View From The Chair
Anne Matthewman, SCCLL Chair

For a number of reasons it took me a long time to get this Chair’s message written. January is always an extremely busy time administratively for the Toronto Lawyers’ Association. On top of that the Library was busier than usual for January. A busy library is a good thing, allowing us to market our services and keeping the statistics on an upswing. I find there is something energizing about the constant movement – it just makes me wish there were more hours in the day.

My original plan had been to write about influence as I attended an excellent program in September which covered influence and how to make it work for you on the job. It is obvious to me that influence is critical in keeping the concerns of SCCLL type libraries on the radar screen of our patrons, funders and other supporters. However, there are a few other things I want to report to you now so I will leave the theories and practicalities of influence for another time.

In early January, Kathy Carlson and I had a telephone conference with Mark Schwartz of West. This conference call was part of a continuing dialogue which SCCLL and West have had for a few years. This dialogue was instituted so that West could learn about the concerns of government librarians. When we met with West during the conference in Washington three issues were left on the table for further discussion: patron access and downloading restrictions on Westlaw, the status of LMAs, and the opportunity for focus groups with government librarians. During the January call we learned that restrictions on emailing and downloading are the result of agreements which Westlaw has with third party providers. Mark told us that West has been spending some time streamlining the process for Library Management Agreements and that the contracts are now more flexible. West is interested in hearing whether people are happy with these changes which should result in bigger changes at the front end of the contract. Kathy and I suggested that the
meeting held with West in Denver should be more of an Open Forum so that more SCCLL members would be able to participate. A more open meeting would serve as a type of focus group for West. We will have more information on that meeting closer to the time of the conference.

Our call with West was preceded by a conference call of the Executive Board. This was a chance for the Board to touch base and to review various issues. Among these were the discussion items for our call with West. We also talked about some issues related to the Annual Conference coming up in July. One of these was the Trustees’ Luncheon and the future of our liaison with our Trustees. As it is presently configured, the lunch really does not give us a chance to interact with the Trustees. Additionally, it is the only time we have any formal contact with our Trustees as a group. As a result, the luncheon will be a bit different this year. Instead of a speaker, we will have a moderated discussion about the role of Trustees in SCCLL. We hope that those Trustees attending the conference will come to the luncheon and take part in the dialogue. Another topic was sponsorship for our Breakfast and our Sunday evening reception. Wolters Kluwer has generously provided sponsorship money for our Breakfast and this will go a long way in keeping the costs of the Breakfast at a reasonable level. Unfortunately, there has been no sponsorship for the reception and the Board spent some time talking about where we might have the reception and how to cover the associated costs. In the end, and on the advice of our Treasurer Amy Hale-Janeke, we decided to hold the reception in a local pub with a cash bar. SCCLL will cover the cost of snacks. Our Vice-Chair, Kathy Carlson, is busy planning the reception and we can all look forward to an evening of camaraderie and good company.

Our Nominations Committee, under the able direction of Chair Michele Finerty, has put forth a fine list of candidates for our upcoming election. Meg Martin, Board member, will be responsible for the election process. I extend my thanks to Michele and her committee and to those who have agreed to stand for the Board.
The Montana Indian Law Portal Now Open!

Judy Meadows, State Law Librarian of Montana

The State Law Library of Montana is pleased to announce that the Montana Indian Law Portal is now open (www.indianlaw.mt.gov). This website was originally proposed to Judy Meadows, State Law Librarian, by Denise Juneau, who at the time was director of the Office of Public Instruction’s Indian Education Division. Identifying and acquiring Montana’s tribal legal documents had always been a challenge for the library, thus this offer of funding provided the resources and momentum we had always needed.

A steering committee was appointed that included Meadows and Juneau, as well as representatives from the Governor’s office, the Indian Law Resource Center, the Montana School of Law, the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana Historical Society, and the Department of Administration’s Information Technology Services Division. The Committee agreed on the required elements for the Portal, the necessity of cataloging them and permanently preserving the legal heritage of the tribes, and the desired qualifications of the project manager.

A Request for Proposals was prepared and promulgated in February, 2008. Daniel Belcourt was the successful applicant, and the position of project manager was his. As an enrolled member of the Chippewa Cree and a practicing attorney, he offered the skills and contacts that were perfect for the project. During the length of the contract his biggest challenge was getting letters of understanding signed with each of the tribes, so that documents would continue to be added to the website as they were developed. The information that was already digital was harvested from trusted sites and captured for permanent public access and preservation. Other documents were digitized in situ, to demonstrate the project’s respect for the ownership of the information.

After the documents (such as tribal court opinions, constitutions, water rights compacts, gaming compacts, fish and game regulations, and codes) were delivered to the law library, a contract was signed with the Information Technology Services Division to design the portal for us. While this work was being undertaken, law library staff began cataloging the documents, using Dublin Core standards, and putting the information into OCLC’s CONTENTdm®
for worldwide access at any library computer, as well as the Montana Memory Project. The latter will allow researchers to access legal information about a Montana Tribe at the same time as they are searching for water rights or maps digitized by the University of Montana. In several months we will send all the documents to OCLC’s Digital Archives for long term permanent preservation.

