

# SCCLL News

A Newsletter of the State, Court and County Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

## Don't Miss:

- Feature story about the Allegheny County Law Library
- Candidate bios
- Hurricane Katrina stories from the 5th Circuit

## View from the Chair

Barbara Golden, SCCLL Chair



AALL election results were posted in December and SCCLL had a remarkable showing against respected firm librarians. Congratulations go to Ann T. Fessenden, incoming AALL Vice President/President-Elect, and Cornell H. Winston, incoming AALL Executive Board member. Ann and Cornell will join fellow SCCLL member Steven P. Anderson on the Board in July, when Kathy Carlson leaves the Board after three years of exemplary service.

We have reached the middle of the Association year and SCCLL committees are busy. Here are a few ways that other members can help.

**ADVOCATE** for libraries. This is Standard Operating Procedure for SCCLL members, but I follow in the footsteps of past presidents Mike Miller, Charley Dyer, and Sandy Marz in saying that grassroots advocacy is the key to turning budget challenges into opportunities. Many SCCLL members have faced funding challenges in the last few years. To be stronger, we need to share our experiences. SCCLL/AALL can help but early warning is crucial. If you would like to be a member of the advocacy network, contact Publicity Committee member Larry Meyer (larrym@sblawlibrary.org).

**CELEBRATE** with AALL. Use the centennial of our professional organization to toot your own horn. During National Library Week, on Law Day, or another significant date, take time to highlight your library's history and its significance to your organization. This is also a fun way to advocate for your library. And share your stories in the Awards section of the SCCLL website.

**INQUIRE and INFORM** through the SCCLL listserv and website. The Technology Committee has been adding materials to the Toolbox section of the web site (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/>). More is needed, especially advocacy strategies. Some of the new additions to the website are summaries of listserv discussions. Keep on asking those big questions.

**NOMINATE** that special SCCLL member for the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession. This is a person who has made a significant contribution to law librarianship and who is nearing the end of his or her library career, or who has recently retired. Criteria for receiving this award include service to the profession of law librarianship, contributions to legal research, teaching and outreach efforts, and recognition by members of the legal or government community. For more information, contact Awards Chair Fran Jones (fran.jones@jud.ca.gov).

**SPONSOR or SUGGEST** a VIP (Valuable Invited Participant) for attendance at the AALL Conference in St. Louis. I enthusiastically endorse this program and am urging all SCCLL members who are planning on attending the AALL Centennial bash to invite VIP guests. It is a win-win situation. The VIPs have fun and our libraries reap future benefits. This has certainly been the case for my library and Chapter VIPs. We are so lucky to be part of a national organization that encourages us to invite members of our community to our annual meeting. SCCLL hopes to sponsor two VIPs this year. One VIP will speak at the Trustee's

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Luncheon (which will not be chicken and will be less expensive this year). Let me know if you have a VIP suggestion and I will pass the name on to our VIP subcommittee (barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us).

I have not reported on all the work that our committees are doing, but suffice it to say that the New Year is off to a good start. Best wishes to you and your libraries. Keep on advocating. ■

## From the Editor

**Kim Ostitis, SCCLL News Editor**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed articles for this themed issue of SCCLL News highlighting collaboration efforts among different library types. Be sure to read the feature article about the unique partnership between Duquesne University and the Allegheny County Law Library.

Thank you also to everyone who sent in contributions for The Back Page and to Merrill Chertok for her great article for *Court & Spark*. The next SCCLL News will be a combined Spring/Summer issue so I will be looking for articles highlighting programs and events to be held at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis in addition to the recurring newsletter features. ■

## 2006 Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service

**Fran Jones, Chair, Awards Committee**

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the 2006 Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service, and welcomes nominations from all SCCLL members. The award, given triennially, recognizes members who are nearing the end of their library careers or who have retired recently for their distinguished service. The Awards Committee considers criteria that include, but are not limited to: achievement in a state, court, or county law library; contributions to SCCLL and AALL; recognition of the nominee by members of the legal or governmental community served; contributions to legal research, teaching, professional literature, or outreach efforts; and service to the profession of law librarianship, including mentoring of newer members.

Deadline for submission of nominations is March 31. Nominations may be submitted via email or in hardcopy to the addresses below. The committee thanks members for their serious consideration of this important award. Additional information regarding the award is available on the SCCLL website or by calling me at 415-865-7170. Please direct email submissions to: Rita.Dermody@metrokc.gov; anna\_djirdjirian@cit.uscourts.gov; and fran.jones@jud.ca.gov. Please include the phrase Ochal Award in the subject line. Submissions must be dated not later than March 31, 2006. Please direct *three copies* of hardcopy submissions to: Fran Jones, California Judicial Center Library, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Room 4617, San Francisco, CA 94102-7013. Hardcopy submissions must have a postmark or other send date that is not later than March 31, 2006. ■

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*“Deadline for submission of nominations for the 2006 Ochal Award is March 31.”*

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## Charley's Corner: The Political Ramifications of Inter-Library Cooperation

Charles R. Dyer, Retired Director of Libraries, San Diego County Public Law Library

All views expressed in this article are entirely my own.

The San Diego County Public Law Library's geographical service area is the entire County of San Diego, California, which is 4,200 square miles, with a population of nearly 3 million people. The City of San Diego is a much smaller entity, with a population of about 1.2 million.

Within the County of San Diego, there are eight distinct public library districts, seven of which are municipal library districts (including the San Diego Public Library, run by the City of San Diego) and one is the County Library, which runs several branches in the remaining municipalities and the unincorporated areas of the county. The primary support for the public libraries is a portion of property tax and some revenues from the general funds of the municipalities.

In 1996 and again in 1998, the eight public library districts sought to get an addition to the county's sales tax to support their programs. The addition would have been a 1/4 cent for several years, expected to bring in millions of dollars. Due to California's Prop 13, this new tax would require a two-thirds vote for passage, difficult at best. As a "Johnny come lately," the Law Library decided to try to be included in the 1998 proposal so it could share in the revenues. Of course, in order to sell the program, the several public library districts had created specific plans as to what they would do with the funds. The districts had already given their plans to their supporters during the 1996 attempt. Also, due to the structure of the proposed taxing district, the law library had to achieve support from a majority of the eighteen incorporated cities in the county and the county government, and probably much more than a majority. So when the law library sought to be included, we faced an uphill battle.

Ultimately, the Law Library was unsuccessful in convincing the governmental entities to let us participate in the sales tax measure. Unfortunately, the measure lost the second time around in 1998, as it had in 1996. The second time, they tried a special election, hoping that only those concerned about library services would come out to vote. To their surprise, the vote was barely 51 percent, as opposed to 62 percent in the 1996 general election. The anti-tax forces were ultimately better at getting turnout than the libraries. Attempts to pass such a sales tax are now no longer being tried in San Diego County. At least, the law library was not blamed for the defeat.

Nevertheless, we at the San Diego County Law Library learned a lot from the experience. When my trustees and I visited the friends groups of many of the public libraries, those supporters were openly hostile to the Law Library. They thought that the library served only lawyers. Upon reflection, our board then decided to change our name and add the word "Public" to it, which we did in 1997. That was a very good move.

The public librarians themselves were not so hostile, as they recognized from the referrals they made that the law library served a niche of their clientele that they could not serve well without tremendous added expense. As one librarian noted, given our expertise, our collection and the fact that our four locations were near the four courthouses, had we not existed, they would have had to invent us. They were only quite rightly upset that we had not participated in their planning earlier. Their idea had arisen during meetings of the Serra Cooperative Library System, which is the local public library network. Years earlier, before my tenure there, the law library had dropped out because it presumably had nothing to gain from participation, since we rarely referred any of our patrons to the other libraries. That was a mistake. We should have been there all along, not just for the mutual political support.

(Charley's Corner continued on page 5)

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*"When my trustees and I visited the friends groups of many of the public libraries, those supporters were openly hostile to the law library."*

(Charley's Corner continued from page 4)

Since 1997, as a member of Serra, the law library has developed programs to outreach to the public libraries. We have taken our classes for self-represented litigants to their locations and trained their librarians how to respond to legal questions at their libraries and when to refer patrons to us. Some of the grants we received from the state library under the Library Services and Technology Act included the public libraries as active partners. We also were able to participate in joint training programs and grants that Serra received. Currently, Serra is using a grant to set up video conferencing facilities at the participating libraries, which will greatly enhance our outreach and training capabilities and cut down on travel to meetings.

Now the friends groups see us in a very different way. Also, we help enhance the appeal of public libraries to two classes that ordinarily are not heavily involved in public library friends groups: the poor lower classes, who often come to libraries as a matter of need, rather than for entertainment and education; and the upper middle classes, who are more prone to buy their books than borrow them, but cannot buy legal information so readily.

All this goes back to enhancing the political support for public law libraries. Other county law librarians in California have also become very active in their local public library networks and with their public libraries. So now, the California Library Association, which is basically run by the public librarians, can be called upon to be supportive of county law library legislative efforts. Certainly, the coordination on legislation with them is vastly improved, and opposition is avoided. At the local level, the public librarians (insofar as they are allowed) can support local law library measures, such as filing fee increases. (The public library networks are particularly helpful in that regard, because you can get a supporting resolution from the network, but you often cannot get one from a municipal library because it would have to be vetted by that municipality's city council.)

Cooperation is essential for all libraries that serve the public.



## SCCLL Grants for Annual Meeting

**Barbara L. Fritschel, Chair, Grant Committee**

If we lived in a perfect world, law libraries would be fully funded, budgets would include money to attend conferences, and I would win every silent auction item I bid on. Since we don't live in a perfect world, many may need financial assistance to attend the 2006 AALL Annual meeting in St. Louis, July 8-12.

Previous grant recipients have benefited from attending the meeting, noting the value of networking and catching up on training in the exhibit hall. In addition, SCCLL offers several programs, all well received and many geared specifically for state, county, and court law librarians.

SCCLL has five grants of \$850 each available for the meeting in St. Louis. Grants will be awarded on the basis of financial need, proven potential ability, and the promise of future usefulness and permanence in the law library profession. Applicants must be members of the SCCLL SIS.

Applications and recommendations must be sent by April 1, 2006 or within two weeks of the annual meeting registration packet mailing to members, whichever date is later. Grant rules and application forms are on the SCCLL website.

