATING LIGHTNING TALKS

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of patrons representing the breadth of diversity in the library's user population as part of the hiring process.

Because of a hiring freeze in response to the pandemic, Mignanelli has not had a chance to try out these ideas, and the breakout session was an opportunity to explore how such an approach could play out. A major question discussed was the issue of institutional buy-in. Sometimes student input is not given that much weight by law school administrators in hiring decisions regarding faculty positions. On the other hand, at many institutions — even where librarians have some form of faculty status — the library may have greater autonomy (sometimes in the form of a benign neglect) in hiring decisions, allowing for experimentation with such processes to inform hiring decisions. Another topic touched on was how student participation and a patron-centered mindset might be enlisted in the case of technical services or similar library positions where the connection to student diversity might be less direct or less obvious than for patron-facing services like reference, student services, or instruction.

A recording of the lightning round portion of the roundtable event is available as an mp4 file via [Google Drive](#); and notes compiled during the breakout sessions are available by contacting event organizer [Taryn Marks](#). //

## CREATING OPEN CASEBOOKS

 Kelly Fitzpatrick  
Harvard Law School Library  
Innovation Lab

**H**ow can librarians partner with faculty to make open casebooks? In the May/June 2020 Issue of AALL Spectrum, **Lisa Davis** and **Mary Ann Neary** [shared](#) that librarians can play a key role in advancing open educational resources with faculty. Today we can both support how our communities use open casebooks and work with instructors and faculty to create them.

Casebooks are at the center of legal education, and open casebooks can change how students learn and access the law. By collaborating with faculty to author open casebooks, librarians can strengthen relationships with educators, highlight their role as trusted and reliable resources, and make an impact with new course materials while decreasing costs to students. We have the opportunity ahead of us, but how can we make it happen?

Harvard Law School Library and the team behind Perma.cc have made [H2O](#) available for free to anyone as a platform for authoring high quality open casebooks that are free to access and easy to update. Educators are thinking outside the box about what they can create with H2O, from freely available takes on traditional casebooks, to syllabi, reading lists, and more. This year, we prioritized how we can make collaboration easier and currently are seeing that happen. In summer 2020, Professors Michelle Oberman and W. David Ball at the Santa Clara University School of Law authored a casebook in concert with 11 students, joining the dozens of other educators using H2O for their courses this year. We want H2O to help librarians take action to create open casebooks with instructors and faculty.

We are at an important moment for libraries and legal education. **Jocelyn Kennedy**, Executive Director of Harvard Law School Library, writes:

The work of the library has evolved dramatically in 2020, and we are called upon to find solutions to problems like access to electronic casebooks and course reserve material. Libraries are not just a venue for knowledge acquisition, but places where knowledge is generated. Working with faculty and students to develop open casebooks is intellectually engaging and professionally satisfying. What better way to demonstrate our deep subject expertise than in co-creating course content. With open access tools like H2O, this intellectual partnership is within our reach.

Librarians have the opportunity to create and support open casebooks in collaboration with faculty, and we at the Harvard Law School Library Innovation Lab are looking forward to exploring how H2O can help achieve that. //

# MEMBER NEWS

Marlene Harmon  
UC Berkeley Law Library

Nina Scholtz  
Cornell University Law Library

## PROMOTIONS AND HIRES

**Clanitra Stewart Nejd** has been promoted to Head of Professional Development and Research Services Librarian at the Alyne Queener Massey Law Library at Vanderbilt University. Clanitra is the current Chair of the ALL-SIS Legal Research and Sourcebook Committee.

The Westminster Law Library at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law is pleased to welcome **Lewis Zimmerman** as its new Head of Access Services! Lewis joined the Westminster Law Library in November 2020 after working as the reference librarian for the State of Oregon Law Library. Before becoming a librarian, Lewis worked as an Assistant State's Attorney in Illinois. Lewis holds a JD, MS in Library and Information Science, and a Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Illinois. He also holds a BS in political science from Illinois Wesleyan University. His scholarly interests include the history of law, criminal law and policy, ethics, political philosophy, and legal research education. Thanks to **Madeline Cohen**, Assistant Director, Westminster Law Library, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, for this news!



**Emily Hoffman** joined the NC Central School of Law Library as a Reference Librarian on November 2, 2020. Emily will focus on providing reference service to student organizations, including the Journals. In conjunction with the entire team, Emily will continue the tradition of providing exemplary service to the faculty, students, and staff at NC Central. Our thanks to **Zanada Joyner**, Senior Reference Librarian at NC Central, for sharing this good news.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Sarah Slinger**, Reference Librarian, Librarian Assistant Professor & Lecturer in Law of the University of Miami School of Law, has co-authored a book chapter:

Maria Antonia Tigre & Sarah C. Slinger, *A Voice in the Development of Amazonia: The Constitutional Rights to Participation of Indigenous Peoples*, in *INDIGENOUS AMAZONIA, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TERRITORIAL DYNAMICS: CONTENTIOUS ISSUES* 7, 37 (Walter Leal Filho et al. eds., 2020).

**Robert Hu**, Professor of Law and Director, Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, St. Mary's University School of Law, has published *St. Mary's University Institute on Chinese Law and Business: Remarkable Success in the First Ten Years*, 51 *ST. MARY'S L.J.* (2020), at 845, available [here](#). //

Have something to share with your fellow ALL-SIS members? Send your news along to Marlene ([mharmon@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:mharmon@law.berkeley.edu)) or Nina ([nes78@cornell.edu](mailto:nes78@cornell.edu)) at any time. //

**In this issue:** Student Services Town Hall / Providing Patron Services During a Pandemic / A Law Librarian in the Dark / Illuminating Lightning Talks: Law Librarians Share DEI Ideas / Creating Open Casebooks / Member News

## NEWSLETTER ADVISORY BOARD

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## DEADLINES FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

**W**e rely on member contributions to keep the *ALL-SIS Newsletter* going strong. We welcome your comments, questions, and ideas to help make our 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 deadlines for the 2020-2021 academic year will be as follows—

- Spring issue (posts mid-March): February 8, 2021
- Summer issue (posts mid-June): May 17, 2021

### 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.