

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Chair	2
Caribbean Law & Order, cont.	4
Schaffer Grant Recipient Report	8
African Drum Law Exhibit	9
Jumpstart Revision Project	10
Member News	10

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ASIL Annual Meeting, "Charting New Frontiers in International Law," March 30 - April 2, 2016 in Washington, DC.

CALL/ACBD Conference, "Competencies | Challenges | Connections / Compétences | Défis | Connexions," May 15-18, 2016 in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

AALL Annual Meeting, "Make It New," July 16-19, 2016 in Chicago, IL.

IALL Annual Course, July 31-Aug. 3, 2016 in Oxford, England, UK.

IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Aug. 11-18, 2016 in Columbus, OH.

Caribbean Law & Order: Judges on the Move, Hair Plaiting *En Plein Air*, and the Justibus*

Julienne Grant

Never say never. I vowed I would never take a cruise, but I've now succumbed twice. I have to say that there are some advantages to cruises. One is that it's possible to visit a lot of places in a relatively short period of time. The other is, oh yes, the food.

At the end of December 2015, I went on an eastern Caribbean cruise—departing from San Juan, and visiting five ports of call in seven days. Of course the cruise company touted the shopping and beaches at all of these places (which I admit were great), but these islands also have incredible historical significance and are fascinating from a legal perspective. At a couple of the stops, I

found myself skipping the shopping (diamonds, who needs them?) and heading for the courthouses. Below are some highlights (legal, and otherwise) of the islands we visited.

SINT MAARTEN/ST. MARTIN

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel internationally and not have to contend with the hassles of border control? On this tiny island you can easily cross an international border—no passport, no embarrassing luggage search—nothing. Encompassing just 37 square miles, this is the smallest inhabited island on Earth that is shared by two countries¹: here, the Netherlands (Sint Maarten) and France (St. Martin). The agreement that partitioned the

continued on page 4



Cour d'Appel in Fort-de-France, Martinique. All photos courtesy of Julienne Grant.



Lucie Olejnikova,
FCIL Chair

From the Chair

Lucie Olejnikova

It is hard to believe that it is February already and time to begin thinking about this year's AALL Annual Meeting in Chicago. As you already know the [registration](#) opened and the [conference schedule is posted](#). We have a lot to look forward to and although some details are still being ironed out, I'd like to share with you at least

the preliminary plan.

PROGRAMMING AND MEETINGS

Our proposed pre-conference workshop was accepted (yay!) – nice job 2016 Summit Task Force (with special thanks to Thomas Mills who worked tirelessly on making this happen)! Please join us for a full day of fun and learning about the UN with two expert speakers, Susan Goad from the United Nations Law Library, and Vikki Rogers, the Director of Pace Institute of International Commercial Law, in a program titled: “Two Sides to the United Nations: Working with Public and Private International Law at the UN.” On behalf of the FCIL-SIS, I'd like to extend our gratitude to ASIL for co-sponsoring this year's workshop. Registration is only \$50, and it includes breakfast and afternoon refreshments. During lunch time, we will have many options to explore around Chicago-Kent, our workshop host this year.

This year's FCIL-SIS sponsored program is [Roman Law, Roman Order, and Restatements](#); I hope to see you there!

Additional FCIL-related programs include [Asian Legal Information in English: Availability, Accessibility, and Quality Control](#) and [Vanishing Online? Legal and Policy Implications for Libraries of the EU's “Right to be Forgotten.”](#)

Let's also keep an eye out for a Hot Topic programs as those decisions are made in spring.

We also have number of meetings to look forward to, many of which contain substantive programs:

- **FCIL-SIS Business Meeting and Breakfast**, co-sponsored by Bloomberg Law, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer. I realize it is early but it is early for everyone (to make it fair), and we are “bribing you” with breakfast. I hope to see all of you there.
- **FCIL-SIS Jurisdictions IG Joint Meeting** – African, Asian, Customary & Religious, Indigenous Peoples, Latin American, European, and Roman Law IGs will meet together. Please contact Susan Gaultier, the leader of this meeting, with ideas, suggestions, and proposals for short presentations. Although a meeting, this time is

dedicated to substantive short presentations to add to our conference programming. I would encourage all chairs of individual jurisdictional IGs to work with Susan on planning this meeting.