We strongly felt that in addition to being able to search for and find the information through library catalogs and the Montana Memory Project, a robust and interactive website would assist researchers in discovering our tribal legal heritage. The Montana Indian Law Portal was developed for Montana’s Indian Nations, for the citizens of the state, and for educators and students. We believe it is the first comprehensive Indian law site for one state that includes all basic and controlling documents of the tribes. They have responded with enthusiasm. They feel the portal gives them, and their legal standing, more legitimacy with the commercial sector, particularly as it relates to economic development.

The Portal will be a work in progress, as documents are discovered and sent to us. The project has involved more than half of our staff, and we all are excited about what it should accomplish: the eventual understanding of all that our Indian nations are unique and sovereign realms, with complicated and contorted relationships with state and, especially, the federal government. Check it out: www.indianlaw.mt.gov.

SCCLL News is the Name!
Sandra Phillips, SCCLL Newsletter Committee

The overwhelming consensus is to leave the name of this newsletter as is. Sure, SCCLL News, might not be the most clever or witty of titles, but it is clear and concise. And our members seem to like it. So, even though “Scuttlebutt” had quite an interesting ring to it, for now, we’re going to stick with the tried and true. If anyone is overcome by a sudden urge to rename this newsletter with something a little more clever and witty, however, we are always open to reviving the contest.

“We strongly felt that in addition to being able to search for and find the information through library catalogs and the Montana Memory Project, a robust and interactive website would assist researchers in discovering our tribal legal heritage.”
Charley’s Corner

Cultural Competency Redux

Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library

All views expressed in this column belong solely to the author.

Public law librarians, and now general public librarians (see my article on the Public Libraries and Access to Justice Conference in this issue) are being asked to help self represented litigants navigate websites that litigants can use to prepare pleadings, motions, and court orders. Some of the sites use interactive forms that allow litigants to fill in the blanks and print out completed forms. Some of these websites have instructions translated into several languages, with Spanish being the most common language available. Librarians are helping self represented litigants get to the good websites, i.e., those produced by the court systems themselves or by legal aid societies, especially those on LawHelp.org, which has materials for all fifty states. Many public law libraries’ websites act as portals to these sites (i.e., link to them with explanations). Some public law libraries also have forms on their own websites as well.

There are also some commercial websites. Some are reputable, such as Westlaw and Lexis. But others are not. They take forms that are free on official websites and put them up on their own websites for sale. Often, these companies fail to keep their forms up to date, and they can charge a substantial amount to unsuspecting litigants trying to go to court on their own. A couple of states have even sued some of these companies to get them to remove the forms they stole for resale.

This use of online forms is not limited to law libraries and public libraries. Court-sponsored self help centers, family law facilitators, and small claims advisors use them. Some legal aid societies use them in an unbundled setting, wherein the legal aid personnel help the clients fill in the forms, but do not go to court with the clients. Various pro bono clinics, some of which are housed in public law libraries and a few in public libraries, also use them.

These online forms and their accompanying instructions, and indeed the forms found in self-help books, such as those printed by Nolo Press, are usu-
ally written in Plain English so that they can be comprehended by readers with less than a law school education. Typically, the aim is for about an 8th grade reading level. Since its inception in the 1950's, the Plain Language Movement has become ever more sophisticated, with scholars devising new formulas to try to improve the readability levels of the documents in question. Computerized systems have been devised, and most word processing software programs now contain some sort of Plain English tool as a regular feature.

But the automatic systems, dependent on algorithms presuming a commonality in meaning sense across most uses, are limited in their ability to revise sophisticated documents that contain lots of jargon words and presume ongoing discourse perspectives, such as found in court forms. So many of the creators of Plain English forms online have become experts in Plain English themselves, adding a human touch to the process. Also, a small group of Plain English consulting firms have developed considerable expertise and work on a contract basis with various governmental agencies, including court systems. Some of these experts and firms also have developed specialties in foreign language translation as well.

Unfortunately, this pattern of development of plain language forms and instructions does not complete the task. It has been shown that self represented litigants who comprehend the meaning of the forms they fill out do better in court, don't waste the courts' and opposing parties' time as much, and also comply better with the rulings of the court after the case is over. But such comprehension often requires an understanding of American business and legal culture that is often very different from their own culture. This is especially true for self represented litigants who are recent immigrants for whom English is a second or even a third language. For them, both cultural competency and legal discourse thinking patterns would be additional barriers.

*Cultural competency* is a term used by legal services organizations, and subsequently picked up by most of the legal community that serves indigent and immigrant populations. It refers to the lack of understanding of ordinary American business and legal culture that many, but not all, English-speaking Americans understand through the experience of living within our culture. My column in the Spring 2008 issue of SCCLL Newsletter, called “Cultural Com-

*It has been shown that self represented litigants who comprehend the meaning of the forms they fill out do better in court, don’t waste the courts’ and opposing parties’ time as much, and also comply better with the rulings of the court after the case is over.*
petency: A Layered Problem,” explains the issue.

