Hello everyone,

This column is my last as Chair of the Government Law Libraries SIS. This year has been very interesting, as I have been working along with many of you to plan for the first in-person annual meeting since 2019. I would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you who volunteered to serve on GLL committees. Without you, the work of the section simply couldn’t be done. I would also like to thank the Executive Board members, who have assisted me the entire year, and kept me on track when I needed it. I look forward to supporting the incoming board as immediate past chair.

I hope to see many of you in Denver. The messaging about SIS activities was different this year, perhaps more diffuse than in years past. The breakfast and business meeting is scheduled as normal, but there will be no silent auction in favor of an online fundraising event that is underway. We hope to raise another record amount for grants to support travel to the annual meeting, the Equal Justice Conference, the Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference, and the AALL Leadership and Management Institutes. I can’t emphasize enough how important it is to support librarians in government law library environments. We often lack funds or institutional support to attend conferences or engage in other forms of professional development. As you consider whether to donate, keep in mind that several government law library leaders were past grant recipients (myself included).

I’m happy that we have a chance to reconnect in person once more. I hesitate to repeat this overused phrase, but I suppose we are now in the “new normal.” Mask mandates and mandatory...
View from the Chair (continued)

Miriam Childs, Law Library of Louisiana, mchilds@lasc.org

social distancing have given way to each person taking the precautions appropriate for themselves. The coronavirus pandemic has affected millions around the world in millions of ways, both substantial and minor. I used to like to plan things out and purchase tickets months in advance, but now I stop myself. My community’s COVID prevalence, which is impossible to predict, is the primary factor that determines which activities I’ll add to my schedule. So, let’s enjoy each other’s company in Denver and make the most of it!

From the Editor’s Desk

Sara Pic, Law Library of Louisiana, svpic@lasc.org

I still can’t really believe it’s happening but it does seem like we are actually finally truly really going to be in-person again this summer in Denver. Three years since we’ve seen each other in-person and yet we still managed to hold (and in many cases, grow) our connections with each other tight.

In this latest issue of GLL News, enjoy a preview of what to look forward to at the conference, including an interview with GLL-SIS VIP Beth Wright, Staff Attorney at the Native American Rights Fund. AALL President Diane Rodriguez gave a great Q&A on leadership at the gathering of newer GLL-SIS law librarians. Check out a profile of the newest GLL Marketing Maven, Maria Sosnowski. Thank you once again to the GLL Membership & Mentoring Committee for another great book review. Learn about one law library’s experience presenting at an in-person library association conference. Read about some of the great sessions the GLL-SIS grant recipient to the Equal Justice Conference attended. Congrats to the incredible GLL-SIS Awards recipients as well as the recipients of the Longevity Awards!

As always, the newsletter includes AALL announcements, GLL-SIS member news, and GLL-SIS Executive Board minutes.

Alas, I am also bidding the newsletter farewell, though not GLL, of course! I am so grateful to everyone who has contributed in my 4 years as GLL News editor and delighted that Sabrina Davis has agreed to take over editorial duties.

It’s never too early to think about the next issue of the newsletter, so don’t hesitate to reach out if you have ideas for an article! You can reach Sabrina at sabrina.davis@harriscountytx.gov.

GLL News is published three times a year (Fall, Winter/Spring, and Summer) by the Government Law Libraries SIS. The deadline for the next issue is September 9, 2022. Please contact the Editor, Sara Pic, svpic@lasc.org, with questions, comments, suggestions, and submissions. The Government Law Libraries SIS does not assume any responsibility for the statements advanced by the contributors in this newsletter. The opinions expressed in GLL News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of GLL-SIS.
AALL Announcements

MAXIMIZE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / JOIN US IN DENVER JULY 16-19

Over 800 of your colleagues have registered for AALL 2022—reconnect with them in person this summer in Denver. AALL 2022 will offer more than 60 educational programs planned over four days—get energized with new techniques and strategies to benefit your library and its users. Let your employer know why you need to be at AALL 2022. Download the Justification Toolkit to make your case for attending the conference.

AALL 2022 is your one-stop destination for tailored learning and building your professional network and community:

- Discover new and emerging technology and trends from over 55 exhibitors
- Start building your personal schedule for your time in Denver

Join the conversation! Let your Twitter network know that you are attending, presenting, or exhibiting at the AALL Annual Meeting using #AALL22!

INCREASE YOUR STRATEGIC THINKING SKILLS / REGISTER FOR AALL'S SELF-PACED COURSE

AALL’s self-paced course, "Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians," will teach law library professionals—at any level—how to employ strategic thinking for impactful decision-making. Whether you are interested in preparing for a management role or are already in a leadership position, you will come away better equipped to confidently tackle any decision (large or small), make a compelling argument, and apply influence in your organization in a way that creates optimal conditions for success.

Cost: Members $99 / Nonmembers $149
Member News

- **Rob Mead** has been selected by the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) as a new member of the Depository Library Council (DLC) for the 2022-2025 term. Mead, an AALL member since 1999, is the state law librarian at the Washington State Law Library in Olympia, Washington. The members of the DLC advise the GPO director on future trends, innovations, and new concepts in libraries, public access to government information, and other policy issues related to the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP).

- **Amy Small** has been appointed as Executive Director of the Texas State Law Library.

- Amy also reports, “The long-time Director of the Texas State Law Library, **Dale Propp**, retired on April 29, 2022, after a long and storied career. The library threw a retirement party to honor Dale and his years of service to the profession. Current staff were joined in celebration by former SLL Director Kay Schlueter and former Assistant Director Sally Harlow, as well as librarians from the Texas Legislative Reference Library, the library Dale led before coming to the State Law Library. Texas Supreme Court Justice Jeffrey Boyd presented Dale with three proclamations commemorating his career: one from the Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Governor.”

News from the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library:

- **Joseph D. Lawson** was promoted to Director of the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library. He is also the recipient of the 2022 AALL Volunteer Service Award, to be presented in Denver.

- **Mariann Sears** has a new position as Operations Manager/Director Emerita at the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library.

- **Sabrina A. Davis** was promoted to Associate Law Librarian for Digital and Educational Services at the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library. She is also a recipient of the 2022 AALL Emerging Leader Award, to be presented in Denver.

- **Sophie Pham** was promoted to Digital Outreach Law Librarian at the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library.

- **Heather Holmes**, Assistant Law Librarian at the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library, was the recipient of the 2022 Houston Young Lawyers
**Member News (continued)**

Association’s Liberty Bell Award for her selfless contribution to the community and promotion of access to justice.

- **Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library** is the recipient of the 2022 GLL O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities for its innovative work with STAN, a virtual presence device located in the Law Library lobby that is used to triage patrons during COVID in order to serve as many people as possible given capacity and social distancing restraints.

- The Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library is pleased to announce its latest hires, two Assistant Law Librarians. Rod Hall joined in February 2022, and Elizabeth Martinez joined in March 2022. They will both be members of GLL-SIS.

