Pondering The Future

It is a traditional practice at the beginning of the calendar year to assess your status, to look ahead, and perhaps set some goals. Assessing a current status for our libraries is not always rosy, but even when there are negative aspects to a situation, often there is also something positive. This week I read an article in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal* discussing the shrinking physical space of many federal court libraries, but numerous judges were quoted making statements along the lines of “what is really important is that we still have the librarian.”

In looking ahead, sometimes we must ponder questions to which there is no answer at present. Last week I followed a “bread crumb trail” through several blog posts to [one by Lee Rosen](#), a North Carolina lawyer, in which he advocates experimenting as a necessary step for growth. “You should endlessly change things in a controlled manner so you can determine what works in your practice. ... You either maintain the status quo, or you grow. Growth is about experiments.” As he mentions, not all experiments are successful, but they will be learning experiences.

Let’s share our experiments and their outcomes. When times seem bleak, I’ve often been buoyed by my colleagues as we discuss issues, whether by phone, email or the occasional real-time meeting. Plan to make that effort to reach out and share your experiences in assessing and handling a mutual situation.

I’ll share the results of an experiment in my county. Our Superior Court has established five Self Help Centers in the regional courthouses, all but one of which are some distance from the County Law Library. Many of the Self Help Center customers had difficulty traveling to our Law Library location, so we came up with the idea of providing some library materials at each Center: a basic Westlaw Patron Access subscription and a set of 25 Nolo Press titles. Over a year later, we found that the Westlaw subscriptions were almost never used, even with our promotion efforts and providing training to the Self
View from the Chair, continued

Maryruth Storer, Chair

Help Center staff, so we discontinued them. But the Nolo Press titles are heavily used, and the staff at all the Self Help Centers repeatedly say that they are very glad to have the books for customers to use at the Centers. That experiment has expanded the reach of our Library into the community and has made it easier for some self-represented litigants to obtain access to justice.

The usual final step of this yearly tradition is to make some plans. It's not too early to begin thinking about attending the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia this July, especially as there are upcoming deadlines to apply for grants from our section, chapters and AALL – just plan for those application deadlines! I hope to see many of you there – will it be the 42nd meeting of SCCLL, or the 1st meeting of GLL (an unanswered question at the time I'm writing this column, but we'll know the answer by the time you read this!)?

From The Editor’s Desk

Holly Gerber, Tarrant County Law Library (TX)

This issue is chock-full of examples of how SCCLL members can learn and grow from each other. For those wanting to learn more about providing increased services to pro se litigants, look no further than Maryruth's experiences providing resources to Self-Help centers and Joanne Vandestreek’s article on the launch of the Illinois JusticeCorp. We have information on grants to attend the Annual Meeting and Equal Justice Conference as well as a recap of what one of the grant recipients from last year learned from the Annual Meeting. The results of the Strategic Directions survey are in, and as many members opined they would like SCCLL to do more in terms of advocacy, we have an article from Lubbock County (TX) on the push to get a bill introduced to add a law library fee to the justice courts filing fees. Finally, the SCCLL nominees’ bios and personal statements round out the issue.
AALL Announcements

Volunteer for an AALL Committee or Award Jury

AALL and its Executive Board need your leadership and expertise. AALL is currently seeking members to volunteer to serve on one of our 27 committees or award juries. Consider lending your time and talent to AALL. It is through the work of our committees and award juries that AALL is able to support the profession and recognize our members' achievements.

Some of the benefits of volunteering include:

- A significant role in advancing the profession
- An opportunity to enhance the value of AALL within the legal profession
- The chance to collaborate and work with your colleagues

Please volunteer by February 27! This is your chance to help lead the Association dedicated to advancing the profession of law librarianship.

Participate in AALL's New Polls on AALLNET

AALL offers a new polling feature on AALLNET, giving members the opportunity to weigh in on a variety of issues. The poll, which is located on the bottom right of the homepage, will ask a different question on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

This week, AALL would like to know: Have you used AALL's Mentor Match? The poll is open for two weeks, and results will be announced the following week in the weekly Member E-Newsletter. Results are also visible as the poll progresses.

Results for the last poll:

What's your top professional goal for 2015?

55% - Change Jobs/New Position
24% - More Education and Training
21% - Being a Change Agent
AALL Travel Grant Essay

Amy Levine, U.S. Courts Library, 10th Circuit—Denver (CO)

Attending the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference has always been a highlight of my year. I enjoy going to the conference so much in fact that I often refer to it as “Law Librarian Heaven”! I work in the U.S. Courts Library in the Tenth Circuit and faced with an ever diminishing budget I feared I wouldn’t have funding to attend the meeting in San Antonio. I applied for and fortunately received a grant making it possible for me to attend the conference.

I went to a number of meetings and programs a few of which I will feature here. I attended the SCCLL annual breakfast meeting. Along with hearing about section news and accomplishments made over the past year, a highlight was the appearance of Colorado Supreme Court Justice Nancy Rice. She spoke about the new justice center and law library in Denver, Colorado. Along with watching an excellent video it was inspiring to hear from a judge that truly knows the value of the law library and its staff.

