

**Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL-SIS)
Annual Report 2014-2015**

The officers of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL-SIS) for FY'2015 were Teresa M. Miguel-Stearns, Chair; Lucie Olejnikova, Vice Chair; Roy Sturgeon, Secretary / Treasurer. Elected, incoming officers are Alison Shea, Vice Chair-Elect; Loren Turner, Secretary / Treasurer-Elect.

At the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, held during the AALL Annual Meeting and sponsored by the William S. Hein, Co., several awards were presented. Susan Gualtier, Jootaek Lee, and Joan Policastri received the Spirit of the FCIL-SIS award; Mirela Roznovschi received the Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award for her decade-long work on *GlobalLex*; Alison Shea and Ralph Gaebler received the same award for their book, *Sources of State Practice in International Law* (2nd ed., Brill). Jonathan Pratter received the Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award.

Members of the FCIL-SIS participated in several educational programs at this year's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The FCIL-SIS together with AALL sponsored a sold-out, pre-conference workshop on researching the law of the European Union, coordinated by Alison Shea and Gabriela Femenia. Other Program topics included an update on the ASEAN cooperation and regional developments, the current events in Ukraine, cross border disputes and international investment arbitration, net neutrality, creating subject guides, and machine translation tools.

The Education Committee is working closely with a new Task Force, Summit 2016 Chicago, to develop educational foreign, comparative, and international law programming for the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The new Roman Law Interest Group (IG) hosted Fred Dingley, law librarian and expert on the Corpus Juris Civilis. He gave an in-depth educational presentation on the CJC and its legacy which continues to the current day.

The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was awarded to Atarino Helieisar, Chief Law Librarian of the Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia Law Libraries. Mr. Helieisar oversees four library locations in FSM. His talk focused on outreach efforts in bringing legal information to the citizens of Micronesia, a nation comprised of 607 islands.

The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians Fundraising Committee raised more than \$1,500, redesigned its outreach materials, and commenced new research on funding opportunities.

The Publicity Committee launched the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues in 2014 as a way to promote the FCIL-SIS worldwide. That year, the blog received approximately 13,830

views from readers in over 110 countries. Thus far, in 2015, the blog has received approximately 5,750 views from readers in over 100 countries.

The Bylaws Task Force, David McFadden, Chair, began a thorough review of the existing FCIL-SIS bylaws which will continue in the coming year. As a first step, the task force submitted to the Executive Committee a proposed amendment to Article VII dealing with amendments to the bylaws which was approved at the FCIL Annual Meeting.

The Foreign Law Selectors IG heard updates from some of the major foreign law collections, including Law Library of Congress, LA Law Library, Harvard Law Library, the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians' Cooperative Group, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, and LLMC Digital.

The African Law IG has launched a new initiative to document the holding of primary African legal materials held in U.S. academic law libraries. The European Law IG continues its project to document holdings of the Eastern European and former Soviet bloc countries materials in U.S. academic law libraries.

The Latin American Law IG Chair Julianne Grant and colleague Jonathan Pratter spearheaded a collaborative effort involving eight members of the group to author *Mexican Law & Legal Research*, a guide that was produced in conjunction with last year's program on Mexican Law at the AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Subsequently, the guide was posted on SSRN and the Loyola University Chicago School of Law eCommons. As of June 30, 2015, there were 947 abstract views and 132 downloads from SSRN, and 134 downloads from the Loyola eCommons. Several members of the Group have committed to compiling a similar guide on Cuban law and legal research.

Submitted by:

Teresa M. Miguel-Stearns
FCIL-SIS Chair 2014-15