



# GLL NEWS

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

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

[Amy Small, she/her/hers, Texas State Law Library](#)



Dear fellow GLLers,

Here in Texas we don't quite have the nice "four season" setup that other parts of the country have. It often looks more like a couple months of gray skies and what could only generously be called "chilly" weather, a couple of weeks of rain if we're lucky, and then seven months of heat. But just because I don't get to live it doesn't mean I don't embrace springtime in the metaphorical sense!

Artists across cultures have used spring as a metaphor for renewal, growth, and hope. The other side of that coin is that springtime necessarily follows winter – a period of dormancy and stagnation. In the United States, and especially for government workers, the library landscape looks decidedly wintry. There is fear and uncertainty about whether institutions like ours will have a climate in which they can grow and flourish. Attitudes towards funding and access to information feel downright chilly.

While the climate may be hostile, winters can also be a good time for contemplation. Careful planning and forward thinking have always been strengths of government law librarians. Budgetary restrictions, understaffing, and other challenges to librarianship are nothing new to us – we have all persevered under harsh conditions to blossom down the line. Though the future may feel uncertain, GLL's sense of community will help us through until we feel the sun shining on us again. Speaking of looking forward, we have a fantastic slate of candidates for this spring's GLL-SIS elections. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve and to the Nominations Committee for their excellent work in keeping our SIS on the path to success. We appreciate your time and interest so much.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR, CONT.

Preparation for the annual meeting is in full swing. Planning for our Breakfast meeting is coming right along – I can't wait for the opportunity for GLL conference attendees to gather together over coffee and breakfast! Government law librarians are also well-represented in the conference's programming. There will be countless opportunities to learn from your colleagues' knowledge and experience! The Pacific Northwest might not be known for its sunshine, but come July, we'll still bask in the warmth of inspiration and innovation.

Here's wishing you and your library blue skies and warm weather ahead.

Amy

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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

Hello GLL,

As you know, it's a tough time for government employees right now, and although we don't all work for the feds, we are all under that much maligned "government bureaucrat" umbrella. I wanted to share something I heard on the podcast *Factually! with Adam Conover* today. Adam's argument was pro-government worker, and he stated that government employees are not just partisan members of the House and Senate who play politics; they are "all of us." They don't just live in D.C. They live in all of our communities across America, and they are all U.S. citizens, and when people in your community lose their jobs, it hurts everyone. As non-partisan government librarians serving judges, lawyers and members of the public equally, no matter which political party they support, we know the value of government work/workers, so it felt really good to hear it from an outsider.



This issue of GLL News features GLL candidates for office on pages 11-22, and don't forget to vote in the March 24th GLL election (and local elections, and federal elections, etc.). Also read up on grant recipients' thoughts on the SRLN Conference. And don't miss pics from the Law Library of Louisiana's "Law of Mardi Gras" exhibit and kingcake party!

Stay strong, government librarians!

*Tara*

P.S. Special thanks to **Taylor Berkoski** and **Amanda Hildebrand** who did a lot of data entry, and are the sole reason this issue is being published on time!



# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

## Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section Executive Board – Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 18 @ 11 a.m. PDT / 1 p.m. CDT / 2:00 p.m. EDT

Attended: A. Small, C. Morton, K. Westood, B. Starkey, J. Stillwell-Tong, L. Moran, S. Pixon

Absent: T. Cunningham

Meeting Leader: A. Small

Scribe: S. Pixon

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 19 @ 11 a.m. PDT / 1 p.m. CDT / 2:00 p.m. EDT

### Minutes

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

- Amy called the meeting to order by acclamation at 1:01 pm Central.
- Approve agenda – Christine moved to approve, Brendan seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Approve minutes – Jocelyn moved to approve, Laurel seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Secretary / Treasurer's report – no report received yet which is unusual – Sara will follow-up with AALL HQ.

#### **Other Business:**

- Tara Cunningham's appointment as Newsletter Editor – Amy noted that we decided this via email (as all committee appointments are made by the Chair), but it is now also on the minutes as well.
- Committee updates by GLL Board liaisons – Amy reported that Education is waiting on AMPC, and that there is still no chair for Membership & Mentoring but the committee has many veteran members who are on top of things; Christine reported that ATJ is working on updates, also that Standards could use some more members, and that Grants will be updating its rule pending Board vote (below); Karen reported that P&PR has gotten more members; Laurel said that Strategic Planning will be meeting and is seeking direction (see below); Brendan reported that Bylaws had some clarifying questions but have no suggestions for changes; Brendan also reported that Nominations has a full slate of candidates; Jocelyn reported that Advocacy has been invited to the AALL Government Relations Committee, which is working on new policy for advocacy issues and is still keeping an eye on the vacancy with the government relations staff position at AALL (Karen as Vice-Chair of the AALL government relations committee reports that AALL HQ is working on it as part of their strategic plan); Sara reported no updates from Awards.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

- GLL-SIS Handbook revisions – Amy is ready to take suggested changes to the committees. She will take a last pass to tidy it up but plans to after that send suggestions to the committees who will communicate with her directly. Karen applauded Amy for undertaking this revision – last revised about 5-6 years ago and quite a lot has changed.
- Grants Committee rules revision – Christine moved on behalf of the Grants Committee an amendment, Amy seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain (see attachment)
- Spring election management – because Sara is on the ballot for Vice-Chair, she cannot run the election. Karen, as immediate past chair and former Secretary, volunteered to run the upcoming election.
- Strategic Directions – Laurel reported that Strategic Directions expire this year – Rob will be looking into updating them this year. He is specifically interested in whether AI should be added to the Directions. The board agreed that AI can fall under a number of areas such as education, advocacy, and ATJ. There is general consensus it should be included in the Directions. Karen noted that accessibility is also an issue (new federal reg coming out about websites) and it falls under ATJ – she would like to see it highlighted in the Directions.
- Joint social hour with LIT-SIS – LIT reached out about a social hour again at the upcoming conference, CALL allowed us to use their space last year in Chicago but it was not officially sponsored. LIT will submit for sponsorship again for Portland. Funding brochure not published yet.
- Other business – Jocelyn mentioned that she will be reaching out again to judge she has connection to that is in Washington who may be able to serve as VIP or speaker at next conference.
- Adjournment – Amy adjourned by acclamation by at 1:45 pm Central.

