

# RIPS-SIS Annual Report

2019-2020

## Executive Board Report

Genevieve Tung, Chair	Taryn Marks, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Ashley Ahlbrand, Immediate Past Chair	Clanitra Stewart Nejd, Secretary/Treasurer
Zanada Joyner, Member at Large	Karen Skinner, Member at Large

Despite the unexpected challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) had a fruitful year. This report will summarize the activities of the executive board, followed by reports of individual committees.

### Renaming the RIPS Publication Award in Honor of Paul Gatz

Paul Gatz served on the RIPS-SIS Executive Board and was a wonderful friend and colleague, as well as a devoted husband and father. After a year-long struggle with cancer, Paul passed away in January 2020. Many of his colleagues at the Ohio State Moritz Law Library, and other friends in our community, have shared their [thoughts and remembrances of Paul](#) on the RIPS Law Librarian Blog, where Paul published many excellent commentaries. The Executive Board voted to re-name the RIPS Publication Award in Paul's honor; the award will now be known as the Paul Gatz RIPS-SIS Publication Award.

### Continued work of the Membership Task Force

Entering its second year, the Board has continued to support the Membership Task Force in completing its duties assigned by the current Strategic Plan. The Board approved the Task Force to continue its work in 2020-2021 to suggest and implement changes to fulfill member needs as described in our 2020 MTF Survey. More details follow below.

### Shifting to a Remote Annual Meeting Format

In spring and early summer, the RIPS board would ordinarily be preparing to host meetings, roundtable discussions, and promote RIPS-sponsored programming at the AALL Annual Meeting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the shift to an all-virtual conference, many of these tasks were altered or rendered moot. As discussed below in the Program Committee report, the RIPS-sponsored program proceeded as a stand-alone, post-conference multi-day online workshop.

The RIPS Scholarship and Patron Services Committees held virtual roundtable events during or close in time to the conference. Programming led by or featuring RIPS members remained an outstanding part of the 2020 virtual event, including 10 separate live and pre-recorded sessions.

2019-2020 Treasurer Report

<b>Balance as of March 31, 2019</b>		<b>\$24,577.04</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
	Contributions	\$2,700.00
	Dues	\$8,145.00
	Registrations	\$665.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$11,510.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
	Accommodations	\$3,580.95
	A/V Equipment	\$875.00
	Food/Beverage	\$5,429.02
	Awards	\$109.76
	Misc. Expenses	\$746.34
	Supplies	\$47.21
	Souvenirs/Giveaways	\$185.89
	Telephone	\$79.52
	Transportation	\$702.54
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$11,756.23</b>
<b>Excess Revenues Over Expenses</b>		<b>(246.23)</b>
<b>Balance as of March 31, 2020</b>		<b>\$24,330.81</b>

## Committee Reports

### Grants

#### **Committee Members:**

Marty Witt, Chair

Rebecca Mattson, Vice-Chair

Susan Azyndar

Iain Barksdale

Dan Brackmann

Matt Cooper

Matthew Flyntz

Sarah Kammer

Shira Megerman

Jill Sturgeon

Colleen Williams

#### I. RIPS-SIS Leadership Academy Grant

In early January 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Leadership Academy grant, with a deadline of February 10, 2020. The Leadership Academy was originally scheduled to occur in Illinois in April 2020. The committee received two applications for one available grant, not to exceed \$500. The two applications were reviewed and Casandra Laskowski was selected by the committee as the grant recipient, based on the total of the numerical scores assigned by committee members using the evaluation matrix. On March 4, 2020, the offer of the grant was made to Casandra Laskowski, who accepted.

Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership Academy did not occur in-person in April 2020 and was instead held as a virtual event in August with a registration cost of \$395. The grant funds provided by RIPS-SIS were still used by the recipient to cover the registration fee for the virtual event.

#### II. RIPS-SIS Annual Meeting Grants

In early April 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS AALL Annual Meeting grants. At that time, no decision had yet been made to cancel the in-person Annual Meeting event scheduled to occur in New Orleans in July. The deadline for applications was set for May 1, 2020.

As of May 27, 2020, it was known that the AALL Annual Meeting would be held virtually in July at a cost of \$99 for members and \$49 for retired members. The total amount of grant funds available to the committee to award was \$4000. Thus, up to 40 grants covering the regular \$99 registration fee could be awarded. The committee solicited applications using an abbreviated version of the Annual Meeting grant application form. The primary factor in evaluating applications was established as financial need. The deadline for applications was set and announced as June 15, 2020.