The conference was replete with quality programming beginning with a thought provoking keynote speech by Andrew Keen. Keen spoke about boundaries: old boundaries being swept away and replaced and how librarians need to act more entrepreneurial in the face of the disappearance of these boundaries. He talked in depth about the impact of mass internet accessibility and the emergence of Google. The boundaries between expert and novice became blurred since everyone could now conduct their own research. Keen also discussed the emergence of self-publishing as another development that swept old publication boundaries away. He discussed his belief that librarians are on the frontlines of a new reality and if we librarians have the drive and the entrepreneurial spirit we should seize the new online curation opportunities by reinventing our expertise in information management.

Another program I attended was on enhancing presentation skills. I often make presentations as part of my job so I was especially driven to attend this program. Steve Hughes certainly practiced what he preached! He used the acronym SPARQ to explain how to “open big.” SPARQ stands for: surprising statistic, picture or video, anecdote, real-life example, and question or quote. He suggested using one of these to begin your presentation. He had great
advice on how to use Microsoft PowerPoint. Hughes suggested using more images than words, and using lots of slides and large fonts. He described his 4x4 principle as using no more than 4 words per bullet point and no more than 4 bullet points per slide. Hughes also suggested asking your audience specific questions throughout your presentation.

I also attended a program on the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) on how the program is evolving. Mary Alice Baish, the Superintendent of Documents for the Government Printing Office (GPO), spoke about the present state of the program and information and recommendations gathered by a survey that was conducted. She spoke about the new changes allowing for more flexibility which will ultimately lead to increased access to government information. She also mentioned some items that are on the FDLP website (www.fdlp.gov) prompting me to visit the website. I highly recommend looking on the site. There is everything you ever wanted to know about the program and more.

These are just a few highlights from my trip to the annual meeting. In addition to attending very good programming I was able to meet with colleagues from around the country, exchanging stories on what we’ve worked on and accomplished in the last year. The programming and exchange of ideas with other law librarians truly make attending AALL particularly special. It is an invaluable educational opportunity and I am grateful to SCCLL for making my attendance possible.

“...programmers and exchange of ideas with other law librarians truly make attending AALL particularly special. It is an invaluable educational opportunity and I am grateful to SCCLL for making my attendance possible.”
SCCLL Grants

SCCLL Grants Committee

We are pleased to announce that the SCCLL Grants Committee has selected Joseph D. Lawson, Deputy Director at the Harris County Law Library in Houston, Texas as the recipient of a $1,500 grant to attend the AALL Management Institute to be held in Chicago at the end of March.

There are more grant opportunities for the remainder of this year and they are as follows:

- **2015 Equal Justice Conference to be held in Austin, TX, May 7-9, 2015**
  The Board approved 2 - $1,500 grants for this event.
  Application deadline is March 12, 2015.

- **2015 AALL Annual Meeting Registration Grant, Philadelphia, PA July 18-21, 2015**
  This grant will cover the cost of an Early Bird Registration for 1 of our members.
  Application Deadline is April 10, 2015
  Note: if you are not selected as the recipient of the Annual Meeting Grant and if you are interested in receiving the Annual Meeting Registration Grant, please check both boxes on the registration form.

- **2015 AALL Annual Meeting Grant, Philadelphia, PA July 18-21, 2015**
  The Board approved 3 - $1,500 grants for this event. This is one more grant than we offered last year. The Committee thanks the Board for approving this request.
  Application deadline is April 10, 2015.

The 2015 Grant Application Form can be found at:

More information about grants can be found at:
SCCLL Grants, continued

SCCLL Grants Committee

The SCCLL Grant Program is made possible through donations that we receive through our annual Silent Auction which is held online as well as onsite at the AALL Annual Meeting. This spring, look for information about this year’s Silent Auction.

2014/2015 SCCLL Grants Committee:

- Regina Smith, Chair
- Sandra Marz
- Leslie McGuire
- Carol Suhre
- Gail Warren
- Board Liaison – Jennifer Murray

SCCLL—Planning for the Future

Ann Fessenden, Strategic Directions Committee Chair

Many thanks to the 71 people who took the time to respond to our Strategic Directions survey! This was 16.6% of the Section membership, and while that may not sound like a lot, the survey was demanding with a lot of open-ended questions. Those who did respond gave very thoughtful answers and lots of good observations and suggestions, so we feel that this effort was a success.

Our next step will be to draft new strategic direction objectives that will try to address the areas that members felt were most important.

Who responded? The largest number of those who answered the survey work in state or municipal court libraries (44.2%), followed by county (30%), and federal court (14.2%). There were only three respondents from agencies and none from bar subscription libraries.
SCCLL—Planning for the Future, continued

Ann Fessenden, Strategic Directions Committee Chair

The Committee was pleased to see a good response from newer (0-5 years) Section members 37.1% of respondents, followed by long-term (more than 15 years) Section members, 31.4%. Apparently though, we have a lot of newer members who have joined us from other law library types, as 53.6% reported that they had been AALL members for over 15 years.

