Hello Fellow GLL-ers:

It was marvelous to see so many of you at the Annual Meeting in Boston this past July. I love seeing my “once-a-year colleagues” and catching up. I enjoyed a lot of good programming (some of it summarized by GLL grant recipients in this issue), interesting interactions in the exhibit hall and, of course, lots of good things to eat and drink along the way. The GLL morning meeting kicked off the conference in great style and we heard from not just one, but two great speakers (David Leonard, President of the 170-year old Boston Public Library and David Neumeyer from the Advisory Board for the Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) and Executive Director of the Virginia Legal Aid Society). What powerful and interesting remarks from both of our speakers – it was an uplifting way to start the conference.

As GLL Chair this year, I would like to embark on an initiative that might take a year or two. I am interested in gathering data about how government law libraries are funded. This is particularly important to county law libraries throughout the country as many of them are funded via filing fees. Court fees (including filing fees) are being re-examined in the context of societal equity and many county law library directors are being questioned about their funding. Because there is so much variation in funding models (even within the same state) I thought it would be worthwhile to dig deeper into this issue nationwide. To me this is the kind of data I could make good use of, but I wouldn’t have the time or expertise to collect on my own. My thought is to create a task force to examine this question, gather data, and make the data available to GLL.
VIEW FROM THE CHAIR, CONT.

members. That way we’ll all be able to find comparable libraries, or uncover other creative ways of county law library funding.

I’ll be putting the task force together shortly. Please reach out to me directly if you are interested in contributing to the work of this task force.

In the meantime, the GLL committees are coming together. There is room on a few of them – so please let me know if you would like to join one of our standing committees.

I’m really looking forward to working with many of you in the coming year – I hope the accompanying photo of me with the GLL gavel/roi pounder conveys my enthusiasm. Please contact me if you have suggestions, complaints or just a desire to talk about knitting, cooking or reading (three of my favorite hobbies!).

Warmly,
Karen

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Tara Cunningham, she/her, Law Library of Louisiana

Hello, GLL! I’m the new editor of GLL News! I’m the Head of Collection Services at the Law Library of Louisiana. I’ve been working at this library since 2006-- minus a 3 year detour into public libraries from 2013-2016.

I live with my 20 year old son (garage apartment), 2 cats and a dog. I love playing pub trivia, listening to podcasts, watching stand up comedy, and going to book club.

You’ve probably noticed some big changes to the newsletter layout, thanks to AALL’s new Canva Pro subscription. I’ve always enjoyed graphic design, and Canva makes it easy, so I hope you like it! Please send any design comments/suggestions to me, and I’ll take them into consideration going forward.

This is also a very long issue due to all of the grant recipients’ articles. I hope you power through them because they all have slightly different takes on the AALL annual meeting. There’s also a great article on AI, where the author breaks down how each big legal database is using it on their platform. Be sure to check out the article on library internships, which offers a complete guide for your library.

Until next time, I’m sending cool thoughts to all of my fellow southerners still sweltering in the heat this “Fall.”

Tara

Volume 49 Issue 3 GLL News Page 2
Date and Time: **Tuesday, June 20, 2023 @ 12:00 noon PT / 3:00 pm ET**

Attended: H. Riccio, K. Westwood, S. Pic, P. Petroccione, A. Small, M. Childs, S. Davis

Absent: B. Starkey

Meeting Leader: H. Riccio

Scribe: S. Pic

Date of Next Meeting: TBD

### Agenda

**Preliminary Items / Previous Meeting Action Items:**
- Holly moved to begin meeting at 2:05 pm Central. Miriam seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Approve Agenda – Karen moved to approve, Patty seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Approve Minutes – Amy moved to approve, Miriam seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Action Items Status (See April Meeting Minutes) – Holly reached out to Joanie about new ATJ meeting; Jocelyn is here for the meeting as observer; committee reports were due 6/15 but still coming in, the GLL-SIS report is due to AALL June 30; Holly will follow-up about Toolkits stats after conference.

**Other Business:**
- Committee Reports – Still coming in. Holly will send reminder.
- RIPS Roundtable Co-Sponsorship – related to legal research. No cost – just a time commitment including publicity. Karen moved to co-sponsor, Patty seconds, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- ALL-SIS JEDI Interviewing Skills Roundtable (2023 AALL Annual Meeting) – has been held in the past, both in-person and virtual. Trying to get GLL people to participate as facilitators. Holly will post to My Community.
- GLL Breakfast (2023 AALL Annual Meeting) – we are all set with AV and coffee service, using our Lexis sponsorship funds. We have a speaker and a VIP attending. Patty will check with VIP if he needs additional costs subsidized. Lexis will be leaving items at the tables.
- GLL Happy Hour Get Together (2023 AALL Annual Meeting) – Pau Hana! Not sure of Jenny Silbiger will be initiating or who is organizing. Informal get-together. Just at the hotel bar. No funding involved. Holly will look into getting leis or flowers to help identify us.
- GLL Business Meeting (Virtual Pre-AALL Annual Meeting) – Holly has slides from James that she is using as the basis.
  - Scheduling Date/Time – Tentatively Friday 6/30 Noon Pacific.
  - GLL Financial Report – no issues noted by other Board members, so Sara will distribute to membership.
  - ‘Above and Beyond’ Award – created during pandemic to honor Caroline Nevin for her service that didn’t fit neatly into any specific GLL awards category. No one had ideas for anyone else that would fit this particular year as most service to GLL is covered by other awards. Amy noted that it is supposed to recognize an extraordinary situation and we never intended it to be awarded every year.
- Other – Gail is kicking off the GLL grants fundraising campaign so Sara reminded everyone that it would be great if we had full Board participation – any amount appreciated; Karen and Brendan will be at CONELL Marketplace, the exhibit hall is covered as well; Karen mentioned we have held in-person Board meetings at the conference but was concerned that we would have difficulty getting a space and missing programs, so no one felt strongly about having it. Holly has the poi pounder and will bring to Boston.
- Adjournment – Patty moved to adjourn, Miriam seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain. Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm Central.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Meeting Action Items:</th>
<th>Assigned to:</th>
<th>Date Due:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Send reminder to committee chairs about annual reports.</td>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check with VIP about funding assistance.</td>
<td>Patty</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification for pau hana</td>
<td>Holly</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interim Board Actions via Email:
- Sara moved on behalf of the Publicity and Public Relations committee to approve expenses of $1,300 for various giveaways and supplies needed for GLL space in the exhibit hall at the annual meeting. Holly seconded. All in favor, no oppose or abstain. Completed June 12, 2023.
- Patty moved on behalf of the ATJ committee to approve a document to be attached to the Public Law Library Standards VII(C) as item 15 after item 14. Miriam seconded. All in favor, no oppose or abstain. Completed June 14, 2023.
### 2022 – 2023 Financial Report

#### Beginning Balance (October 1, 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Funds (Resource Guides)*</td>
<td>$11,360.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Funds</td>
<td>$32,982.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fund Balance (@10/01/2022)</td>
<td>$44,342.97</td>
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</table>

#### Income (October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$1,140.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income (@3/31/2023)</td>
<td>$1,190.00</td>
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</table>