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**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

*Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section*

*Executive Board – Minutes*

**Date and Time:** *Wednesday, February 16, 2022 @ 12:00 p.m. PDT / 3:00 p.m. EDT*

**Attending:** M. Childs, J. Durham, K. Westwood, P. Petroccione, S. Pic, A. Small

**Meeting Leader:** M. Childs

**Scribe:** K. Westwood

**Date of Next Meeting:** April 20, 2022

**Absent:** L. Reppe, H. Riccio

**Agenda**

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

- Meeting started at 2:03
- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes – no questions or corrections, Patty moved, James 2d - voted
- Grants Committee recommendation

**Other Business:**

- Updates from committees – Pub and PR – Annual Meeting subcommittee is gathering material for Denver; Amy Crowder and Lee Van Duzer have joined Aaron Parsons as “Marketing Mavens” with profiles on the GLL website / Nominations – Geraldine says slate isn’t completely verified but will be finalized by Friday /
Standards Committee Draft proposed two changes but M. Childs will suggest that rather than make 2 changes this year and then revisit the standards more broadly next year, just table these for now and use them as a basis for beginning a broader look next year. Membership and Mentoring – detailed report provided – take note that they are working on a mentorship program and will begin mentorship Zooms. Strategic Planning will work to implement the new strategic plan over the next two years. A2J committee considering creating a list of books (or template) for building a layperson oriented collection. Education – both AALL programs were accepted “Bringing the Law Library to the Community: A2J for Remote Services” and “Coping with Vicarious Trauma: Tips for Law Librarians on the Front Lines” / Newsletter (Sara Pic) – Friday Feb. 18 is deadline for next issue – it’s primarily the election issue. Advocacy Committee is reestablishing a quarterly communities post and in January had a successful advocacy training for chapters

- AALL updates – AMPC & vendor sponsorship of SIS events – No work from AALL on this yet. Miriam will let us know when she hears.
- Nominations Committee question (Liz Reppe) – Geri has a question – Who will run the election since current secretary/treasurer is a candidate for chair? KW reached out to Bylaws Comm and they are considering the question
- Best Practices Guide for Public Law Libraries question (Liz Reppe) - is there a plan to update it? Patty will take the question to the A2J committee
- GLL Awards Committee Charge Changes – KW reported some suggested changes the Exec Bd and current GLL Awards Committee Chair have. James moved and Miriam 2d to make change to member-at-large duties to include identifying GLL nominees for AALL awards and Holly to make the changes in the GLL handbook
- GLL/LISP/SR-SIS Roundtable at AALL – This is moving forward the topic will be “Eviction During Covid” – Monday afternoon of the conference
- Adjournment Amy moved and Patty 2d
- Adjourned at 3:05
Executive Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 (continued)

Date and Time: **Wednesday, April 20, 2022 @ 12:00 p.m. PDT / 3:00 p.m. EDT**

**Invited:** M. Childs, H. Riccio, K. Westwood, P. Petroccione, L. Reppe, A. Small, J. Durham, S. Pic  **Absent:** H. Riccio, K. Westwood

**Meeting Leader:** M. Childs

**Scribe:** M. Childs

**Date of Next Meeting:** June 15, 2022

**Agenda**

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

- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes – James moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting and Amy seconded. Minutes approved.
- Nominations Committee question – Because Miriam ran the election, bylaws committee action wasn’t needed.

**Other Business:**

- Updates from committees – no reports from Advocacy; Grants; Strategic Planning; Technology.
- Education – RIPS co-sponsoring upcoming 5 Topics in 5 Days discussions. Topic – Outreach and marketing library services. Have reached out to SR and LISP as well. Also see item below.
- Awards – see item below
- Publicity & Public Relations – secured a table at CONELL Marketplace and GLL activities board in exhibit hall. Spring Marketing Maven was Lee Van Duzer of Washington County, OR Law Library; next one is Maria Sosnowski of the Clark County, WA Law Library. Editing handouts and resource guides, working with HQ to print annual meeting handouts, working with Education Cmte Chair on the annual meeting education flyer.
- Best A2J Practices – working on list of SRL books & resources to add to the Public Law Library Guide
- Newsletter – no comments on redesign, working on passing the torch to the new editor, Sabrina Davis
- Membership and Mentoring – sent by email; James will relay a suggestion by the Board that Malinda re-post the invitation on My Communities to ensure coverage
- AALL updates – GLL Breakfast & VIP; GLL/LISP/SR-SIS Roundtable – GLL did not secure sponsorship for its annual breakfast, business meeting, & silent auction. Karen has been working with Katie Lavalette at American Conference Institute, the organization that is handling conference planning for AALL this year. Katie provided a price list for food in the hotel and in the Convention Center. Turns out the
Executive Board Meeting Minutes (continued)

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 (continued)

Convention Center is booked, so we will be at the Hyatt. The date of the breakfast is Sunday, July 17 at 7:00-8:45. Miriam said AALL plans to add SIS events to the conference schedule later. She doesn’t know how SISs will manage getting people to register for the breakfast if they have already registered for the conference. Board members asked Miriam to post to the SIS Chairs Council on Communities to see what other SISs are doing. Only 2 SISs secured sponsorship. Board members said that there should be vegetarian and kosher breakfast options. James moved to charge $35.00 per ticket for the breakfast, Liz seconded, and the motion passed. The GLL/LISP/SR-SIS Roundtable on Law Library Services to Prisoners and Public Patrons is scheduled for Monday, July 18, 12:30-1:30 at the Hyatt, and the focus will be on evictions.

- Request from Asian American Law Librarians Caucus to co-sponsor virtual viewing of “Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066” – Amy moved to agree to co-sponsor, Liz seconded, motion passed.
- Awards Committee recommendation re: expanding descriptive language for the Law Library Advocate Award – Patty moved to adopt the language suggested by Chair Jean Willis, Amy seconded, motion passed.
- Education Committee request to cover expenses for GLL sponsored program speaker – James said that in the past GLL has provided an honorarium plus travel expenses. Liz made the motion to offer speaker Dominique Quevedo $500.00 as well as travel expenses. James seconded, motion passed.

- Other
- Adjournment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Items From This Meeting:</th>
<th>Assigned To:</th>
<th>Date Due:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Circle back to Sarah Larsen about the honorarium for the SIS-sponsored program</td>
<td>M. Childs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle back to Jenny Silbiger about GLL co-sponsoring the virtual viewing of “Alternative Facts” with the Asian American Law Librarians Caucus</td>
<td>M. Childs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post to SIS Chairs Council in Communities to find out what other chairs are doing with regards to SIS events at AALL</td>
<td>M. Childs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle back to Jean Willis about the GLL VIP</td>
<td>M. Childs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update description of GLL-SIS Law Library Advocate Award as suggested by Awards Committee Chair Jean Willis</td>
<td>M. Childs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Katie @ ACI to finalize breakfast details</td>
<td>K. Westwood/ M. Childs</td>
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2022 GLL-SIS Election

Miriam Childs, GLL-SIS Chair, Law Library of Louisiana, mchilds@lasc.org

This year’s GLL Election ran from April 1 to April 20. 84 ballots were submitted – unfortunately, that is 15 less than last year so I hope to see a higher turnout next year. Please let the GLL board know if you have any ideas how to achieve this. Karen Westwood (Director, Hennepin County Law Library) was elected the new GLL Chair-Elect, Sara Pic (Head of Public Services, Law Library of Louisiana) was elected Secretary/Treasurer, and Brendan Starkey (Director, Orange County Public Law Library) was elected as the new Member-at-Large. Huge thanks to Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong (Law Librarian, California Court of Appeal - 6th District) and Sarah Larsen (Outreach Librarian, Minnesota State Law Library) for running. Thanks to all candidates, and to all members who voted. The more people participate in the SIS, the stronger we all are.