If you have any questions about the grants application process, please contact Barbara Fritschel at [Barbara\\_Fritschel@ca5.uscourts.gov](mailto:Barbara_Fritschel@ca5.uscourts.gov) or 409-654-7028.



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*"SCCLL has five grants of \$850 each available for the meeting in St. Louis."*

## A Law School - County Law Library Partnership

Frank Y. Liu & Joel Fishman, Ph.D., Duquesne University School of Law, CLI & Allegheny County Law Library

In November, 1999, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information (DCLI) and the Allegheny County government located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania entered into a contract for the DCLI to manage the operations of the Allegheny County Law Library (ACLL). This partnership between a private academic law library and a public county law library is the only operation of its kind in the nation.<sup>1</sup> The partnership has proven to be a success and a second five-year contract was implemented on June 1, 2004. This article is intended to share with the law library community the background, the operations, and the benefits to both libraries and the legal community of the greater Pittsburgh area from this unique partnership.

### Background

ACLL was founded in 1867. It is one of the oldest and largest county law libraries in the United States. ACLL is located on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the landmark city-county building built in 1911. The mayor's office is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The library has approximately 200,000 volumes with an extensive rare book collection and one of the most comprehensive Pennsylvania records and briefs and legislative journal collections in the country.

Duquesne University, a Catholic university, was founded in 1878 by the Congregation of the Holy Ghost Order. Presently, the University has eleven schools and a total of over 10,000 students and 422 faculty members. The law school was established in 1911. It has both a day and an evening division with over 600 students and twenty-seven faculty members. DCLI has over 281,000 volumes housed in a newly renovated facility of about 45,000 square feet. DCLI has an extensive Pennsylvania law collection and maintains the most comprehensive website on researching Pennsylvania law.

DCLI is located at the Duquesne University campus on Locust Street which is three blocks and a ten-minute walk from ACLL. The close proximity of the two libraries is a key factor for the success of the partnership.

ACLL was a division of the Court of Common Pleas since the mid-1970s. Under the courts, the library reported first to a law library board, and since 1984, the head librarian reported to the court administrator. In 1996, the Republican Party won the majority of Commissioner offices (two to one) on a platform of decreasing taxes. On the first day in office, the Commissioners cut property taxes 20% without knowing exactly how revenues would offset the decrease. During the first year, several row offices had trouble with the commissioners, including the court, and began a law suit against the commissioners that was resolved in the favor of the courts. At the end of 1996, however, the court administration, determined not to fight in the courts again, made a deal for the 1997 budget that included cutting the law library from the court's budget and transferring it to the commissioners' budget under the jurisdiction of the law department.

The commissioners cut the 1997 law library's budget by three quarters, from \$800,000 down to \$206,000. An outcry from the judges and bar association quickly led to a deal in which filing fees would be increased to increase revenue to approximately \$300,000. However, the initial estimate was too high, and only \$200,000 was collected to offset part of the county's funding. An outside consultant was also hired to study the library. The consultant's study requested more than a million dollars to fix up the library and improve its collections. His report was presented in February 1998.

For eight months, there was no response. Finally, in December 1998, the county solicitor announced to the bar and to the library staff that Duquesne University Law Library was taking over the library. During the year he had approached both the Carnegie Library of

(Partnership continued on page 7)

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*"This partnership between a private academic law library and a public county law library is the only operation of its kind in the nation."*

(Partnership continued from page 6)

Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Law School, but neither felt it was in their interest to make some arrangement with the library.

Initially, the judges of the court and the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA) expressed opposition to the arrangement. However, after DCLI presented its detailed plan which would maintain ACLL in its current location and its collection and services as a separate entity, the bench and ACBA gave their strong stamp of approval. The county commissioners approved the plan in March 1999 to a five-year contract from June 1999 to May 2004 for DCLI to manage the library starting November 8, 1999. The contract was renewed on November 4, 2003, for another five years from June 2004 to May 2008.

### Renovations

During the first year under new management, the staff members of the two libraries were involved in a complete refurbishment of the ACLL facility. Under county administration, the library barely got light bulbs replaced much less had any major maintenance work. Under the new DCLI administration, the library's beautiful large main reading room, with its magnificently designed high ceiling, was restored by refinishing the walnut tables, cleaning the brass lights, painting the walls, and carpeting the floor. The old six-foot long card catalog was removed and replaced with a six-carrel computer station. A new reference desk was also installed. All the book stacks were removed from the balcony of the reading room, and a tastefully furnished lounge area was created for the public's popular reading pleasure. In 2001, the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation awarded Professor Frank Y. Liu, DCLI Director, with a certificate of merit for his work restoring the library's main reading room.

Other rooms in the library were also carpeted and painted. Part of the treatise collection that lined two walls of a long, cramped hallway was relocated to the regular stack area; the old acquisitions room was renovated into a computer training lab. Another large room formerly used by the secretary was painted and carpeted. The rare book collection was transferred to this room and placed on the bookshelves that line the perimeter of the room. A new, large conference table and chairs were furnished for creating a conference room that can be used by staff or rented out. The former small room of the rare book collection became the reference librarian's office.

Finally, in 2003, after persistent and methodical public relations work, the DCLI management persuaded the Allegheny County Public Services Department to install air conditioning in the library with county funds, a \$200,000 investment. The ACLL facility was the last facility in the entire city-county building to be air conditioned.

Now, ACLL is a clean, attractive, comfortable, well-equipped and organized modern public legal information center enjoyed by the Pittsburgh legal community and general public. Compliments and accolades from patrons on the success of the renovation are still frequently heard.

### Administration

The management of the two libraries is under the direction of the Director of DCLI, Professor Frank Y. Liu. All personnel of ACLL report to DCLI and are employees of Duquesne University and members of the DCLI staff. Fortunately, no staff members lost their positions as a result of the new management agreement. By November, 1999, only the head law librarian Dr. Joel Fishman and reference librarian Paul Recht, Esq. remained on staff. Other full-time staff had left ACLL over the previous two years, some of whom had taken positions with DCLI; and the final two clerical staff members were transferred to other county jobs to maintain their seniority status. Dr. Fishman became the Assistant Director of Lawyer Services of DCLI, and Mr. Recht retained his title as reference librarian. Three part-time

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*“Now, ACLL is a clean, attractive, comfortable, well-equipped and organized modern public legal information center...”*

(Partnership continued from page 7)

workers were added to assist in the daily work in the library.

In all matters relating to ACLL, the DCLI Director reports to the Dean of the Duquesne Law School. However, he maintains a close working relationship with the county's law department administrator who is in charge of the enforcement of the management agreement. Based on the contract terms, the director is required to submit a management report to the Administrator every six months. The administrator has no direct administrative authority over the director.

The director heads a management team which is composed of all librarians and technical professionals of the two libraries. The management team meets once a month to determine the major professional and operational policies for both libraries.

### **Financial Management**

The annual ACLL operating budget comes from three sources: the annual management funds paid to the DCLI by the Allegheny County government, a specific allocation of the filing fees from civil law suits of the Common Pleas Courts of the county, and funds generated by the ACLL including the annual borrowers' fees paid by law firms, individual lawyers, and members of the public; copying and document delivery charges; rental of the computer lab and conference room; and incomes from the continuing legal education programs.

With the exception of the filing fees, all funds are payable to DCLI and are deposited in special accounts created by the Duquesne University Controller and managed by the DCLI staff. The filing fees are exclusively used for the acquisition of library materials. As the filing fees account is controlled by the county, a set amount of vendor invoices are sent to the county's accounting office each month to be paid with these funds.

Under the DCLI management, the salaries of the ACLL librarians and their benefits in travel and professional development were significantly increased. DCLI staff members also received additional salary incentives for the extra work performed for ACLL.

### **Acquisitions and Collection Development**

Acquisitions and checking-in and processing of print and electronic library materials are centrally handled by the DCLI. ACLL materials remain the property of the county and bear its property stamps where appropriate. The processed print materials are delivered to ACLL through a daily courier service.

The standards for collection development for DCLI are based on American Bar Association and Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Law School Library Standards, and those for ACLL are based on the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) County Law Library Standards. Each library has its own collection development plan. Cost sharing measures were undertaken to maximize the use of the library material budgets for both libraries. For example, ACLL no longer maintains a periodical collection except for Pennsylvania law reviews, and it keeps only a small state collection of surrounding states, plus California and Florida. Patrons needing printed state statutes are dependent on the DCLI collection. For treatises, the two libraries share the costs of multi-volume treatises with each library keeping at least one major set, e.g. *Couch on Insurance* at ACLL and *Appleman on Insurance* at DCLI. On an on-going basis, the librarians examine both collections topically to identify areas of shared acquisition responsibilities.

ACLL continues to be a Federal Depository library separate from DCLI, but the documents are routed to and processed through DCLI.

Under the new management, ACLL has increased significantly the number of electronic

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(Partnership continued from page 8)

resources for its patrons. At the present time, patrons have free on-site access to Shepard's Citations, West's KeyCite, LegalTrac, Hein Online, and Loislaw. Library card holding patrons also have access to Lexis and Westlaw.

### **Bibliographical Control**

Fortunately, both ACLL and DCLI had online cataloging systems from Innovative Interfaces (III); it was relatively easy to merge the two systems. The system has since been upgraded to III's Millennium product. Patrons can view both collections through an integrated public catalog, called SOLCAT (School of Law Catalog), at <http://library.law.duq.edu>. All patrons can search the catalog to see the holdings of both libraries simultaneously or, through the use of scopes, limit their searching to just one library.

All new titles are cataloged and classified at the DCLI. One of the major savings for both libraries is sharing the costs for maintaining and upgrading the Millennium on-line system. The libraries are also able to share selective OCLC charges for cataloging and authority control. However, the libraries retained separate OCLC holdings symbols.

### **Technology**

Under the new management, the DCLI information technology staff has applied technology to the operations of ACLL on a daily basis. ACLL also has ready access to the extensive infrastructure support provided by the Duquesne University Computing Technology Services, which include continuous upgrades in computer hardware, software, networking, and email capability.