Legal discourse thinking patterns is also discussed in that column. For the most part, the phrase “thinking like a lawyer” that is used in law school captures the essence of this barrier. The training in both analogical reasoning and deductive argumentation that law students get enables lawyers to work within legal discourse more comfortably. They have a framework upon which to lay down those legal jargon terms. English speakers not versed in such critical thinking patterns, or uncomfortable in using them in this unfamiliar context, need help. (Ever seen an engineer or construction supervisor who is good at working with building codes but cannot handle divorce proceedings.) Litigants whose primary language is not English, and especially those from a non-European language, can have additional barriers in that their native language’s syntax may be less susceptible to syllogistic argumentation. Let me proceed to explain.

Another recent development, more recent than the Plain Language Movement, has been the rise of the field of study called Cognitive Linguistics, which first developed during the 1980’s. Through several of my previous columns, I have discussed various components of this field of theoretical linguistics. Suffice it to say for our purposes here that cognitive linguistics, with its emphasis on meaning as the starting point for language development, has much to offer those who work on developing online forms and instructions. Generally, cognitive linguists began with the proposition that there are certain universal patterns of cognitive development in humans that lead to the commonalities that occur across languages. Such very basic human cognitive abilities as the perception of colors, straight lines, spatial orientation, foreground objects against background scenes, and our sense of time and motion lead to the common elements we find in all languages, such as grammar, phonetics, and morphology.

But it has become very obvious to cognitive linguists that not all aspects of language can be solely rooted in our common cognitive abilities. Culture and historical development play a major role in creating the diversity we find in languages. In fact, a fully developed language and its culture are intertwined. You cannot have one without the other.
Since the mid 1990's, beginning with the publication of Gary B. Palmer’s work, *Toward a Theory of Cultural Linguistics* (University of Texas Press, 1996), a fairly large group of scholars have been trying to blend cognitive linguistics and cultural anthropology, with some very interesting results. Since 2004, a bi-annual academic conference has been held, called Language, Culture, and Mind, which deals with research topics from this perspective. (See http://web.abo.fi/fak/hf/fin/LCM4/about.html.)

These results have subsequently been turned around to apply to second language teaching. Two notable books are *Applied Cultural Linguistics: Implications for Second Language Learning and Intercultural Communication* (ed. Farzad Sharifian and Gary B. Palmer, John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2003) [hereinafter *Applied Cultural Linguistics*] and *Language in Use: Cognitive and Discourse Perspectives on Language and language Learning* (ed. Andrea E. Tyler, Mari Takada, Yiyoung Kim, and Diana Marinova, Georgetown University Press, 2005). (In a sense, our problem of making court forms understandable is a second language teaching problem, even for those whose first language is English, but who are culturally separated from the expected legal and business culture embodied in legal discourse.)

One of the discoveries of this new field of cultural linguistics is that one’s very language itself reflects cultural beliefs and traditions, and that, in turn, those speaking that language have difficulty understanding alternate cultures to the depth that native speakers have. Here are a couple of examples.

One of the native languages that some of the litigants in our southwestern states speak is Yucatec Mayan, with North American Spanish being a second language to them. Yucatec Mayan differs from English in many respects, but most notably in the different uses of mass nouns and count nouns. English employs mostly count nouns, i.e., nouns that can be pluralized, and uses mass nouns for substances that do not separate into discrete units easily, such as “cement”. “Water” and “juice” are mass nouns, even though they have certain limited uses in a plural, i.e., the “waters”, the “juices”. Yucatec Mayan uses almost entirely only mass nouns, even for discrete items. It uses qualifiers to create the distinct units. So, a banana (the fruit) is repre-
sented by a phrase that translates roughly as “one one-dimensional banana”, with the term “banana” actually being a mass noun. A banana leaf is a “one two-dimensional banana”. A banana tree is a “one plant(ed) banana”. A bunch of bananas is a “one load banana”. A bit of banana fruit is “one bit banana”.

To the Yucatec Mayan native, the substance of a thing is its most important feature, which is reflected in the language. The shape and form classifiers shown in the above examples are a necessity. But, as you can see, the actual number of vocabulary words for such a language can be somewhat smaller, since the classifiers are limited in number when compared to the extra words English requires for its compound nouns, like “banana tree”, and phrases, like “bunch of bananas”.

One for one translations are obviously possible, but there is a sense of the words that is lost. For a word like “comb”, the Yucatec Mayan phrase would, of necessity, refer to the substance first, i.e., plastic, wood, or metal, before adding the unitizing words, including a word that sort of says “comblike” and including whether the comb has a handle or not. John Lucy of the University of Chicago noted that once he brought a couple of Yucatec Mayans to his home in southern Arizona. When they came in, they immediately went over to the wall and paid close attention to it. They had not seen dry wall before, and the substance of things, even the most background of items, is important to them.

This different use of mass nouns and count nouns is actually very widespread. The Hopi language actually uses a greater percentage of count nouns than English does. Chinese, on the other hand, uses more mass nouns, but not so many as Yucatec Mayan.

