

**AALL Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section (LHRB-SIS)**  
**2015-2016 Annual Report**

The officers of LHRB-SIS for 2015-2016 were Kasia Solon Cristobal, chair; Karen Wahl, vice-chair/chair-elect; Sabrina Sondhi, immediate past chair; and Laurel Davis, secretary/treasurer. In an online election conducted in March, Elizabeth Hilkin was elected vice chair/chair-elect, and Christine George was elected secretary/treasurer.

Membership declined slightly from the year before, but remained above 200. As of July 2016, LHRB had a balance of \$4842.57; anticipated expenses for the annual meeting were \$2385, leaving LHRB with a balance of \$2457 for the next year; as dues revenue this year was \$2120, some attention will be given to expenses and possible increased sponsorship.

LHRB, in cooperation with Gale Cengage, held its eighth Annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition in the spring. The essay contest committee, chaired by Timothy Kearley and Fred Dingley, awarded first place to Jillian Slaight, a Ph.D. candidate in French history at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, for her essay *Seductive Arguments: Law, Elopement & the Erosion of Parental Authority in Pre-Revolutionary France*. Ms. Slaight attended the annual meeting in Chicago using one of LHRB's VIP passes and presented her paper during an excellent talk. Adam Giancola, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University (Canada) class of 2017, wrote the runner-up essay, "The Development of Recusatio Iudicis and the Rise of Aequitas."

The single program LHRB sponsored at the annual meeting was "The Once and Future Presidential Library: From Lincoln to Obama," which was standing room only. Speakers included Blair Kamin of the *Chicago Tribune* and Pulitzer Prize winning author; John Laster, Director of the Presidential Materials Division at the National Archives; and Olivia Mahoney, Senior Curator of the Chicago History Museum. In addition, LHRB hosted a Host City History Roundtable meeting, this time with a focus on Chicago's legal history. Other meetings included the now traditional rare book cataloging roundtable, as well as a new roundtable on archives, spearheaded by the new LHRB committee on Archives. The archives roundtable proved to be a success so the SIS plans to hold that event again in the future.

There were some developments this past year on the outreach front. Twitter (@lhrbsis) has grown to 168 followers. At the 2016 annual meeting, there was a move from tables to posters so LHRB planned accordingly, and made a reusable fabric poster, along with customized flyers for the events in Chicago.

Spring and summer issues of *LH&RB*, the SIS newsletter, appeared under the editorship of Mark Podvia. Kasia Solon Cristobal will be the new editor of the Newsletter with assistance from Mark as needed. (The next issue *Unbound: An Annual Review of Legal History and Rare Books* was delayed due to unexpected turnover with editors.)

Laurel Davis continued as webmaster and revamped one page to be on LHRB History, in cooperation with immediate past chair Sabrina Sondhi, with the thought being that going forward Immediate Past Chair will serve as SIS Historian.

Respectfully submitted,

Kasia Solon Cristobal