One of the first major improvements was the installation of new Internet accessible computers throughout ACLL (Dell Optiplex computers). A carrel with six computers was installed in the main reading room for public access to the Internet, SOLCAT, and other electronic resources. All staff members were provided with networked computers and access to the Duquesne University email system. The system was initially connected to the University's network using an ISDN line, but was later changed to hookup with the county courts T1 line located in the building.

A computer lab with twenty computers and an overhead projector was installed in the former acquisitions office. The regional office of West Group contributed to the equipment and facility of the lab. The lab has become useful for a variety of programs, including CLE classes, attorney training for electronic filing at the prothonotary's office, and general county and bar association training for installation of new software in their respective organizations. The installation of additional public computer workstations in the main reading room has been planned for the near future.

One website was created for both libraries, at [www.lawlib.duq.edu](http://www.lawlib.duq.edu). The management agreement facilitated Dr. Fishman's appointment as Co-Director of the Pennsylvania Constitution Web Site, [www.paconstitution.duq.edu](http://www.paconstitution.duq.edu), maintained by the Duquesne University Law School. The constitution site is the most extensive state constitutional law website in the country.

### **Circulation Services**

#### **Hours**

Under the new management, ACLL extended its daily hours from 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday to 7:00 pm, and is now open on Saturdays from 12:00 to 5:00 pm.

#### **Unified Circulation System**

ACLL permits a large part of its collection to circulate to its patrons. For many years, only ten

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*“Under the new management, the DCLI information technology staff has applied technology to the operations of ACLL on a daily basis.”*

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(Partnership continued from page 9)

dollars (\$10.00) a year was charged for an individual to obtain a library card. As a result, all law firms, large or small, paid ten dollars a year for one library card to check out numerous library materials throughout the year. An attempt to increase the fee structure in 1996 failed. In 2002, DCLI received the unanimous support of the board of governors of ACBA to institute a new fee structure: \$30.00 per person for members of the public and lawyers with up to 30 lawyers in a firm; \$1,000 for 31 to 60 lawyers; 2,000 for 61 to 100 lawyers; and \$3,000 for 101 lawyers and above. The library card fees have generated over \$40,000 additional annual revenue for ACLL.

Beginning in 2003, DCLI opened its collection for circulation to all ACLL library card holders. Duquesne law faculty, staff, and students can also check out ACLL materials. Since the collection development policies of the two libraries are based on the sharing of the collections, this extends both collections to all patrons and helps to justify the additional fees charged for ACLL library cards.

Books from both collections can be checked out at either library's circulation desk; a daily courier service transfers library materials between the two libraries.

### Reference Services

The combined resources of the two libraries provide one of the most comprehensive collections of print materials and electronic databases in Pennsylvania law in the country. The two libraries field legal reference or research questions relating to Pennsylvania law from all over the world. Working together, it is unusual to find a Pennsylvania legal information question without a credible answer.

### Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Beginning in April 2001, Mr. Dittakavi Rao, Associate Director of DCLI, and Dr. Fishman began to teach CLE courses approved by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in the ACLL computer lab. There are four three-hour courses on manual and online legal research and a one-hour legal ethics research course. These courses are taught throughout the year and have brought significant income to the ACLL.

### Teaching Legal Research to First Year Law Students

Both ACLL librarians, Dr. Fishman and Mr. Recht, participate in teaching legal research to the first year law students at the Duquesne Law School. With three DCLI user services librarians, including the director, there are a total of five legal research instructors. This allows the program to group the first year law students into smaller sections of approximately twenty students per section. Each legal research instructor is in charge of two sections of first year students. This small group approach to legal research instruction allows the instructor to provide more personal attention to the legal research skill needs of each student.

### Publications

Under the leadership and scholarship of Dr. Fishman, ACLL has published a number of significant legal research reference books in Pennsylvania law. With the joint effort of the librarians of the two libraries, the first comprehensive and in-depth legal research guide for Pennsylvania law, titled ***Pennsylvania Legal Research Handbook***, co-authored by Frank Y. Liu, Dittakavi Rao, Joel Fishman and Tsegaye Beru, was published by American Lawyer Media in 2001. After joining the DCLI library staff, Dr. Fishman has been actively working with Duquesne Law faculty members to produce other scholarly works, such as the monumental treatise titled ***The Pennsylvania Constitution, A Treatise on Rights and Liberties*** published in August 2004. During the past five years, Dr. Fishman has published numerous articles in a variety of publications.

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*“Working together, it is unusual to find a Pennsylvania legal information question without a credible answer.”*

(Partnership continued on page 11)

(Partnership continued from page 10)

As part of the ongoing publication program, DCLI/ACLL has published a number of titles to serve the Pennsylvania bench and bar, including the *Duquesne University Center for Legal Information - Allegheny County Law Library Newsletter*.

### Conclusion

The partnership between DCLI and ACLL has significantly benefited both libraries in many areas. Financially, both libraries have realized substantial savings by sharing costs in acquisitions, processing, collection development, and bibliographical control system maintenance and upgrades. The staffs of the two libraries have formed an expanded single service team; their combined expertise provides much more knowledgeable and in-depth services to their respective patrons. The patrons of both libraries now have access to a comprehensive collection of information resources of close to a half a million volumes of books and extensive electronic databases of the two libraries. This is a win-win situation. The Pittsburgh legal community and the Duquesne Law School faculty and students have been very pleased with the results of the partnership.

However, the success of the DCLI - ACLL partnership is based on a unique set of circumstances including the proximity of the locations of the two libraries, the community service tradition of Duquesne University in the greater Pittsburgh area, the support of the bench and bar, and the close working relationship between the two library staffs before the partnership was instituted.

This partnership is not a model for substituting a properly funded public county law library system, but an experiment for sharing and maximizing limited resources between a county law library and a private academic law library. In fact, it is a unique and creative way for preserving and expanding the functions of an inadequately funded county law library.

Free access to basic legal information for the bench and bar and the general public is essential for preserving the true democratic system. The government must provide sufficient funding to finance a viable county law library system throughout the United States.

**Frank Y. Liu** is a Professor of Law and Director of the Duquesne University School of Law, Center for Legal Information and Allegheny County Law Library. **Joel Fishman, Ph.D.** is the Assistant Director for Lawyer Services of the Duquesne University School of Law, Center for Legal Information and Allegheny County Law Library.

<sup>1</sup> The joint operations in Arkansas between the two law schools and their public law libraries started early in their history; John Marshall U. Law Library purchased the Chicago Bar Association collection and maintains it within its library. Our libraries have been two distinct libraries since 1867 (ACLL) and 1911 (DCLI).

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*“[I]t is a unique and creative way for preserving and expanding the functions of an inadequately funded county law library.”*



## Remote Access HeinOnline Pilot Project

**Laura Orr, Washington County (Oregon) Law Library**

In Washington County, Oregon, if you have a library card from your local public library, you now have access to HeinOnline, courtesy of the Washington County Law Library and the county's public libraries.

While most large legal database publishers don't make their databases available remotely through non-academic public law libraries, some independent publishers are willing to work with librarians intent on improving database service to their library patrons. As is true for many of us in large counties with major traffic congestion, our library's patrons sometimes have to drive an hour or more to get to their law library. I've been trying to figure out how to give them remote access to subscription legal research databases, but was hindered in two ways. One was internal and technological and the other was external and bureaucratic. First, my library is too small and low-tech to have the equipment and technical staff needed to support such an endeavor and second, the large legal publishers I approached were unwilling to negotiate, preferring to restrict access to attorneys who were able to pay directly for personal subscriptions. For most solo and small law firm attorneys, however, this option isn't cost-effective because they need access to these specialized databases too infrequently to justify a monthly subscription expense.

A solution to my problem was just down the hall from my Law Library with the Washington County Cooperative Library Services (WCCLS) staff. Washington County does not have a unified public library system; each city and town operates, funds, and manages its own public library. But twenty-five years ago the county's public librarians gathered to create WCCLS, which is an umbrella organization that provides online catalog, ILL, and database services to WCCLS members. (The Washington County Law Library is not a WCCLS member - we still use a card catalog and have manual checkouts - nor are we affiliated with any public library in the county. Our funding is from state court filing fees and the law librarian reports to the Presiding Judge, the County Administrator, and to the county bar association law library committee.)

I approached Eva Calagno, the WCCLS Director, to ask if she and her staff would be willing to work with the law library on a HeinOnline remote access legal research database project, with them providing database support and my library providing reference and financial support. As any courageous librarian would do anywhere, Eva said yes. So with the help of WCCLS computer staff and the willingness and flexibility of HeinOnline's technical and sales staff, the database was rolled out to the public on October 7th. HeinOnline now appears as a menu item on the WCCLS list of subscription databases patrons can search from anywhere. Library card holders just need to enter their personal library card number to search the database. This pilot project is the first of its kind in the state, and possibly the country, and both Washington County library directors and the legal database vendor will watch it closely this coming year to see if it is a successful library business model for others to emulate. We are planning the next remote access legal research database service to offer our patrons and have started negotiating with potential vendors. ■

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*"In Washington County, Oregon, if you have a library card from your local public library, you now have access to HeinOnline..."*

## Technology Committee Update

**Katie Jones, Chair, Technology Committee**

The SCCLL Technology Committee is working on providing more content for the SCCLL-SIS website. One of the topics that we would like to organize and provide access to is a list of the collection development policies held by member libraries. It would be great to see what each library collects, as well as current changes in collections based on space and financial issues. If you would like to provide access to your library's policy, please send the link or a copy of the policy to Katie Jones at [kjones2@state.wy.us](mailto:kjones2@state.wy.us). ■

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*"[W]e would like to provide access to a list of the collection development policies held by member libraries."*

## Public Library Collaboration in Minnesota

Sara Galligan, Dakota County Law Library

Dakota County Law Library in Hastings, Minnesota opened a satellite branch in a busy public library in January 2006. This culminates a vision contemplated by the law library board for several years. It also capitalizes upon prior collaboration between the law library and the public library system in Dakota County. The Galaxie Public Library that now contains the law library branch is the site of the law library's virtual branch that opened in 1996. Located in the county's Western Service Center in Apple Valley, this expanded law library service will assist public library users as well as attorneys, government, and court staff involved in court operations in a busier and more populated area of the county.