As of June 17, 2020, five applications were received for the grant, with only one indicating partial funding from their employer. The committee voted by email during the period June 17-18 to award \$99

grants to all 5 applicants: Sarah Starnes, Eileen Santos, Lori Corso, Jennifer Dixon, and Geraldine Kalim. These recipients were notified by email of their selection for grants on June 22, 2020.

Because over \$3500 in grant funding remained available, the committee, after consulting with the RIPS-SIS Executive Board, announced they would continue to receive and review applications on a rolling basis until July 8, 2020. All recipients who completed the application and who were verified as a RIPS-SIS member would be awarded a \$99 grant so long as funds were still available as of the date they applied. Committee Chair Marty Witt reviewed the applications, verified applicants' membership status, and notified the recipients without further involvement of the committee. Three grants were awarded to the following recipients in this manner: Judy Davis, Zanada Joyner, and Erin Grimes. One application (from Itunu Sofidiya) was received past the July 8, 2020 deadline, but the committee agreed to consider the application and award a grant to Itunu.

In total, 9 grants in the amount of \$99 were awarded for a total of \$891. As such, \$3109 in funds were rolled over to the 2020-2021 RIPS-SIS Annual Meeting grant fund.

### III. RIPS-SIS Service Award

In early April 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Service Award. The deadline was set for May 1, 2020. On May 1, due to the small number of applicants, the deadline was extended to May 11, 2020. On May 13, 2020, the committee met by conference call and selected Alyson Drake as the recipient of the award. On May 15, 2020, Alyson was notified that she had received the award. The formal announcement was made at the June 24, 2020 RIPS-SIS Annual Business Meeting.

### IV. RIPS-SIS Publication Award

In early April 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Publication Award. The deadline was set for May 1, 2020. On May 1, due to the small number of applicants, the deadline was extended to May 11, 2020. On May 13, 2020 the committee met by conference call to review applications and selected Rena Seidler as the recipient of the Publication Award. Ms. Seidler was not immediately notified of the award, due to the pending decision by the RIPS-SIS Executive Board to rename the award in honor of the late Paul Gatz. Ms. Seidler was notified by email of her receipt of the award on June 15, 2020 and the formal announcement was made at the June 24, 2020 RIPS-SIS Annual Business meeting. Between June 15 and June 24, 2020, Susan Azyndar and Matt Cooper of the committee drafted language for the RIPS-SIS website for the new RIPS-SIS Paul Gatz Publication Award and the new language was published to coincide with the RIPS-SIS Annual Business Meeting.

## Legal Research Competencies

### **Committee Members:**

Anupama Pal, Chair  
Mari Cheney, Vice-Chair  
Therese Clarke Arado  
Lori Corso  
Joyce Manna Janto  
Lisa Junghahn  
Miriam Murphy  
Mary Ann Neary  
Michelle Penn  
Noelle Sinclair  
Theresa Tarves  
Hunter Whaley

This year, the Legal Research Competency Committee has created a website focused on the importance of measuring and tracking the AALL Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency (PSLRC) in our legal research classes. The site includes examples of assessments (hypotheticals, rubrics, informational readings, etc.) that were designed to test the PSLRC in the assignments for legal research classes. If you have such materials and are interested in sharing them with your fellow law librarians, you can send directly to the Legal Research Competency Committee chair, Mari Cheney. For a collection of assessment materials, including rubrics, tailored to evaluate development of the PSLRC in law students, visit: <https://legalresearchcompetency.wordpress.com/>

The committee also moderated a January “Five Conversations in Five Days” about Teaching Legal Research to the Masses. How do we prepare students for any and all kinds of legal research issues from small to large firms, state and federal clerkships, public interest work, and agencies?

The committee had two projects halted due to the pandemic:

1. An annual meeting poster session focused on specific learning outcomes for legal research classes to meet the ABA's Standard 302 Learning Outcomes.
2. A spring webinar. After the RIP-LRC committee webinar from spring 2018 covered an overview of assessments and rubrics, we decided that it would be beneficial to devote a full webinar session to assessment to give attendees more ways to assess legal research competency--will talk specifically about summative and formative assessment and tie that to the PSLRCs.

