View from the Chair

Jenny Silbiger, GLL-SIS Chair, Hawai’i Supreme Court Law Library

Aloha e, All,

I’m writing you from my “new” office of late—my dinner table, where I can look outside our living room to glimpse our lovely Ko’olau mountains, enfolded in clouds as misty rain sprinkles down on the windward side of the island in Oahu. I feel thankful for the health of my staff and colleagues and family, that we are all safe as we ride out the pandemic by staying at home and working from home, and am sending thoughts of love, health, and safety from my little home to yours.

As we head into summer and the close of the AALL year, we are still in the midst of various states of quarantine across the nation, with the number of COVID-19 positive cases popping up as well as recovery and release rates sprinkling in some good news—in my home state as of now, 561 folks have been released from isolation, and we are so thankful for our recovery stories. And while I know this doesn’t mean we are out of the woods, and some areas are much harder hit than others, from what I gather among our fellow GLL librarians, I understand we are in various states of cautiously and gradually preparing for re-opening and increasing library services and resources for our respective locations.

For folks who may not have attended the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Mitigating COVID-19 webinar in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in April, this is a wonderful resource and you can access the full session here. Dr. David Berendes and Dr. Catherine Raspberry share their guidelines and recommendations for “Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other Types of Collections.” My three takeaways from this webinar were: 1) apply your local social distancing guidelines to your facilities and work-spaces, 2) hand hygiene, hand hygiene, hand hygiene, and 3) clean and disinfect your highly touched non-porous work surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc). They honestly were not concerned so much with paper-based transmission (see mail-in electoral ballots), and their scientific reasoning behind this gave me comfort. Please don’t take my word for it, though, please take a listen to...
View from the Chair (continued)

Jenny Silbiger, GLL-SIS Chair, Hawai’i Supreme Court Law Library

I’d like to thank our GLL Committee chairs and members as we round out the 2019-2020 year for their work, especially given the circumstances. We’ve been working in each of our areas all year, along with updating our GLL SIS Handbook, in an effort to make it easier for incoming chairs to come in and take the reins. It’s been such a pleasure bearing witness to the good work they’ve done—including and not limited to connecting us via this newsletter and keeping us abreast of news and contributions made by our fellow colleagues, as well as honoring our colleagues’ accomplishments with our GLL Awards, supporting our colleagues’ professional endeavors through our grants, nominating our colleagues’ efforts to contribute to our professional development at AALL’s annual meeting, and putting forward a wonderful slate of candidates resulting in our incoming Vice Chair/Chair Elect Miriam Childs and Member-At-Large Amy Small. Congratulations again, to Miriam and Amy!

Congratulations to our annual GLL-SIS Award Winners, who are featured separately in this newsletter—Steven Anderson, Donna Bausch, Donna Williams, Amy Small, and the Honorable Daryl L. Moore.

Jenny Silbiger, GLL-SIS Chair
**View from the Chair (continued)**

**Jenny Silbiger, GLL-SIS Chair, Hawai’i Supreme Court Law Library**

I’m sure I also join you in celebration to see so many AALL annual award winners from our GLL-SIS this [year](#). In particular:

Hall of Fame Award: Steven Anderson and Gail Warren

Emerging Leader Award: Sara Pic

Excellence in Community Engagement Award: Pierce County Law Library

Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award: Scott Burgh

It is truly an honor to be colleagues with all of our GLL-SIS and AALL 2020 award winners and all of you. In fact, if you’d like to “hear” from our fellow GLL colleagues, please take a listen to Greg Lambert’s podcast [In Seclusion](#) where a number of us have been interviewed about working and supporting our colleagues and community during the pandemic.

As we head into the summer, my hope is that we continue to connect virtually and share our thoughts and ideas about how to best move forward with all of our work given the unprecedented circumstances that we find ourselves in. I’m inspired by how so many of you have risen to the challenge and by your actions in building and promoting remote services and supporting your colleagues and staff. Because of that, I’ll leave these words here, shared by a good friend of mine named Christopher Robin—I’ll try to remember them for myself and hope you recognize and remember them too: You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

While I would never wish these times on anyone, I take a little bit of comfort that though distance separates us, we’re all in this together.

Wishing you health and safety from across the sea,

jenny

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*Ko’olau mountains.*
From the Editors’ Desks

Christine Morton, U.S. Courts Library for the Second Circuit
Sara Pic, Law Library of Louisiana

The summer newsletter is undoubtedly my favorite edition of the GLL News. A good portion of this edition is usually devoted to all topics related to the Annual Meeting. I always look forward to reading about the wonderful educational programs being offered and my colleagues’ plans for the upcoming Annual Meeting; learning about the keynote speaker for the GLL Business Meeting and Breakfast; and deciding which local activities and tours to attend during the meeting. Unfortunately, as everyone is aware, this year the in-person conference has been cancelled, and instead we will meet virtually. The GLL-SIS Business Meeting will be held on July 8, 2020, 10 am HST/3 pm CDT/4 pm EDT, and Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of the ACLU of Louisiana, is the GLL’s VIP and guest speaker. To learn more about Ms. Herbert’s career and her goals of reducing mass incarceration and furthering racial justice in Louisiana, see Miriam Childs’s interview with Ms. Herbert.

In the spirit of the Annual Meeting, I decided to revisit the themes of past Annual Meetings as well as this year’s theme. As I embarked on this review, I quickly realized that the current theme, Unmasking Our Potential, is just as apropos to today’s situation as to the time when the theme was originally chosen. In the last several months, government librarians have been revealing their potential by quickly switching to a virtual format and continuing to offer services to patrons. To this end, please read Julie Robinson’s article detailing how the Wisconsin State Law Library changed gears and began providing reference services via email.

Not only is this year’s theme applicable to our current situation but the themes for the past five years are embodied within the articles contained within this edition of GLL News. Marcelo Rodriguez reports on how a group of librarians are Capitalizing on Our Strengths (2019 Annual Meeting theme). His group has banded together to capitalize on librarian research superpowers with the purpose of tracking pandemic statistics in Latin American and the Caribbean. Joe Lawson and the Harris County Library moved From Knowledge to Action (2018 theme) when they decided to pair with the Texas State Law Library to offer enhanced digital and chat services to their patrons. Malinda Muller and friends encourage us to Forgo the Status Quo (2017 theme) that is our current situation and provide a list of resources to make our lives healthier, happier, and more fulfilled.

In 2016, the Annual Meeting theme was Make it New; Create the Future. In this edition of GLL News, Jocelyn Stillwell-Tong analyzes the future of code annotations in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s holding in Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc., 140 S. Ct. 1498 (2020) and how this decision may challenge librarians to find new ways to provide code annotations to its constituents. And in 2015, we delved into the Power of Connection. Sue Ludington, GLL Grant recipient, experienced the power of connections- both new and old- through her attendance at the Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference. Make certain to check out the pictures from the conference!
AALL Announcements

AALL 2020 REIMAGINED / VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for AALL’s first-ever virtual conference, to be held July 13-17. Find the schedule at-a-glance and an updated sponsorship brochure for exhibitors on AALLNET. A full schedule of events with detailed programs will be forthcoming.

VIRTUAL CI STRATEGIES & ANALYSIS / REGISTER NOW

AALL's upcoming CI Strategies & Analysis in Chicago, Illinois has been redeveloped into a virtual program that will take place in September. This four-week virtual course is designed to build capabilities in performing critical competitive intelligence (CI) work. By attending this program, you will learn skills core to growing a CI function, and will also have an opportunity to examine, practice, and discuss techniques with other professionals during the course and network with peers from various settings. Please visit AALLNET for details on the course and to register.