The overwhelming majority of survey participants worked in law libraries which serve the public (84.2%). Also, the majority (85.2%) of respondents were in favor of having the SCCLL do more to facilitate access to justice initiatives. There were 30% who had served in SCCLL leadership roles.

What are SCCLL’s most important services? The top answer to this question was communication (78.9%), followed by educational programs (66.2%). By far the lowest priority was recognition and awards, with only 9.9%. Other responses fell within a 40-57% range: grants (57.8%), advocacy (56.3%), development of standards (53.5%), opportunities to develop leadership skills (52.1%), support of service to self-represented litigants (52.1%), assistance with marking and promotion (40.9%).

What are SCCLL’s strengths? There were 57 separate answers to this question, but the largest number seemed to fall into these areas:

- Members – Many reported that SCCLL’s greatest strength is its membership, described by such terms as “committed,” “involved,” “experienced,” “passionate,” “enthusiastic.”
- Networking and communication – The value of colleagues who have dealt with similar issues and are willing to share their experiences was frequently noted as a strength.
- Voice for our library types – A number of responses noted that SCCLL speaks for a segment of law librarians who are otherwise lost among AALL’s many academic and law firm members.
- Educational programs – Programming was noted as a strength by many members.
- Leadership – Several responses praised the quality of the leadership and our leaders’ communication with members.

“The most frequently-mentioned suggestion was for sharing of best practices, standards, or tools. Other themes included providing members with education in this area, helping members learn to partner with other organizations in their communities, and educating other players on the role librarians can play.”
SCCLL—Planning for the Future, continued

Ann Fessenden, Strategic Directions Committee Chair

*What can SCCLL improve?* This one yielded 46 separate answers, but repeated topics included:

- Participation, especially the difficulties of limited staff, limited funding, and limited opportunities for many members to attend the annual meeting
- Difficulty of meeting only one time per year
- Need for more educational opportunities, especially for those who can’t come to the annual meeting
- Helping members with outreach to their communities and to legal organizations
- The diversity of library types and interests make it difficult to meet everyone’s needs
- Desire to strengthen SCCLL’s voice in AALL
- Need for more communication

*Supporting self-represented litigants.* The most frequently-mentioned suggestion was for sharing of best practices, standards, or tools. Other themes included providing members with education in this area, helping members learn to partner with other organizations in their communities, and educating other players on the role librarians can play. Development of some sort of online discussion forum was also suggested. Some members who are not currently involved suggested that the Section should provide more information about what is already being done.

*What else should we do?* On the question about other suggested priorities for SCCLL, the largest number of members gave answers about relevancy and advocacy—educating funders and decision-makers on the continued importance of law libraries and law librarians, and the need to adequately fund them. Other suggestions centered on education and on involving members, especially those who cannot attend the annual meeting.
A Lone Star Legislative Blueprint: Lubbock County Law Library Initiated Proposal Gains Momentum

Proposed Texas County Law Library Legislation, Texas 84th Regular Legislative Session

Nan Hadley, Lubbock County Law Library (TX)
Sara E. Campbell, Lubbock County Court Administration (TX)

Over the past two years, as a Briefing Clerk, I have had the privilege of serving multiple departments in Lubbock County. In this service, I wear many hats, but the one constant has been the location of my desk in the back of the Lubbock County Law Library. My desk has given me a unique perspective as to the importance of having a thriving county law library. Lubbock County Court Administration refers to me as the “legal beagle” that “sniffs out” what the law is on any topic at a moment’s notice. If research tasks are not needed, I assist Nan Hadley, the Lubbock County Law Librarian with her daily tasks. Over the past year, Nan and I have anxiously watched the District and County Court year to date filing fees compared to Adjusted, Original, and Actual Budget amounts for recent years. We noticed a trend that went beyond an increase in pro se patrons filing affidavits of indigence to waive filing fees based on inability to pay.

Texas County Law Libraries, traditionally have been supported solely by District and County Court filing fees deposited in the Law Library Fund in accordance with Local Government Code §323.023, or by gifts in accordance with Local Government Code §323.022. These are the only two statutorily permissible sources of revenue. Justice Courts, traditionally have not been included in the filing fee structure that raises monies for the Law Library Fund, despite the expectation of Texas County Law Libraries providing services and materials to Justice Court litigants. We noticed a legislative watershed moment that coincided with the decline in filing fees while examining filing fee revenues in the context of legislative activity.

In 2007, legislation raising the amount in controversy for small claims cases reorganized the Texas lower County Court structure, shifting cases out of District Court and reallocating them to Justice Courts. This action resulted in a loss of District Court filing fees that benefit the Law Library. There is currently no filing fee amount that comes from Justice Courts to the County Law Libraries. We have fewer cases in District Court and an increase in cases in Justice Court. The shift in case flow was not distributed in the filing fee...
A Lone Star Legislative Blueprint: Lubbock County Law Library Initiated Proposal Gains Momentum, continued

Nan Hadley, Lubbock County Law Library (TX)

Sara E. Campbell, Lubbock County Court Administration (TX)

structure. The fee structure remained unchanged. We are led to believe, after close examination, that the fact that the filing fee was not also shifted was due to legislative oversight. Nan and I have set in motion a legislative proposal to correct this oversight.

