



GLL NEWS

A Newsletter of the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

[Karen Westwood](#), she/her/hers, Hennepin County Law Library



Greetings Fellow GLL-ers:

Today's "View From the Chair" features a creature from part of my cultural heritage. A *tomten* is a little house elf in Sweden. He's called a *nissen* in Denmark and Norway. The *tomten* is very small and quiet and is most often only seen by children and animals. A *tomten* loves to work and does so overnight and will not tolerate any interference. If you show indifference or treat your animals unfairly your *tomten* may be offended and will play pranks on you. In December each year you must also leave out a bowl of rice pudding with a generous chunk of butter for your *tomten* as thanks for protection throughout the year (or more pranks will ensue). In the old days in Sweden you could tell which farms did not have a *tomten* as they were not tidy and did not thrive.

What does this have to do with GLL? As I see messages from our various GLL committees regularly coming through "Our Communities" about grants, newsletter, nominations, awards and advocacy (and that's only in the past month!), I find myself marveling at how effective our committees are, how much of their work is done behind the scenes, and how important it is to recognize and respect their work. The whole SIS sparkles with the efforts of our folks, and as Chair, most of what I do is applaud them. GLL's house elves are really keeping our SIS tidy and thriving.

If you'd like to be a bit of a *tomten* this year for AALL yourself, you might consider being a mentor through AALL. I know we have expert mentors listed on our GLL website and they're super for helping with particular challenges and opportunities we face. But the AALL program is a more

Inside this issue:

[From the Editor's Desk](#) • P. 2

[Grants Committee Update](#) • P. 3

[GLL-SIS Executive Board Meeting Minutes](#) • P. 4

[AALL Announcements](#) • P. 9

[Member News](#) • P. 11

[GLL Election](#) • P. 13

[GLL Longevity Awards](#) • P. 23

[A Conversation with James Durham](#) • P. 24

[Board members and committees](#) • P. 29



A Swedish *tomten*

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR, CONT.

traditional assist to newer members who are looking to make connections and have a sounding board. I know so many of you who are mentors to many. Would you consider taking on one more? If so, please email Anna VanDeKerchove to express your interest.

We also have a motivated subgroup working in the background on the GLL Funding Task Force. We continue to explore how law libraries are funded in different states and are building on the work done by State Court County Law Libraries (the former name of GLL) a dozen years ago when they created a 50-state survey. We are updating that survey and reaching out to State Law Librarians (not all states have them), and will make further connections through that route. Stay tuned for both how you can help, and to see the results of our work.

It seems to me that we have *tomtar* at work all throughout our SIS. That's why anyone looking at how we run (tidy and thriving) will know there must be a *tomten* nearby. So consider this "View From the Chair" a metaphorical annual bowl of rice pudding with butter on top! It's my public declaration of respect to the many folks who make the SIS run and accomplish so many good things.

As always, please reach out to me with suggestions or ideas for our SIS.

Warmly,
Karen

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

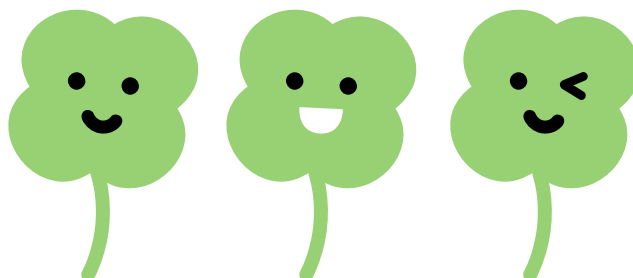
[Tara Cunningham](#), she/her, Law Library of Louisiana



Hello, GLL!

As this issue will attest, GLL has a lot going on this spring! See the next page for grant deadlines, and make sure to check out Member News, which features judges-- in a bookmobile-- on Maui! Don't miss James Durham's leadership Q&A later in the issue, and be sure to review candidate bios before voting in the upcoming GLL election. Happy spring and may you have the luck of the Irish!

Tara



GRANTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

[Christine E. Morton, she/her/hers, 2023-2024 GLL-SIS Grants Committee Chair](#)



The GLL Grants Committee is pleased to announce that Kristin Neri is the recipient of this year's \$1,500 grant to attend the 2024 AALL Leadership Academy in Chicago, IL, on April 9-10, 2024. Kristin is a law librarian for the Onondaga County Supreme Court Law Library in Syracuse, New York. We look forward to learning about Kristin's Leadership Academy experience in the Summer Edition of the GLL News!

There are still grants available for two upcoming conferences! The following grants are available for the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting:

- Four (4) grants in the amount of \$1,500 each for the AALL Annual Meeting, July 20-23, 2024, in Chicago, Illinois. Two grants are designated for librarians with less than five years of experience, and two grants are designated for librarians with more than five years of experience. The grant application deadline is Friday, March 22, 2024, 5 pm Eastern Standard Time.
- Two (2) Annual Meeting registration fee OR Annual Meeting pre-conference workshop/CONNELL grants. One grant is for GLL members with less than five years of library experience. One grant is for GLL members with more than five years of library experience. Each grant will have a maximum value of \$895. This application deadline is also Friday, March 22, 2024, 5 pm Eastern Standard Time.

The Grants Committee is excited to share that we recently received approval to offer one (1) \$1500 grant for the Self-Represented Litigation Network Conference to be held September 18-20, 2024, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The grant application deadline is Friday, June 28, 2024, 5 pm Eastern Standard Time.