#### Expected Income (March 31, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexis Sponsorship of Awards Reception</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Fundraiser 2023 (Grants Fund)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenses (October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Expenses (certificate paper for Longevity Awards)</td>
<td>$23.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies (Longevity Awards pins)</td>
<td>$837.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures (@3/31/2023)</td>
<td>$860.70</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Beginning with 12/31/2022 statement, restricted and unrestricted funds were merged per the authority of AALL Executive Director and with the consent of the AALL GLL–SIS Executive Board. Future GLL–SIS financial reports will not report restricted funds for resources guides.*
Expected Expenses (March 31, 2023 – September 30, 2023)

AALL Annual Meeting Grants (6) $9,500.00
A/V Equipment (for Awards Reception) $1,151.17
Awards $569.00
Beverage Service (at Awards Reception) $1,885.80
Brochures (for Annual Conference) $225.63
Misc. Expenses (updating StoryMap for SRL Survey) $5,000.00
Printing (GLL banner) $109.00
Shipping (to and from AALL Annual Conference sites) $100.00
Souvenirs/Giveaways (for GLL exhibit hall space) $752.76
Supplies (for GLL exhibit hall space) $53.36

Balance (March 31, 2023)

Total Fund Balance (@3/31/2023) $44,672.27

Respectfully submitted,
Sara V. Pic, Secretary/Treasurer
Come Together / Meet One Another / Get Connected With Your Cohorts

On Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, 11 a.m. PST / 1 p.m. CST / 2 p.m. EST, the GLL Membership and Mentoring committee invites all newer librarians working in government law libraries to gather, make new connections or deepen your connections with others, and engage in conversation with a long time GLL leader who will inspire, share and consider all of your questions, thoughts, and ideas. There are 100+ law librarians (and growing!) with five years or less experience in government law libraries. This is a time to convene and grow in company together.

What (work related) question keeps you up at night?!
Please join Membership and Mentorship Committee member and featured speaker, James Durham, who will share insights around leadership and guide a discussion in an informal exchange amongst friendly colleagues.

James Durham is a long time GLL member and leader. As current Director of the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library in Annapolis, MD, James has a long and varied career in AALL / GLL, including serving on numerous AALL and GLL committees and boards, Past President of the Law Library Association of Maryland, and former Member at Large, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice Chair, and Chair of GLL. We welcome James and this conversation.

Watch your email box for more information and Zoom link coming soon!

For questions, feel free to contact anyone on the Membership and Mentoring Committee: https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/about-us/committees/

For help from a subject area specialist mentor, visit the GLL Mentorship Program site: https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/resources-publications/mentorship-program/
SUBMIT A PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING / DUE OCTOBER 6
AALL is accepting program proposals for the 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference in Chicago, July 20–23. The theme for AALL 2024 is Lead.Innovate.Transform. This is your opportunity to advance the profession and establish yourself as a leader by submitting a program or workshop proposal.

AALL IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!
AALL is excited to announce that we are now on Instagram, search @aallnet. We will use this space to celebrate our community, showcase our members’ contributions, and keep you informed about the latest developments among law librarians and legal information professionals within our network and beyond. Check out our page, follow us, and share our handle with your colleagues.

AALL 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES’ FORUMS
The AALL Executive Board election starts on October 1, and there’s a Vice President/President-Elect candidates’ forum scheduled on Tuesday, September 26th. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the candidates before voting opens. You may submit questions in advance to candidatesforum@aall.org. Members may also ask a question during the forums via live chat. Emily R. Florio, chair of the 2023-2024 Nominations Committee and AALL past president, will serve as moderator for the forums.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Read the Q&A with the candidates from the July/August issue of AALL Spectrum and the candidate biographies and statements on AALLNET.

ORDER YOUR COPY / 2023 AALL STATE OF THE PROFESSION REPORT
The third edition of the AALL State of the Profession report is available to order on AALLNET. The report provides organizations and law librarians with the insights needed to understand the current legal information landscape, as well as prepare for the future. The report covers demographics, budgets, user services, collections, operations, technology, and more. This edition highlights how law libraries in various organizations have bounced back following the pandemic, especially with respect to budgets and remote/in-person work. The report is available in digital, print, and a print + digital bundle.
We are pleased to announce that **Andre Davidson** has been hired as the Director of the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library. Andre Davidson is an accomplished Knowledge and Information professional with 25+ years of experience in the legal and corporate sectors. Andre has been recognized for his efforts in diversity and innovation initiatives in the legal industry. In 2018, Andre was awarded his law firm’s diversity award. He also was the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Innovation Tournament winner in 2019. He is a 2020 Fastcase award winner, honoring the law’s smartest, most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, & leaders. In 2021, Andre was elected as a fellow to the College of Law Practice Management. Currently, Andre serves as a board member on the AALL Executive board. Andre has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Houston. He received his Master of Information Science in Information Systems and a graduate certificate in Digital Content Management from the University of North Texas. Please join us in welcoming him to our library. We look forward to all he will accomplish in this position!

- **Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library**

**Catherine McGuire**, Deputy Director of the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library in Annapolis, has been named a 2023 recipient of the William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC). The award is “presented to someone who is not an attorney and has demonstrated outstanding services representing the civil legal needs of low-income Marylanders or expanding access to justice.” For more than five years, Ms. McGuire has collaborated with the Maryland Access to Justice Commission and the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors to promote Frontlines, a program that has trained more than 1,200 Maryland public library staff in basic legal research and referral. The 2023 Awards Reception will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at Westminster Hall in Baltimore.

~James G. Durham, Library Director, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

![GlL members hanging loose at the GLL Pau Hana in Boston.](image)
This year’s AALL Annual Meeting in Boston provided members a wonderful opportunity to meet with colleagues and catch up in person. Mindful of the brief amount of time we had together on Sunday, July 16, 2023, in lieu of holding a silent auction, the Grants Committee again conducted a fundraising campaign.

I am very pleased to report that 31 GLL-SIS members enthusiastically responded, and a total of $5,555 was raised for the GLL-SIS 2023-2024 Grants Fund. This total does not break the record we set in 2021 but was our second most successful fundraising effort! 100% of these funds will be used to provide travel/educational grants for GLL members in 2024.

Please join the Grants Committee in acknowledging and expressing our appreciation to the following members for their generous monetary contribution this year. Many of the people on this list have opened their wallets and/or contributed items for our silent auctions for decades (!) and we appreciate their steadfast support!

Joan Bellistri
Kathleen Carlson
Geraldine Cepeda
Georgia Chadwick
Miriam Childs
Linda Corbrelli
Tara Cunningham
James Durham
Susan Falk
Ann Fessenden
Mary Jenkins
Catherine Lemann
Sue Ludington
Catherine McGuire
Sandra Marz
Christine Morton
Lawrence Meyer
Sara Pic
Patricia Petroccione
Holly Riccio
Jenny Silbiger
Amy Small
Brendan Starkey
Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong
Maryruth Storer
Gail Warren
Gail Wechsler
Karen Westwood
Jean Willis
This year, I went to the 2023 American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting with a specific goal in mind. I wanted to write a short memo on the state of AI in legal technology, focusing on the products that are coming down the pike. I was able to catch up with a number of legal research vendors about new technology, specifically legal AI products that are in development. Now that I’ve sent that report to my managers, I’m happy to share my observations with GLL as well!

