



LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION



## LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

The members of the Executive Board of the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) for 2020-2021 were Catherine McGuire, Past Chair; Pauline Afuso, Chair; Sarah Larsen, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, and Lisa Heidenreich, Secretary/Treasurer.

### SUMMARY

Due to the pandemic, LISP activities were slightly different from previous years. For example, LISP did not have any physical meetings, but we did host a virtual screening of *Coded Bias* (see Education Committee report.) We did not offer any grants, but many of the educational programs and events were virtual trainings, and they were free or offered at a much lower cost. In short, we persevered, and our activities are noted in various blog entries. The membership is looking forward to meeting in person next year in Denver.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The LISP Business Meeting was held on July 8, 2021 at 2:00. This meeting was held via Zoom, and we had 19 attendees. There was no new business or resolutions presented at the meeting, though there was a short discussion on the lateness of the election and how the SIS would appoint its officers for the next year. The procedural details are described in the Nominations Committee Report.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Lisa Heidenreich, reported a balance of \$12,230.47 in the LISP account, an amount slightly more than in the last few years. The major expense in the last year was the co-sponsorship of the movie *Coded Bias*.

### AALL ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES

**CONNELL:** In addition to the two programs that LISP sponsored, LISP members, Pauline Afuso, Catherine McGuire, and Shanna Pritchett represented LISP at the CONELL Marketplace. In the 20-minute virtual meeting, the trio spoke with two future LISP members. The CONELL participants asked questions about how to become involved, what are the activities that LISP participates in, and what distinguishes LISP from other SISs (such as GLL, SR, or RIPS).



## LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

**PROGRAMS:** A detailed description of the two programs that were sponsored by LISP are described in the Education Committee report. Word of mouth is that both programs were very well-received.

### BLOG COMMITTEE

The Blog Editor was Jessica Almeida. The LISP/SR Blog had a very successful year. We added 32 posts contributed by 14 authors. We had a total of 3,988 views from 2,694 visitors. The "Reopening Our Libraries" series was very popular, and many posts were advertised on KnowItAALL. The 3 most viewed posts were:

1. Reopening During a Pandemic: A Second Look
2. Outreach and Access to Justice in a Pandemic
3. Reopening in the Time of COVID-19: The Adventure of Hawaii's Supreme Court Law Library

The Blog Editor worked with the Web Committee to create a new social media policy which was approved by the LISP and SR executive boards and posted in the fall. SR named a co-editor and has started to contribute posts too.

### BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws Committee was co-chaired by Luis Acosta and David McFadden. There were no new Bylaws proposals or changes this year.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee created and submitted two programs consideration by the AMPC, and both were accepted. They were:

#### **LISP-Sponsored Livestream session:**

Understanding Bias in Artificial Intelligence

- ♦ Friday, July 23 from 10:15-11:15 CDT
- ♦ Moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Nicole Dyszlewski with speakers Darla Jackson (University of Oklahoma Law Library), Michael Katell (Alan Turing Institute) and Ishita Rustagi (Center for Equity, Gender, and Leadership at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business)
- ♦ Panelists will discuss various ways in which AI systems are biased, how this bias pervades the law, and what law librarians can do about these issues.

#### **On demand program:**

Diversifying the Law Library Collection with Intentionality



## LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION

- ♦ Moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Nicole Dyszlewski with speakers Raquel Gabriel (CUNY School of Law) and Anna Russell (U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit Law Library)
- ♦ Panelists will discuss their own library's approach to building more inclusive collections, describe real-world challenges, and offer recommendations for how to get started in changing collection practices.
- ♦ Live Q&A: Tuesday, July 20 from 3-3:30 CDT

In addition, the Education Committee partnered with [Law Librarians of New England](#) and the Research Crits Caucus to sponsor a virtual screening of the movie *Coded Bias*.

- ♦ Virtual Screening and discussion of *Coded Bias*, a documentary that investigates bias in algorithms
- ♦ Held on June 11
- ♦ Co-sponsored with LLNE and the Research Crits Caucus
- ♦ Moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Nicole Dyszlewski with Panelists Sarah Lamdan and Susan Nevelow Mart

## GRANTS

The Grants Committee chair position was vacant at the start of year, but then Shanna Pritchett volunteered to chair the committee. The committee awarded will be working on creating a description of duties and a timeline for the committee. She is looking forward to giving away lots of grants next year.

## NOMINATIONS

There was no Chair for this committee this year; subsequently, the submission of candidates and the election was late. We had two candidates run unopposed for the two open spots on the Executive Board. They were almost unanimously voted in; one voter chose to vote for a write in candidate. Unfortunately, the write-in candidate was not a member of LISP and could not be considered for the position.

Because the election was late, the Bylaws committee recommended that we consider the results of the election to be advisory. After the close of the AALL Business meeting, the two spots (Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) were vacant, and then per the Bylaws, the positions were filled by the remaining members of the LISP Executive Board. The winners of the election, Jessica Almeida, Vice Chair, and Lisa Heidenreich, Secretary/Treasurer, were appointed by Sarah Larsen and Pauline Afuso on July 23, 2021.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY TOOLKITS

The committee restructured the Toolkits into regions with coordinators for each region. In order to encourage new people to volunteer and work on the Toolkits, Artie asked for and received two LISP



**LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**

membership grants as an encouragement and thank you for two new members to work on updating the Toolkits.

**WEB COMMITTEE**

The Web Committee was chaired by Brian Huffman. The committee worked with the Blog Editor to come up with a first draft of a social media policy to use for the LISP/SR blog entries. After coming up with a draft with suggestions from the Executive Board, the policy was sent over to the SR-SIS to get their comments and feedback. The policy was approved and posted to the blog in December 2020.

There were other minor updates to the web and social media that were done over the year. The committee will make updates to the leadership, annual reports, business meeting, and toolkit pages as changes are submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Afuso  
LISP-SIS Chair, 2020-2021