*The availability of any and all grants are subject to change. Any changes in award amounts will be reported in the GLL-SIS News, website, and listserv. *

Please see the [Scholarship and Grants](#) webpage for the grant rules and the grant application.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section Executive Board – Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 @ 12:00 Noon PT / 2:00 pm CT / 3:00 pm ET

Attended: K. Westwood, H. Riccio, B. Starkey, P. Petroccione, J. Stilwell-Tong, S. Pic, T. Cunningham

Absent: A. Small

Meeting Leader: K. Westwood

Scribe: S. Pic

Date of Next Meeting: Dec. 20, 2023 @ 12:00 Noon PT/2:00 pm CT/3:00 pm ET

Agenda

Preliminary Items / Previous Meeting Action Items:

- Call to Order: Karen called to order at 2:04 pm Central.
- Approve Agenda: Approved by acclamation.
- Approve Minutes from 8/16/23: Jocelyn moved to approve minutes. Brendan seconded. No comments or corrections. All in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Treasurer Remarks/Report: We are still working to process the payment to SRLN. Fundraiser completed with all donations resubmitted.
- Action Items Status (see August Meeting Minutes): Sara reported all old issues of newsletter are on Hein; AALL thinks the complete collection has also been sent to be digitized. Sara also forwarded the long and short forms of the oath via email.

Other Business:

- Committee Chair Status – Karen has found chairs for all committees now.
- Committee updates – P&PR had some questions about budget, Sara will respond. Education got no proposals for the AALL annual meeting – so there will be no GLL program; Sara suggested a possible roundtable, Jocelyn suggested a topic on government funding. Advocacy is concerned about the lack of the AALL Government Relations Director, Jocelyn seconded this concern and thinks the position needs to be urgently prioritized; Holly may be able to forward this concern to the AALL EB as part of the SIS Council. Jocelyn moved to share Anna’s comment and the GLL EB’s concerns with the SIS Council to potentially move this onto the agenda for the next AALL EB meeting, Holly seconded. All in favor, no oppose or abstain. Sara relayed that she offered to help Catherine with Awards find a speaker if needed. Grants will be putting together a budget request once they know more about conferences. All other committees are moving along.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

- Annual Meeting Preparation Begins – Lexis has indicated that they were very happy to have sponsored the morning event in Boston and were impressed with the quality of the speakers and enthusiasm of the attendees. Karen did some math and thinks \$3500 could include a muffin or yogurt or oatmeal for the meeting in 2024 (this is higher than the \$2000 ask for 2023). The risk is that if we ask for that, and a vendor doesn't pick it up, we can't change to ticketed – but the SIS could cover that amount if that were to happen. After discussion, Karen moved to request a \$3500 sponsorship, Patty seconded. All in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- GLL Law Library Funding Task Force – 6 people responded to Karen's request. Heavy in Midwest, but one person from CA and one from Canada, as well.
- New business – no new business.
- Adjournment – Adjourned at 2:46 by acclamation.

Current Meeting Action Items:	Assigned to:	Date Due:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post Advocacy's concern about the Government Relations Director to SIS Council• Request \$3500 sponsorship for GLL awards reception at annual meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karen • Karen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ASAP • By sponsorship deadline

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section Executive Board – Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 @ 12:00 Noon PT / 2:00 pm CT / 3:00 pm ET

Attended: K. Westwood, A. Small, B. Starkey, J. Stilwell-Tong, S. Pic, T. Cunningham

Absent: H. Riccio, P. Petroccione

Meeting Leader: K. Westwood

Scribe: S. Pic

Date of Next Meeting: Feb. 21, 2024 @ 12:00 Noon PT/2:00 pm CT/3:00 pm ET

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Agenda

Preliminary Items / Previous Meeting Action Items:

- Call to Order: Karen called meeting to order at 2:05 pm (Central).
- Approve Agenda: Jocelyn moved to approve, Brendan seconded. All in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Approve Minutes from 10/18/23: Karen moved to approve the minutes, Brendan seconded. No discussion, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Treasurer Remarks/Report: Sara updated everyone on our budget. She noticed that the amount we paid for the annual meeting costs was not what we were quoted but in the end, turned out to just be service fees. Noted for future conference planning. We are spending down into our balance a bit but that's not necessarily a problem since we are still in a healthy position. Karen noted that we are a non-profit so not about acquiring wealth and it's ok to spend our money down a bit.
- Action Items Status (see October Meeting Minutes): Karen requested \$3500 sponsorship, waiting to see. Karen also noted that LIT-SIS has requested co-sponsorship with GLL as well (see Interim Board Actions). Karen raised the issue of the lack of a lobbyist with the AALL EB during a virtual meeting. The response is they plan to fill it -- there were several positions open at AALL and hadn't gotten to the lobbyist position yet. Vani used to be a lobbyist herself so she has been keeping an eye on legislation -- Karen notes that is good to know but is still not her job, so we really do need a lobbyist, especially one based in DC.

Other Business:

- Committee updates:
 - Technology - Amy reports they have done a full website review and have suggestions they will be bringing to the Board.
 - Awards - Sara relayed that Catherine is working to get bio info on the award names - the Board would like to review that before it is posted.
 - Grants - Sara reported they are working to get grant info updated and out to the membership.
 - Nominations - Brendan said that the call has gone out and they are looking for candidates.
 - Bylaws - There are multiple updates the committee is proposing, with Brendan's assistance. The Board had some suggestions related to "voice vote" that Brendan will investigate and forward some possible changes. Other updates were proposed to clarify some outdated language.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

- Committee updates, cont.:
 - P&PR – Karen reported that they are working in new Marketing Mavens and annual meeting updates.
 - Education – Karen reported that they are working on the annual meeting roundtables.
 - ATJ – Karen provided an update on the StoryMap funding. Series of miscommunications about the documentation needs with SRLN. We are waiting on SRLN’s fiscal sponsor to approve so we can send along to AALL HQ.
- Annual Meeting Preparation Begins – Sponsorship Requests: See Previous Meeting Action Items.
- GLL Law Library Funding Task Force – Status Update: Karen reported there are a few projects they are working on such as a 50 state legislative survey chart update. Considering applying for a Lexis research grant in the future, such as for a poster at the annual meeting.
- New business – No new business.
- Adjournment – Karen moved to adjourn, Jocelyn seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain. Adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Interim Board Actions via Email:

- Sara moved on behalf of the Grants Committee on 11/21/23 to approve the proposed GLL grants ([motion attached](#)). Karen seconded. Discussion ensued related to the amount –there was agreement that it was appropriate to spend down some of our balance in favor of helping more members attend the annual meeting, considering that our funds are in a healthy place. All in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Karen moved to co-sponsor a social event with LIT-SIS at the AALL 2024 annual meeting on 12/5/23. Sara seconded. No money was asked of us for this joint event. All in favor, no oppose or abstain.



