

SCCLL News

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

View from the Chair

Barbara Fritschel, SCCLL Chair

Did you see the article on “Promoting Access to Justice with Your Local Public Library” by Joseph Lawson in the May issue of *AALL Spectrum*? It is a great example of collaboration on many levels. First of all, Joseph talks about collaborating with public librarians to provide better access to legal materials. His training program was so well received he had to give it multiple times. But where did he get the idea? From articles in *AALL Spectrum* and this newsletter—an indirect collaboration with librarians he may have never met.

It is this sharing of ideas, this informal collaboration, that has made this past year so wonderful for me. I gave my committee chairs numerous tasks, knowing they would not be able to do all of them. But we got some significant work done this year. We have a newly designed website that took many hours of work. We passed changes to the bylaws, we finished a resource guide on services to self represented litigants, we started the process of project mentoring, and we made changes to the Appellate Law Library standards. None of this would have been possible without the time and creative energy of so many people.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who did something for SCCLL this year, whether on a committee, submitting an educational program proposal, writing a newsletter article, posting a message on the listserv, and in the many other ways you give your time to the SIS. For state, court, and county law librarians, serving in a professional organization does not have the same external benefits as it may for other law librarians. We will not get tenure based on service, and in many cases it will not affect our resumes. That you gave freely of your time speaks highly for this profession, especially at a time when many of our libraries are short staffed.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of those who served as committee chairs. As you can see from some of the accomplishments above, they were very busy this year. I would like to especially thank Cornell Winston, who stepped into the membership committee chair on an ad hoc basis for the project mentoring program. I would also like to thank Holly Gerber for her work on



“It is this sharing of ideas, this informal collaboration, that has made this past year so wonderful for me.”

Inside this issue:

AALL Announcements	3
SCCLL Longevity Awards	4
Members Retiring in 2013	5
SCCLL Programs at Annual	5
40 Years of SCCLL	6
A Call to Arms	6
Equal Justice Conference	8
SRLN Pre-Conference at Equal Justice Conference	10
Book Review: <i>Public Law Librarianship</i>	15
Back Page	20

View from the Chair, continued

Barbara Fritschel, Chair

the newsletter and Kate Fitz for her work on the website, and for being very patient with me and all the emails I sent her.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the people who served on the board this year. Amy Hale-Janeke, as past chair, offered great insight. It is hard for me to think of someone else as treasurer/secretary after all the years of faithful service Rita Dermody has provided. Betsy Viperman, Holly Lakatos, and Coral Henning have all offered great advice this year. I won't say that Larry and I communicated a lot, but my library technician can recognize the sound of Larry's voice, even without caller ID. Thank you, Larry for your suggestions and support. I have great hopes and expectations for next year.

Dating myself, one of the award acceptance speeches I have remembered over the years is Barbara Bain's 1969 Emmy's acceptance speech for her role in *Mission Impossible*. She had not been renewed for the show and so she said, (paraphrased) "There are many I would like to thank and some I would not like to thank" (now you know why it was so memorable). I am blessed to be in the position to say thank you to everyone.



From The Editor's Desk

Holly Gerber, Washington County Law Library (OR)

As we prepare for the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting in Seattle, SCCLL marks some important milestones including: members retiring in 2013, those who have been long-time members of AALL and SCCLL, and 40 years of SCCLL itself. If you are attending the meeting in Seattle, be sure to check out the SCCLL programs mentioned on page 5. Also in this issue: the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries has formed a new SCCLL committee and is recruiting members, Sara Galligan and Diane Roberts share what they learned at the 2013 Equal Justice Conference, and Jenn Dalglish has a review of the excellent new book on public law librarianship.

SCCLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer) by the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS. **The deadline for the next issue is September 20, 2013.** Please contact the Editor, Holly Gerber, at holly_gerber@co.washington.or.us with questions, comments, suggestions and submissions.

The State Court & County Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in SCCLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SCCLL SIS.

AALL Announcements

There's Still Time to Register for the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting

Designed by law librarians, for law librarians, the [AALL Annual Meeting](#) is an event you look forward to every year. Join nearly 2,000 of your colleagues from across the country to find out what they are doing in their libraries.