2022 GLL-SIS Grant Recipients

Christine Morton, GLL-SIS Grants Committee, U.S. Courts Library for the Second Circuit, Christine_Morton@ca2.uscourts.gov

The Grants Committee would like to congratulate the following GLL-SIS members who were selected to receive grants to attend in-person conferences in 2022:

  Thomas Baer, Reference Librarian, Jenkins Law Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - $1,500 AALL Annual Meeting Grant

  Kristen Matteucci, Reference Librarian, Jenkins Law Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - $1,500 Equal Justice Conference Grant

  Sara Mauldin, Law Librarian, DeKalb County Law Library, Decatur, Georgia - $1,500 AALL Annual Meeting Grant

  Amy Small, Assistant Director, Texas State Law Library, Austin, Texas - $1,500 AALL Annual Meeting Grant

  Kaden Taylor, Utah State Courts Law Librarian, Utah State Courts, Salt Lake City, Utah - $1,500 AALL Annual Meeting Grant

Thank you to the GLL-SIS members who applied for a grant this year. We had many qualified applicants, the applications were well-written and compelling, and all deserved funding to attend conferences. If you applied for a grant and were not selected this year, please consider applying again. The Grants Committee looks forward to offering grants for upcoming conferences in 2022-2023.
Ensuring Grants for GLL Members

Gail Warren, GLL-SIS Grants Committee Member, Virginia State Law Library, gwarren@vacourts.gov

The Government Law Libraries SIS believes its members should have access to quality educational programming, leadership training and access to justice networking. We support this goal by providing grants to members and have done so for over 20 years. Historically, our fund raising has taken form as a silent auction. In 2020 and 2021, due to our inability to meet in person, we changed the format to an outright fund-raising event. Since 2001 we have raised over $91,000 and last year, we broke our previous fund-raising record total. We raised $6,310.00!

By the time you are reading this, we will have kicked off our 2022 fund-raising effort. We hope to receive as many donations as possible by Monday, July 11, 2022, so the results can be shared during our GLL-SIS Business Meeting on Sunday, July 17. Remember, 100% of every donation, no matter how large or how small, flows directly into our grants fund.

There are two simple steps to making your donation:

#1 Make your check payable to Government Law Libraries – SIS and write Grants on the memo line.

(Unfortunately, we are unable to accept credit card payments.)

#2 Mail your check to:

Karen Westwood, Law Library Director
Anne W. Grande Law Library
Government Center/C-2451
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

I've already mailed my contribution to Karen and am confident many of you will help us set a new fund-raising record before we meet in Denver!
# 2022 GLL-SIS Longevity Awards

**Kathy Carlson, GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee Member, Office of the Wyoming Attorney General (retired), kathycarlson625@yahoo.com**

The Membership Committee is proud to recognize the following individuals with their longevity awards. These GLLers have been members of AALL for twenty years and associated with GLL for ten of those years. Please congratulate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Library/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jada Aitchison</td>
<td>Richard Harrington, Hennepin County Law Library</td>
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<td>Michael G. Bernier</td>
<td>Carolyn Hayes, Cook County Law Library</td>
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<td>Daniel R. Campbell</td>
<td>Ava M. Hicks, Arkansas Supreme Court Law Library</td>
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<td>Judy Ann Chalmers</td>
<td>Jennifer Hohenstein, Jenkins Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Cook</td>
<td>Patricia Horvath, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Halle Cox</td>
<td>Kevin J. Hourihan, U.S. Court of Appeals - 11th Circuit Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esther Eastman</td>
<td>Mary Johnson, Sacramento County Public Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Garner</td>
<td>Kenneth Kozlowski, Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madeline Gordon</td>
<td>John Mayer, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction</td>
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<td>Janice L. Gross</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robyn M. Moltzen</td>
<td>Sacramento County Public Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Renick</td>
<td>Multnomah Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Roy</td>
<td>Connecticut Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariann Sears</td>
<td>Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molly Solazzo</td>
<td>Orange County Public Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melanie R. Solon</td>
<td>Florida A&amp;M University Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Stevens</td>
<td>Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ida Weingram</td>
<td>Jenkins Law Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janet Zigadto</td>
<td>Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Library at Waterbury</td>
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They will be acknowledged and their certificates and pins awarded at the GLL Breakfast and Business Meeting.

We have quite a number of recipients this year because it is a “catch-up” year. It has been fairly easy to determine membership dates for GLL using the annual membership lists we receive, but membership dates for AALL have been harder to come by. If we
2022 GLL-SIS Longevity Awards (continued)

Kathy Carlson, GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee Member, Office of the Wyoming Attorney General (retired), kathycarlson625@yahoo.com

received no answer to the letter sent requesting information from members regarding the date they joined AALL, we had to make an assumption they joined the same year that they joined GLL. This year when we received the membership list, it included the year each member joined AALL. We were able to examine our pin lists and determine that there were quite a few members who met the 20/10 membership requirement earlier than we had calculated.

GLL-SIS 2022 Awards

Jean L. Willis, GLL-SIS Awards Committee Chair, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

The Awards Committee is happy to announce the recipients of the 2021 - 2022 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.

Kathy Carlson, Retired
Director, Wyoming State Law Library, Cheyenne, WY

Sarah Galligan, Retired
Law Librarian, Ramsey County Law Library, St. Paul, MN
GLL-SIS 2022 Awards (continued)

Jean L. Willis, GLL-SIS Awards Committee Chair, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

Dr. Joel Fishman Professional Publication Award

This award recognizes a Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section 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.

Alexander B. Burnett, co-author
Law Librarian, Maine State Law & Legislative Reference Library, Augusta, ME

Jessica Lundgren, co-author
Senior Law Librarian, Maine State Law & Legislative Reference Library, Augusta, ME

Ryan Metheny, author
Managing Librarian, Legal Education, LA Law Library, Los Angeles, CA

O. James Werner Award for Distinguished Service to Persons with Disabilities

The Award honors a member who has made a significant contribution to either serving directly or arranging for services to be provided to persons with disabilities or for distinctive service by a person with a disability.

Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library
For: STAN, Synchronous Touchless Remote Node, robot
Provides extended, remote access to justice.