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

Grants Committee Budget Motion

GLL-SIS
GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



MEMO

DATE: November 21, 2023

TO: GLL-SIS Executive Board

FROM: Christine Morton, Grants Committee Chair

RE: Grants Committee Budget Motion

Motion for the Adoption of the 2023-2024 GLL Grants Committee Grant Budget

I, Christine Morton, as Chair of the Grants Committee, hereby move for the adoption of the following GLL Grants Committee grant budget for 2023-2024:

- One (1) \$1,500 grant for the AALL Leadership Academy, April 9-10, 2024, Chicago, IL. The GLL grant award is contingent upon an applicant's acceptance into the Leadership Academy.
- One (1) \$1,500 grant for the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference, May 9-11, 2024, Detroit, Michigan.
- Four (4) grants \$1500 grants for the Annual Meeting, July 20-23, Chicago, IL. 2 grants for GLL members with less than five years of library experience, and 2 grants for GLL members with more than five years of library experience.
- Two (2) Annual Meeting registration fee OR Annual Meeting pre-conference workshop/CONNELL grants. 1 grant is for GLL members with less than five years of library experience. One grant is for GLL members with more than five years of library experience. Each grant will have a maximum value of \$895.

- TOTAL GRANT Budget: \$10,790

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Morton
Grants Committee Chair, 2023-2024



2024 ANNUAL MEETING

We are thrilled to announce [registration](#) for the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference—Lead.Innovate.Transform—in Chicago is now open. Register by May 3rd to take advantage of early bird pricing. AALL 2024 has an exciting lineup of [over 65 education programs](#), invaluable networking opportunities with peers and industry experts, and a [dynamic exhibit hall](#) featuring cutting-edge research tools and innovations from leading companies in the legal industry. This year's keynote speaker, [Cory Doctorow](#), will share his perspectives on leveraging technology to not only enhance efficiency but also to uphold the core values and ethics of our profession.



LEAD · INNOVATE · TRANSFORM

AALL 2024

July 20-23 / Chicago, IL

APPLY FOR AN ANNUAL MEETING GRANT BY APRIL 1

The [2024 Annual Meeting & Conference](#), taking place July 20-23 in Chicago, is the only event of its kind that is specifically designed for law librarians and legal information professionals. To help get you there, AALL provides resources such as the [Annual Meeting Grant](#), which funds your registration for the Annual Meeting. Additionally, special interest sections and some chapters [provide grant opportunities](#) for their members. With Annual Meeting registration opening soon, now is the time to apply and secure your funding.

SHARE YOUR INSIGHTS ON GENERATIVE AI / DUE MARCH 27

[AALL's AI and Legal Information Special Committee](#) is charged with identifying ways to educate members about AI at all levels of expertise and investigating ways to integrate AI education into AALL's professional development goals. This [short, four-question survey](#) is designed to gauge your knowledge and experience with [Generative AI \(GenAI\)](#). Your candid responses will offer the special committee valuable insights for identifying and integrating AI-related educational opportunities into AALL's professional development initiatives.

Please [complete the survey](#) by March 27 before 11:59 p.m. (CDT). If you have any questions, please contact [Chris Siwa](#), AALL director of information technology. Thank you for your participation!

AALL ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE AALL SPECTRUM & LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARDS

Ensure your peers receive the perspective and insights necessary for ongoing career growth. AALL is seeking volunteers to serve on the [AALL Spectrum Editorial Board](#) and the [Law Library Journal Editorial Board](#) for 2024-2026. Please read through the [AALL Spectrum Editorial Board Member position responsibilities](#) and the [Law Library Journal Editorial Board Member position responsibilities](#) before applying. For more information, visit the [AALL Spectrum](#) and [Law Library Journal Editorial Board](#) charges on AALLNET. Please consider lending your time and expertise to AALL—[applications are due](#) by Friday, March 29, 2024.

ELEVATE YOUR AALL MEMBERSHIP/BECOME A CHAMPION MEMBER

The [AALL Champion Upgrade](#) demonstrates your commitment to the legal information profession and the Association. As you look to [renew your 2024-2025 AALL membership](#), consider adding the \$75 Champion Upgrade.

- As a Champion member, you receive:
- Your name listed on the [AALL website](#) and in [AALL Spectrum](#) once a year
- A [My Communities](#) badge
- [AALL Annual Meeting](#) recognition: Listed in the Awards Brochure, recognized on signage and a slide during the Association Luncheon, a badge ribbon, and a complimentary ticket to the Association Luncheon (a \$75 value)

Learn more about the [Champion Upgrade](#) and consider adding it to your renewal. If you have any questions about your membership renewal, please contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312.939.4764.

APPLY FOR AN AALL SCHOLARSHIP OR SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

AALL is committed to providing opportunities for your professional growth. Each year, the Association awards thousands of dollars in [scholarships](#) to law school and library school students as well as to AALL members. The following scholarships are now open for applications:

- AALL Scholarships
- LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- George A. Strait Minority Scholarship & Fellowship
- Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2024. For additional questions, please contact AALL at membership@aall.org.

MEMBER NEWS

In 2023 **Laura Moorer** received two court employee awards. Laura was the recipient of the DC Courts Technical Specialist Award for her work with the Superior Court library to help launch the DC Legislative Histories online portal so that any member of the public could search the titles the courts possess and email the Ask a Librarian program to request the file. Laura routinely shares research guides and quick tips to make sure we are doing our part in promoting just and fair outcomes.