This year in Seattle, July 13-16, you can look forward to:

- [Keynote speaker David Weinberger](#)
- [Nearly 60 educational sessions](#)
- [A bustling Exhibit Hall featuring over 90 vendors](#)
- The [Association Luncheon](#)
- Connecting with the people who understand the issues you face every day

Make sure your plans for this summer include the No.1 educational conference for legal information professionals—you can't afford to miss it.

[Register today!](#)

Spread the word to your nonmember colleagues: **Nonmember Conference Registration packages include a complimentary one-year AALL membership.** By joining us in Seattle, they'll be joining AALL!

A New AALL Membership Year is Underway—Don't Miss Out!

AALL's new membership year just began on June 1. If you haven't renewed already, be sure you do today so you don't miss out on valuable member benefits.

- **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.

Find more information or [renew your membership online](#). If you have any questions about your membership renewal, contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312/205-8022.



AALL Announcements, continued

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: [Embedding Librarians to Add Value to Your Institutions](#). Transactions or relationships? Service providers or team partners? Embedded librarianship takes the librarian from behind the reference desk into partnerships with faculty and attorneys. Speakers David Shumaker, Marguerita T. Young-Jones, and Owen G. Smith discuss how to implement successful embedded librarian programs in academic, firm, and court law libraries and how these very different organizations can benefit from them.

Find this and more than 100 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on [AALL2go!](#) ■



SCCLL Longevity Awards

SCCLL would like to recognize its long-time members. The following members will receive their longevity awards at the SCCLL Meeting in Seattle:

Ms. Cathryn Bowie, State of Oregon Law Library
Ms. Judith Gaskell, Retired [United States Supreme Court Law Library]
Mr. R. Daniel Lunde, Minnesota State Law Library
Ms. Margaret K. Maes, Legal Information Preservation Alliance
Mr. Lawrence R. Meyer, Law Library for San Bernardino County
Mr. Bruce Stephen Piscadlo, Montgomery County Law Library
Ms. Teri Lea Ross, Indiana Supreme Court Law Library
Ms. Jessica Van Buren, Utah State Law Library

The longevity award recognizes those who have been members of AALL for twenty years and members of SCCLL for ten years within those twenty. ■



SCCLL Members Retiring in 2013

Judy Meadows, State Law Librarian of Montana

Mark Linneman, State Law Librarian of California

Catherine Lemann, Circuit Librarian, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

David Lockwood, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Library

Marcia Koslov, Los Angeles Law Library

Marie Erickson, Louisiana State Law Library

David Voisinet, Director, NY State Unified Court System, Appellate Division, 4th Dept. Library

Sharon Wayland, Tarrant County Law Library, TX



SCCLL Programs at AALL Annual Meeting

Make sure you check out these education programs in Seattle :

Sunday 2 p.m. B-5: Innovations in Serving People Without Lawyers

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. F-6: When Cookie Cutter Services Won't cut It:
Brainstorming Services for Public Patrons

Tuesday 10:15 a.m. G-1: Equitable, Accessible and Affordable: Equity
Principles Inspire Workable Technology Solutions

Tuesday 10:15 a.m. G-7: Public Law Libraries in the 21st Century: An
Opportunity to Rethink, Reinvigorate and Redesign

Don't forget the LISP/SR/SCCLL Roundtable on Monday at 11:45 as well.
Lunch is provided.

40 Years and Counting!

Barbara Fritschel, SCCLL Chair

40 years ago in Seattle, a group of state and court librarians met to discuss concerns common problems. While it would be four years before the Special Interest Section was officially formed and recognized by AALL, this group was among the factors leading to the creation of SISs.

Since we are going to be in Seattle this year, we are going to start the celebration. Stop by the SCCLL table in the exhibit hall to pick up a “SCCLL—Celebrating 40 Years” badge ribbon. At the SCCLL Business Meeting we will have greetings from some of the founders. And at the SCCLL reception, we will have cake and champagne to toast all members, old and new. Remember to contact Larry Meyer if you will be attending the reception to get your name and affiliation on the list.

Thank you to all members who have made this a strong vibrant group over the last 40 years!



A Call to Arms

Kathleen Bransford, Denton County Law Library

The captioned map (on page 7) represents the Academic, Government and Private membership of the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL).

