

## **Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (SR-SIS) Annual Report for 2015-2016**

The Social Responsibilities Special Interest Section (SIS) is a diverse and vibrant SIS. It is a bit of a niche SIS and thus has a fairly small membership, but due to the hard work of its members it always has productive years, and the 2015-2016 year was no exception.

A good bulk of the work of the SR-SIS happens within its four standing committees. Two of these, the Standing Committee on Law Library Services to Prisoners and the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, are well-established. The other two, the Standing Committee on Disability Issues and the Standing Committee on Environmental Sustainability, are very new but are getting off the ground with a lot of energy.

The Standing Committee on Law Library Services to Prisoners continues to make minor updates to its flagship database of law libraries across the country that serve prisoners, after a major updating project was conducted in 2014. It also updated its list of law schools with programs and clinics that assist prisoners and others in the criminal justice system, and is currently working on a list of organizations across the country that focus on donating books to prisons and jails (both legal and nonlegal). The Committee is also embarking on two very large and important projects – a revision of its Recommended Collections for Prison Law Libraries, spearheaded by Kimberli Kelmor, and a comprehensive survey of resources and services offered in federal and state prison law libraries.

The Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues is now undergoing a discussion as to whether to change the Committee's name, an idea that was put on hold after a 2006 proposal. A My Communities forum has been opened up to the entire AALL membership for information gathering and discussion, and there will be a special SR-SIS vote on the potential change in the fall of 2016. On the publications front, Hein has agreed to publish a second edition of the Committee's "Sexual Orientation and the Law: A Research Bibliography" monograph (AALL Publications Series, #74). An Ad Hoc Committee on Editor-in-Chief Selection was formed, chaired by Courtney Selby and served on by James Donovan, Sarah Jaramillo, Sara Pic, and Stephanie Wilson. David Holt and Dana Neacsu were chosen to be co-editors for the project, which will be starting soon. And lastly, the recipients of this year's Alan Holoch Memorial Grant, which assists Committee members with registration costs for the Annual Meeting, were Druet Klugh and CJ Pipins. Another successful (and fun) Committee reception was held in Chicago, which raised money for next year's awards.

Two very new committees, the Standing Committee on Disability Issues and the Standing Committee on Environmental Sustainability, are just getting underway. However, while both groups have been busy establishing goals and recruiting new members, they have also already been taking an active role in AALL. For the Disability Issues Committee, Nick Harrell, the Committee chair, and Lewis Zimmerman participated in this year's annual joint RIPS/LISP/SR/GLL "Five Topics in Five Days" educational event, by serving as discussion leaders for one of the days. This year's event focused on "Service Limits to Law Library Patrons", and Nick's and Lewis's day was "Unique Patron Groups (Part 1) - Disabled Individuals and Inmates". The Standing Committee on Environmental Sustainability's high achievement

during the year was getting the Resolution on Sustainability in Law Libraries passed by the AALL membership, culminating months of hard work. In addition, David Selden, chair of the Committee, gave a presentation about hosting and planning sustainable conference meetings to both the WestPac Annual Meeting and the Council of Chapter Chairs meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting.

In addition to the above activities and accomplishments, the Executive Board decided to create an ad hoc committee in the upcoming 2016-2017 year in order to revise, update and streamline the SR-SIS Bylaws, with an eye towards creating an accompanying internal operating procedures manual. The SR-SIS also ran a successful election in the spring. Dana Neacsu was elected as incoming Vice-Chair and Lewis Zimmerman as incoming Secretary-Treasurer, and the membership approved proposed bylaws to turn the then-Task Force on Environmental Sustainability into a standing committee.

And lastly, the SR-SIS continues to be an active participant and strong presence at the AALL Annual Meetings. At the meeting in Chicago the SR-SIS co-hosted the annual SR/LISP/GLL Joint Roundtable on Law Library Services to Prisoners and Pro Se Patrons, as well as sponsored its own Roundtable, "Religious Freedom Bills: What Are They and What Do They Mean?". The Annual Children's Book Drive, chaired by Megan Von Behren, was its usual success, raising books and money for Bernie's Book Bank in Chicago, as was the Toiletries Drive, run by Meg Butler, which benefitted the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network. And a brand-new initiative was started at this year's Annual Meeting with the distribution of gender pronoun ribbons, a trend that is becoming status quo at professional organization conferences.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Etheredge,  
SR-SIS Chair, 2015-2016