- **FCIL-SIS Foreign Law Selectors IG Meeting** with Marci Hoffman leading the group this year.
- **FCIL-SIS Standing Committees Joint Meeting** with Publicity Committee, Internships & Exchanges Committee, and Electronic Research IG meeting as a group to spike collaboration. This meeting is led by Loren Turner who should be contacted with any ideas/suggestions on planning this meeting. This group will meet for about 45 minutes including the Electronic Research IG presentation(s) on their work.
- **FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research IG** led by Catherine Deane. Please contact Deane with ideas/suggestions for this meeting.
- **FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Recipient Presentation** featuring, as every year, a captivating presentation by our FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant Recipient. The Selection Committee has worked very hard this year, sifting through 33 excellent applications (and wishing to be able to award more than one grant) to select this year's candidate. The Committee is finalizing its decision and will announce this year's recipient soon.
- **FCIL-SIS Education Committee and 2017 Summit Task Force Joint Meeting** offers an opportunity for all of us to meet at the end of the conference and begin brainstorming about programming for the 2017 Annual Meeting when we meet in Austin, TX.
- **AALL/IALL/FCIL Joint Reception** – let's not forget to greet and meet our international colleagues.

IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC PLAN

We have been working hard to implement as many educational opportunities as possible (workshops, regular programs, meetings-turned-programs, etc.) in line with our strategic plan.

Moreover, the Electronic Research IG has taken on an important project this year – to update our [Jumpstart pages](#) at with the guidance from the founders (All-Stars, to borrow Teresa's words), Lyonette Louis-Jacques and Mary Rumsey. The group is doing great job systematically going through the information and making sure it is current. I would encourage everyone to cooperate with the group so we can get these pages up to date as soon as possible. Also, I would encourage all of us to attend the FCIL-SIS Standing Committees Joint Meeting where ERIG will briefly report on the work completed as well as what's ahead. For more information, see the report on page 10.

continued on page 3

From the Chair *continued from page 2*

Lastly, the Executive Committee is exploring an idea for closer cooperation with the TS SIS on topics such as international and foreign related cataloging and the various layers of acquisitions (firm orders, approval plans, publisher data, etc.) via webinars and/or conference programs. Stay tuned!

Our Bylaws Task Force, chaired by David McFadden, continues to review and revise our bylaws, which in due time we all will have a chance to consider.

ELECTIONS

Loren Turner, our Secretary/Treasurer, is in the process of setting up the 2016 election. It is my pleasure to announce that Alex Zhang of the University of Michigan Law School, Senior Associate Librarian (reference and FCIL) and Adjunct Professor of Law, is running to be our next Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Please see her biographical information and Election Statement below. Many thanks go to our Nominating Committee for a job well done.

Bio: Alex X. Zhang, Senior Associate Librarian (Reference and FCIL) and Adjunct Professor of Law of the University of Michigan Law Library, has served on many AALL and FCIL Committees since joining the Association in 2009. She served on the FCIL Nominating Committee (2012-2013) and the Strategic Planning Committee (2015). She is also closely involved in the Asian Law Interest Group and the Foreign Selectors Interest Group. She currently chairs the Asian American Law Librarians Caucus and serves on the AALL Emerging Leader Award Jury. She is also active in the international law librarianship community. She is a member of IALL and ASIL. She is on the Executive Board of the Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries and co-chairs its Translation and Publications Committee. Her work appears in many national and international journals, including *Law Library Journal*, *International Journal of Legal Information*, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, and *Chinese Journal of Comparative Law*. She also contributes to Globalex and FCIL's own blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues.

Election Statement: I am running for Vice-Chair and Chair Elect in 2016 for two main reasons. First, as a FCIL librarian I am strongly committed to promoting access to foreign and international legal information and knowledge, which is one of the areas that this organization has thrived on over many years. Second, as a member of FCIL-SIS, my career development as a FCIL librarian has benefited tremendously from many individual members and the SIS as a whole. I sincerely believe that I am now eager, ready, and competent to contribute back to the community. If elected, I will work closely with the Chair and the leadership team to

proactively implement the FCIL strategic plan, to continue to expand our positive presence and increase visibility of FCIL-SIS in AALL and the international law librarianship community, to create more educational and leadership opportunities for our existing members to share expertise and knowledge, and to look for more creative and effective ways to recruit and develop the next generation of FCIL librarians.