- September 9-30, 2020
- Register by August 28, 2020
- Members $395 / Nonmembers $589

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Law librarians and legal information professionals seeking to learn how to expand a competitive intelligence function at their organization (including firm, academic, government, and other organizations)

Offered by the American Association of Law Libraries in partnership with:
**Member News**

*Sara Pic* reports that she and her spouse, Christine, welcomed their twins, Charles (Charlie) Reed and Cora Willow, on May 26. They came a little early but just got home from the NICU and are doing great!
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section

Executive Board – Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, 1/22/2020 – 8:00am HST

In Attendance: J. Bellistri, J. Silbiger, J. Durham, Karen Westwood, L. Reppe, J. Lawson, C. Morton, S. Pic

Meeting Leader: Jenny Silbiger

Scribe: Karen Westwood

Date of Next Meeting: March 25, 2020 1:00 p.m. CST

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:

• James Durham moved to approve agenda. Liz Reppe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• Joe Lawson moved to approve Minutes from November 19, 2019. Jenny Silbiger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

• Karen Westwood did not have updated financial information from AALL. Westwood requested AALL to look into a $28 discrepancy in the amount GLL deposited in contributions over the summer and found that the $28 had been correctly attributed to the breakfast meeting fund. There was no additional information available regarding monies transferred to the TS SIS in prior years and possibly not completely spent. AALL has a new Director of Finance and Administration and it is possible that additional information will be forthcoming.

Other Business:

◊ AALL meeting 2020 schedule - The GLL breakfast meeting will be on Sunday from 7:30-8:45 a.m.; the LISP/GLL/SR Roundtable on Sunday from 1:30-2:45; a GLL lobby bar reception on Monday evening; and a documentary film showing (in conjunction with SR) on Saturday evening.

• Jenny Silbiger has had requests to eliminate a keynote speaker at the business meeting and use the time for networking, etc. James Durham reminded us that the SIS sponsors a VIP and often asks that person to speak. After discussion, decided to ask the VIP to speak for only up to ten minutes and reserve more time for SIS business and networking.

• Jenny Silbiger remains hopeful the SIS will receive some funding from Lexis to help underwrite the breakfast. Lexis has requested the SIS to put out pamphlets
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 (continued)

and have a placard up front. Former treasurer James Durham also recommends
the Treasurer announce Lexis as a sponsor during the treasurer’s report, at
which time any Lexis representatives in the room can be recognized.

- Liz Reppe suggested the SIS provide a “breakfast buddy” for those who are new
to the SIS. Several people on the call volunteered to introduce new attendees to
people at the breakfast and to help them get oriented.

- ALA Liaison Funding Update - Chair Silbiger directed Treasurer Westwood to transfer
$200 from GLL-SIS to TS-SIS as was voted and passed at the November 19 Board call.

- Bloomberg BNA-CRIV Update – Chair Silbiger thanked the Board for assisting with the
letter sent on behalf of GLL and PLL regarding changes to the BNA/ABA Professional
Conduct Manual. A summary of the CRIV phone call will be published later. In the
meantime, Chair Silbiger has heard from her BNA Representative that there are plans
to offer that title as a standalone online title.

- 2019-2020 GLL Handbook – James asked that update be sent to him by May 1 and
both the Advocacy and Awards committees have already submitted theirs.

- Committee Updates – Board members reported back information from their
committees. The Newsletter Committee requests additional content for the next issue
and the Grants Committee has awarded a grant to Sara Pic to attend the AALL
Leadership Academy. The Grant Committee is currently reviewing four nominees for the
SRLN meeting grant. The PR Committee has added one new “Marketing Mavens” post
on the website and the story of a pro se patron who received a settlement after
studying at the Ramsey County Law Library (MN) is added to “Our Stories.” These and
most other committee are working on updates to the handbook. The Strategic Planning
Committee needs a new chair – contact Chair Silbiger with ideas.

- James Durham and Chi Song (of the Awards Committee) are working on two
nominations from GLL for the Gallagher Award. Suggestion that next year the
Board begin earlier and work more closely with the Awards Committee for these
prominent award nominations.

- Joanie Bellistri and Jenny Silbiger of the GLL SIS board will be at the SRLN Conference
in Nashville, TN in March 2020.

- James Durham moved, and Jenny Silbiger seconded, adjourning the meeting. The
motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Upcoming GLL Board Meetings: March 25th, May 27th, June 25th (Note: June meeting is on
a Thursday). All meetings at 1:00 p.m. CST
Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Items From This Meeting:</th>
<th>Assigned To:</th>
<th>Date Due:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer $200 from GLL SIS to TS SIS for ALA Liaison Funding</td>
<td>K. Westwood</td>
<td>As soon as practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate “breakfast buddies” for Annual Meeting breakfast</td>
<td>J. Silbiger and K. Westwood</td>
<td>When registration list becomes available – June 2020?</td>
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Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section

Executive Board – Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: **Wednesday, March 18, 2020- 7am HST/Noon CST**


Meeting Leader: Jenny Silbiger

Scribe: Karen Westwood

Date of Next Meeting: May 27, 2020

**Meeting Minutes and Agenda**

**Preliminary Items / Action Items from Previous Meeting:**

- J. Durham moved to approve agenda, J. Bellistri seconded. Passed.
- K. Westwood moved to approve 1/22/20 minutes, R. Mead seconded. Passed.
- K. Westwood reported that the year-end financial report from AALL came out and there was nothing new to report. In the first quarter of the new year (Oct. – Dec. 2019) the only financial activity was the receipt of $50 in dues. K. Westwood moved $200 to the TS SIS as per action at the January meeting.

**Other Business/New Business:**

- GLL/AALL Awards update – J. Durham and K. Westwood reviewed GLL Awards Recipients as previously distributed to the board via email as follows:
  
  **Law Library Advocate Award** – Judge Daryl L. Moore, Harris County, Texas
  **Fishman Publication Award** – Amy Small, Author “From the Western Frontier to the Digital
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019 (continued)

Frontier” 8 TSCHS Summer Journal 2019

Ochal Award – Donna Williams (California Court of Appeals, ret.), Donna Bausch (Norfolk Law Library, ret.), Steve Anderson* (Thurgood Marshall State Law Library)

- Election – K. Westwood indicated that GLL elections will run from April 1 – 24. AALL will assist with administering the election as they have in the past.
- COVID-19 Update – Board members shared their libraries’ experiences with shutdowns, partial shutdowns, quarantine, and work-from-home.
- SRLN conference – J. Bellistri reported that SRLN in Nashville was a success despite multiple changes due to both COVID-19 and a tornado the week prior. Both law library sponsored programs had to find new speakers. But at least 2 dozen law librarians attended, which shows nice growth over time. Kristen Matteucci from Jenkins Law Library had been awarded a grant to attend SRLN, but was not able to attend at the last minute due to her library’s restrictions. The Grants Committee transferred the award to Sue Ludington from Lane County Law Library (Eugene, OR) who was able to attend and appreciated the grant.
- Committee Reports – Board members reported on behalf of committees. Amy Small has agreed to take over the Strategic Planning Committee. Malinda Muller provided a written report of the Membership and Mentoring Committee – emailed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Chair Silbiger reported on the following meetings/events planned for the annual meeting. There has been no information to the SIS Chairs that the meeting will be cancelled, but AALL Headquarters is watching the situation closely. It is understood that some board members may be unable to travel due to government restrictions related to COVID-19.

