

GLL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

REPORT 2019-2020

For the 2019-2020 GLL year, the Advocacy Committee continued the practice of monitoring issues related to Government Law Libraries and sending out messages on issues of import to our GLL membership. The widest circulated topics of advocacy interest included: FOIA and researcher exemptions, PACER fee issues, public patron access to vendor resources, digital preservation issues as well as reports on Congressional action related to appropriations for GPO and the Law Library of Congress. All issues were eclipsed beginning in March 2020 by the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic, which forced the shutdown of all but essential U.S. businesses.

Related to advocacy, the Chair of the committee typically supports the programming committee for the annual GLL/LISP/SR Roundtable on Services for Pro Se patrons and Prisoners. With this year's physical annual meeting cancelled, the 2020 Roundtable will not occur.

The Chair for the Advocacy Committee is on her third year. The previous Chair was Larry Meyer.

Following a committee recommendation from the previous year, the Chair is working with the Government Relations Committee to support communication of advocacy issues related to GLL members.

Recommendations

Renewed from last year, the GLL Board may wish to provide a short survey for GLL members regarding advocacy needs to better help the committee in addressing and supporting member advocacy concerns.

GLL Advocacy Priorities. Our committee goal is to have broad priorities that will dictate what efforts GLL advocacy gets involved with first and most significantly. Offered suggestions include priorities in the realms of: Government Law Library Funding/Budget Issues; Government Law Library Access to Information; Government Law Library Access to Justice Issues.

In addition to the Chair, members of the committee were Angela Baldree, Emily Bergfeld, and Gail Wechsler.

Respectfully submitted, Anna Russell, 2019-2020 Chair.