In addition, she was part of the Library Modernization Project Team, who won a Public Service Group Award. This award was for the team's work in transforming the Superior Court Library into a rich research location for internal and external patrons. - *D.C. Courts*



Laura Moorer



**TECHNICAL SPECIALIST
AWARD**

Laura Moorer is the D.C. Court of Appeals law librarian, and one of this year's Technical Specialist Award winners.

This year, Laura partnered with the Superior Court librarian to launch the online DC Legislative Histories so that any member of the public could search the titles the Courts possess and email the Ask a Librarian program to request the file. This is just one example of how she goes above and beyond what is asked of her to improve access to the Courts and the community we serve.

In addition, Laura often reads every decision that comes from the Court of Appeals with an enormous amount of attention to detail, ensuring that the parties' names are written correctly, and arguments are correctly characterized.

Laura truly believes in getting the law right and inspires those around her to do the same. It is common for Laura to share helpful research guides and quick tips with court staff. She ensures we are all doing our part in promoting just and fair outcomes.

MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

Hawaii State Law Librarian **Jenny Silbiger** is celebrating a partnership between the Hawai'i State Public Library (HSPLS) and Lahaina District Court (LDC). The Lahaina Public Library branch did not survive the August 2023 Maui wildfires, so the HSPLS began delivering services to three area locations with their West Maui Bookmobile last September. In a sudden turn of events, they lost access to one of their spots, so the bookmobile librarian and **Jenny Silbiger** put their heads together and were able to work out an invitation to park at the Lahaina District Court every Tuesday moving forward. Along with public library resources, the bookmobile provides free wi-fi, and the preschool storytime will resume on March 19th in the LDC multi-purpose room, which will give more space to the kids and their families. Hurray!

On Tuesday, March 5th, two Lahaina District Court judges boarded the bookmobile to speak to the public about the judiciary in a combined event to welcome the West Maui Bookmobile, while providing judicial access to the public in conjunction with National Judicial Outreach Week.



L to R: Jenny Silbiger, Chief Judge Cahill, Lahaina Public Library Branch Manager Chadde Holbron, West Maui Bookmobile librarian Jessica Gleason, bookmobile driver Michael Tinker, Lahaina District Court Supervisor Grace Ganio-Marzan, Chief Judge Cahill's law clerk Ionatana Tua, Judge Christopher Dunn.



L to R: Chief Judge Cahill's law clerk Ionatana Tua, Chief Judge Peter Cahill, West Maui Bookmobile librarian Jessica Gleason, Jenny Silbiger, Lahaina Public Library Tech Peggy Taves, Lahaina Public Library Branch Manager Chadde Holbron, bookmobile driver Michael Tinker, Chief Judge Joe Cardoza (ret).



GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES

Our annual GLL-SIS online election will begin on March 18, 2024, and will end on April 12, 2024. If you have any questions about nominations or the online election process, please contact Sara Pixon, GLL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer, at spixon@lasc.org. Thank you for participating by casting your ballot during the election!

[Tracy McLean, she/her - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect](#)

Bio

Tracy McLean is the Manager of Information Services at Courthouse Libraries BC (located in British Columbia, Canada). She is responsible for managing the space, staff and library services in 3 full time locations - Vancouver, New Westminster and Abbotsford - that help lawyers and the public find and use legal information. Tracy also develops training and outreach activities for frontline service staff across the province. In addition to this, Tracy has over 17 years of experience in legal research and creating online content. Prior to joining Courthouse Libraries BC, she worked as a librarian at Vancouver Public Library. Tracy served two years as the membership secretary for the Vancouver Association of Law Libraries, was on the planning committee for the Canadian Association of Law Libraries Annual Conference, and served on the AALL Excellence in Community Engagement Jury from 2021-2022.



Personal Statement:

I'm excited to be running for the role of Vice Chair for the GLL-SIS. This group's monthly check-ins have served as an incredible opportunity to connect with librarians across North America who are uniquely positioned to understand the work that I am doing, but whom I otherwise never would have met. This group is a safe place to share achievements, discoveries and the challenges that we face, while supporting each other. I intend to continue encouraging others to attend our meetings and contribute to the GLL-SIS, growing our collection of voices and experiences. Access to Justice is the cornerstone of the work that we all do and the services that we provide allows us to build toward the equitable and equal legal system that we know is possible. I look forward to seeing everyone face to face in Chicago!

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Library Experience:

Manager, Information Services

Nov 2014 – Present

I am responsible for managing the services that CLBC offers out of Vancouver, New Westminster and Abbotsford that support individual client requests – via phone, email, document delivery service, and in person services – including coordinating the Information Services team, evaluating the services we provide, managing our physical space, and participating in strategy and policy decisions at the management level.

I also provide legal research assistance by responding to legal information questions from the legal community and general public in person, via phone, fax, and e-mail in a timely and accurate manner; helping clients find and use legal information using both print and electronic resources.

I develop and manage the physical collection in Vancouver, and am a member of the CLBC Collection Development Team.

In 2014, I started managing the Vancouver location. In 2018, I took on the responsibility of managing our New Westminster location, as well as developing training and outreach activities for our frontline service staff across the province, and actually training staff outside of Vancouver. In 2021, I took on the responsibility of managing our Abbotsford location – a new library in a new courthouse.

Coordinator, Information Services

Nov 2012 – Nov 2014

I coordinated the one-to-one information services in Vancouver, provided legal research assistance to the legal community and general public, developed and managed the collections in Vancouver, and created and maintained website content. I coordinated the one-to-one information services in Vancouver, provided legal research assistance to the legal community and general public, developed and managed the collections in Vancouver, and created and maintained website content.

Librarian, Reference Services

Jan 2007 – Oct 2012

I worked as a reference librarian for Courthouse Libraries BC. My job included collection development responsibilities as well as legal research assistance and reference services.

