

SR-SIS Annual Report for 2012-2013

Thanks to the efforts of our members, the Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section had another very productive year. As in years past, we sponsored a book drive during the AALL Annual Meeting held this year in Seattle. Working with a local charity in Seattle, Page Ahead, we were able to successfully raise \$320 and donated nearly 385 books to help support literacy services in Washington State. This local charity provides services to more than 30,000 children every year. The Amazon Wish List we created for this book drive is still accessible and we encourage our colleagues to continue donating (<http://www.amazon.com/wishlist/1I3UBA299CUQT>).

The SR-SIS sponsored a very engaging panel discussion on the topic of marriage equality for LGBTIQ families entitled “Respect for Marriage: Equal Protection for Same-Sex Couples in Washington State and Before the U.S. Supreme Court”. This panel discussion was moderated by David Holt, the SR-SIS chair, and included speakers from the Washington House of Representatives, Legal Voice, and the University of Washington School of Law. The event was a well attended and spirited discussion about the exciting legal advances for LGBTIQ families both in Washington State and nationwide. A big “thank you” to Sarah Jaramillo who tirelessly coordinated and organized this event!

This year we again sponsored a Solar Heating Project with Tree, Water & People. This project, co-sponsored by the Native Peoples Law Caucus and the Environmental Law Caucus, helps Native American families heat their homes in South Dakota where heating costs often comprise more than 50% of their income. The goal of the project was to raise \$1,500 to build and install at least one solar heater. Each \$10 contribution towards this campaign offsets 1 ton of climate-changing CO2 or the equivalent of the average trip for one person to travel to and from the annual meeting. We are happy to report we raised \$675 towards this exciting project. If you would still like to contribute you can find further information on our website here: <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/sr/projects/Solar-Heater-Project.html>.

We are also delighted to report that we have made substantial progress towards updating the list of libraries that provides legal research and copying services to incarcerated persons. The list now contains more than 70 libraries, several of which were just recently added. We wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all libraries that provide services towards this noble effort.

The reception for the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues was again a resounding success this year. This event serves both as a fun networking event for our members and also an important fundraiser for the Alan Holoch Memorial Grant. This grant, started in 1991, is designed to assist individuals with travel or registration expenses for the annual meeting. This

year the grants recipients were Emily Marcum and Cory Lenz. The reception this year raised \$966 for this fund.

Finally, the SR-SIS is still hard at work developing a model policy on how to deal with mentally ill patrons in our libraries. We know this is an important concern for many of our members and we wish to create a model policy that responds to our patrons' needs with compassion and understanding. We hope to have a document created to present at next year's annual meeting.