

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (SR-SIS)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-2020

The object of the Social Responsibilities SIS shall be to act as a stimulus to the Association and its members by focusing attention on, providing a forum for discussion of, exchanging information about, and proposing resolutions on critical social issues that affect library workers as members of the profession and as members of the human family.
–SR-SIS Bylaws, Article II

Though the coronavirus pandemic disrupted many of our usual SR-SIS projects, we still had another busy year of serving as “the conscience of AALL”:

SR-SIS projects & member activities

On behalf of SR-SIS, chair Sara Pic worked with AALL Executive Director Vani Ungapen to update AALL’s site selection policy for the annual conference. SR-SIS ensured that one of the [additional criteria](#) that AALL staff look at when determining if a site is appropriate is the ability to include gender neutral restrooms.

SR-SIS co-sponsored a resolution submitted to AALL regarding the importance of anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as the Black Lives Matter movement. SR-SIS also co-sponsored a series of joint roundtables and webinars on this same topic.

With the help of dedicated member Cynthia Condit, SR-SIS revamped and overhauled our website. We also worked to update the digital archival materials.

SR-SIS ran a successful election in the spring. Jeff Berns was elected as incoming Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and Cynthia Condit was elected Secretary/Treasurer for 2020-22.

Meg Butler, SR-SIS newsletter editor, continued to promote the SR-SIS work and publish the newsletter as a PDF on the AALL My Community.

SR-SIS continued to promote its work and again, this year, participated in the SIS Council, and at the CONELL marketplace.

The SR-SIS Education Committee, under the stewardship of Marty Witt, chose the third recipient of the grant. The purpose of the SR-SIS Education & Awareness Grant is to support a wide variety of projects that relate to SR-SIS priorities. The subject matter supported by this Grant rotates each year to ensure that projects related to the work of each of SR-SIS’s standing committees will receive support. The third year focused on assistance for prisoners. The grant recipients proposed a project to develop a flyer on legal research for prisoners, available in both print and digital.

The SR-SIS Children’s Book Drive, typically held to benefit an organization in the conference host city, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was reconstituted

as an online fundraiser for First Book's Stories For All Project, which focuses on promoting diversity and inclusion by providing children of color with books with characters that look like them. 73 members donated a total of \$4,700.

Many SR-SIS members were involved in annual meeting programs including:

- Sara Pic coordinated "Change the Subject: How a Cataloging Term Became a Flashpoint in the Immigration Debate"
- Marcelo Rodriguez coordinated "Updating Your Emergency Plans: From Pandemics to Acts of Violence to Extreme Weather", "Legal Information from U.S. Territories: What a Conundrum!" and "Legal Ethics in the Use of Artificial Intelligence"
- Cindy Guyer moderated and coordinated "Copyright Issues in the Connected and Digital World"
- Ron Wheeler spoke on the panel "Fear and Loathing in Teaching Legal Research: Addressing Cultural Competence and Managing Implicit Bias"
- Nicole P. Dyszlewski moderated "Law Library Neutrality in a Time of Political Upheaval" and coordinated "#Fail: Outreach and Engagement Lessons Learned the Hard Way"
- David Holt moderated and coordinated "Open-Source Alternatives to Digital Commons"

SR-SIS's work is also accomplished through its standing committees: the Standing Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SCSOGI), the Standing Committee on Assistance to Prisoners (SCATP), the Standing Committee on Disability Issues (SCDI), and the Standing Committee on Environmental Sustainability (SCES). Additionally, in 2019-2020, a Special Committee was created to work on Immigration and Immigrant Rights. Though many committee projects had to be put on hold due to the pandemic, the committees still accomplished a great deal despite the unusual challenges of 2020.

SCSOGI. Under the stewardship of Meg Butler, SCSOGI awarded the Holoch Memorial Grant to attend the annual conference to Nathan Delmar. Nathan elected to defer the grant until the next conference. An online Holoch Memorial Reception was held via Zoom during the AALL annual (virtual) conference. Attendees chatted and participated in a trivia game - Nathan Delmar was the winner of the trivia and won a Ruth Bader Ginsburg figurine made by a committee member. \$922 was donated to the Holoch Memorial Fund.

SCLLSP. Under the stewardship of Nam Jin Yoon, SCLLSP continues to update its flagship database of law libraries across the country that serve prisoners.

SCDI. Under the stewardship of Sarah Lewis, SCDI prepared for its continuing outreach and education at the annual conference. However, due to the pandemic, this outreach and education was postponed.

SCES. This committee was without a chair in 2019-2020, though former chair Lewis Zimmerman agreed to help with popular carbon travel offset program. However, due to the pandemic, this program was not necessary this year.

SCIIR. Under the stewardship of Mary-Ann Daly-Doran, a WordPress site and a Google group have been created. The goal of both forums is to provide a venue for low-cost immigration resources and the opportunity for immigration attorneys to email the group for information and/or resources respectively. The sites are:

1. Virtual Immigration Law Library: <http://www.virtualimmigrationlawlibrary.com>. This site's template can be added to or modified, different sections are broken out – we will be adding content.
2. Google Group: Listserv platform for pro bono lawyers to ask any reference/research questions. The goal is to have law librarians post news related to immigration and accept reference requests from the attorneys. You can subscribe to group through the list serv option in the intro to the [Virtual Immigration Law Library](#) or below in the site where it says "Let's build something together".

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Pic*

SR-SIS Chair, 2019-2020

*This report was prepared with the assistance of the Chairs of the Standing Committees.