

Joint LISP / SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships 2007-2008

June 19, 2008

As a newly-formed committee, the Joint LISP / SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships (JCPBP) first address the issue of a committee charge. The charge was drafted and approved, together with an initial work plan, in September 2007 (see Attachment A below).

The committee members continued the 50-state survey project identification of statewide and local pro bono projects, completing Washington, West Virginia and Virginia. Some progress was made in the seven other states with no information.

Committee chairs contacted Chris Siwa (AALLNET administrator) and Sara Galligan (former Chair of the Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships) regarding the earlier survey results. The JCPBP was given permission by Sara Galligan to take over the earlier results and adopt them into the new Joint Committee's domain. Sara also gave permission as SCCLL chair for 2007-2008 to post Joint Committee information onto the SCCLL website. The Joint Committee had not posted by the end of the year, and as such will be seeking permission from the incoming SCCLL chair to do the same in the upcoming year.

A draft work plan to establish Committee Charge 3 (spotlight librarian pro bono initiatives) was accepted by committee members in May 2008, together with a draft Pro Bono Profile (see Attachment B below). One profile has been solicited and received, from the Howard County (MD) Civil Non-Domestic Self-Help Center, piloted this Spring by the Howard County Circuit Court Law Library.

The Equal Justice Conference was attended by several members of the SCCLL, with Sara Galligan also representing the JCPBP. Joint Committee members were involved in both a preconference program, "Self Representative Litigants: Effective Strategies for Meeting Their Need and Realizing Your Organization's Goals", and a regular conference program, "Serving the Underserved: Your Law Library as Your Partner and Your Bridge". This program explained how law librarians assist pro se litigants when courts and traditional services can't help them. Two Joint Committee members, Sara Galligan and Charley Dyer, presented testimony at an ABA hearing on the final afternoon, explaining the importance of law librarians as partners in serving self represented litigants.

Charles Dyer, member of the Joint Committee and AALL Representative to the Self Represented Litigation Network (SRLN), acted as the Joint Committee's liaison to the SRLN.

Co-Chairs: Catherine McGuire (LISP)
Jean Holcomb (SCCLL)
Members: Charles Dyer (SCCLL)
John Pickett (SCCLL)
Elizabeth Schneider (LISP)
Ruth Stevens (LISP)

Attachment A

Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships

Committee Charge

1. Complete the identification of successful statewide or local pro bono projects conducted by bar associations, legal aid services, and voluntary attorney networks.
2. Explore ways to encourage AALL chapters and local law libraries to connect with these programs in a high profile way and suggest appropriate roles that law librarians can play in such projects.
3. Spotlight initiatives by librarians in all types of law libraries to assist under-served members of the public directly, to contribute research and organizational skills to their employers, and to support students who are fulfilling pro bono service requirements.
4. Establish a presence for AALL and law librarians at the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference.
5. Collaborate with the Self Represented Litigation Network.

Work Plan

Charge 1

Complete the 50-state survey.

Consider the value and methods of updating the survey

Charge 2

Create a network of law librarians representing all 50 states to act as state contact points for collecting and disseminating information about pro bono and SRL partnership activities and service development opportunities.

Charge 3

Establish a Pro Bono Profile, with a fill-in information form, to be disseminated via the AALL President's Column and posted to the list. Publish form submissions on the web and through the list, with at least one circulation via the President's Column.

Establish a web presence for the committee on either the SCCLL or LISP webpage, to be cross-linked between the two.

Charge 4

Host an exhibit at the conference, including publicizing information on law librarians' involvement in pro bono and SRL activities, most likely via a brochure.

Develop and propose programs for presentation.

Charge 5

Maintain communication with the Network.

Attachment B

Work plan to establish charge 3: Pro Bono Profile

- Review and revise draft pro bono profile form
- Discuss project with SCCLL web master to review procedures
- Distribute form to SCCLL and LISP members via email lists through letter from Presidents of each section
- Post the form on the SCCLL web site, provide link from LISP web site to form
- Initially post completed forms on SCCLL web site arranged by state
- Once a representative sample has been posted, direct attention to project through vehicle of AALL President's newsletter

Draft Pro Bono Profile

If your library is involved with a project to provide support for pro bono programs or for programs to provide assistance to self-represented litigants, please complete the form below and send via email to

Name:

Email address:

If your library is involved with more than one such project, please complete a separate form for each project. The completed forms will be posted on the SCCLL web site to help publicize the ways law libraries provide services for pro bono and self-represented litigant programs and to serve as a resource center for other libraries who wish to initiate programs.

Template for project reports

Who are the clientele served?

What is the project's mission?

Who are the project's partners, if any?

What is your library's role in the project?

What funding sources support the project?

To learn more about this project contact:

Name of lead staff person

phone

email

Library name and address

phone

email