It is clear that recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), powered by the technology behind ChatGPT4, will deeply affect the legal industry. AI develops in fits and starts, and the leap from the tagging model most legal research databases currently use, to a Large Language Model (LLM) neural network AI, is an exponential improvement in processing, synthesizing, and understanding written language. Even the developers were surprised by the complexity and ability of this next generation of LLM AI.

Although it was clear that this generation of AI will change the legal industry, it wasn’t clear how that would happen, and in what ways. Because these technologies are so new, most of the hands-on experience my professional colleagues and presenters had was with free web-based AI products, which are not suitable for legal work. These free products are prone to “hallucinations” (aka “making up sources”) and it’s unclear how they use the data fed into their portals, leading to data governance issues. These drawbacks can be controlled for by developers, and by sales contracts. However, it will only be controlled for by pay-for-use products specifically designed for the legal market. As always, it is good to keep in mind that old adage “if something online is free, then you are the product.”

While I don’t think the free AI online is useful, the developing products from major legal research platforms show great promise. These paid products control for issues like hallucinations, and provide citations supporting their work so a researcher can confirm the accuracy and context of the materials the AI is pulling from. Issues surrounding data governance (what the company does with your uploaded material and search history) can be controlled by contract, and the legal vendors understand that this is a concern for most legal clients.

Over the course of this year, most major legal research platforms will create programs using this GPT-enabled, LLM AI technology, with plans to roll them out
this fall. Where will this rush to generate new AI technology will take us? We’ll see at the next AALL meeting in Chicago!

For now, after reviewing the products, I’m excited about the future of AI legal technology. However, my recommendation to my own court was to take a measured approach toward adoption. The courts don’t need to invest in these new technologies now, while they’re still in the development stage. I estimate that we’ll want access to these products after they’ve penetrated the legal market and new hires are accustomed to using them, which I expect will take about three to five years. I think the technology will probably be wrapped into the existing subscriptions we have by the end of that multi-year period, and most of the bugs, risks, and implications will be evident by then.

However, it is critical that we learn about them now, and understand the impact they are having on the legal field. From what I’ve seen, I believe the most significant uses of this new technology will be in document review, drafting, and processing. It really is a massive time saver in drafting materials. AI will save time on legal research, but still won’t replace current tech completely, or solve all current problems. It will always need a human hand to guide it, and a human brain to sort through the context and make sure additional facts, laws, secondary sources, and other information aren’t lurking outside of the database that the AI exists to curate.

There are some downsides to this technology. This evolution will drive up the prices for legal products, as these LLMs are very expensive to build and run, using a huge number of computer chips and a lot of energy. In most firm settings, I think this will be offset by savings on labor costs, as AI may replace a number of associate attorney positions, consolidating the work to a fewer number of bodies. In the courts, I don’t think the labor savings will be as significant, as AI cannot replace the bulk of our court drafting, reading, and analysis. It may be helpful for the drafting process, in particular, which would be helpful for our judicial branch’s ever-increasing workload.

2023, Current state of the market and the major players:

CoCounsel from Casetext
Pablo Arrendondo and Jake Heller, the founders of Casetext, saw a preview of what ChatGPT 4 could do last year. Immediately after that presentation, they pivoted their entire company to be the first to use it for legal applications. Because they had this early access to the technology, they are at the forefront of this wave of AI products. You may remember seeing the news earlier this year.
when CoCounsel (using GPT-4) passed the bar! While their AI is excellent, their database (Casetext) is not as robust as any of the other online legal research databases, so their technology is currently pulling primarily from black letter law. (Three Geeks and a Law Blog Podcast, Revolutionizing Legal Practice). The reception to this product among practitioners has been uniformly positive, and in fact, it’s running very slow at the moment because they’re scaling faster than they can get computer chips.

“It’s not about replacing the human that makes the decision, it’s about replacing the write-off hours sending a junior off to slap together drafts. And like that junior, the AI isn’t going to know everything. Unlike that junior, Co-Counsel is going to transparently provide the attorney with a full grasp of the bases of what it does and does not know.” (Patrice, Legal AI Knows What It Doesn’t Know Which Makes It Most Intelligent Artificial Intelligence Of All).

While Casetext had early access to ChatGPT technology (they’re a Stanford CodeX company with strong ties to other innovators in Silicon Valley), other databases were moving forward with more advanced tagging technology. While practitioners were excited to see this product, I believe the industry reaction has been more along the lines of panic.

Casetext (and therefore, CoCounsel) has been offered a bid for 650 million dollars by Thomson Reuters, the parent of Westlaw, in order to get this technology and to get a jump on applying it to legal materials. (Ambrogi, As Thomson Reuters Explains Its Acquisition of Casetext, Some Investors Seem Uncertain).

Once CoCounsel has access to all of the secondary sources, indexing, key number systems, and other resources on Westlaw, I believe it will be truly impressive. I saw Pablo Arrendondo speak at AALL 2023, and while he seemed happy about the deal, he was incandescent about the chance to get his hands on West’s data. (AALL 2023, Live Vendor Presentation).

I don’t see any reason the merger/buyout won’t proceed, and I’m excited to see what will result from this partnership.

Westlaw
Westlaw recently launched a new platform called “Westlaw Precision” which features a more granular system of tagging information. “Westlaw Precision is tackling the gnarly and perennial problem of language ambiguity by doubling
2023 DEVELOPMENTS IN LEGAL AI, CONT.

down on taxonomy.” (O’Grady, Westlaw Precision Launches With Promise to Cut Lawyer Research Time in Half).

The librarians at our court recently reviewed Precision to see if its upgrades are worth the purchase price. While we are still coming to a decision on that, I’ll note that the capabilities of Precision as it stands are very good. TR/Westlaw is about to shell out an astonishing amount of money to acquire Casetext/CoCounsel, and plans to integrate a Chat-style AI into Precision in the near future (Fall/Winter 2023).

Lexis
LexisNexis has been working with an earlier version of neural net technology to create Fact & Issue Finder, and is creating an AI tool called Lexis+ AI. Lexis+ AI is a similar product to CoCounsel, in that it is a chatbot that provides custom answers with documented sources. We had a sneak peek at this technology at AALL, and it seems very good! My understanding is that for now, it will be sold as a separate product. The platform we currently use at my court, Lexis+, has already integrated large language model (LLM) functionality via Microsoft-backed OpenAI’s ChatGPT (but they haven’t disclosed what version).

New Development as of August 2nd: “Today LexisNexis is announcing that their soon-to-be-launched AI-powered solutions will be integrated into Microsoft 365. The product integrations include – Lexis+®, Lexis® Connect, Lexis® Create, and Lexis® Create Plugin with Microsoft 365 Copilot. Both companies are committed to providing legal professionals with “intelligent, AI-powered tools, enhanced capabilities, and more efficient, guided workflow experiences” inside the suite of Microsoft products where they currently work: Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Teams. Back in May Lexis announced two AI initiatives a commercial preview and the AI Insider Program as well as plans for incorporating generative AI into their product. Lexis announced its commitment to launching GPT-enabled solutions with the Microsoft Azure Open AI Service which has already been rolled out to customers via Lexis+.” (O’Grady, LexisNexis Announces Integration with Microsoft 365 Copilot/Generative AI Solutions).