With the addition of a half-time law librarian, two additional computer terminals (for Westlaw and Lexis services), and a core print collection, the law library hopes to meet the needs of residents throughout the county. Many court users visit the Western Service Center with its five courtrooms and district court operation, and two judges are permanently chambered there. The Dakota County Family Court Self-help Center holds sessions in the Galaxie Public Library—the Dakota County Law Library, Legal Assistance of Dakota County and Dakota County District Court sponsor this service. With the expanded law library service, there is interest in expanding self-help center sessions at this location as well. Self-help sessions also take place at the law library in Hastings and the Wentworth Library in West St. Paul.

The Dakota County Law Library provides the Galaxie library, as well as nine other branches in the system, with print notebooks containing family court forms, court procedural videos, and VersusLaw. The law library also collaborates with a local bar association and legal service organization to sponsor legal seminars for attorneys and the general public at the Western Service Center. Because this area of the county has the largest population of attorneys, and is a core population center, the law library intends to provide more specialized legal resources as well as pro se resources in this new branch. ■

## Law Day in Alameda County

Cossette Sun, Alameda County Law Library

In Alameda County, the organizing mechanism for Law Day has been the Law Day Committee, a collaborative effort involving, among others, the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library, the Donald P. McCullum Youth Court, the Alameda County Office of Education, the Rotary Club of Oakland, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the Allen E. Broussard Scholarship Foundation, local minority and specialty bar associations, and the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The 2006 Law Day Theme is "Liberty under Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers," focusing on the separation of powers and how this structure works for the common good of all citizens. It is important that all Americans understand what the founders intended and accomplished in creating a government of separate powers. This theme enables Law Day planners to show how the branches have their separate spheres and separate powers, but work together for the common good. The theme also is central to building understanding of the rule of law, which has always been a primary purpose of Law Day.

The committee has been hard at work and has met several times this year. The Law Day celebration is held on May 1 each year. The law library director has been on the Law Day Committee for over ten years chairing the Liberty Bell Award Subcommittee to recognize quality recipients who meet the following criteria: promote a better understanding of our form of government, encourage greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights, contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government, and/or convey a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law. For more information, visit <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/ideas/alameda02.html>. ■

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*"The Dakota County Law Library provides the Galaxie library ...with print notebooks containing family court forms, court procedural videos, and VersusLaw."*

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*"The 2006 Law Day Theme is Liberty under Law: Separate Branches, Balanced Powers'..."*

## Wisconsin State Law Library Collaborates in Providing Virtual Reference Services

Connie Von Der Heide, Wisconsin State Law Library

For the past two years, the Wisconsin State Law Library (WSLL) (<http://wsll.state.wi.us>) has collaborated with the South Central Library System (SCLS) (<http://www.scls.lib.wi.us>) in answering reference questions received through SCLS's Ask?Away virtual reference service. Ask?Away was a consortium of SCLS public libraries that participated in the global 24/7 Reference Service (<http://www.247ref.org/>). Public librarians answering chat questions relating to Wisconsin or federal law could forward them to a follow-up queue, from which WSLL staff could email additional information directly to the patron. Law libraries in other states have also participated in other consortia of the 24/7 Reference Service, which was originally developed by the Metropolitan Cooperative Library System of the greater Los Angeles area (<http://www.mcls.org/webpublic/index.cfm>).

In addition to Ask?Away, two other consortia of Wisconsin libraries offered virtual reference service. The AskUs service of the Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System (<http://www.mwfls.org/>) used the 24/7 Reference platform, and the AskWisconsin consortia organized by Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) (<http://www.wils.wisc.edu>) used QuestionPoint (<http://www.oclc.org/questionpoint/>). 24/7 Reference and OCLC QuestionPoint recently merged to form QuestionPoint 24/7 Reference, so the three Wisconsin consortia have now joined together in one statewide virtual reference service, Ask?Away: Wisconsin Librarians Online. WSLL is continuing to provide email follow-up on Wisconsin and federal law questions, and the reference staff of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Ebling Health Sciences Library (<http://ebling.library.wisc.edu/>) has joined on to provide follow-up on health related questions. While there have been software redesigns which require some re-training, the basic email follow-up function remains the same.

WSLL also provides legal reference follow-up service to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Reference & Loan Library (<http://dpi.wi.gov/rl/>), which has answered content-related feedback questions received through the [www.wisconsin.gov](http://www.wisconsin.gov) state government portal since the portal's debut in January 2001. (We also have our own email reference service, which we began offering in January 1999.)

So far these collaborations have been very positive experiences. They have given us opportunities to network and share our legal reference expertise with librarians across the state, to help more people who are seeking help finding legal information, and to raise awareness of the Wisconsin State Law Library's resources and services—not to mention our very existence. To this point the volume of follow-up questions has been minimal, approximately three to four questions per month. At this writing we are still waiting to see whether the larger, statewide service will generate any increase in follow-up traffic. We did request the right to opt out if the volume becomes too overwhelming, but it's our hope that we can continue to collaborate with our colleagues in providing services to legal information seekers.

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*“So far these collaborations have been very positive experiences. They have given us opportunities to network and share our legal reference expertise...”*

### SCLL Discussion Group

To subscribe, follow the instructions at: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccl/membership/listserv.htm>  
To send a message to everyone on the list, send e-mail to: [sccl-sis@aallnet.org](mailto:sccl-sis@aallnet.org)

## SCCLL Centennial Committee Forms “Book Club”

Anita Anderson, Chair, Special Committee on Centennial Celebration

A number of years ago, Seattle began a city-wide reading program now called “Seattle Reads” and other communities have used it as a model for their own programs. There are state-wide, city-wide, county-wide, and even country-wide reading programs all over the world. Such “One Book, One Community” programs provide an opportunity for unity by reading and discussing a common book.

The SCCLL Special Committee on Centennial Celebration is organizing a “law librarians read” effort. We have chosen the book *The Impossible Will Take a Little While* by Paul Loeb (Basic Books, 2004, ISBN: 0-465-04166-3). This inspirational anthology presents the voices of many who have struggled for change, how hard it was for them, and what kept them going. The committee is encouraging our SIS members to read and discuss the book.

During the winter and spring months, we hope that you will spend some time with the book, sharing ideas about it with colleagues in your libraries and local chapters. Mr. Loeb has developed extensive discussion questions at his website: <http://www.soulofacitizen.org/newimp/impstudy.htm>.

Here are a few of his questions that might get you thinking about how to tackle the impossible:

- What stops us from acting on issues we care about? Have there been issues where you've wanted to take a stand, but didn't? Why do you think you didn't?
- If there were issues where you did take a stand, what got you involved?
- Do you feel like you can make a difference? Or do you hold back from acting because you think your efforts are futile?
- What is it that keeps us going working for change even when results seem elusive or when we hit frustration? How much is it a sense of our own dignity?
- How do we balance the importance of immediate results and long-term persistence? Are there times when you have to keep on even if you see no fruits?

The committee will sponsor a program during the AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis revolving around some of the book's themes. Jean Holcomb will organize a panel of SCCLL librarians to discuss how they have brought about change in their libraries and communities. Building on ideas from the book, they will share their stories and will make you a believer in the power of individuals to make a difference. Share your own stories or comments on the book during the program. Whether you have read the book or not, this program will provide a thoughtful conversation about our future and how we can lead change in our libraries, our communities, and our profession.

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*“We have chosen the book The Impossible Will Take a Little While by Paul Loeb...”*



## National Summit on Court Safety & Security Follow Up Meeting - November 17, 2005

Terry Long, Virginia State Law Library

At the initial meeting of the *National Summit on Court Safety & Security* in April 2005 we came up with eight recommendations for judicial branch security (see appendix posted on the SCLL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/sccll/membership/newsletter.htm>). The follow-up meeting was to give everyone the opportunity to discuss the recommendations in more detail – including activities already underway and resources currently available that can act as models – as well as present a forum to exchange new ideas.

There were five sessions to discuss the recommendations:

*Foster Leadership on Court Security* was the first topic discussed. In the federal system every new judge is briefed on court security and she/he becomes the head of the committee for courthouse security. Judge Michael Valentine, a Virginia judge, said he would like to see uniformity in court security; one thing standing in the way of that happening in Virginia is a code section that will have to be amended to remove the limit on the number of sheriffs – other states may have similar problems. The sheriff's association is working on model security guidelines.

The second topic for discussion was *Create a National Incident Reporting System*. Panel members explained their experience with reporting processes on security breaches in their states. New York is pleased with its database but stressed it is crucial as to who is allowed to file the report. New Jersey is working on a system to notify its employees of threats in their workplace. In Pennsylvania, court employees have access to such a system. Zygmunt Pines, court administrator for Pennsylvania, made an important point; each state must have a database before we can have a discussion on a national system for reporting security incidents. A national database could help security personnel understand the type of threats, which courts receive the most threats, how security problems are handled and resolved, and track problem litigants.

The recommendation on *Pursuing Funding for Court Security Issues* began with a discussion of H.R. 1751, *Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act of 2005*, which allows state courts to apply for direct court security funding. This bill passed the house with bipartisan support; there is hope it will follow the same tract in the Senate in early 2006. Following the discussion of the Act, the audience heard from representatives from two states, Ohio and Wisconsin, where collaborative efforts with other stakeholders has yielded benefits in training, prevention, and recovery efforts.

The *Establish a Stakeholders Group/Network to Review Resources and Discuss Policy Issues* discussion was led by Judge Steve Leben from Kansas. The purpose for forming a national network/organization would be for advocacy and to serve as a clearinghouse for what others are doing. The group could also develop guidelines with local options. The guidelines would be developed by subgroups according to expertise to eliminate duplication of effort. It would be best if one organization would take the lead to develop these guidelines by bringing the major stakeholders together. Then there is the issue of funding. Someone suggested that each organization pay for its participants to attend a meeting for the development of guidelines and to get the network organized, then apply for a grant from the USDOJ.

The last session covered recommendations 3, 5, 6 & 7: *Establish Clearinghouse & Provide Staffing Guidelines, Technical Assistance & Training*. The clearinghouse is being developed by NCSC. As for the training aspect, it was suggested that universities and other educational institutions could be a valuable resource. Many believe the technical

(*National Summit* continued on page 17)

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*“A national database could help security personnel understand the type of threats, which courts receive the most threats, how security problems are handled and resolved, and track problem litigants.”*

(National Summit continued from page 16)

assistance function should be linked with the clearinghouse. A formula for determining security staff would be helpful to state and local governments. The audience felt there were some topics not previously addressed that are important to rounding out a discussion of court security: how to deal with the aftermath of a security breach needs to be included in the security plan; and, remembering that victims, witness and anyone involved needs to be debriefed, how and when is this performed.

