

**AALL Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section (LHRB-SIS)
2016-2017 Annual Report**

The officers of LHRB-SIS for 2016-2017 were Karen Wahl, chair; Liz Hilkin, vice-chair/chair-elect; Kasia Solon Cristobal, immediate past chair; and Christine George, secretary/treasurer. Laurel Davis remains our webmaster. Elections were conducted in March, in which Fred Dingley was elected vice-chair/chair-elect. This was the first year in a while where we had a contested election. We hope this interest in leadership positions continues in the future. Going into the conference, we had 202 members, which increased to 206 post-conference.

LHRB, in cooperation with Gale Cengage, held its ninth annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition in the spring. The essay contest committee, chaired by Timothy Kearley and Fred Dingley, received 5 essays, and awarded first place to Gonzalo Rodriguez, a 2L at University of Alabama School of Law, for his essay entitled *Protecting Inland Waterways, from the Institutes of Gaius to Magna Carta*. Mr. Rodriguez attended the annual meeting in Austin, TX using one of LHRB's VIP passes. His presentation was very well received and he attended a number of other sessions at the conference as well.

At AALL in Austin, LHRB-SIS sponsored the program *Spanish and English Water Law in the American Southwest: A Case Study for Litigation and Public Policy*, with moderator Laura Ray of Cleveland Marshall College of Law Library, and speakers Charles Porter of St. Edward's University and Jane Cohen of University of Texas at Austin. LHRB also hosted a Host city History Roundtable entitled *Tequila and the Law* with speakers Mark Podvia from West Virginia University College of Law and Scott Willis from Tequila 512. Both sessions were well attended and well received. We also attempted to host both of our roundtables, Archives and Rare Book Cataloging, in the same room in an attempt to foster communication. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts with TS-SIS, the Rare Book Cataloging Roundtable was not well attended, and instead joined the Archives discussion instead. At least one excellent programming idea for 2018 came out of the roundtable, which was posted to IdeaSpace where it received a lot of support.

HeinOnline agreed to be the sole sponsor of the LHRB Reception, donating \$1000 to be used towards the event. Dick Spinelli agreed to continue this relationship with LHRB in the future as well. We intend to keep charging a \$10 cover in order to cover (at least in part) the difference between the cost of the event and the HeinOnline donation. The reception at Threadgill's was a success, and ended up costing less than originally estimated. The cover charge was therefore able to be put towards our speaker honorarium for *Spanish and English Water Law* and the AALL Liaisons to ALA fund for 2017-18.

LH&RB, the SIS newsletter under the leadership of Kasia Solon Cristobal, Editor-in-Chief, produced both a fall and spring issue. *Unbound: A Review of Legal History and Rare Books* produced its 9th annual volume under the leadership of Mark Podvia, Publications Committee Chair.

The @lhrbsis Twitter account has increased its followers to 234. This year at AALL in Austin, we started a new ad campaign involving Hughes Humphries fans with the hashtag #hughesonthemove to encourage participants to take photos of the fans around the city of Austin and post them to Twitter. While the fans proved very popular and were all taken, few people actually tagged photos of them. In

addition to our usual “get involved,” “LHRB @ AALL17,” and “Legal History in Austin” handouts, we also created a tie-in flyer with the *Tequila and the Law* session, which included both information about the roundtable and local establishments known for their tequila tastings. Sabrina Sondhi and Karen Wahl attended the CONELL marketplace and spoke to a number of new AALL attendees who we look forward to working with in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Wahl