AWARDS

It is also time to think of nominations for our FCIL-SIS awards. Each year we honor our colleagues with three special awards. The Executive Committee would like your input and assistance in identifying those who are deserving of any of the following awards:

- **The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award** honors an FCIL-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to the Section in the areas of section activity and professional service.
- **The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award** presented each year to member(s) whose work furthers our mission, serves the entire FCIL-SIS, and inspires others to act.
- **The Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award** is given to an FCIL-SIS member or members who have greatly contributed to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year. The winning "publications" may be print, digital, or electronic initiatives.

Award nominations are due March 31, 2016 to any member of the Executive Committee: Lucie Olejnikova, Alison Shea, Loren Turner, or Teresa Miguel-Stearns. [Nomination details are on our website.](#) We look forward to hearing from you!

LOOKING AHEAD

I encourage everyone to get involved: [join an interest group or committee](#); suggest a program, presentation, or short talk to be presented during our meetings-turned substantive semi-programs; submit an article, report, observation, or story to our [newsletter](#); contribute to our [DipLawMatic Dialogues](#); share your [teaching materials](#) with our FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign and International Legal Research IG; and let us know your thoughts – we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you all for your contributions, efforts, and time volunteered – as that is the heart of our great organization!

Schaffer Grant Column

Do you have a story about how you or your library have worked with a Schaffer Grant winner? Send your notes to either [Lucie Olejnikova](#) or [Teresa Miguel-Stearns](#) for the next issue.

Caribbean Law & Order *continued from page 1*

island was signed in 1648 (Treaty of Concordia) and is commemorated by an unremarkable roadside monument where the boundary lies. How the Dutch ended up with about 40 percent of the island, and France with around 60, has a great local backstory; let's just say it involves a Dutch guy drinking too much.

Since 2010, Sint Maarten has been an independent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Sint Maarten has its own constitution, a 15-member parliament, and an official gazette. The law is based largely on that of the former Netherlands Antilles (dissolved in 2010), which was based on Dutch law. Sint Maarten's laws are available in Dutch (and some in English translation) on the government's website. Sint Maarten also has the status of an OCT (Overseas Coun-

try and Territory) within the European Union (see the European Commission's website for info).

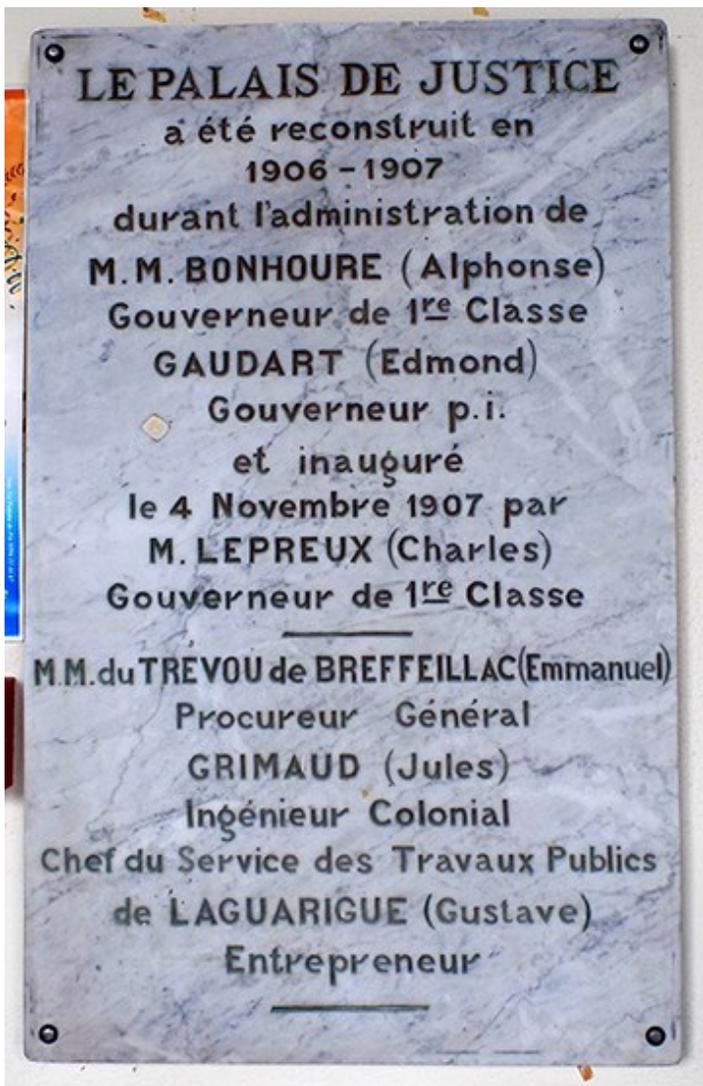
Sint Maarten falls under the jurisdiction of the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten and of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba. The Joint Court is the highest court for the Dutch Caribbean and is itinerant. Civil, criminal, and administrative trials in Sint Maarten start with the Court in First Instance of St. Maarten in Philipsburg, the capital. These trials are handled by a single judge, while appeals are heard by a panel of three judges from the Joint Court who travel to the island periodically (judges on the move). The Supreme Court of the Netherlands in The Hague is the court of cassation for the Joint Court.