The GLL-SIS award recipients will receive award crystals to commemorate their esteemed work, while being acknowledged at the GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting at the AALL Conference in July 2022.
GLL-SIS 2022 Awards (continued)

Jean L. Willis, GLL-SIS Awards Committee Chair, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

Congratulations are also in order for the following GLL-SIS members and member organizations who are 2022 AALL Award Recipients:

MARION GOULD GALLAGHER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Steven P. Anderson, Retired
Director
Thurgood Marshall Maryland State Law Library
Baltimore, Maryland

EMERGING LEADER AWARD

Sabrina Davis
Associate Librarian for Digital and Educational Services
Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library
Houston, Texas

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Minnesota State Law Library
St. Paul, Minnesota
Appeals Self-Help Video

PUBLIC ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AWARD

Deborah Hamilton
Strategic Services Librarian – Law Collection
Pikes Peak Library District
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Understanding Eviction and How Libraries Can Help
GLL-SIS 2022 Awards (continued)

Jean L. Willis, GLL-SIS Awards Committee Chair, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Joseph D. Lawson
Director
Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library
Houston, Texas

The Awards Committee worked diligently this year on a number of issues, in addition to handling the GLL-SIS Awards process. Many thanks to go out to our fine committee members. Your work is appreciated!

2021-2022 GLL-SIS Awards Committee
Jean Willis, Chair
Elizabeth Caulfield
Cathy Lemann
Chi Song
Jean Wenger
Karen Westwood, GLL-SIS Board Liaison

Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting
VIP Beth Wright, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

Beth Margaret Wright is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and is a staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). Prior to NARF, Beth worked as a staff attorney in the Native American Unit at the Northwest Justice Project in Seattle, Washington, where she assisted low-income Native American clients in civil legal matters. Throughout her education and career, Beth has focused on advancing Indian Country’s next generation. Her work is inspired by a desire to uplift Indigenous joy, strength, and success. At NARF, Beth devotes much of her attention to Indian boarding school healing, history, and policy, but she also tackles issues related to Indian child welfare and Indigenous methods for dispute resolution (through the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative).
Q: Can you provide some background on federal Indian boarding schools?

A: From the early 1800s through the 1970s, Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes, families, and communities. These children were placed in one of at least 408 U.S. government-supported Indian boarding schools in locations across the country. Disguised as educational institutions, these Indian boarding schools furthered the federal government’s goals to dispossess Indigenous people from their land, assimilate hundreds of thousands of Indigenous children into non-Native culture, and erase Indigenous identities. Indian boarding schools often prohibited Indigenous children from speaking their languages and banned them from practicing their cultures and traditions. Using these techniques, the government sought to erase Indigenous peoples completely.

Many children did not survive the Indian boarding school era and many of those that returned to their communities had endured significant abuse. The effects of this era live in Indian boarding school survivors and continue to be felt in Indigenous communities today through various forms of trauma. To provide a path toward truth, justice, and healing, it is essential to understand and acknowledge the history and effects of this era. NARF is committed to addressing boarding school history and trauma and the accompanying efforts toward truth and reconciliation.

Q: Can you discuss the recent activity surrounding federal Indian boarding schools and related policy?

A: On May 11, 2022, the Office of the Assistant Secretary–Indian Affairs released a report on the federal records related to the federal Indian boarding school policy and era. The report addresses the federal government’s role in policy that allowed for the forcible removal of Native American children from their homes, the legacy of this policy, and recommendations for next steps to begin the process of healing from this policy. This report is a result of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, created...
Interview with GLL-SIS Annual Business Meeting
VIP Beth Wright, Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund (continued)

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library,
JWillis@saclaw.org

by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland in June 2021. Secretary Haaland established the initiative to address the federal government’s role in operating and overseeing Indian boarding schools and to review the continued impacts of federal Indian boarding school policies and laws.

The report arrived as the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act remains pending in both the House and the Senate. If passed, this act will allow for a Congressional commission to formally investigate and record the history and continued impact that Indian boarding schools and federal Indian boarding school policies have had on Indigenous people and communities.

Before we lose more of our federal Indian boarding school survivors and their descendants, it is important that we document and record their stories while being careful to not retraumatize those individuals. We must do so in order to honor their experiences and in order to teach and learn the true history and impacts of this era.

Q: What does justice for Indigenous Nations look like in the context of federal Indian boarding schools?

A: Justice will likely be unique for each community. However, NARF believes that the universal first step in achieving justice is uncovering the truth behind federal Indian boarding school policies and practices. NARF also believes that Indigenous Nations will drive their communities’ healing efforts and it is crucial that they have the necessary resources and support to do so.

Several years ago, the Canadian Government began to reckon with their own federal Indian boarding schools and related policies and the impacts they had on First Nations communities. In Canada, years of litigation efforts led to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). The IRSSA provided funding for various programs as well as individual payments to any person who attended a Canadian-run Indian boarding school. The amount each person received was based on the number of years a survivor resided at the school. Compensation of this kind, while it can be important, will not necessarily address all the ramifications and continued impacts of the federal Indian boarding school era. It is important to take a holistic look at all accountability methods in order to initiate genuine healing in Indigenous communities. After all, the loss of culture, community, land, and language stemming from these policies is incalculable.

Q: How does Indigenous Peacemaking relate to federal Indian boarding schools?

A: One of the main purposes of addressing the federal Indian boarding school era is healing and managing the trauma induced by this era. Peacemaking can be described
Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

as a process where people talk together to resolve conflict. It is a community-based process that focuses on individual and community needs. In Indigenous communities the process uses traditional values and sometimes ceremonial practices. Peacemaking circles can involve supporters, elders, and interested family and community members. Within the circle, people are encouraged to speak from the heart, and together to identify and agree upon the steps necessary for healing the relationships harmed by the conflict. The current legal system often does not account for Indigenous values or Indigenous methods of conflict resolution. Peacemaking may likely be an important approach to address the United States’ role in the federal Indian boarding school era and as Indigenous Nations continue their efforts towards truth and reconciliation.

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 USA play a significant role in the legal aid/access to justice communities?

A: I was! I went to law school at the University of New Mexico School of Law and our law library and law librarian, Professor Ernesto Longa, are both incredible. I remember working on obscure Indian law related projects in law school, and Professor Longa was instrumental in helping me with my legal research. The University of New Mexico School of Law law library is also open to the local community. The legal system is not designed for pro-se litigants and the UNM law library provides valuable assistance to community members who do not have access to attorneys.