## **Interim Board Actions via Email:**

1. Laurel moved on 1/28/25 on behalf of the Membership & Mentoring Committee: “The GLL-SIS board approves an expenditure of up to \$25.00 for certificate paper for the Membership and Mentoring committee. Tonya Baroudi will purchase the paper and put in for reimbursement from our Treasurer and provide receipts for the purchase.” Seconded by Jocelyn. All in favor, no opposed or abstained. Vote completed 2/13/25.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 24, 2024

## Government Law Libraries – Special Interest Section Executive Board – Minutes

Date and Time: Wednesday, October 24 @ 1 p.m. PDT / 3 p.m. CDT / 4:00 p.m. EDT

Attended: A. Small, C. Morton, K. Westood, T. Cunningham, J. Stillwell-Tong, L. Moran, S. Pixon

Absent: B. Starkey

Meeting Leader: A. Small

Scribe: S. Pixon

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18 @ 11 a.m. PDT / 1 p.m. CDT / 2:00 p.m. EDT

### Minutes

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

- Call to order – Amy called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.
- Approve agenda – Jocelyn moved to approve the agenda, Karen seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Approve minutes – Christine moved to approve, Laurel seconded, all in favor, no oppose or abstain.
- Secretary / Treasurer's report – Sara reported there are no new financial reports since last meeting. She updated the Board, along with Christine, that AALL has been much more closely scrutinizing reimbursements but having our new "Tips for Reimbursements" sheet has helped, so that we can flag for grant recipients in advance that some things may be difficult to reimburse.
- Committee roster status – Amy reported she is still working on this but having some difficulty finding a chair for Membership & Mentoring. Jocelyn is also stepping down as chair of Standards – she will reach out to see the current committee to see if anyone is interested. The Standards need some light editing but are still good. Tara will send the new committee members to Technology chair.

#### **Other Business:**

- Committee updates by GLL Board liaisons – Christine reported that ATJ is still trying to revamp the toolkit. For Grants, Christine reported that we had another successful fundraiser, close to \$5k; she is also working on the grants budget currently, including potentially a new grant to CALI if SRLN is not being held next year. She anticipates it being about \$10,500. Laurel reported that M&M has small budget requests it anticipates in a few months – even without a chair, the committee has been responsive.

# EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, CONT.

Wednesday, October 24, 2024

- GLL-SIS Handbook revisions – Amy believes the Handbook is really valuable but each section is quite varied in terms of level of detail and formatting. Amy thinks the Board should make some overall edits then approach each committee for their thoughts on what else needs to be updated. Karen gave some history as to how the Handbook came to be updated a few years back but the updates have been inconsistent since then. Sara suggested that we make updating the handbook due at the same time as the Annual Report from each committee, and then add that timeline to the Handbook.
- GLL-SIS programs for Annual Meeting – Amy reported that Education had several great proposals submitted to the committee. The goal was to make sure the programs sponsored by GLL are more narrowly tailored to government law librarians. One of the programs selected is also co-sponsored by LISP – Sara said she will look into it and make sure we are not overcharged if that one is selected.
- Breakfast meeting sponsorship discussions – budget, etc. – Karen feels we had the right amount of food and drink so the budget amount was right. Amy plans to submit the same request to AALL and hopefully we will have a sponsor again.
- Other business – Tara just noticed that the committee pages have not been updated with new membership or with Annual Reports – she will follow-up. Karen reported that there is still no indication from AALL HQ about when/if there will be a new hire for the vacant Government Relations position. Jocelyn mentioned that the former GLL Advocacy chair was very concerned about filling this position; she said ALL-SIS is also very concerned about this.
- Adjournment – Amy adjourned the meeting at 4:01 pm by acclamation

## **Interim Board Actions via Email:**

1. Sara presented a motion on 11/6/24, seconded by Laurel, for the 2024-2025 Grants Committee budget, for \$10,500. Vote completed by email on 11/7/24 with all in favor with one abstention (Christine).

# 2025 GLL GRANTS

[Christine Morton, she/her/hers, U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit](#)



Since 1998, GLL-SIS (formerly SCCLL-SIS) has awarded 125 grants to members to attend professional and educational conferences. If you have never applied for a grant or it has been over three years since you have received a grant, now is the time to submit a grant application!

The GLL-SIS Grants Committee is pleased to offer several grants to upcoming conferences:

- Four (4) \$1500 grants for the Annual Meeting, July 19-22, 2025, Portland, Oregon. Two grants for GLL members with less than five years of library experience, and two grants for GLL members with more than five years of library experience. The grant application deadline is **Friday, March 21, 2025, 5 pm Eastern Standard Time.**
- One (1) \$1,500 grant for the AALL Management Institute to be held in Fall 2025.

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

*The availability of any grant is subject to change. Any changes in award amounts will be reported in the GLL-SIS newsletter, website, and My Communities page.*





The wait is finally over—registration for the **2025 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference** is open! Join us in **Portland, Oregon, July 19-22** for an action-packed experience designed to fuel your growth, enhance your skills, and empower you to navigate everyday challenges with confidence.

Whether you are looking to expand your expertise, exchange ideas with peers, or explore the latest trends, **Portland is the place to be!**

You can look forward to:

- **Early bird pricing available through May 2.**
- Engaging with thought leaders and peers through education programs, exhibit hall breaks, and social events.
- A dynamic program lineup featuring over 65 programs, including preconference workshops and deep dives led by 300+ legal information experts.
- The latest in AI, legal research, eDiscovery, and more from 60+ exhibitors.
- Discounted hotel rates for a budget-friendly stay.

**[Register today](#) and make the most of this unforgettable experience in Portland!**

**IMPORTANT:** *Preconference workshops are coming soon. You can register for the Conference now and easily add a workshop registration later. AALL will notify all members and conference registrants as soon as workshop registration opens. Thank you for your patience.*

## AALL POLL - IMPACT OF EXECUTIVE ORDERS

We want to hear from you! Your input is essential in helping us understand how the recent executive orders are affecting you, your institution, and your engagement with our Association. Please take a moment to **[complete this brief, anonymous poll](#)**. Responses are due by Monday, March 31, 2025.

# AALL ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONT.

## STAY ENGAGED WITH THE AALL ADVOCATES COMMUNITY

Recent executive orders are impacting legal information access, funding, and policy—directly affecting our work as legal information professionals. The [AALL Advocates Community](#)—open to all AALL members—is your space to share advocacy information in your state, ask questions, and discuss how policy changes affect your role. Members of the [Government Relations Committee](#) also post weekly updates on key legislative developments, offering additional opportunities to engage in critical discussions happening within the profession. Join the conversation and collaborate on advocacy efforts as we navigate these challenges together.

## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS—APPLY BY MAY 16

Planning an educational event for your chapter, special interest section, committee, or caucus? Apply for an [AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant](#) to help fund your program. The next application deadline is May 16, 2025.