Bloomberg
Bloomberg has not yet committed to a firm timeline for their new legal AI product. Their representatives indicated that something could be coming late this year, and it may be based on the Bloomberg Finance AI, which they say is very impressive. In the meantime, it appears they’re still using the information from this 2019 article “How Bloomberg Law (BLAW) Uses AI and Machine Learning to Prove its Case.”
2023 DEVELOPMENTS IN LEGAL AI, CONT.

Wolters Kluwer
In December of 2022, Wolters Kluwer bought out Della AI, a British/European AI technology developer. I didn’t get a solid indication of where they’ll be using AI in the future, or how.

vLex/Fastcase
These two companies just merged and will be going forward with vLex branding, which is well-known in other parts of the world. Their focus at AALL this year was on the benefits of their merger, and the new materials available: “But it also permitted a sneak preview into the work of the vLex AI skunkworks team, which has been cooking a new research assistant using Generative AI.” This AI product was the only one debuting with the law of more than one country available, featuring the U.S. and three other countries. (vLex Blog, Generative AI Shares a Lot in Common with Knowledge Management – How Do You Like Them Apples? A Recap of AALL 2023 in Boston).

HeinOnline
Hein just finished adding additional tagging and faceting to their database. I don’t think they have immediate plans to create an AI interface.
It seems that recruitment to any of the special law library sectors takes outreach these days. Have a look at the employment recruitment at the AALL member website, and as of mid-September there were upwards of 45 jobs posted (https://careers.aallnet.org/jobs/). Recruitment is a popular topic amongst our collegial circles as well. The 2022 AALL conference program included a session on library fellowships and internships. The May/June 2023 edition of the AALL Spectrum, page 30, featured Mandy Lee, Head of Research and Instruction at Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she recounts her circuitous route to law librarianship and calls for “making people aware of law librarianship as early as possible….” In the meantime, it seems that each of the three largest AALL SISs, namely, government, law firm and academia, are all struggling to be able to welcome law librarianship seekers into the fold (https://aallspectrum.aallnet.org/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=da4d75ca-fc05-45f1-a1b9-b7d2b9b3b465).

In the article mentioned above, Mandy comments what we commonly hear, namely, that she had never considered being a librarian until she discovered her interest by happenstance. It seems that promoting librarianship is down to embracing the ad hoc, organic opportunity to respond to the question of “what do you do for a living?” So often, once someone learns what I do for a living, I hear how THEY have always wished THEY were a librarian. Truly, how many of us are thankful that either we stumbled upon, or by opportunity, discovered librarianship as a career path? Even better is that once in a while you pause and think to yourself, how lucky am I that I found this niche, this very special niche? So, while we are waiting for more prime real estate in our graduate schools, developing and implementing field experiences / library internships is a solid alternative. Please read on to find out more about the initiative, check out LA Law Library’s program summary template (don’t freak out, there are so many ways to modify and still have an impact), and reach out to make new friends of those currently offering internship/field experiences. It is possible for everyone to consider jumping in.

The Los Angeles Law Library, where I work, has a rather robust library internship program. It’s been in place since 2015. After a somewhat scruffy start (in other words, no existing model to draw from) the program is, aside from quality time with the intern, on auto pilot now. Each session is generally replicable from
ENCOURAGING THE PATHWAY, CONT.

session to session. The internship program has really been effective for building our internal employment pipeline, however, there is an overarching value in providing field experiences, in general, regardless of where entry librarians land. I suspect that there are other established government law library model internships in our community as well.

The LA Law Library model has been distributed to individual colleagues who heard of it locally throughout the state, had made an inquiry and were curious to know more about the program including how much time, etc., is involved. This makes sense. LA Law Library has staff. Everyone is crazy busy, of course, but just the staff numbers provide the spreadable peanut butter so it all gets done in mutuality and with divided ownership.

That being said, there are ways to modify and make the basic wireframe adaptable to institutions with limited time and/or staff. I have ideas for that and others with programs will also likely be able to offer short cuts that do not diminish the integrity of a program.

In summary, it’s more important than ever to strengthen the career path possibilities. Let’s face it, ours is a career path that is a novel one, not one that is easily transferrable, or taught, in library school. This is why we are ‘special librarians’ and often identify ourselves as such out on the street. To some degree, and possibly why it’s cumbersome to teach in an academic setting, this is a career path whose foundation is basically an apprenticeship like the old days.

With all of this in mind perhaps you would like an idea of what one model looks like. If so, the next part is for you. If perusing the bones of an internship project makes you a bit queasy but also curious reach out to those with programs. And don’t worry about making any promises. Curiosity is good enough to start.

Malinda Muller is the current Director of Patron Services at LA Law Library where she has oversight of a staff of 17 exemplary professionals who provide public education and reference services to the public navigating the legal system. She also oversees LA Law Library’s law/library school internship program. Malinda is the current chair of GLL’s Membership and Mentoring Committee which offers the SIS’s peer to peer Mentorship Database Program, https://www.aallnet.org/gllsis/resources-publications/mentorship-program/, and the annual Newer Law Librarians’ Gathering (coming this December.). She is a member of her local AALL chapter, Southern California Association of Law Libraries, and serves on its Library School Liaison committee; she has presented at AALL annual conferences; and is a member of the advisory board for Pasadena Community College's Library Tech certification program. She joined LA Law Library in 2010 following 25+ years as a law firm librarian. In December, 2023, Malinda is planning to retire. After January 1, 2024, please contact Malinda at malindasmuller@yahoo.com.
ENCOURAGING THE PATHWAY, CONT.

LA Law Library – Internship Program for Law and Library School Students
Summary / Overview

Theme: We are, at this juncture, likely still the best recruiters for our profession, however, if we can’t connect with everyone we meet who looks to be career hunting, internship partnerships with library schools come a close second to facilitating the invitation to explore law librarianship as a career path.

The LA Law Library program summary:

- Facilitators: One lead supervisor and one coordinator, someone on staff with an interest in the project
- Statistics: @ 45 library and law school participants to date.
- Hires: Three former interns have joined the library team. Other graduates return as contract librarians.
- Partners: UCLA, University of Southern California, Southwestern Law School, Loyola Law School, Syracuse University, UNT (University of North Texas) University of Washington, San Jose State, Southern California Association of Law Libraries, East LA College’s Pathway to Law Program, Pasadena City College Library Technology Certificate Program, Miguel Contreras High School, Cesar E. Chavez Learning Academies, Los Angeles Public Library’s Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship (DAIA)

A few representative objectives for the program

- Have an impact on the pipeline to law librarianship
- Provide LA Law Library staff with interactive, leadership and outreach opportunities (and patron interaction balance)
- Develop ambassadors for law librarianship
- Reinforce long standing relationships with local library schools and potentially have a future impact on curriculum
- Compliment a student’s Capstone and e-Portfolio requirements
- Expose law school students to alternative careers
ENCOURAGING THE PATHWAY, CONT.

