

CLE and Practice-Oriented Education & Publication Task Force

Final Report & Recommendations

Table of Contents

Recommendations	3
Introduction	6
Origin.....	6
Purpose	6
Charge	6
Members.....	6
Activities.....	6
Hosting & Presenting Continuing Legal Education	9
Public Law Libraries.....	9
Academics	10
Private Law Libraries.....	11
Chapters	12
Individual Librarians.....	13
Strategies for Hosting & Presenting Continuing Legal Education	15
Writing for Practitioner Publications & Other Practice-Oriented Media	17
Partnerships with State and Local Bar Publications	17
Local Commercial Publications	20
Reprints.....	21
Book Reviews	21
Blogs and Social Media	21
Book Chapters.....	22
Strategies for writing for practitioner publications & other practice-oriented media	22
Supporting Law School Clinics	25

Strategies for Supporting Law School Clinics.....	25
Facilitating Low- and No-Cost Legal Services.....	27
Models	28
Playing a Leadership Role in Access to Justice.....	28
Strategies for Facilitating Low- and No-Cost Legal Services	30
Key AALL Entities & Programs.....	31
Chapters	31
AALL Representatives Program.....	34
AALL Administration & Staff	36
AALL Public Relations Committee.....	37
Special Interest Sections	37
Publishing Initiatives Caucus.....	39
Potential non-librarian partners & resources.....	41
American Bar Association	41
Associations of Other Legal Professionals	42
CLE Vendors	43
Legal Education Reform Alliances & Networks of Practice-Oriented Law Professors .	45
Conclusion.....	48

Recommendations

The task force makes the following recommendations to the **Executive Board**:

1. Accept the final report of the CLE and Practice-Oriented Education and Publication Task Force and extend the CLE and Practice-Oriented Education and Publication Task Force for an additional year in order to maintain momentum and relationships created this year and to coordinate efforts among various AALL entities;
2. Facilitate meaningful collaborations with other legal and affiliated professional organizations as identified in this report, by leveraging the AALL Representatives and Chapter-Match programs and through less formal outreach efforts;
3. Explore possibilities for offering CLE for our own programs or partnering with other organizations to offer CLE for educational programming presented by AALL members;
4. Encourage special interest sections, caucuses, committees, and other AALL entities to form joint working committees to support practice-oriented education and publication efforts as outlined below.

The task force recommends that **all interested AALL entities**, including **special interest sections, committees**, the **AALL Representatives program**, the **Chapter-Match program**, **caucuses**, and the **Council of Chapter Presidents**, establish and participate in joint working committees to accomplish the following:

Writing for Practitioner Publications

1. Support chapter and member involvement in writing for practitioner publications by providing a forum to share best practices and to engage in discussion, in the form of a listserv, wiki, and/or document library;
2. Create a toolkit for chapters seeking to partner with a bar publication or commercial legal publication, including:
 - a. A letter and checklist for initiating a relationship;
 - b. Contact information for other librarians in chapter public relations or similar positions;
 - c. Checklists and other guidance for sustaining such partnerships and coordinating a publication schedule;
 - d. Examples of other chapters working with bar associations and/or commercial legal publications;
3. Host a webinar highlighting one or more successful partnerships between a chapter and a practitioner publication and the resources available to chapters and members.

Hosting and Presenting Continuing Legal Education

1. Support chapter and member involvement in hosting and presenting continuing legal education by providing a forum to share best practices and to engage in discussion, in the form of a listserv, wiki, and/or document library;
2. Create a toolkit for offering CLE credits at chapter educational programs, including:
 - a. How to apply for, or find co-sponsors who can offer, CLE credit;
 - b. How to solicit vendor sponsorship and support;
 - c. How to advertise CLE programs to members of the bar;
 - d. Checklists and recommended timelines for successfully producing a CLE program;
 - e. Information about presenting CLE for bar associations and CLE vendors.
3. Host a webinar highlighting one or more successful chapter educational programs offering CLE credits and the resources available to chapters;
4. Assess interest in forming a CLE caucus.

Supporting Law School Clinics

1. Support member efforts by providing a forum to share best practices and to engage in discussion, in the form of a listserv, wiki, and/or document library;
2. Create a toolkit for reaching out and collaborating with clinics, including:
 - a. Suggestions for approaching clinical faculty and administrators;
 - b. Ascertaining the most useful types of materials, instruction, and other support for clinic students;
3. Host a webinar highlighting one or more examples of successful collaboration between academic law librarians and clinics;
4. Encourage academic law librarians to reach out to their clinics;
5. Coordinate with the Promoting the AALL Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency Task Force to:
 - a. Further explore ways that academic law librarians can get involved in the larger movement to reform legal education to include more practical skill instruction;
 - b. Draft white papers or talking points for academic law librarians to share with their faculty and administration;
 - c. Reach out to legal education reform groups, including but not limited to those identified in this report.

Facilitating Low- and No-Cost Legal Services

1. Advocate for the role of librarians in state-wide access to justice commissions and the larger access to justice movement by:
 - a. Building partnerships and relationships with state and local courts and their professional organizations like the National Center for State Courts (NSCS) and the Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ);
 - b. Building partnerships and relationships with local, state, and national bar associations;

2. Take the lead in coordinating legal services in local communities;
3. Create a toolkit for public law libraries and members interested in initiating the type of county-wide consortium mentioned in this report;
4. Sponsor a webinar highlighting one or more such county-wide consortium;
5. Sponsor a webinar or solicit an article highlighting law librarian involvement in a state-wide access to justice commission.

The task force makes the following specific recommendations the **Council of Chapter Presidents** and the **Chapter-Match Program**:

1. Use the Chapter Summit, Leadership Training, and c-chpr listserv to encourage chapter leaders to explore practice-oriented education and publication opportunities and point them toward available resources;
2. Continue to facilitate partnerships between chapters and related organizations via the Chapter-Match and AALL Representatives programs;
3. Consider appointing a special or standing committee of the Council of Chapter Presidents to coordinate with other AALL entities and to foster chapter practice-oriented education and publication efforts.

