

# JURISDOCS

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION |  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of GD-SIS, I feel as if I'm supposed to tell you why it is important to volunteer and be an active part of the organization. I'm supposed to tell you things like volunteering can provide a sense of purpose and strengthen your ties to the community. I'm supposed to tell you that you can learn new leadership skills and make connections within the community that will elevate your professional status. I can even tell you that you will make some new friends.

I believe all of that is true. But does it matter? I'm supposed to say these things. But does any of that really matter?

I say all of these things and hope that you will join our committees out of a desire to elevate your professional skills and move forward in your career. None of that matters if you feel like you are already overwhelmed with what you have on your professional or personal plate. None of that matters if you feel like the volunteering will take a lot of time and effort – double the time and effort because you maybe feel like you do not know what is expected at any given time or how to accomplish the tasks.

That is where mentorship really begins and that's why the Board has collectively decided to spend our entire year focusing on mentorship. If we want to see new blood taking on the challenges of moving our SIS forward, then the "new blood" needs to feel mentored and supported in taking on the tasks.

Our newly produced committee member handbook is intended to provide a framework for this process, but we still need that mentorship piece to come from each and

every person with institutional knowledge of our SIS and committee operations. We need to be passing on that knowledge to the "new blood" so that they can take over with confidence and learn to lead. When we share what we know—as SIS members, librarians, people—we strengthen our bonds just assuredly as when new volunteers enter the fold.

Let us all be part of the vision that we wish to see out in the world. —**Rebecca Chapman**  
**2024-25 GD-SIS Chair**

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ADDIE THE EAGLE

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As I was preparing the poster for the Annual Meeting, I took the opportunity to review all the back issues of *JURISDOCS*. While several themes caught my attention, one stood out prominently in my role as Editor: the recurring pleas from past editors to our greater membership for member contributions.

Over the past fifty years, *JURISDOCS* has evolved significantly alongside GD-SIS membership and the broader information and publishing landscapes. The inaugural issue, published in 1978, was distributed in print through the U.S. Postal Service with the primary goal of keeping our members informed in a pre-Internet era.

Throughout the decades, the newsletter's formatting and graphic design have adapted in tandem with advancements in technology and the changing needs of our membership. Similarly, the content has evolved to reflect the expanding information landscape and the shifting ways we access and utilize information.

The past fifty years have witnessed an exponential growth in information, bringing about substantial changes. Change itself is a neutral reality—philosophers, especially solipsists, begone. It simply occurs. Change isn't inherently negative; it can take many forms. Sometimes, we may lose aspects to embrace change, leading to complex emotions. Changes can be welcomed, celebrated, deemed necessary, mourned, denied, or provoke a myriad of other reactions. Given the complexity of our world, changes often elicit nuanced and sometimes conflicting responses within us.

However, *JURISDOCS* cannot continue in its current form within today's environment. It no longer serves as a crucial source of information that might otherwise remain undiscovered. Today, there are numerous effective tools available to keep us informed. The declining readership statistics for *JURISDOCS* indicate that it is no longer a vital information resource for our members.

Our upcoming Spring issue will focus on stories and lessons centered around mentorship. I strongly encourage you to contribute. A lack of member participation signifies a vote for the discontinuation of *JURISDOCS*. If this newsletter holds meaning for you and you wish to see it thrive in the future, please show your support by contributing.

On a positive note, I am excited to introduce Selena Lee as *JURISDOCS*'s new Associate Editor. Selena is an emerging professional and a county law librarian with a passion for archives and government information, Black Librarianship, as well as scholarship and publishing. Please join me in welcoming her to our community and to *JURISDOCS*!

**—Charlie Amiot,  
JURISDOCS Editor  
2023-25 GD-SIS Secretary/Treasurer**

# The Peggy Roebuck Jarrett Mentorship Award

## **Introduction and Background**

### **Government Documents Special Interest Section (GD-SIS)**

Established in 1974, the Government Documents Special Interest Section (GD-SIS) of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) serves as a vital resource for law librarians and professionals dealing with government information. With a mission rooted in the dissemination of information about government documents to AALL members, GD-SIS promotes the continuous education of law librarians in document librarianship and coordinates activities to represent the interests of law librarians to various public and private entities.

GD-SIS has been pivotal in fostering a community of librarians who are not only experts in their field but also dedicated mentors to upcoming professionals. The members of GD-SIS engage deeply with documents from municipal, state, U.S., foreign governments, and international organizations, focusing on the acquisition, cataloging, promotion, and use of government information.