As Chairman of the State, Court and County Law Libraries Committee (SCCLL) of SWALL, for which I am Vice-President, my goal is to add a lot more dots to the map.

SWALL may be the first regional chapter to develop its own SCCLL committee. The more support we can garner encourages other regional chapters to develop their own committee for our struggling state, court and county libraries. The SWALL membership fee is minimal (\$15) and networks librarians through swall@aallnet.org. Each member of SWALL should call, email, drive to your contiguous county/court/state libraries and connect with each library.

I was a Greenhorn when entering this field in 2008 having neither library

A Call to Arms, continued

Kathleen Bransford, Denton County Law Library

experience nor legal work of any kind. Within a couple of months, Lori Bull Dodds from the Collin County Law Library contacted me and offered their library's help anytime I needed it. Suddenly I was not alone – I had a go-to person, and I did go to her a lot.

Lori introduced me to Virginia Eldridge from Grayson County who in turn connected me to others. Soon we were meeting face-to-face and I felt more empowered than I have ever felt in any job. The next year I attended my first SWALL conference in Albuquerque, N.M. My trepidation dissolved with the warm welcome and acceptance from all attending members.

I am fortunate in that my county encourages networking through conferencing, the high note of belonging to SWALL, but the real sounds and accomplishments are everyday at your keyboard or phone. Have a question? Call or email.

For those of you that will be attending the AALL Conference in Seattle in July, please stop by our SWALL table and pick-up a copy of the map plus other freebies and the chance to win a basket of goodies. Next year our SWALL Conference will be in Austin, Texas, with a fun theme and emblem that might surprise you.

I call on all State, Court and County Law Libraries to reach out to all your compatriots to join this new Special Interest Committee of SWALL, where we can focus entirely on the difficulties and successes of being at the front-line of this battle to bring access to justice for all.



Equal Justice Conference—Engaging Opportunity

Sara Galligan, Ramsey County Law Library

My 2013 Equal Justice Conference experience included several sessions related to domestic violence. As usual, the programs were very inspiring and offered, from my perspective, intriguing possibilities for law library partnerships. However, I also want to emphasize how heartening it was to hear about law libraries and public libraries as access to justice partners. I attended my first EJC in Denver in 2007, and while it seemed people would acknowledge the library role when I promoted it, there was very little reference to libraries as established partners. I believe we've made some inroads over the past few years, and our ongoing attendance and contribution to the Equal Justice Conference is a mutually beneficial relationship worth our continued support.

As for domestic violence, in Minnesota in the first six months of 2013, the number of homicides related to domestic violence has already doubled as compared with all of 2012. Not surprisingly, one of the first pro se e-filing modules that Minnesota courts will roll out is the order for protection. I believe public law libraries are in a good position to assist users who wish to e-file these orders. Since many public law libraries already support online document assembly programs for legal forms, the additional support for this most urgently needed resource fits with the law library mission. It also fits with the public library mission as long as training and referral options are packaged with the online resource.

Several EJC programs described efforts to address domestic violence. One program described the relationship between domestic violence and homelessness, stating that domestic violence is a leading cause of housing instability among (mostly) women, and that 63% of homeless mothers have experienced physical or sexual abuse. The library is a safe and trusted place to access computers, supportive online programs, and non-judgmental professional staff, and these are essential resources for assisting domestic violence victims. For victims who are on the cusp of facing domestic violence in a constructive way, the library may be a place to collect one's thoughts and contemplate options that are available. Homeless or not, the library offers victims effective computer access while at the same time it prevents access to a web history that could be seen by an abuser in a shared living space.

“The library is a safe and trusted place to access computers, supportive online programs, and non-judgmental professional staff, and these are essential resources for assisting domestic violence victims.”

Equal Justice Conference, continued

Sara Galligan, Ramsey County Law Library

A program entitled “It Takes a Summit” provided an overview of Riverside, California’s e-fax filing program for orders for protection. This court initiated program convened many stakeholders, including public libraries, to address domestic violence. The e-fax filing program called “Connect to Protect” began in January 2013 and consists of a modified HotDocs program that uses Law Help Interactive (LHI). E-fax filing eliminates the need to go to court to file. The program also offers a list of “safe havens” where online forms can be accessed; one public library is included on the list.