## Legal Research Teach-In

### **Committee Members:**

Mark Williams, Chair  
Clare Willis, Vice-Chair  
Becky Mattson  
Pamela G. Smith  
Melissa Strickland  
Katie Brown  
Ashley Chase  
Dustin Johnston-Green  
Jenny Ham  
Teresa Burnham  
Jennifer Mart-Rice

This year's committee was tasked with creating the 28<sup>th</sup> National Legal Research Teach-In Kit. The committee received 28 submissions from 18 contributors (either an individual or a group). The committee organized these materials into three categories: Guides, Presentations & In-Class Exercises, and Exam Questions.

These materials are available on the RIPS-SIS website, at <https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/education-training/teach-in/28th-national/>.

The committee organized the selected submissions into a shared folder structure, along with reviews of submissions, contributor releases, and administrative materials. These materials are shared with Chris Siwa, AALL IT Director.

## Membership Task Force

### Members:

Genevieve Tung, Chair  
Ashley Ahlbrand  
Shari Berkowitz  
Shawn Friend  
Malikah Hall  
Becky Mattson  
Kristen R. Moore  
Jason Zarin  
Annmarie Zell

The Membership Task Force focused its work this year on designing and running a survey of the RIPS-SIS membership, as required by our current strategic plan, to get an idea of members' impressions of the SIS, their expectations, and their preferences.

### The Survey

The survey was comprised of 14 questions, seeking information about RIPS' members careers, their SIS engagement, what they liked about RIPS, and what RIPS could do better. The questions, summarized for brevity, were as follows:

1. Are you a RIPS member?
2. What law library type that best describes your workplace [list of choices]
3. Please select the role description that best matches your job [Public services, Technical services, or other]
4. How long have you been working in/with law libraries or legal information? [range of years]
5. Has your job description or your daily work changed significantly in the past five years? [Yes/No]
6. If you answered Yes to [question 5], how has it changed? [Long text box]
7. What other AALL Special Interest Sections are you a part of, if any? [Choose all that apply among the 13 other SIS current operating.]
8. When did you join RIPS? [Short text box]
9. Why did you join RIPS? [Question description: *e.g.*, content, connections, leadership opportunities, etc.] [Long text box]
10. Which of the following RIPS events, content, or programming have you participated in or engaged with in the past two years? [List of programming types]
11. What types of programming or content would you like to see RIPS offer more of? [List of programming types]
12. What types of events, activities, trainings, or other programming do you think RIPS should provide that you do not receive from other SISs or similar professional groups? [Long text box]
13. What do you think RIPS is doing well? [Long text box]
14. What would you like to see RIPS do better? [Long text box]

### Survey Results

109 individuals responded to the survey; 106 respondents identified themselves as members of RIPS.

A large majority of respondents identified themselves as academics, with 92 working in either public or private academic libraries. 11 respondents identified as government and court librarians. 6 respondents identified as law firm librarians or working in private law libraries.

Most respondents work in public services (103) as compared to technical services (6). The majority of respondents have been working in the profession 8 years or longer (76). Only 13 have been in the profession for 3 years or fewer.

When asked if there has been a significant change in daily work in the past five years the results were split with 53 saying, “yes” and 51 saying, “no.” Among those who had experienced changes in their daily work, the most common responses focused on:

- Taking on new managerial positions or receiving a promotion;
- Jobs that had become more technical in nature, involving electronic resources or technology;
- Increased teaching responsibilities.

Some respondents mentioned they were doing more research, while others mentioned doing less. Others are still dealing with taking on more responsibilities without promotion due to budget cuts and positions not being refilled. Some also noted that they are having to work more with metrics and statistics and prove the value of the library.

Given that most of our membership and a large majority of respondents work in academia, the other popular SIS that our members belong to is ALL-SIS (76 respondents). The next most popular was FCIL-SIS with 15 members and CS-SIS with 14 members.

Most members have been a part of RIPS for 10 years or fewer with 25 having joined since 2015 and another 24 joining in 2010 or later. The next largest group have been a part of the SIS for more than 15 years with 17 joining prior to 2005. There were also 12 who noted they were unsure of when they joined and others joined when they started their job, but no indication of when they started that job.

When asked why they joined, the majority noted that the SIS was related specifically to their jobs and duties. In a similar vein, others wanted access to teaching resources and instructional ideas. Others wanted to stay current on research development and connect with others doing similar work to get ideas for their own library. Some also joined specifically to network and get involved as part of professional development. Others joined because the SIS was recommended by someone, either another librarian, co-worker, or supervisor.