### **Commitment to Mentorship**

Understanding the crucial role of mentorship in professional development and knowledge transfer, GD-SIS has always encouraged its members to guide and support the next generation of librarians. This commitment is reflected through various initiatives, including major annual programs at the AALL Annual Meeting, publications like JURISDOCS, and preparation of essential bibliographies. These efforts highlight the ongoing dedication to enhancing the capabilities and reach of law librarians engaged in government documents.

## **Rationale for the Award**

In honor of the profound impact that mentors have on individual careers and the broader professional community, GD-SIS is proud to introduce an award initiative aimed at recognizing and supporting outstanding mentors within our sector. This award is designed not only to commend those who have dedicated themselves to nurturing new talent but also to inspire a culture of mentorship among all members. By investing in our mentors, we invest in the future of law librarianship and the proficient handling of government documents, which are foundational to our legal system and society.

In tribute to a remarkable individual whose dedication has profoundly influenced the careers of many, including the current U.S. Superintendent of Documents, this award is named after Peggy Roebuck Jarrett, a retired law librarian whose mentorship was pivotal in shaping the professional journeys of many. Peggy was not only a guardian of knowledge but also a passionate advocate for the field of government documents. Her enthusiasm for the subject was infectious, inspiring a deep and lasting interest in a niche area that underpins the very framework of our public information system. Peggy's legacy of passion and dedication to government documents librarianship continues to live on through the countless professionals she has inspired, who now carry forward her enthusiasm and commitment to the field. Her commitment went beyond the routine duties of a librarian; she actively sought to empower others by providing them with the tools and confidence needed to excel. Naming this award after Peggy serves as a lasting homage to her legacy of mentorship and her exceptional ability to inspire and motivate those around her.

### **Objective:**

The award is designed to honor and support GD-SIS members who are actively engaged in mentoring activities within the field of government information and knowledge management. This includes a range of mentorship forms, formal and informal, including but not limited to one-on-one guidance, organizing and leading workshops that foster interest in government documents, etc.

### **Target Audience:**

Eligible candidates are GD-SIS members who contribute significantly to mentoring aspiring law librarians, students, or professionals interested in government documents. The award aims to recognize the valuable role mentors play in nurturing the next generation of librarians.

### **Awards Categories:**

1. **Emerging Mentor Award:** Recognizes individuals who have recently begun their mentoring efforts and show promise in shaping the future of the profession.
  - Professionally served in field for 4 years, minimum, but less than 10 years.
2. **Distinguished Mentor Award:** Honors experienced mentors who have made significant contributions over time through sustained mentorship activities.
  - Professionally served in field for 10 years, minimum.

### **Nominee Eligibility Criteria:**

- Current membership in GD-SIS.
- Demonstrable involvement in mentoring activities, which can be verified through letters of support, testimonials from mentees, or documentation of mentorship-related projects specifically related to government information.
- No tenure requirement within the organization to ensure inclusivity and encourage participation from newer members.

### **Award Details:**

- The award will include a monetary recognition of up to \$500 per award.
- Funds are intended to be used for further mentorship activities, authorship related to their field, or professional development purposes.
- Recipients are encouraged to utilize the award to enhance their capabilities in mentoring and contribute further to the field.

### **Number and Type of Awards:**

- Annually, two awards will be awarded, one in each of the following categories:
  - a. **Emerging Mentor Award:** For individuals who are new to mentoring activities.
  - b. **Distinguished Mentor Award:** For those with a significant history of mentorship.
- Each award will be distinct to ensure recognition across the spectrum of mentoring experiences.

### **Award Presentation**

The award recipients will be formally announced and honored at the virtual GD-SIS Annual Business Meeting. Each recipient will have the opportunity to speak briefly about their mentorship experiences and future aspirations in the field.

### **Funding Sources:**

- The primary funding for the awards will come from the SIS's budget allocation.

### **Additional Support:**

- Recipients will be featured in *JURISDOCS*, the GD-SIS newsletter, enhancing their visibility and acknowledging their contributions.
- The award announcement will also be made through AALL's My Communities, celebrating the recipients' achievements across the wider community.

### **Desired Impact:**

- The award aims to promote and encourage mentorship within the law librarianship community.
- By recognizing outstanding mentors, the initiative hopes to attract new members and retain existing ones, thereby strengthening the GD-SIS network.

