
Board Members

Members of the 2011-2012 Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL-SIS) board are: Steven A. Lastres, Chair, Linda-Jean Schneider, Chair-Elect, Deborah Rusin, secretary; Elaine Knecht, treasurer, Jennifer Berman and Scott Snipes, members at large; and Jane Baugh, immediate Past Chair.

Annual Meeting

The combined PLL-SIS Annual business meeting/luncheon was held on Sunday, July 22, 2012 in Boston. Over 250 members attended. The current Board was acknowledged and the incoming board introduced: Jean O’Grady, Chair-Elect, Kristine Lloyd, secretary and Cameron Gowan, member at large. Committee Reports were presented, awards conferred on two distinguished members (see Public Relations/Media section below) member volunteers thanked and a long list of accomplishments were recited which follow in this report. Jim Pancero was the keynote speaker who presented on Increasing Your Persuasive Leadership Skills - Are You Good Enough To Get Better?

Strategic Plan

The past year was tremendously productive and active one for PLL. Using a new three-year PLL Strategic Plan as our road map, the PLL Board re-organized the PLL Committee structure to strengthen our communication, education, media, public relations, and membership efforts, and improve ties to other professional associations and AALL Headquarters Staff.

Education

In response to the goals identified in the new Strategic Plan, PLL produced a stellar agenda featuring renowned speakers for the third annual PLL Summit. Over 300 librarians and vendors attended. The Path to 2020: A Vision for Change agenda, handouts and slides are available at http://pllsummit.wordpress.com/2012-summit/agenda/.

Over 20 programs were submitted to the AMPC Committee by the PLL Education Committee. Of these, 11 education programs were approved for the AALL Annual Meeting for the Boston Conference. These programs represent the focus and needs of the PLL community. In addition, PLL presented 10 free webinars produced by several active PLL subgroups (CI, IP and KM). One of the PLL-KM subgroup webinars entitled Libraries and Knowledge Management a Way Forward was a collaborative enterprise with CALL and the SLA Legal and KM divisions. This was a first ever joint webinar attended by over 400 attendees. The CI subgroup followed up with a joint PLL/SLA webinar entitled Benchmarking: A broadly applicable CI tool (and a state of mind)
To pay for the new Webinars, the PLL Board petitioned AALL to change the AALL rules governing sponsorships. The new rule would have allowed Special Interest Sections to solicit funds from vendors interested in supporting law librarians by covering the costs of educational webinars apart from the Annual Meeting. The petition was denied. These sponsorships would have been solicited through Headquarters, which is consistent with the current practice for vendor sponsorship for the annual meeting. However, PLL continues to be committed to offering this additional education platform at no cost to members.

**Public Relations/Media**

In collaboration with other international law library associations, PLL deployed a new blog called "On Firmer Ground." The blog is designed to communicate the value of law firm librarians to the legal community. Another collaborative effort with the American Lawyer editors was to revise the questions in the AmLaw Law Librarian Survey to provide more relevant metrics that private law firm librarians can use to concretely measure and report their value to management.

At the Annual Business Meeting/Luncheon in Boston, PLL-SIS conferred awards upon distinguished members at the annual PLL Business meeting. The PLL Emerging Leadership Award was presented to Sara Paul Raffèl, from Paul Hastings. The PLL Service Award was presented to Kate Martin from the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library. She was the brain behind the now successful Summit.

To provide a more polished image, the PLL Marketing/PR Committee implemented the use of Constant Contact to develop professional-looking announcements; invitations, and newsletters.

**Meeting Member Needs**

To better support the needs of our members, a newly redesigned PLL Web Site was deployed to facilitate networking and sharing among our members. The monthly PLL E-Newsletter debuted to enhance Communication for the SIS to help members keep abreast of new PLL initiatives, education offerings and members services. In addition, PLL deployed two new blogs: to facilitate the sharing of information with respect to the PLL Summit and the valuable PLL Resource Guides.

To address the challenges of the current economic climate, PLL provided increased financial support for grants for travel to the AALL Annual Meeting Conference and the PLL Summit. A record number of grants were awarded to members to obtain the critical education they need to thrive in the “new normal” legal environment. In order to have PLL’s voice heard on the important matter of providing relevant and high quality education programming, the PLL Board produced a major response to the VCC Consultant’s Report regarding necessary changes to the Annual Meeting that will benefit our members and enable them to be future-ready.

To support member needs for reliable compensation data for private law firm librarians, PLL submitted a report to the AALL Committee on the Economic Status of Law Librarians to revise the Biennial AALL Salary Survey.
Conclusion

PLL owes a debt of gratitude to the hard work and dedication of the leadership of the PLL Board, PLL Committee Co-chairs, SubGroup Co-chairs, Liaison Leaders, and all of the volunteers that supported these groups. We succeeded because we relied on a strategic plan as our road map and had over 75 members who stepped up and contributed their talent and know-how to the various initiatives. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the vendors who supported the PLL-SIS this past year: they include Bloomberg/BNA, Fastcase, Lexis Nexis, Priory Solutions, Portfolio Media, ThomsonReuters, and Wolters Kluwer Law & Business,