I created a bill draft. I started with a list of goals that originated with comments from SWALL Annual meeting attendees and people in Lubbock County. I consulted the state session laws, the most recent Texas Legislative Drafting Manual, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, the historical file for the Lubbock County Law Library, and Office of Court Administration (OCA) filing data that is publicly available at http://www.courts.state.tx.us. I did not create a new fee, but simply reinstated a former preexisting fee. The bill amends Subchapter E, Chapter 118, Local Government Code, Sections 118.121 and 118.122 of the "Black Statutes" or Vernon's Texas Statutes and Codes Annotated. In trying to recover lost fees, the bill would not infringe on any of the current beneficiaries of the current fee structure. I took great care to be sure that we were not taking any other county entity's "piece of the pie" in implementing the fee. In most cases there simply was no more "pie" to "slice". This was one reason we added a $5 fee to the existing prejudgment fee structure in Justice Courts. One other carefully crafted selling point that came up in the drafting process was the “opt out” clause. We realize that this bill was structured to be appealing to mid-sized counties like Lubbock County. Our intent was not to alienate larger or smaller counties, but to allow the Commissioners of such counties to choose whether the fee structure to recover the lost fees was necessary in their individual county. If a set of Commissioners was strongly opposed to adding materials and services to their own county law library, then they only needed to “opt out” at a Commissioners’ Court meeting. The counties that needed the revenue and support could “opt in” to choose to collect the fee. This allowed Commissioners’ Court discretion to tailor the effect of our bill to their jurisdiction without harming any other county. The choice to “opt in” or “opt out” by Loving County would not impact the choice of Harris County, for example.
A Lone Star Legislative Blueprint: Lubbock County Law Library Initiated Proposal Gains Momentum, continued

Nan Hadley, Lubbock County Law Library (TX)
Sara E. Campbell, Lubbock County Court Administration (TX)

Using these publicly available resources, I was able to draft both the legislative proposal in proper bill format, and draft a Resolution for the Lubbock County Commissioners’ Court to sign. Our Resolution, which follows this article, was signed on June 9, 2014. Commissioner Patti Jones then presented the matter before the 92nd Annual Meeting of the County Judges & Commissioners Association of Texas. Mr. Jim Allison, General Counsel for the Association, deleted one clause from the legislative proposal. This edited proposal has been backed up by research involving an FOIA request of self-reported data from small to mid-sized counties in Texas paired with Texas State Comptroller data. Scrutiny of the data set further illuminated the trend that this was a state wide issue and not just an issue for Lubbock County. The month of December was a busy, but productive time in the Lubbock County Law Library. We reached out to other Texas County Law Libraries, informed several judicial and access to justice associations of our proposal, and approached our local legislators concerning the filing and introduction of the bill in the Texas Legislature this 2015 session.

Senator Charles Perry has requested time to consult his committee regarding this proposal. Representative John Frullo and newly elected Representative Dustin Burrows are currently reviewing the proposed bill. We await a firm commitment from Senator Perry, Representative Frullo, or Representative Burrows. We ask for the continued support of all SWALL members during the 84th Texas Legislative Session starting January 13, 2015 at noon. We hope to obtain a firm commitment from a Texas Legislator to file and introduce the bill this session. The successful passage of our bill would establish a foothold for the future vitality of Texas County Law Libraries. This future vitality ensures access to justice and a development of services for patrons state wide. In addition to requesting your continued support in this endeavor, we invite other librarians to draw inspiration from our efforts and not be afraid to attempt legislative proposals of their own.

“The successful passage of our bill would establish a foothold for the future vitality of Texas County Law Libraries. This future vitality ensures access to justice and a development of services for patrons state wide. In addition to requesting your continued support in this endeavor, we invite other librarians to draw inspiration from our efforts and not be afraid to attempt legislative proposals of their own.”
WHEREAS, Lubbock County embraces the principles that our nation promises justice for all, not just for those who can afford to pay for it, and subscribes to the values Judge Learned Hand espoused when he said, “If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice”; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct preamble states that, “...a lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance”, and “The provision of free legal services to those unable to pay reasonable fees is a moral obligation of each lawyer as well as the profession generally”; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of an adequately funded and managed County Law Library is necessary, not only for judges and court personnel, county officials and attorneys, but also for the public who rely upon it in lieu of or to supplement expensive private libraries; and

WHEREAS, the availability to practicing attorneys of an adequately funded and managed County Law Library thus improves the overall quality of legal services rendered to the public while helping to contain the cost of such legal services; and
A Lone Star Legislative Blueprint: Lubbock County Law Library
Initiated Proposal Gains Momentum, continued