Another example that I wish to bring to you is the English construction of a modal + have + past participle (an MHPP construction), such as “Neanderthals may have been handsome.” Japanese does not have a similar construction. In Japanese, a much more elaborate statement (typically three or four sentences with a more explicit listing of facts) must be made in order to show the level of evidence that the speaker intends for the listener to understand. A study of archeology texts and classrooms in Japan by Debra J. Occhi, University of California at
Davis, has shown that, without this construction, which is heavily used in English archeology classes, Japanese courses tend to assume many presumptions as concluded facts. The Japanese educational system in general relies much more on regurgitation of facts in its examination process than the American system does. There is little room for speculative thinking or taking a counter position, and even when it is specifically asked for, Japanese students may vie against each other, but will refuse to counter a teacher. In part, this is due to their stronger cultural trait of deference to elders.

Japanese school texts do not differentiate between archeological facts and traditional mythic figures. In other words, school children are taught about old mythic figures, including their magical feats, as if they were scientific and historically accurate facts. Archeologists trained in English have considerable difficulty teaching in Japanese universities, as both the language and culture create barriers to what they perceive as proper argumentation.

I brought this example up because it specifically reflects on cultural differences in the ability to conduct syllogistic reasoning and thus on the facility of a non-native English speaker to understand legal discourse. I am thinking of the instances that occur, say in an auto collision case, when the defendant proposes alternative theories to mitigate damages. Such thinking may be difficult to comprehend for a person with no MHPP construction in that person’s native language. And there are many languages that do not have an MHPP construction.

Why should librarians care? As the courts become more receptive to immigrants, and materials become generated for them, then they will begin to appear on our doorsteps. The very language and cultural difficulties they face will be our problems as well. With the emphasis on Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plans in courts and legal services organizations and the recent Department of Justice push to increase the use of qualified interpreters in civil matters, the legal community is beginning to pay attention to these matters, so soon we shall all need to.

I want to close with a quote from an article about the work being done in Australia to aid classroom performance by Australian Aboriginals whose first language is Aboriginal English, which is a dialect that differs from the Standard Australian English of the school system, similar to the situation with the Eubonics dialect in the United States. Ian G. Malcolm of Edith Cowan University in Perth wrote:

“Why should librarians care? As the courts become more receptive to immigrants, and materials become generated for them, then they will begin to appear on our doorsteps.”
Working in the field of non-standard dialect studies and education, one is confronted with a situation where the natural phenomena of linguistic and cultural difference come up against the humanly contrived phenomena of inequality which enable one cultural group to reduce the life chances of others by making one language variety the only path to education and opportunity. It is easy for the group whose language is dominant to rationalize the inevitable failure of non-standard dialect speakers in their education on the basis of such factors as lack of home support, erratic school attendance, lack of application and the disadvantaging factors of ill health and poverty, as if these were causes, rather than symptoms, of their social and educational marginalization. It is also easy for members of this group to use linguistics to show that the dialect of the students could be expected to interfere with the variety which is being used in school instruction, and perhaps to suggest that they have a linguistic problem which will yield to a linguistic solution. However easy answers are usually superficial. In this case, they miss the point that it is not just two life settings or two dialects that fail to correspond: it is two cultures which have been set in an implicitly oppositional relationship. What is needed, if a constructive approach is to be made to this situation, is a method of inquiry that is able to keep in focus both linguistic difference and competing cultural values.

It is here that cultural linguistics has a unique contribution to make. By founding its analysis on the image rather than on the word or clause, and by extending its inquiry to the level of “mental representation” (Palmer, 1996, p. 29), it enables the linguistic and the cultural to be investigated at the same time. . . .

(“Cultural linguistics and bidialectical education,” in Applied Cultural Linguistics, pp. 53-63, at 53.)

There are some studies under way in court settings regarding these issues. I’ll let you know the results in a future column.

Correction

In my last column, I referred to the Caperton v. Massey Coal Company case as a Pennsylvania case. It was a West Virginia case, as were all the other events (e.g., judicial elections) connected to that case.
Public Librarians and the Access to Justice Conference: Three Member Perspectives

Charles R. Dyer, Consultant and Retired Director of the San Diego County Public Law Library
Jennifer Frazier, Kentucky State Law Librarian
Brian R. Huffman, Washington County Law Library (MN)

Introduction

The Conference on Public Libraries and Access to Justice took place on January 11-12, 2010 in Austin, Texas. Approximately 45 professionals from fifteen states converged for this two-day conference. The participants included public librarians, law librarians, legal assistance organization staff, and state library planning and development staff. A few members of AALL were in attendance. The conference was sponsored by the National Center for State Courts in cooperation with the Legal Services Corporation and was chaired by Richard Zorza (member of the Self-Represented Litigation Network). Funding was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Topics included Role of Public Libraries in Assisting Patrons in Locating and Using Legal Information and Tools; What Public Librarians Can Do: Ethical and Legal Issues; Online Legal Problem Solving: Using Varied Legal Information Tools; Technical and Privacy Issues in Public Library Legal Information Services; The Roles of Public Libraries in the Access to Justice Movement; Legal Aid, Law Library, and Court Collaborations for Public Libraries; Workshop on Customizing the FAQ; Role Playing of Teaching the Materials; Planning for the Future.