What now? The hope is a coalition will be formed from all the stakeholders to devise security standards and a database prototype for reporting security breaches. No one group has stepped up to take the lead, I think most are hoping the National Center for State Courts will continue to coordinate the multi-organization effort for security and safety of the court facilities and employees. ■

## Nominations Committee Presents 2006 Candidates

**Jane Colwin, Chair, Nominations Committee**

The SCCLL Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for the 2006 election. Biographies of each candidate are included in this issue of the newsletter. The election will be held electronically, with ballots distributed no later than March 31.

Please note: The SIS Bylaws (Art. VII, Sec. 4) allow additional nominations: "Further nominations may be made upon written petition of ten voting members in good standing. Such petitions, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominees, must be filed with the Secretary/Treasurer no later than March 15."

### For Vice-Chair/Chair Elect:

Sara Galligan, Manager, Dakota County Law Library, Hasting, MN

### For Member-at-Large (2006-2009)

Barbara L. Fritschel, Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Beaumont, TX

Judith A. Gaskell, Librarian of the Court, Supreme Court of the United States Library, Washington, DC

Continuing on the SCCLL Executive Committee will be:

Chair – Cathy Lemann, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

Past Chair – Barbara Golden, Minnesota State Law Library, St. Paul, MN

Secretary/Treasurer – Marcus Hochstetler, King County Law Library, Seattle, WA

Member-at-Large (2004-2007) – Terry Long, Virginia State Law Library, Richmond, VA

Member-at-Large (2005-2008) – Lisa Rush, Travis County Law Library, Austin, TX

We thank the candidates for their willingness to be considered for the leadership positions of our section. ■

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*"The election will be held electronically, with ballots distributed no later than March 31."*

## Sara Galligan

### Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

#### Employment

Law Library Manager, Dakota County Law Library, Hastings, MN 2000-present  
 Head of Technical Services, Minnesota State Law Library, 1985-2000  
 Information Resources Specialist, MN Department of Transportation, 1984-85  
 Head of Reference, Ref. Librarian, Univ. of Michigan—Dearborn Library, 1972-83

#### Education

J.D., William Mitchell College of Law, 1999  
 M.P.A., University of Michigan - Dearborn, 1980  
 M.S.L.S., Wayne State University, 1972  
 B.A., Michigan State University, 1971



#### Selected Professional Activities

American Association of Law Libraries, Member, 1986-  
 LISP-SIS, Chair, 2005-06; LISP member 2000-  
 Committee on Relations with Information Vendors, 2000-01; 01-02, Chair  
 Price Index Committee, member, 2001-2004  
 State Court and County SIS, 1990-; executive board, 2002-2005  
 SCCLL-SIS Trustees committee, Chair, 2004-2006, Member, 2000-01  
 Annual Meeting Local Advisory Committee, PR Subcommittee Chair, 00-01  
 Government Relations Committee, Secretary, 1990-92  
 Technical Services SIS, member, 1986-2000  
 Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, Member, 1985-  
 President, 1999-2000  
 Vice President/President-elect, 1998-1999  
 Secretary/Treasurer, 1993-95  
 Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee, 2005-06  
 Consulting and Community Outreach Committee, 2000- (Chair 2004-2005)  
 MALL VIP Ad Hoc Committee, 2003-  
 Chair, Government Relations Committee, 1993-1997  
 Past member Program, Continuing Education, and Public Relations Committees  
 Minnesota State Bar Association, MSBA Member 1999-  
 Pro Se Implementation Committee, Member 2001-  
 Inver Hills Community College Paralegal Advisory Committee Member, 2002-

#### Selected Publications

*Sua Sponte: the Highly Irregular Newsletter of the Dakota County Law Library*, Editor, 2000-  
 "The Value of a Public Law Library," *SCCLL Resource Guide No. 2*, Contributor.  
*CRIV* (Committee on Relations with Information Vendors) *Sheet*, Chair's column and various articles, 2001-02, in *AALL Spectrum*.  
*Legal Information Alert*, Book Reviewer, 1993-  
 Book Review, *75 Michigan Bar Journal* 177 (Feb. 1996) (reviewing [Law v. Life: What Lawyers are Afraid to Say About the Legal Profession](#)).  
[Books of Definition](#) (Minnesota State Law Library, 1997), Editor.

#### Candidate Statement

State, Court and County Law Libraries-SIS and its members provide me with the finest of role models in the field of law librarianship. Within AALL, SCCLL-SIS is my professional home, built by an energetic membership, strengthened by vital networking, bolstered by productive leadership and opportunity, and personally enriching. We need each other to tell the world *what* we do. *How* we do it is an important discussion among SCCLL members. *Why* law libraries are important needs the voice of other stakeholders as well as SCCLL members. We can't overlook the critical need to develop broad support in the legal community for *what* we do. Nonetheless, the starting point is when one SCCLL member starts the conversation with another member...that's an important part of our future that I would like to see continued and enlarged.



## Judith Gaskell

### Member-at-Large

#### Employment

Librarian, Supreme Court of the United States, 2003-present  
 Director and Assistant Professor, DePaul College of Law, Rinn Law Library, 1983-2003  
 Associate Law Librarian, University of Chicago Law Library, March 1983-June 1983  
 Head of Public Services, University of Chicago Law Library, 1980-February 1983  
 Reference Librarian, University of Chicago Law Library, 1977-1979  
 Law Firm Librarian, Sonnenschein, Carlin, Nath & Rosenthal, 1974-1976



#### Education

J.D., DePaul University College of Law, 1980  
 M.A., University of Chicago, Graduate Library School, 1975  
 B.A., Carleton College, 1967

#### Selected Professional Activities

##### American Association of Law Libraries:

Member since 1975  
 Member of Recruitment Committee, 2005-present  
 Chair of AALL Special Awards Committee, 1991-1992  
 Chair of AALL Awards Committee, 1990-91  
 Chair of AALL Elections Committee, 1987-88  
 Chair of AALL Government Documents SIS, 1982-1983  
 Co-Chair of AALL Membership/Recruitment Committee, 1981-1982  
 Editor of Government News column in *AALL Newsletter*, 1993-95

##### Association of American Law Schools

Section on Law Libraries, Board member, 1995-1999; Chair, 2001; administered the Section listserv from 1999-2002; Chaired the Nominating Committee for 2002 election

##### Chicago Association of Law Libraries:

President, 1983-1984  
 Received Agnes & Harvey Reid Award, 1991 & 2004  
 Chaired and served on numerous committees  
 Co-Chair, Internet Committee, 2002-2004

Chicago Library System Board, 1995-present; Vice President, 1997-2000; President, 1999-2001

Federal Libraries and Information Centers Committee: Member, 2003-present; FEB, 2005-present

Law Library Microform Consortium: Advisory Board, 1991-98, 2001-2004; Board of Directors, 1998-2001, 2004-present

#### Selected Publications

*Illinois Legal Research Before Statehood in 1818*, in Compilation of Pre-Statehood Legal Research (forthcoming Haworth Press, 2006).

Biography, *Marietta Brown Reed Shay*, Bar None: 125 Years of Women Lawyers in Illinois (Chicago Bar Association, 1998).

"Early Women Law Graduates and Teachers", 12 *Dialogue: the Magazine of DePaul College of Law* 5 (Summer 1999).

"Directory Wars: Martindale-Hubbell v. West's Legal Directory", 9 *Legal Information Alert* 4 (October 1990).

"Summary of Law Library Directors' Professional Reading Survey", 10 *ALL-SIS Newsletter* 5 (Spring 1990).

With Nina Wendt, Book Review, 17 *Legal Information Alert* 12 (October 1998) (reviewing Trial and Error: An Anthology of Legal Stories (1998)).

Book Review, 2 *J. of Information, Communication & Library Science* 115 (1996) (reviewing Legislative Reference Services and Sources (1995)).

#### Candidate Statement

Although I am a relative newcomer to federal and court libraries, I have extensive experience in academic and law firm libraries and a long history of participation in AALL and other professional organizations in a variety of ways. I am continually impressed with the variety and amount of exciting and creative work being done in the libraries and information centers represented by AALL's Special Interest Sections.

## Barbara L. Fritschel

### Member-at-Large

#### Employment

Librarian, U.S. Courts of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, Satellite Library, Beaumont, TX, September 1992-present

Instructor, Legal Research, Lamar University Department of Continuing Education Paralegal Program, September 1992-May 2001

Assistant/Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, United States Air Force, January 1981-November 1985



#### Education

MLS, University of Washington, Seattle, 1992

M.A., Theology, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, 1987

J.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1980

B.S., History/Political Science, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, 1977

#### Selected Professional Activities

American Association of Law Libraries, member, 1991-

State, Court, and County SIS, member, 1992-

SCCLL Newsletter Editor, 2003-2005

SCCLL Grants Chair, 2005/2006

SCCLL Board Member, 2005/2006 (fulfilling a vacated term)

Special Libraries Association, member, 1999-

#### Selected Publications

"An Index to Special Court Sessions in West's Federal Reporters", 93 *Law Library Journal* 109 (2001).

"May Sheep Safely Graze? A Comparison of Annotations in State Codes and Shepard's Statute Citations", 13 *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* 35 (1994).

#### Candidate's Statement

SCCLL has been blessed with strong leadership in the last few years, at a time when the funding for many of our libraries has come under question. Initiatives such as focusing the annual legislative advocacy workshop on state, county and court libraries have not only directly benefited our members but increased awareness among other law libraries of the struggles many of us are facing. Issues such as funding, training in professional competencies and access to legal information affect all of our libraries to some extent. SCCLL has made a good start in advocacy, planning and education, yet there is more work to be done. If elected I will continue the work on these issues. ■

## On the River Walk : My 2005 Conference Experience

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana

The 2005 AALL Conference in San Antonio was my third AALL conference. I arrived early for pre-conference vendor training, so I was unable to stay until the end of the conference. I made sure that I packed in as many activities as possible in the time that I had.

