

Foreign, Comparative, and International Law SIS 2008-09

The 2008-09 year was very eventful for the Foreign, Comparative, and International SIS (FCIL-SIS). The officers and executive committee consisted of Dennis S. Sears, chair; Marylin J. Raisch, vice chair/chair-elect; Heidi F. Kuehl, secretary-treasurer; and Jonathan A. Franklin, immediate past chair.

Elections were held in March, and Jeanne Rehberg was elected as the incoming vice chair/chair-elect.

The Education Committee reviewed and edited several programs for the 2009 Annual Meeting. Seven programs were approved and ranked by the Committee. Of these seven programs, three were selected for the Annual Meeting: “Beyond the Walls of the United Nations: Exploring U.N. Databases,” “Thinking about Treaties: Interpretation, in Force and Internet,” and “Researching International Tax Law.” In addition to the programming, Marylin J. Raisch was able to coordinate the attendance of several Library of Congress specialists to meet with a number of FCIL-SIS Interest Groups: Hannibal Goitom (African Law Interest Group), Laney Zhang (Asian Law Interest Group), Peter Roudik (CIS and East European Law Interest Group), Janice Hyde (Electronic Issues Interest Group), Eduardo Soarez (Latin American Law Interest Group), and Mark Strattner (Foreign Selectors Interest Group).

With regards to the FCIL-Schaffer Grant, a major effort was made to finalize a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Ellen G. Schaffer, the FCIL-SIS, and AALL that would be acceptable to all parties with regards to responsibilities. A solicitation letter was drafted and sent to the FCIL-SIS membership for contributions to the grant and to initiate a multi-year capital campaign. The goal of the capital campaign is to increase the income-producing corpus of the FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant fund to a level that will help insure its future and the original intent of the grant—the attendance of a foreign law librarian at each AALL Annual Meeting. A number of generous contributions were made to the capital campaign. The most significant contribution this year was from Ellen G. Schaffer, who contributed an additional \$15,000 to the corpus.

The FCIL-Schaffer Grant Committee, chaired by Christopher O’Byrne, solicited applications from 34 applicants. These applications were subjected to rigorous and careful review. The committee finally decided to award the grant to Ahmadullah Masoud, a reference librarian at the USAID Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP). He is considered by those who have met him and worked with him as “the best law librarian in Afghanistan.”

This year, the executive committee approved the recognition of three FCIL-SIS members with Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Awards: Christopher O’Byrne, Tom Kimbrough, and Mabel Shaw. Most significantly, based on nominations from the FCIL-SIS membership, the executive committee also chose to recognize three FCIL-SIS members with the Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Awards: Maria I. Smolka-Day, Mary Rumsey, and Marci Hoffman. This

award recognizes the long-term commitment of FCIL-SIS members to leadership, education, and service within the FCIL-SIS.