Further, the National Indian Law Library (NILL) of the Native American Rights Fund is a library devoted to federal Indian and tribal law and serves both NARF and the public. NILL serves the public by developing and making accessible a unique and valuable collection of Indian law resources and by providing direct research assistance and delivery of information to practitioners and local communities. Anne Lucke, NILL’s director, and her staff are some of NARF’s greatest assets.
Conference Programs Featuring GLL Members

**GLL Produced Programs**

**GLL-SIS Sponsored Program: Coping with Vicarious Trauma: Tips for Law Librarians on the Front Lines**

Tuesday, July 19, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM, CCC 505-507

Speakers:
Dominique Quevedo, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles
Sara Pic, Head of Public Services, Law Library of Louisiana
Moderator: Sarah Larsen, Outreach Librarian, Minnesota State Law Library

Description: Those who provide services to individuals who have experienced traumatic events can often experience trauma themselves as a result: vicarious trauma, as well as burnout. This can be damaging to the provider and result in additional trauma for the person being served. This training will define important terms, explore risk factors, and help participants develop strategies for preventing and addressing both vicarious trauma and burnout. Using case studies from law libraries to guide the discussion, attendees will learn self-care techniques, healthy coping skills, and receive tips for working with victims of trauma. Training in dealing with vicarious trauma can, in turn, create a balanced work environment and minimize the risk of re-traumatizing yourself and others.

**Bringing the Law Library to the Community: Access to Justice with Remote Services (GLL-SIS Education Committee Program)**

Sunday, July 17, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, CCC 304

Speakers:
Cathryn Bowie, State Law Librarian, State of Oregon Law Library
Sabrina Davis, Associate Law Librarian for Digital and Educational Services, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library
Karen Westwood, Law Library Director, Hennepin County Law Library
Moderator: Catherine McGuire, Deputy Director, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Description: While technology has rapidly impacted legal collections and the volume of available information, patron services in libraries serving the public have essentially remained in their classic format. With COVID-19 restrictions forcing greater reliance on remote technology, libraries and legal assistance organizations are exploring new and improved ways to better serve library users near and far. This session will highlight innovative projects using virtual presence devices, legal kiosks, and other virtual delivery methods to demonstrate how virtual access can enhance library services and increase access to justice in our communities.
Conference Programs Featuring GLL Members

LISP-SIS/GLL-SIS/SR-SIS Roundtable on Law Library Services to Prisoners and Public Patrons

Monday, July 18, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM, Hyatt Mineral Hall D + E
Description: Join us for a roundtable discussion of the eviction crisis in America. All are welcome!

Saturday

Legal Fundamentals When You Don’t Have a JD

Saturday, July 16, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Featuring GLL members Deborah Hamilton and Jenny Silbiger
Note: Requires separate registration

Sunday

All Boats Rise: Court Navigation Using Law Libraries
Sunday, July 17, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Featuring GLL member Kathleen Weston

From the Ground Up: Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion When You’re Not in Charge
Sunday, July 17, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Featuring GLL members Miriam Childs, Sabrina Davis, and Jenny Silbiger

Training Early Career Librarians
Sunday, July 17, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Featuring GLL member Janine Liebert

Speaking a New Language: The Whats, Whys, and Hows of Teaching Litigation Analytics
Sunday, July 17, 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Featuring GLL member Anna Russell

Monday

Beyond Yirka: Reimagining Our Footprint in the Workplace
Monday, July 18, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Featuring GLL member Suzanne Corriell

Research Your Rights: How Design and Plain-Language Writing Can Increase Accessibility to Legal Information
Monday, July 18, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Featuring GLL member Kaden Taylor
Conference Programs Featuring GLL Members

ALL-SIS JEDI + PEGA-SIS Joint Roundtable--Level Up Your Interviewing Skills: Tips from the Trenches
Monday, July 18, 12:15pm - 1:30pm
Featuring GLL member Sabrina Davis

Mindset in Formal and Informal Teaching and Training
Monday, July 18, 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Featuring GLL member Nick Harrell

Stop Repeating History: Applying the Lessons of Korematsu in the 21st Century to Advance Justice for All
Monday, July 18, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Featuring GLL member Jenny Silbiger

You, Too, Can YouTube: Making the Case for Law Library Channels
Monday, July 18, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM
Featuring GLL members Havilah Steinman Bakken and Valerie Horton

Tuesday

Collaborative Scholarship: Proposing and Contributing to Cooperative Writing Projects
Tuesday, July 19, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Featuring GLL member Sarah Mauldin

Law Library Internships: Growing Our Profession Responsibly and Sustainably
Tuesday, July 19, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Featuring GLL member Malinda Muller

Researching Emojis in the Law
Tuesday, July 19, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Featuring GLL members Marcelo Rodriguez and Jenny Silbiger

When Two Worlds Collide: Using Catalogue Records as Metadata
Tuesday, July 19, 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
Featuring GLL member Jennifer González

(Re)Searching for Justice: Teaching Critical and Alternative Legal Research to Aspiring Social Justice Lawyers
Tuesday, July 19, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM
Featuring GLL member Lowell Rudorfer
Everything Old is New Again: In Person Outreach and Marketing

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

Recently the California Library Association (CLA) held their 2022 annual conference in person in Sacramento, California. It was too good of a chance to pass up on attendance despite some concerns and misgivings because, no matter what anyone says, COVID is not over. However, the conference was held just down the street from the Sacramento County Public Law Library, and I have always found their conference to be valuable as well as offering an excellent networking opportunity with other California librarians, particularly our colleagues in general public libraries.

To that end, we applied for and were accepted to create a poster, as well as to participate in two poster sessions—a great opportunity to market not only our law library but also the other California County Law Libraries. This was the third or fourth poster session our Library has created and provided at the CLA conference. The first one happened in 1999, and this one was my last. All have been quite helpful in bringing the county law libraries, our collections, and services to the attention of non-law librarians across the great state of California. In particular, we emphasize that we are public libraries primarily, but that we have legal collections that are free and open to everyone.

The theme of this year’s conference was: Together Towards Tomorrow. The title of our poster was: Come Together! Access to Justice and Legal Information at California’s County Law Libraries.

Many librarians and California residents make the common mistake thinking that the county law libraries are “just” for judges and lawyers to use. I think most of us have perfected our elevator speeches to ensure we clarify who we are and whom we serve: public law libraries serve everyone needing legal guidance and information.

I have not seen the numbers of attendees at the conference itself, but turn out looked good. We had a very positive response to our poster. It opened up numerous opportunities to encourage librarians from across the state to send their patrons with legal research needs to county law libraries, either in person or online.

This is an easy marketing and outreach opportunity, particularly if your library happens to be close to similar types of conferences in your state or region. Our management team collaborated on the design of the poster, which cost us approximately $150. The
Everything Old is New Again: In Person Outreach and Marketing (continued)

Jean L. Willis, Sacramento County Public Law Library, JWillis@saclaw.org

Director of the Sacramento County Public Law Library, Pete Rooney, and I did register to attend the conference, which cost close to $300 for both of us. What we got was a good return on our investment.

Plus it was fun! We got to meet a wide range of librarians from across our state, as well as to exchange information and ideas with each other. We especially enjoyed this in person opportunity after two years of you know what! If you have a similar possibility in your area, I highly recommend this type of outreach option. Enjoy!

Q&A with AALL President Diane Rodriguez about Leadership at the Gathering of GLL-SIS Newer Law Librarians

GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee

In addition to hosting the GLL Mentorship Program’s Build Your Skills database, as well as other initiatives, the Membership and Mentorship Committee offered a new program for GLL’s newer librarians this past spring. In a time of an evolving workplace, this gathering helped to connect newer librarians with one another and also provided an opportunity to meet with a GLL leader.

