

## **Private Law Libraries SIS Annual Report 2012-2013**

### **Board Members**

Members of the 2012-2013 Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL-SIS) board were:

Linda-Jean Schneider, Chair; Jean P. O'Grady, Chair-Elect; Kristine Lloyd, Secretary; Elaine Knecht, Treasurer; Cameron Gowan and Scott Snipes, Members-at-large; and Steven A. Lastres, Immediate Past Chair.

### **Private Law Libraries SIS Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon**

The combined PLL-SIS Annual business meeting/luncheon was held on Sunday, July 14, 2013, at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel. More than 175 PLL members attended, and recognition was extended to the PLL VIP Guest, the sponsors—WoltersKluwer Law & Business-- and several AALL Liaisons and Board members. The current Board was acknowledged, and incoming board introduced: Cheryl P. Niemeier, Chair-Elect; Emily Florio, Treasurer; and Saskia Mehlhorn, Member-at-Large. Committee Reports were presented, awards conferred on two distinguished members (see Awards section below), member volunteers thanked, and a long list of accomplishments were recited, some of which follow in this report. Don MacLeod of Debevoise & Plimpton and author of *How to Find Out Anything* was the Guest Speaker.

### **Education and Programs**

- **AALL Annual Meeting:** In response to the changes in AALL Annual Meeting formats, numerous PLL members submitted program ideas as individuals, and a few were selected—first as programs and later as Hot Topics and Coffee Talks. Many PLL members were involved in joint presentations with other SISs, particularly ALL-SIS. After the initial programs were selected, PLL had another chance to submit its single PLL-sponsored program. Building on the success of the 5 webinars on Knowledge Management presented throughout the year, featuring Consultant Stephanie Barnes, the PLL Program *Surrounded by Geniuses: Knowledge Management Learning From Other Industries* was a highlight of the Annual Meeting. The Education Chair continued to provide direction and guidance to those proposing programs, and as a member of the Summit Planning Committee.
- **PLL-SIS Summit:** Co-Chairs Joan Axelroth and Jean O'Grady guided the fourth annual PLL-SIS Summit, *SOS--Shaping our Success*, to a stunning success, with Keynote Speaker, Bruce MacEwen; panelists Victoria Pynchon, Bob Oaks, William Scarborough; and afternoon Break-out sessions conducted by various experts on *Changing Perceptions, Nailing Social Media, and Increasing Relevance and Engaging Patrons with User Experience Design*. Key sponsorship was provided by Bloomberg/BNA, LexisNexis, WoltersKluwer Law & Business, FastCase, and Thomson Reuters. More than 250 attendees confirmed the value of this format. Agenda, handouts and slides are available at <http://pllsummit.wordpress.com/home/>.  
The AALL Board and Executive Director provided significant support and assistance with obtaining sponsorship. The AALL Board also stepped forward to confirm that the choice to hold a Summit at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting is up to the PLL Board. Accordingly the Board confirmed there will be a Summit during the San Antonio

Meeting, and co-Chairs Cheryl Niemeier and Marcia Burris have been appointed to coordinate this exceptionally valuable meeting.

- **FREE Webinars:** During the course of the year, PLL produced the KM webinars noted above, as well as three highly-rated Intellectual Property webinars, 2 on *Patent Research 101*, and one on *Tracking Elusive Trademark Infringers*, and a joint webinar on *Careers in Competitive Intelligence* with the Legal Division of the Special Libraries Association.

### **Membership Survey**

The PLL Membership Committee, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Cameron Gowan and Karen Silber, undertook a major survey of the Membership which revealed the top concerns and priorities of Private Law Librarians: The highest-ranking requirements of members included continuing the PLL-SIS Summit, increasing the availability of free webinars and other Professional Development opportunities across the country, and increasing and streamlining the communication within the SIS. It appears that Social Media offerings are not quite as important as the other publications (eNewsletter, Resource Guides); Educational Webinars and Networking are considered the most important benefits to membership. The results—which included numerous specific suggestions, recommendations, and comments—were shared with the Leadership of PLL, which included all Committee Chairs and Group Heads. Those results will continue to provide fodder for the activities of this SIS for a very long time.