When asked about participation in RIPS activities in the past two years, a majority of respondents noted that they read the blog (87), attended annual meeting educational programming (66), and attended webinars (66). The “5 Conversations in 5 Days” discussions are also popular (51), as are annual meeting roundtables (47), and RIPS white papers, toolkits, and publications (44). Several members have also used the Research Teach-In Kit (40) and joined or led a RIPS committee (40). Fewer have attended the Virtual Business Meeting (29) or contributed to the Research Teach-In Kit (13).

When asked what kind of content they would like to see RIPS offer, a majority asked for legal research instructional materials (73) and webinars (57). Quite a few respondents also asked for annual meeting educational programming (43) and more white papers, toolkits, and publications (40). A handful also wanted more guided discussions (25) and roundtables (19). When asked to provide other suggestions

one participant asked for “content designed to be adapted to instruct public librarians and pro se litigants.” Another asked for informal/alternative communications options like a slack channel. And, another asked for a “combination of above, programming that benefits members and those who design/author/participate.”

Similarly, when asked what types of programming RIPS could provide that members are not getting elsewhere, the majority requested **teaching resources**. Suggestions included:

- More ready to use materials such as problems and exercises, workshops, information on assessment;
- Examples of what has worked well for others, programming and resources for specialized research topics, and programming on instructional design and pedagogical research;
- Using small focus groups within RIPS that focus on individual components of legal research (such as secondary sources);
- More opportunities for meetings, library tours, and collaboration, including how firm/court/school libraries can help each other;
- Mentoring;
- Paraprofessional resources;
- Legal research scholarship support;
- Programming on how academic libraries can work with the public;
- More “What Worked for Us” and How-To type programming;
- More programming on research and reference; and
- Working smarter with other SISs to limit duplication.

When asked what RIPS does well, many appreciated the SIS’s enthusiasm and vibrant community. They also said there is excellent communication, discussion, and the SIS does a very good job of keeping its members informed about what is going on in legal research and instruction. Members appreciate the variation in offerings. And, the blog got multiple favorable mentions. The Teach-In Kit and its resources were also praised.

When asked what RIPS can do better, there were a few recurring themes and suggestions:

- More inclusivity and better engagement with existing members. New members and more introverted members felt like it was hard to get involved. And, others did not know how to get involved at all.
- More teaching materials. Some wanted more materials for teaching 1Ls and teaching databases other than WEXIS, others wanted programming that dived deeper into teaching topics, including discussion on topics such as preparing for class, dealing with the class know-it-all, and handling burnout.
- Programming focused on non-academic settings. Some wanted programming for firms; and some wanted programming on teaching in a non-academic setting as well.
- Improved search-ability for the Teach-In Kit.
- Programming beyond the annual meeting: more programming throughout the year or encore AALL presentations, more webinars, more ways to connect outside of the AALL annual meeting, continued professional development and career support.
- Including author bios be included on the RIPS blog.

- Increased scholarship dollars to keep up with the increasing cost of attending conferences and decreasing library budgets.

Special thanks to member Kristen R. Moore for preparing a summary of the survey results.

### **Recommendations**

Going into its third year, the Membership Task Force will be charged with coming up with recommendations to respond to the results of the survey and working with the RIPS Executive Board and committee leaders to implement responsive changes. Some ideas which have already been generated include:

- Creating and offering programming that helps onboard new members, allowing them to be better acquainted with RIPS, AALL, and how to leverage association membership and participation;
- Creating and offering programming that explains the roles, responsibilities, and time commitments involved in Board service and committee leadership in order to demystify the process and welcome more members into leadership roles;
- Increase grant and scholarship offerings;
- Index the Teach-In Kit;
- Develop more diverse programming offerings.

### **Further Work – Racial Equity and Social Justice**

On June 26, the RIPS Executive Board signed on to a Resolution submitted by several dozen AALL regional chapters and SISs, entitled *Further Promoting Racial Diversity and Cultural Competency in Law Librarianship*. This document grew from conversations among different AALL groups and constituencies about were discussing and responding to recent and historic instances of violence against Black people in the United States, including the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd at the hands of police. The goal of the resolution is to initiate work at the national, sub-national, and local levels about how to combat anti-Blackness in law librarianship and build a diverse and equitable profession in which everyone can thrive. The resolution follows on the work of leaders of the Black Caucus of the American Association of Law Libraries (BCAALL), who have suggested many ways AALL may improve and realize a commitment to racial equity and social justice.