The task force makes the following specific recommendations to the **Publishing Initiatives Caucus (PIC)**:

1. Explore ways to grow and sustain the membership and level of involvement in PIC, including the possibility of applying to become an SIS;
2. Develop a mentoring or co-authoring program to encourage new writers;
3. Create a list of legal blogs in which librarians may wish to contribute;
4. Update webpages with recent law librarian articles published in practitioner publications, publishers' contact information, and recommended article topics;
5. Build relationships with bar association editors and commercial legal publishers through local and national outreach, including exploring attendance at the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) annual meeting.

Introduction

Origin

The impetus for the [CLE and Practice-Oriented Education and Publication Task Force](#) was the November 2011 [Futures Summit](#).

Purpose

To increase the visibility and value of law librarianship as an integral part of the legal profession through improved outreach to stakeholders and future colleagues through members' active participation in practice-oriented education and publications.

Charge

The Task Force will:

- Identify existing and potential opportunities for members to develop and participate in practice-oriented education including, but not limited to, clinical programs, continuing legal education (CLE), and practitioner publications.
- Develop and market strategies to increase members' participation in practice-oriented education including, but not limited to, continuing legal education, clinical programs, and practitioner publications.
- Recommend and develop a means for members to share experiences and best practices of active participation in practice-oriented education and publications
The Task Force will submit a final report with recommendations for the spring 2014 Executive Board meeting.

Members

Chair	Ms. Jane Larrington
Member	Mr. Philippe Cloutier
Member	Mr. Brian R. Huffman
Member	Mr. Mark W. Podvia
Board Liaison	Ms. Jean M. Wenger
Staff Liaison	Stacy Schuble

Activities

The task force began its work by identifying programs and activities related to practice-oriented education and publication in which AALL members were already engaged. A call for information (Appendix A) was posted to the AALL Members Open Forum, ALL-

SIS, SCCLL-SIS, RIPS-SIS, PLL-SIS, LISP-SIS, and Gen X/Gen Y Caucus listservs. With the assistance of the Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents, it was posted to the c-chpr listserv with a request for chapter leaders to repost it to their individual chapter listservs. It was also posted to non-AALL listservs, including: law-lib, Law Librarians of Puget Sound, and US Law Firm Library Group (a small consortium of law firm managers).

Task force members followed-up with a phone call or email to each of the respondents to obtain more information about the respondents' practice-oriented education and publication activities. Several respondents suggested additional persons to contact, and phone calls or emails also went out to those individuals. Task force members also did some targeted outreach to leaders of several chapters not reached with the initial call for information.

Through the course of these interviews task members spoke with approximately 40 AALL members already engaged in practice-oriented education and publication activities. Many of these activities are described in this report or in the appendices following the report. Although they do not represent an exhaustive list of all such programs and activities engaged in by AALL members, the task force believes they provide a meaningful sample.

The practice-oriented education and publication activities fall roughly into these categories: providing continuing legal education (CLE) to the bar, writing for bar publications, supporting law school clinics, and facilitating legal services to pro se parties in the spirit of the "Access to Justice" movement.

The task force then turned its attention to identifying opportunities for further engagement in practice-oriented education and publication. Members examined the list of AALL representatives and the organizations with which they liaise and reached out to those representatives to get their thoughts on potential collaborative efforts with those organizations. Task force members also reached out to a handful of non-librarian organizations to get an initial impression of any potential for collaborative efforts.

Throughout the year, the task force met monthly via conference call, identifying and discussing emerging themes, ideas for further follow-up, potential non-librarian partnerships, and possibilities for sharing best practices across the AALL membership.

The task force prepared and submitted an interim report for the executive board's spring meeting. Additional activities of the task force:

- prepared a short summary of the task force's work as it related to law schools for the oral report of the AALL Representative to the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar at the Section's February 2014 Council meeting;
- accompanied the AALL Representative to the ABA Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar to the Section's February 2014 Council meeting;

- submitted a program proposal for the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting;
- submitted a poster proposal for the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting; prepared to present the poster in July 2014;
- submitted 2 coffee talk proposals for the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting; prepared to facilitate them both in July 2014; and
- prepared to talk about the work of the task force at the Chapter Summit at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

This report highlights some of AALL members' innovative programs and offers suggestions for increasing law librarian involvement in practice-oriented education and publications. The report begins with CLE programs hosted or presented by law libraries, chapters, and individual members and strategies for those considering adding CLE programs in their communities. Next, the report highlights examples of law librarians writing for bar publications and other practice-oriented media like commercial legal publications and law blogs. Then the report looks at academic law librarians supporting their law schools' clinics and the role of law librarians in facilitating low- and no-cost legal services to members of their communities. The report then goes on to identify the key AALL entities and programs with a role to play in increasing librarian involvement in these practice-oriented activities. Finally, the report identifies a few non-librarian organizations that might be valuable partners in our efforts.

Hosting & Presenting Continuing Legal Education

Librarians across the country educate and train attorneys and other legal professions. Many do so in the context of their workplace or they may volunteer and perform these duties with their local chapters and other organizations. Some offer CLE credit. Offering CLE credit and opening up our professional development meetings enables librarians to become further valued in their legal communities. We raise our visibility and become further trusted and reliable partners. As experts in our fields, putting on display our profession, passion, and knowledge through CLE is invaluable.

This section highlights the involvement in CLE by public law libraries, academic law libraries, private law libraries, AALL Chapters, and individual law librarians and offers strategies for AALL chapters, libraries, and members interested in getting more involved in CLE programming.

Public Law Libraries

Many public law libraries offer free or low-cost continuing legal education (CLE) courses. These courses are very popular among lawyers. Some programs have immense longevity (20+ years). They are relatively low cost and not particularly demanding on staff time, although they do require a robust professional network to identify popular topics and recruit speakers.

