

State, Court, and County Law Libraries SIS 2008-2009

The State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section (SCCLL) completed numerous activities during the year to carry out its strategic goals of advocacy and education. The SIS also reviewed a draft procedure manual prepared by Marcus Hochstetler, and, while it was accepted in principle, the editing and implementation of the manual was tabled for the following year.

Advocacy initiatives involved SIS participation in the Equal Justice Conference (EJC) in Orlando. The conference is co-sponsored by the ABA and the NLADA (National Legal Aid & Defender Association.) Two grants were awarded to SIS members to attend the program. Our participation informed the legal aid community about law library services that support pro se and pro bono efforts. In addition to promoting law library services, law librarian attendees also became more informed about new legal resources and services being delivered by the legal aid community.

Our SIS VIP program continued to include valuable members of the legal community who offer their strident support throughout the year to the work of law libraries in their locality. Judge Robert Bell, chief judge of Maryland Court of Appeals, will be our VIP at the AALL meeting in D.C.

While some libraries ,such as Ohio, saw legislation that will likely help their county law libraries survive, others such as the Oakland County Law Library in Detroit, MI, are under attack through their local governmental authorities. The good news is that the local legal community including the library board and Director Laura Mancini are prepared to fight to keep the collection and location in Detroit, rather than being transferred to a private law school in Lansing, MI.

As for consumer advocacy, a meeting with West government sector representatives and members of our SIS occurred in Portland, and a summary report of the meeting was included in the SCCLL fall newsletter. A third meeting with West is scheduled for D.C. and is concentrated on various business practices and a renewed emphasis for serving the public through newer versions of Westlaw.

Our SIS educational initiatives included acceptance of five programs for D.C. Five grants of \$950 were awarded to SIS members to attend the D.C conference. This amount was an additional \$100 above the 2008 grants and still supported largely by a silent auction held at the SCCLL Breakfast/Business Meeting each year. The generosity of our members helps sustain this vital aid for those experiencing restrictions on their travel budgets.

Other SIS activities included revision of the charges for each SCCLL committee along with the addition of at least 40 new members to the committees. These volunteers helped to reinvigorate the activities of our members. The Appellate Law Library Standards are in the process of review, and a completion of this revision is expected in the coming year.

As for SIS honors this year, we are pleased to recognize the 2009 Bethany J. Ochal Award recipients: Shirley Hart David, Charles E. Dyer, Barbara Golden, Anne W. Grande, and Cossette

T. Sun. An announcement of the recipients will be published in the SCCLL newsletter and posted to the SCCLL list. Each recipient will receive a plaque.

In addition, the Awards Committee awarded the inaugural Law Library Advocate Award to the Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, for his tireless support of law libraries in Maryland.

SCCLL officers for 2008-09 were: Marcus Hochstetler, chair; Anne Matthewman, vice chair/chair-elect; Sara Galligan, immediate past chair; Amy Hale-Janeke, secretary/treasurer; Barbara Fritschel, Karen Quinn, and Meg Martin, board members; and Jennifer Dalglish, ex-officio board member and newsletter editor. New board members will be Kathy Carlson, vice chair/chair-elect; and Joan Bellistri, board member.

Marcus Hochstetler, chair
2008-09