In late April, Diane Rodriguez, 2021-2022 AALL president and assistant director of the San Francisco Law Library in California, joined the Membership and Mentoring Committee to share her leadership journey with attendees representing the cohort of newer GLL law librarians, with five or less years in the SIS.

The Q&A format consisted of five prepared questions and a bonus question where Diane offered valuable suggestions for making the upcoming annual conference a successful endeavor. Her points were fascinating, informative and engaging. A summary of Diane’s leadership journey remarks are provided here for the benefit of the SIS. Many thanks to Diane for taking time out of her busy schedule to spend time with us!

1. What does leadership mean to you?
   - Sharing your experience with a broader audience
     ◦ Peers
     ◦ Newer colleagues/members
     ◦ Also reaching out to outside partners to broaden our mission/profession
Q&A with AALL President Diane Rodriguez about Leadership at the Gathering of GLL-SIS Newer Law Librarians (continued)

GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee

- Fostering growth in the organization and members
- For me it means tapping into specific skills such as
  - Engaging – get out there and talk to people
  - Communicating – sharing what’s happening and transparency in operations
  - Listening – everyone has a voice
  - Emotional Intelligence – kindness, calmness, meaningful pauses, NO overreactions
  - Patience – some things take time, especially with a Board that meets quarterly, and in government, generally
  - Flexibility – there are a lot of moving parts, people, and issues
  - Professionalism – trying to model a high standard of ethics and kindness while sticking to my fiduciary and legal duties

2. **What advice would you give someone aiming for a leadership position?**

- Take chances – get out of your comfort zone – invite someone to have a Zoom chat. Risk, ask the question: “how did you get here?”
- Volunteer – get on a committee or task force, run for office. Self-nominate yourself to participate on a committee. Committees are always looking for people who are interested.
  - Easy to start locally and get acclimated to running committees
  - Check out the committees that sound interesting and review the committee charges (obligations and programs/projects) to get an idea of how much time is involved.
  - Get to know the members – start with an applicable chapter, for example
  - Grow step-by-step in your engagement. I kept volunteering and getting
Q&A with AALL President Diane Rodriguez about
Leadership at the Gathering of GLL-SIS Newer Law Librarians (continued)

GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee

- Worked on many committees. Was asked to chair a committee. Then become AALL chapter council chair working with the board. Then became an AALL executive board member at large.
- Join where the requirements are short term or less involved, for example, a jury award. There are currently 13 different Jury Awards available.
- Consider all engagements apprenticeships.
- Ask questions & information interviews.
  - Reach out to people in positions that interest you
    - Associations
    - Jobs
    - Everyone loves to talk about themselves and how they got there
    - When you meet someone new, follow up with a quick note to keep relationship
- Attend leadership trainings
  - Note: AALL offers a leadership academy & other programming throughout the year

3. How did you know you were ready to take on a leadership position?

- I kept volunteering in NOCALL and my local SLA chapter and got some experience in leading committees
- When I was tapped by elections committee for my first office, which was NOCALL Secretary, I asked past secretaries about the commitment and duties and felt good about it
- I still had a lot to learn, but I learned I enjoyed doing it and coming up with new ideas and having the ability to implement them and make a difference in our chapter
- From there I was asked again and again and felt more confident each time

4. Describe a leadership learning experience

- You don’t always succeed and that’s ok
  1. I ran for AALL President twice
  2. I’ve proposed initiatives that weren’t approved
- Sometimes you try really hard to do something and it doesn’t work out, but you still learn and grow from the experience
Q&A with AALL President Diane Rodriguez about Leadership at the Gathering of GLL-SIS Newer Law Librarians (continued)

GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee

- I think you grow more from the failures because you pause and reflect on them and consider how to improve
- It's exciting to pick yourself up and start again – with a new perspective

5. **Share a leadership skill that you discovered outside of the playbook?**

- Adaptability
  1. As a private solo law librarian in litigation firms for 15 years, I had to be flexible every day
  2. Never knew what might come up – always ready for a change in plans
  3. Everything still had to get done
  4. Rarely did anything go as I thought my day might go
  5. I didn’t fight it but learned to adapt
  6. Relaxing into constant change became the norm
  7. In fact I was so good at it that my work appeared seamless and the attorneys thought I could do anything, at any time, which was a blessing and a curse
  8. I’ve taken that adaptable mindset with me as I go along
  9. While my mind is on the greater view of the strategic plan of my organization or AALL, being adaptable and expecting fluidity relieves a lot of pressure

6. **Tips for Attending the AALL Conference**

- Consider going Saturday and attending CONELL. I am still good friends with my CONELL co-attendees.
- Participate in the Dine Arous (check in with the local arrangements committee in Denver to learn more). They have everything to do with your career and nothing to do with your career!
- Collect business cards and write something notable on the back. Say hi after the conference. Call for help/advisement
- Look to your right and left when sitting in-between programs. Put down the phone and ask someone to go for coffee.
GLL’s Marketing Maven: Summer 2022 - Maria Sosnowski, Law Library Director, Clark County Law Library, Vancouver, Washington

GLL-SIS Publicity & Public Relations Committee

Partnering for Press Releases and Marketing on Community Networking Sites

In keeping with our theme of marketing for small government libraries – one-, two-, or three-person shops that don’t have large marketing budgets, we’ll be spotlighting Maria Sosnowski, Director of the Clark County Law Library in Vancouver, Washington. Maria has partnered with the Clark County Communications Specialist to create and distribute press releases. We’ll also discuss Maria’s success with marketing on community networking sites like Nextdoor.

Maria, for a two-person shop, the Clark County Law Library really punches above its weight when it comes to press releases. I often see your press releases picked up by national-level news aggregators like AALL’s KnowItAALL. How did your partnership with Clark County’s Communications Specialist come about and how often do they distribute press releases for you?

The county has a wonderful Communications Specialist, Joni McAnally. She puts out regular FYI newsletters to county personnel and handles publicity for the county. I was always vaguely aware that she was out there, but I read a book called Bite-Sized Marketing: Realistic Solutions for the Overworked Librarian which made me think about what I could realistically do as a part-timer. (While there are two of us, we only add up to .92 FTE.) I reached out to Joni and learned what she had to offer. Making that connection helps me spot marketing opportunities.

We do press releases when we have something that the public should know, maybe 2-6 times a year. With COVID-19 we announced our remote hours, and we announced when we reopened for walk-ins, and we just announced that we are going back to being open in-person 5 days a week. When we have a new form kit, or an update to a form kit, we announce that. We raised our prices on some of the kits a few months ago, and we announced that and suggested that people come buy them before the price increase. Any excuse to get the library out in front of the public will do. And Joni helps me decide what is “worth it” or not.
Can you describe how the partnership process works? Do you (or the county) have a set promotions calendar or schedule? Who drafts the text of the press releases? What's the typical start to finish process?