- AALL 2020 Events
  - Breakfast - Sunday 7/12 (7:30 am to 8:45 am)
  - LISP-GLL -SR Roundtable – Sunday 7/12 (1:30 pm)
  - Meet & Greet \ Happy Hour or reception – Monday 7/13 (5:30 pm to 6:30 pm – Hilton Riverside Lobby Bar or somewhere else)
  - Potential Flash Meeting 7/12/2020 3:30pm
- Meeting schedule
  - May 27, 2020 (Wednesday) @ 8:00am HST/1:00pm CST
  - June 24, 2020 (Wednesday) @ 8:00am HST/1:00pm CST
- R. Mead moved to adjourn, seconded by J. Durham. Meeting adjourned.
GLL-SIS Election Results
Karen Westwood, Anne W. Grande Law Library

This year’s GLL Election ran from April 1 to April 24. 82 ballots were submitted, for approximately 20% voter turnout. Miriam Childs (Law Library of Louisiana) and Amy Small (Texas State Law Library) prevailed as our new GLL Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large, respectively. Huge thanks to Rob Mead (Washington State Law Library) and Malinda Muller (L.A. Law Library) for running.

Thanks to all of the candidates, and to all members who voted. The more people participate in the SIS, the stronger we all are.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Westwood

2020 GLL-SIS Longevity Awards
Karen Westwood

The following GLL members have been members of AALL for 20 years with 10 of those years as members of GLL. They will be recognized at the virtual GLL meeting on July 8, 2020, and their pins and certificates will be mailed to them.

| Spencer Clough               | Bud Maurer                 |
| Director                    | Director                  |
| University of Massachusetts-| Duval County Law Library  |
| Dartmouth School of Law     |                          |
| Jennifer Dalglish           | Malinda Muller            |
| Director                    | Director, Patron Services |
| Alden E. Miller Law Library  | LA Law Library            |
| of Clackamas County         |                          |
| Jeffrey J. Dowd             | Diane M. Rodríguez        |
| Supervising Librarian       | Assistant Director        |
| Connecticut Judicial Branch  | San Francisco Law Library|
| Law Library System          |                          |
| Kerry Fitz-Gerald           |                          |
| Reference Librarian         |                          |
| Seattle University School of|                          |
| Law                          |                          |
| Robert Mead                 |                          |
| State Law Librarian         |                          |
| Washington State Law Library|                          |
2020 GLL-SIS Awards

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library

The Awards Committee is happy to announce the winners of the 2019 - 2020 GLL-SIS Awards.

The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession
This award is presented to a GLL-SIS member who has made a significant contribution to law librarianship and who is nearing the end of his or her library career or who has recently retired.

The Bethany J. Ochal award recipients played active leadership roles at the national, regional, and local levels and encouraged the professional development of countless members of our profession. Through their decades of service to the profession of law librarianship and their stewardship of their respective organizations, this year’s recipients truly embody the spirit of this award and law librarianship.

Steve Anderson
Director, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, Annapolis, MD

Donna Bausch
Executive Director (retired), Norfolk Public Law Library, Norfolk, VA

Donna Williams
Director (retired), California Judicial Center Law Library, San Francisco, CA

Dr. Joel Fishman Professional Publication Award for 2019 – 2020
This award recognizes a GLL-SIS member’s contribution to the field of government law librarianship through a professional publication that promotes government law libraries, law librarianship, legal research, or public access to legal information.

Amy Small
Assistant Director, Texas State Law Library, Austin, TX

2020 GLL-SIS Awards (continued)

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library

The Law Library Advocate Award for 2019 – 2020
This award is presented to a law library supporter in recognition of his or her substantial contribution towards the advancement and improvement of a government law library’s service or visibility.

Honorable Daryl L. Moore
Judge, 333rd Civil District Court, Harris County, Houston, TX

The GLL-SIS award recipients will receive award crystals to commemorate their award-winning work.

Congratulations are also in order for the following GLL-SIS members and member organizations who are 2020 AALL Award Recipients:

AALL HALL OF FAME AWARD
Steven P. Anderson
Director, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library of Maryland, Annapolis, MD

Gail Warren
State Law Librarian, Virginia State Law Library, Richmond, VA

ROBERT L. OAKLEY ADVOCACY AWARD
Scott G. Burgh
Director (Retired), City of Chicago Law Department, Chicago, IL

EMERGING LEADER AWARD
Sara V. Pic
Head of Public Services, Law Library of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD
Pierce County Law Library
Tacoma, Washington
Legal Research Center at Lakewood

Thank you to the committee for their hard work this year!

2019-2020 GLL-SIS Awards Committee
Jean Willis, Chair
Elizabeth Caulfield
Barbara Fritschel
Cathy Lemann
Chi Song
Karen Westwood, GLL-SIS Board Liaison
Our Role in the Concert

Julie Robinson, Wisconsin State Law Library

Like most other libraries, we closed to the public on short notice in mid-March. The staff all agreed that it was important to find ways to continue to serve our users the best we could while working remotely. During the first two weeks of our closure, a core number of librarians responded to email reference questions. Those first weeks were challenging as we navigated working from home without access to our print collection, our scanner and other tools of the trade. By the third week, we reestablished our regular reference schedule with two librarians responding to users’ emails from 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Selected staff reentered the library to open mail, process invoices and scan materials for users. Our IT department was able to provide VPN access for nine of our staff so we had access to our desktops, wiki and network drives which opened up more access to resources to help our users.

A month into the closure, State Law Librarian, Amy Crowder, met with the Director of State Courts to report on the Library’s activities. In preparation for that meeting, the Director of Reference Services, Heidi Yelk compiled statistics on who we helped and the topics of those interactions. As one can imagine, a number of the questions related to the now ever-changing world in the time of COVID 19. The Web Services Librarian, Carol Hassler, pulled website and social media statistics and did the design and graphics for the report. All this information was compiled in a one page, easy to read format that highlighted all aspects of our library operations. We plan to continue tracking our work and usage and issue updates periodically.

Over the past month, we’ve learned a lot about resiliency, adaptability, and creativity. We met and exceeded our initial goal of being able to continue to serve the Court, legal professionals and the citizens of Wisconsin during this critical time.

I opened this article with a portion of a quote from Jacques Cousteau. To me, it encapsulates the generosity, spirit and positive attitudes of our amazing staff.

Below is the quote in its entirety.

*It takes generosity to discover the whole through others. If you realize you are only a violin, you can open yourself up to the world by playing your role in the concert.*
Our Role in the Concert (continued)

Julie Robinson, Wisconsin State Law Library

Wisconsin State Law Library during COVID-19 (March 18-April 3)

Work Done Remotely

In addition to remote work, staff also complete work in the library including mail processing, library book-stack maintenance, and reference assistance to users. There are nine staff with remote desktop access.

- We provide reference services Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Dane County Jail inmate reference requests
- Website update projects: Legal Topics, County Legal Resources, Ordinances & Forms
- Create and maintain COVID-19 resource webpage
- Archive COVID-19 court orders
- Library catalog updates: patron, bibliographic, acquisition records
- Payment of invoices; communicate with vendors
- Updates to SCCA: add citations and prepare to continue to retroactively add older briefs to Court’s database
- State Bar of Wisconsin InsideTrack article published: "Law Library Closed: Now What?"
- Research, write, and publish Library Insider and WSLL @ Your Service newsletters
- Presentation for UW Law School Advance Legal Research Class
- Present two webinars for South Central Library System: Wisconsin Circuit Court Access and Public Records

Reference Help

Librarians answered 286 reference questions. Judges and court staff, state agency staff, and attorneys continue to request legal research and documents. We mailed out 8 Wisconsin Basic Wills.

Number of Questions by Topic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Name Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Power of Attorney &amp; Wills</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Employment Law, Unemployment &amp; Essential Workers</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Eviction, Foreclosure &amp; Housing</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Child Custody, Guardianship, TPR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>169</td>
<td>Other Legal Research / Document Requests</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference Help by Type of User

- 74% Government & Court
- 19% Private business & Law firms
- 8% Public

COVID-19 related questions are particularly research intensive as new directives are released continuously.