## PROPOSE A WEBINAR TOPIC

We want to hear from you! Help the Continuing Professional Education Committee create engaging and relevant webinars by filling out the [webinar proposal form](#). Share the topics that matter most to you and your professional growth. Your input will help shape upcoming webinars, ensuring they meet your needs and interests. If you have any questions, please email [elarning@aall.org](mailto:elarning@aall.org).

## UPCOMING VIRTUAL COFFEE CHATS

Be part of the conversation! Register for the next [Virtual Coffee Chat: Year Out: Looking Back at the 2024 Leadership Academy](#), happening on Wednesday, April 16 from 3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (CDT). Visit AALL eLearning to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

Contribute to the growth of AALL's community of experts by sharing cutting-edge trends, best practices, and innovations spanning a diverse range of topics, igniting inspiration among your fellow professionals. Do you have ideas or topics for future coffee chats? Please share your ideas with [elarning@aall.org](mailto:elarning@aall.org).

# GLL MEMBER NEWS

On February 26th, the [Law Library of Louisiana](#) invited the employees of the Louisiana Supreme Court to the library to see GLL member [Abigail Bean's](#) "Law of Mardi Gras" exhibit and enjoy some [kingcake](#). Kingcakes are a traditional Mardi Gras pastry made of cinnamon brioche dough formed into an oval shape. We had 40+ attendees who read about Mardi Gras laws related to parades, beads, integration of carnival krewes, coconuts and reptiles in our display, and devoured all 4 kingcakes!



Perhaps the most unusual Mardi Gras law is the New Orleans City Code's requirement that all reptiles remain 200 yards away from any parade route. In fact, the only other animal mentioned in the Code are horses, who are prohibited from being near the route unless they are participating in the parade. The Code does allow for an exception for animals used by a law enforcement agency, so maybe someday we will see an NOPD alligator prowling the neutral ground.



# GLL ELECTION & NOMINEES

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the slate of candidates for the upcoming GLL election. A special thanks to all who agreed to run and to the Nominations Committee for all of their work this year. If you have any questions about the nominations process, please contact [Geri Cepeda](#).

**Our annual GLL-SIS online election will begin on March 24, 2025, and will end on April 11, 2025.** For questions about the election process, please reach out to GLL-SIS Past Chair [Karen Westwood](#).

## **The candidates:**

### **Vice Chair/Chair-Elect:**

Sara Pixon

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Brendan Starkey

Sarah Larsen

### **Member-at-Large:**

Catherine McGuire

Thank you for participating by casting your ballot during the election!



# GLL NOMINEE: VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

[Sara Pixon, she/her/hers, Law Library of Louisiana](#)

## Personal Statement

I am both deeply honored and deeply humbled to be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for the Government Law Libraries SIS.

Service to others has always been my North Star. I pursued a law degree in order to work as a public interest attorney, which I did for seven years, serving low-income families and children before I pivoted to law librarianship in 2013. I changed my career path but not my focus as I believed strongly that I could do even more to help the greater good as a law librarian. Every day I feel so fortunate to go to work in a place where I can empower my community with the legal information they need to advocate for themselves.

Working with the public comes with its challenges, but it is deeply rewarding and meaningful work to me, and I have been so grateful to find “my people” in GLL. Regardless of the type of government or public law library we work in, everyone I have met in GLL is firmly committed to access to justice. At a time when these values seem to be under attack, it is more important than ever that we stand firm and strong together. We are greater than the sum of our parts.

As Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, I vow to continue to defend our critically vital work as government and public law librarians and to continue to champion access to justice for all people, regardless of background or identity.



# GLL NOMINEE: VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

[Sara Pixon, cont.](#)

## Sara V. Pixon

617 Dilton Street \* River Ridge, Louisiana \* (504) 237-7658 \* pixonssara@gmail.com

### Experience

#### **Law Library of Louisiana** - May 2014-present

Head of Public Services: Answer reference questions and assist with research requests from judiciary, attorneys, and self-represented litigants and general public. Supervise reference staff. Teach CLEs and workshops. Conduct outreach to public librarians and other "Access to Justice" partners. Create original exhibits and research guides. Build online guides on civics, legal writing, legal history, and resources for self-represented litigants. Edit library newsletter. Maintain library website. Manage digital library. Develop marketing materials. Previously: *Research Lawyer/Librarian*, November 2017-April 2019; *Assistant Librarian*, May 2014-November 2017.

#### **Louisiana State Bar Association** - Feb. 2014-June 2017

Self-Help Website Developer: Developed and maintained "self-help" websites and related forms for self-represented litigants in district courts. Developed and maintained legal research guides for self-represented litigants.

#### **Louisiana State University Law Center Library** - June 2013-May 2014

Law Library Fellow: Answered reference questions from students, faculty, and the public, and assisted with research. Created bibliographies for faculty. Organized archival collection. Taught legal research class. Built LibGuides. Produced thematic displays. Designed public outreach materials and bookmarks.

#### **Health Law Advocates of Louisiana** - Feb. 2010-Aug. 2012

Legal Director: Represented low-income clients facing barriers to necessary health care. Advocated for systemic reform through legislation and policy changes. Organized attorney coalitions. Presented lectures at universities, attorney conferences, and community meetings on health care law and rights. Supervised law student interns and graduate fellows.

#### **Mental Health Advocacy Service** - Apr. 2008-Apr. 2010

Attorney: Represented children in child welfare proceedings and all related administrative meetings. Specialized in representation of children with emotional and behavioral health issues. Represented juveniles charged with delinquency who are not competent to stand trial. Advocated for improvements in mental health services by the government.

#### **The Pro Bono Project** - Apr. 2007-Dec. 2007

Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Katrina Attorney: Represented low-income clients in family law matters. Supervised interns.

#### **Health Law Advocates**, Boston, MA - Sept. 2005-Mar. 2007

Wendy Parmet Fellow and Staff Attorney: Conducted client intake and case management on legal barriers to health care access. Managed class action remediation plan won on behalf of 500,000 children. Planned and coordinated community conference on culturally competent mental health care services.

### Education

**Louisiana State University  
School of Information Science**  
M.L.I.S., May 2014

**Northeastern University School  
of Law**, Boston, MA  
J.D., May 2005  
*Rappaport Honors Fellow in Law  
and Public Policy*

**Smith College**, Northampton,  
MA  
B.A. in Women's Studies and  
Russian Civilization, May 2000  
*Study Abroad*: Middlebury  
College School in Russia,  
Yaroslavl and Moscow. Internship  
at the Moscow Center on Gender  
Studies.