### **Implementation Timeline:**

- The award was officially announced during the 2024 GD-SIS Annual Business Meeting. Applications forthcoming.
- Awards will be distributed annually in the fall, with the exception of the inaugural awards, which will be distributed Summer 2025. A fall awards cycle will begin with the Fall 2025 awards.
- The application process and criteria will be established, with the first awards slated to be distributed in the fall.
- Award recipients will be publicly announced at the GD-SIS Annual Business Meeting.

### **Review and Adjustment Clause**

To ensure the GD-SIS Mentorship Award continues to meet the evolving needs of our members and remains aligned with our organizational goals, a formal review process will be implemented. This process will be conducted annually, at least two months prior to the application period, by the award committee, which will consist of GD-SIS board members and selected stakeholders.

## Award Program Review Process

### Annual Evaluation:

The committee will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the award based on feedback from recipients, changes in the professional landscape, and the financial health of the funding sources.

- **Adjustments:** Adjustments may include updates to the award amount, eligibility criteria, application process, or support offerings. Any changes will be made with the intent to enhance the award's value and accessibility.
- **Transparency:** Decisions regarding adjustments will be documented and communicated to all GD-SIS members through our regular channels, including the GD-SIS newsletter and the MyCommunity forums, ensuring transparency and member involvement in the evolution of the award program.

### Stakeholder Feedback

- **Feedback Solicitation:** Feedback will be actively solicited from past award recipients and the broader GD-SIS community to gauge the award's relevance and impact.
- **Incorporation of Suggestions:** Suggestions and feedback from members will be critically reviewed and considered during the annual award review meetings.

## Application Process

### Overview

The GD-SIS Mentorship Award aims to recognize and support members who have demonstrated exemplary mentorship within the field of law librarianship. The application process is designed to be straightforward and accessible, ensuring that all eligible members have the opportunity to apply. This structured application process ensures transparency and fairness, while also fostering a supportive environment that values the contributions of GD-SIS members.

### Steps to Apply

1. **Eligibility Check:** Applicants, which includes those nominating others, are not required to be GD-SIS members. The award nominee however must meet all the eligibility criteria as outlined in the award details. This includes being a current GD-SIS member and demonstrating active involvement in mentorship activities. Both self-nominations and colleague nominations are welcome.
2. **Application Form:** Applicants will need to complete an application form available on the GD-SIS section of the AALL website. The form will request nominee information, details about their mentorship activities, and their vision for future mentorship initiatives.
3. **Supporting Documents:**
  - Applicants should provide either letters of support, documentation of mentorship activities, or a combination of both for potential awardees:
    - **Letters of Support:** Applicants may submit up to two letters of support, which may be short. Suggestions include one from a colleague or peer who can attest to the applicant's mentorship impact. The other could be from a mentee or a beneficiary of the applicant's mentorship, providing a personal account of how the mentorship has influenced their career or studies.
    - **Documentation of Mentorship Activities:** Applicants should provide evidence of their mentorship activities, which could include summaries of workshops conducted, mentoring program outlines, or other relevant materials that demonstrate their engagement and contributions.
4. **Submission:** All parts of the application—completed form and supporting documents—must be submitted electronically via the designated GD-SIS submission portal. The submission timeline will be clearly communicated each year, typically announced after the annual award review process but prior to the annual business meeting.

## Application Process, Continued

5. **Application Review Process:** The Grants committee and (willing) past Mentorship award recipients will evaluate applications based on the depth and impact of the mentoring activities, the quality of the supporting documents, and alignment with the goals of the award. The Grants committee will then make recommendations to the GD-SIS board members, who will review applicants to make final award determinations.

6. **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of the decision via email, approximately one month before the awards ceremony. All applicants may receive feedback to encourage ongoing development and recognition of their efforts.



# GD-SIS Officers

## 2024-2025 Board

**Chair:** Rebecca Chapman, rc82@buffalo.edu

**Vice-Chair:** Holly Grimes, holly.grimes@alappeals.gov

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Charlie Amiot, profamiot@gmail.com

**Past Chair:** Stephen Parks, sparks@courts.ms.gov

**Member-at-Large:** Adam Anderson, adamaa@uoregon.edu

**Advocacy Committee:** Rebecca Chapman

**FDLP Task Force:** Holly Grimes

**Grants Committee:** Keith Lacy, kalacy@umich.edu

**JURISDOCS & GD-SIS History Committee:** Charlie Amiot

**Nominations Committee:** Charlie Amiot

**Program Committee:** Holly Grimes

**Public Relations Committee:** Jenny Wondracek, jwondracek@law.capital.edu

**Publications Committee:** Ed Hart, edward.hart@untDallas.edu

**Webmaster:** Stacy Fowler, sfowler@stmarytx.edu