Alternatively, some domestic violence advocates prefer that victims come to the courthouse to get support. While this may be an appropriate course of action for many individuals, some may prefer to consider options that are available before they actually contact court staff directly. Others may be remote from the courthouse, in either time or miles. The Riverside program is discussed in more depth at: <http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp/domesticviolence.shtml>

Another unrelated program I attended concerned consumer protection resources. The Federal Trade Commission has many helpful resources related to consumer finance, debt, money management and also identity theft. Helpful information may be obtained from www.consumer.gov. Print materials may be ordered at: <https://bulkorder.ftc.gov/>

Next year’s Equal Justice Conference is scheduled for May 1-3, 2014 with a pre-conference on April 30. The location is Portland, Oregon. I hope many SCCLL-SIS members will be able to attend.



■

Highlights from the ABA/NLADA Pre-Conference “Self-Represented Litigants Networking Educational Program”

Diane Roberts, Collin County Law Library (TX)

I attended the American Bar Association’s pre-conference (before the main Equal Justice Conference) in St. Louis, on May 8, 2013, on the Self-Represented Litigants Network’s (SRLN) education program. As a county law librarian, I was interested in finding out what has been happening at the national level with regard to self-represented litigants and the court system. The program provided some very helpful insights into what various states have been initiating at both the state and federal level.

As stated on their [website](#), the SRLN is an “open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all, including those who cannot afford lawyers and are therefore forced to go to court on their own. The Network brings together courts and access to justice organizations in support of innovations in services for the self-represented.” One of their projects is the website [SelfHelpSupport.org](#) that provides an array of information on assisting the self-represented.

The conference moderator was Richard Zorza, who has been a major player in the access to justice (A2J) movement, and the presenters included, among others, attorneys, law librarians, a representative from the Legal Services Corporation and the National Center for State Courts, who provided reports on forms strategy, triage, unbundling, gamification, and non-lawyer practice (something that has already been established in the UK). The program provided a good overview of the state of A2J.

Janine Liebert, Librarian at the LA Law Library, discussed federal pro se litigants. Ms. Liebert outlined the distinctions between state/county and federal court services which included: the procedural complexity of the federal courts; lack of forms; limited information resources for the self-represented (over 50% of federal court libraries are closed to the public); and, no [LawHelp.org](#) at the federal level.

The Federal Judicial Center conducted a [survey](#) of Clerks of Court and Chief Justices. The survey helped identify some key issues including: identification of information that district court judges and clerks need; judges are

“The SRLN is an “open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all, including those who cannot afford lawyers and are therefore forced to go to court on their own.”

Highlights from the ABA/NLADA Pre-Conference, continued

Diane Roberts, Collin County Law Library (TX)

interested in learning more about what is happening in state courts; and, judges have an interest in the best practices being developed around the country. Some model projects that have been developed in District Courts include the Pro Se Pathfinder Module for CA-C, NM, NJ (the New Jersey module is up and running at [this link](#)), and the Public Counsel's Federal Pro Se Clinic that provides step-by-step guides to completing forms (a 26-minute video from FJC about how the clinic started and how it is serving as a model for the U.S. Court system is available at [this link](#)). Other models include the [NY Pro Se Assistance Program N.D.N.Y.](#) and the [Northern District of Illinois Pro Se Assistance Program](#).



Katherine Alteneder, a licensed attorney in Anchorage, Alaska, reported on triage and unbundling. Ms. Alteneder is the founding director of the Alaska Court System's [Family Law Self-Help Center](#). She now offers only limited scope services to clients in her private practice.

Ms. Alteneder defined triage as "aiming towards an integrated system among courts, legal services organizations and consumer services to optimize resources based on a balancing of need, resources and complexity." She provided the following current publications on triage that present different strategies:

- *The Access to Justice "Sorting Hat": Toward a System of Triage that Maximizes Access and Outcomes* – Denver University Law Review 2012, Vol. 89, Issue 4;
- *Some First Thoughts on Court Simplification: The Key to Civil Access and Justice Transformation* (soon to be published by the Drake University Law Review); and
- [Case Triage for the 21st Century](#).

