

Legal Information Services to the Public SIS 2008-2009

The officers and members of the executive committee of the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP) for 2008-09 were Betty Agin, chair; Terrye Conroy, vice chair/chair-elect; John Cannan, secretary/treasurer; and Luis Acosta, immediate past chair.

Amendments to the section's by-laws were approved at the section's business meeting on July 14, 2008.

Revisions to the LISP guide "How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers" were posted on the LISP web page in March 2009. After surveying the LISP and SCCLL-SIS membership on the preferred format for a new edition of the guide, LISP is working with AALL Headquarters in designing a freely downloadable, digital version of the brochure.

The section's State-Specific Public Library Toolkits are designed to assist non-law public librarians and pro se patrons gain bibliographic knowledge of legal titles in their state. In 2008-09, LISP continued to add state toolkits, as well as update existing toolkits.

The Garner Grant Award, established to honor the memory of Kathy Garner, provides financial assistance for attending the AALL Annual Meeting. Two LISP members, Scott Burgh and Claire Williamson, were awarded the Garner Grant for 2009 and received assistance to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

The LISP executive committee chose Richard Zorza, an attorney, independent consultant, and coordinator of the Self Represented Litigation Network, to serve as LISP's "Valuable Invited Participant" at the 2009 Annual Meeting.

At the 2009 Annual Meeting in Washington, LISP is co-sponsoring a program entitled "Law Libraries and the Access to Justice Revolution," at which Mr. Zorza will speak. LISP is also coordinating a program entitled "Online Interactive Court Forms for Self-Represented Litigants: The Library's Role," presented by Judy Meadows of the State Law Library of Montana, and Kate Bladow, coordinator of the National Public Automated Documents Online project at ProBonoNet. In addition, LISP is co-sponsoring the annual Joint Roundtable on Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners with SR-SIS and SCCLL-SIS.

In June, the members of LISP elected Bret N. Christianson to serve as vice chair/chair-elect, and Dan J. Baker to serve as secretary/treasurer, for 2009-2010. Terrye Conroy will serve as chair, and Betty Agin will continue on the executive committee as immediate past chair.

Betty Agin, chair
2008-09