Library Website & Social Media

The website has been viewed over 70,000 times and blog posts visited over 10,000 times. People searched for information about wills and power of attorney, COVID-19, “Stay at home law”, jury instructions, absentee voting, notaries, labor law, and family law. These were our most-visited pages:

1. Firearms
2. Coronavirus (COVID-19) (3,354 views)
3. Ordinances
4. Public Records
5. Court Records
6. Landlord/Tenant
7. Child Custody & Placement
8. Wills & Trusts
9. Divorce
10. Children Home Alone

On Facebook we reached 1,169 people with our posts and answered reference questions.

wilawlibrary.gov
Law Librarians Monitoring COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean

Marcelo Rodriguez, U.S. Courts Library for the Second Circuit

Since early March 2020, I created a group of 7 law librarians to monitor the legal response to COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean. We have created a website, which you can visit here: www.lawlibrariansmonitoringcovid19.com. In our site, you will find our Biweekly Reports, top sources for each group of countries and the region as well as who we are. Through this project, we would like to gather data and information, help evaluate sources, discern any misinformation issues, and publish about the process as well as from our unique perspective as law librarians. As I said in my Biweekly Report, I’d like to think that law librarians have the expertise and the network to strive for a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding [of the region] either right away or in the future. I hope this project achieves that and more. Please do share our site and reports, and do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to collaborate.

Furthermore, we would like to invite everyone to join us in our very first webinar on June 18th. On this webinar, we will talk about the sources we have used to monitor the situation, Latin America as the new epicenter of COVID-19 and future projects. Please register here: https://fcilsis.wordpress.com/2020/06/02/upcoming-webinar-law-librarians-combatting-infodemic-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/.

Chat Reference Services at the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library

The Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library announced a new partnership to expand digital services for all Texans. Beginning on Law Day, May 1, 2020, law librarians from both institutions will work together to offer expanded chat services in English and Spanish Monday through Friday. Anyone who needs assistance with legal research can contact a law librarian through either libraries’ website to access expansive collections of digital resources.

“We are excited to expand access to legal information with our partners at the State Law
Chat Reference Services at the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library (continued)

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library

Library,” Harris County Law Library Director Mariann Sears said. “Each library has unique resources to support self-represented litigants, attorneys, and the judiciary. Through this partnership, we can make more of those resources available to help ensure continued access to justice as we stay home and work safe.”

Following guidance from the Supreme Court of Texas and public health officials, both law libraries suspended in-person services in March and expanded virtual services to support remote work by attorneys, judges, and self-represented litigants. Expansion of real-time chat services will further assist the legal community to work remotely following the Supreme Court’s extension of its emergency order through June 1, 2020, allowing Texas courts to postpone hearings and encourage remote participation in proceedings.

“This partnership is a great opportunity for the State Law Library to serve more Texans, especially in Harris County,” Texas State Law Library Assistant Director Amy Small said. “With a third of the Texas legal community and the state’s busiest courts, the Houston metro area has the most potential users of the State Law Library’s expansive digital collections. Working with law librarians at the Harris County Law Library and drawing on their expertise will help us connect more Texans with needed legal resources.”

The new partnership will serve as a pilot program with the goal of expanding opportunities for collaboration between Texas’s network of public law libraries. Law libraries that are interested in participating are encouraged to contact the State Law Library.

About Chat Reference Services

Law librarians at the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library will offer real-time reference services in English, Spanish, and Farsi, Monday through Friday, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning on Friday, May 1, 2020. Visit either library website to access the chat interface and to learn more about digital services.

About the Texas State Law Library

The Texas State Law Library is a public law library that serves the legal research needs of the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Office of the Attorney General, other state agencies and commissions, and the citizens of the state. Located in Austin, Texas, the State Law Library offers services and digital collections to all Texans through its website at https://www.sll.texas.gov.
Chat Reference Services at the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library (continued)

Joseph D. Lawson, Harris County Law Library

About the Harris County Law Library

The Harris County Law Library opened in 1915 and has continued to serve Harris County’s legal information needs for more than a century. After joining the Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney, in 2011, the Law Library greatly expanded its technology offerings and services to the public. Today, the Law Library receives more than 60,000 visitors each year, 90% of whom are not lawyers. To learn more about services and digital collections, visit the Harris County Law Library Virtual Reference Desk at https://www.harriscountylawlibrary.org.

Demystifying Prison Law Libraries

Alicia Friedman, LA Law Library

Whenever I meet people at a social gathering, whether personal or professional, and am asked what I do, I always encounter shock or surprise when I say I was the Senior Librarian at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County. I find that many people do not know what the job entails and are always curious to ask me questions. I want to share my five years of experience as a prison librarian to educate others on this often-overlooked area of librarianship. Each state has their own regulations regarding library services. In the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation there are several components to prison librarianship and the two primary services are education and law. Others include re-entry services (helping inmates find resources for when they parole), services such as self-help and rehabilitation programming, as well as general recreation. As those of you reading are affiliated with law libraries, I will focus on that aspect of prison librarianship.

Before delving into the details of the law library in prison, I would like to address the question I am always asked first, “Aren’t you scared?” The short answer is “no.” There are always custody officers nearby and you are provided a whistle and personal alarm to alert them to any incident. The personal alarm is much like an old garage door remote control that you wear on a belt. Some prisons offer a lanyard alarm similar to what the elderly may use to summon emergency services. When pressed, the alarm sounds and a light above the door of the library flashes to alert custody officers where the incident is located. The whistle is used when you may be moving between locations and you do not have an alarm for a designated location. Lastly, library is a privilege that many inmates do not want to lose, particularly when it comes to legal services. Inmates who commit serious rule violations pertaining to library materials, facilities, or staff, may be suspended from physical access to the library for up to 90 calendar days. This leaves an inmate to use
paging services which I will discuss later. All of this is not to say that prison librarians are fearless, more that caution and awareness of the surroundings are maintained, and help is available within seconds.

Prison law libraries were established through *Bounds v. Smith* (1977) 430 US 817, which mandated that prisons provide legal assistance to prisoners either through a trained legal professional or through a law library. In California, these law library services are laid out in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, specifically sections 3120-3124. The most detailed of these sections covers what is known as Priority Legal User (PLU) status. To qualify for PLU status, an inmate must have a court or statutory deadline approaching within 30 calendar days. Inmates with PLU status are provided higher priority access to the law library. Anyone who does not have PLU status is considered to have General Legal User (GLU) status. This becomes an important issue when the prison faces a modified program, meaning that yard or other activities are cancelled. This happens for a variety of reasons, anything from construction work to officers redirected to assist in another location in the prison. During this time, inmates with PLU status will still be able to come to the library to ensure they will meet their court deadlines.

A typical day of operating a prison library begins with unlocking cabinets and inspecting your workspace, making sure that everything that should be there is actually there and vice versa. This includes accounting for “tools” such as heavy duty staplers, paper cutters, mops and brooms. Also, searching discreet areas that contraband, such as cell phones or drugs, may be stashed. Once completed, library staff checks in with custody officers to let them know the library is ready to call in the inmate library clerks to begin setting up for library services. Set up includes the general library tasks (starting up computers, checking in books, etc.) but also preparing and distributing lists of inmates with PLU status that should be called to the library first and readying logbooks for attendance sign-in and computer sign-up. These logbooks are important to show that inmates are being afforded their physical access to the library; inevitably, an inmate will complain that they were unable to meet their court deadline because they did not have adequate access to the library.