With regard to unbundling legal services, Ms. Alteneder discussed the [ABA Resolution 108](#) that encourages practitioners to consider limiting their scope, Alaska's court based pro bono project, and the Alaska Bar Association's Unbundled Law Section. She also shared some of the hallmarks from the Alaska Court System's Lawyer Assisted Early Resolution Project from the various perspectives of the participants which included:

Highlights from the ABA/NLADA Pre-Conference, continued

Diane Roberts, Collin County Law Library (TX)

Volunteer Lawyers

- Immediate gratification – lawyers work as real-time problem solvers
- Collegial experience – volunteers regularly debrief about techniques to improve this form of service delivery
- Training and experience in providing unbundled services
- Discrete opt-in pro bono obligation with no preparation or follow-up
- Regular Scheduling – calendars run once or twice a month on Friday from 1pm-4:30pm
- Opportunity to make a significant contribution to access to justice



Litigants

- Parties get the reality check conversation in private
- Parties have access to early resolution
- Interim or final child support orders are issued
- Retirement & health insurance issues are not overlooked
- Private consult with lawyer can unveil issues such as coercion, or hidden legal issues because parties don't think they're relevant
- Parties get a mini-legal diagnosis and can make an informed choice of whether hiring a lawyer for further assistance would make a difference in their case
- All of the above helps triage the case to the proper resolution method
- Consults with lawyers include enforcement analysis, resulting in orders crafted to avoid obvious enforcement pitfalls
- Parties get advice on post-judgment issues

Court

- All parties get some legal advice – eliminating tension in the pro se courtroom on court's neutrality
- Early resolution of straightforward cases, freeing judicial resources for more complex cases
- Reduced administrative time as file is handled by FLSHC staff
- Accurate child support orders issued at hearing
- Final documents fully completed at hearing and service perfected in person eliminating the need to mail orders
- Lawyer assisted triage, again preserving public confidence in the court's neutrality

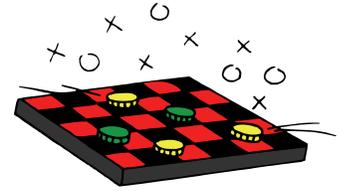
Bullet points taken from Ms. Altneder's PowerPoint presentation

Highlights from the ABA/NLADA Pre-Conference, continued

Diane Roberts, Collin County Law Library (TX)

For those of you who are interested, there was an [NPR segment](#) on the program that you can view online.

As a segue from unbundling to gamification, Stephanie Kimbro was mentioned as having a gamification for estate planning. Ms. Kimbro is the author of *Limited Scope Legal Services: Unbundling and the Self-Help Client*, and she has articles on gamification on her website, [The Virtual Law Practice](#). Not having heard the term before, it was interesting to hear Illinois Legal Aid's attorney Lisa Colpoy's discussion on the potential for gamification (defined by Wikipedia [here](#)) to assist self-represented litigants with instructions on filling out forms and navigating the legal system. Can the legal process be fun? [iCivics.org](#) has information and various games on government topics including citizenship and participation, separation of powers, and the Constitution and Bill of Rights. What game would you design?



David Udell, the Executive Director of the National Center for Access to Justice spoke on considering new roles for non-lawyers. Despite many of the A2J advances (some of which are discussed above) many people are still underrepresented. Some of the issues faced in providing legal services by non-lawyers are:

- Unauthorized practice laws designed to protect people from fraud and incompetence;
- Non-profit v. For-Profit;
- Supervised v. Not supervised;
- What services do non-lawyers provide; and
- Ensuring quality (education, certification, license, enforcement).

Although there has been a call for reform based on studies and economics, there are still concerns as to competence, regulation, economics and creating a two-tiered system. Mr. Udell provided some examples of non-lawyers already in new roles which included:

- Judges and court staff
- Law students, under student practice orders, with supervision
- "Document preparers" in Arizona and California
- "Independent paralegals" in Ontario

Highlights from the ABA/NLADA Pre-Conference, continued

Diane Roberts, Collin County Law Library (TX)

- “Friends,” with, or without, compensation
- MacKenzie Friends in England and Wales
- Petitioners’ friends in NYC Family Court
- Legal advice outside the courtroom in the UK
- Legal clinics in bookstores in the UK
- Administrative agency advocates in the USA
- Internet services



As a county law librarian, I was rather shocked to find law librarians absent from the list.