We do things on an as-needed basis, with no set schedule. Press releases can be drafted by me or by Joni, although she usually does them. I'll provide a link to what I want to promote, or give her bullet points I think are important, and she puts it together. Then she sends it to me in a draft and I can make any changes I want or offer ideas for her to consider. I defer to her greater knowledge on structure and organization, and she defers to my content knowledge. This process takes a week or so depending on her workload. Once approved, she posts them. She also gives advice on timing of posts.

This never would have occurred to me, but you’ve also been able to create buzz for library services and events on Nextdoor. Do you have any tips/ best practices for making posts rise above all the usual noise of package theft and complaints about dog poop on community networking sites?

I would love to take credit for this, but the selection of where to post these releases is left to Joni. I tell her what I want to be statewide and what should be local. For example, we have form kits that we sell with permission from the King County Law Library, who authors them. I always tell Joni to keep those local so as not to compete in King County. So she selects local newspapers, Nextdoor, the county Facebook page, etc., for those. Other things can be broader, so those get posted to statewide sites.

What are your current marketing challenges and solutions?

I think the hardest thing about marketing is recognizing opportunities and then doing the work to use them. We are all so busy just running our libraries that it’s hard to step back and see that something is a great marketing opportunity. One thing I’ve done to promote more awareness of our services is to use Google. I created a business profile, and I have our products posted there, and I try to make a post every 2-3 weeks. These are short and easy to do. For example, a recent post was: “Adult guardianship law changes took effect for 2022. We have updated our website so you have the latest information. Click ‘learn more’ to go to our guardianship page.”

I know you’ve been expanding your website. Is this part of your marketing strategy?
Our former website was very basic, mostly functional FAQs and location/hours. Being physically closed during COVID-19 gave us time to completely rebuild our website. I’m fortunate that my coworker, Linda Swenton, loves working on websites and wasn’t put off by the 100 pages or so of instructions. We’ve been working on filling the website with accessible content on popular topics to help patrons find more of what they need without a trip to the library.

Much of marketing is word-of-mouth, and patrons who find our website helpful are certainly telling their friends and family about it. I also link to our website in every Google post. Joni mentions the website in the press releases. Check it out: clark.wa.gov/law-library.

On a completely different note, I noticed that you do freelance indexing? Can you explain what you do and how you trained for that?

I’ve been writing indexes for books, periodicals, or statutes for about 17 years. It complements working in the library, as indexing is solitary. With my background (law degree and practicing law) I do a lot of legal indexing. You can learn more and see examples of my work at my website: www.index-plus.com.

I trained by studying with a professional indexer and taking a training class through the American Society for Indexing. In a nutshell, I read the book, creating index entries as I go to capture the terminology but also the concepts in the book. Indexers think about terminology people might use, make connections between related topics with cross references, and pull together scattered material. Quite a few indexers are current or former librarians as there is some overlap in the skills needed.

What’s the best way to spend a day off from work?

I love to cook or bake, and I love to curl up with a good mystery. (My cats love when I read too!) I read several books each week and enjoy reading a series by an author and getting to know the characters over many books.

What are you currently reading/watching?

I just finished Find Me by Alafair Burke, and just started The Secret Room by Sandra Block. I seldom read nonfiction because that feels too much like work, but enjoy a good mystery whether it’s a cozy, a procedural, or a psychological thriller.
Grant Recipient Report: Reflections on the 2022 Equal Justice Conference

Kristen Matteucci, Jenkins Law Library, kmatteucci@jenkinslaw.org

Many thanks to the GLL-SIS Grants committee, which enabled me to attend the 2022 Equal Justice Conference (EJC) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, this past May. Presented by the ABA and the National Legal Aid Defender Association, the Equal Justice Conference aims to bring together various partners from across the legal community to enhance equity, justice, and the delivery of legal services to low-income individuals.

As the first conference I attended since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, EJC was a welcome opportunity to pause, take a step back from my daily tasks, gain inspiration from colleagues’ work around the country, and reflect on how I can better contribute to equal justice in my community. Dare I say, it reminded me to dream a little - to envision what might be possible in our workplaces, our communities, and our society.

Looking back at the sessions I attended, two themes emerged. First, there were several programs that focused on trauma-informed practices, self-care, and resilience, particularly as viewed through the lens of justice. I found this to be a welcome and appropriate theme. Collectively, many of us have been focused on survival for the past few years (or more), whether due to the pandemic, racism, or vicarious trauma from the stories we hear at work, for example. Both the first and the last sessions I attended served as important bookends, emphasizing the importance of caring for ourselves in order to care for others.

The first session, How to Stay Sane in an Insane World: Building Resiliency in Work, was a mix of practical discussions around managing our relationships with colleagues and with our email inboxes on one hand, and a more profound reflection on self-care and racial justice on the other. I appreciated how the presenters framed self-care as a vital tool for sustaining lifelong “movements, not moments” for justice. They encouraged participants to “take time to do whatever fills your soul” and reminded us that we can’t pour out of an empty cup. I was personally moved by Dr. Artika Tyner’s (University of St. Thomas) message - in which she invoked Socrates, Dr. King, President Obama, and Habakkuk - that if we are to endeavor to bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice, we must build our resilience by ensuring that we have a clear purpose, mission, and vision for our work.

The last session I attended was called Skills for Success: How to Be an Antiracist (Lawyer). Recognizing that people often end up talking past one another when they don’t have a shared language, panelists from Legal Services Alabama (LSA) elicited participants’ own definitions of racism and provided several examples from prominent scholars and activists such as Ibram X. Kendi, Audre Lorde, and Derrick Bell. While they didn’t necessarily endorse just one definition, the LSA staff did share the Four Different Levels of Racism, according to the Race Forward model. Because racism is a form of trauma, the presenters highlighted the importance of being trauma-informed,
meaning that “you are aware of the impact of trauma on the brain and the body and that you actively implement strategies to avoid exacerbating trauma-related problems” (Kareem Ibrahim). The panelists also called on practitioners to be anti-racist by, in part, acknowledging systemic inequities in our nation and working to ensure that all people are represented zealously.

The second theme that emerged from the sessions I attended focused on practical applications to better serve self-represented litigants. These sessions highlighted tools, training models, and licensing programs that are being developed to better equip civil justice navigators. As a non-attorney, I sought out and enjoyed a number of such programs that featured the varied ways that librarians, social workers, paralegals, and other advocates are working to bridge the civil justice gap.

