

2023-2024 RIPS-SIS ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: June 30, 2024

TO: Kim Rundle

FROM: Nicole Downing, RIPS-SIS Chair

RE: 2023-2024 RIPS-SIS Annual Report

OFFICERS

The officers of the Research Instruction & Patron Services Special Interest Section during 2023-2024 were: Nicole Downing, Chair; Heather Joy, Chair/Chair Elect; Matt Timko, Immediate Past Chair; Shari Berkowitz Duff, Secretary/Treasurer; and Emily Donnellan & Grace Lo, Members-at-Large.

The Executive Board would like to thank the committee chairs, vice chairs, and members for their excellent service this year.

AWARDS AND SPONSORED PROGRAM

RIPS-SIS awarded the Paul Gatz Publication Award, which “recognize[s] excellence in writing by a current RIPS-SIS member,” to Ellie Campbell, for the article *Critical Legal Research, Artificial Intelligence, and Systemic Racism: Teaching with Jim Crow Text-Mining*, 42 *Legal Research Services Quarterly* 208 (2023).

RIPS-SIS awarded the Service Award, which “honors a RIPS-SIS member who has made outstanding contributions to RIPS-SIS in areas of section activity and professional service,” to Rebecca Mattson.

The RIPS-SIS Sponsored Program at the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will be “Free PACER, Free the Law: The Past, Present, and Future of Public Access to Court Electronic Records,” submitted by Rebecca Fordon.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

This year, the RIPS-SIS Executive Board took on the following new initiatives:

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- Amended the Bylaws to allow the Nominations Committee to put forth one candidate for an open board position after a good faith effort by the committee to identify two candidates.
- Surveyed RIPS Members about the option to switch from one-year to two-year committee terms. After reviewing the results of the survey, the board decided to move forward with this change for all committees except the Nominations Committee.
- Received feedback from members and the Grants Committee about the amount of grant money provided to attend conferences. The board recommends consideration of increasing amounts to cover the rising cost of conference registration, food, and travel.
- The board had to take on greater participation in reviewing the content of the RIPS Blog in response to the new AALL Anti-trust Policy.
- Annual Meeting 2024
 - The board strongly considered participating in a joint-SIS social event at the annual meeting again, but it was cost-prohibitive as well as potentially labor-intensive.
 - The board instead determined to enhance the regular RIPS Meet & Greet by providing hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Depending on attendance, the board recommends further efforts to participate in a joint-sis social event at the 2025 annual meeting.

RIPS-SIS also continued efforts from prior years

- *Grants and Funding*
 - The AALL Leadership Academy Grant was awarded to Ellie Campbell.
 - The AALL Annual Meeting Grants were awarded to Mariangeli Lugo Zayas and Liz Manriquez. The DEI Annual Meeting Grant was awarded to Zanada Joyner.
 - RIPS-SIS continued our strong relationship with the Teaching the Teachers Workshop, co-sponsoring the event and also providing two grants for participants to attend. The TTT Grantees were Elaine Tornes Blanco and Stephanie Farne.
- *RIPS-SIS Teach-In Kit/ALL-SIS Sourcebook Merger*: The two-year taskforce completed their second year. Progress halted when it was determined that there was no communication between RIPS and ALL on the merger. Communication was resumed with the help of the board, but the taskforce will need to continue for another year to keep the merger moving forward.
- Efforts at transparency and collaboration were taken, including constant outreach to committees, board assistance with Committee efforts and issues, and posting Board Meeting Minutes on the AALL website. The board also added a transparency statement to the committee volunteer recruitment announcement.

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RIPS SIS Programming at AALL

- Sunday, July 21st at 12:45pm: Meet and Greet Social Hour
- Sunday, July 21st at 3:15pm: Free PACER, Free the Law (RIPS Sponsored Program)
- Sunday, July 21st at 5:30PM: Legal Research Competency - What's Next for the Bar Exam?
- Monday, July 22nd at 12:00PM: BLL-SIS & RIPS-SIS Joint DEI Roundtable
- Monday, July 22nd at 12:00PM: RIPS-SIS Teach in Kit & ALL-SIS Sourcebook Joint Roundtable

Several committees also completed work that deserves to be highlighted in an annual report.

- The newly created DEI Committee created a committee structure to guide future committee work. The committee surveyed the support needed by RIPS committed members, then met with individual RIPS Committees to discuss specific areas for support and improvement.
- Grants and Awards Committee selected several qualified awardees and grantees this year (see above).
- Legal Research Competency Committee modified their unaccepted annual meeting program topic into an annual meeting roundtable on the NextGen Bar Exam.
- Legal Research Teach-in Kit approved nine new entries for the 2024 Teach in Kit.
- Teach in Kit/ALL Sourcebook Merger Taskforce held a meeting with representatives from ALL-SIS & RIPS-SIS as part of joint planning efforts for the merger.
- Nominations Committee proposed a strong slate of candidates to serve on the 2024-2025 Board resulting in the election of Sara Gras as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Theresa Tarves as Member at Large.
- Program Committee selected a program of interest to RIPS members for the 2024 annual meeting and spent time considering how programs are being evaluated for RIPS sponsorship through a DEI lens.
- Public Relations got off to a slow start due to losing touch with the Committee Chair. However, the Vice-Chair stepped in mid-year and the committee is completing substantial work to advertise and market RIPS events at the AALL Annual Meeting.
- Scholarship Committee continued to host the successful "Write this Way" program and transitioned the annual meeting roundtable to a virtual format to increase attendance.
- RIPS Law Librarian Blog had a successful year under Julie Tedeske Crane's editorial guidance. There were 81 new posts from August 2023 to June 2024. The blog had 62,000 views from August 2023 to June 2024.

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Submitted June 30, 2024, Nicole Downing, Chair

CC: Chris Siwa