The other side of the island, St. Martin, is an overseas collectivity (*collectivité d'outre-mer*) of France and an OR (outermost region) of the European Union. Although St. Martin's head of state is the French president, it is led locally by the president of a unicameral legislature, a 23-member territorial council. There is also a seven-member executive council, and an economic, social, and cultural council, which is a consultative body. St. Martin has a representative in the French Senate, and shares a single representative with St. Barthelémy in the French National Assembly. The complex relationship between the French government and St. Martin is explained in detail on *Legifrance*.² (My two years of French didn't help too much with this, I'm afraid.)

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

The Federation of St. Kitts (also known as St. Christopher) & Nevis is a two-island country that is a commonwealth realm with Queen Elizabeth II as the head of state. It is part of the 53-country Commonwealth of Nations. It's unclear what the true etymology of either island name is, as I've read different accounts. The local tour guide we had (a very cool dude), said that when Christopher Columbus first saw Nevis, he thought it looked like there was snow on its volcanic peak, and named it after the Spanish word for snow, *nieve*. Columbus was actually Italian, however, so maybe the name Nevis derived from the Italian word for snow, *neve*, but *chi sa*. How the Federation ended up in the Commonwealth with cars driving on the wrong side of the road, and a capital called Basseterre, is a story too great in length to chronicle here. It is worth noting, though, that Alexander Hamilton (one of our Founding Fathers) was born in Nevis. I don't know whether this fact made it to Broadway ("Hamilton" is the hottest ticket in NYC).

The Queen is represented in St. Kitts & Nevis by a governor-general who is advised by a prime minister and cabinet. The islands have a joint national assembly (14 or 15 members), and Nevis also has its own legislature (eight members). I



Signage for the former Palais de Justice in Fort-de-France, Martinique

Caribbean Law & Order *continued from page 4*

could not locate an official source on the Web for national legislation, but some of the individual Acts are available in PDF on various websites.³ The country's constitution was adopted in 1983 when it gained independence from Great Britain. Interestingly, the constitution contains a provision (Article 113) whereby Nevis can secede from the Federation if two-thirds of voters in an island referendum approve (what would Hamilton have thought?).

The Federation's legal system is based on common law and both islands fall under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court (ECSC), which is headquartered in St. Lucia. The ECSC has a High Court of Justice and a Court of Appeal, which is itinerant. Cases generally start in magistrates' courts. The ECSC has a good website, and by all accounts, it appears that the Court is timely in posting its decisions there in PDF format. ECSC High Court decisions may be appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, and a high profile case from St. Kitts & Nevis ended up there last year.⁴ That St. Kitts & Nevis still designates the Privy Council as its court of last resort is controversial, as evidenced by a recent editorial in the local press that condemns the practice.⁵

DOMINICA

Upon disembarking in Dominica, female cruise passengers are immediately approached by local women hauling plastic lawn chairs. These are not seats offered out of kindness for the hot and tired. These ladies are selling hair plaiting, and it's serious business. The going price is \$2 U.S. per plait, and each hairdresser has her own territory for an impromptu beauty salon. I have very thick and long hair, and had not budgeted for hair care, so I elected only to have four plaits. I paid my hair stylist Katie \$10 U.S. (with tip), and the investment was worth it, as I started to feel like an islander. I had to wonder, however, if there was some type of local ordinance regulating this kind of activity, but I haven't looked into that yet.

The Commonwealth of Dominica is also part of the Commonwealth of Nations, but is not a commonwealth realm. It is a parliamentary democracy with a president as head of state, and a prime minister as head of government. Dominica's constitution was adopted in 1978, the year it gained independence from the UK. There is a unicameral House of Assembly with 32 members, and the *Revised Laws of Dominica* are easily accessible via the government's website. The island is a member of the Organization of American States (OAS) and a party to the Rome Statute.