Nan Hadley, Lubbock County Law Library (TX)
Sara E. Campbell, Lubbock County Court Administration (TX)

WHEREAS, the continued availability of adequately funded self-help
resources to pro se litigants offered by County Law Library research and
materials services made available by the Law Librarian and staff are
dependent upon the steady flow of library patronage; and

WHEREAS, the expense of maintaining an adequately funded and
managed County Law Library has nevertheless increased tremendously in
the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, the expense of maintaining an adequately funded and
managed County Law Library will only continue to increase in coming years;
and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the statutory limit for amount in controversy in
small-claims issues was raised; and

WHEREAS, this legislative action resulted in a loss of District Court
filing fees that benefit the maintenance of an adequately funded and
managed County Law Library which traditionally has been supported solely
by District and County Court filing fees deposited in the Law Library Fund in
accordance with Local Government Code §323.023, or by gifts in
accordance with Local Government Code §323.022; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Court filing fees do not support, nor have
supported in any way, the County Law Library; and

WHEREAS, the Lubbock County Law Librarian, Lubbock County Court
Administration, the Lubbock County Court Administration Briefing Clerk, the
Texas County Law Librarians in attendance of the Southwestern Association
of Law Libraries (SWALL) 2014 Annual Meeting polled by the Lubbock
County Court Administration Briefing Clerk, and other relevant county and
court personnel support legislation establishing a $5.00 fee for all Justice
Court filings to benefit the County Law Library; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Texas Counties shall opt to collect
the fee, and each County Law Librarian must use the Justice Court Filing Fee
for the expense of maintaining an adequately funded and managed County
Law Library; and
WHEREAS, the proposed legislation shall amend Subchapter E, Chapter 118, Local Government Code, Sections 118.121 and 118.122 to implement the $5.00 filing fee for each civil and criminal case filed in the Justice Courts to recover the lost revenue from legislative lower-county court restructuring from previous legislation; and

WHEREAS, this Justice Court fee shall be introduced during the 84th Texas Legislative Regular Session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Commissioners Court of Lubbock County, Texas, is hereby in full support of the proposed amendment to Subchapter E, Chapter 118, Local Government Code, Sections 118.121 and 118.122 to benefit County Law Libraries and the many patrons served, and strongly urges its passage during the 84th Regular Session of the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Rick Perry, to the Presiding Officer of each House of the Legislature, to the Clerk of each House of the Legislature, to the Chairman of the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee, and to each Representative whose District includes a portion of Lubbock County, with the recommendation that the Bill do pass.

Signed this 9th day of June, 2014.
William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation Helps Launch Illinois JusticeCorps

Joanne Vandestreek, William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation (IL)

The 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County serves a diverse population of over 700,000 residents. Lake County is in the far northeastern corner of the state (right on the Illinois-Wisconsin border) and the residents are from a variety of educational, economic, and cultural backgrounds. The 19th Judicial Circuit has a law library and center for self-representation to help serve the needs of the public, located near a main entrance of the courthouse complex. Most of our library’s patrons are attorneys, many of whom visit on a regular basis. However, there are a growing number of pro se litigants visiting the library. They are looking for help with forms such as divorce, evictions, and expungement of criminal records. In addition, our courthouse is part of a large county complex in which it is easy to get lost. The courthouse has four levels in the main building, an annex that also has four levels, and the Babcox Justice Center, which is connected to the main courthouse via a second floor walkway. The courthouse is connected to the County’s 10-floor tower through a lobby; many attorneys and pro se litigants need to visit offices in this tower, such as the State’s Attorney’s Office and the Recorder of Deeds. Due to space limitations in the courthouse complex, the County Board Room, located on the 10th floor of the tower, is also used to hear foreclosure cases. To help serve the pro se litigants visiting the courthouse, the 19th Judicial Circuit Court recently became one of several pilot locations to expand the Illinois JusticeCorps program.

The Illinois JusticeCorps program first began in Cook County, Illinois, in 2009. In 2012, the Illinois Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the state bar association, took over the operation of this program, and in 2014 expanded the program to 9 courthouses throughout the state, including the Lake County Circuit Court in Waukegan. The Illinois Bar Foundation approached our Chief Judge, John Phillips, and asked whether the Circuit wanted to participate in JusticeCorps as one of the expansion sites. Our Chief then referred the matter to the Judicial Case Management, Alternative Dispute Programs and Support Programming Committee. The Judges on this committee were ecstatic to bring the program here. I as the Law Librarian was named as the site contact for the JusticeCorps program, as our law library is a natural location for the members’ ‘home base’ in the courthouse.

“Most of our library’s patrons are attorneys, many of whom visit on a regular basis. However, there are a growing number of pro se litigants visiting the library. They are looking for help with forms such as divorce, evictions, and expungement of criminal records."
William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation Helps Launch Illinois JusticeCorps, continued

Joanne Vandestreek, William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation (IL)

We have tables they can use when working with pro se litigants on forms and a place (the librarian’s office) where JusticeCorps members can place their personal belongings and store staff materials. The Illinois JusticeCorps program provides three main areas of assistance: navigation, forms assistance, and referrals to community resources. Their services are available on a first-come, first served basis.