LA Law Library – Internship Program for Law and Library School Students
Summary / Overview

Program structure

- Entire program’s daily schedule is planned and compiled for the entire
  session, confirmed with participating staff, and distributed at the start of
  the internship
  - The idea is to streamline as much as possible and replicate from one
    semester/quarter to the next
- As new ideas materialize, small tweaks and adjustments are made.
  - Example: see https://lawlibrarianship.pressbooks.com/
  - Selected chapters have been added to the required readings list

Support for the program

1. Leadership: (executive team and board of trustees) – Selected talking
   points:
   - Proven ability to develop a contract pool
   - Scale up staff efficiency regarding on-boarding new hires who are former
     interns
   - Staff retention by providing a ‘try on’ opportunity
   - Developing ambassadors – former interns make referrals to LA Law
     Library from their positions at community libraries

2. Staff

- Provide leadership opportunities for staff assisting in administration of the
  program
- Provide opportunities for library staff to mentor emerging professionals
- Provide a positive break from daily (and sometimes challenging) patron
  interactions
ENCOURAGING THE PATHWAY, CONT.

LA Law Library – Internship Program for Law and Library School Students
Summary / Overview

Recruiting:

- Application completion and interviews conducted
- Credit vs no credit. Our findings:
  - Course credit costs the student money – non-credit participants have been equally accountable to fulfilling the internship requirements.
  - Non-credit students eliminate time-keeping and other administrative duties required by the library schools
- LA Law Library Internships are available to students who have completed their 1st year of the MLIS graduate program
- Second year students tend to be more intentional about exploring special librarianship
- Connect with MLIS Universities: https://www.ala.org/CFApps/lisdir/index.cfm
- Connect with community colleges that offer library tech programs & high school pathways to college programs to introduce the career path, local AALL chapter library school outreach committee.

The Schedule

- Create a schedule that covers the entire internship (see components following). Distribute day 1 to the intern. The student is thus accountable. Replicate the schedule, for the most part, internship to internship.

5 recurring program components or parts

1. Introduce law librarianship & the elements of legal research.
   - Required readings about the profession and chapters in legal research texts. All material is available virtually
   - Participate in staff led instructional programs and On Demand classes available on LA Law Library’s 24/7
   - Exposure to Lexis and Westlaw
   - Libchat – statewide virtual reference chat service. Allows for staff review before hitting the send button
LA Law Library – Internship Program for Law and Library School Students

Summary / Overview

2. Introduce the elements of legal reference
   - Shadowing a reference librarian at the reference desk
3. Career talks. Provide insight on law librarianship with staff librarians who are at various stages of their career paths. (The declared favorite of the internship program)
4. Integrate the field experience and the MLIS capstone / eportfolio requirements by completing an individual project. Examples:
   - Opportunity to publish an article in an association newsletter
   - Developing and publishing social media posts for the library
   - Conducting Informational interviews with staff
5. Maintaining a record of the intern / field experience
   - Daily log – The internship experience in diary form
   - Mid and end of session Guided Reflections – Subjective responses to prompts around quality, value, relevance to the graduate school program

Assessment – Measuring Success Indicators – Accountability

- Return as contract staff / volunteers for clinics
- Return as job applicants
- University program awareness & relationship

Recommendations for anyone interested in starting a program:

- Main program staff: An administrator for oversight / advocacy and a day to day coordinator
- Include library staff in the program: coaches at the reference desk, class instructors; career chat providers, etc.
- Avoid micro managing the ‘for credit’ internship’s hours if offered
- Consider both law school and library school candidates in the program
- Start small, stay small. Recommended: 1-2 interns per session
- Trust your impact on building careers and the pathway to special librarianship
WELCOME TO THE GLL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM!
THE GLL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FACILITATES DIRECT, PEER TO PEER ASSISTANCE AND INPUT ON MORE THAN 75 DIVERSE AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE INCLUDING:

- Change Management
- Handling Press / Journalist Inquiries
- Library Space Planning
- Strategic Plans
- Adjunct Teaching & Instruction
- Social Media
- Publishing, authorship
- Summer Associate Programs
- Curriculum Design
- One Person Libraries
- Community Partnerships
- Inter Library Loan
- Library Systems Administration
- Emerging Technologies
- Collecting & Reporting Statistics
- Law Library Policies
- Project Management
- Vendor Relationships
- Internship Programs
- Job Searches, Interviewing, Resumes
- Serving as a Reference
- Collection Downsizing
- Legal Information Literacy
- Circulation Management
- Digital Reference Services
- Website Design and Development
- Digitization, Digital Repositories
- Bibliographic Management Software

GLL IS ONBOARD WITH SUPPORT! VISIT THE GLL MENTORSHIP PROGRAM, IDENTIFY A TOPIC AND REACH OUT TO A PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEER HERE:

WWW.AALLNET.ORG/GLLSIS/RESOURCES-PUBLICATIONS/MENTORSHIP-PROGRAM/

A COLLEAGUE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU!
One of the highlights of my conference experience was the GLL Business Meeting. The keynote address by David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library, emphasized the shared values of public libraries and government law libraries — namely, the right to read and the right to information. It was an inspiring start to the Annual Meeting, and caused me to reflect on the service-oriented mindset that led me to choose GLL as my first SIS. The Business Meeting allowed me to connect with longterm mentors and colleagues, as well as to forge new connections. In particular, I was delighted to finally meet my AALL Mentor, David Whelan of the San Diego Law Library, in person. I was also fortunate to have Larry Meyer of the Law Library for San Bernardino County as my conference Host.

Since I am only halfway through my library science degree, my main goal for the conference was to absorb as much information as possible in order to ascertain which types of government law librarianship are of interest to me. Four sessions in particular stood out in that they gave me immediately actionable information, as well as inspiration for my future career. The sessions were as follows:

“The Crossroads of Licensing and Copyright” was a fascinating session that remained optimistic while still being realistic about the sometimes fraught relationship between libraries and vendors. Anna Lawless-Collins of Boston University noted some major issues with digital resources, as libraries can accidentally negotiate away their rights, including rights related to interlibrary loans. I was particularly inspired by Harvard’s Kyle Courtney’s suggestion that librarians weaponize contract and licensing law in our favor by fighting for state laws that require licenses to be fair and equitable. After traveling home to Tucson, I used the resources from this presentation to research Library Futures and the eBook Study Group and to register for Copyright First Responders Training.

I also sat in on “Researching South African Government and Legal Information.” While working as a Law Library Fellow, I have only learned about Foreign, Comparative, and International (FCIL) legal research generally. Therefore, it was fascinating to see how a researcher would navigate the specific challenges of the plural, hybrid South African system, which has common, civil, customary, and religious law, and is a mix between the Romano-Dutch and British legal traditions. Sindiso MnisiWeeks of University of Massachusetts Amherst and University of Cape Town expertly described how to use free resources and online news for South African legal research. She also outlined the shortcomings of some commercial
products; it is not always apparent when a resource is incomplete, making it difficult to determine if something is missing from one’s research. I left the presentation with a deep appreciation for the specialized knowledge of my FCIL colleagues.

The other two most memorable sessions centered on issues of access to justice. My main takeaway was that new technologies and old alliances must combine for this field to flourish. At first, I was wary that “The Impact of Generative AI for Access to Justice” would overstate the ability of AI tools to resolve deeply embedded problems of injustice. However, Michael Semanchik of the California Innocence Project (CIP) and Pablo Arredondo of Casetext showed many reasonable and feasible applications of an AI legal assistant that would result in more time and capacity for attorneys, especially for a small team like CIP. AI is neither a panacea nor the downfall of the legal profession, but rather a useful tool when engaged with thoughtfully.