There are many county law libraries in Minnesota that offer CLE courses in county meeting spaces. The library staff solicits the CLE programs, promotes and advertises the programs, and facilitates the application of CLE credits. Topics can range from general (“What Judges Expect at Hearings”) to very specific (“Minnesota New Statutory Short Form Power of Attorney: Form and Usage”). The presenters can be lawyers discussing their areas of expertise or law librarians speaking on legal research.

Pittsburgh’s Allegheny County Law Library, operated as part of the Duquesne University Center for Legal Education regularly provides CLE courses to the local bar, including courses Pennsylvania Legal Research (3 hrs.), Federal Legal Research (3 hrs.), Government Documents (3 hrs.), Pennsylvania Statutory Law (1 hr.), Pennsylvania Constitutional Law & History (1 hr.), Researching Legal Ethics (1 hr. ethics), English Law Books from 16th to 18th Centuries (1 hr.), Internet Legal Research (3 hrs.), and Business Research (1 hr.) taught by a local law firm librarian.

It was observed that federal libraries tend to coordinate CLE programs internally while many state libraries partner with state and county bar associations.

Public Law Libraries of King County librarians have presented CLEs at county level presentations and other programs sponsored by the National Business Institute. Topics

have included services they provide to the public, services in social justice, and online privacy issues. The endeavors provide ways to communicate with their users, gain new patrons, and establish partnerships with the community.

There are countless other examples of public law libraries hosting and presenting CLE programming.

Academics

Many academic law libraries regularly invite speakers—often prominent members of the legal community—to offer presentations held in or sponsored by the law library. However, offering CLE credits is less common in academic law libraries.

Among the academic law libraries that do offer such programs is the University of North Carolina School of Law, which offers a two-day *Festival of Legal Learning* that allows participants to complete 12 CLE credits from among over 100 courses. Of those, the following programs are taught by University law librarians: *Free Legal Information on the Web*, *Cloud-Based Practice Management Solutions, Resources, Protections and Ethical Considerations When Using the Cloud*, and *A New Generation of Legal Research Tools*.

Pace Law School offers a yearly two-day *Bridge the Gap Weekend: CLE Boot Camp for New Attorneys*. Among the programs offered last year as part of the boot camp was a 1.5 credit CLE taught by a university law librarian, *Technology in Law Practice: Basic Considerations Every Lawyer Should Know*.

In 2012 and 2013 law librarians from the University of Houston Law Center taught *Essential Legal Information & Technology for Texas Lawyers*. The programs featured one-hour presentations on *Advanced Texas Legal Research*, *Free and Low Cost Online Resources for Lawyers*, and *Special Mobile Device Applications for Lawyers*. There was no charge for attending the programs.

The fact that such programs are only offered by a few academic law libraries does not mean that academic law librarians do not participate in the teaching of CLE programs. Many law schools offer CLE programs as part of alumni programs or reunion weekends. Law Librarians have taught programs such as *Free and Low-cost Alternatives to Lexis and Westlaw* (Georgetown Law), *The Promise and Perils of Social Media* (Penn State Dickinson School of Law), *There's an App for That* (University of Arkansas at Little Rock) and *Effective Strategies for Conducting Online Legal Research Using Free and Low Cost Sources* (Cornell Law School). These programs range from one to two CLE credits and are usually offered at no charge to alumni.

Several academic law librarians also reported that they have taught CLE programs, usually on legal research, offered by local, county or state bar associations or by state agencies as well as in-house programs for faculty. An academic law librarian was also

among the speakers at a 2013 CLE program offered by the Arizona Association of Law Libraries, *Congressional Information Symposium*. Five hours of CLE credit was offered for that program. There are a few hybrid law libraries that serve as both a public and academic law library such as Pittsburgh's Allegheny County Law Library, operated as part of the Duquesne University Center for Legal Education. More details about their CLE offerings appear above. Law librarians from the academic law library are among those who have taught such programs.

Academic law librarians also reported participating in many non-CLE programs designed to aid the profession or general public. In 2010 two Pennsylvania academic law librarians presented *Law Resources on the Web—A Workshop for Public and Law Librarians*. Offered in locations throughout the Commonwealth, the program was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and taught by law librarians from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Penn State Dickinson School of Law.

Private Law Libraries

CLE programs, accreditation processes, and management in private law libraries often take different forms. Typically a library will provide CLE materials in online or physical formats. However, the process by which an attorney submits CLE documentation varies across firms. Sometimes that function is performed by human resources, a vendor, or by each individual attorney. Other departments, such as IT or marketing, may also assist in the CLE process. Typically private law libraries do not present CLE approved presentations. Task force members discovered a few alternative CLE models that worked within a librarian's firm and with the outside legal community.

Bowles Rice LLP

Chip Smith, Senior Research Librarian at Bowles Rice LLP in West Virginia, manages all aspects of CLE resources, submission, and recording. The library works actively with several state bars, managing the process and assuring attorney accreditation. This is new ground for their private library and more than likely untapped ground for many private law libraries. While the learning curve is high and the process complex, libraries may be in a prime position to take on a CLE management role. Firm library relationships with state bars and commercial vendors can also provide a network for publishing and presenting opportunities. Chip and Erin are open to AALL membership and projects, looking to further CLE goals and outreach.

Dechert LLP

Nathan Rosen at Dechert LLP, New York, and other private Law Librarians present CLE-approved courses infrequently. However there are many topics for which librarians are well-suited. For example Nathan has presented CLEs on: LinkedIn profile management, effective Internet research, and Social Network primers. Nathan presents both in-house at Dechert LLP and with the external legal community. Partnerships and hosts include ILTA (International Legal Technology Association), Association of Records Managers and

Administrators (ARMA), New York County Lawyer's Associations, and the Law Library Association of Greater New York. These partnerships provide platforms, audiences, and support for CLE presentation. Collaboration is instrumental in their success.