# GLL NOMINEE: VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

[Sara Pixon, cont.](#)

## ***Awards & Honors***

**AALL Excellence in Community Engagement Award - 2024**  
*Coordinator for Legal Education and Assistance Program*  
**AALL Diversity and Inclusion Librarian of the Month - June 2022**  
**AALL Emerging Leader Award - 2020**

## ***Service***

### **AALL**

**Annual Meeting Program Committee** - Team Leader for Marketing & Outreach, 2025-2026; Member, 2018-2019, 2022-2023

**Government Law Libraries SIS** - Secretary/Treasurer, 2022-present

**Legal Information Services to the Public SIS** - Grants Committee Member, 2022-present

**New Orleans Association of Law Libraries** - Secretary, 2017-2021; Webmaster, 2024-present

**Emerging Leader Award Jury** - Member, 2023-2024

**Excellence in Community Engagement Award Jury** - Chair, 2021-2022; Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, 2020-2021; Member, 2019-2020

**Government Law Libraries SIS** - Newsletter Co-Editor and *Ex Officio* Board Member, 2018-2022; Newsletter Committee Member, 2017-2018

**Social Responsibilities SIS** - Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Chair, and Immediate Past Chair, 2018-2021

**Social Responsibilities SIS Standing Committee on Lesbian & Gay Issues/Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** - Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Chair, 2015-2017

### **Other**

**Legal Reference Services Quarterly** - Editorial Board Member, 2022-present

**Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice Committee** - Appointed Member, 2014-present

## ***Presentations***

*¡Bienvenidos a la Biblioteca!: Welcoming Spanish-Speaking Patrons to Your Law Library* - AALL Annual Conference 2025, Program Coordinator and Panelist

*Beyond "School House Rock!": Librarians as Civic Educators* - AALL Annual Conference 2025, Program Panelist

*Navigating Civil Legal Aid Resources* - Louisiana State Bar Association Access to Justice 2024 CLE for Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, Program Panelist

*Disaster Law Partnerships and Innovative Collaborations* - Louisiana State Bar Association Disaster Law Collaboration Summit 2022, Program Panelist

*Legal Reference for Public Librarians* - Louisiana Library Association Annual Conference 2014, 2019, 2022, Program Coordinator and Panelist

*Civil Legal Issues of Natural Disasters* - OCLC WebJunction 2022, Program Developer and Presenter

*Virtual Reference Desk* - Louisiana State Bar Association CLE 2021, Program Coordinator and Panelist

*Gender Pronouns: It's Not Only Grammar* - AALL Coffee Chat 2021, Coordinator and Moderator

*Collaboration and Outreach: Supporting Community Legal Research* - Academic Law Libraries SIS Webinar 2021, Program Panelist

*Change the Subject: How a Cataloging Term Became a Flashpoint in the Immigration Debate* - AALL Annual Conference 2020, Program Coordinator

*Creating Pathways to Civil Legal Justice* - OCLC WebJunction 2020, Program Developer and Presenter  
SR/GLL/LISP roundtable on services to *pro se* patrons and prisoners - AALL Annual Conference 2018, Program Panelist

# GLL NOMINEE: VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

## Sara Pixon, cont.

*Meeting the Legal Information Needs of Transgender Patrons* - AALL Annual Conference 2017, Program Coordinator  
*Cool Tools Café* - AALL Annual Conference 2015 and 2016, Presenter  
SR-SIS Roundtable on Religious Freedom Laws - AALL Annual Conference 2016, Program Coordinator and Moderator  
CLE on online library resources and guides - Louisiana Justice Conference CLE 2016, Program Panelist  
CLE on law library services for SRLs - Law Library of Louisiana 2016, Presenter  
CLE on WestlawNext and other electronic resources - Law Library of Louisiana 2014, Presenter  
Guest lecture on secondary sources - LSU Law *Advanced Legal Research* course 2014, Presenter

### **Publications**

*State Practice Materials: Annotated Bibliographies*, "Louisiana Practice Materials: A Selective Annotated Bibliography," published by Hein - 2021  
*AALL Spectrum*, "Bridging the Gap between Public Libraries and Law Libraries to Improve Access to Justice" - March/April 2021  
*Sexual Orientation, Gender Identities, and the Law: A Research Bibliography, 2006-2016* (chapters on Health, on Youth, and on Elders), published by Hein - 2018  
*SR-SIS Newsletter*, "Advocacy Tips for Law Librarians" - Fall 2016  
*Law Library Insights: Access to Justice: Best Practices for Public Law Libraries*, "Collaboration with Public Librarians: A Natural Partnership" - 2016  
*Southeastern Law Librarian*, "New Partnership between State Bar Association, Law Libraries, and Public Libraries" - Fall 2014

# GLL NOMINEES: SECRETARY/TREASURER

## Brendan Starkey – Orange County Public Law Library

### **Personal Statement**

GLL is a warm community and a strong SIS. I often say we punch above our weight in terms of offerings to our membership, given our smaller size and revenue sources relative to other sections. I have loved participating in governance, both as a member-at-large of the Executive Committee and member and chair of the Strategic Directions Committee. As Secretary/Treasurer, I would add my experience as recording secretary of the Orange County Public Law Library Board of Trustees and bookkeeper for the library. I would be honored to continue serving.



# GLL NOMINEES: SECRETARY/TREASURER

## Experience

Director, Orange County Public Law Library (2018–present)

Associate Director for Library Services, Chapman University Fowler School of Law (2013–2018)

Research Librarian for Instructional Services, University of California, Irvine School of Law (2012–2013)

Research Librarian, Irell & Manella LLP (2011)

Associate & Summer Associate, DLA Piper LLP (US) (2005–2010)

Legal Writing Fellow, University of Southern California Law School (2003–2005)

Reference Librarian, Seattle University School of Law (1999–2002)

Reader Services Librarian, Whittier Law School (1996–1999)

## Professional Activities

American Association of Law Libraries: LexisNexis Research Grant Jury (member and chair), Scholarship

Awards Jury, Volunteer Service Award Jury (vice chair)

GLL-SIS: Strategic Planning Committee (member and chair), member-at-large

Southern California Association of Law Libraries: Library Liaison Committee, mentor

Council of California County Law Librarians: member-at-large, president

## Education

J.D., University of Southern California Gould School of Law (2005)

M.L.S., University of Kentucky (1995)

B.A. (History Major, Music Minor), University of San Diego (1993)

# GLL NOMINEES: SECRETARY/TREASURER

[Sara Larsen, she/her/hers,](#)  
[Minnesota State Law Library](#)

## Personal Statement

I am honored to be nominated for Secretary/Treasurer of GLL-SIS. I joined GLL-SIS as a brand-new law librarian in 2017, and I have found membership in this section to be instrumental in my development as a librarian. It is easy to feel intimidated as a new librarian, but GLL has always made me feel welcome in this community.



