

Legal Information Services to the Public SIS Annual Report 2015-2016

The Executive Board of the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) for 2015-2016 were Leslie Greenwood, Chair; Nicole Dyzlewski, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, and Christine Timko, Secretary Treasurer; and Brian Huffman, Member-at-Large.

Grants - LISP was sadly informed in November 2015 of the death of Janet Ann Hedin, longstanding Grants Committee Chairperson. LISP made a \$50 donation to the Polish Art Foundation in her name.

The Grants Committee awarded two grants this year. For the first time, LISP awarded a \$1000 scholarship for the 2016 AALL Leadership Academy to Lee Van Duzer. Members decided at the 2016 business meeting to make this award permanent, and to name it the Janet Hedin Scholarship.

The 2016 Cathy Garner Grant of \$1800 for attendance at the AALL Annual Meeting was divided between three recipients: Brian Barnes, Cynthia Jones, and Stephen Parks.

Business Meeting: The LISP-SIS Business Meeting and Breakfast was held on Monday, July 18, at 7:30 AM. We received \$500 of sponsorship for this event from LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, Bloomberg Law, and Wolters Kluwer. Prior to the meeting Leslie Greenwood collected committee updates and presented a summary, which was discussed at the business meeting. Members voted to officially change the name of the Education and Outreach Committee to the Education Committee. The possibility of conducting the next LISP Business Meeting by electronic teleconference is being considered.

LISP selected Danielle Hirsch of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Access to Justice as a VIP guest to the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference. Unfortunately, Ms. Hirsch had to leave the Conference before the LISP Business Meeting.

Education Initiatives:

Following an inquiry from another AALL member, the LISP Executive Board investigated the Harvard-Ravel [Free the Law](#) project. At our request, Harvard granted us an informational phone conference. We then wrote up a summary of the conference and posted it to the AALL message board.

In April the LISP Education Committee joined with GLL, RIPS, and SR SIS's to produce a "Five Topics in Five Days" online discussion on the theme "Service Limits in Public Law Libraries." As a result of this event with its high level of participation and thoughtful exchange, the Education Committee is considering a program on the topic of "unauthorized practice of law" as it relates to the work of law librarians.

At the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting, LISP independently sponsored an educational program. "Mass Incarceration and Its Impact on Public and Pro Bono Legal Reference" introduced the topic of mass incarceration in America, and how law librarians might serve this unique patron

group. Our Exhibit Hall poster highlighted the incarceration crisis, as well as other LISP programs and activities at the Conference.

Public Library Toolkits: Having learned at the 2016 Annual Meeting leadership training that copyright protection is important for all AALL-produced materials, the Toolkit committee plans to seek copyright waivers from all authors of the toolkits.

Joint LISP / GLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships: A LISP committee was selected in 2015 to the history and direction of this partnership due to its inactivity in recent years. The committee produced a report in January 2016 of options LISP could pursue for this committee. At the 2016 Business Meeting it was pointed out that GLL is primarily pursuing a separate “Access to Justice” outreach. LISP decided not to actively pursue the partnership at present, but to investigate pursuing possible partnerships with public libraries.

Possible Name Change or “Access to Justice” Incorporation: Having narrowly voted down changing the name of LISP-SIS to “Access to Justice” in the 2014-2015 term, a committee was selected to investigate incorporating A2J elements into the LISP platform, and whether our name should change as a result. Members decided at the 2016 business meeting that there was a general “name change fatigue” following the previous LISP vote as well as the recent AALL election on changing its name. LISP has decided to table this issue pending further discussion.

Treasurer’s Report: Our budget continues to be steadily robust. In of June 30, 2015 our balance was \$12,270.87. Our balance as of May 31, 2016 was \$11,704. We anticipate spending money to reimburse recipients of the two grants, and expenses related to the Annual Meeting, plus the receipt of revenue from dues over the summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Greenwood
Chair, 2015-2016