The “Incarcerated People Are Patrons Too! Improving Legal Information Services for Incarcerated People” presentation discussed some of the most dire access to justice challenges in our country’s entire legal system. Librarians trying to empower incarcerated persons face barriers including: a lack of internet service, inconsistent or nonexistent legislation, expensive printing charges, impeded physical access, uncooperative prison staff, high rates of staff turnover, a lack of basic literacy, and so on. As heart wrenching as much of this session was, I walked away inspired by the work of librarians like Dr. Jeanie Austin, the Jail and Reentry Services Librarian for San Francisco Public Library. Although the focus was on providing access to legal information, Dr. Austin reminded the audience of the importance of services as simple as visiting book carts with non-legal materials. I intend to reach out to my local public librarians to find out more about how public libraries and law libraries can put our shared values into action with regard to the right to information within jails and prisons.

Overall, Boston 2023 was a fabulous introduction to the law librarianship community in general and the GLL-SIS in particular. I am sincerely grateful for the opportunity to attend and look forward to maintaining the connections I established.

MAP OUR FUTURE

Gail Mathapo, she/her/hers, Homer M. Stark Law Library

In July, I attended my first in person conference since July 2019 – the 2023 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. Due to the pandemic, changing jobs and relocating, it has taken awhile to get back on track with my professional development. The “Map Our Future” theme of the conference parallels my own journey. Last year, I made a shift in my law librarian career from the academic sector to the government sector. I found three programs that especially aligned with my current duties and responsibilities as a county law librarian.
The first program was “The Law Library as Virtual Hearing Hub”. The panel speakers – both county and court librarians talked about their facilitation of services that enabled self-represented litigants (SRLs) to attend virtual hearings during the pandemic – when most courthouses were not open to the public or had limited occupancy. They guided and educated both judges and SRLs on using Zoom and created guides for using smartphone connectivity to the hearings. Library space (in some cases – a much needed safe space) was provided for set up and attending the hearings.

One of the speakers mentioned that judges understood and emphasized with SRLs as they encountered challenges with technologies or scheduling. It’s encouraging to hear about support by the courts for SRLs through unprecedented circumstances. Given that I am a newbie to government librarianship, I am interested in learning all I can about library services rendered to court patrons during the pandemic.

The second program was sponsored by GLL-SIS and titled “Expanding Access to Justice by LEPs and Bounds: Resources for Limited English Speakers”. The speakers shared their experiences with bridging the gap in legal information and resources by undertaking the project of translating legal forms for members of their communities with limited English proficiency.

The speakers described the planning required which included identifying the forms to be translated (i.e. - those that did not require an attorney), finding collaborators (i.e. - a local Legal Aid office) and applying for grants to fund the projects. In fact, one of the speakers graciously shared their successful grant application with the attendees. Several helpful tips were provided such as selecting a project manager and ensuring adequate funding for updating the forms. As a librarian who works in one of the most diverse counties in the U.S., I am intrigued by their success and hope that our library can find partners in the future to work on our own translation project of legal information. Similarly to the previous program, this is a great example of librarian-led collaborations that help transform our communities!

The third program was a LISP-SIS/GLL-SIS/SR-SIS Roundtable – “Law Libraries as Brave Spaces: Building Equity and Inclusion”. The room was filled with librarians from various sectors. The discussion leader, Tanya Thomas posed the question “How do you define a safe space?” Most of the responses stemmed from the perspective of a patron by referring to images found on the library walls, the ability of individuals to feel welcomed and comfortable to be themselves.

As the conversation progressed, the focus pivoted to librarians creating safe spaces through their own actions. The practice of "trauma-informed librarianship" was brought up, along with recommendations from participants for articles and videos about interacting with patrons. There was also a moment for self-reflection when the attendees were asked to look inward and describe how they self-identify and believe others would identify them. This roundtable was engaging and enlightened me about my critical role as both a librarian and a public servant.
Many thanks to the GLL-SIS Grants committee for the Annual Meeting grant! I enjoyed each program I attended – including "The Niagara Movement: How Far Have We Come with Voting Rights" and "Moving Beyond Print". I am grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with my colleagues and "meet" government librarian colleagues with whom I have communicated virtually. I also enjoyed the Bloomberg Law reception at the historic Boston Public Library and of course – the West party! I highly recommend that our colleagues who couldn’t make it to Boston tune into the audio recordings made available by AALL.

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING IN 10 YEARS!

Geri Cepeda, Guam Law Library

My first-ever AALL Annual Meeting was in Boston in 2012, so it was fitting that I returned to Boston this summer for my first in-person AALL meeting in nearly 10 years. At my first AALL meeting, I’d been at the Guam Law Library for only 10 months and recognized maybe two people I’d met CONELL. This year’s AALL meeting couldn’t have been more different! I’m sure that “2012 Me” never would have guessed how comfortable I would become in the brave new world of law librarianship. I had friends that I’d made from my participation on the GLL-SIS Nominations Committee, the George A. Strait Committee, and in the WestPac Chapter.

I recognized and caught up with other GLL-SIS members from Zoom meetings initiated by our GLL-SIS “Above and Beyond” Awardee Caroline Nevin from the BC Courthouse Libraries. I was able to attend the State Law Librarians Roundtable breakfast, and give a last hug to Gail Warren, who received the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award this year. These personal interactions are my #1 reason for attending AALL annual meetings.

My other #1 reason for attending AALL annual meetings (did you know I’m bad at math?) is the educational component. This year’s programming was chock full of content; my main complaint is that I couldn’t attend all the sessions!

I started with the preconference workshop, “Setting Up for Success: Designing Reference Training and On-Boarding for New Staff,” with GLL-SIS members Amy Small (Texas State Law Library), Catherine McGuire and Jessica Mundy (Thurgood Marshall State Law Library), and Rachel Weiss of Nixon Peabody LLP. This hands-on session gave a practical approach to training new reference staff, from planning to evaluation. I learned a lot about establishing a training approach and walked away with a rough outline that I could implement upon returning home. I loved the concept of “reverse shadowing” where the new employee would take the lead and a veteran employee would observe and step in when needed.
Day 1 of the AALL Annual meeting kicked off with the GLL-SIS Awards and Recognition Ceremony, and the swearing-in of our new board members. At the opening general session, we heard from keynote speaker Charles Vogl, who spoke about the role of the invitation and the creation of community. His presentation really resonated with me, as I could easily recall being the newbie in the room at my first annual meeting. The power of an invitation is something that is greatly underestimated.

My next session was “The Crossroads of Licensing and Copyright” with Kyle K. Courtney, Alan S. Inouye, Anna Lawless-Collins, and Christine Anne George. I learned about the history of copyright from Kyle and the importance of a licensing checklist from Anna. I pondered the idea of digital first sale rights, and ownership of digital content. At the GLL/LISP/SR-SIS Roundtable, “Brave Space or Safe Space,” I learned about Ryan Dowd’s book, The Librarian’s Guide to Homelessness and the six principles of a trauma-informed practice. People may be surprised to discover that Guam also struggles with homelessness.