# GLL NOMINEES: SECRETARY/TREASURER

## Sara Larsen, cont.

Over the years, I have gotten to know many of you through my work on the GLL Education Committee. The Education Committee provides a unique opportunity not only to work with other members in reviewing proposals, but also to learn from members about the projects and programs they have created. I have always been impressed – and, more importantly, inspired – by the wealth of knowledge GLL members bring to AALL.

Government work comes with unique challenges, but I can't imagine working in any other setting. I look forward to the opportunity to give back to GLL if elected.

## Employment

Outreach Librarian, Minnesota State Law Library, St. Paul, MN, February 2017 – present

Legal Analyst, Minnesota Board of Nursing, Minneapolis, MN, April 2015 – January 2017

Compliance Attorney, Thomson Reuters, Eagan, MN, October 2013 – April 2015

Law Clerk to the Honorable Tsippi Wray, Hennepin County District Court, Minneapolis, MN, November 2011 – October 2013

## Education

St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN – MLIS, May 2018

Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, MN – JD, May 2011

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA – BA, History, French; BS, Psychology, May 2008

## Professional Activities

### AALL

AMPC Member, 2024 – present

Leadership Academy Mentor, 2024 – 2025

Leadership Academy Fellow, 2020

### GLL-SIS

Education Committee Chair, 2020 – 2022

Education Committee, 2017 – 2020, 2022 – 2024

### LISP-SIS

Nominations Committee Chair, 2023 – 2024

50 State Toolkit Committee Chair – 2023 – present

Vice Chair/Chair/Past Chair, 2020 – 2023

50 State Toolkit Committee, 2018 – 2020

# GLL NOMINEES: SECRETARY/TREASURER

## Sara Larsen, cont.

Minnesota Association of Law Libraries

Member at Large, 2018 – 2020

Minnesota State Bar Association

Access to Justice Committee, 2019 – present

Resource Development Subcommittee, 2019 – present

State of the State Workgroup, 2021 – present

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Self-Represented Litigant Workgroup, 2019 – present

## **Publications**

Author, Outreach and Access to Justice in a Pandemic, LISP/SR Blog, January 26, 2021

Co-Author, Minnesota's Not-So-Blazing Trail to Women's Suffrage (and Beyond), With Equal Right, Fall 2018 (with Leslie Greenwood)

Author, Diversity in Public Libraries: Strategies for Achieving a More Representative Workforce, Public Libraries, May/June 2017

## **Selected Presentations**

Speaker & Coordinator, "Coping with Vicarious Trauma: Tips for Law Librarians on the Front Lines," AALL Annual Meeting, July 19, 2022

Speaker, "Law Librarians & Legal Information Professionals as Partners in the Access to Justice Movement," AALL Webinar, March 3, 2021

Speaker, "Outreach During a Pandemic," Law Librarians of Puget Sound, February 24, 2021

Speaker, "Creating Pathways to Civil Legal Justice," WebJunction Webinar April 14, 2020 and Self-Paced Course recording

Speaker, "Meeting Patrons Where They Are: Legal Partnerships at the St. Paul Public Library," Minnesota Library Association Annual Conference, October 11, 2018

Poster Presentation, "Meeting Patrons Where They Are: Legal Reference at the Public Library," AALL Annual Meeting, July 2018

# GLL NOMINEE: MEMBER-AT-LARGE

## Catherine McGuire, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

### **Personal Statement**

I am honored to be nominated to represent the membership of GLL as Member-at-Large on the Board. GLL has been an important part of my law librarian path for over twenty years now. When I joined the SCCLL-SIS (now GLL-SIS), I had just made the move from a law firm library to a public court library. Membership in the SIS gave me a warm supportive group of government library folks to help guide me through that momentous shift.

I have been fortunate over the years to work with the Education Committee and more recently the Awards Committee. In various roles in other SIS groups, AALL Chapters, and AALL itself, government law librarians have been generous and energetic partners – wherever I have put my energy, there was sure to be a GLLer right alongside me. We are collectively a truly wonderful group.

My connection to government libraries dates back to my work-study job as an undergraduate in the government documents department of my undergraduate library. There, I learned the complications of the SuDoc system, became something of a guru at locating missing documents, worked at the reference desk one evening a week, and generally fell in love with library work. Job-hunting in Washington DC took me into the law firm world, where I found my happy place with law books, and more significantly, with teaching new associates and summer babies the ins and outs of legislative research, high-level database searching, and more. This in turn led me to the Outreach position at the Maryland State Law Library – where I still find my happy place in ensuring our patrons are informed and educated in the resources and structure of the law.

Today, it is so important for us to work as a community, to support the wider need of society to understand legal systems and to reach equitable access to law. As we navigate new challenges that will impact our professional and personal worlds, I hope to use my skills to support our members in these efforts. Thank you for placing your trust in me.



# GLL NOMINEE: MEMBER-AT-LARGE

## Catherine McGuire, cont.

### **Professional Experience**

Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library, Annapolis MD

- Deputy Director, 2022–present
- Head of Reference and Outreach, 2012–2022
- Outreach Services Law Librarian, 2003–2012

Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold MD

- Adjunct Faculty, Legal Studies Program, 2016–2018

Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, Washington DC

- Assistant Librarian, 1997–2003
- Legislative Librarian, 1993–1997

### **Education**

M.S.L.S., Catholic University, 1994

A.B. (History), Duke University, 1989

### **Awards**

2023 William L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award, Maryland Legal Services Corporation

### **Affiliations and Service**

American Association of Law Librarians (AALL), 1994–present

- Special Committee on Advancing Access to Justice, 2021–2022
- Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section, 2004–present (Chair, 2019–2020; Vice Chair 2018–2019; Past Chair 2020–2021; Education Committee chair, 2014–2018; Nominations Committee chair, 2021–2022)
- Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section, 2004–present (Education Committee, 2013–2014, 2020–2022, Awards Committee, 2023–present)
- Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships, Co-Chair, 2007–2009

Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors (CMCLLD), 2008–present (Vice Chair, 2013–2015, 2022–2024)

University of Maryland College of Information Studies Curriculum Advisory Committee, 2016–2017, 2021–present

# GLL NOMINEE: MEMBER-AT-LARGE

[Catherine McGuire, cont.](#)

## **Affiliations and Service, cont.**

Law Library Association of Maryland, 2003–present (Chair, Public Relations Committee, 2003–2009, 2010–2011; Publicity director and registrar, Legal Research Institute, 2004 and 2008)

Maryland State Library Resource Center (SLRC), Library Services Advisory Committee, 2005–2011 (Served from inception of the Committee to its close; advised staff of the SLRC on reference services, state documents management, marketing, and professional staff development activities.)