Dominica is also under the jurisdiction of the ECSC. There

are a number of magistrates' courts, and two High Court judges in residence. I found the main High Court of Justice building in Roseau and was able to gain access to the empty criminal courtroom. There, a kind court employee explained the different areas of the room and indicated where the nine-person jury sits. I can't imagine what it would be like to be involved in a prolonged trial here, as I saw no A/C. Appeals from this court may be taken to the ECSC's Court of Appeal. Further down the street, I found the High Court's Civil Division courthouse, although I didn't venture inside. On March 6, 2015, Dominica's final court of appeal became the Caribbean Court of Justice, which is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to that date, the Privy Council was the island's court of last resort.

MARTINIQUE

My first adventure in Martinique was a catamaran ride to a lovely beach. The catamaran was operated by three locals (all brothers), one who had the most incredible dreadlocks I have ever seen and spoke good English. The safety instructions for the boat were provided by one of the French-speaking brothers, although few passengers spoke French. I noted that one gentleman subsequently requested a life jacket; whether we had actually been told to do that, or whether this passenger was worried about the skills of the crew, I couldn't tell.

The front of the boat had a screen where DVDs of reggae concerts were projected, and the brothers distributed samples of Ti' Punch (the national cocktail) in paper cups. Our hosts also handed out delicious local pastries, including one type with guava jelly. The whole experience was charming and funky—two words that truly capture the essence of Martinique.

On January 1, Martinique officially became a French single territorial collectivity (*collectivité territoriale unique*) with powers of both an overseas department (*département*) and region (*région*). Now named the *Collectivité Territoriale de Martinique*, the island is administered by three principal organs: a 51-member legislative assembly (convened on January 5 for the first time); an executive council of nine members; and an economic, social, environmental, educational, and cultural council. Martinicans are French citizens, and the island sends four representatives to the French National Assembly and two to the French Senate. The complex and transitional relationship between Martinique and the French government is detailed on *Legifrance*.⁶ Although my French is poor, my basic understanding of this relationship is that it's similar to the devolution process in the UK. To make matters even more complicated, Martinique is also an outermost region of the European Union.

continued on page 6

Caribbean Law & Order *continued from page 5*

As in France, there are courts of first degree (*juridiction du premier degré*) in Martinique, as well as an appellate court (*cour d'appel*). Decisions of Martinique's appeals court may be brought to the Court of Cassation in Paris for review. Somehow I was able to find my way to the court of appeals building in Fort-de-France, although that was a challenge. I tried to ask someone where the *cour* was, but I think I pronounced it more like *cœur* (heart). In any event, I finally said *tribunal* and that got me to the right place. The courthouse was not at all what I expected to see in the Caribbean; it was out of this world.

The sleek three-story box-like building, designed by the Parisian firm Gilles Bouchez, opened in July 2015 to a tune of around 23 million euro. It houses three courtrooms, a library, jail cells, a cafeteria, and offices. The two upper floors are supported by two shiny and emphatic stainless steel Xs, placed there to help the entire building withstand earthquakes. The structure is brilliantly accented with bold red panels on the sides and front. There is a nice series of photographs of the exterior and interior of the building on the website of *Le Moniteur*.⁷ Appropriately, this modern architec-

tural gem sits directly across from the former *Palais de Justice*, which was built in 1906. The striking contrast between old and new reflects not only the transformation of French Caribbean architecture, but also the progression of justice on this small island.

One unique example of this progression has to be the Justibus. I'm used to all kinds of vehicles here in Chicago—cupcake trucks, bookmobiles, doggy day care vans, and snowplows—but I've never seen anything like Martinique's Justibus. The Justibus is a colorful government van that travels around the island with an attorney on board who dispenses legal information and advice to citizens. The motto plastered on the van's exterior is "Ti Tak Dwa Lakey-Zot," which in Antillean Creole roughly translates to "a little law where you live."⁸ Hop on! You can access a schedule of the Justibus and see a picture on the webpage of the *Conseil Départemental de l'Accès au Droit de la Martinique*.⁹