Chapters

All AALL chapters host educational programming of some kind, but relatively few offer CLE programs. Most chapter educational programs tend to be marketed to chapter members, but there are several chapters that present educational programming designed for non-members. These take the form of "bridge the gap" or "introduction to legal research" programs targeted at law students, new attorneys, paralegals, public (non-law) librarians, and the public. These may or may not be approved for CLE credit. This section highlights a few of the chapters that do offer CLE credits for their programs.

LLAGNY

LLAGNY has been providing NY bar-approved CLE for three years and just recently received official provider status from the New York State CLE Board. It appears to be the only AALL chapter with state bar approved provider status. Some LLAGNY educational events are designed to draw both librarians and lawyers, and typically include a legal research portion. With a membership of approximately 700, LLAGNY can sustain this level of activity.

Mandatory CLE has been a requirement in NY since 1999. However, even back in the 1990s LLAGNY started down this road. They had a committee that focused on prepare-to-practice type educational events (Bridge the Gap for summer associates). Many LLAGNY members were involved in these events. They advertised for attendees at firms and schools, primarily through their membership. It was a widely-known and popular event.

As firms have changed, so has LLAGNY's programming. Once firms began providing more of their own research instruction at orientation, there was less need for a Bridge the Gap type of program. So, the LLAGNY committee started focusing more on CLE. It is now called the Outreach Programs Committee. As the name indicates, it gears its programming toward non-members (primarily attorneys, library students, and non-law librarians).

They do three back-to-back sessions. Pricing for CLE is \$75/session (50 minutes) or all three for \$200. Compared to bar association and PLI CLE event fees this is very inexpensive. They typically have about 20 attorney attendees for their programs, and the program is still growing.

They have tried advertising to firms without librarians (small and medium size firms) with limited success. They used directories to identify managing partners, recruiters, or communication persons at firms (and nonprofits employing attorneys). They sent

targeted emails to those individuals. One year they also mailed a flyer. With the status of being a CLE provider, LLAGNY is committed to providing nine programs in the next three years.

NOCALL

NOCALL offers a spring institute that is co-sponsored by the law firm Farella Braun + Martel, which is a California Bar accredited MCLE provider: <http://nocall.org/spring-institute-2014/>. MCLE credit opens up their spring institute to participation outside of librarianship. Offering credit and being bar recognized furthers NOCALL's credibility and marketing. Presenters also receive MCLE credit as well as enhancing their image and gaining invaluable experiences. In finding speakers for NOCALL programs members have reached out to Lexis, Westlaw, and California Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB). These entities are also sponsors. NOCALL also publishes regularly in attorney media, see the "Local Commercial Publications" section.

CoALL

Andrea L. Hamilton, Manager of Library and Information Resources at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, has also presented at the Colorado Association of Law Libraries' *Bridge the Research and Analysis Gap* (BRAG) programs. In the past, CoALL's BRAG programs have partnered with the Colorado Bar Association (CBA). The partnership has allowed CoALL to offer CLE credit and the CBA provided a venue. BRAG programs have included a mix of law firm, academic, and government librarian speakers. Events have been attended by students, attorneys, marketers, paralegals, and other diverse members of the legal community. Program objectives have aimed at being different from law school and focus on, "succeeding in a legal work environment, finding and using Colorado resources, and using practical legal research techniques" (2006 program). Finally, registrant totals have dropped when BRAG does not collaborate with the bar. Bar involvement increases market exposure and employers were more willing to pay registration fees.

Individual Librarians

David Selden works in Boulder, CO at the Native American Rights Fund's National Indian Law Library (NILL). Nearly seven years ago David presented at the AALL National Conference on sustainability. David currently publishes a column every other month in *Spectrum* regarding environmental sustainability endeavors and changes in the landscape. David has employed this expertise to raise environmental awareness and advocate for practical measures within Colorado's business communities. Recently, December 2013, he presented at a Colorado State Bar program and took part on a panel. The half-day seminar was well attended and well received:

How to Green a Law Firm: Saving Money, Conserving Resources, and Exceeding Our Clients' Expectations,
<http://www.cobar.org/cle/item.cfm?eventid=ENV12121.3>

From the Trenches. A panel discussion with practitioners who have implemented sustainability measures in their law practices. Topics covered will include: what worked, what didn't, costs and benefits, and unique ethical considerations faced when greening a law firm.

This opportunity arose from a recommendation by a law firm attorney who volunteers with NARF. David's sustainability background is well-recognized.

David's expertise in Tribal Law has also presented opportunities. He has written for the CO Bar Association's *The Colorado Lawyer* in the column "Legal Research Corner." He has presented Tribal Law Research at the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and the University of Colorado and their Indian Law Clinic multiple times. While performing research for an Oregon attorney he mentioned that he would like to do more CLEs. This casual remark has scheduled David to present a webinar through the Oregon State Bar.

Tim Baran, a long-time law firm librarian, founded and ran BaranCLE, a continuing legal education consultancy for three years (2008–2011). Baran views CLE functions as a natural extension of librarian roles and spheres. Through presentation, material development, curation and distribution, accreditation, and management of the process, Librarians are important players in attorney legal education.

As a law firm librarian Baran also managed his firm's CLE processes, working with state bars to ensure attorney compliance, and getting his firm accredited in multiple jurisdictions. This allowed attorneys to earn credits, at no additional cost, to meet their mandatory CLE requirements—a significant cost saving for the firm.

Internal accreditation not only saved time and money it also allowed clients' in-house counsel and other legal community members to receive credit; speakers also receive credit and recognition. This brought their clients into the firm and developed positive marketing for the firm and the library staff.

In these endeavors librarians can benefit in developing relationships with their marketing departments, associates and partners, and outside speakers, as well. Working with various State Bars is a challenge but one that furthers library value and positive firm reward.