Mr. Udell pointed out three states, Washington, New York and California, that are already, or are in the process of, making changes. Washington has adopted a [limited licensed legal technician rule](#). California is exploring a limited-practice license, and the California bar has held hearings. However, a recent article outlines some of the challenges. You can view the *California Bar Journal* article at [this link](#). In New York, an [advisory group has recently been appointed](#) by the Courts to examine “the role that appropriately trained and qualified non-lawyer advocates can play in bridging New York’s justice gap.”

The pre-conference also addressed incubator/residency programs for newly licensed attorneys. Will Hornsby, staff counsel at the American Bar Association, presented the [report](#) on the latest developments and various programs offering training for attorneys to launch their practices. Some of these programs provide low-cost, high-quality legal services to persons unable to afford legal representation.

The one-day conference was very rich in content, but I have attempted to highlight what I found to be useful information for anyone dealing with self-representing litigants. Thanks to the SRLN, there is quite a lot happening at the national level and hopefully the programs and information that they have amassed will seed more initiatives at the state and county level.

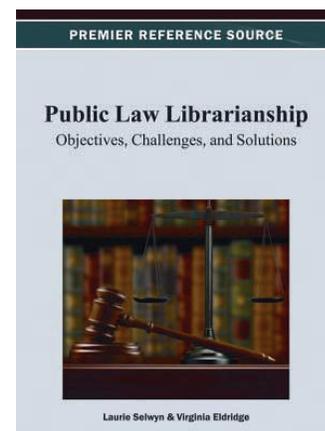
■

Book Review: *Public Law Librarianship Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn & Virginia Eldridge

Jennifer Dalglish, Clackamas County Law Library (OR)

I thought a lot about writing this review before I actually began putting words to screen. Mostly, because of this: <http://www.aallnet.org/Blogs/spectrum-blog/46005.html>. Kathleen Dugan's February 2013 AALL review of *Public Law Librarianship: Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn & Virginia Eldridge is excellent. Initially, I didn't think there was anything I could say about it that had not already been said... and said very eloquently and thoroughly. I was at a bit of a loss. Then, I stumbled across an old blog post by a popular librarian about "The West Ad." No doubt you remember the ad the post referred to! It wasn't necessarily the post, itself, I found inspiring, but the comments following it – as is often the case, right? Surely, most of us have read the comments following a blog post and thought "Ugh! People can be so ridiculous!" (or something like that). It was while reading through the comments, that I finally realized the practical perspective I could bring to a review of this title. This book is something many people, especially those with an interest or stake in law librarianship, should read – not just educators or public law librarians.

I think when I first heard about this title, I figured it would be a great resource for public law librarians, probably the first of its kind. After I read it, I also thought it would make a good text for a course in law librarianship. I didn't think much of its value beyond the core target audience. That was the case until I read the comments to that blog post and realized most of the people responding were librarians and they very obviously did not seem to have much accurate knowledge of law librarians. By extension, my best guess is that by and large the knowledge of public law librarians is even more lacking. Most people reading this review will probably be public law librarians. I figure the vast majority of readers of this review will simply skim it - probably because they've already read about or read the book. I'd already read it when I skimmed Dugan's review of it. And I had promptly placed it on a shelf in my office so I could refer to it in the future. Did I catalogue it into the circulating part of our collection? No. Did I give it to any of our Law Library Board members to read? No. Did I send a copy to the lobbyist who presented a proposal to the state legislature to "improve" public law libraries? No. Did I make a suggestion at my local special librarian's group meeting that some of them might find reading it beneficial? No. But I should have. And that's where the true value of this book lies. It isn't so much about using this wonderful, new resource as another tool in our own kits as it



Book Review: *Public Law Librarianship Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn & Virginia Eldridge, continued

Jennifer Dalglish, Clackamas County Law Library (OR)

is about sharing it with others who can help find solutions to some of the challenges we face and help us obtain our objectives.