ST. THOMAS

This beautiful island is home to some of the most gorgeous beaches in the world. Michael Jordan and some of his basketball cronies have houses here, so that will tell you something. I admit that I hit one of the beaches here and snor-

continued on page 7



Signage for the former Palais de Justice in Fort-de-France, Martinique

Caribbean Law & Order *continued from page 6*

keled, although I did see the federal courthouse out the bus window while I was shaking the sand out of my socks. St. Thomas is part of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), which is an organized, unincorporated territory of the United States. Interestingly, the U.S. actually purchased these islands from Denmark for \$25 million U.S. in 1917 (what an incredible bargain). Residents of the USVI are U.S. citizens, but are not permitted to vote in U.S. presidential elections. The USVI sends a delegate to Congress, but that representative cannot participate in floor votes. USVI residents elect a territorial governor, and there is a unicameral legislative assembly with 15 senators elected for two-year terms. There are annotated versions of the *U.S. Virgin Islands Code* available in Westlaw and Lexis, although neither is current as of this writing.¹⁰

The Superior Court serves as the local trial court. Appeals may be taken to the U.S. Virgin Islands Supreme Court, which was established in 2004. As of December 28, 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court may review, by writ of certiorari, opinions of the U.S. Virgin Islands Supreme Court. The federal court building housing the District Court of the Virgin Islands is located in Charlotte Amalie. Appeals from this court are heard in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia. The U.S. Supreme Court is the court of last resort for federal cases stemming from the USVI. The most recent USVI case I found that made it to the U.S. Supreme Court was *Dowling v. U.S.*, 493 U.S. 342 (1990).

CONCLUSION

I hope the above provides a basic overview of the governments and legal structures of a number of Caribbean islands that may have previously been unfamiliar (certainly they were to me). The histories of these small nations and territories are rich and revolve around colonization, slavery, and sugar production—all of which have functionally disappeared or diminished in importance, but perhaps are still present in spirit. Without question, these islands are struggling to find a comfortable balance between autonomy and dependence on former colonizing powers—in political, economic, social, and legal terms. Although their judicial systems are primarily throwbacks to the colonial days, many of these islands are in part rejecting the legal relics of the past, and are creating their own brands of justice—Caribbean style.

*The information provided in this article was primarily gleaned from official government and court websites, as well as the Commonwealth of Nations site.

¹ THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF DIVIDED ISLANDS:

UNIFIED GEOGRAPHIES, MULTIPLE POLITIES 176 (Godfrey Baldacchino ed., 2013).

² See <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/Droit-francais/Guide-de-legistique/III.-Redaction-des-textes/3.6.-Application-et-applicabilite-des-textes-outre-mer/3.6.7.-Saint-Martin>.

³ See, e.g., <http://www.easterncaribbeanlaw.com/category/legislation/st.-kitts-nevis>.

⁴ [2015] UKPC 21.

⁵ See J. Emile Ferdinand, Privy Council or Caribbean Court of Justice: Which Should Be St. Kitts & Nevis' Final Appellate Court?, WEST INDIES NEWS NETWORK (March 19, 2015), <http://www.winnfm.com/index.php/news/local/11834-privy-council-or-caribbean-court-of-justice-which-should-be-st-kitts-nevis-final-appellate-court>.

⁶ See <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/Droit-francais/Guide-de-legistique/III.-Redaction-des-textes/3.6.-Application-et-applicabilite-des-textes-outre-mer/3.6.4.-Collectivites-d-Outre-mer-de-l-article-73-de-la-Constitution-Guadeloupe-Guyane-Martinique-La-Reunion-Mayotte>.

⁷ See La court d'appel de Fort-de-France (Martinique) en ses habits neufs, LE MONITEUR FR (July 27, 2015), <http://www.lemoniteur.fr/article/la-cour-d-appel-de-fort-de-france-martinique-en-ses-habits-neufs-29294254?29293793=29293617#292937930>.

⁸ Many thanks to our FCIL colleague Lyonette Louis-Jacques for help with the translation.

⁹ <http://www.cdad-martinique.justice.fr/justibus.php>.

¹⁰ In Westlaw, the statutes are current through Act 7616 of the 2014 Regular Session of the Thirtieth Legislature and Special Session; in Lexis, statutes are current through Act 7727.

Submissions For Next Issue

FCIL Newsletter is looking for submissions for our next issue.

ARTICLES

Conference reports, library visits, exhibit descriptions, resource reviews, member news, etc. Open call for authors.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May 1, 2016.

QUESTIONS?