Law Librarians' Society of Washington DC (LLSDC), 1993–2004 (Legislative Research SIS, Chair, 1998–1999; Vice–Chair 1997–1998)

## **Significant Presentations and Projects**

Law on the Frontlines: Legal Reference for Public Libraries

Originally run as single upon–request sessions in local public library systems, in 2016, the project expanded to a cooperative effort in partnership with the Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors and the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, with stakeholders from the Maryland State Library and local public library systems.

Setting Up for Success: Designing Reference Training and On–Boarding for New Staff (co–coordinator and speaker), Preconference, AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2023.

Bringing the Law Library to the Community: Access to Justice with Remote Services (coordinator and moderator), AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2022.

Professional Development, co–author with Tina Dumas and Holly Riccio. In Introduction to Law Librarianship (Pressbooks, 2021).

# GLL NOMINEE: MEMBER-AT-LARGE

## Catherine McGuire, cont.

### **Significant Presentations and Projects, cont.**

Creating Pathways to Civil Legal Justice, WebJunction, 2019–2021.

Instructor for pre-session, Civil Legal Justice: The Crucial Role of Libraries; Lesson 3: The Legal Reference Interview; and Lesson 4: Creating Partnerships with Civil Legal Organizations. Provided subject-matter expertise, identified and connected WebJunction with additional subject-matter experts.

Self-Care for Librarians: The Necessity of Setting Boundaries, in Legal Ease: Self-Care for Library Staff (AALL, 2018).

And Justice for All: Three States and Three Approaches to A2J Outreach (speaker), AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2018.

Texas-Sized Access to Justice: A Conversation with Trish McAllister (program coordinator), AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2017.

Mass Incarceration and Its Impact on Public and Pro Bono Legal Reference (program coordinator), AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2016.

Communicating with Everyone: Clear Writing and Expression (program coordinator), AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2015.

Coping Strategies for Library Service Providers (program coordinator and speaker, AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, July 2014.

Guest Lecturer, University of Maryland iSchool, 2012–2013, LBSC650, Information Access Services, Legal Resources and Reference



# 2025 GLL LONGEVITY AWARDS

## [Tonya Baroudi, 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:

Gina Catalano, San Diego Law Library

Karen Dibble, Dallas County Law Library

Stacy Etheredge, University of Idaho Law Library

Venita Hoover, Oklahoma County Law Library

Patricia Petroccione, retired, The Walter T. McCarthy Law Library

Peter Rooney, Sacramento County Public Law Library

Melissa Serfass, University of Arkansas at Little Rock Pulaski County Law Library

Jessie Tam, Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library

Michael Tillman-Davis, United States Court of Appeals – 11th Circuit Library

They will be acknowledged, and their certificates and pins awarded at the 2025 AALL Annual Meeting's GLL-SIS Awards and Recognition Ceremony.



# ACCESSING JUSTICE: OPENING THE FLOODGATE FOR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

[Amreet Sandhu, she/her/hers, Sacramento County Public Library](#)



In Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, a frenzied litigant in a panicked state aims to resolve his own affairs gone awry. In seeking help, the litigant is confronted with confusion instead of comfort, a variety of mazes resulting in dead ends, and staircases leading to nowhere. It evokes MC Escher's lithograph, "Ascending and Descending," with no clear path forward. From the perspective of a self-represented litigant, this is how accessing justice can feel.

According to the Self-Represented Litigant Network (SRLN) data, three out of five civil litigants self-represented in court in 2023. For these litigants, the use of court support and law library navigation tools is essential. At the SRLN conference last fall in Salt Lake City, Utah, teams of judges, attorneys, law librarians, court staff, and justice innovators from across the country gathered to address improving the self-represented litigant's journey.

As with many conferences packed with exceptional programming and passionate presenters, covering it all was impossible. However, these five topics captured my interest as a government law librarian and I hope they may be helpful to you in opening the floodgates to resources for self-represented litigants.

- Virtual Court Access Networks: Connecting Communities to the Courts
  - While Kafka presents us with a fictitious litigant, it is no secret that courts are not always experienced as welcoming, convenient, or accessible spaces for self-represented litigants. However, the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown prompted innovation across the country.
  - One example of this was in New York, where computer stations in private and safe locations provided an opportunity for court users to interface with the court without leaving their local community. Locations included public libraries, community centers, and other arenas that better fit litigant needs. Chief of Staff Michelle Smith shared sound advice in building successful partnerships: "Find the people within institutions who will work with you; you will know quickly who will not." Director of Technology Christine Sisario shared some practical tips on ensuring the interface works. Sisario mentioned that while partners may provide accessible community space, success is increased when courts maintain the technology. When there is a glitch, it is best when the solutions staff is court-based.

# ACCESSING JUSTICE, CONT.

- For more information on [Virtual Court Access Networks \(VCAN\)](#) including a blueprint on how to replicate VCAN networks in your own region, contact the New York State Unified Courts Office for Justice Initiatives.
- Pedagogies of Power: Building the Movement to Reimagine U.S. Legal Education
  - It is not uncommon for a person considering law school to be told to reconsider. It is said that there are far too many lawyers already. Yet, those who work with self-represented litigants understand that we are nowhere close to meeting community needs. In this presentation, participants explored how to create a 1:1 need to representation ratio. It included ideas for additional pathways to practice, including alternatives to law school in preparing justice innovators to assist in navigation, returning to bar admission through apprenticeship under a licensed attorney or by motion of judge (this, mind you, was United States Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren's path), and enabling speedy processes for those with uncontentious matters. While some states and jurisdictions have already adopted these measures, they are more often the exception than the rule. Presenter Antonio M. Coronado demonstrated how it is the self-represented litigant who suffers most from keeping the access to justice gates locked.
  - For more information on *Pedagogies of Power* contact Professor of Practice, Community Legal Education, & Innovation for Justice Antonio M. Coronado.
- Non-Lawyer Navigators in State Courts: An Update from the Field
  - This panel discussed the crisis of 30 million litigants in state courts each year without legal help. Their approach included the use of non-lawyer navigators who come from communities outside the courts to assist the self-represented with their civil legal matters. Safe harbor agreements were a tool shared in allowing more navigators to help with docket reduction on limited matters.