### **Communications and Publications**

- **New PLL-SIS Website:** Thanks to the perseverance of Webmaster Ellen Callinan, the upgraded website on the new AALLnet platform became effective just in time for the 2013 Annual Meeting. There is a clear need for this site to provide valuable content, in addition to the outward-facing element, which draws interest beyond the Association.
- **Monthly e-Newsletter:** Editor Sarah Mauldin has faithfully distributed the monthly issues through Constant Contact, which provides more robust push technology in addition to posting on the website.
- **On Firmer Ground:** Various members of the PLL Section continue to contribute to this joint blog effort, and have received international exposure due to these postings.
- **ILTA White Papers:** PLL members made significant contributions to an ILTA White Paper on Knowledge Management ( <http://epubs.iltanet.org/i/143561> ) and to the joint release between AALL and ILTA on *The New Librarian*. ( <http://read.uberslip.com/i/87421/> )
- Numerous articles in *Spectrum* were authored by, or featured, PLL-SIS members throughout the year.

### **Awards and Grants**

These two Committees were very busy, as they coordinated the recognition in the form of the *Service to PLL Award* (awarded to Lucy Curci-Gonzalez) and the *PLL Emerging Leader Award* (Emily Florio), and the Grants Committee named six winners of funds to support attendance at the PLL Summit and for Travel to AALL.

### **Collaborative Efforts with other Professional Associations**

In response to priorities expressed in both the PLL-SIS Strategic Plan and priorities on the part of AALL, there have been numerous joint efforts to reach out ‘on the grass roots’ as well as national and international level to promote the expertise and value of Law Firm Librarians.

- Through the efforts of the AALL Liaisons to the ALA, LMA, and Legal Division of SLA, who are PLL members, program proposals were submitted for annual conferences, and Mark Gediman was invited to participate in the ‘C-Suite’ presentation in Chicago in June.
- As noted above, several PLL-SIS members contributed to two ILTA digital White Papers.
- In November, many PLL members including the Current and Past Chairs, attended the LLSDC Showcase which featured kiosks of Law Librarian experts in Knowledge Management, Online Resource Management, and Cost Recovery and Budget Negotiation, as well as Risk Management and Project Management. Throughout the 2-hour period, there were around 40 attendees-- many librarians—though there were some members of the target audiences from ARMA, LMA and ALA in attendance as well.
- In late April, more than 90 attendees from ALA NY, ARMA NY, LMA NY, ILTA NY, LLAGNY, and SLA NY participated in a similar collaborative Showcase in New York City. The kiosks included brief presentations on KM, Business & CI, Strategic Research & the Embedded Librarian, Strategic Cost Cutting, and eBooks. Plans are in the works for another such event on the East Coast in the fall. There has also been interest in familing a similar event in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Ohio and Atlanta.

### **PLL-SIS Procedures Manual Revision**

Since this Manual had not been updated since 2004-2005, PLL-SIS Secretary Kristine Lloyd undertook the Herculean task of totally revamping the document, in light of changes to the Committee and Group structure, as well as the adjustments in responsibilities during the past several years. Kristine worked with the Board and PLL Leadership to update the Manual, which is very close to the final version. The plan is to wrap it up in the next couple of months and present to the Committee and Group Leaders as they prepare to execute this year’s tasks.

### **Conclusion**

To repeat a comment from the 2011-2012 Annual Report, the SIS owes a great debt of gratitude to the hard work and dedication of the leadership of the PLL Board, PLL Committee Co-Chairs, Group Co-chairs, Liaison Leaders, and all of the volunteers who supported these entities. None of the above accomplishments would be possible without their support and significant contribution of talent.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda-Jean Schneider, *PLL-SIS Chair, 2012-2013*