Perspective by Brian R. Huffman

I was in attendance as the Minnesota delegation along with Mary Ann Van Cura, State Library Services library development specialist/continuing education coordinator and John Freeman, Minnesota Legal Services Coalition staff attorney.

The participants went away energized with information and crucial network-building after sharing successful models for forming relationships with public libraries and non-
profit legal services organizations. Each team created a planning and reporting tool to demonstrate how they will actively put the information they have learned to use back in their state. A post-conference grant is available as

**Perspective by Charles R. Dyer**

The reason for hosting the conference in Austin at that particular time was that it coincided with the Legal Services Corporation’s Technology Improvement Grants Conference, so the hotel arrangements and funding lines were already established, and also many of the faculty members were going to be attending the TIG Conference anyway. But the time frame may have served us well in that the faculty remained concentrated on the preparation until it was done. Fifteen state teams attended, but there were applications for three times as many teams, even with a very short application period. The main aims of the Conference were to show the teams how public librarians can use sources on the Internet to help self represented litigants, how to deal with issues such as legal advice vs. legal information, how to get involved in the Access to Justice Movement, and how to collaborate with legal aid societies, courts, and law libraries. All this was done in a “train the trainer” fashion so that the attendees could return to their own states and spread the word. Follow-up mini-grants will be made available to help the state teams go forward with those efforts.

The day and a half conference was jam-packed, as each session gave a whole lot of information out very quickly. Each attendee received a 280 page book, which included not only the slide shows for each session, but also significant background materials and lists of resources. One of the interesting documents in the book was a 27-page FAQ and Links Template. This template allows each of the state teams to go back to their state to fill in the blanks to create a powerful guide for reference librarians handling questions from self represented litigants. The book and some other sources from the Conference will be available on [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org) and on [www.webjunction.org](http://www.webjunction.org).

Among the faculty were the following law librarians: Melissa Barr, Charles R. Dyer, Judy Helms, Marcia Koslov, Judy Meadows, and Lisa Rush. Among the participants from state teams, the following law librarians attended the Conference: Curtis Whitney, Peggy Grady, Jennifer Frazier, Brian Huffman, Mary Searles, Thomas O’Malley, Robert Mead, and Melanie Solon, who also at-
tended in her capacity as president of the Berks County Library System Board.

The Conference was a great success. The next challenge is to see how well the state teams do in promoting the use of these resources in their own states. Our second-to-last session was a role playing exercise wherein each participant had to present a small session on one of the subjects from the programs they had seen, but for their home states. We organized the participants into groups, specifically separating state team members. As a facilitator for one of the groups, I can tell you that the participants were charged up and prepared to go forth.

If the follow-up work at the state level goes well, and if more funding can be obtained, I would not be surprised to see this conference held again for some of the other states that had hoped to be a part of the conference.

A major theme for the SRLN’s Information, Marketing, and Outreach Working Group and the Law Librarians Working Group this year has been working with public libraries. We will be presenting a program at the Public Library Association meeting in March. And there are two programs at the AALL Annual Meeting in July devoted to working with public libraries. Some of you may see public librarians more involved with working with self-represented litigants this year, so attend the AALL programs and be prepared to help them out.

**Perspective by Jennifer Frazier**

The conference was a great start toward improving access to justice through libraries. By bringing together public librarians and members of the legal aid community, the conference opened a door of communication between groups that might not think to work together. This communication will benefit everyone by resulting in us better serving self-represented litigants. The number of individuals acting as their own legal counsel in Kentucky has increased and will continue to grow.

During the conference, the teams learned about a broad range of customer-friendly legal resources available in print and online that have been developed by courts, bar associations, law libraries and legal aid programs that support people who do not have access to legal aid or counsel. Participants learned how to access the resources, assist in getting libraries and legal agencies to share them and take part in enhancing and cus-
tomizing the resources. The conference was a unique opportunity for participants to meet with public librarians and legal and court experts to discuss strategies for integrating access to legal information into their programs. This included how to best locate content and tools, talk about the content with library patrons, work with content partners to ensure that needed content is developed, share what they learned statewide and use successful programs to advocate for the importance of public libraries as gateways to government institutions.

“Public libraries are critical access points to government institutions,” according to the SRLN, “As times get tougher, it becomes more and more important that people have libraries where they can find out how to protect their rights and navigate the complexities of our society.” Frazier’s teammates were Terry L. Manuel, branch manager of program development for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, and Marc Theriault, a law and technology projects manager for the Legal Aid Society of Louisville.

**New This Year - Silent Auction Mystery Bags!**

**Barbara Fritshel, Silent Auction Committee**

Once again, we will be having a silent auction with both online and in person components to help raise scholarship funds for the annual meeting and other conferences. The online auction will open a few weeks before the annual meeting and will end at the SCCLL breakfast in Denver.

As always, we are looking for great donations. Hand-crafted items, small items and gift certificates are always welcome. Basically we are looking for stuff that will be easily transported by airplane, for those who do not drive to the meeting. Jewelry, scarves, books, tape, and food have all been popular items.

New this year will be the appearance of “mystery bags.” The contents of these bags will be undisclosed, although a general category (spa, food, handcrafted) and the value of the contents will be offered. It is hoped this may add a little excitement to the auction.