Without a doubt, there are many people managing public law libraries who will benefit greatly from both reading and referring to this book both now and in the future. If you haven't, you should. When I first read it, I kept hearing words like "labor of love" echoing through my mind. Many of us have thought we could write a book like this... someday. Laurie and Virginia actually did. There is an "About the Authors" section at the end of the book, right before the Index. Here, you'll find out that Laurie Selwyn retired in 2007 from her position as the Grayson County Law Librarian (TX) and Virginia Eldridge followed her in that post. The foreword, written by Joseph Hodnicki of the Butler County Law Library Resources Board (OH), states that Selwyn and Eldridge's book is an "important and timely work." He goes on to state that *"It is important because their monograph fills a gap in the professional literature by offering a comprehensive analysis of public law libraries. Timely because public law librarians are engaged in developing innovative ways to provide legal information to the public under institutional circumstances that ultimately may be transformative."* I think he's right. Public law librarians are existing in a time of transition and this is precisely on the main reasons we need to remember to share this "important" and "timely" work with others who can help us through this transformative time period and process.

I also think he's right when he says *"One objective shared by all public law librarians is providing patrons with access to licensed electronic legal resources. After reviewing the actions of the public law library community to obtain industry acceptance of a licensing model different from the private sector model because public access is fundamental, the authors provide an excellent analysis of matters public law librarians must address in licensing commercial legal search services."* Obtaining public access to online commercial legal research services is at the core of defining public law librarianship, both today and in the future. Hodnicki also says it best when he says the authors are able to *"demystify the public law library without neglecting this institution's most defining characteristic, the many varieties of public law libraries that exist today."* It is imperative we, as public law library staff members, help to preserve and protect the very nature and foundations of our institutions.

"One objective shared by all public law librarians is providing patrons with access to license electronic legal resources."

Book Review: *Public Law Librarianship Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn & Virginia Eldridge, continued

Jennifer Dalglish, Clackamas County Law Library (OR)

In the preface, Selwyn and Eldridge provide an easy-to-read and comprehensive overview of public law libraries, a description of the book, and a conclusion. The book, itself, resembles a traditional textbook. It consists of 371 pages, with 140 of those pages dedicated to reference, appendices, glossary, index, etc. If you're ever in need of providing a definition of "public law library" to an official or answering how many states have a county law library open to the public, for example, this is where you can find the answer. Each chapter of the book begins with an abstract that could be very helpful to a non-public law librarian using the book as a resource for helping to improve or study public law libraries. The book is divided into ten chapters: Ch. 1 "Introduction to Public Law Libraries," Ch. 2 "Patron Base," Ch. 3 "Governance and Organization Structures," Ch. 4 "General Library Management," Ch. 5 "Personnel," Ch. 6 "Public Relations," Ch. 7 Collection Development, Ch. 8 Technology, Contracts and Electronic Resources," Ch. 9 "Technical Services," and Ch. 10 "Public Services." Each chapter begins with an "Overview" and end with a section on "Future Trends" and then a "Conclusion."

The first chapter could provide those not employed in a public law library with the general history of public law libraries and their development and also explains how they fit into both the legal and library realms. The second chapter serves to help with understanding the needs of the patrons the public law library exists to serve. The third chapter might just be the most helpful when looking at the book as beneficial to those not intimately familiar with public law libraries – it describes in great detail the many types of governance and organizational structures applicable to public law libraries. The third chapter also includes excellent organizational graphs that could go a long way when discussing the future of public law libraries in many states. Chapter five takes an in-depth look at public law library personnel, including the wide variety of "job descriptions, staffing options, training, and levels of professionalism within the public law library field." They also include, in this chapter, a presentation of the dual degree debate and review approaches to changing the public law library positions to create a more professional position. Chapter six discusses the importance of marketing the public law library by developing a relationship between the library, its governing body, and its users. Public relations is so much more than just advertising public law libraries' existence, and the authors tell you many of the reasons why in



Book Review: *Public Law Librarianship Objectives, Challenges, and Solutions* by Laurie Selwyn & Virginia Eldridge, continued

Jennifer Dalglish, Clackamas County Law Library (OR)

this chapter. The seventh chapter delves into what the authors describe as “the heart of the library” – the collection. Every person who has ever uttered something similar to “law libraries are going the way of the dinosaur because of the Internet” or “everything is online” or “just make the cut to your books and subscriptions line item” (I could go on and on) could benefit from reading this chapter. The same thing could be said about Chapter 8 that discusses all aspects of technology, including contracts, as it relates to public law libraries. Chapter 9 looks at technical services in a way that would mostly benefit anyone charged with understanding the actual public law library operations. The tenth, and final chapter, covers the broad area of public services. It also contains some of my favorite quotes from the whole book, including but not limited to “Patrons often enter the public law library with high and unrealistic expectations.” Isn’t that the truth! The one drawback to this chapter is the small section on the Unauthorized Practice of Law. Perhaps a future edition could expand this section.