Contact **Deborah Schander**.

Schaffer Grant Recipient Report: Atarino A. Helieisar

Atarino A. Helieisar

I traveled to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 2015 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting and Conference. My trip was made possible with a grant from the FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians, for which I am most grateful. As the Chief Law Librarian for the Law Libraries of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia, I always like to echo the words of past AALL president Joyce Mana Junto: “The best part of the Annual Meeting and Conference was the energy generated by having so many law librarians under one roof.” The opportunity to talk with other law librarians from all over the country convinced me that, regardless of library type, we all share a common commitment to provide our library patrons with the best possible access to the law. The face-to-face contact – the human connection – was truly my favorite part of the conference. It is a real honor for me, my organization, and this great small nation to be the recipient of the 2015 FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the people who helped me attend the 108th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia as a participant and as a presenter. I also want to express my thanks to the Foreign Librarians’ Grant Committee for selecting my application from a large number of candidates. This was a real honor for me, for my law libraries, my library organization and for my country. The support given by my government, office, friends, and family members was worth the long hours of flight to and from Philadelphia.

Although I did battle with the time differences and the jetlag the first few days and nights, I managed to pull myself together to join a selection of sessions from the first day until the last day of the conference. It was interesting to see law librarians and legal professionals across the industry sharing their success stories, pinpoints, and their ideas about better ways to work.

With shrinking budgets and rising costs, the FSM Supreme Court law libraries are challenged to successfully meet the legal information needs of the regions we serve. For these reasons, I tried to attend as many sessions as possible in the morning and spent most of the afternoon in the Exhibit Hall, joining sessions and demos on the new innovative solutions that benefit my work. In the Exhibit Hall, I met face-to-face with vendors and previewed new products and services. I also spent most of my time visiting booths where I had the chance to talk to publishers on ideas for collection development, and also on how they can help by providing services to the law libraries in the Pacific, especially here in

Micronesia.

My participation at the Annual Meeting gave me the best opportunity to listen and share by presenting my paper titled *The Federated States of Micronesia Court Law Libraries: Bridging Legal Information in the FSM States & Beyond*. My paper covered how the FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries play an important role in bridging legal information in the FSM states and beyond. I hope my presentation was also informative for the numerous listeners in the room, and that it gave them a clearer idea of what the law libraries of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia do, what services we can offer for legal researchers interested in FSM law, as well as the outreach efforts the library has engaged in to bring the law to the community. My presentation was mainly focused on both websites of the [Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia](#) and the [FSM Supreme Court Law Libraries](#) and how they’ve improved public access to the laws and other legal authority of the FSM and its four states.

I attended other presentations that were very useful and related to the many challenges I face with budget cuts, rising costs, and reduced continuing education and networking opportunities. The presentation titled *Increase Your Library's Resources and Enhance Your Outreach Efforts Without New Funding: Using the AGLI Model* was an interesting session where the speakers shared the need to keep up with shifting information formats, and ways to ease the strain by building new information-sharing networks.

I also found the sessions titled *25 Free Technologies for Law Libraries* and *Motivating Staff to Achieve Your Organization's Goals* very relatable, as libraries are continually faced with the challenge of making the most of their budgets, while progressively increasing efficiency and library services. Attending the sessions also gave me some useful tips on how to utilize positive motivators to achieve individual and organizational goals. People value work that matters, a sense of achievement, and recognition for a job well done.

I am happy to say I made many connections that will likely last throughout my career. I am very grateful to be the recipient of the 2015 FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians, which made all of these opportunities possible.

Additionally, the opportunity to connect with government and special law librarians, who were well represented at the conference, enhanced the value of the experience. Ultimately, attending the conference was certainly worthwhile, and I thank Ellen Schaffer for making it possible.

Display at LA Law Library: Research Documents Cultural Oppression in Historic African Drumming Laws



Photos courtesy of LA Law Library.

Leigh A. Saldana

Through the end of February, LA Law Library is featuring a 360-degree display of African drumming laws, and exemplars of the drums and other percussion instruments they regulated. In particular, the display showcases groundbreaking research into the English colonial drumming laws throughout Africa that were designed to prevent the local populations from assembling, communicating, performing, and practicing rituals.

Lead researcher Neel Agrawal (Global Law Librarian

at LA Law Library) is the first worldwide to collect and index statutes from Africa strictly regulating drumming, primarily during the colonial period. The display features the laws from LA Law Library's renowned Global Law collection, as well as ethnographic research, African percussion instruments, and photographs from the World Music Center at UCLA.