If you have any questions or are interested in donating items, please contact Barbara Fritschel at Barbara_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov. Watch the listserv for more details in June.
Save the Date for April AALL Webinar

Taking the Write Road

AALL is sponsoring an upcoming webinar titled “Taking the Write Road” where you can learn the nuts and bolts of getting published and hear the insiders' perspectives of writing and editing: April 14, 12-1 p.m. EST. Check the AALL Calendar of Events for more information.

SCCLL Nominations

Michelle Finerty, Nominations Chair

The 2010 SCCLL Nominating Committee (comprised of Janet Camillo, Anne McDonald, Sandra Marz, Regina Smith, and Michele Finerty, Chair) is happy to announce the following candidates for the 2010 election:

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (2010-2011)

Amy Hale-Janeke, U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit Library (LA)

Secretary/Treasurer: (2010-2013)

Rita Dermody, King County Law Library (WA)

Member-At-Large (2010-2013)

Claudia Jalwoka, Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries
Betsey Vipperman, Appellate Division Law Library, Rochester, NY

The candidates selected resumes and personal statements can be found on the following pages. The election will be held electronically. Your participation is vital in order to keep our SIS membership strong, and to sustain SCCLL SIS as an important and active component of AALL. Ballots are due at the end of this week—April 16th!

The Nominations Committee thanks the candidates for their willingness to take a leadership role in SCCLL. We also thank those who have nominated colleagues or themselves for helping to keep our Section active.
Amy Hale-Janeke  
Vice-Chair/Chair Elect

Employment

Head of Reference Services, U.S. Court of Appeal, Fifth Circuit, 2005-current  
Librarian, San Diego County Public Law Library, 1999 – 2005

Education

Masters in Library Science, University of Arizona, 1999  
J.D., Texas Tech School of Law, May 1998  
B.A. in Communications, Lubbock Christian University, May 1995

Selected Professional Activities

Chair, AALL Public Relations Committee 2008-2009  
President, New Orleans Association of Law Libraries (NOALL) 2008-2009  
Secretary/Treasurer, SCCLL Special Interest Section (SIS) 2007-2009  
Chair, AALL Continuing Professional Education Committee, 2007-2008  
Chair, Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP) Special Interest Section, 2003-2004  
Vice President, SANDALL 2001-2002  
Member, SCCLL 1999-current

Selected Publications

“Never Eat Alone,” *AALL Spectrum*, vol. 12 no. 8 (June 2008).  
Amy Hale-Janeke
Vice-Chair/Chair Elect (continued from page 17)

Candidate Statement:
SCCLL has been a part of my professional life for my entire career. SCCLL is an invaluable part of the legal community, facilitating the sharing of expertise and fighting for the very survival of law libraries. All my mentors have been a part of SCCLL and I am both humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve SCCLL in this capacity.

Betsy A. Vipperman
Member At Large

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Librarian for Public Services 1997-Present  Appellate Division Law Library, Rochester, NY

Reference and Outreach Services Librarian 1991-1997  Wisconsin State Law Library, Madison, WI

Acquisitions/Government Documents Librarian 1989-1991  Texas State Law Library, Austin, TX

Master of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin
B.A. in Communication, cum laude, Florida State University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
American Association of Law Libraries, SCCLL SIS

  Standards Committee, 2008-2009
  Chair, Membership & Mentoring Committee, 2006-2007
  Chair, Publicity/Public Relations Committee, 2000-2001
  Publicity Committee, 1998-2000

Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York
  Nominations Committee, 2007
Betsy A. Vipperman  
Member At Large (continued from page 18)

Co-chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, 2006-
Government Relations Committee, 2005-2007
Board of Directors, 2003-2005
Education Committee, 2001-2002

New York State Unified Court Law Libraries Association
President, 2003-2004
Vice-President/President Elect, 2002-2003

PUBLICATIONS/PRESENTATIONS


CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Over the course of my career as a law librarian the State Court and County Special Interest Section has been an ongoing and crucial source of education, inspiration, and mentoring, as well as fun and friendship. I've truly enjoyed my past opportunities to work with and get to know various members of our SIS. In these tough economic times keeping on top of best practices, learning how to advocate for our libraries, and the support of colleagues are more important than ever. It would be an honor to serve on the SCCLL Executive Board and work with others to continue these important functions.
Claudia Jalowka
Member At Large

Employment:
Reference Services Librarian, King County Law Library, Seattle, WA, 1998 – 2000
Law Librarian, Day, Berry & Howard, Hartford, CT and Boston, MA, 1989 – 1998

Education:
MLIS, Simmons College GLIS, 1988
BA, Boston University, 1986

Selected Professional Activities:
AALL (1992 – present): Vice-Chair, Continuing Professional Education Committee (2009 – 2010), Member, Continuing Professional Education Committee (2008 – 2009), Member, Involving All Our Members Special Committee (2007 – 2008), Chair, Membership and Retention Committee (2006 – 2007), Member, Membership and Retention Committee (2005 – 2006), Member, Public Relations Committee (1999 – 2001)

Claudia Jalowka
Member At Large (continued from page 20)

Selected Publications/Presentations


Candidate Statement:

SCCLL SIS is an active and collegial group that works hard to encourage and foster connections between state, court and county law libraries throughout the country. During these challenging economic times, this SIS is more essential than ever. SCCLL is a vital resource in providing support and resources for facing the challenges of reduced budgets and political issues, for assisting members in advocating for their library and patrons, for leading the way in addressing the needs of self-represented parties, identifying future concerns, and so much more. On a personal level, I have benefited greatly from the guidance and support of many of the section’s members, for which I am most appreciative. Our members are always supportive and willing to share ideas and suggestions with newer members on how to succeed. It is a pleasure to be a member of the SCCLL SIS and it would be an honor to have the opportunity to serve as a Member At Large.
Rita Dermody
Secretary/Treasurer

Education
M.L.S.    University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill.    1974
B.A.     De Paul University, Chicago, Ill.       1973

Employment
Collection Access Services Librarian    King County Law Library, Seattle, Wa.    1999-
Branch Services Librarian    King County Law Library, Seattle, Wa.    1998-1999
Law Librarian    Keck, Mahin & Cate, Chicago, Ill.    1974-1977

Professional Activities
2009-2010    Member, LLOPS Program Committee
2008-2009    Member, Connecting to Collections, a national initiative to preserve treasures in our local libraries and museums
2006-2007    Member, LLOPS Program Committee
2006-2007    Chair, SCCLL Awards Committee
2005-2006    Member, SCCLL Awards Committee
2005-2006    Member, AALL Fair Business Practices Implementation Task Force
2004-2005    Member, AALL Annual Meeting Program Committee
2002-2003    Member, SCCLL Grants Committee
2001    West Group Excellence in Scholarship Advisory Committee
2001-2002    Member, SCCLL Bylaws Committee
2001-2002    Chair, AALL Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee
Rita Dermody
Secretary/Treasurer (continued from page 22)

2000-2003  Board member, SCCLL SIS
1999-2001  Member, AALL Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee
1999-       Member, AALL Nominating Committee
1997-1999  Vice President/President Elect, Southwestern Association of Law Libraries
1996       Chair, AALL Nominating Committee
Member, AALL Nominating Committee
  `              Participated on panel discussing automated library systems, University of North Texas, School
                of Library and Information Sciences
1994-1995  Chair, Grants Committee, Dallas Association of Law Librarians
1993-1996  Vice-Chair, Law Library and Information Services Interest Group, Section of Law Practice
                Management, American Bar Association
Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Southwestern Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting
1994       Presentation on the Use of the Internet by Law Librarians, Dallas Association of Law Librarians
                Spring Institute
                Evaluated CD-ROM products for Law Library and Information Services Interest Group, Section
                of Law Practice Management, American Bar Association
Co-director, AALL Records Management Workshop
1987-1989  Vice President/President Elect and President, Dallas Association of Law Librarians

Personal Statement
Recently I was asked to serve on a local governing board. I was asked why I accepted. I answered, “Because it’s time.” I accepted the invitation to run for the position of SCCLL Secretary/Treasurer for the same reason, “Because it’s time.” It is my turn to give back to you. In the eleven plus years that I have worked at the King County Law Library, you have supported me. You have provided high quality educational opportunities every year at the AALL Annual Meeting. You have shared your stories in the newsletter. You have been there for me whenever I had a question. You have been more than willing to share your expertise. And you have been there as friends. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to give back to you.
AALL Announcements

Get a Free Year of AALL Membership with Nonmember Annual Meeting Registration

New this year AALL is offering nonmembers a complimentary one-year membership when they register for the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference, to be held July 10-13 in Denver. The membership includes:

- Career resources, such as the online AALL Career Center and continuing education to help you learn new skills to advance in your career
- Access to specialized information created just for law librarians, such as the AALL Biennial Salary Survey and the AALL Price Index for Legal Publications
- Subscriptions to the monthly magazine, AALL Spectrum, and quarterly journal, Law Library Journal, to help you keep up on the latest trends in law librarianship
- The opportunity to network and connect with other law librarians from across the country who share similar interests and are facing the same challenges
- Discounted rates on all AALL products and services, such as publications, webinars, and online job postings

Annual Meeting registration is now open. Register by June 1 at the early bird rate and save $100. Be sure to take advantage of this special offer for nonmembers.