Primarily, inmates work on writs of habeas corpus or civil rights complaints, but other legal matters include family law and government claims. Inmates have access to what is known as the Law Library Electronic Delivery System (LLEDS), which is essentially a hard drive loaded with current codes and case law, as well as electronic versions of secondary
Demystifying Prison Law Libraries (continued)

Alicia Friedman, LA Law Library

materials. The materials available are detailed in Section 3124 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. The hard drives are updated quarterly, and the library receives the Daily Journal newspaper with the Daily Appellate Report to keep up to date on caselaw until the next computer update. The computers are not networked or connected to the internet and should there be anything an inmate requests that is not available, library staff will attempt to locate the materials for them. When an inmate is unable to come to the library, usually due to disciplinary actions, they may request library materials through paging services. Inmates may request materials, but they must be specific for what they are looking for. Sometimes this requires a library staff member, escorted by a custody officer, to visit the inmate at their cell front to discuss what materials are needed. Staff must print out or copy the material, which the inmate must then return so that it may be used again for other paging services. Besides legal reference services, the library offers copy services for inmates’ court filings. However, library staff must review the paperwork submitted for any sort of non-legal materials or contraband. This becomes a tricky task as library staff may not read the contents and only scan through the pages. Once approved, the copies are made by the inmate library clerks, the only inmates permitted to use the copy machine under supervision.

One other service that the prison law library provides is assisting inmates to find information to prepare for their hearings before the parole board. While this mostly entails assistance with finding re-entry services such as housing, jobs, and self-help programs, sometimes this involves understanding changes in the law since an inmate’s conviction. Occasionally, these changes mean that the inmate may petition the court for a modification of sentence that may place them before the Board of Parole Hearings sooner. When this time comes, the inmate must write out a plan for their future, about how they will avoid recidivating and contribute to their communities.

I hope that I have been able to shed some light on what prison law librarianship is like through these examples from the California state prisons. Perhaps you may feel inspired to learn more about what prison librarianship is like in your area and this information may help foster a dialog between your own library and your nearby prison library. Generally, you can contact the prison and ask the public information officer if they will put you in contact with the librarian. There are several ways in which you could help; maybe you are able to donate some books or provide contacts for community organizations. The LA Law Library answers requests from inmates to provide document delivery. I recommend a
Demystifying Prison Law Libraries (continued)

Alicia Friedman, LA Law Library

conversation with a prison librarian to ask what their needs are. Both library staff and inmates would be much appreciative to hear from you.

Alicia Friedman is a Library Associate at LA Library in Los Angeles, Ca. She received her Master of Library and Information Science from Syracuse University. Alicia has worked in the law libraries of private law firms and as the Senior Librarian at the California State Prison, Los Angeles County, located in Lancaster, Ca. Alicia enjoys helping the members of the Los Angeles community with their legal information needs.


Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, California Court of Appeal 6th District Law Library

Government Law Librarians, Reporters of Decisions, and copyright advocates around the country have been following the case of Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc. (U.S., Apr. 27, 2020, No. 18-1150) through the courts, and the recent decision from SCOTUS was received with great interest and (in some jurisdictions) some anxiety. This case will be a fascinating one for future legal historians because of the decision itself, which was largely based on opinions from the 1800’s, and because the opinion and dissents cut across the Court’s usual ideological groupings.

Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org itself centers on the copyrightability of the Georgia Code and its annotations. No one disputes that the Georgia Code itself is in the public domain – it’s clearly authored by a government entity in the course of their duties. The question hinges on the annotations – annotations compiled by editors at LexisNexis and then sent back to Georgia’s Code Revision Commission (made up of legislators) for approval, and which are then explicitly added to the code through legislative action.

The majority opinion (authored by C.J. Roberts, joined by Sotomayor, Kagan, Gorsuch, and Kavanaugh) centers their analysis on the identity of the author – holding that as a Judge cannot hold copyright in their own opinions authored in the course of their work (Wheaton v. Peters, 8 Pet. 591, 8 L.Ed. 1055 (1834); Banks v. Manchester, 128 U.S. 244, 9 S.Ct. 36, 32 L.Ed. 425 (1888)), so the Georgia Legislature cannot hold copyright in legislative material which is authored in the course of their work. The fact that the annotations are created under the supervision and direction of members of the legislature (in the body of the Georgia Code Revision Commission), and are enacted as part of the code, is central to their analysis. They distinguish the case of Callaghan v. Myers, 128 U.S. 617, 9 S.Ct. 177, 32 L.Ed. 547 (1888), which holds that while the judicially-authored material in, or accompanying, an opinion are not copyrightable, contemporaneously authored

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, California Court of Appeal 6th District Law Library

supplementary materials by other public employees (like headnotes written by a Reporter of Decisions) ARE copyrightable.

Justice Thomas’ dissent, joined by Alito and (in part) by Breyer, did not agree with this reading of Callaghan v. Myers, 128 U.S. 617, 9 S.Ct. 177, 32 L.Ed. 547 (1888). Thomas centers his analysis on nature of the material at issue: if the material has the force of law, he would hold that it is not copyrightable. If it does not have the force of law, he would hold that it is copyrightable. He goes into detail about the history of this area of law, and the fiscal burden of producing this kind of material for the public.

An interesting pull quote from Justice Thomas’ dissent:

The majority's rule will leave in the lurch the many States, private parties, and legal researchers who relied on the previously bright-line rule. Perhaps, to the detriment of all, many States will stop producing annotated codes altogether. Were that to occur, the majority's fear of an “economy-class” version of the law will truly become a reality. See ante, at -----. As Georgia explains, its contract enables the OCGA to be sold at a fraction of the cost of competing annotated codes. For example, Georgia asserts that Lexis sold the OCGA for $404 in 2016, while West Publishing's competing annotated code sold for $2,570. Should state annotated codes disappear, those without the means to pay the competitor's significantly higher price tag will have a valuable research tool taken away from them. Meanwhile, this Court, which is privileged to have access to numerous research resources, will scarcely notice. These negative practical ramifications are unfortunate enough when they reflect the deliberative legislative choices that we as judges are bound to respect. They are all the more regrettable when they are the result of our own meddling. Fortunately, as the majority and I agree, “ ‘critics of [today's] ruling can take their objections across the street, [where] Congress can correct any mistake it sees.’ ” Ante, at -----. (quoting Kimble v. Marvel Entertainment, LLC, 576 U.S. 446, 456, 135 S.Ct. 2401, 192 L.Ed.2d 463 (2015)).


Justice Ginsberg’s dissent (joined in full by J. Breyer) starts with Callaghan as the point of divergence between the two views:

All agree that headnotes and syllabi for judicial opinions—both a kind of annotation—are copyrightable when created by a reporter of decisions, Callaghan v.

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, California Court of Appeal 6th District Law Library

Myers, 128 U.S. 617, 645–650, 9 S.Ct. 177, 32 L.Ed. 547 (1888), but are not copyrightable when created by judges, Banks v. Manchester, 128 U.S. 244, 253, 9 S.Ct. 36, 32 L.Ed. 425 (1888).


and her dissent suggested that the court should have held in favor of Georgia, noting that 1) the annotations aren’t being created as law, they comment on already existing law, 2) “the OCGA annotations are descriptive rather than prescriptive” and are neutral in analysis, and 3) the intended audience for these annotations is the public (not a legislative body), so...

Because summarizing judicial decisions and commentary bearing on enacted statutes, in contrast to, for example, drafting a committee report to accompany proposed legislation, is not done in a legislator’s law-shaping capacity, I would hold the OCGA annotations copyrightable and therefore reverse the judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.


This decision will upend the way that many states produce their annotated codes, and may indeed hamstring some states’ efforts to have annotations created at all – the public private partnership model that produces Georgia’s Annotated Code only works in an environment where there is some monetary value for the publisher to produce those annotations. The states have been transitioning to putting their codes online for open use by the public, and have been for some time. The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) is a uniform code which has been adopted in 22 states, including my own State of California. This legislation ensures that the electronic version of materials a state puts online are authentic, up-to-date, and that past versions are saved for the future. However, it doesn’t create a requirement for the States to create annotations – and annotating the code is a very labor-intensive process. Will this SCOTUS decision prompt legal access advocates to work towards state-authored annotations?