The RIPS Executive Board has asked the Membership Task Force to also make recommendations for structural changes, program proposals, and other efforts to improve the diversity, inclusion, and equity of the SIS. This work will be part of the Task Force’s charge for the coming year as well.

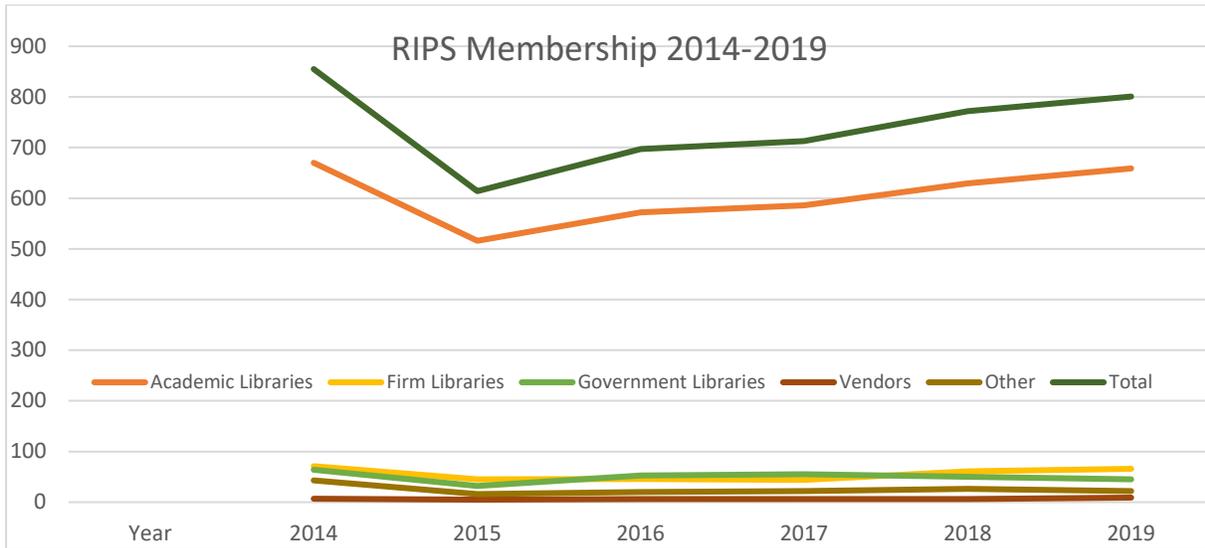
### **Membership Statistics**

The Membership Task Force has also continued the work begun last year to collect statistics on RIPS membership and diversity among members based on the types of libraries in which they work. The 2019-2020 figures are as follows:

- 801 Members
- 659 Academic Libraries
- 66 Firm Libraries
- 45 Government Libraries

- 22 Other
- 9 Vendors

Overall membership has not returned to 2014 levels (the earliest year for which figures are available), but maintain an upward trend, as shown below:



## Nominations

### **Committee Members:**

Kimberly Mattioli, Chair  
Alyson Drake, Vice-Chair  
Kathy Darvil  
Rachel Green  
Deborah Heller  
Colleen Williams

The committee had two positions to fill on the RIPS Executive Board: Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large. After calls for nominations, the committee had difficulty finding RIPS members willing to run for the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect position. As a result, the current Executive Board voted to allow the committee to deviate from the bylaws and have an unopposed contest for that position. The final slate presented to the membership was: Rebecca Mattson for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Mark Williams and Nicole Downing for Member-at-Large.

The election opened on February 17, 2020 and closed on March 2, 2020. The election results were announced to the membership on March 4, 2020. Rebecca Mattson was elected as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Nicole Downing was elected as Member-at-Large.

The committee received several nominations for RIPS members who ended up being unable to commit to serving as Executive Board members. To help with this issue, future Nominations Committees may want to find ways to encourage RIPS members to self-nominate for Executive Board positions.

## Online Training

### **Committee Members:**

Shira Megerman, Chair

Matt Timko, Vice-Chair

Rebecca Bryan

Sarah Gotschall

Darla Jackson

Sibyl Marshall

Gail Mathapo

Lisa Peters

Melissa Strickland

Jingwei Zhang

This past year, the Online Training Committee hosted two webinars: *Mental Health and Wellness in the Law Library: Ideas for Being an Effective Ally*, by the Patron Services Committee in November; and *The Webinar on Webinars*, which was planned and hosted by the Online Training Committee, originally scheduled for April, but delayed to late May due to the pandemic.

