

GLL-SIS Best A2J Practices Committee—2015-16

Members of the committee were Jessie Burchfield, Michael Ginsborg, Sara Pic, Maggie Kiel Morse, with co-chairs Joan Bellistri and Sara Galligan. Dan Cordova served as the GLL executive board liaison.

The committee completed GLL Resource Guide # 5: *Access to Justice: Best Practices for Public Law Libraries*. Joan Bellistri and Sara Galligan co-edited and contributed articles to the eight page guide. Sara Pic also contributed an article on public library partnerships. From the idea stage to final completion, the co-chairs invited the committee's input regarding outline, content and author selection. Guide # 5 incorporates a main charge of the committee to "spotlight initiatives that demonstrate important examples of ATJ best practices, including libraries at the basic, intermediate, and advanced levels of self-help services."

The co-editors worked with Sue Ludington, chair of the GLL Publicity Committee, who arranged for the graphic design and final publication of GLL Resource Guide # 5. Sue also updated Resource Guide # 4: *Self-Represented Litigants: A Guide for Government and Court Decision-Makers*. Both guides will be available at the annual meeting in Chicago. Possible future topics that were forwarded to the co-chairs included public library partnerships and a guide on pro se appeals. The resource guides are funded by a LexisNexis grant.

Co-chairs and other committee members participated in monthly conference calls of the Self-Represented Litigation Network's Law Librarians Working Group and the Strategy & Outreach Working Group. Joan Bellistri, Sara Galligan and Sara Pic attended the SRLN Equal Justice Conference Pre-Conference in Chicago. Joan Bellistri and Sara Pic along with Mark Estes were awarded grants by GLL to attend the Pre-Conference and the Equal Justice Conference.

The Equal Justice Conference, co-sponsored by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and National Legal Aid & Defender Association, provides the opportunity to connect with "all components of the legal community to discuss equal justice issues as they relate to the delivery of legal services to the poor and low-income individuals in need of legal assistance." Law librarians contributed to the Conference by serving on the SRLN pre-conference planning committee and by presenting and proposing programs for the SRLN pre-conference and the main EJC. The value of law libraries in providing access to justice was frequently mentioned in a variety of programs. There were 16 librarians in attendance at the SRLN Pre-Conference and EJC from California, Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Texas, Illinois, Louisiana, Arizona, Maryland and Hawaii.

The Best A2J Practices Committee, which was a new special committee in 2014-15, was continued in 2015-16 with the intent of becoming a permanent GLL-SIS committee.