

From: Lucie Olejnikova, Immediate Past Chair FCIL-SIS  
Date: August 18, 2016  
RE: 2016 Annual Report of the FCIL-SIS

The officers of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL-SIS) for FY' 2016 were Lucie Olejnikova, Chair; Alison Shea, Vice Chair; Loren Turner, Secretary/Treasurer. Elected, incoming officer is Alex Zhang, Vice Chair–Chair Elect.

At the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, held during the AALL Annual Meeting and co-sponsored by Bloomberg Law, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer, several awards were presented. Sherry Leysen, Evelyn Ma, and Alyson Drake received the Sprint of the FCIL-SIS award;<sup>1</sup> Timothy G. Kearly received the prestigious Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award for his continuous impressive contribution in the fascinating field of Roman Law, and more specifically for his recent Law Library Journal article titled *From the Rome to the Restatement: S.P. Scott, Fred Blume, Clyde Pharr, and Roman Law in Early Twentieth-Century America*.<sup>2</sup> Jim Hart received the FCIL-SIS Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award.<sup>3</sup>

Members of the FCIL-SIS participated in several education programs at this year's Annual Meeting in Chicago. The FCIL-SIS together with the International Legal Research Interest Group of the American Society of International Law and AALL put on a sold-out pre-conference workshop titled *Two Sides to the United Nations: Working with Public and Private International Law at the UN*, addressing the UN and its bodies, its organization, and how to effectively research the UN documentation, and the CISG/UNCITRAL and how to effectively research it. This workshop was coordinated by Thomas Mills and Lucie Olejnikova. Other program topics included: *Asian Legal Information in English: Availability, Accessibility, and Quality Control* coordinated by Alex Zhang; *Vanishing Online? Legal and Policy Implications for Libraries of the EU's Right to be Forgotten* coordinated by Michael G. Bernier; a poster session titled *Are Self-Paced Pre-Recorded Modules Better than Live Instruction for Teaching Basic Legal Research Concepts?* presented by Lucie Olejnikova; and the FCIL-SIS sponsored program *Roman Law, Roman Order, and Restatements* coordinated by Marilyn Raisch.

Our individual Jurisdictional Interest Groups held a joint meeting featuring multiple substantive presentations: *Recent Developments in German Law Related to Asylum and Refugees – A Brief Overview for Law Librarians* by Jennifer Alison; *Cuban Legal Research Guide* by the Latin

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<sup>1</sup> Lucie Olejnikova, #AALL2016 Recap: *The FCIL-SIS Newest Member and Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Awards*, DipLawMatic Dialogues (Jul. 26, 2016), <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2016/07/26/aall2016-recap-the-fcil-sis-newest-member-and-spirit-of-the-fcil-sis-awards/>.

<sup>2</sup> Lucie Olejnikova, #AALL2016 Recap: *The FCIL-SIS Reynolds & Flores Publication Award*, DipLawMatic Dialogues (Jul. 26, 2016), <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2016/07/26/aall2016-recap-the-fcil-sis-reynolds-flores-publication-award/>.

<sup>3</sup> Lucie Olejnikova, #AALL2016 Recap: *The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award*, DipLawMatic Dialogues (Jul. 26, 2016), <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2016/07/26/aall2016-recap-the-daniel-l-wade-fcil-sis-outstanding-service-award/>.

American IG; *Updates of the Digitization Case Law Project from South Western Nigeria* by Yemisi Dina; and *Indigenous Peoples and DNA Testing: Friend or Foe?* By Steven Perkins. Our Standing Committees joint meeting, coordinated by Jim Hart and Loren Turner, featured two substantive presentations: *ICRC: Customary International Humanitarian Law Database* by Ismael Raboud and *LOC Indigenous Law Portal* by Steven Perkins. Our FCIL-SIS Teaching Foreign & International Legal Research IG, coordinated by Catherine Deane, featured three substantive talks: Marylin Raisch shared her experience about creating educational videos, mind-mapping, and how to create illustrative screencasts; Alexis Fetzer shared her experience as a “non-FCIL” librarian planning and teaching an FCIL course; and Nina A. Scholtz shared her thoughts on teaching an experiential research course for international LLM students. All of these substantive programs scheduled during our SIS meeting times were very well attended and gratefully received.