I made a difficult decision to attend “Short-Form Teaching: Best Practices for Developing and Delivering Single Session Trainings, CLEs, and Instructional Programs,” a deep-dive session. Although I regretfully sacrificed hearing from GLL-SIS members Sue Ludington, Ann Walsh Long, and Brittany Young in “Expanding Access to Justice by LEPs and Bounds: Resources for Limited English Speakers,” I did gain good information to help me create CLE sessions for my library. Although I missed the Diversity and Inclusion Symposium, I caught up with friends at the reception, before Jenny Silberger and I made our way to Rochambeau for the Pacific Chapters joint reception, and the Boston Public Library for the Bloomberg Law event.

Day 2 of the AALL Annual Meeting had me in another training-focused session, “Developing an Online Legal Research Course for Non-JDs,” which I knew would be especially helpful for me. The Guam Law Library is the only publicly accessible library on island, and we have our share of pro se litigants, as well as staff from the legislature and government offices who use our services. I also attended “Where Do We Draw the Line in Making “Highly Sensitive” Information Available or Not?,” which featured a panel with our own Larry Meyer from the San Bernardino County Law Library. True to its name, I did learn about new websites and apps at the Cool Tools Cafe.
My final session of the day was also my most stressful for me as the Chair of the George Strait Scholarship and Fellowship Committee. I served as the program coordinator for “The ‘Strait’ Road to a Diverse Profession: Creating and Supporting a Successful Fellowship Program,” which was a collaboration with the Strait Committee and the ALL-SIS Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee. I was gratified by the positive response, and so happy to see GLL-SIS members in the audience.

Day 3 of the AALL Annual meeting included “The Impact of Generative AI for Access to Justice” where I learned about the use of large language models and tools such as CoCounsel to assist in litigation. I am first to admit that I know very little about generative AI and ChatGPT, so this session was especially educational. The session “Incarcerated People Are Patrons Too! Improving Legal Information Services for Incarcerated People” began with a short video from Darnell Epps, a former prisoner and current Yale Law School student, and learned firsthand about the real world effects of providing legal information for incarcerated people. The panel was comprised of Diane M. Rodriguez (San Francisco Law Library), Liz Reppe (Minnesota State Law Library), Kurtis Tanaka, Ph.D (Ithaka S+R), and Jeanie Austin, Ph.D. (San Francisco Public Library). This session gave me practical advice about how to improve access to information for this underserved and often, forgotten population.

I am so thankful to the GLL-SIS Grants Committee for the travel grant. I was able to reconnect with friends, both give and get hugs in person, and learn so much from the educational programming. I hope to see everyone again in Chicago next year!
I would like to express my gratitude to the Government Law Libraries committee for extending the opportunity to attend this year’s AALL Conference in Boston. The conference was an incredible opportunity and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting fellow attendees and exploring new avenues of learning. My time at the conference has been both educational and exciting, deepening my appreciation for the law library profession.

Attending the AALL Annual Meeting in Boston marked my first time participating in a law librarian conference. This is my beginning year as law librarian at the San Diego Law library and I was excited to learn more about the profession and make new connections. It was a whirlwind of fantastic experiences, from my first-time attendance at CONELL, to engaging in insightful discussions during meet and greets, and even embarking on an enjoyable duck tour around the city. The law librarian profession shines brightly as it embodies a community of dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to secure valuable resources and funding, all while advocating for equal access to information.

This year’s conference theme, "Map Your Future," was eloquently defined by President Beth Adelman during the opening session. She emphasized the meaning as being a collective journey toward shaping the future of our libraries. Our position as librarians in the legal profession evolves faster and faster, but even more so because of the pandemic. This theme is meant to help us become more conscious of selecting what our next opportunities will be and how we address challenges presented before us. These decisions we choose allow us to deliberately engage in charting paths by evaluating our priorities either for our employers, profession, or supporting access to legal information.

The conference offered an array of captivating programs, including sessions on cutting-edge AI technology and initiatives focused on diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI). I was particularly intrigued by the sessions dedicated to AI technology, including ChatGPT, and the discussions surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion. The hot topics revolved around the role of AI in our profession’s future. Questions being raised about where AI is headed, its functionality, and its potential applications in our daily work were at the forefront. It’s clear that librarians stand to benefit from embracing and adapting to new ways of working to navigate the evolving landscape of our profession.
There were many great sessions I attended that were incorporating a lot of the library profession in Academic, Private sectors, technical librarians, and Government library concerns. The session on the second day, “Pause and Effect? How Suspending DEI in the Public Sector May Impact Law Librarianship and the Legal Profession,” I found to be very thought-provoking.

The DEI session included North Carolina Central State, Boston University, and Florida International University. The panelists discussed the recent implementation of "pauses" on DEI policies in several state jurisdictions, primarily affecting government offices and college campuses. These pauses have raised concerns about their impact on efforts to diversify the legal profession and broaden access to law librarianship. This could impact and raise concern on these initiatives that may hinder making the legal profession and law schools more inclusive and accessible to historically marginalized groups.

I was also privileged to attend the conference with my friend and colleague from the San Diego Law library. To have a partner to share ideas with on the interesting topics and new networks, made the conference even more enjoyable. We were also able to travel around the beautiful city looking for the best places to eat and fun sites to see. Along the way, we made a new connection with a fellow government law librarian in Alabama. On our downtime excursions we were able to see the Boston Commons, Faneuil Hall, and explore the Freedom Trail.

As a first-time law librarian and conference attendee I would highly recommend going to the AALL Annual Meeting to get more connected. It is a great experience to create a new network of librarians that are in the same position as I am in. Fellow law librarians have experiences that can help you grow by sharing and communicating common issues and unique resolutions.

Overall, The AALL Annual Meeting in Boston has been a transformative experience for me, and I look forward to applying the knowledge and insights gained to shape my own professional journey. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, and I’m excited to see how we can collectively chart new paths within the legal information community.
As a new law librarian, I didn’t know what to expect at my first AALL conference. I’ve been to many conferences and had a general idea of what it would be like but still had some concerns about the overall atmosphere I would encounter. The learning curve has been steep for me coming from a public library and real-estate background. After my first few reference shifts, I quickly realized that I had a lot to learn to provide quality services to our patrons. As an active member of AALL following many of my esteemed colleagues on social media or through various blog posts or other writings from members, I knew that I would be in the company of some brilliant folks that are very good at what they do and wondered would I fit in. Let me go ahead and just get this out of the way, I don’t think I have EVER had more fun at a conference than at AALL! Let me also throw in a caveat (because as law librarians, we are great at documenting things and I don’t want that held against me), that I ALSO learned a lot.

My weekend began at the Host Program Kickoff on Saturday where I met my host, Nicholas Mignanelli. At the time, I didn’t realize it, but that program set the tone for the rest of the weekend. I had already met with Nicholas virtually and he had been incredibly gracious with his time talking about what I could expect and answering my questions in the weeks before the conference. That grace continued at the conference as he introduced me to many people and accompanied me to the opening reception. At the kickoff and for the entire conference, I could not have felt more welcomed and “in my element”.