In the conclusion of the first chapter, the authors state that “Public law libraries have many challenges and much reorganization ahead of them if they are to effectively and efficiently meet all the demands being placed upon them while simultaneously balancing those demands against financial and staffing limitations.” When faced with confronting those challenges, attempting growth and embracing change, this book should be considered the primary resource public law librarians turn to, especially with respect to referring it to other people who may have a stake or interest in the future of our public law libraries.

“Public law libraries have many challenges and much reorganization ahead of them if they are to effectively and efficiently meet all the demands being placed upon them while simultaneously balancing those demands against financial and staffing limitations.”

■

SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2012-2013

Chair

Barbara Fritschel
(414) 297-1698

Barbara_Fritschel@ca7.uscourts.gov

Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Lawrence Meyer
(909) 885-3020

larrym@sblawlibrary.org

Past-Chair

Amy Hale-Janeke
(504) 310-7797

ahjaneke@ca5.uscourts.gov

Secretary/Treasurer

Rita Dermody
(206) 296-0940

rita.dermody@kingcounty.gov

Board Member

(2011-2014)

Betsy Vipperman
(585) 530-3263

bvipperm@courts.state.ny.us

Board Member

(2012-2015)

Coral Henning
(916) 874-6013

chenning@saclaw.org

Board Member

(ex-officio)

Holly Gerber
(503) 846-8880

holly_gerber@co.washington.or.us

Advocacy

Brian Huffman, Chair
Angela Baldree
Kate Fitz
Andrea Woods
Pauline Afuso
Liaison—Larry Meyer

Awards

Diane Forge Bauersfeld
Emily Carr
Paula Doty
John Adkins
Jean-Paul Vivian
Liaison—Amy Hale-Janeke

Bylaws

Maryruth Storer, Chair
Venita Hoover
Liaison—Betsy Vipperman

Education

Liz Reppe, Chair
Joe Cera
James Durham
Amy Levine
Roseann Canny
Michelle Finerty
Tara Lombardi
Liaison—Holly Ann Lakatos

Grants

Ted Smith, Chair
Sandra Marz
Leslie McGuire
Gail Warren
Sharon Wayland
Liaison—Rita Dermody

Membership & Mentoring

Cornell Winston, Chair
Paula Hoffman
Joanne Vandestreek
Liaison—Coral Henning

Newsletter

Holly Gerber, Chair
Jenn Dalglish
John Barden
Sonja Simpson
Liaison—Barbara Fritschel

Nominations

Judy Meadows, Chair
Jessie Burchfield
Donna Bausch
Liaison—Rita Dermody

Pro Bono Partnerships

Joan Bellistri, Chair
Betsy Mahoney
Laura Orr
Jennifer Frazier
Melanie Solon
Larry Meyer—Liaison

Publicity/Public Relations

Jennifer Dalglish, Chair
Catherine Lemann
Michelle Schmidt
Carol Ottolenghi
Liaison—Betsy Vipperman

Standards

Joel Fishman, Chair
Georgia Chadwick
Jacque Jurkins
Liaison—Betsy Vipperman

Strategic Planning

John Zorbias
Halle Cox
Liaison—Amy Hale-Janeke

Technology

Madeline Cohen, Chair
Kate Fitz,
Webmaster and Listserv Administrator
Alexa Lee
Jennifer Murray
Nancy Adams
Liaison—Coral Henning

The Back Page

Member News & Announcements



Holly Lakatos has submitted her resignation as an at large member of the SCCLL Board. The Board has voted to fill her term with Betsy Vipperman who was going off the board this year. Thank you, Holly, for your valuable service and contributions.

Martha Renick, formerly the Law Librarian at the Marion County Law Library (Salem, Oregon), began serving as the Director of the Multnomah Law Library (Portland, Oregon) in February 2013.