Information & Content Specialist

Canadian Health Network, Public Health Agency of Canada

Jun 2003 – Dec 2006

I worked as an Information and Content Specialist at the Vancouver Public Library, Canadian Health Network (CHN). I was responsible for: answering health information requests, writing and editing resource guides and other promotional materials, collection development and maintenance in the area of violence prevention, training activities, and promoting the CHN Web site as necessary.

Librarian, Vancouver Public Library

May 2003 – Dec 2006

I worked as a librarian in the Popular Reading Library at the Central branch, providing reference and reader's advisory services to the public and staff, as well as preparing booklists and guides to resources.

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Christine Morton, she/her - Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Personal Statement

Thank you to the GLL-SIS Nominations Committee for offering me the opportunity to run for the position of GLL-SIS Vice Chair/Chair Elect. I am deeply honored to be considered for this important position.

I joined GLL-SIS in July 2015. This was a pivotal year for this section and for me as the section's name changed from "State, Court, & County SIS" to "Government Law Libraries" SIS. The name change was necessary in order "to better reflect the types of libraries represented in the section."

This change certainly spoke directly to me as a federal court librarian! With the section's name change, a state court librarian colleague

encouraged me to join GLL-SIS as well as the Grants Committee. I was told that the Grants Committee members "are very experienced" and "would be able to guide" me. My state court librarian colleague was unequivocally correct! My fellow Committee members were much more experienced than me and, through the years, have offered me an abundance of invaluable guidance. I am forever grateful for the suggestion to join GLL-SIS and am equally grateful for the support and tutelage of the Grants Committee members. It is because of this support, that I would like to be elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect so that I can now give back to my fellow GLL-SIS members; do my best to serve as a mentor for newer librarians; create new educational programs and events; and to make new friendships as well as strengthen old ones.

I am currently Chair of the Grants Committee and have held this position for six years. During this time, I have reviewed over 70 member applications for various grants. While this may sound like a lot, it is just a drop in the bucket as GLL-SIS is comprised of 530 members! When reviewing these applications, I am always amazed at the caliber and dedication of the applicants. The newer librarians are making their best efforts to immerse themselves in the field of librarianship; the more seasoned librarians' applications showcase their long-standing passion for librarianship through the myriad of programs at which they have spoken, articles written, and projects they have spearheaded. I truly enjoy reviewing each application and am proud of GLL-SIS' ability to help members enhance their professional skills.



GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

It also gives me great pleasure to serve on the Newsletter Committee- first as a co-editor and Ex Officio Board member and now as a member. GLL News provides an avenue for our section to learn about each other's projects, cheer on each other's achievements, and foster new ways to increase the visibility of our profession.

I have been very fortunate to have gotten to know some GLL-SIS members on "paper", either through reviewing their grant applications or reviewing their GLL News articles. Now, I cherish the opportunity to serve as Vice-Chair/Chair Elect and connect with more members. If elected, I will make myself available to our members and look forward to leading new programs, events, and educational endeavors.

EDUCATION

St. John's University, Jamaica, New York

Master of Library Science, May 2007

Concentration: Law Librarianship

New York Law School, New York, New York

Juris Doctor, June 1999

Siena College, Loudonville, New York

Bachelor of Arts, History, May 1996

EXPERIENCE

Branch Librarian, United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, U.S. Courts Library, 2012-present

Manage and maintain the law library at the Eastern District of New York Central Islip courthouse. Provide research and reference services to the federal judges, law clerks, and other court personnel. Assist the public and legal professionals with the use of the library's print collection, government documents collection, and internet resources. Conduct reference interviews with self-represented individuals. Assist in the 2nd Circuit's Hon. Robert A. Katzmann Justice for All Courts and the Community Initiative with the goal of increasing the public's understanding of the role and operations of the court and to bring the courts closer to the community. Participate in planning events and programs for students, youth groups, public libraries, adults, and senior centers.

Reference Librarian, Educational Technology Specialist, and Library Faculty, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Gould Law Library, 2006-2012

Assist students with research projects and legal research assignments; assist faculty with reference queries and research issues; created and taught New York Legal Research (an upper-level course); authored and updated library guides via LibGuides; created and authored the law library's blog; served as the school's liaison with Westlaw and Lexis representatives; guest lecturer for various legal process and substantive law classes.

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Associate Attorney, Mental Hygiene Legal Service, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, 1999–2006

Drafted appellate briefs, motions, memorandum of law, complaints pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1983; presented oral arguments before various Supreme Courts of the State of New York, the Appellate Division, Second Department, and the United States District Court for both the Eastern and Southern District of New York; authored brief in support of a writ of habeas corpus for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; successfully negotiated settlements in relation to §1983 actions; represented clients with psychiatric illnesses at trials and administrative hearings; conducted depositions; responded to subpoenas; conducted CLE presentations; and trained interns.

Prof. Michael L. Perlin, New York Law School Research Assistant

1997 to 1999

Researched issues in mental health law and criminal law; assisted in writings of case books, a mental health law book, and a case book supplement; provided research and data for speeches and symposiums.

PUBLICATIONS

"Court Camp: A Unique Experience", GLL News, Volume 45, Issue 3, Fall 2019.

Christine E. Morton and Leslie Wong, *"Knowledge, Networking & Beignets in the Big Easy"*, AALL Spectrum, Fall 2007 Issue.

MICHAEL L. PERLIN, CHRISTINE E. MORTON, & HEATHER ELLIS, MENTAL DISABILITY LAW, CIVIL AND CRIMINAL, SECOND EDITION, 2005–2006 SUPPLEMENT, (BENDER & CO. 2005–2006.)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Michael L. Perlin, *The Hidden Prejudice: Mental Disability Law on Trial* (2000).

Michael L. Perlin, *"I Ain't Gonna Work on Maggie's Farm No More": Institutional Segregation, Community Treatment, the ADA, and the Promise of Olmstead v. L.C., 17 T.M. Cooley I. Rev. 53* (2000).