Since the program is federally funded by AmeriCorps and funneled through the Illinois Bar Foundation, the 19th Judicial Circuit Court does not hire participating members. The 19th Judicial Circuit Court received one full time JusticeCorps member (35 hours per week) and four part-time members (8 hours per week); everyone serves a one year term. The full time member assigned to the 19th Judicial Circuit is a recent law school graduate; our part-time members include paralegal students, students who are in their undergraduate studies, and recent college graduates.

Recruitment, applicant screening, and background checks for successful applicants were handled by the Illinois Bar Foundation; as the site contact I sat in on the interviews and gave my feedback on the applicants. The Illinois Bar Foundation is also responsible for paying the members their stipends.

There are some human resources functions that the court handles, including parking validations. Even though they are not officially court employees, our Judges, Court administrators and staff, clerk’s office staff, and court security have welcomed the Illinois JusticeCorps program with open arms. Many of our judges have trained the members on local forms and invited them to staff meetings to learn more about court programs.

To help spread the news about the program, the court issued a press release and had a ribbon cutting ceremony this past November (see photo). Several newspapers have run articles about the Illinois JusticeCorps program in Lake County, including the Lake County News Sun, the Daily Herald, and the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin. An article submitted to the LCBA Docket, the local county bar association’s monthly publication, is expected to be published in March. To help promote the program on a daily basis, the Lake County Circuit Clerk’s office (where court documents are filed) has referral slips they can distribute to litigants looking for fill in the blank forms...
assistance. Visitors to the William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation can see the “Illinois JusticeCorps sign” outside our door, and we refer patrons to JusticeCorps members if they are looking for assistance with fill in the blank forms. They are also easily recognizable by their light blue polo shirts with the JusticeCorps logo.

In the first two months since the program launched in Lake County, members have had 173 instances of assistance and have assisted court visitors with 223 court forms. A significant number of those assisted have been Spanish-speaking. Members are stationed in the law library and at two of the three main entrances to the courthouse complex when the entrances are busiest (around the 9 am and 1:30 pm court calls). They have received a lot of positive feedback from court visitors and others in the legal community. Many attorneys have commented that they think the program is a great idea. Self-represented litigants who have received forms assistance have said the program is helpful to them.

We in the law library and Center for Self-Representation have noticed a significant impact of the JusticeCorps program on our library’s operations, especially at busier times at the library. The William D. Block Memorial is staffed by a full time law librarian, a full time senior clerk, and a part-time paralegal; often times all three staff members may be assisting patrons in person or by phone at the same time. Many of our pro se litigants have little or no computer literacy skills and are very intimidated when they visit the courthouse. While we provide many fill-in-the-blank forms and examples of how they are completed, pro se litigants can still feel stress, anxiety, and frustration at the prospect of completing court forms on their own. Our JusticeCorps members can provide pro se litigants detailed, one-on-one assistance with the fill-in-the-blank forms.

Some of the challenges we have noticed with the program including scheduling and referral challenges. Although we have a full time JusticeCorps member, the part-time members’ schedules depend on their work, family, and/or school schedules. Oftentimes they staff the entrances for a period of time, during which patrons may be referred to the law library and Center for Self-Representation. This forces the patron to wait some time for assistance. When patrons come to us looking for forms assistance,
William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation Helps Launch Illinois JusticeCorps, continued

Joanne Vandestreek, William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation (IL)

we must carefully screen the patron to make sure the assistance required is for fill-in-the-blank court forms only. Patrons show us the JusticeCorps referral slip they received from the clerk’s office, but we still conduct a reference interview with these patrons. On occasion, the patron’s questions are regarding legal procedures for which there are no ready to use forms, such as an answer to a complaint or an Administrative Agency appeal. In these instances we let patrons know that the JusticeCorps members cannot assist with such complex matters and refer them to other print materials and lawyer referral services.

Overall, the Illinois JusticeCorps program has gotten off to a great start, with positive press and feedback from litigants and the legal community. The staff of the William D. Block Memorial Law Library and Center for Self-Representation hopes the Illinois JusticeCorps program will continue to operate in future years for the benefit of pro se litigants in our county and throughout the state.