And what will publishers take from this decision? All the Justices seemed to indicate that if the author was not a public employee, if a private entity creates annotations without the help or approval of a law-making or law-interpreting authority, the resulting work is copyrightable. So, any jurisdiction with a healthy market for this sort of annotated product will still get it. But will smaller, poorer states have the leverage they need to have these sorts of annotations authored at all?

Regardless of the outcome, Public Law Libraries will play an even more important role in

Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, California Court of Appeal 6th District Law Library

ensuring that the general public and small independent practitioners continue to have access to annotated codes, if and when they are no longer put out at an affordable price. And if they are no longer created at all? The public law libraries will play an even more important role in ensuring that people have access to search engines so that they can still get the information they need without the finding tool of the annotations.

Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Conference VIP Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of ACLU of Louisiana

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana

Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of the ACLU of Louisiana, had been selected as the GLL VIP for the upcoming annual meeting and conference in New Orleans, which was canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. Though GLL members won’t be able to meet Ms. Hebert at the breakfast and business meeting, we can meet her “virtually,” and learn more about her work with the ACLU.

Alanah Odoms Hebert, a leading civil rights attorney, is the first African American woman to be named executive director of the ACLU of Louisiana. She is committed to the priorities of reducing mass incarceration and furthering racial justice in Louisiana, as well as expanding the ACLU’s collaboration with marginalized communities. Current initiatives under her leadership include comprehensive statewide assessment of Louisiana’s prolific pretrial detainee population. Ms. Hebert previously served as the Director of the Division of Children and Families and Deputy General Counsel of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Ms. Hebert also worked as Special Counsel to the Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Bernette Joshua Johnson. Ms. Hebert’s work has included advocacy to support the establishment of a truancy center in Orleans Parish and the revision of the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure Articles on post-conviction relief. In 2016, Ms. Hebert was appointed to serve as special counsel to the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force, a bipartisan team of experts that developed the policy recommendations behind Louisiana’s historic package of criminal justice reforms passed the following year. In July 2018, she graduated from the prestigious Presidential Leadership Scholars Program, a partnership between the George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Lyndon Johnson, and George Bush Presidential centers. She is one of 59 national up- and-coming leaders recognized for her commitment to solving some of our nation’s most pressing problems. Ms. Hebert is a graduate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark and a Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers College in New Jersey.
Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Conference VIP Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of ACLU of Louisiana (continued)

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana

Q: How did the pretrial incarceration system in Louisiana develop, and why the upward trend of numbers of people incarcerated pretrial?

AH: Louisiana has long been the incarceration capital of the world, home to notorious sprawling state prisons and an extensive network of jails, which together house tens of thousands of people serving criminal sentences. While much is known about the state prison population because of the extensive research efforts of the Pew Charitable Trusts, and the work of the Justice Reinvestment Task Force, there has been very little statewide analysis of who Louisiana incarcerates pretrial – people who have not been convicted of a crime and are considered innocent in the eyes of the law. Over the past two years, the ACLU of Louisiana has gathered and analyzed thousands of jail records and interviewed people directly affected by pretrial incarceration to compose a snapshot of the circumstances under which people are incarcerated pretrial in Louisiana. Through this research, we discovered that for every 100,000 Louisianians aged 15-64, 502 people are in jail pretrial, at an annual cost to taxpayers of $290 million dollars. Louisiana’s pretrial incarceration rate has grown 10.3 percent since 2015, giving the state the highest pretrial incarceration rate of any state on records since 1970, and a rate more than three times the national average. Data suggests our ballooning jail population is driven in part by the excessive period of time that people are held while their cases are pending. Jailing our people at such an overwhelming rate has painful human and financial costs, and it rips apart our community. (Excerpted from Executive Summary, Justice Can't Wait: An Indictment of Louisiana's Pretrial System.)

Q: What encouraged or inspired you to focus on this issue?

AH: My work alongside Chief Justice Johnson with the Louisiana Justice Reinvestment Task Force sparked the fire in my belly to work on decarceration efforts in the state of Louisiana. Despite the tremendous achievements of the Task Force in reducing the overall incarcerated population by over 20%, only so much downward trajectory in incarceration rates can be achieved when you are working on post-conviction policy goals. The front end of the system, or the pretrial system, is where you can make significant decarceratory gains because you stop people from entering the front door of jails, and you begin to rely more heavily on alternatives to incarceration. In the end, we want to limit the number of people entering jails and prisons, reduce the amount of time served to be consistent with
Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Conference VIP Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of ACLU of Louisiana (continued)

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana

best practices for reducing recidivism, and then provide a meaningful pathway back for people who have served time in prisons and jails. A holistic approach is needed.

Q: Recommendations to decrease the pretrial incarceration rate include repeal or amendment of articles in Louisiana’s Code of Criminal Procedure. What would be the first step toward changing those articles?

AH: We’ve articulated a strong state legislative reform campaign that aims to address bail, specifically the repeal of Article 315 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which authorizes the use of unconstitutional one-size-fits-all bail schedules, as well as amendment of Article 316 to reflect the constitutional standard for setting bail and to strengthen procedural protections against unaffordable bail. Finally, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we sought to introduce legislation to amend Article 701 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to shorten the period of time the state has to file charges and bring the person before a judge for arraignment.

Q: You were almost immediately advocating for the release of low-level non-violent offenders in the wake of COVID-19. Was this situation predictable?

AH: Yes, because what was already a gross miscarriage of justice (i.e. astronomical rates of incarceration for people with low-level charges), quickly became a public health disaster. While the average length of stay for our snapshot study found that people are serving an average of 5.5 months in jail, sheriffs were not willing to share flow data. This data illustrates the revolving door statistics about how people roll in and out of jails. Our close relationships with public defenders across the state have informed our understanding that hundreds, if not thousands, of people enter jails and exit within several days or weeks of being detained. We see relatively low bail amounts for these individuals of $5,000 or less, and very minor charges including drug possession and theft. With social distancing virtually impossible in these facilities, and the constant flow of individuals into and out of these facilities, we knew that jails would fuel the rate of COVID infection in our communities. Sadly, we’ve seen that prediction come to fruition. We’ve lost many law enforcement professionals and incarcerated people in this pandemic.

Q: Do you think the coronavirus crisis has accelerated or held back your efforts to address the pretrial incarceration problem in Louisiana? Or has there been any effect?

AH: I’m hopeful that the urgency created by the virus will spur on calls for greater reforms of the pretrial system, including bail reform. We can no longer just sit by and allow people to be incarcerated and face death because they are poor.

Q: What were some challenges in your transition from a state high court environment to your current role?
Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Conference VIP Alanah Odoms Hebert, Executive Director of ACLU of Louisiana (continued)

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana

AH: Wow. There are so many. The non-profit sector is complex and involves new partners, both community and stakeholder groups. I’ve taken the first two years of my tenure to build strong relationships in the community with the people that we serve, and with other advocacy organizations committed to civil rights and civil liberties work. The work of a state government is in many ways to preserve the laws, policies, and traditions of bygone times. In this role, I’m turning that model on its head and asking for our laws, policies and traditions to reflect the interests of groups of people that are often disfavored, condemned, or marginalized.

Q: Before GLL-SIS asked you to provide a keynote address at our business meeting, were you aware of how many law libraries in the U.S. play a significant role in the legal aid/access to justice communities?

AH: I wasn’t aware of any. I’m really proud of the way the Law Library of Louisiana seeks to be involved in the project of ensuring equity and justice in our judicial system. Each of us in our individual capacities have the ability to help bend the arc of justice more closely toward fairness and justice for all. We just have to decide we want to be part of the work.

Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference Grant Recipient Report

Sue Ludington, Lane County (OR) Law Library

When I wasn’t initially awarded a grant to attend the annual conference of the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN), I had to approach my boss and convince him that it would be worth the $2000-ish (!) to fly from Oregon to Tennessee and stay in a downtown Nashville hotel for 3 or 4 nights. Fortunately he’s incredibly supportive of the county law library and me, and recognizes the benefits I (as a solo librarian) and the County receive by keeping up with national trends and leaders.

In 2016, I had the chance to go to Chicago for the American Bar Association’s Equal Justice Conference (EJC); at the time, SRLN was conducting a full-day pre-conference at EJC which I chose to attend. Being among pro bono attorneys, judges, court employees, legal aid providers, and law librarians all with the same goal in mind – how to best serve the self-represented litigant (SRL) and advance access to justice (ATJ) – remains one of the most inspiring professional opportunities I’ve had.

In 2017, SRLN split off and launched their own 2-day conference. Even though it was in San Francisco, I was unable to go either that year or in 2018; then the 2019 conference
Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference Grant Recipient Report (continued)

Sue Ludington, Lane County (OR) Law Library

was cancelled when the organization’s transition to an independent 501(c)3 demanded more attention, taking away their ability to focus on the conference. As a result, the 2020 conference in Nashville was highly anticipated by many!

I was only aware I’d be landing in Tennessee just hours after the deadly tornado outbreak that rocked the West and Middle parts of the state, including portions of Nashville itself. There was a somber feeling as my Uber driver took me to my hotel, but ultimately the conference host site, Vanderbilt Law School, was not affected so the conference could still carry on, albeit with much concern from attendees.

From the get-go, I was most excited for the full-day “Self-Help Center Boot Camp” preconference: I come from a traditional county law library and have high ambitions to reduce the aging print collection and incorporate a distinct self-help center (SHC). The day was divided into two tracks, “Operations” and “Policy,” with the former showcasing the “lived experience from working self-help centers” and the latter a deep-dive into developing “actionable insights” by asking essential questions surrounding ATJ. The Operations Track was right up my alley, with detailed insider views of what thriving SHCs look like (including the Travis County Law Library in Austin, TX, a widely respected leader among law libraries); an examination of business structures, with an emphasis on staffing and training, and how to make SHCs a reality; and discussion on building relationships and demonstrating impact. It was a fully enjoyable and thought-provoking day, ending with a fun (if somewhat chaotic) “speed dating” round with all Boot Camp attendees.

After a gracious Opening Plenary featuring Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Connie Clark who welcomed everyone and lauded their dedication to ATJ (noting that TN residents affected by the tornado would be needing significant legal assistance), the first of the day’s 4 breakout sessions began. In “Exploring Strategies to connect ABA Free Legal Answers and Self-Help,” presenter Buck Lewis (an esteemed TN lawyer credited with spearheading the creation of that state’s ATJ Commission) provided an in-depth review of ABA’s Free Legal Answers online tool, launched in 2016, which delivers limited legal scope services to individuals. While not yet available in every state (including mine), the assistance to SRLs – particularly in areas of family, housing, and consumer law – is proving to be successful. By engaging and incentivizing pro bono attorneys, along with partnering with statewide legal
GLL News

Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference Grant Recipient Report (continued)

Sue Ludington, Lane County (OR) Law Library

aid support organizations, Free Legal Answers certainly seems to be an impressive effort to expand ATJ.

Following a wonderful Law Libraries Working Group lunch, I attended the second breakout session, “Nonlawyer Navigators in State Courts: An Emerging Consensus” led by Mary McClymont, professor of law from The Justice Lab, Georgetown University Law Center. I confess the trending term ‘navigator’ has stung just a little, as I believe law librarians as myself have been serving in this capacity all along; however, I definitely acknowledge the extraordinary impact offered by court navigators and heartily endorse their work. It was inspiring to hear all the different ways these folks help enhance court effectiveness, facilitate access to justice, and enable a positive and meaningful experience for courthouse users.

The final afternoon session, “Creating a Self-Service One Stop Shop,” featured Palm Beach County (FL) court operations manager Katrina Rodriguez-Matzen who presented a detailed look at the multi-layered approach her court took to transform their self-service center into a one-stop shop within the courthouse. A standout piece of this presentation was the promotional video created by the County Clerk & Comptroller which highlighted the many enhanced services for SRLs, including one-on-one navigator assistance and court document filing help. It clearly serves as a terrific tool informing stakeholders of the advantages achieved through comprehensive SRL triage and guidance.

Note: In an effort to challenge myself with unfamiliar topics, I chose to attend the above instead of the concurrent “Law Libraries: Open to the Public” panelists Joan Bellistri, Jenny Silbiger, and Lisa Rush (left to right).
to the Public” session led by government law librarians Jenny Silbiger, Lisa Rush, and Joan Bellistri, about which I heard great things. I’m so impressed with the interactive story map and “Open to the Public” promotional video these ladies spearheaded!

That evening, I joined fellow law librarians for our “Affinity Group Dinner” at The Stillery (coordinated by the always-entertaining Larry Meyer [San Bernardino County Law Library]) for local cuisine specialties like hot chicken, catfish, and mac and cheese. Oh, and mason jar cocktails! One of the best parts about conferences, of course, is the socializing and we librarians sure know how to do it right.

Friday started off with facilitated but informative conversations with fellow attendees using prompts for topics of discussion...though I think most of us used the time to get to know our colleagues further, both professionally and personally, which contributed to the enormously collegial feel of the conference.

The first breakout session I went to was titled “Self-Represented Litigant Coordinators: Capitalizing on Court Staff to Better Assist SRLs” which focused on programs in Colorado, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Halle Cox from the Kane County (IL) Law Library & Self Help Legal Center was particularly informative, as she talked about her partnership with the public library and county bar association to deliver a successful Lawyer in the Library program. Colorado’s Self-Represented Litigant Assistance Program has been revered for its establishment of “Sherlocks,” navigators who can refer litigants to pro bono services, inform them about court rules, explain their options, and

“Law Libraries: Open to the Public”

Speakers: Jenny Silbiger, Lisa Rush, Joan Bellistri. Law libraries are key service providers for self-represented litigants. This session will report on the 2019 National Law Librarian Study conducted by the SRLN Law Library Working Group and reported in part via an interactive story map. In addition to an overview of national activities, the session is designed to take a deeper dive in jurisdictions where the law library is the leading SRL provider. “Jenny and Lisa made this session so much fun – the audience was really engaged.” - Joan Bellistri. Links to video: https://spark.adobe.com/video/L2eo5ukn344Jv and story map: https://slrn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5983e5775fbc4dca9443457ad12559ca
Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference Grant Recipient Report (continued)

Sue Ludington, Lane County (OR) Law Library

review documents before hearings to make sure they meet procedural requirements. Illinois followed Colorado’s lead, and is now entering their third year of their project to create, train, and sustain a statewide network of coordinators. This was perhaps the most meaningful and practical session of the conference for me, and I walked away with a number of ideas and business cards!

I was glad to supply moral support for the “Libraries: How to Develop Partnerships with Public Libraries” session, enthusiastically presented by Jenny and Joanie, along with LA County Law Library director Sandy Levin. A variety of successful public library/public law library collaboration projects were detailed, including using roving law librarians, creating hands-on legal workshops and classes for the public, and conducting library staff trainings based on a uniform curriculum.

The talented group of law librarians gathered for one final midday meal together where we swapped stories and learned a little more about each other. I really appreciated that lunch (included in the conference fee) was catered on site, as it allowed us to maximize the amount of time we had together.