Baran's CLE startup and his role in legal blogging at Legal Productivity and Lawyerist leads him to believe that librarians can be more active and collaborative in the legal and technology community. This extends to the firm's marketing and relationship building efforts via blogging and social media. Librarians are often gifted writers, researchers, and curators, and as such, natural stewards of the increasingly important new media efforts at the firm.

Librarians offer particular insight into law firm practices and can provide “actionable” recommendations in legal publications/blogs: technology experiences, contract negotiations, summer associate programs, first year associate training regimens, knowledge management, etc. Legal blogs would welcome librarian input and to have them as regular contributors.

Carole Levitt is the founder and president of Internet for Lawyers, where she teaches lawyers how to use the internet through live CLE seminars, CLE webinars, and books. She began by contacting state, county, and local bars offering to do CLEs. She did a few one-hour sessions for free to establish her professional network. It took a couple of years to build up the contacts she needed to make a living at it. Now she regularly presents live CLEs, is beginning to create webinar CLEs, and has authored several books for the ABA, including *Internet Legal Research on a Budget* (2014), *Google Gmail and Calendar for Lawyers in One Hour* (2013), *Google for Lawyers* (2010) and *The Lawyer’s Guide to Fact Finding* (2006). Carole also wrote the self-published *The Cybersleuth’s Guide to the Internet* (2014) and sits on the Advisory Board of the ABA Law Practice Division (formerly Law Practice Management Section) where she helps select topics for future ABA Law Practice Division publications.

Strategies for Hosting & Presenting Continuing Legal Education

Approaching CLE is a team effort. It may take buy-in from the library’s board, the local chapter, or the state or local bar association. Getting the word out to members of the bar may take significant networking, so it’s imperative to engage a variety of constituents. The task force talked to some law librarians who had to overcome a perception that they were competing with the bar association for attendees. Reaching out and finding a way to partner with the bar association, or to offer CLE programming that differs from that offered by the bar association may go a long way in alleviating tension. Simply getting to know the local and state bar leadership and staff may spark opportunities for collaborative efforts.

Perhaps the most onerous piece of hosting CLE courses is getting bar accreditation for the program. The process is different in each state. Most states have two methods for providers: (1) apply for CLE credit for single program; or (2) apply for status as an accredited provider. Many libraries successfully navigate the process, but others choose not to. Partnering with an organization that is already an accredited provider can alleviate the headache of dealing with CLE approval. Requirements vary from state to state, but many states require CLE providers to administer sign-in sheets, provide course materials handouts, and issue certificates of attendance. Such documents often must be retained for a number of years so they may be produced in the case of a member audit. Some states require that presenters be members of the bar.

Some of the education programming that AALL chapters and law libraries are already doing could be eligible for CLE credit. It may be as simple as pitching a program to the

local bar's CLE department. If the bar is willing to co-host, one can offer CLE credit for a program that's already been developed, widening the pool of attendees and improving the visibility of the organization and law librarian presenters.

If an organization isn't already hosting educational programming, it can be a great deal of work. It's important to assess whether the organization is prepared to put in the time to make it successful. It must be a large enough organization or chapter to sustain the effort. It's important to keep in mind that it may take a number of years to build up to the desired levels of attendance. Chapters may consider streaming or recording the CLE to offer a virtual attendance option.

Chapters with members in multiple states may have to start small. It may not be possible to offer CLE for all the states represented. Such chapters may consider applying for credit with the state in which the event is hosted.

In addition to legal research topics, legal technology and legal project management are popular topics on which librarians might present. Becoming experts on these topics helps colleagues view law librarians as valuable and cost-effective members of the team.

Organizations or chapters considering CLE programs should talk to members of the chapters and other organizations profiled in this report. The AALL members that task force members spoke to said they would be happy to talk to other law librarians about their experiences. One key piece of advice heard over and over was to be really organized—to keep checklists and timelines for all the pieces that go into a successful event.

The task force will facilitate a coffee talk, *What the Law Librarian Brings to Continuing Legal Education (CLE)* at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 15th at 7:30am. The task force hopes this conversation will generate even more interest in developing best practices for law librarians' involvement in CLE. If there is sufficient interest, it may be worth investigating the possibility of creating a CLE caucus.

Writing for Practitioner Publications & Other Practice-Oriented Media

Writing for online and print media read by attorneys and other legal professionals can be an effective way of increasing law librarian visibility as subject-matter experts, improving status as valued colleagues, and solidifying a place in the legal community. There are a variety of potential sources to place articles and columns, including state and local bar publications and blogs as well as commercial legal publications and blogs. Articles and posts may be placed on a one-off basis, or may be part of a recurring column. Recurring columns may be a chapter effort, with a committee that recruits authors from among the membership. Others may be written by a single librarian or by the staff of a single library. This section surveys a few of these established partnerships and presents some strategies for individual librarians and AALL chapters interested in writing for practitioner publications.

Partnerships with State and Local Bar Publications

Several AALL chapters have developed partnerships with the publication department of their state or local bar association. Such partnerships can be mutually beneficial: the bar editor gains a reliable, ongoing source for high-quality, practical articles and law librarian authors, their chapters, and the profession as a whole enjoy increased visibility. Some individual libraries and librarians have also sought out ongoing partnerships with bar publications.

Virginia Association of Law Libraries & the Virginia State Bar's Virginia Lawyer

An individual VALL member submitted an article for the Virginia State Bar magazine over 10 years ago. After that was published, another VALL member, Lyn Warmath, spoke with the editor at the Virginia State Bar, Rodney Coggin, about law librarians regularly contributing to the state bar magazine. It seemed like such a good idea, they wondered why they hadn't done it before. It soon became a regular feature. Anecdotally and through metrics, it was clear that the law librarian columns were being read and enjoyed. In addition to the regular column, the editor introduced a full issue by law librarians, published every couple of years.