I have a great interest in the challenge of preserving digital and print information, and I have been monitoring the evolving issues and debates. Therefore, I was certain to attend the session entitled “Don’t Throw that Away!” : *Ensuring Future Access to Legal Information in an Age of Digital Media*. In this program, I learned more about LIPA’s efforts to come up with solutions to the modern problem of preserving digital information. I was introduced to the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIP). The NDIIP provides Congressional funding for research on preserving information published on the Internet. I found the concept of a dark archive quite interesting. A dark archive is meant to permanently preserve print materials, but access to materials would be restricted. I look forward to attending more programs on preserving digital information and related topics.

Preservation of digital government documents has become an issue that urgently needs a solution. I learned more about this issue at the town meeting with Public Printer Bruce James and Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell. I had not yet heard the public printer speak, and I listened to what he had to say with interest. I was glad to see that the meeting was well-attended. Many people had questions and comments. I hope that with continued dialogue, both sides will be able to find an acceptable answer.

In addition to the previous programs, I also attended Roy Tennant’s Top Trends in Library Systems, a program entitled *Outsourcing: Odious or Out-of-the-Box*, and the first plenary session. I attended several business and committee meetings this year, seemingly more than I have at previous conferences. I was present at the general business meeting and the business meetings for TS-SIS, SCCLL, and SEAALL. I also went to the TS-SIS Cataloging and Classification Committee meeting and the SCCLL-SIS Education Committee meeting. For the first time, I took part in a focus group. I may do this again at another conference because a small group setting gives librarians a chance to let vendors know what is working and what isn’t. (There’s also the chance to win a prize!)

At the TS-SIS Cataloging and Classification Committee meeting, I added to my limited knowledge about the new cataloging manual that is currently called Resource Description and Access (RDA). (If you aren’t a cataloger, you may want to skip this paragraph.) RDA will be replacing the AACR2, which has been the cataloger’s Bible for at least a couple of decades. I am a new law cataloger, and I appreciate that AALL provides an opportunity for me to gather the latest information on these major changes. It is very important that I keep up with what’s going on. Cataloging may be dull to most people, but right now the fundamentals are undergoing a substantial overhaul, and I have a steep learning curve ahead of me.

I hadn’t planned to, but I was able to attend Thomson-Gale’s presentation about The Making of Modern Law U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs, 1832-1978. Since I work in a court library, I attempt to learn about resources that would be appropriate for our patrons. I sit at the reference desk during the week, and each resource I find out about could help me help someone else. As a newer law librarian, I continue to broaden my knowledge of all aspects of the U.S. legal system. Each piece that I encounter helps me to understand how everything works together.

Though I wasn’t able to stay for the whole conference, I accomplished more than I expected. I increased my level of participation in AALL by attending committee meetings and learning about volunteer opportunities. I have begun to focus on legal information issues that are particularly interesting to me, and I look forward to what will be in store in St. Louis.

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*“As a newer law librarian, I continue to broaden my knowledge of all aspects of the U.S. legal system. Each piece that I encounter helps me to understand how everything works together.”*

## Court and Spark: Pro Se Patrons Find All the Answers in One Place

Merrill Chertok, Alexandria Law Library

A few years ago, after continually being faced with poorly-written pleadings and under-informed litigants in the courtroom, the judges' law clerks approached me about collaborating on a pro se divorce packet. Together, we compiled a sample packet for pro se patrons to use as a guide when creating their own documents. Also included were some general instructions, limited information about court procedures, and guidelines for finding additional information in the law library and online. Over the years, the packet has grown to 26 pages, incorporating new documents along the way such as the recently-added addendum for recording personal identifying information such as social security numbers.

Patrons seemed pleased with the divorce packet, but were increasingly finding that certain bits of information were missing, available only through the clerk's office, judges' chambers or a practicing attorney. This necessitated either a trip to the courthouse, visiting each office separately and waiting in line at each one, or spending countless hours on the telephone, which sometimes resulted in the caller receiving conflicting or erroneous information. After hearing this tale of woe from our patrons one too many times, we decided to take the bull by the horns and present a collaborative program for the public on filing a pro se divorce.

Our library applied for, and was fortunate to receive, grant funding from the Virginia Law Foundation to present a public information seminar series. Last September, we held our first public seminar in the law library. We brought together representatives from the clerk's office, judges' chambers, legal services, and the law library to be panelists and we discussed the process from beginning (getting the divorce packet from the library) to end (how to schedule a hearing with a law clerk and what to expect in court) and everything in between. The goal was to bring together all available sources of information in the courthouse so the attendees could ask all their questions at once and be assured that there would be no conflicting answers.

The program evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and even the panelists agreed that we had all learned something new about each of the other offices' functions that evening. The pro se divorce program received such rave reviews that we are planning to hold another one later this year, as well as other public seminars on various topics of interest to the pro se litigant. I would be happy to discuss our public seminar series in further detail with anyone who is interested. ■

*Editor's Note: Court and Spark is the brainchild of Newsletter Committee member Mareth Wilson and is a place where "our court and county librarians are motivated to contribute musings on, experiences with, or real life accomplishments in, strengthening the recognition of their library as a full and honored partner in the process of self representation, where the Court staff, the librarians and the library user overlap, and where expectations are met or exceeded."*

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*"The program evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and even the panelists agreed that we had all learned something new about each of the other offices' functions..."*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library Pulls Together to Weather Storms

Amy Hale-Janeke and Jennifer Laws, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals Library

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast, they did their best to rattle the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit library system. Although people were displaced and some of the branches were damaged, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit library adapted and was able to weather the storms.

Through the leadership of Circuit Librarian Kay Guillot, and the teamwork of the entire 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit library staff, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library was able to maintain the high level of service users expect, while also monitoring the safety and well-being of all staff members. The geographically diverse system proved to be essential in supporting the displaced judiciary and library colleagues and allow them all to continue working.

With two hurricanes, a displaced judiciary, and a flooded headquarter city, just how long did the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library close? “Hmmm. What does closed mean? Library services were never actually ‘closed,’ since the satellites picked up the reference slack,” said Guillot. “The majority of the HQ staff were off from August 29th through September 16th. We reconvened tech services operations in Baton Rouge on September 19th. The physical headquarters library reopened on November 14th. So if you’re talking about the New Orleans location, it was closed from August 29th through November 11<sup>th</sup>.” Guillot was one of a few staff who returned after November 11<sup>th</sup> to staff the headquarters library. These staff experienced minor damage to their homes, but the homes were in livable condition.

As she reviewed her whole evacuation experience, including crowded working conditions and displaced employees, Guillot said, “I can’t say enough good things about our satellite or branch librarians. They truly stepped up to the plate when called on to either host headquarters staff or take over reference duties. Four satellite libraries provided that most basic help- they opened their libraries to house displaced headquarters staff. I personally evacuated to the home of my friend and colleague, Susan Hicks, the Jackson, MS, satellite librarian. Consequently, on August 30th, one day after Katrina hit, I was able to report to work at a federal court library. That was a perfect location from which to confer with judges on our court and start formulating plans for the temporary headquarters library.”

One immediate impact of the storm was that many communication tools were lost or unreliable. This made communication next to impossible. Cell phones didn’t work, there was no email access, and sometimes even the landline phones didn’t work.

Tina Ting of the Houston branch library, sums up the problem and how she worked around it.

“There are times, when the phone system went down, the email and the network did not work, we found other ways to communicate. We used instant messaging, cell phones, and personal email accounts. *There is always another way.* Business as usual,” says Ting. “In addition to serving the research needs of our regular judges, we were also receiving more research requests from judges who had been displaced. We worked it out and went on with business as usual.”

Houston became the temporary headquarters of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and Ting and her staff and her staff managed an increased workload and the sudden arrival of displaced staff with grace and efficiency. Although Ting is modest about her role in the Katrina aftermath, Guillot noted that her positive and resourceful attitude helped calm others at a time when workloads were doubling and tripling while communication systems were down.

In addition to unusually heavy workloads, Ting also had to find room for displaced librarians and get them set up to work. “When displaced librarians worked in the Houston library, they needed furniture, office supplies and office equipment. We moved things around, found and/or borrowed supplies, got our IT guru Paul [Wallace] to bring in some extra computers

*(5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Library continued on page 24)*

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*“Although people were displaced and some of the branches were damaged, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit library adapted and was able to weather the storms.”*

(5th Circuit Library continued from page 23)  
and went on with business as usual.”

Deputy Circuit Librarian Michael R. Smith was one of the staff relocated to Houston. “Katrina also showed me what a great and caring city Houston is,” said Smith. “Everyone was so kind to the New Orleans evacuees. Even the panhandlers, when they realized you were from New Orleans, refused to take your change.”

Smith was one of the worst hit staff members, losing his entire house and its contents. He went back recently to view the damage. The house was underwater for weeks so Smith had to don a hazmat suit and mask in order to go into what is left of his home. “You know, if I had a coin that was worth a million dollars somewhere in that house, I wouldn’t look for it. The smell is too awful and you cannot imagine what your possessions look like after soaking in water for four weeks,” Smith said.

Smith has dealt with natural disasters before in his career and has seen how staff comes together. “Katrina reminded me how resilient librarians have always been in tough times. In the early 70’s I worked with a team of librarians to help salvage Wilberforce University’s rare books in the aftermath of the Xenia (Ohio) tornado. The conditions were horrible, yet we persevered for weeks. After Katrina, I saw the same spirit in librarians throughout our region,” said Smith.

One of the newer librarians, Amy Hale-Janeke, also spent her first few weeks with the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit library working in the Houston branch. More on Amy’s experiences elsewhere in this issue!

Speaking of downed communications, the area of Gulfport, MS, was especially hard-hit by Hurricane Katrina and Guillot was concerned about the welfare of her Gulfport branch librarian Julie Capuano. “We did not have any news about her for several days after the storm because all communications had been knocked out. Thankfully, we later found out that she and her family were safe. The Gulfport branch did have some minimal water damage, mainly from leaks, but fortunately the library collection was spared significant damage,” said Guillot.