Above: Judges from the 19th Judicial Court, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Law Librarian, representatives from the Illinois Bar Foundation, and JusticeCorps members at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the launch of Illinois JusticeCorps at the 19th Judicial Circuit Court.
SCCLL Nominations

Jennifer Dalglish—Vice Chair/Chair Elect

EDUCATION

M.L.I.S. University of Washington  
Seattle, Washington  
2004–2007

J.D. University of Montana  
Missoula, Montana  
1995–1998

B.A. The Colorado College  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
1991–1995

LAW LIBRARY EXPERIENCE

Law Librarian Clackamas County Law Library, Oregon  
2002–Present

Senior Library Assistant Washington County Law Library, Oregon  
1999–2002

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES


SCCLL Nominations
SCCLL Nominations, continued

Differences: Working together to provide access to legal information and justice” AALL Spectrum November 2012, Author “A Week’s Worth of Oregon County Law Library Legal Reference Assistance” ORSLA blog May 2012, 2006 OLA Presentation Speaker on “Legal Research for Librarians,” 2009 Legal Alliance Seminar Presentation Speaker “On and Off the Grid Legal Research”, L-NET legal research and reference volunteer, Special Guest TVCTV local cable access television show “Legally Speaking”, Speaker and Moderator “Speed Mentoring” January 2008 CWLS, Annual Classroom Law Project volunteer (2002 – present), and 2006 LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship Grant Award Recipient, L-Net Presentation Speaker “Answering Legal Reference Questions in Oregon”, OSB accredited CLE Presentation “Legal Research and The Public Law Library” September 2013, Guest Speaker “The Public Law Library Difference” Lewis and Clark School of Law June 2013, Organizer, Panelist Speaker and Moderator “Everything You Need To Know About Small Claims Court... and Then Some” June 2014 Oregon City Public Library, Organizer and Facilitator “Having It All, Doing It All and Being It All” and “What To Wear To Court” Roundtable Discussions 2014 CWLS.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

“It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” - Charles Darwin

Most of us in public law libraries these days are keenly aware we are existing during a period of transition. Our constant struggle to continue to find ways to thrive and grow while accepting significant changes to our profession is one of the many things that binds us. SCCLL has a strong history of keeping up with the times and, often, being ahead of the curve. As Chair, my commitment would be to continue leading and helping this section seek and find innovative ways to thrive and grow. More specifically, increased regular methods of membership communication and involvement, facilitation of more readily accessible webinars of interest to most of us, and implementing innovative opportunities for our members to collaborate and share our experiences and expertise are positive ways I would help us focus this year on responding to change. I’ve been an active member of SCCLL for about fifteen years largely due to the relationships it’s helped me form with other members I share so much in common with and, so, I am honored to have been nominated for this position. Thank you for considering me!
SCCLL Nominations, continued

Claudia Jalowka - Vice Chair/Chair Elect

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:


**SCCLL Nominations, continued**

Co-Chair, Internet Special Interest Group (1998 – 2000)


Selected Publications/Presentations


Statement:

Throughout the years I have found the SCCLL SIS to be an active and collegial group that works hard to encourage and foster connections between members. The core purpose of SCCLL is to serve as a vital resource for education, leadership and advocacy. Through leadership the section provides members with support and resources for facing the challenges of reduced budgets, political issues, and for identifying future concerns of the profession. Through advocacy it assists members in advocating for their library and patrons, and for leading the way in addressing the needs of self-represented parties. Through education it provides educational and mentoring opportunities for professional and personal growth. On a personal level, while benefitting greatly from the education and advocacy endeavors of the section, it is through the mentoring and support so freely given by the members to each other that truly speaks to our core purpose. It is a pleasure to be a member of the SCCLL SIS and part of this dynamic and amazing group of individuals, and it is an honor to have this opportunity to be a candidate for Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.
SCCLL Nominations, continued

Dan Cordova—Member-At-Large

Employment
- Librarian, Colorado Supreme Court
- Reference Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

Educational Degrees
- M.A., Information Resources/Library Science, University of Arizona-Tucson
- J.D., Law, University of Colorado-Boulder

Teaching Experience
- Faculty, New Judge Orientation, Colorado Judicial Department
- Adjunct Instructor, Sturm College of Law, University of Denver
- Adjunct Instructor, Morgridge College of Education, Library and Information Science Program, University of Denver

Military Experience
- Former Sgt., U.S. Army, Domestic and overseas assignments
- Management and Leadership Training
- Graduate, Citizens’ Academy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Denver Division
- Graduate, Federal Court Leadership Program, Federal Judicial Center, Washington, DC
- Graduate, Executive Leadership Program, Colorado Courts, Denver, CO

Personal Statement

Twenty years ago I was hired by a public library. I learned our business from the ground up, starting as a Page, earning promotions along the way. For the last eight years I have had the good fortune of directing the Colorado Supreme Court Library. In that time we have grown from a team of three to a team of eight, and in 2013 we were selected Library of the Year by the Colorado Association of Libraries. In 2014 our SIS selected Colorado’s Chief Justice as Library Advocate of the Year. How do things like this happen?
In my humble opinion, individual networking, local partnership, regional collaboration and national professional association are the hallmarks of our guild’s success. Law librarians are naturals at these things. In addition, we provide a level of customer service and support to our larger organizations that they cannot purchase anywhere else. As a reward for loyal and reliable service, law librarians are entrusted with our clients’ most sensitive material and charged with preserving it. Moving forward, we will be essential to the curation of primary and historical law in a borne-electronic environment. And we will be widely successful at it because we will do it together. Our shared expertise is our secret weapon; that, and the fact that we will not rest until we know more about the subject than anyone else.