That afternoon, I dedicated my attention to technology matters for the conference’s final two breakout sessions: “Tech Based Strategies for Improving LEP and Disability Access” described New Mexico’s strides in implementing voice-integrated chat, a court website avatar, and wayfinding and case information kiosks. “A Taste of Tech Projects: Empowering SRLs Through Scalable Projects” provided even more examples of successful court technology tools, including an AI-based chatbot for civil legal aid document automation, online dispute resolution platforms, appearances via remote videoconferencing, and virtual legal clinics. As can be imagined, my head was nearly
Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference Grant Recipient Report (continued)

Sue Ludington, Lane County (OR) Law Library

ready to explode with all that I’d learned and witnessed!

While this concluded the conference, I stayed in Nashville a couple extra days to see the sights. One of the best activities was a tour of Hatch Show Print, a working letterpress print shop since 1879 primarily known for its distinctive music show posters. Incoming GLL Board Member Amy Small and I had a great time crafting our own souvenirs! I’m a huge music lover too, so managed to take in the Johnny Cash Museum, County Hall of Fame & Museum, and the Grand Ol Opry – in addition to seeing Bob Weir at the Ryman Auditorium that night. Really, I couldn’t have dreamed up a better trip!

Between the inspiring conversations and presentations at the SRLN Conference to the heart-fulfilling musical excursions, my first visit to the Volunteer State was an incredibly memorable and motivational experience. While I gain so much from GLL and our members, I’m equally grateful for the comradery I’ve found in SRLN. If unknown to GLL members, I heartily encourage folks to check them out!

Resources for Working Remotely During COVID-19, Selective List of Tips and Ideas

Malinda Muller, LA Law Library
Kathy Carlson, Office of the Wyoming Attorney General
Ann Hemmens, Library of Congress
Adriana Mark, U.S. Courts for the Second Circuit

How can you stay focused on the job and mentally healthy while working remotely? Here are four tips from work-from-home veterans and workplace experts. Tips for productive work from home: https://time.com/5801725/work-from-home-remote-tips/

Adjusting to working with (very) young colleagues is truly challenging, but having some activities for your kids to play independently while you work will make for a happy and less anxious time. Here is a list of no-parent-needed activities to keep your kids entertained, so you’re able to focus on your work—with most requiring no special equipment, just common household items: https://activeforlife.com/42-activities-to-keep-kids-busy-while-parents-work-at-home/

Physical activity and relaxation techniques can be valuable tools to help you remain calm and protect your health during this time of self-quarantine. Here are some exercises that require no special equipment that have been recommended by the World Health Organization: http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-technical-guidance-OLD/stay-physically-active-during-self-quarantine

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Massachusetts Libraries, from the Massachusetts Library System, https://guides.masslibsystem.org/COVID19/Webinars. This web guide has many resources that are applicable to any librarian, not just those in Massachusetts. For example, it includes a listing of upcoming free webinars (organized by week) on COVID related topics as well as strategies for relieving stress. Here are some sample webinar topics: protecting privacy during a pandemic, how to retain employees during the crisis, Zoom engagement strategies, ten ways to be super-productive while at home.

Working Remotely During COVID-19: Your Mental Health and Well-Being, from the American Psychiatric Association Center for Workplace Mental Health, http://workplacementalhealth.org/employer-resources/working-remotely-during-COVID-19. This website contains a list of practical tips on taking care of one’s mental health during a time of crisis. It also include a collection of online resources on mental health during the COVID-19 crisis, from organizations such as CDC, APA, and SAMHSA.

While managers grapple with the tough decisions about open/closed, return to work/work remotely, a big looming question is how to make the argument for or against the telecommuting experience, overall, to our boards and other funders. Learn more about what to consider and what others are saying about the experience to begin formulating that conversation:
Resources for Working Remotely During COVID-19, Selective List of Tips and Ideas (continued)

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If we missed the ques about how to help our employees manage the move from on-ground to online when COVID-19 shocked us all last March, this recap gives us an opportunity to dial back and identify the direct experience of our employees likely still or more relevant in May, and ways in which to help them stay grounded: https://hbr.org/2020/03/a-guide-to-managing-your-newly-remote-workers

The society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology offers a list of linked articles on a variety of topics applicable to COVID-19, including tips for working from home with an infant, 4 key strategies to help supervisors support employee well-being during COVID-19, and the reason Zoom calls drain your energy: https://www.siop.org/Business-Resources/Remote-Work

What about how we are working and living now - in the midst of a pandemic – might benefit women in the future? In Making the Most of this Mess, a podcast episode from Women at Work, Behavioral scientist Ashley Whillans shares strategies for setting healthy boundaries around work and suggests conversations women can have about resetting expectations and boundaries that will help them now and in the future: https://hbr.org/podcast/2020/04/making-the-most-of-this-mess

The Science of Happiness podcast – learn research-tested strategies for a happier, more meaningful life, in these 15 -20 minute episodes. Recent episodes include how to calm your inner critic, how to stay close to loved ones while physical distancing, and how to help kids think about the good things in life: https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-science-of-happiness/id1340505607
GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting

Save the Date!

GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting

Wednesday, July 8, 2020
10am HST/3pm CDT
Virtually—Details to Come
Attendance is FREE
## GLL Officers & Board Members 2019-2020

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<th>Role</th>
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<th>Past-Chair</th>
<th>Secretary/Treasurer</th>
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<td>James Durham</td>
<td>Joan Bellistri</td>
<td>Karen Westwood</td>
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| Board Member          |                                |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Rob Mead                       | Joe Lawson                     | Liz Reppe     |                       |
|                       | (360) 357-2156                 | (713) 755-5183                 | (651) 297-2089|                       |

| Board Member          |                                |                                |                |                       |
|                       | (ex-officio)                   | (ex-officio)                   |                |                       |
|                       | Christine Morton               | Sara Pic                       |                |                       |
|                       | (631) 712-6090                 | (504) 310-2412                 |                |                       |

| Advocacy              |                                |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Anna Russell — Chair           |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Angela Baldree                 |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Emily Bergfeld                 |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Rob Mead — Board Liaison       |                                |                |                       |
| Bylaws                | Maryruth Storer — Chair        |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Leslie Greenwood               |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Joan Bellistri — Board Liaison |                                |                |                       |
| Membership & Mentoring| Malinda Muller — Chair         |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Kathy Carlson                  |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Ann Hemmens                   |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Adriana Mark                  |                                |                |                       |
|                       | James Durham — Board Liaison   |                                |                |                       |
| Publicity & Public Relations | Marcia Hannon — Chair     |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Suzanne Coriell               |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Jen Fell                       |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Sue Ludington                 |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Joe Lawson — Board Liaison     |                                |                |                       |
| Technology            |                                |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Laurel Moran — Chair           |                                |                |                       |
|                       | James Durham — Board Liaison   |                                |                |                       |

| Best A2J Practices    | Miriam Childs — Co-Chair       |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Heather Holmes — Co-Chair      |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Sara Galligan                 |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Lauren Morrison               |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Sara V. Pic                   |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Liz Reppe — Board Liaison     |                                |                |                       |
| Education             | Julia Viets — Chair            |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Jen Fell                      |                                |                |                       |
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|                       | Terry Long                    |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Jenny Silbiger — Board Liaison|                                |                |                       |
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|                       | Donna Baus                    |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Sandy Marz                    |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Christine Morton              |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Gail Warren — Silent Auction   |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Karen Westwood — Board Liaison|                                |                |                       |
| Newsletter            | Christine Morton — Co-Editor   |                                |                |                       |
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|                       | Mandy Haddin                  |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Venita Hoover                 |                                |                |                       |
|                       | Fran Norton                   |                                |                |                       |
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