The host program kickoff was fun and engaging and was immediately followed by the opening reception. Again, through Nicholas, I was introduced to many new colleagues and almost overwhelmed at how inviting everything was. Food, drinks, and conversation were flowing like the Danube. Although I am allergic to shellfish and could not partake, I must mention those cute little mini-lobster rolls. What a welcome!
The sessions I attended were equally engaging, informative and fun! The sessions began in earnest on Sunday after the opening general meeting. The first session I attended, Selector School: Teaching your Team How to Build a Collection of the Future, was a bit out of my wheelhouse, but I hoped to learn about what goes into selection of materials for law libraries. Again, my background is in public libraries, so I am constantly learning about our collection and how to choose the best resource when answering questions. While I cannot readily apply what I learned during that session, the presentation was informative, and I left with a better understanding of how law library collections are built. I also briefly attended the RIPS–SIS meet and greet before lunch then headed to Gold in Them Thar Hills: Docket Research and Litigation Analysis, which I found incredibly useful. I had no idea the amount of information that could be gleaned from docket analysis or the many ways that you can search or refine searches for dockets. I live for tips and tricks and this session did not fail.

My last session of the day was “A Rose by Any Other Name: Charting a New Path Toward Career Fulfillment,” which wasn’t exactly what I was expecting, but interesting nonetheless. Overall, it was a great first day of listening and learning. The day wasn’t over just yet, however. Bloomberg Law held its social, and despite the rain, it was a lovely event to cap off the day. Once again, food, drink and conversation were in abundant supply and I got to see a Minnesota colleague, Pauline Afuso, who I hadn’t seen in months. Another shout out to food and beverages (do you see a pattern here), the names for the cocktails were super cute! They were all nods to classic novels e.g., the Gin Eyre (Jane Eyre). Well done Bloomberg Law.

Monday was no less engaging and began with “‘Pause’ and Effect? How Suspending DEI in the Public Sector May Impact Law Librarianship and the Legal Profession.” I heard some great perspectives and came away with another way to think about DEI work and how it impacts my own work. Next on the agenda for the day was “The Niagara Movement: How Far
Have We Come with Voting Rights?” This session was presented by the BLL-SIS and was also of personal interest. The panel included the president of the Boston chapter of the NAACP, Tanisha Sullivan, Esq. and MassVote Executive Director Cheryl Crawford. What a powerful combination these two women made, and the topic was timely and relevant. This was another session that was not exactly applicable to my work but useful to my learning and growth in other ways. I was happy to attend the next session which was moderated by my current supervisor and GLL-SIS chair, Karen Westwood: “‘Min Quals’: What’s Really Needed in a New Law Library Hire?”

This session easily had the most engagement of any that I attended and was also the most personal as a new law library hire without the “traditional” qualifications. Conversation was lively and there were strong valid considerations presented from the panel and the audience. I expected nothing less from librarians, especially law librarians! I ended the day with The “Strait” Road to a Diverse Profession: Creating and Supporting a Successful Fellowship Program, another session that gave me different perspectives on the many paths one can take to become a law librarian.

Like the night before however, the day wasn’t over just yet. I had heard rumblings and rumors about the “Westlaw party” and I have to say, the party lived up to the hype. As we say in the Black community, the Westlaw party was OFF THE HOOK. I have never done the electric slide, cha-cha slide AND cupid shuffle at a professional conference but Thomson-Reuters seems to know how to throw a “Block party” as they called this year’s event. The DJ kept the floor packed with a great mix of music for all tastes. As with all the receptions, there was no shortage of food or drink. Thomson-Reuters even had photographers and live entertainment at the party. It was a great night and now I know that law librarians know how to party!
GLL PUBLICITY & PR AT AALL BOSTON

Tara Cunningham, she/her/hers, Law Library of Louisiana

The GLL Publicity and Public Relations committee had a great showing at AALL in Boston. Our CONELL table had a lot of visitors, and our display board in the exhibit hall was all but ransacked by the last day of the annual meeting.

GLL board member Brendan Starkey and I manned the GLL-SIS table at CONELL, and I think we were both delighted by the enthusiasm of the table visitors, as well as the popularity of our GLL-branded gavel pencil giveaways. Our local Boston chocolates were also a hit at the table, so much so, that I didn’t even get to try one!

The GLL-SIS display board in the exhibit hall featured a new fabric banner with our GLL logo (designed by AALL’s Chris Siwa); GLL-branded “Gen-X Tradeshow Kits,” which included Advil, bandaids and Tums (HA!); new GLL namebadge ribbons that read “❤️ of the justice system!,” “Court libraries are supreme!” and “Access to justice!”

I think the chocolates and the gavel pencils were also big enticements to the board, where we had info about the SRLN Survey, 2 GLL Resource Guides, the GLL Mentorship flyer, and the education flyer about GLL-related programs at the annual meeting.

AALL Headquarters shared with me that 10 new people have joined GLL since Boston. I’d like to think our committee’s promotional efforts played a role in attracting those new members!

Special thanks to GLL Pub & PR committee members Sue Ludington, Rebecca Sherman and Barbara Engstrom for their help with planning the publicity for the annual meeting.
GLL Awards Ceremony featured speaker David Leonard, the President of the Boston Public Library.

Swearing in of new GLL Officers & Board Members by Catherine Lehmann at the GLL Awards Ceremony. L to R: Cathy Lemann, Karen Westwood, Amy Small, Sara Pic, Patty Petrocione, Brendan Starkey, Holly Riccio.

GLL Chair Holly Riccio hands over the poi pounder to Chair-Elect Karen Westwood at GLL Awards Ceremony.

GLL-SIS VIP David Neumeyer, Executive Director of the Virginia Legal Aid Society.

“Diversity & Inclusion Symposium: Are We Neglecting Inclusion?” panel from L to R: Michael Muehe, Jenny Silbiger, Josh LaPorte (Moderator) & Nicole Dyszlewski.

Alaska-Hawaii-Guam representation in the exhibit hall from L to R: Danielle Devore (Alaska), Jenny Silbiger (Hawai‘i), Susan Falk (Alaska), Geri Cepeda (Guam), Ashley Evans (formerly Alaska, now Wash. & Lee U.).

“Expanding Access to Justice by LEP’s and Bounds” program panel from L to R: Sue Ludington, Ann Walsh Long and Brittany Young.

GLL Pau Hana/Happy Hour at the Boston Marriott Lobby Bar.
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### GLL COMMITTEES 2023-2024

**Advocacy**
- Chair - Anna Russell
- Board Liaison - Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong

**Education**
- Chair - Liz Reppe
- Board Liaison - Karen Westwood

**Nominations**
- Chair - Geraldine Cepeda
- Board Liaison - Brendan Starkey

**Technology**
- Chair - Jennifer Gonzalez
- Board Liaison - Amy Small

**Awards**
- Chair - Catherine McGuire
- Board Liaison - Sara Pic

**Grants**
- Chair - Christine Morton
- Board Liaison - Sara Pic

**Publicity & Public Relations**
- Chair - Sue Ludington
- Board Liaison - Karen Westwood

**Best A2J Practices**
- Chair - Joan Bellistri
- Board Liaison - Patty Petroccione

**Membership & Mentoring**
- Chair - Malinda Muller
- Board Liaison - Holly Riccio

**Standards**
- Chair - Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong
- Board Liaison - Holly Riccio

**Strategic Planning**
- Chair - TBD
- Board Liaison - Amy Small

**Bylaws**
- Chair - Leslie Greenwood
- Board Liaison - Brendan Starkey

**Newsletter**
- Chair - Tara Cunningham
- Board Liaison - Patty Petroccione

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 February 2, 2024. Please contact the Editor, Tara Cunningham, 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.