I am dedicated to lifelong learning. I have presented on hiring and mentoring, continuing legal education, access to justice, library design and marketing of library services. I have written on legal research, legal history, public domain citation, UELMA, and vendor relations. Many of you have done as much or more, so I am flattered to be asked to stand for election. If my collective experience is helpful to the Section, I am willing to share it fully as an SCCLL Member-at-Large.
SCCLL Nominations, continued

Holly Gerber—Member-At-Large

EDUCATION
Texas Woman’s University
   Master of Library Science, 2009
   Master of Arts in Teaching, 2008
   Certification: Secondary English, Language Arts, and Reading
Texas Tech University
   Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, 2006

LIBRARY EMPLOYMENT
Director, Tarrant County Law Library (TX), 2013-present
Assistant Law Librarian, Washington County Law Library (OR), 2010-2013
Assistant Law Librarian, Denton County Law Library (TX), 2009-2010

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
SCCLL:
   Newsletter Editor, 2010-present
Oregon Library Association:
   Legal Reference Round Table, Chair, 2011-2013
   OLA Task Force on Statewide Access to Legal Information, Member
   Legal Reference Round Table Reports on Superseded ORS Digitization Project, OLA Hotline, Vol. 18, No. 6
Answerland (formerly L-net):
   Answered legal reference questions for the state-wide reference service
Oregon Legal Research website and blog:
   Created content for the blog and helped create the website
SCCLL Nominations, continued

American Library Association, New Members Round Table:

   Archives Committee, Member, 2012-2013
   Student and Student Chapter Outreach Committee, Member, 2012-2013
   Student Chapter of the Year Award Committee, Member
   Membership, Promotion, Diversity, & Recruitment Committee, Co-Chair, 2011-2012
   Shirley Olofson Memorial Award Committee, Member, 2011-2012
   Liaison to AALL, 2011-2013

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I began my law library career unsure of the world I was entering. Library school can only prepare you so far, and I wasn’t even planning on becoming a law librarian until I saw the posting for my first job. The reality of the public law library reference desk soon made me realize what an important resource we are for our patrons and our communities. However, we are continually called upon to prove our worth, a situation not unique to public law libraries. All libraries are under pressure to change and adapt to our evolving society and its needs. As the SCCLL newsletter editor, I’ve had the opportunity to observe the myriad ways member libraries are changing to best serve their patrons. I’ve found that we can learn not only from each other but also from academic and private law libraries, as many of us are facing similar budget, space, and identity crises. Sharing ideas, networking, and partnering with other libraries and organizations seem essential to the future of law libraries. I know many of us view SCCLL as a means to collaborate and learn from each other, and as a Member-at-Large, I would utilize what I’ve learned both from my own library experiences and from editing the newsletter to help our organization continue to be an indispensable resource for our members.
SCCLL Officers & Board Members 2014-2015

Chair
Maryruth Storer
(714) 834-3002
mstorer@ocPLL.org

Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Kelly Browne
(916) 874-7427
kbrowne@saclaw.org

Past-Chair
Larry Meyer
(909) 885-3020
larrym@sblawlibrary.org

Secretary/Treasurer
Jennifer Murray
(602) 506-3464
murray006@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

Board Member
(2012-2015)
Coral Henning
(916) 874-6013
chenning@saclaw.org

Board Member
(2013-2016)
James Durham
(410) 260-1436

Board Member
Nancy Adams
(404) 215-1319

Board Member
(ex-officio)
Holly Gerber
(817) 212-7228
hlgerber@tarrantcounty.com

Advocacy
Scott Burgh, Chair
Pauline Afuso
Judy Chalmers
Sandra Levin
Liaison – Larry Meyer

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Tonya Baroudi
Dan Cordova
Susan Falk
Holly Gale
Liaison – Jennifer Murray

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Patricia Morgan
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Sandra Marz
Leslie McGuire
Carol Suhre
Gail Warren
Liaison – Jennifer Murray

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Terry Long, Chair
Kathy Carlson
Mariann Sears
Liaison – Kelly Browne

Newsletter
Holly Gerber, Chair/Editor
John Barden
Joy Shoemaker
Liaison – Nancy Adams

Nominations
Betsy Vipperman, Chair
Mark Estes
Barbara Fritschel
Liaison – Maryruth Storer

Pro Bono Partnerships
Janine Liebert, Chair
Donna Bausch
Michael Ginsborg
Laurel Moran
Liaison – Larry Meyer

Publicity/Public Relations
Claudia Beth Jalowka, Chair
Sue Ludington
Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
Dolly Moehrle
Liaison – Coral Henning

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Georgia Chadwick, Chair
Sharon Borbon
Mary Jenkins
Liaison – James Durham

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Ann Fessenden, Chair
Joan Bellistri
Sara Galligan
Robert O’Leary
Liz Reppe
Liaison – Kelly Browne

Technology
Kate Fitz, Chair
Stephanie Bassinger
Ruth Harrison
Liaison – Nancy Adams
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Member News & Announcements