The Jackson, MS librarian, Susan Hicks, hosted Guillot immediately after the evacuation of New Orleans and jumped in to serve her community of researchers and provide support for displaced staff. “I’ve always considered myself a team member and not a solo practitioner. This situation gave me the opportunity to do my part as a member of the ‘team’ to keep library services to the entire Fifth Circuit up to par, and on a personal level, to help in any way I could the individuals that I’ve worked with for 15 years,” said Hicks.

As the city of New Orleans flooded in the aftermath of Katrina, many of the evacuated New Orleans personnel fled to Baton Rouge, about 80 miles northwest of New Orleans. Maralena “Tootie” Murphy, the Baton Rouge branch librarian, went from a solo operation to a nine person staff in a matter of days. Murphy’s thoughts on the dramatic change were typically understated.

“Although the Baton Rouge Satellite Library was not directly affected by the storms, the short term loss of power, telephone, and computer capabilities posed but a minor inconvenience,” said Murphy.

For her and her staff, the real challenge was finding everyone a place to work. According to Murphy, “The challenge of accommodating the extra court personnel from New Orleans with office space and working accommodations proved to be easier than expected. The additional workload at the Baton Rouge Satellite Library due to extra judges’, attorneys’,

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*“[T]he area of Gulfport, MS, was especially hard-hit and (Library Director) Guillot was concerned about the welfare of her Gulfport branch librarian Julie Capuano.”*

(5th Circuit Library continued from page 24)

their staff and related court personnel increased the normal court activities but were handled efficiently due to extreme cooperation by all who joined the Baton Rouge staff.”

Circuit Librarian Guillot eventually relocated to Baton Rouge as that was where the majority of her technical services staff ended up. “Tootie was a vital part of our post-Katrina operation. She opened her library to eight additional staff, one of whom was her boss! She also provided temporary housing for homeless library staff members in her own home. We basically took over her library,” recalled Guillot.

“We set up shop in every vacant space, encroached in her refrigerator, commandeered her coffee pot, and I'm sure overshared about all the little recovery details in our personal lives. Through it all Tootie remained generous, cheerful, and full of grace. And remember, she did this all with very little time to prepare and no way to say no. We swept in on her at a moment's notice, and then we left abruptly with nary a by-your-leave. Tootie is a true post-Katrina hero!” said Guillot.

Beaumont, TX, branch librarian Barbara Fritschel also evacuated as Hurricane Rita approached the Texas coast. The Beaumont library was spared damage but Barbara was unable to work in the storm-damaged Beaumont courthouse for several weeks. Thus, Barbara spent some time at the Houston branch and then went to the Brownsville branch. The Brownsville branch was vacant as the branch librarian there had already made plans to retire on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. So Barbara focused her energy on organizing and preparing the branch for its newly hired librarian, Paula Waddle.

Libraries located inland fared better than the coastal branches but the librarians there were just as dedicated to helping out. The Austin, TX, branch librarian Sue Creech took on the role of communications czar along with providing back-up reference services to any 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit researcher in need. According to Guillot, Creech was “our vital link in communicating.”

Guillot was not able to access email or place out-bound phone calls immediately after the evacuation of New Orleans, so she relied on Creech to disseminate essential information to the rest of the circuit. Creech served as a conduit between the other circuit librarians and Guillot, facilitating information about court operations.

Perhaps most importantly, Creech provided daily updates to the emergency contact list to all reachable staff about the welfare and location of each member of the Fifth Circuit Library. “After the hurricane, with so many displaced librarians, the emergency contact list was really important. When Sue started the Daily report, we were all in the know,” remembered Ting.

Sheree Harper, the Lafayette, LA, librarian, was spared physical damage to her library and home but lost her long distance service. Harper again modeled the kind of flexible and creative work that saw the 5<sup>th</sup> through the natural disaster. Harper noted the importance of non-library colleagues: “We are fortunate to work with excellent judicial staff who went out of their way to be of assistance with kindness and compassion.”

With additional support from the other inland branches of Shreveport, LA, and San Antonio, TX, the Fifth Circuit Library System remained active, productive, and service-oriented throughout the disruptions caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

As she reflects on lessons Katrina has taught her, Guillot said she did learn a lesson in the importance of the Internet when other communication sources are unavailable. “I wish that we had paid more attention to updating both our internal and external websites. I believe I really missed a chance to utilize the web to keep the court family and legal community informed. We needed an entirely new “first page” to provide the basic relocation information,

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*“Libraries located inland fared better than the coastal branches but the librarians there were just as dedicated to helping out.”*

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especially about our return to New Orleans. Unfortunately, most of our automation efforts were directed toward re-establishing access to essential programs, and then almost immediately planning for our return. But looking back I realize that even a roughed-out "Relocation Information" front page would have been useful to both the court and public users."

Tina Ting summed up her experience thusly, "All in all, I learned that librarians are resourceful and tough. When people fall apart after hurricane, for the librarians, it is business as usual."

**Amy Hale-Janeke** is a Librarian at the New Orleans Headquarters of 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal Library, and **Jennifer Laws** is a Branch Librarian at the San Antonio Branch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal Library. ■

## A Long Journey...Home?

**Amy Hale-Janeke, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Library**

"Even with the best of maps and instruments, we can never fully chart our journeys."

- Gail Pool<sup>1</sup>

My journey towards New Orleans started way before Katrina, back in April of 2005. I responded to a job posting for a reference librarian for the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, headquartered in New Orleans. "Louisiana??!!," my husband Erik exclaimed when I told him I had applied. "You've gotta be kidding!" But after going with me to see the beauty and charm of New Orleans and meet the people with whom I'd be working, he was convinced that Louisiana had a lot to offer us.

After several phone interviews and an in-person interview, I was offered the job in early August. I gave notice at my former job, the San Diego County Public Law Library, and prepared to make the move to "the Big Easy."

Only it wasn't as easy as I had hoped. The plan was for me to go to New Orleans and find a place to live for myself, Erik, and our two beloved dachshunds Henry and Genie. Since Erik is a high school biology teacher, he can really only quit his job one of two times- either Christmas break or the end of school in June. Our carefully crafted plan was for him to quit teaching at the Christmas break and join me in New Orleans, LA, also known as NOLA. We would be settled by New Year's, or so we thought.

I happily placed a deposit on an apartment in New Orleans, packed my things, and was getting ready to leave town when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. As I watched this natural disaster unfold every day on television, I wondered what would happen to the city. What was happening to my friends who lived in New Orleans? My future co-workers? My soon-to-be-occupied apartment? Would I still have a job? Did I really want to move to a place that was now 80% underwater?

A few days after Katrina, my new bosses, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Librarian Kay Guillot and Deputy Director Michael R. Smith, called to check on me. "Have you changed your mind about working in New Orleans?," they asked fearfully. "No," I replied, "but I would like to wait to start until I don't have wear a scuba suit to work." They agreed and said they'd be in touch. I called up my soon-to-be-former boss to ask if I could stay on another month while things got sorted out and he graciously agreed.

Kay and Michael called me a few weeks later to announce that most of the New Orleans

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*"As I watched this natural disaster unfold every day on television, I wondered what would happen to the city."*

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court had been relocated to either Baton Rouge or Houston. “Do you have any preference where you’d like to go?,” they asked. I told them that as a native Texan, I was obliged to choose Texas or risk having my Texan citizenship revoked. Houston is pretty far from the city of Lubbock where I grew up, but it still had plenty of friendly folks and lots of good food. “OK,” they agreed. “We’ll call Tina [Houston branch librarian] and tell her you are on your way.”

Thus, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, my best friend Rheesa and I set out on our epic journey via Interstate 8 East on our way to Houston. Rheesa has always wanted to visit Texas, and is about the best road trip partner I’ve ever had, so armed with our bag of Oreo cookies, we took off.

On our way to Houston, we made some detours. First, we stopped overnight in Tucson, Arizona to visit her family. The next day, we spent another ten hours in the car driving to Carlsbad Caverns, NM. Here’s a travel tip: gas up in El Paso, as there is literally NOTHING between El Paso, TX and Carlsbad, NM except a lot of sky and plains. You also don’t want to do this drive in the dark unless you want to stargaze and that’s dangerous to do while driving (at least that’s what the experts say). And don’t drink anything for the previous two hours before attempting to cross unless you enjoy squatting in the sagebrush.

In any case, we finally made it to Carlsbad Caverns and met up with my family. They had come down from Lubbock, a quick trip of only about four hours one way. (On a side note, the fact that I think a four-hour road trip as a “quick trip” is probably due to the fact that you have to drive at least that far to get away from Lubbock and to something interesting. For example, many college weekends were spent partying in Dallas, TX which is five hours away. We’d get out of class, hit the road, and get to a friend’s house about 9 p.m. Then it was a quick change of clothes and off to dance till about 2 a.m. Then sleeping in the next day followed by some light shopping at the Deep Ellem flea market, and then heading home.)

We spent the entire third day of the road trip underground in the Caverns with my parents and my seven-year-old nephew. By the time we got out of the Caverns, I knew that I could wait another five or ten years before seeing or smelling another bat.

The second major detour occurred on the fourth day of our trip. We were heading from Carlsbad Caverns, NM, towards San Antonio, TX. I decided to take a small detour at Pecos, TX and show her Balmoreah State Park. This is an oasis close to the Fort Davis mountains that has been visited by generations of my family that features a large artesian spring pool.<sup>2</sup>

My plan was for us to just drop by and dangle our feet in the water, but we arrived on a warm day in the middle of the week and the place was temptingly empty. Then we spied three men emerging from the pool like creatures from the black lagoon, sporting full scuba gear. “Where in the world do you get a diving suit around here?” Rheesa inquired. The tallest man pointed one dripping hand to a small shack just on the other side of the state park’s fence and said smilingly, “See that over there? That’s the closest scuba diving shop for 150 miles. And I own it.”

I am not certified to dive, but Rheesa has done a fair amount of diving. “Can you rent us some equipment?” Rheesa asked excitedly. “Sure,” he said. “Right this way.” We followed his soggy trail to the small shack and were amazed to see the volume and variety of diving equipment he had stuffed in there.