The Virginia State Bar editor has found that the VALL law librarians have produced uniformly excellent articles, on interesting topics, that are well-written and highly readable by a wide audience. Their work is insightful and every bit as legally accurate as work produced by his practitioner authors. In fact, he attributes law librarian articles with helping him to increase the magazine's reach to a general readership. Traditionally each issue of the magazine was sponsored by one of the bar's sections (family law, admin law, etc.) and contained articles related to the practice area. Although this model had its advantages, it limited the appeal of some issues to a smaller set of readers. The

editor has worked over the years to change the model and the law librarian column has been a key piece of that change.

Colorado Association of Law Libraries & the Colorado Bar Association's The Colorado Lawyer

Andrea L. Hamilton, Manager of Library and Information Resources at Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP, is *The Colorado Lawyer's* "Legal Research" column coordinating editor. The Colorado Bar Association (CBA) publication *The Colorado Lawyer* has had a quarterly law librarian column since 2002: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall/lrc.asp>.

Annually Andrea reaches out to The Colorado Association of Law Libraries (CoALL) listserv for volunteers. Excitement to publish is generally high and there's been no shortage of volunteers. The column's original mission statement included an endeavor to "assist attorneys with common problems in legal research;" the mission statement has evolved: "to provide helpful information about legal research." The column consistently remains open to receive questions from readers. In some instances, Andrea has been contacted directly for research assistance.

Partnering with the CBA has lent credibility to CoALL. CoALL is viewed not only as a partner in the legal community but an authority. (see CoALL and Colorado Bar Association collaboration efforts on CLE above).

Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin & the Wisconsin Bar Association's Wisconsin Lawyer and Inside Track

About ten years ago, Carol Bannen contacted the editor at the Wisconsin bar publications office to ask if they would be interested in having law librarians write for their publications. The publications editor was receptive and LLAW librarians began writing monthly articles for the *Wisconsin Lawyer* (in print). A few years ago, LLAW articles were moved into the bar's online newsletter, *Inside Track*.

As LLAW Public Relations Committee Co-Chair, Carol is responsible for coordinating the articles. Each year she solicits the LLAW listserv and comes up with a list of ideas for article topics. She sends them to the bar publications editor who selects the topics (in consultation with the bar publications attorney editorial board). Carol then asks LLAW members to write on the selected topics and schedules them for each month. She tries to schedule the entire year at the outset.

She usually gets a good response from the LLAW membership and rarely has trouble recruiting authors. Once in a while a member will move away or get too busy. When that happens, she'll adjust the monthly schedule or write the article herself.

The bar publication runs a picture and short bio of the author, so it really provides an opportunity for authors to increase their professional standing at their place of employment and in the community.

Authors typically submit their 700–1500 word articles directly to the state bar publications editor. The bar publications office provides guidelines for authors and the editor is pretty hands-on—she usually gives the piece a flashy title, makes some structural changes to improve the visual appeal, and sometimes asks authors to tweak the content to increase relevance for their members. Carol’s impression is that the editor has been pleased with the quality of the submissions.

Although Carol initially cold-contacted the bar publications editor, the Chapter did have a history of collaboration with other departments of the state bar. For years LLAW librarians had conducted “internet boot camp” classes for attorneys and other training sessions through the state bar. She feels that the state bar staff were already aware of law librarians and the contribution they could make.

Initially, LLAW also made a big push to publish in the local Legal Administrators and Paralegal publications, but that has dwindled. Early on in the partnership, LLAW sponsored the bar publications editor as a speaker and chapter VIP at the AALL Annual Meeting. It was well-received and solidified their partnership.

Carol occasionally struggles for topics and makes sure to keep a list of past ideas. The bar sends them a list of their largest member sections. In general, they try to appeal to larger practice areas and don’t really target smaller member sections.

Carol estimates it takes her about 5–6 hours per year to coordinate the partnership. She thinks that updating the Publishing Initiatives Caucus (PIC) website would provide chapters with everything they need to successfully initiate and maintain a similar partnership.

Interesting note: *Inside Track* is behind a paywall and only bar members can log-in. So, librarians who are not bar members cannot view their own articles!

Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Library, Cuyahoga County Law Library, Case Western Reserve University Law School Library & Cleveland Bar Association’s Bar Journal

Lauren M. Collins, Law Library Director & Associate Professor, at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, reached out informally to the Cleveland Bar Association’s editor regarding librarians writing in *Bar Journal*. Librarians now have a column, “legal research & writing.” The rotation schedule for publication includes the following institutions: Cuyahoga County Law Library, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Case Western Reserve University Law School. Each is tasked with two columns a year.

North Carolina Bar Journal Publications Advisory Board

Before moving to Ohio, Lauren served as a member of the North Carolina Bar Journal Publications Advisory Board. Her pro-active approach involved making an informal request that a law librarian be on the board. The board agreed and Lauren was appointed. As an advisory board member she wrote several articles and recruited other librarians to contribute to the publication. Lauren's experience in North Carolina and in Cleveland highlight how successful informal outreach can be.

Public Law Library of King County & King County Bar Association's Bar Bulletin

Rita Dermody, Director at Public Law Library of King County (PLLKC), coordinates and authors a library column in the King County Bar Association (KCBA) *Bar Bulletin*. The column mainly features new events, classes, materials, and other offerings at PLLKC. The relationship with the KCBA *Bar Bulletin* began with Rita's predecessor, Jean Holcomb. Rita writes for the column nearly every month. Along with her article, an additional article is also published by another member of her staff. The Bar editor maintains monthly themes that provide some guidance in the writing process.

The column has also developed a partnership between PLLKC and Washington State Bar Association and the Access to Justice Board over the years. In 2000, Jean Holcomb tackled access to justice issues in Washington State, in an article written for the *Washington State Bar News*, she questioned new technologies being adopted by the court. These new systems and technologies potentially left the public behind, creating a gap in access to justice. This led to conversations with the local and state bar associations and Washington Courts. The questions of equal access, technology, and social justice reached the Washington State Courts and the Supreme Court adopted [*Access to Justice Technology Principles*](#). If not for PLLKC's contributions the technology and legal landscape may have taken a different turn. Local law librarians are viewed as important members of the community and valuable contributors.