The OTC met regularly to discuss the goals of the committee, how to best support and host the Patron Services Committee webinar, and for planning our own webinar. As the committee is new, a formal process for webinar planning and hosting is being put together by the committee chair and vice-chair. We also request special recognition be given to Melissa Strickland. She is on her third year on the committee, and it is due to her familiarity with webinar platforms we were able to host with ease before people had the familiarity with webinar platforms we now have, and we are grateful to her for all her help to the committee.

## Patron Services

### **Committee Members:**

Nicole Dyszlewski, Chair

Matt Cooper, Vice Chair

Deanna Barmakian

Kate E. Britt

Tracy Eaton

Paul Gatz

Rachel Gordon

Katie Hanschke

Alisha Hennen

Gail Mathapo

Gail McDonald

Kristen R. Moore

Matthew Neely

Kelly Reynolds

Jenny Zook

In November 2019, the committee hosted a webinar, *Mental Health and Wellness in the Law Library: Ideas for Being an Effective Ally*. That fall the committee also hosted an online conversation titled, “5 Topics in 5 Days: A Discussion of Interpersonal Communication in the Workplace” with several other SISs. Some members of the committee are currently working on a white paper on student workers. The committee held a virtual roundtable discussion (in lieu of a traditional roundtable at the annual meeting), which took place on July 20.

Thank you to all of our members, especially Vice Chair Matt Cooper.

## Program

### **Committee Members:**

Taryn Marks, Chair  
Khelani Clay  
Bailey Eagin  
Matt Flyntz  
Katie Hanschke  
Tanya Johnson  
Heather Joy  
Andrew Lang  
Kim Mattioli  
Savanna Nolan  
Sarah Starnes  
Colleen Williams

This year, the program committee once again issued a call to review annual meeting proposals and forwarded two of those programs to AALL for selection as the RIPS-sponsored program. We provided six programs with feedback; and reviewed two additional programs for RIPS-sponsorship (see the folder of submissions for our rubric). Ultimately, the pre-conference workshop submitted by Mari Cheney, **Instructional Design for Law Librarians**, was chosen as the RIPS-sponsored program. Due to AALL's decision to shift the 2020 annual meeting to a virtual format, this program was offered as a stand-alone multi-day online workshop after the annual meeting.

The committee also proposed, and the board approved, creating a similar call to review annual meeting poster session proposals in the spring. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and AALL's decision to shift the 2020 annual meeting to a virtual format, the board decided to postpone the rollout of this new task until 2020-2021. To prepare for this, the current committee drafted a proposed workflow and timeline to assist next year's committee with this new task. This year's program committee looks forward to seeing what next year's committee will do!

## Public Relations & Recruitment

### **Committee Members:**

Cassandra Patterson, Chair

Emma Wood, Vice-Chair

Ashley Ahlbrand

Jessica Almeida

Iain Barksdale

Kate E. Britt

Catherine Chick

Ana Delgado

Shari Berkowitz Duff

Rachel Green

Sarah Gotschall

The Public Relations and Recruitment Committee has carried out our charge for the 2019-2020 session by maintaining an active Facebook and Twitter presence, as well as planning and engaging in recruitment efforts for the SIS.

We are continuing to promote the work of RIPS members and SIS events as the AALL Virtual Annual approaches and are hoping to draw a spotlight to RIPS with virtual #AALL20 coverage on Twitter and Facebook. The RIPS poster, ribbons, stickers, and buttons for the live annual are in Cassandra's office. She will ensure that everything gets to Emma within the next couple of months.

We also continued the initiatives to become more inclusive of firm and government law libraries by revamping and increasing participation of the Questions with Puron series. It features the RIPS membership and is now published on the RIPS blog monthly. The committee also reached out to other SISs to collaborate or publish articles on their blogs.

Over the year, we have promoted the efforts of RIPS members by advertising the RIPS Legal Research Text and Article Reviews, the Teach-In Kit, and the RIPS blog. We also shared news and announcements of interest to RIPS members and encouraging member participation in elections, scholarship, and SIS events.

Another initiative that the committee worked on was the "One Week of Photos from Quarantine/Working from Home - RIPS Edition" on the RIPS my communities. The committee has also reviewed and revamped the RIPS interactive brochure, maintaining its location on the Microsoft Sway platform but updating the appearance and information.