Michael L. Perlin, *"There's No Success Like Failure/And Failure's No Success At All": Exposing the Pretextuality of Kansas v. Hendricks, 92 Nw. U.L. Rev. 1247* (1998).

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Member, 2006–present

AALL Annual Meeting Grant Award Jury, Member, 2020–present

Government Law Libraries SIS Grants Committee, Chair, 2020–present, and 2016–2018; Member, 2015–present

Government Law Libraries SIS Newsletter Committee, Co-Editor and Ex Officio Board Member, 2018–2020; Member, 2018–present

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Laurel Moran, she/her - Member-at-Large

Library Experience:

Assistant Director of Legal Information Management, San Diego Law Library (2019-present)

Head of Core Operations, San Diego Law Library (2014-2019)

Acquisitions Librarian, San Diego Law Library (2013-2014)

Adjunct Faculty (Library) and Reference Librarian, Palomar College (2004-2013)

Substitute Reference Librarian, San Diego County Library (2003-2007)

Branch Librarian, San Diego Law Library (2001-2003)

Reference Librarian, San Diego Law Library (1997-2001)



Professional Memberships:

American Association of Law Libraries

Southern California Association of Law Libraries

American Library Association

California Library Association

State Bar of California, law license (inactive)

Education:

M.L.I.S., San Jose State University

J.D. California Western School of Law

B.A. in History, College of St Scholastica

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Selected Professional Activities:

AALL

- GILL SIS Technology Committee, past member
- GILL SIS Pro Bono Partnerships Committee, past member
- Member of AALL Special Interest Sections for Government Law Libraries and Technical Services
- AALL 2-year term on Indexing of Periodical Literature Committee 2021-2023
- GLL SIS Mentor in areas of collections, public services, technical services, administration, and technology

CCCLL

- CRIV committee member, Council of California County Law Librarians (Committee on Relations with Information Vendors)

SANDALL

- Former Vice President and Programs Chair
- Former Secretary of SANDALL

Selected Presentations:

- SLA San Diego Fall 2016 Exceeding Our Patron's Expectations: The Engagement Centered Library.
- CCCLL (Council of California County Law Librarians) panelist on How to Go Lean with a Mix of Print and Online Resources without Unbalancing Your Mission or Your Mind. Spring 2017 meeting.
- Panelist at Alleghany County Law Library's 150th Anniversary Symposium: The Future of County Law Libraries—Equal Access to Justice; held November 2017.
- Speaker at SCALL Institute, March 7, 2020. Topic: Ethics of Service, which covered privacy, unauthorized practice of law, and more.

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Personal Statement:

I am honored to be considered for the Member-at-large position for GILL-SIS. I have been a government law librarian for many years and have come to value this special interest section as one where I can make connections, mentor others, and continue to learn and contribute. I find that even though I have been a law librarian for a while, the landscape for providing services and materials to the public for their legal research needs continues to evolve at a rapid pace. Who thought we would be able to provide access to databases our users could utilize from their homes and offices and offer Westlaw remotely to pro se litigants? GILL-SIS has provided me with the resources, contacts, and confidence to face these challenges and make changes to expand access for users. You are never alone when you have the knowledge and support of this group behind you.

I am interested in this position because I am committed to GILL-SIS, and I believe that with my background and skills I can contribute to the section's continued success.



GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

Kristin K. Neri, she/her - Member-at-Large

Biography

Kristin Neri is a Law Librarian for the New York State Unified Court System's 5th Judicial District. A proud MSLS graduate of Syracuse University's iSchool, Kristin received a Dual BA in Social Philosophy and Sociology with a Concentration in Criminology from SUNY Cortland. Kristin has served on several committees over the years in both academic and public libraries and has joined committees in the Law Libraries. Previous committee experience includes Member-at-Large for Syracuse University Libraries Assembly (SULA), SULA's Distinguished Service Award Committee and the Human Library Committee, to name a few. A member of NYS Unified Court System Library Association (NYSUCSLA), Association of Law Libraries of Upstate NY (ALLUNY) and AALL, including four special interest sections, Kristin was accepted into the AALL Leadership Academy being held this April and is eligible for two scholarships. Kristin has a penchant for research and keenness for finding solutions.