*For more information on Nonlawyer Navigators in State Courts, contact the Illinois Bar Association Foundation's Director of Grants and Access to Justice Program Stacey Weiler or the Franklin County Municipal Court Self Help Center Director Robert Southers*

# ACCESSING JUSTICE, CONT.

- Another interesting feature of this panel was the use of *JusticeCorps* college undergraduates and recent graduates to provide direct assistance to self-represented civil litigants. The panel raised an interesting question: is “non-lawyers” the best way to identify justice navigators? Can we find better language than resorting to calling people by what they are not? Here’s hoping the answer is presented at next year’s conference.
- Putting Law Libraries on the Map: Using GIS Technology to Promote Services to the Self Represented Litigant
  - A panel of law library directors and Geo-Spatial Analyst Suzanna Wade presented the results of the 2023 Survey of Law Library Services to the Self Represented Litigant. The map “[Law Libraries: Open to the Public](#)” features law libraries across the country, along with the resources they provide for self-represented litigants. These resources include print and online collections, access to Westlaw and/or Lexis, state or federal law, technology, research and reference, resources and services including court forms and instructions, guides and pathfinders, and referrals. The map allows users to click on law libraries in their region and see which services each library offers. The amount of services offered are represented with a circle. The circle size increases depending on the amount of resources a library has, and if public programs such as *Ask a Lawyer*, *Lawyers in the Library*, or workshops are offered. Another distinguishing factor is if libraries have self-help centers with attorneys on staff. In the map presented, only seven law libraries in the U.S. offered access to attorneys on staff.
  - *More information on law library services and story map information may be accessed through Anne Arundel County Court Law Library Director Joan Bellistri, New York State Unified Court System Chief Law Librarian Sue Ludington, or Self-Represented Litigant Network Geo-Spatial Analyst Suzanna Wade.*



## ACCESSING JUSTICE, CONT.

- *Kayak Court: Bringing Justice to the Unhoused*
  - Given that the conference was held in Utah, an innovative Utah-based solution was raised within several panels. Kayak Court addressed the issue of unhoused litigants failing to appear in court, while their unaddressed legal matters compounded and prevented them from receiving housing, work, and other benefits. In response, Kayak Court literally brought court to the unhoused—by holding court in a Kayak along the Jordan River. Largely a diversion program, the program allowed litigants to receive legal advice from public defenders and then proceed to “trial.” The discomfort of traditional court is noted among those who experience homelessness, and Kayak Court was noted as a way to meet people where they are most comfortable, along with providing certain necessities that contribute to the health of the unhoused community and ecological success of the river.
  - For more information on homeless courts, contact Salt Lake City’s Homeless Engagement and Response Team.

May these resources support your government law library in assisting litigants as we continue to explore how to best support the three out of five litigants who cannot hire a lawyer or choose to self-represent. It may help the door at the end of the ascending and descending staircases open to justice rather than a wall. To join SRLN, visit <https://www.srln.org>.

## SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGATION NETWORK CONFERENCE: LOTS OF LEARNING AND COLLABORATION

[Gail Wechsler, Law Library Association of St. Louis](#)



I had the pleasure of attending the 2024 Self-Represented Litigation Network (SLRN) conference this past September in Salt Lake City. As a first-time attendee to this conference, I found it very rewarding on several levels.

My reason for attending the conference is that the library I run, The Law Library Association of St. Louis (LLASTL), places high importance on providing access to justice resources. We are the only law library currently open to the public in the City of St. Louis.

One thing I loved about the conference was that it brought together many different kinds of stakeholders. Unlike a typical AALL national or regional conference, attendees were not only

# SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGATION NETWORK, CONT.

law librarians. I was happy to meet and learn from attorneys, judges, academics, state government officials and others devoted to making sure that we close the access to justice gap. What follows are descriptions of a few of my favorite sessions at the conference:

The session called “Self-Help Platforms: Empowering People and Providing Baseline Access to Justice in OH and IL” was very interesting and of practical importance to me. The speakers, Anjanette Williams, Susan Choe and Avani Patel, described efforts in their states to provide virtual self-help centers to residents of their jurisdictions who experienced legal issues but were not represented by an attorney. The Illinois program, “Illinois Court Help,” was of particular interest as my library sits just to the west of Madison and St. Clair Counties in Illinois. After the program, I connected with Avani. As a result, our library now lists the “Illinois Court Help” information on our Self-Help page. At the same time, Avani and others who work with her on the program in Illinois know they can refer those living in the Southern Illinois area to our library for in-person help. This has been a wonderful collaboration and sharing of resources.

Another useful session was run by fellow law librarians Larry Meyer, Sue Ludington and Joan Bellistri. They described the story map project, which provides a live interactive national map of public law libraries. Based on survey responses from these libraries, the creators of the project also were able to come up with findings on the types of resources, levels of technology and other services available at these libraries. Key findings and takeaways are listed as part of the connected report, entitled “Open to the Public—2024: How Law Libraries Are Serving Self-Represented Litigants Across the Country.” Kudos to the law librarians responsible for creating this invaluable resource.

I came away from this conference with great admiration for the many advocates working in the field to make sure the most vulnerable individuals have access to quality free or affordable assistance for their legal problems. I also came away inspired to continue to expand the access to justice work of my library. Many thanks to the AALL GLL-SIS for awarding me a partial grant to attend this conference.



# NEWER GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIANS: A CONVERSATION WITH MIRIAM D. CHILDS

In addition to hosting the GLL Mentorship Program's "Build Your Skills" database, as well as other initiatives, the Membership and Mentorship Committee offered its fourth online gathering for GLL's newer librarians on December 17, 2024.

Miriam D. Childs, Director of the Law Library of Louisiana in New Orleans, and current AALL Treasurer, joined the Membership and Mentoring Committee to share her leadership journey with GLL law librarians having five or fewer years in GLL. Twenty-three participants joined the conversation. The session consisted of a Q&A with five prepared questions, breakout discussions, a question-and-answer session, and a brief review of the GLL-SIS mentorship program. The program was organized by Tonya Baroudi, Ann Hemmens, Adriana Mark, and Alicia Friedman – and was sponsored by the GLL-SIS Membership & Mentoring Committee. The following is a summary of the questions posed to Miriam and her responses.



*AALL Treasurer and Law Library of Louisiana Director Miriam D. Childs*

## **What does leadership mean to you?**

For so many years, I didn't consider myself a leader. I didn't think I had the personality, bearing, or look of a leader. I now realize none of that matters. What does matter is an ability to see the big picture and an unshakeable desire to carry out the mission of your organization. That foundation will steer you as a leader. What advances the mission? What hinders the mission? All of the tasks required of you as a leader – creating policies and procedures, feedback to subordinates, reporting to superiors, day-to-day management, planning – come down to ensuring the organization's mission is carried out.

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

I would ask that person if they know the difference between management and leadership. You have to master management before you become a leader. Potential leaders need to have a vision for their organization, a vision tempered by its mission.