One of my favorite sessions was Helping the Helpers: Tech and Training Strategies to Support Community Justice Partners. Liz Keith, Program Director at ProBono Net, moderated the session. After sharing statistics that illustrate just how wide the justice gap is, Ms. Keith encouraged participants to build “community justice ecosystems” that include colleges, libraries, housing advocates, healthcare professionals, domestic violence providers, faith leaders, and more. She then introduced three panelists who discussed various “tools designed to equip frontline allies” to “help people detect legal problems, learn about the law, navigate legal processes, and connect to legal services.” First, Rodrigo Camarena, Director of Immigration Advocates Network, recounted the co-design process for a new app called ¡Reclamo!, meaning “to reclaim”. ¡Reclamo! was created primarily as an assisted-interview tool for community organizers to help clients submit wage theft claims in New York State. Second, Executive Director Nikole Nelson discussed how Alaska Legal Service established a medical-legal partnership to address the dire lack of legal services in Alaska’s remote areas (90% of the state is only accessible by boat or plane!) where many of the state’s 229 indigenous tribes live. The program uses asynchronous virtual modules to train existing healthcare professionals based in small, indigenous communities to provide legal information. Third, NAACP Equal Justice Works Fellow Martina Tiku introduced a Housing Navigator Program that trains community-based volunteers (such as NAACP members, social workers, members of faith organizations, and students) to equip tenants facing eviction with tools for housing stability. After tenants complete an initial intake form online or via text, navigators are trained to do follow-up interviews and connect tenants with resources and legal referrals. Tools available to the navigators include an always-evolving training and resource handbook, a navigator portal, and website.

In Information Justice: Centering Access, Equity, and Care in Legal Resource Design, the presenters focused on how to apply a holistic approach to websites and online tools in a way that serves people more equally. Panelists explored various “core
information justice competencies” needed to translate justice values into technology design. I was most struck by the emerging concept of “compassionate design” (CD) in engineering and computer science, as it prompts designers to pay attention to users’ sense of dignity, engagement, and security.

Finally, I attended two sessions that highlighted different types of limited legal advice licensing models for non-attorneys. The presenters in Paralegal Pro Bono Roundtable: A Discussion of Utilization of Paralegals to Assist Attorneys with Pro Bono discussed the many services that paralegals already provide and why they are good candidates for licensure. They described both the Oregon Paralegal Licensing Program and the Minnesota Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project as well as the successful Canadian models on which they are based. In Arizona’s Licensed Legal Advocate Pilot: The Nation’s First Pilot Delivering Non-Lawyer Legal Advice to Underrepresented Litigants, the speaker described how the pilot was developed as well as the qualifications and curriculum that domestic violence advocates must complete to become Licensed Legal Advocates (LLAs). Both of these sessions touched on the varying reception among the bench, bar, and members of the public in each of these states. While some programs enjoy a good amount of support, others have been met with concerns that attorneys may be replaced or that clients may receive a lower level of service. Advocates for such programs counter that there are not enough attorneys to meet the overwhelming need and that without them people will continue to struggle without any help at all.

Personally, I think that the assumption that licensed (para)professionals will necessarily create a “second tier” of justice is unwarranted. Nurse Practitioners coordinate with Medical Doctors in a way that supplements rather than detracts from patient care, for example. Similarly, there are many talented, ethical, and compassionate non-attorneys with years of experience who want to contribute to the solution, but don’t want or can’t afford (whether in time, money, or sanity) to attend law school. Before becoming a librarian, I myself was a (non-attorney) domestic violence advocate at a legal center for several years. Had I received the appropriate training and gone through a licensing process, I am confident that I would have had the ability
Grant Recipient Report: Reflections on the 2022 Equal Justice Conference (continued)

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to give sound and limited advice within the narrow scope of my expertise. This would have been a great benefit to many clients who would otherwise typically go without advice or go through intake in hopes an attorney could take their case.

Of course I am sure that improvements will need to be made to the licensing programs and pilots over time. States will need to explore which model works best for their communities. Perhaps structures and procedures for additional accountability will need to be created. We can learn from existing pilots and programs as well as models in other countries to make enhancements. But if we do nothing, the civil justice gap will only continue to grow wider.

In closing, I am grateful that I was able to attend the 2022 Equal Justice Conference. In addition to being reminded of the importance of self-care and learning about tools and trainings for civil justice navigators, I was also delighted to meet other law librarians, explore the parks in Minneapolis, and listen to colleagues compete at the conference reception’s Story Slam event.

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Book Review: *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*

Adriana Mark, GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, adriana_mark@ca2.uscourts.gov


Great news, colleagues. *From Strength to Strength* "helps people find greater happiness as they age and change." This quote, on the book’s cover, is from none other than the Dalai Lama. And indeed, His Holiness is right. Drawing on philosophical, spiritual, and religious concepts and supported by the author’s own research into happiness, this book is a roadmap for personal satisfaction throughout one’s life and career.

The author, Albert C. Brooks, is a social scientist who studies human happiness and teaches at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Business School. He also created *The Atlantic* column "How to Build a Life." But he did not start his career as a scientist. His goal was to be a famous French horn player. And he was well on his way. At nineteen, he left college to play professionally, playing one hundred concerts a year and recording albums that were played on the radio. He lived this way for a few
years until, sometime in his twenties, he started getting worse. His technique began to suffer, and, despite his best efforts, he could not get back to where he was. He continued this way for several more years until he transitioned to teaching music while earning a bachelor’s and master’s degree at night. Eventually he gave up the French horn altogether and became a social scientist. Brooks writes that he was fortunate to transition to another career but that “to this day, the sting of that early decline” stays with him. He vowed to himself that it would never happen again but, he writes, “the data don’t lie: it will happen again.” This story appears in the first chapter of the book, “Your Professional Decline is Coming (Much) Sooner Than You Think.” The data Brooks cites shows that, on average, a serious athlete’s skill declines before the age of thirty while knowledge workers’ decline could start as early as forty. Brooks explains that the pre-frontal cortex starts to degrade and one’s ability to multi-task declines, along with the ability to easily recall names and facts. Because we accumulate information as we age, by the time one is fifty, Brooks explains, the brain “is as crowded as the New York Public Library” but the “librarian is slow and easily distracted.” Quite the analogy.

At this point, readers might be wondering why this review opens with “great news, colleagues.” Well, once we accept that decline is unavoidable, we can take steps to build new strengths and skills and transform decline into new success. Not everything about aging is bad. In fact, there are specific ways people get smarter and more skillful. Take language. As we age, our vocabulary improves. Studies show that people maintain and grow their vocabulary throughout their entire life. An aging brain is better at Scrabble and even does well with learning foreign languages. In addition, the ability to combine and use complex ideas improves. Brooks explains that this means that with age, people get “much better at using the concepts they know and expressing them to others.” This is known as “crystallized intelligence,” defined as the “ability to use a stock of knowledge learned in the past” and it tends to increase with
Book review: *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life* (continued)

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Herein finally lies the good news: the abilities that appear later in life favor some specific professions, including historians and teachers—essentially, any job that requires teaching, writing, speaking, or researching. For librarians and library workers, this is very good news indeed.

Readers of *From Strength to Strength* will not only learn how to capitalize on crystallized intelligence through the latter part of one’s career, but how to increase happiness and deepen one’s purpose in all facets of one’s life. Chapter by chapter, Brooks lays out the steps to take to have a peaceful, joyful, and meaningful life. We can all benefit from these strategies. It's never too late to make a change.

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