The 2016-2017 Education Committee is working closely with the continuing Task Force, Summit 2017 Austin, to develop educational foreign, comparative, and international law / legal research programming for the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. Their focus is not only on regular programming, but also on the potentiality of holding another pre-conference workshop.

The FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians was awarded to Rhenny Pulungan, native of Indonesia and the Liaison Support Librarian at the University of Melbourne’s Law School Library.<sup>4</sup> She delivered a well-attended presentation titled *The Legal Research Landscape in Indonesia: Limitations and Possibilities*. Her talk, which was lively and exceptionally received, focused on the Indonesian Legal System Structure and access to legal information. The FCIL Schaffer Grant Selection Committee received 33 applications representing 21 jurisdictions (Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia (by way of Melbourne, Australia), Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Nigeria, Qatar, Sweden, Uganda, and Zimbabwe), making this year decision particularly competitive.

The FCIL Schaffer Grant Fundraising Committee has worked on not only raising funds, but also on articulating ways to raise awareness of this grant among some non-traditional groups, such as embassies, legal study institute, language institutes, and more. The group raised \$1,100 last year, redesigned its outreach materials, updated information in their website, and continued their research into alternative funding opportunities.

The Publicity Committee continues to keep us all abreast of ongoing FCIL-related topics, programs, and research solutions through the ever-popular FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues.<sup>5</sup> The readership has been steadily growing over the years. In 2015, the blog recorded over 10,330 views from over 5,500 visitors representing more than 110 countries. Top readership countries included the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia,

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<sup>4</sup> See <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil>.

<sup>5</sup> DipLawMatic Dialogues, <https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/> (last visited Aug. 18, 2016).

Netherlands, France, India, Belgium, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland, Nigeria, South Africa, Turkey, Norway, Italy, Spain, New Zealand, Ireland, Brazil, and many more. Thus far, in 2016, the blog has received approximately 5,120 views from approximately 2,890 visitors representing more than 100 countries.

The FCIL-SIS Bylaws Task Force, chaired by David McFadden, completed a thorough review of the current FCIL-SIS Bylaws and made number of recommendations to be voted on at the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting in Chicago, in 2016.<sup>6</sup> Because of our important bylaws change last year, for the first time, we had even non-attending members voting via proxy on these important issues. All recommendations were unanimously approved and took effect at the conclusion of the business meeting. The changes affected Article III Anti-Discrimination in response to the AALL's bylaws change, Article IV Officers and Committees, Article VII Nomination and Election, Article VII Amendments, and Article IX Parliamentary Authority.

The FCIL-SIS Newsletter<sup>7</sup> edited by Deborah Schander and Carmen Valero, was nominated for and received the 2016 AALL Best Newsletter Award.<sup>8</sup>

The FCIL-SIS Foreign Law Selectors IG, chaired by Marci Hoffman, heard updates from some of the major foreign law collections, including the Law Library of Congress, Harvard Law Library, Yale Law Library, Georgetown Law Library, Rhenny Pulungan and the foreign holdings at Melbourne Law School Library, the Northeast Foreign Law Librarians' Cooperative Group, Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, and LLMC Digital.

The FCIL-SIS Electronic Research IG (ERIG), chaired by Jim Hart, has completed its thorough review, update and overhaul of the group's legal research resource page called *Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative, and International Research*.<sup>9</sup>

The African Law IG continues its initiative to document the holdings 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 IG, led by Julienne Grant, continues its work in creating collaborative research guides each dedicated to a particular jurisdiction. This year the group has worked on and is in final stages of completing the *Cuban Legal Research Guide*, which again will become available for everyone to use.

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<sup>6</sup> *Proposed Bylaws Amendments: Text and Comments*, FCIL Newsletter, May 2016, at 6-7, <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil/newsletters/Vol-30-2015-2016/may2016.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil/newsletters> (last visited Aug. 18, 2016).

<sup>8</sup> 109th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, 2016 AALL Accolades & Acknowledgements 4 (2016), <http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Member-Resources/AALLawards/aallawards16.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> ERIG, *Jumpstart Your Foreign, Comparative, and International Research*, AALL: Foreign, Comparative & Int'l Law SIS, <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/fcil/research/Jumpstart> (last visited Aug. 18, 2016).