

Government Law Libraries-SIS—Best A2J Practices Special Committee, 2014-2015

This new committee was created in 2014-15 to explore ways that GLL-SIS might advance best practices related to law libraries and access to justice. The members of the committee were Sara Galligan and Joan Bellistri. It was decided that the special committee should continue in 2015-16 with the intent of becoming a permanent GLL-SIS committee.

In 2015, the committee partnered with the Self-Represented Litigant's Network (SRLN) to present two webinars related to Access to Justice. James Durham coordinated the webinars with the assistance of Michael Beirnard of the SRLN. The first webinar took place in February and was entitled:

“Access to Justice: Who's Your Partner and Where Are You Going?” February 2015
http://www.srln.org/trainings/item.5949-SRLNSCCLL_Access_to_Justice_Webinar_Series.
Sara Galligan and Terrye Conroy were the presenters.

The second webinar was entitled: "Best Practices for Court, County, and Government Law Libraries," March 2014 (http://www.srln.org/trainings/item.5958-SRLNSCCLL_Access_to_Justice_Webinar_Series_II) and took place in March. The presenters were Joan Bellistri, Sara Galligan, and Janine Liebert.

Joan and Sara also participated in various SRLN law library working group activities that overlapped with the GLL special committee. These included attending the NLADA/ABA Equal Justice Conference (EJC) and the SRLN pre-conference related to self-represented litigants. Also, Joan coordinated an EJC program entitled “Civil Right to Counsel and Self-Help Services: Access to Justice through a Continuum of Services.” Sara was a presenter for this program and explained how law librarians provide basic to advanced law library services on the continuum.

Joan and Sara will present a short presentation at the LISP/GLL/SR Joint Roundtable program in Philadelphia. This will include an overview of ATJ best practices, with an update on latest developments, and member input.

The committee also explored the idea of creating a resource guide on ATJ best practices for law libraries. The GLL Publicity and Public Relations Committee indicated interest in sponsoring the resource guide. Joan and Sara as well as Terrye Conroy expressed interest in providing content. The resource guide will be pursued in 2015-16.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Galligan, Chair