Local Commercial Publications

The relationship between a chapter and a local commercial publication can be very similar to the relationship between a chapter and a local bar association. Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL) provides an example.

Northern Association of Law Libraries and ALM's The Recorder

Until very recently, NOCALL members wrote a monthly column, "Beyond the Shelf" for *The Recorder*, an ALM weekly newspaper. The chair of the NOCALL Public Relations Committee was responsible for coordinating the column and solicited volunteers by posting to the NOCALL listserv monthly. If volunteer numbers were low, she would approach librarian colleagues at her own employer, Alameda County Law Library, or write a column herself.

Authors chose their own topics, although in the past, the coordinator had created a list of topics and sent it to membership, hoping to recruit volunteers. Article topics included the role of law librarians, law libraries, and how they can benefit lawyers and the public; reviews of databases; tips for specific types of research (legal, non-legal); and recommending useful websites. The word limit for their articles was 500–1000 words. The chair would do some light editing before passing it on to the publisher’s editor who also did some light editing. Unfortunately, when the publisher hired a new editor-in-chief for the publication, the NOCALL column was eliminated.

Reprints

Law librarian authors writing articles for law librarian professional publications may talk their editor about reprint policies. A number of the articles published in law librarian professional publications each year cover subject matter that would be of interest to legal practitioner publications as well. Publishing in both places could increase the profile of librarian authors in practitioner publications with a minimum of effort.

Book Reviews

One type of writing that is often in demand by a variety of publications is the book review. Librarians are well positioned to write book reviews on a variety of publications, but particularly those that deal with legal research and legal technology. The ABA Law Practice Division (LPD) has expressed interest in having more librarians write book reviews. They publish about 20 books per year on topics related to legal technology, marketing, finance, and management. Librarians would need to arrange for placement of the book reviews in appropriate publications like law blogs, local bar publications, local business journals, or national bar journals. Such book reviews could have a secondary benefit to collection development librarians, filling a void left when Legal Information Alert ceased publication. The ABA LPD has made arrangements to send information about new titles to the AALL Publishing Initiatives Caucus chair.

The Legal History and Rare Books Special Interest Section publishes both a newsletter, *LH&RB*, and a journal, *Unbound: An Annual Review of Legal History and Rare Books*. Reviews of books dealing with relevant topics are regularly published in those publications. Law librarians, including those who are not SIS members, are encouraged to contact the book review editor to obtain material to review.

Blogs and Social Media

Many academic and public law libraries have their own blog, as well as Facebook, and/or Twitter accounts. The CS-SIS maintains a list of law library blogs here: <http://aallcssis.pbworks.com/w/page/1189465/Law%20Library%20Blogs>. Several firm law librarians have been tremendously successful as bloggers, making onto the [ABA Journal Blawg 100](#) list, including:

[3 Geeks & a Law Blog](#) (co-founded by law librarian Greg Lambert, Director of Library & Research Services at Jackson Walker LLP and current AALL Executive Board member) (another frequent guest blogger is law librarian Mark Gediman, Director of Information Services at Best Best & Krieger LLP).

[Dewey B Strategic](#) (law librarian Jean O'Grady Director of Research Services and Libraries at DLA Piper and current PLL-SIS Chair).

[SarahGlassmeyer](#) (law librarian Sarah Glassmeyer, Director of Content Development, Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) and current board member-at-large of RIPS-SIS). Here's one of Sarah's particularly relevant posts on reform of legal education to better address practical skills:

<http://sarahglassmeyer.com/?p=1255#more-1255>

[Slaw](#) (co-founded by Canadian law librarian Connie Crosby, Principal, Crosby Group Consulting and current Vice President of the Canadian Association of Law Libraries).

Book Chapters

Another potential avenue for aspiring authors is to look for opportunities to author a book chapter. This could be a book on a legal subject or practice area written largely by practitioners, in which the librarian contributes a chapter on related research tools and strategies. It could also be a book written entirely by librarians that covers a research or legal technology topic in depth or that covers a range of such topics in a single book.

Strategies for writing for practitioner publications & other practice-oriented media

Individual librarians who want to begin writing for bar publications and other practice-oriented media are encouraged to get involved with the Publishing Initiatives Caucus (PIC) and review the materials on the [PIC website](#), including these articles:

Lyn Warmath, "Spreading the Word: The Publishing Initiatives Caucus Promotes Law Librarianship through Writing," *AALL Spectrum*, November 2010
<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-15/No-2/pub-sp1011-Word.pdf>.

Lyn Warmath and Gail F. Zwirner, "Developing a Symbiotic Relationship with Your State Bar Journal Editor," *AALL Spectrum*, April 2006
http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-10/pub_sp0604/pub-sp0604-mb.pdf

For those who haven't written for publication before, starting out by co-authoring a piece with a more experienced writer may be helpful. These are some additional pieces of advice we heard from members:

Possible topics:

- the veracity and usefulness of specific online sources
- technology-related challenges
- reminder that libraries are still bricks and mortar with a role in the digital age
- reminder about what librarians, libraries, and archives can do for practitioners
- articles that attorneys will want to keep and refer to later
- recent changes to the law

Writing style:

- practical, hands-on
- the more memorable, the better
- written for practitioners—not librarian-centric, not scholarly, no footnotes

Chapters or libraries interested in developing a regular column or series of articles in a bar publication or commercial legal publication, should try reaching out to the publication editor. Several members initiated successful partnerships by cold-calling an editor. Inviting the editor to lunch and explaining what law librarians can bring to the bar publication may pay dividends.

Starting with something modest—a handful of 750-word articles per year—is a good way to test the waters. Adding a list of the articles (or the articles themselves if possible) to the chapter's website or wiki can provide encouragement and ideas for other members to write.

Sustainability was mentioned again and again as a primary concern in establishing this type of partnership. The relationship often begins because of one chapter member's connection to a particular editor or publication, and can fizzle out if that chapter member or the editor moves on, or can no longer devote the time needed to sustain the partnership.