AALL Partners with Drexel University Online to Offer Members Reduced Tuition

AALL is pleased to introduce a new educational partnership with Drexel University Online. Through this partnership, AALL members and their immediate family members are entitled to receive a 20 percent tuition reduction for Drexel’s top-ranked online library science programs. Benefit from Drexel’s academic excellence, convenient online format, and specially reduced tuition rates. Apply online at no cost. Enter “AALL” as your partner code on your application to receive your 20 percent tuition reduction. For more information, visit www.drexel.com/aall or contact 866-803-0053 or partners@drexel.edu.
### SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2009-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Vice Chair/Chair Elect</th>
<th>Past-Chair</th>
<th>Secretary/Treasurer (07-10)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Matthewman</td>
<td>Kathy Carlson</td>
<td>Marcus Hochstetler</td>
<td>Amy Hale-Jankeke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(416) 327-6012</td>
<td>(307) 777-7509</td>
<td>(206) 296-0940</td>
<td>(504) 310-7797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:amatthewman@tlaonline.ca">amatthewman@tlaonline.ca</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kcarlson@courts.state.wy.us">kcarlson@courts.state.wy.us</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marcus.hochstetler@kingcounty.gov">marcus.hochstetler@kingcounty.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ahjanke@ca5.uscourts.gov">ahjanke@ca5.uscourts.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Member (2009-2012)</td>
<td>Karen Quinn</td>
<td>Board Member (2008-2011)</td>
<td>Board Member (ex-officio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joan Bellistri</td>
<td>(401) 222-3275</td>
<td>Meg Martin</td>
<td>Jennifer Dalglishe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(410) 222-1387</td>
<td></td>
<td>(307) 777-8564</td>
<td>(503) 655-8248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:library@circuitcourt.org">library@circuitcourt.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmartin@courts.state.wy.us">mmartin@courts.state.wy.us</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jenniferdal@co.clackamas.or.us">jenniferdal@co.clackamas.or.us</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SCCLL Committees for 2009-2010

#### Awards
- Claudia Jalowka, Chair
- Judy Meadows
- Donna Bausch
- Kim Ositis
- Jean Holcomb, Retired
- Melanie Solon
- EBL: Jean Bellistri

#### Bylaws
- Larry Meyer, Chair
- Esther Eastman
- Paula Hoffman
- Jacquelyn Jurkins
- Anne McDonald
- EBL: Karen Quinn

#### Education
- Kelly Browne & Jean-Paul Vivien Co-Chairs
- Carol Billings
- Georgia Chadwick
- Madeline Kriescher
- Anita Postyn
- Liz Reppe
- Jon Stock
- Maryruth Storer
- EBL: Ann Matthewman

#### Grants
- Jane Colwin, Chair
- Nancy Adams
- Anna Djordjirian
- Anne McDonald
- Patricia Petroccone
- Carol Suhre
- Barbara Fritschel (Silent Auction Chair)
- EBL: Amy Hale-Janke
- LISP / SCCLL Joint Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships
  - John Pickett, Chair
  - Angela Baldree
  - Joan Bellistri
  - Eric Bender
  - Claudia Cook
  - Charley Dyer
  - Sara Galligan
  - Brian Huffman
  - Christy Keul
  - EBL: Marcus Hochstetler

#### Membership & Mentoring
- Jennifer Crevy, Chair
- Kathy Carlson (longevity awards)
- Carol Billings
- Scott Burgh
- Joel Fishman
- Brian Huffman
- Jennifer Laws
- Barbara Fritschel (AALL mentoring contact)
- EBL: Karen Quinn

#### Newsletter
- Jennifer Dalglishe, Chair/Editor
- Charley Dyer
- Christine Hall
- Susan Falk
- Sandra Phillips
- EBL: Meg Martin

#### Nominations
- Michele Finnerty, Chair
- Janet Camillo
- Sandy Marz
- Anne McDonald
- Regina Smith
- EBL: Kathy Carlson

#### Publicity/Public Relations
- John Cannan, Chair
- Mari Cheney
- Sarah Eggleston
- Katie Jones
- Margie Maes
- Kathryn Miner
- Gail Warren,
- Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson/John Cannan Resource Guides
- EBL: Joan Bellistri

#### Standards
- Betsy Vipperman, Chair
- Judy Chalmers
- Jacque Jurkins
- Robert Mead
- Jennifer Murray
- Isabel Paul
- EBL: Meg Martin

#### Strategic Planning
- Kathy Carlson, Chair
- Jennifer Dalglishe
- Joan Bellistri
- Amy Matthewman
- Meg Martin
- EBL: Karen Quinn

#### Technology
- Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair
- Eric Brust
- John Cannan
- DeeDee Dockendorf
- Kate Fitz—Webmaster
- Carolyn Tanen—List Administrator
- EBL: Karen Quinn

#### Trustee Development
- Coral Henning, Chair
- Laureen Adams
- Sarah Eggleston
- Wei-Yau Huang
- Mary Jenkins
- Cossette Sun
- EBL: Marcus Hochstetler
Howard Sligh sent us the following update: I was originally hired on March 12, 1990 by Judge Joseph Gaines. At that time we had a city and county government, and so I was employed by the local bar association. In 1991 the two governments unified, and then I became the county law librarian. Since my employment I have worked on many cases and have helped many people with legal issues. I am able to help the general public as well as judges and attorneys. I am legally blind, but I can see well enough to read, write, and use public transportation. It is my vision to help the disabled have better access to the law and the courts by renovating our law library. There are Braille materials for the blind as well as audio recordings that we could obtain. We also need to make our law library more navigable for those with wheelchairs. As for pro se and indigent litigants, I would like to start a clinic to educate them on how to file and present civil cases. I am presently working on a PowerPoint presentation to assist in that. My experience as a law librarian has been both enlightening and enriching. It's a wonderful feeling to assist the courts in preserving our freedoms and the rule of law and to assist the general public in whatever way possible to have access to the courts and to learn about the law and their rights.