

## AALL Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section (LHRB-SIS)

### 2017-2018 Annual Report

#### **Membership**

The officers of LHRB-SIS for 2017-2018 were Liz Hilkin, chair; Fred Dingley, vice-chair/chair-elect; Karen Wahl, immediate past chair; and Christine George, secretary/treasurer. Laurel Davis remains our webmaster. Elections were held in April. Christine George was elected vice-chair/chair-elect and Ryan Greenwood was elected secretary/treasurer. Membership in the SIS has remained around two hundred.

#### **Annual Meeting**

LHRB, in cooperation with Gale Cengage, held its tenth annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition in the spring. The essay contest committee, chaired by Timothy Kearley and Fred Dingley, received three essays and awarded first place to Christopher Szabla, a PhD student at Cornell, for his essay, *A “Natural” Right to Freedom of Movement in an Age of Sovereign Border Control: The Liberal Dialectic in the Jurisprudence of August Wilhelm Heffter*. Szabla attended the annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland using one of the LHRB-SIS VIP passes.

At the annual meeting in Baltimore, LHRB-SIS sponsored the program “Special Collections Make for Special Relationships: Working with Your Institution to Bring Special Collections into the (UV-Filtered) Light.” Heather Kushnerick, archivist at South Texas College of Law Houston, led the program with fellow LHRB members Christine George, Faculty and Scholarly Services Librarian at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Vanessa King, Assistant Law Librarian for Special Collections at Emory University School of Law; and Travis Williams, Archivist and Public Services Librarian at Louisiana State University Law Center. The program was intended to promote Special Collections through outreach both within and beyond the library, and attendees expressed an appreciation of the ideas presented.

The SIS also hosted its annual Host City History Roundtable, The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Development of American Railroad Law with speaker Mark Podvia, Head of Public Services, Special Collections & Instruction Librarian at West Virginia University College of Law. The roundtable was well-attended, and attendees expressed an appreciation of a program where they know they will learn something.

LHRB scheduled an archives roundtable and a rare books roundtable. The rare books roundtable was sparsely attended. The archives roundtable, where participants discussed the Academy of Certified Archivists, had strong attendance.

HeinOnline provided \$500 for the LHRB reception, held at The Corner Bistro and Wine Bar. We charged \$10 per ticket and sold 35 tickets.

#### **Publications**

*LH&RB*, the SIS newsletter under the leadership of Kasia Solon Cristobal, Editor-in-Chief, produced a fall 2017 and a spring 2018 newsletter with articles from Stewart Plein, Heather Kushnerick, Margaret K. Maes, Matthew Braun, and Catherine O’Brion. *Unbound: A Review of Legal History and Rare Books* produced its tenth annual volume under the leadership of Mark Podvia, Publications Committee Chair.

### **Outreach**

The @lhrbsis Twitter account has increased its followers to 257. The account chiefly retweets articles of legal history interest. Liz Hilkin and Karen Wahl attended the CONELL marketplace during the annual meeting. They spoke to a number of new attendees who expressed an interest in the special interest section.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Hilkin