



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



## **LEGAL INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

The members of the Executive Board of the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) for 2021-2022 were Pauline Afuso, Past Chair; Sarah Larsen, Chair; Jessica Almeida, Vice Chair/Chair Elect; and Lisa Heidenreich, Secretary/Treasurer.

### **SUMMARY**

This year, the LISP-SIS Board accomplished several projects, including the creation of a [Committee Handbook](#). The Handbook is meant to give committee members and prospective volunteers an overview of each committee's regular activities and the timeline for those activities. The Board recognizes that many of LISP's current committee chairs have been serving in their roles for several years and may be ready for a change, so the Board emphasized volunteer recruitment this year.

The Executive Board also introduced a series of Coffee Chats, informal gatherings of LISP members centered loosely around a topic of interest to our members. We held three coffee chats during the 2021-2022 membership year. The coffee chat topics included library updates, mindfulness, and preparing to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

LISP-SIS has also been focused on planning activities for the first in-person AALL Annual Meeting since 2019. We are looking forward to gathering in Denver.

### **BUSINESS MEETING**

The LISP-SIS Business Meeting was held on June 27, 2022 at 1:00 pm Central. This meeting was held by Zoom and had 22 attendees. No new business or resolutions were presented at the meeting.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Lisa Heidenreich reported that the budget is in really good shape right now. As of March 31, 2022 (the most recent statement), LISP has an account balance of \$13,560.47. This does not reflect an outstanding check for \$1,000 to our recipient of the Janet Hedin Leadership Grant. As with last year, this is a significant increase over previous years as we continue to receive dues and continue to spend less due to the lingering effects of the pandemic. We anticipate expenses of approximately \$900 associated with the AALL Conference in Denver and a maximum of \$2,000 to be paid out in Annual Meeting Grants.



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### AALL ANNUAL MEETING

**CONNELL:** LISP-SIS will be represented at the CONELL Marketplace on Saturday, July 16, 2022 by Lisa Heidenreich and Sarah Larsen.

**EXHIBIT HALL:** LISP-SIS will have a board in the activities area of the Exhibit Hall. Stop by to say hello!

**PROGRAMS:** Please see the Education Committee report for a detailed description of the two programs LISP-SIS is sponsoring at AALL 2022.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS:** LISP-SIS is sponsoring two roundtable discussions during AALL. The first is the LISP-SIS Roundtable Discussion on Sunday, July 17, 2022 from 1:15 pm to 2:15 pm. The topic for this discussion is online services. LISP is also co-sponsoring a joint roundtable with GLL-SIS and SR-SIS on Law Library Services to Prisoners and Public Patrons. This joint roundtable will be held on Monday, July 18, 2022 from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm and will discuss the eviction crisis.

**SOCIAL EVENTS:** LISP-SIS will be hosting our annual ice cream social on Saturday, July 16, 2022 immediately following the Opening Reception.

### BLOG COMMITTEE

The Blog Committee members for 2021-2022 were Jessica Almeida (Editor/Chair), Pauline Afuso, Havilah Bakken, Leslie Greenwood, and Jenny Pederson. This was the first year there was an official blog committee. There were 31 posts from 21 authors this year. The blog published a series on the eviction crisis and many members of LISP-SIS contributed a post on the resources in their state. The blog also started interviewing members and included a wonderful post on Sara Galligan's retirement.

### 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 was co-chaired by Nicole Dyszlewski and Rebecca Sherman. Jessica Almeida, Jennifer Dubetz, and Dana Porter were members for 2021-2022.



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

### **LISP-SIS Sponsored Program:**

Designing Access to Justice: User Centered Design and Technology for Self-Represented Litigants

- Monday, July 18, 9:30 am – 10:30 am
- CCC 301-303
- Coordinated by Vice Chair Jessica Almeida, moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Nicole Dyszlewski with speakers Natalie Knowlton (Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System) and Lois Lupica (University of Denver Sturm College of Law)
- According to the Self Represented Litigants Network, “3 out of 5 people in civil cases go to court without a lawyer.” In response to this fundamental access to justice issue, legal technologists have created innovative apps and websites to guide self-represented litigants through the civil legal process. This panel will feature legal technologists from the University of Denver and the Institute of the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) as they take us through the development of apps and websites from inception to use. Panelists will discuss the importance of a human-centered design approach, user experience testing, and how library staff can help.

### **LISP-SIS Education Committee Program:**

Truth Telling: What the Law Library Community Can Do to Support and Learn from a Transitional Justice Initiative

- Tuesday, July 19, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm
- CCC 401-402
- Coordinated by Vice Chair Jessica Almeida, moderated by Education Committee Co-Chair Nicole Dyszlewski with speakers Nicki Gonzales (Regis University), Rachel Nelson (National Indian Law Library, Native American Rights Fund), Rebecca Plevel (University of South Carolina Law Library), and Nancy Wadsworth (University of Denver)
- A truth and reconciliation commission is an official body tasked with the investigation and redress of past human rights abuses by a government in the hope of resolving conflict and promoting healing by impacted communities in a way not possible through other means. One such example, led by the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission, involved a multi-year truth-seeking process about child-welfare practices involving Maine’s Native people. Other examples can be found in South Africa post-apartheid or in Canada following its legacy of mandatory boarding schools for indigenous children. Several universities have undergone similar processes as part of reckoning their ties to slavery. This session will feature a moderator and four



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speakers. Speakers will discuss the concepts of truth telling and reconciliation and will describe ways in which librarians can support the research and work of these unique forms of justice.

### GRANTS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Grants & Awards Committee members for 2021-2022 were Shanna Pritchett (Chair), Sara Pic, and Shannon Stoneking. The committee awarded two grants during the 2021-2022 membership year. Itunu Sofidiya was awarded the Janet Hedin Grant to attend the AALL Leadership Academy in Chicago in March 2022. Catherine McGuire and Serena Rodholm were awarded the Kathy Garner Grant to attend the AALL Annual Meeting in Denver in July 2022.

In addition, the Grants & Awards Committee proposed adding a third grant to allow one member to attend the AALL Management Institute. The Board approved this proposal. The grant will be awarded beginning with the 2023 Management Institute.

The Grants & Awards Committee also proposed the creation of two awards. The proposals are still being reviewed and refined.

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Following last year's elections, the LISP-SIS Board decided to take a new approach for ensuring the Nominations Committee is staffed each year. The Board voted to have the previous year's Past Chair take on the role of Nominations Committee Chair. Catherine McGuire served as Chair for 2021-2022, and Sarah Mauldin and Andrea Woods served as committee members.

Two candidates ran unopposed for the two open positions on the Executive Board. Both were unanimously elected. The winners of the election were Julia Viets, Vice Chair, and Lori-Ann Craig, Secretary/Treasurer. They will officially join the board following the conclusion of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

### PUBLIC LIBRARY TOOLKIT COMMITTEE

Artie Berns served as the Chair of the Public Library Toolkit Committee. Updates are ongoing for the state toolkits, and most are fairly current. The committee updated the general information toolkit pages and is in the process of having someone create a federal law toolkit.



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**WEB COMMITTEE**

The Web Committee was chaired by Brian Huffman. The committee conducted routine updates to the website throughout the year. The committee also maintained our Twitter account and tweeted our LISP/SR blog posts.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Larsen  
LISP-SIS Chair, 2021-2022