Rheesa didn’t have her dive certification card with her, so he said he couldn’t rent her a scuba outfit. But he said he could rent us some snorkels and fins. “But I’ve never snorkled!” I protested. “Don’t worry- it’s fun!,” said Rheesa as she measured me for fins. Half an hour later, we were armed with an underwater camera, new beach towels, face

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*“Thus, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, my best friend Rheesa and I set out on our epic journey via Interstate 8 East on our way to Houston.”*

(Long Journey continued from page 27)

masks, snorkels and fins. Now, most of my flesh hasn't seen the sun in literally years, so I told Rheesa not to be surprised if the fish and assorted marine life were scared away from us due to the amount of light reflected off my skin. I also warned Rheesa she probably wouldn't need to use the flash as I could provide whatever underwater illumination we'd need, much like an albino lantern fish.

She was the expert snorkeler, so I concentrated on not sucking water into my lungs and not flinching whenever a fish grazed me. She did the majority of the photographing and showed me how to dive short distances underwater with a snorkel. As we explored the springs, we saw large catfish, turtles, and some smaller fish I couldn't identify. We spent plenty of time chasing the catfish and turtles until we wore ourselves out. When I found myself imaging how the surrounding catfish would look if they were fried up nicely in some cornmeal, I knew it was time for lunch. We dried off, returned the equipment, and headed for a small Mexican restaurant we spotted on our way to Balmoreah. We ate and then continued our trip east on the never-ending I-8.

As we slowly inched our way across the Texas map, we decided that eight hours of driving was enough for anyone and that we'd pitch camp in San Antonio. Since my idea of camping is a at least a three star hotel, we put in a quick call to a former co-worker of mine who enjoys planning trips via computer. She went online and quickly found us a great hotel deal across from the Alamo in downtown San Antonio. We arrived at the historic Crockett hotel about 7 p.m. and wandered over to the Riverwalk to get some dinner. Unfortunately, the Alamo wasn't open for tours that late at night, but we did some walking around San Antonio and I promised Rheesa that we'd go back there for a weekend soon.

On the final day of our trip, day five, we headed into Houston. As we drove into the gulf region of Texas, we noticed how green it was, how many trees covered the landscape, and that it seemed especially humid. We were amazed to find it was muggy even in our car, so we had to run the air conditioner on the windshield to keep it from fogging up. Our teeth chattered all the way to the airport! Rheesa had a plane to catch in a few hours and so I drove her straight through the heart of Houston to get to Houston Hobby airport. She got out of the car, got on a plane, and flew back to San Diego, compressing a trip that was 1463.3 miles and five days long into one five-hour flight.

After I dropped off Rheesa, I turned around and went straight to my great aunt's house just north of Houston. I stayed with her for about a week while I went out apartment hunting. Most of the available housing had been absorbed by other Katrina refugees so it was a long process. However, I was fortunate to find a furnished apartment in Spring, TX, about 30 miles away from the federal courthouse in downtown Houston. There was a park 'n' ride mass transit stop literally within blocks of my new place, so getting to work only took about 45 minutes.

My first day on the job, Houston branch librarian Tina Ting showed me to my new desk in the corner of the copy room. She apologized for the lack of space, but noted that there simply wasn't any other place to put me. The Houston courthouse had been overrun with federal court employees from New Orleans. Some people were even having to sit in hallways! So I felt pretty good about landing some space and a chair, even if it was in the copy room. Tina offered me office supplies from her own desk as the library's supplies had long been exhausted by the other Katrina evacuees.

The other librarians, Chou-Shia and Andy, were very welcoming as well. In addition to showing me "the ropes," they also showed me the tunnels of downtown Houston. Yes, tunnels! It's like a whole hidden world down there. There are shops, eateries, salons, dentists, doctors, you name it! Many people use to tunnels to get from building to building in Houston as the summers are horribly sticky and hot and the winters are blustery and cold.

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*"My first day on the job, Houston branch librarian Tina Ting showed me to my new desk in the corner of the copy room."*

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The tunnels are quite twisty and confusing, so I learned to get around using landmarks. "Turn right at the sparkly purse place, left at Starbucks..." I would mutter to myself as I navigated the maze.

As I got settled into my Houston job, I decided to volunteer for the federal court employee's lunchtime choir, "Court Notes." What I lack in pitch I make up for in enthusiasm and the twice weekly practices in preparation for the employee holiday party helped boost my holiday spirits. At the holiday party we sang traditional and nonreligious Christmas songs such as "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Silver Bells." I even had a small solo part, the introduction to "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer". After the party, some of us went to going to a local hospital to sing carols for the patients.

Living in Houston was relatively easy. The next biggest challenge I would face was scrambling to find a place to live in New Orleans. I not only needed a place to live, I needed something furnished as all my furniture was being used by my husband and weiner dogs in California. I knew I needed to find something by January as the court employees were supposed to be back in place by then.

The court employees had started going back to New Orleans in waves. The first wave went after Thanksgiving and was composed of people whose houses were undamaged or were damaged but livable. The second wave went after Christmas. Their houses were not habitable, but the court had found them housing in a complex roughly an hour outside of the city. The commute looked like it would be about an hour and a half one way, so I decided to look for something closer to the city. The final wave of employees was scheduled to depart between Christmas and New Year's, so I started looking for housing right after Thanksgiving.

I faithfully read Craigslist New Orleans every day. I went through all the Internet apartment finders. I spent hours calling apartment complexes to inquire about vacancies. I actually had one leasing agent at an apartment complex laugh at me when I asked about vacancies. I suppose I was probably the ten millionth caller she had dealt with that day, so I don't hold that against her. Everyone was on edge and we were all desperate for housing.

One day, I spotted an ad on Craigslist for an apartment in the French Quarter that was fully furnished. I called immediately. "Hello. I saw your ad and wanted to know if the property is available?" I asked. "Yes," the wearied landlord said. "And I have been deluged with requests," he added. At that point, I decided I needed to play my trump card quickly. "Well, I am really quiet. You see, I am a librarian." "Really?," he asked. "Yes," I said. "And I don't have any pets and I don't smoke. And I knit in my spare time," I added helpfully.

"Great!, " the landlord gushed! "I'm going to fax you the paperwork right away! You sound like just the kind of tenant we are looking for. Nice and quiet!" he said. For once, the stereotype of a librarian played in my favor! I didn't tell him that I also teach belly dance and enjoy skeet shooting with my 20 gauge shotgun named Edna. I figured there was plenty of time for that to come out. And I really am a quiet tenant....honest!

With an apartment finally rented in New Orleans, I packed my apartment and moved on New Year's Day. My father and his gigantic new red truck acted as my own private moving company. You won't believe what happened next...

Be sure to catch the next installment of this article entitled "Amy Goes to New Orleans" coming in the spring issue!

<sup>1</sup> For information about Gail Pool, see [www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/gailpool/](http://www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/gailpool/)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/balморhea/>

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*"Be sure to catch the next installment of this article entitled "Amy Goes to New Orleans" coming in the spring issue!"*

## The Back Page

### Member News

*Do you have member news? Have you recently moved, started a new job, or gone back to school? Is your library starting a new campaign, launching a new website or moving to a new building? Send in your news items now!*



**Tammy Hinderman** of the **State Law Library of Montana** welcomed Sofia Elyse Hinderman into the world on October 1st, 2005.

**Mark Mackler** has been named Supervising Librarian for the San Francisco office of the **California Department of Justice, Attorney General's Law Library**. Except for a stint at the San Francisco Public Library, Mark had been in law firm libraries for about 20 years.

In late November 2005 the **Adams – Pratt Oakland County Law Library** in Pontiac, Michigan, began hosting free legal assistance clinics for pro se litigants on Wednesday mornings. Legal assistance services are offered through the Mobile Law Office (MLO) of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Law professors, their students and attorneys volunteer to answer questions about the law, help citizens to help themselves to resolve their legal issues, and make referrals to other agencies.

The **Wyoming State Law Library** website has been updated and re-organized (<http://statelawlibrary.state.wy.us/>). There is also a new URL for the Wyoming Supreme Court Cases database. Please update your link for it: <http://wyom.state.wy.us/applications/oscn/index.asp>. In addition to the usual contact options for the library (phone & fax), the library now has a general email address ([lawlibref@state.wy.us](mailto:lawlibref@state.wy.us)) and an "Ask a Librarian" option. Please feel free to offer suggestions and comments to **Katie Jones** ([kjones2@state.wy.us](mailto:kjones2@state.wy.us)), the new Electronic Services Librarian.

**Cossette Sun** of the **Alameda County Law Library** was the recipient of the Excellent Service Award from the Women Lawyers of Alameda County (WLAC) presented at their annual dinner on November 17, 2005. Cossette has been the director of the Alameda County Law Library for more than 30 years. In her acceptance speech, she noted: "The main library has become a landmark of Oakland and we are proud of the architectural design. We also noticed the type of patrons we serve has changed: Our library is increasingly used by self-represented litigants and other non-attorneys. We play an important role in providing county residents with resources for their legal affairs and in ensuring their access to justice." Cossette also expressed her heartfelt thanks to the library staff and board members: "I have been very fortunate to serve a distinguished board. I would like to thank a dedicated staff who support me throughout the years and who has given their best to serve the library patrons."

### View from Your Library

#### Lessons I learned from Hurricane Rita or What is Not Covered in the Library's Disaster Plan

**Barbara L. Fritschel, US Courts Library, Beaumont, TX**

1. Never replace the courthouse roof during the hurricane season.
2. No food, whether in your home or breakroom refrigerator, is worth so much as to keep it there during an evacuation.
3. No matter how large the devastation, judges will be trying to contact you the next business day.
4. Have a way to access everyone's passwords as most people will evacuate without them.
5. In olden days, people use to grab the shelf list. Now, grab your Rolodex or PDA or wherever you keep all of your own passwords as there will be at least one you will not remember. (More if they are all embedded on computers left behind.)
6. Traveling in evacuation lines at the whopping speed of 2 mph is a great time to do all of that reading or strategic thinking you've been putting off and is less nerve wracking than wondering why the state patrol won't open up the other side of the highway.
7. Plan for at least one temporary work location at least 100 miles away from your site. Then plan for another one 100 miles away from that. Actually, multiple sites within the continental United States would be good.
8. Flexibility is always good to have, especially if you have to sleep in the back of your car.
9. Accept that fact that you are going to have a bipolar personality disorder for the next several months. It will make life easier.
10. Have a big party when the library reopens and try to get the partygoers to help with all of the library mail and maintenance that has been stacking up in your absence.