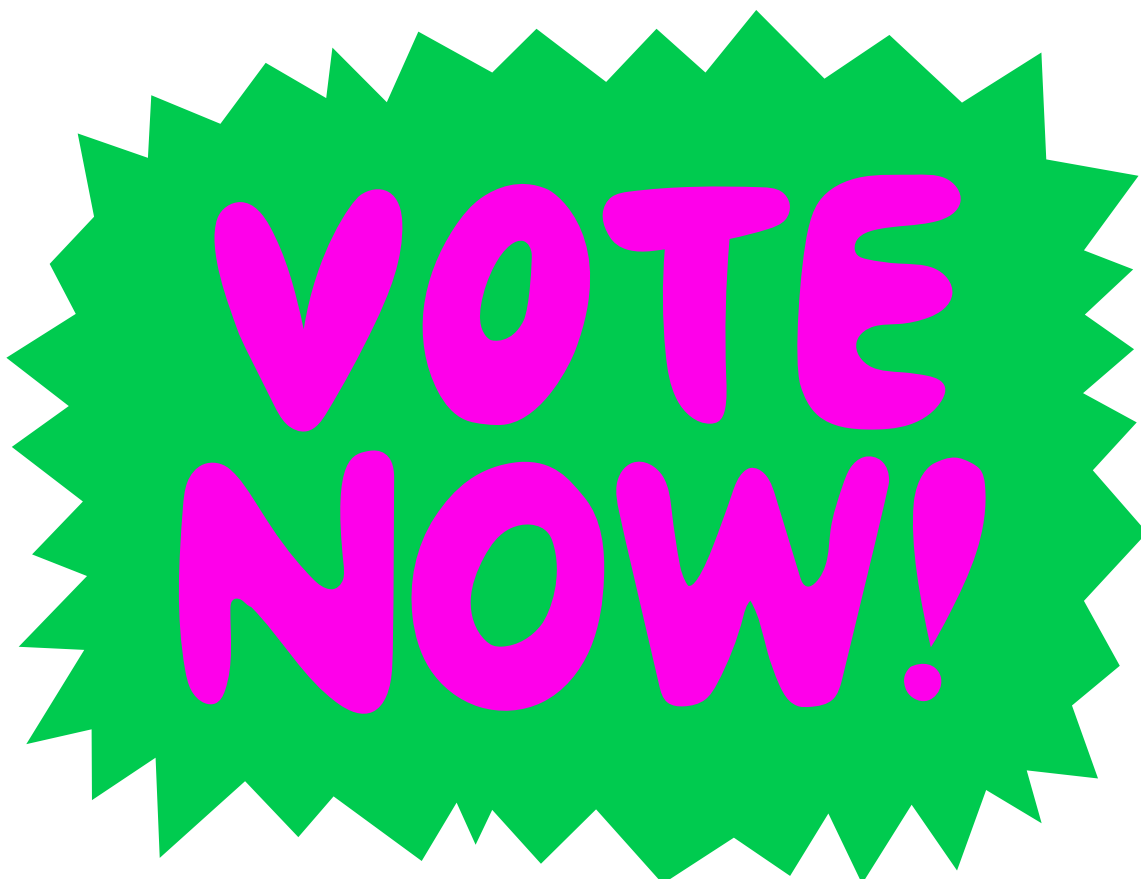
Personal Statement

I am excited to be considered as a nominee for Member-at-Large for the distinguished board of the GLL-SIS. My interest in committees began in high school, where I joined as many as possible and became President of several over the years. Throughout college, I continued to be involved in committees, finding it a great way to network and learn about the larger picture. In my free time, I enjoy camping and often take leisurely walks to the park or library with my toddler, fostering a love for learning early on. As a fan of the Muppets and classic comedy, I appreciate the importance of humor and creativity in both professional and personal spheres. Since taking on the role of a law librarian, I have been actively seeking ways to build my knowledge and skill set to achieve my personal goals and contribute to the court system's objectives.

In addition to my committee involvement, I have volunteered to join the Office

GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES, CONT.

of Legal Information, responding to helplines for 1800CourtNY and the Ask A Law Librarian service. I've also taken on responsibilities such as editing the 5th District Newsletter, creating marketing materials and logos, updating resource guides, and providing courthouse tours. Our team has initiated efforts to bring law library programming to a local juvenile detention center, emphasizing the importance of access to legal information for all. My dedication extends to seeking grants and alternative funding sources for the preservation and conservation of our library's collection, inherited from the Court of Chancery in 1846. To enhance public service, I aim to join the GLL Board as a Member-at-Large, hoping to be a resource for other Government Law Library members and an advocate for engagement and networking for those seeking professional growth, all while absorbing valuable insights and knowledge. Feel free to email me with questions or for a copy of my CV. Kneri@nycourts.gov.



2024 GLL-SIS LONGEVITY AWARDS

Tonya Baroudi, GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee Member,
Prince George's County Circuit Court Law Library



The Membership & Mentoring 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:

Cathryn Bowie

State of Oregon Law Library

Kate Fitz

Sacramento County Public Law Library

Teresa Miguel-Stearns

University of Arizona College of Law Library

Mary Searles

New Hampshire Law Library

Sue Sirkis

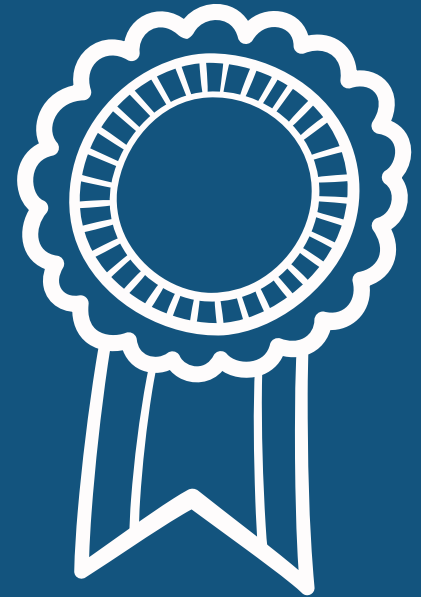
United States Court of Appeals – 8th Circuit Library

Mary Sparling

LexisNexisTM

Stephanie Wilson

New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library



The recipients will be acknowledged, and their certificates and pins awarded at the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting's GLL-SIS Awards and Recognition Ceremony.



GLL-SIS NEWER GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES DURHAM

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 third online gathering for GLL's newer librarians in the fall of 2023. In December, **James G. Durham**, Director of the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, Annapolis, MD, joined the Membership and Mentoring Committee to share his leadership journey with GLL law librarians with five or fewer years in GLL. The Q&A format consisted of five prepared questions where James offered valuable insights. His points were unique, thoughtful and wise. A summary of James's leadership journey remarks is provided here. Be sure to make it to the end of James's comments to learn two fantastic secrets of success! Many thanks to James for sharing his career lessons for the benefit of the rest of us.



On the afternoon of December 12, 2023, approximately 25 attendees gathered by Zoom to discuss leadership with James Durham, a long-time GLL-SIS and AALL member. In addition, attendees participated in breakout discussions, a question-and-answer session, and a brief review of the GLL-SIS mentorship program. The program was organized by Malinda Muller, Tonya Baroudi, Ann Hemmens, and Adriana Mark – and was sponsored by the GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee. The following is a summary of the questions posed to James and his extended responses.

What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership is not about the leader, who shouldn't be the focus. Instead, leadership is all about the persons and the institutions the leader serves. In my particular case, leadership is about staff members, the internal and external patrons, the Maryland Judiciary, our stakeholders, and local legal assistance providers.

