

Research Instruction and Patron Services SIS 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS) executive board members were: Jennifer S. Murray, chair; W. Robert Farmer, vice chair/chair-elect; Irene R. Good, past chair; Michelle Rigual, secretary/treasurer; Monica Ortale, member-at-large; and Gail Partin, member-at-large.

This year was one of growth for RIPS. RIPS began a conscious effort to brand itself as the special interest section for every law librarian. The first project RIPS chose to undertake to achieve this brand was a forum at the 2009 AALL Annual Meeting in Washington D.C. This forum, entitled the RIPS C8 Forum, will bring together all types of law librarians to discuss the common impacts we have all suffered due to the current economic crisis.

RIPS also embraced new technologies through migration of its newsletter to a blog format. RIPS uses the blog to more nimbly promote RIPS activities as well as provide valuable news and information about law librarianship in general. To ensure the blog is responsive and timely, RIPS appointed three bloggers: Yasmin Alexander, Meg Martin, and Jason Sowards. Kris Helge assumed the blog editor position (formerly the newsletter editor position).

RIPS continued its regular operations including production of the Legal Research Teach-In Kit and updating its strategic plan for 2009 to 2011. Both are available on the RIPS website. The Teach-In Committee and RIPS webmaster are in the midst of redesigning the Teach-In web pages with technical and design expertise from RIPS volunteers. We plan to complete the transition by next year. RIPS extends its gratitude to Reuters Thomson for its many years of sponsorship of the RIPS Legal Research Teach-In Kit, which made our transition to a new independently designed web page possible.

RIPS awarded its 2009 RIPS Star Award for outstanding long-term RIPS service to Melissa Serfass.

The newly elected board for RIPS is: W. Robert Farmer, chair; Kathleen (Katie) Brown, vice-chair/chair-elect; Jennifer S. Murray, past chair; Lynn Murray, secretary/treasurer; Gail Partin, member-at-large; and Uwe (Ed) Beltz, member-at-large.

On behalf of RIPS, I wish to thank the committee chairs of our 10 active committees. My personal thanks go out to the executive board and all our RIPS members because I would not have been able to achieve progress during my tenure without them.