Next year, Emma Wood, Associate Librarian at the UMass Dartmouth Law Library and current Vice-Chair of the committee, will take over as Chair. We had another great year. All the credit goes to each committee member!

## Research Instruction

### **Committee Member:**

Clanitra Stewart Nejd, Chair  
Robin C. Schard, Vice-Chair  
Meredith Capps  
Khelani Clay  
Cheryl Kelly Fischer  
Rebecca Fordon  
David Haendler  
Heather Joy  
Shannon Kemen  
Kelly Leong  
Adam Mackie  
Taryn Marks  
Savanna Nolan  
Cassandra Patterson  
Theresa Tarves  
Julie Tedjeske  
Matt Timko

This year, the RIPS-SIS Research Instruction Committee was extremely busy and accomplished quite a bit. This report contains a brief overview of the Committee's activities this year. As a reminder, the Research Instruction Committee has two primary charges: to provide research instruction resources through well-organized and user-friendly formats and to select topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

### **I. Committee Charge #1 – Provision of Research Instruction Resources**

To satisfy the first charge, the Committee has traditionally created legal research text reviews to provide RIPS-SIS members with an overview of available textbooks covering a variety of topics related to legal research. The Committee has continued with this tradition this year. Since the latter half of the 2018-2019, however, this Committee has also been creating legal research article summaries to provide overviews of seminal and newly-published articles on legal research to those members who may not have had the time or inclination read them. This year is the first full year in which the Committee has produced both legal research text reviews and legal research article summaries.

This year, the Committee participated in two rounds of drafting the text reviews and article summaries. Round 1 lasted from July 2019 through December 2019. During Round 1, there were 10 legal research texts reviews and 34 legal research articles summaries created. Round 2 lasted from January 2020 through May 2020. During Round 2, there were 4 legal research texts reviews and 29 legal research articles summaries created. Adding in the previously created text reviews and article summaries, there are now a grand total of 92 legal research text reviews and 106 legal research article summaries, all of which are available online at

the RIPS-SIS website. Legal research text reviews can be found at <https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/resources-publications/legal-research-text-reviews/> and legal research

article summaries can be found at <https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/resources-publications/legal-research-article-summaries/>. It is also worth noting that as of this year, the Legal Research Text Reviews and Article Summaries are now also linked under the AALL website's Knowledge Center under the topic of "Research and Writing" (<https://www.aallnet.org/resources-publications/knowledge-center/explore-by-topic/research-analysis/>).

## **II. Committee Charge #2 – Selecting Topics and Moderators for the AALL Roundtables**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the in-person AALL Annual Meeting and Conference was cancelled. In its stead, AALL planned a virtual conference, but did not include or even schedule for SIS Roundtables. The Committee had the option of trying to plan a Research Instruction roundtable of its own, but given the extraordinary times and the significant amount of work already undertaken by the Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair consulted about the issue and declined to plan a Research Instruction roundtable on our own.

## **III. Five Conversations in Five Days**

Although technically not part of the Committee's charge, the Committee has traditionally participated in RIPS-SIS's 5 Conversations in 5 Days series. This year, Committee Vice-Chair Robin Schard planned and executed the 5 Conversations in 5 Days event with the

help of available Committee members. The event was announced on April 22, 2020 and took place from April 27, 2020 through May 1, 2020 in the RIPS-SIS community on

MyCommunities. The discussions covered included adjusting to research instruction during law library closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, planning for online legal research instruction, and education technology, among other topics.

## **IV. Expressions of Gratitude**

The Chair would like to express her gratitude to the Research Instruction Committee members for their incredible work over the year, to the RIPS-SIS Executive Board members for their support and guidance, and most importantly, to Committee Vice-Chair Robin Schard her for tireless efforts.

## Scholarship

### **Committee Members:**

Emily Donnellan, Chair  
Jessica Almeida, Vice-Chair  
Ellie Campbell  
Elizabeth Christian  
Alyson Drake  
Heather Joy  
David McClure  
Creighton Miller  
Aimee Pittman  
Nathan Preuss  
Mitchell Silverman  
Pamela Smith

The Scholarship committee divided work between three sub-groups encourage scholarship, publicize scholarship and publication resource/toolkit. in the 2019-2020 year. We had originally set lofty goals for engagement and implementation of new programs and ideas but due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of these goals were not fully realized. I hope in the years to come the committee can implement these tasks as well as generate new ones to help this committee grow and thrive.