My job as the leader is to be a facilitator. I organize, I encourage, and I mentor. I remove obstacles to success. I help brainstorm. I soften the hard realities as much as I can. I locate funding. I also detect the frailties in plans and have hard conversations about addressing the issues.

GLL-SIS NEWER GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES DURHAM, CONT.

When I first became a library director, I took two early actions to illustrate my belief that the leader should not be the focus of an endeavor. I removed the director's (my) name from the library letterhead, and deleted the Director's Welcome page from our website in favor of an introduction to library services. Now, my name only appears in the general staff directory. These actions were a way to signal that the library's mission, services, and team are front and center.

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

I would emphasize three things. First, I would suggest locating a mentor who is who you want to be, who is doing what you want to be doing, and is doing it in a way that you admire. The person doesn't need to be perfect – who is? Instead, choose someone who handles their mistakes honestly and well.

Second, move incrementally into positions of leadership – both at work and in organizations. Start by getting your hands dirty. Do the hard tasks on committees. Learn the rules and procedures from those who are leading your work group. Be a helper to the leaders. Then, when it's time for you to assume the lead, you know how to do it and also how to steer the group away from mistakes. Some of the biggest mistakes that I've seen (or committed) professionally have occurred when someone takes on too much responsibility, too early. Don't take on too much at one time. Accept a limited number of projects and do them well.

Third, don't give up when you make mistakes. Successful people are the ones who fell down, got back up, brushed the dust off their clothes, and went back to work. Successful people aren't necessarily the ones with the most innate talent. Instead they're the ones who keep trying – avoiding past mistakes, making amends, and doing their best work. I'm fond of folksy sayings, akin to those of the former Texas Governor Ann Richards. So, in that spirit, if you're thrown from your saddle, just get back on the horse.

How did you know you were ready for a leadership position?

I only successfully did this incrementally. I had to prove to myself and others that I knew what mattered, and that I could be entrusted with making difficult decisions. This isn't accomplished once and then you're ready. This is a process. One needs to keep learning, gaining competence and confidence over time.

GLL-SIS NEWER GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES DURHAM, CONT.

Sometimes it's important to scare oneself. Do something a little scary every now and then. For me, it used to be speaking in front of a group or having a conversation with an appellate judge. Each time, it became easier.

Eventually, the seat of your chair will become a little too comfortable – and you even may become a little bored. That may be a signal that you're ready for more challenges as a professional, and ready for the next steps toward leadership.

Describe a leadership learning experience.

My most powerful leadership learning experiences have been watching mentors and those I admire. I've had the good fortune to work with some remarkable people. At this point in my life, I'm finally able to pay forward many of the gifts provided by my professional mentors. Three people, all of whom are now retired, come quickly to mind.

I worked for ten years under the leadership of Steve Anderson at the Thurgood Marshall State Law Library. Steve exhibited a self-less devotion to a library mission, gentle leadership, and close attention to best practices. He chose a middle road, being careful not to disrupt the lives of staff or the continuity of the library's services.

When I joined the GLL-SIS Executive Board, Maryruth Storer served as our Chair. She arrived at meetings always prepared. When the discussion turned to an agenda item, Maryruth already would have researched relevant bylaws and standards. Her meetings were some of the best organized I had ever experienced. Maryruth's example still serves as my north star for efficiency.

I'm sure many of you are also familiar with Gail Warren, who recently was presented with AALL's Gallagher Award. I know I am not alone in admiring Gail's kind manner that brings people together and makes everyone feel welcome.

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

Please tell me where this playbook is – because I've spent years looking for it. (wink) I'll describe two leadership pointers that I've garnered from people who are not law librarians.

Before arriving in my present library, I worked for several years as an academic

GLL-SIS NEWER GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: A CONVERSATION WITH JAMES DURHAM, CONT.

law librarian. The vice dean of a law school once revealed to me the secret of her success. She said that she didn't care who got the credit for her ideas and work – as long as the good idea, the meaningful project, moved forward and became a reality. She taught me that I could become an effective leader when I gave up my ego – and prioritized people and mission over personal recognition.

My second leadership pointer comes from *The Art of Happiness at Work* by the Dalai Lama. In a section of that book, His Holiness discusses the fear of public speaking. He suggests ending anxiety by focusing on what you can share during your speech to help the people around you. What can I do to serve? I've grown to realize that this piece of advice extends far beyond the realm of public speaking. When I drop the heavy burden of self, I may become light enough to soar.

I'll end my comments by returning to the photo of my hydrangea from the beginning of the program. If I may torture a metaphor for a moment... being a gardener is not much different from being a leader. In both roles, I'm a facilitator. I don't have complete control over the environment, but I generate the best conditions for success. I nurture the plants or the people. The focus isn't the gardener; it's the garden. Leadership as gardening – I'll leave it there.



GLL-SIS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2024

Chair (2022-2025) Karen Westwood	Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (2023-2026) Amy Small	Past-Chair (2021-2024) Holly Riccio	Secretary/Treasurer (2022-2025) Sara Pixon
Board Member (2021-2024) Patricia Petroccione	Board Member (2022-2025) Brendan Starkey	Board Member (2023-2026) Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong	Board Member (ex-officio) (2023-2025) Tara Cunningham

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 Pixon](#)

Grants

Chair - [Christine Morton](#)
Board Liaison - [Sara Pixon](#)

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](#)

Bylaws

Chair - [Leslie Greenwood](#)
Board Liaison - [Brendan Starkey](#)

Newsletter

Chair - [Tara Cunningham](#)
Board Liaison - [Patty Petroccione](#)

Strategic Planning

Chair - [Robert Mead](#)
Board Liaison - [Amy Small](#)

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 June 7, 2024. Please contact editor [Tara Cunningham](#) with questions, comments, suggestions, and submissions.

