

Foreign, Comparative and International Law (FCIL -SIS) Annual Report 2019-2020
By Loren Turner, Immediate Past Chair
Date: August 11, 2020

The members of the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee for 2019-2020 were: Catherine Deane (Immediate Past Chair), Loren Turner (Chair), Susan Gualtier (Vice Chair/Chair-Elect), and Jennifer Allison, (Secretary/Treasurer).

Our SIS suffered the loss of one of our founding members this year. Daniel L. Wade, Curator of the Foreign and International Law Collection at the Lillian Goldman Law Library of the Yale Law School, and friend and mentor to generations of FCIL librarians, passed away on May 28, 2020. To honor and remember Dan, the FCIL-SIS published a [July 2020 Special Issue](#) of the FCIL-SIS Newsletter.

Our SIS has produced an array of virtual programming this year to meet the educational and networking needs of our members, and in line with our Strategic Plan. Our newly-created [Continuing Education Committee](#) produced four webinars and a recorded (free) lecture. Additionally, our members connected online, in lieu of a traditional “in person” annual conference this year.¹ For example, two of our members agreed to offer pre-recorded sessions of their individual programs during AALL’s “Virtual Event.”² Additionally, the FCIL-SIS held a pre-conference workshop titled *Demystifying Civil Legal Systems for a Common Law Audience: Historical Traditions, Modern Developments, and Practical Research & Instruction Applications*.³

The FCIL held its annual business meeting and some of its committees’ and interest groups’ meetings virtually. Three of the FCIL-SIS interest groups produced substantive content during their virtual meetings this year, which is listed on the [FCIL Annual Meeting Programs](#) page. During the FCIL-SIS Business Meeting, the Executive Committee announced the creation of a new FCIL-SIS Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to acknowledge and address the lack of diverse representation in our profession and our SIS, with Catherine Deane, chairing it.

The FCIL-SIS celebrated its award recipients.⁴ Heidi Kuehl received the [Daniel L. Wade Outstanding Service Award](#). Thomas Mills received the [Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores Publications Award](#). Three of our members received [Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Awards](#): Caitlin Hunter, Jessica Pierucci, and Marcelo Rodriguez. The Executive Committee also recognized

¹ AALL decided to hold a virtual 2020 Annual Meeting, originally scheduled to take place in New Orleans, LA, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

² These programs were: *Improving Access to Law and Justice in Communities around the World* (proposed by FCIL-SIS member, Sally Holterhoff) and *Legal Information from US Territories: What a Conundrum!* (proposed by FCIL-SIS member, Marcelo Rodriguez). These programs are available on AALL’s 2020 Conference website (<https://www.eventscribe.com/2020/AALL2020/>).

³ Because AALL’s Virtual Event did not include any of the pre-conference workshops that had been scheduled to occur during the 2020 Annual Meeting, the FCIL-SIS produced the pre-conference workshop as a webinar, posted on [FCIL Annual Meeting Programs](#) page.

⁴ This year, for the first time, the FCIL SIS Award Recipients were included in the AALL Awards Brochure (to make sure that our award recipients received the national attention they deserve). The Executive Committee notified the award recipients in advance of the Business Meeting to secure their attendance and Dennis Sears ensured that the award recipients received their awards in advance of the Business Meeting (thank you, Dennis!).

Alison Shea as the recipient of The Blog Post of the Year Award for her article [Locating EU and UK Guidance on Brexit](#); Juliene Grant as the recipient of The Newsletter Article of the Year Award for her article [An Introduction to the Muscogee \(Creek\) Nation's Legal Heritage & Carpenter v. Murphy](#); and the Latin American Law Interest Group received the Committee/Interest Group Project of the Year Award for their [Tracking COVID-19 Legal Responses in Latin America and Caribbean Project](#), led by its chair Marcelo Rodriguez.

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to welcome the [FCIL Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians](#) recipient this year but we encouraged our foreign colleagues to consider re-applying next year. Nevertheless, the FCIL-SIS worked with the AALL administration to begin adjusting the FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant's payment structure by (1) raising the amount of the Schaffer Grant from \$2,500 to \$3,000; (2) enabling the FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant recipient to receive reimbursement for some expenses before arriving in the United States for the Annual Meeting; and (3) requiring AALL to reserve the recipient's room at the Annual Meeting Conference Hotel and, when needed, use FCIL-SIS Schaffer Grant funds to pay for lodging.

The FCIL-SIS turned 35 years old in 2020 and although we weren't able to meet in person and throw a big party, we gathered and connected virtually I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our members for their unflagging energy and enthusiasm for our profession and our SIS. It is truly an honor to work with all of you.