Below are all of the goals we had originally hoped to begin. I am leaving those in this report so that the membership can see our original plan. Those listed in purple are what we were able to accomplish given the challenges we faced.

Two things we accomplished this year that I'm especially proud of are the organization and implementation of the first ever Joint Scholarship virtual colloquium and the joint scholarship roundtable program we will be hosting in conjunction with ALL-SIS and PEGA-SIS at the annual meeting.

### **Encourage Scholarship**

The 2018-2019 subcommittee built a MyCommunities page to use as the core of communication and organization. (<https://community.aallnet.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=afe2e5a9-f04a-432d-8a47-900c7aaba7ae>)

**Task: Expand writing group communities for RIPS-SIS members. Further publicize writing groups.**

Next steps: Determine if moving the writing groups to a broader AALL platform would better serve RIPS-SIS membership by allowing groups such as ALL-SIS & Beer & Edits members to participate.

**Task: Assess how the writing groups are being received (survey?). Do we pair members up in writing groups based on interest?**

**Task: Offer bi-annual or quarterly webinars in 2019-2020.**

Next steps: Select dates and topics for 2019-2020 webinar events.

### **Publicize & Promote Scholarship**

**Task: Identify and implement a method of publicizing scholarship by RIPS-SIS members.**

Next steps: Review process for responding to submissions. Further publicize availability of form. Annually assign liaison to RIPS PR Committee. Review policy as necessary.

**Task: Create a record of RIPS scholarship.**

Report: Process begun; the submissions to the RIPS Scholarship Reporting Form are automatically entered into a spreadsheet stored on the committee's Google Drive.

Next steps: Determine a process for identifying additional RIPS scholarship, and decide on a policy and process for adding extant member scholarship.

**Task: Joint Scholarship Virtual Colloquium**

Next steps: Review colloquium papers and participate in the upcoming virtual colloquium on Oct 28 by reviewing the papers, asking questions during the presentation and engaging with the material.

## **Publication Resource & Toolkit**

The RIPS Publication Resource Spreadsheet (<http://bit.ly/RIPSPubResource>) was created and publicized as well as a form for suggesting additional publications (<http://bit.ly/RIPSPubResourceSuggestionsForm>).

**Task: Build and maintain a publication resource for members.**

Next steps: Maintain the spreadsheet and incorporate suggestions annually. Continue to publicize form.

**Task: Look into developing a Scholarship Toolkit to be updated annually.**

Subcommittee is working with ALL-SIS to determine if any work is being duplicated and to create a collaborative publication resource based on our resource above and those shared by ALL-SIS Scholarship committee co-chair Caitlin Hunter.

Next steps: Areas that could be covered: getting started, submitting to journals, why publish, writing resources. Determine how this toolkit would work with our publication resource spreadsheet. Any other type of information it should contain? Are we duplicating any work that has already been done?

**Task: Hold a 5 Conversations in 5 Days in May 2020**

Next steps: Prepare topics and questions- choose a week in May for this event to be held. Promote this event.

Additional non-subcommittee task: Hold and participate in Joint Scholarship Roundtable at AALL Virtual Annual Meeting

The committee is working in conjunction with the ALL-SIS Scholarship committee and PEGA-SIS to present a joint roundtable at the AALL annual meeting.

## RIPS Law Librarian Blog – Editor’s Summary

### **Malikah Hall, RIPS Blog Editor**

The RIPS Blog finished strong in 2019. We had 53,425 total views, 30,779 visitors, and 94 posts. As of June 2020, we’ve already had 22000+ views and over 13,000 visitors with 36 posts.

Announcements of new blog publications are sent via the RIPS Twitter account and the RIPS Librarian Blog Weekly Roundup through My Communities. The posts are also still being picked up by the AALL newsletter, KnowItAALL.

Of our ten current contributing bloggers, six are set to continue for 2020-2021. We have also added three new bloggers to our roster. Cassandra Patterson and Emma Wood will also continue to publish the bi-monthly RIPS Member Questions with Puron interview series.

Malikah Hall will continue on as the RIPS Blog Editor for 2020-2021.

## Conclusion

Despite unprecedented challenges for our members and their institutions, this was a successful year for RIPS. The excellence and commitment of RIPS members and the hard work of our committee chairs drives everything we do. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the RIPS chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Tung  
RIPS-SIS Chair, 2019-2020