Colonial statutory law often prohibited drumming or required fees to apply for a permit lasting up to one day. Violations of these and other stringent penal and township codes resulted in additional fees and/or imprisonment. The Colonial governance regime relied on localized authority, such as Native Councils, to implement and enforce colonial drumming laws intended to exert control over African communities. In contrast, the critical role of drumming in African societies had been codified in preexisting African customary laws for generations.

The research on display illuminates the historical legacy of these conflicting legal systems, illustrated by the relationship between colonial and customary African drumming laws, and serves as one example of how statutory law was used to repress native customs and override local customary laws.

Over the next year, a research grant from LexisNexis and the American Association of Law Libraries will facilitate further exploration of the critical legal and cultural issues presented in this display.



Jumpstart Revision Project

James Hart

The Electronic Research Interest Group (Yemisi Dina, Steven Perkins, Sherry Chen, and Jim Hart) has begun revising **Jumpstart**, the guide to foreign, comparative, and international law research by Lyonette Louis-Jacques and Mary Rumsey. It's the first thing under the Research tab on the FCIL website and focuses on finding help from real people with research and reference questions. We are first sending out emails (you may already have received one) to all those who are listed in Jumpstart by name, to find out if they want to continue to be listed. When that's finished, we plan on looking for others who might be willing to be listed. For the

first time, we are going to include language skills. When we finish all that, we'll look at the essay.

Before ERIG digs into a discussion of our work at our meeting, we will showcase two or three new or improved foreign, comparative, and international law electronic tools that have come out or changed recently. Steven Perkins will talk about the Law Library of Congress's Indigenous Law Portal and someone as yet uncommitted will talk about the ICRC Customary International Humanitarian Law Database, which won the first Jus Gentium award from the International Legal Research Interest Group of the American Society for International Law last year. The meeting will be at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 17, 2016 at 8 a.m. We hope to see you there!

Member News

“Mexican Law and Legal Research,” a guide that was prepared in conjunction with a related program at AALL 2014 in San Antonio, has been updated. The revised guide, entitled “Research Guide to Mexican Law,” will appear as an article in the forthcoming edition of *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* (Vol. 35, No.1). The estimated publication date for the online version is February 25, and March 15 for print. Authors are: **Bianca Anderson** (University of Miami), **Marisol Florén-Romero** (Florida International University), **Julienne Grant** (Loyola University Chicago), **Jootaek Lee** (Northeastern University), **Lyonette Louis-Jacques** (University of Chicago), **Teresa Miguel-Stearns** (Yale University), **Jonathan Pratter** (University of Texas at Austin), and **Sergio Stone** (Stanford University).

Jonathan Pratter recently published several articles:

- *Arbitrage – Arbitrage d'investissement – Accord bilatéral d'investissement Argentine/Royaume-Uni – Exigence procédurale – Appréciation de l'arbitre – Contrôle judiciaire restreint de la sentence – Cour Suprême des États-Unis*, 5 mars 2014, 104 REVUE CRITIQUE DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL PRIVÉ 632 (2015);
- *Harry Pratter's Wisdom*, 91 INDIANA LAW JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT 1 (2015), and
- *Die neuern Publikationsformate und die juristischen Methodenlehre: Ein Nachtrag zur Lage der Dinge in den Vereinigten Staaten*, 45 RECHT BIBLIOTHEK DOKUMENTATION 40 (2015).

Julienne Grant is the new U.S. reporter for the *Canadian Law Library Review*. Her column is entitled “The

U.S. Legal Landscape: News from Across the Border.” She took over the column from FCIL colleague Anne Abramson (John Marshall Law School).

Do you have news for the next issue? Submit your announcements to **Deborah Schander**.

FCIL Newsletter

FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May, and October of each year. Current and past issues of *FCIL Newsletter* are **available on our website**. We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

EDITOR

Deborah Schander
deborah.e.schander@vanderbilt.edu
 Vanderbilt University

COPY EDITOR

Carmen Valero
carmen.valero@dentons.com
 Dentons US LLP

FCIL-SIS EXECUTIVE BOARD 2015-2016

CHAIR

Lucie Olejnikova

VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

Alison Shea

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Loren Turner

PAST CHAIR

Teresa Miguel-Stearns