## CONVERSATION WITH MIRIAM D. CHILDS, CONT.

They need to have compassion for their subordinates but also know when to be firm and when to be flexible. A leader has to be able to relate to others. Leadership requires honesty and transparency, but also confidentiality. You will find that you may not be able to be close friends with your subordinates because of the risk of bias. You may be isolated at times, and you won't be able to make everyone happy. I think those considerations would help someone determine if they are ready to take on leadership or not.

### **How did you know you were ready to take on a leadership position?**

I can't point to a specific time because for me leadership is incremental. I started my librarian career as an assistant librarian at Exxon Chemical (now ExxonMobil) in Baton Rouge, my hometown. Once my husband earned his J.D. from Louisiana State University, he wanted to return to the New Orleans area, where he grew up. I found a position in the Jefferson Parish Public Library system, and I probably would have stayed there, but I wanted to be a serials librarian. When a serials position opened up at the University of New Orleans, I jumped at the opportunity. After three years I didn't think I wanted to stay at UNO, so when a serials position was advertised at the Law Library of Louisiana, I applied.

I was hired in 2003, and I've been here ever since. As I gained experience and job knowledge, I was promoted up the management chain, from Head of Technical Services, to Assistant Director, to Director. Along the way I eagerly absorbed as much institutional knowledge as I could about the Louisiana Supreme Court and the library. Since I don't have a J.D. I took every opportunity to learn about legal reference and legal bibliography. (As a side note, my background in serials served me very well, since many print legal resources are in fact serials.) I learned so much from the experienced law librarians who were my colleagues, and I must give them a great deal of credit for helping me.

The director who hired me was very active in AALL and immediately got me involved. I didn't know at the time that my desire to learn and take on more responsibilities would eventually put me in a place in which others saw me as someone with leadership potential. Once I was seen as a potential leader, my director at that time sent me to the AALL Management Institute in 2015. That experience brought everything together because I learned effective ways to behave and think as a leader, beyond merely knowing policies and procedures. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the leadership opportunities provided by being active in AALL. You learn a lot about leadership when you are the chair of an SIS or a committee. Or Treasurer!

# CONVERSATION WITH MIRIAM D. CHILDS, CONT.

## **Describe a leadership learning experience.**

I was relieved when I started hearing about imposter syndrome and the difficulties introverts tend to have with leadership. Like so many others, I struggled with a lack of confidence and timidity that could be crippling at times. When I found out what I was experiencing wasn't in my own head, my confidence as a leader increased. I continued to educate myself about leadership with AALL webinars and conference programs, and I slowly began to feel more comfortable being called a leader. One area I struggled with was face-to-face conversations with employees. At a certain point I realized it's my job to provide feedback and it's OK if sometimes that is uncomfortable. The Court is trusting me to ensure the library carries out its mission, which means I must ensure the employees I supervise are fulfilling the mission, and that's that!

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

I discovered on my own that I must keep meticulous to-do lists so that I'm confident I have my priorities straight. I also keep a notebook for recording my thoughts and reflections – and frustrations. Isolation, as I mentioned earlier, means that you must be self-reliant (but not independent). I report directly to the Chief Justice, and he doesn't have time to meet with each department head to chat about how things are going. You bring the big things to his attention, not the mundane details. I have found that my to-do lists and my notes help me with future planning, areas that need immediate attention, and everything in between!

# NEW EXHIBITION AT THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT

## [Marie Silva, California Judicial Center Library](#)

A new exhibition, organized by the California Judicial Center Library, is on display now in the Archives Room on the first floor of the Ronald M. George State Office Complex in San Francisco. Titled "Resolute and Resilient: Celebrating 175 Years of California Women and the Law," the exhibition features illustrated panels and primary source materials celebrating California women's contributions to the law and honoring the state's pioneering women attorneys, judges, and justices. The materials highlight extraordinary women who challenged discrimination, broke professional barriers, and advanced equal justice in California and nationwide, including the former and current women justices of the California Supreme Court. An accompanying exhibition booklet is available online [here](#).

## NEW EXHIBIT, CONT.



*A segment of the new exhibition, Resolute and Resilient: Celebrating 175 Years of California Women and the Law*

Although women in early California lacked basic legal and political rights—including the right to vote—they contributed to the development of the law as litigants and activists. The exhibition casts a spotlight on nineteenth-century women like the Mexican American novelist María Ruiz de Burton, who fought to defend her land holdings in Baja California and San Diego County in Mexican and U.S. courts for over two decades. Also featured are the early civil rights activists Mary Ellen Pleasant and Emma Jane Turner. These African American women courageously pressed lawsuits against San Francisco transit companies in the 1860s, asserting their right to ride on the city's streetcars.

Members of California's legal community are familiar with Clara Foltz, the state's first woman attorney and the founder of California's public defender system. The exhibition also celebrates less well-known female attorneys who achieved notable "firsts," including Christine La Barraque (California's first blind woman attorney), Annie Virginia Stephens Coker (California's first African American woman attorney), Chiyoko Sakamoto (California's first Asian American woman attorney), and Abby Abinanti (California's first Native American woman attorney, now Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribal Court).

## EXHIBITION AT THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT, CONT.

*Chiyoko Sakamoto,  
October 25, 1938, Los  
Angeles Times  
Photographic Collection,  
UCLA Library, Special  
Collections*



The women's liberation movement challenged longstanding gender roles and propelled women into traditionally male professions, including the law. During the 1960s and '70s, new barriers were broken: future Second District Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Vaino Spencer became California's first African American woman judge and Judge Frances Muñoz became the first Latina to ascend to the state judiciary. In 1977, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Rose Bird, then-40-years-old, as the 25th Chief Justice of California, making her the first woman to serve on the state Supreme Court. The exhibition includes materials related to her historic tenure and the contentious retention election of 1986 that brought it to an end.



*Chief Justice Rose E. Bird Court, circa 1984–  
1985, California Judicial Center Library,  
Special Collections & Archives*

Eight women have served on the California Supreme Court since Chief Justice Bird lost her retention election almost 40 years ago. Today, Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero presides over a female-majority court on which Associate Justices Carol A. Corrigan, Leondra R. Kruger, and Kelli M. Evans sit. The exhibition includes a section devoted to each of the nine women justices of the California Supreme Court, past and present. Photographs, artifacts, and manuscript materials highlight their extraordinary achievements and service.

# GLL-SIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2024-2025

<b>Chair</b> (2023-2026) <u>Amy Small</u>	<b>Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect</b> (2024-2027) <u>Christine Morton</u>	<b>Past-Chair</b> (2022-2025) <u>Karen Westwood</u>	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> (2022-2025) <u>Sara Pixon</u>
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## GLL-SIS COMMITTEES 2024-2025

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*Board Liaison* - Laurel Moran

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