It's important to avoid relying on one member to sustain the relationship. Creating a committee can spread the workload and develop a stronger base of support for carrying the effort forward. Relying solely on volunteers to author pieces doesn't always work—it may be necessary to approach individual members with specific requests. One chapter found it worked best for the committee to generate a list of topics and then approach specific members about writing an article on each topic. Another chapter encourages writers to submit a draft to the committee for editing before submitting it to publication. This can ensure quality control (since submissions reflect on the whole chapter not just individual author) and can be reassuring for inexperienced authors.

Some local bars have stopped publishing newsletters, and the collaboration between the local chapter and state bar staff ceased with it. Chapters may need to seek out other opportunities for partnering with the state bar, perhaps by posting to a blog or email list.

Chapters should be aware that the editorial policies of some state bar publications require that authors be members of that state bar. Although some law librarians are members of their state bar, many others are not. It may be worth asking the editor if the requirement may be waived or modified to allow for law librarian submissions. Editors may have the latitude to accept articles from non-bar members, so long as the author's credentials are clearly noted in the byline.

The Task Force will present an initial list of best practices in the form of a poster session at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting. Members hope this conversation will generate even more interest in developing best practices for writing for bar publications and other practice-oriented media.

Supporting Law School Clinics

There is a wide range among law schools in how involved law librarians are with clinical programs. At one end of the spectrum are schools like UC Irvine and the University of the District of Columbia:

UC Irvine Law Library has a position called Research Law Librarian for Experiential Learning. One of her primary responsibilities is to foster partnerships between the Library and the Law School's clinical, externship, career services, and pro bono programs. She provides customized research training for many of the school's clinics and small group research consultations with clinical students once they have received their assignments. She is an integral part of the clinical program and attends some clinical faculty meetings.

The University of the District of Columbia established the first embedded librarian program in its clinics. Law librarians attend each class session of their respective clinics, present research training, and meet with students individually or in small groups to help them develop research plans, introduce them to additional resources, or provide additional assistance on how best to use resources. An article about the UDC embedded librarian program is available at <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/Vol-16/No-8/embedding.pdf>.

In many law school clinics, including those at the University of San Diego, law librarians provide a customized research training session at the beginning of each semester and provide research consultations for individuals and small groups of students upon request. At other schools, law librarians have little to no contact with their clinics.

In response to changes in the legal market and ABA accreditation requirements, many law schools have been increasing the number of experiential learning credits required for graduation. As these experiential learning opportunities continue to grow, so will student need for legal research instruction.

Strategies for Supporting Law School Clinics

At some schools there may be institutional barriers, but at others, concerted outreach may be all it takes for law librarians to get involved in clinics. Clinic administrators and faculty may not be aware of the services the law librarians can provide. Several law librarians reported that it can take time to build a relationship with clinic administrators and faculty. Law librarians may need to be patient but persistent to develop a successful partnership with their school's clinics.

There is variation among schools whether law librarians are included as members of the clinic's "law firm," allowing students to divulge client information as necessary when

consulting law librarians for research assistance. Whenever possible, law librarians should be included in the scope of the "law firm" to better allow students to benefit from law librarians' expertise in forming research plans and identifying resources tailored to the specific needs of the clinics' clients.

The Task Force will be facilitating a coffee talk, *Clinical Programs in the Law School: Sharing Strategies for Boosting the Role of the Law Librarian* at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting on Tuesday, July 15th at 7:30am. Members hope this conversation will generate even more interest in developing best practices for law librarians supporting law school clinics.

Facilitating Low- and No-Cost Legal Services

Many public law libraries have “home-grown” educational programs for the public as well as the legal profession. These offerings include teaching the public how to conduct legal research, refreshing research skills for new (or experienced) lawyers, as well as instructing members of the legal support profession (e.g., paralegals). Some research classes can be very specialized (e.g., free resources online; legislative history and intent). These classes can be taught by law librarians or can make use of volunteer lawyers in their field of specialization.

As the primary provider of this type of practice-oriented education, public law libraries show a high level of creativity and collaboration with other organizations. Some examples of practice-oriented programs include providing court forms; legal clinics for pro se litigants through coordination with local legal services, law schools, and the bar; legal workshops for the public involving civil matters and criminal expungement; and providing links and library resources on the library website for self-represented litigants.

Public law libraries have largely aligned their service model and programming for the public. In some libraries the majority of their patrons are pro se litigants seeking legal assistance. But the need and aspiration for lawyers to learn practical education is not a new topic to the profession. This type of practice-oriented programming gives lawyers the chance to learn “hands-on” by providing legal information and limited assistance to members of the public.

The Access to Justice movement has reached out to many public law libraries and enabled these libraries to perform excellent practice-oriented services that train and allow volunteer attorneys and supervised law students the opportunity to ply their trade while assisting pro se litigants. These services are very time consuming and may require a budget to pay staff. The libraries must decide if they will charge for the printing of court forms or if they defer these costs to the public.

Advertising plays heavily into the equation. Low attendance can sometime plague educational programming events and clinics. It takes time and dedication to get the word out. Here are some suggestions from law libraries who responded to our call for information:

- Write a column in newspaper;
- Author articles in local court newsletter and bar association journal; and
- Write a blog post.

Some libraries noted that outreach to underserved communities may be even more challenging. Libraries may consider partnering with community centers, churches, or even local radio stations to get the word out about clinics and educational events.

Models

There are various models of practice-oriented education delivery involving public libraries. Below are six models with example libraries noted:

- Chapter-Bar Publication partnership: Sacramento County Public Law Library
- Court-Academic partnership: Utah State Law Library
- Public-Court-Academic partnership: Scott County, MN
- Court: Bailey Brown Library for US Courts
- Court-Bar partnership: Utah State Law Library, Maricopa County
- Public-Court-Community partnership: Sacramento County Public Law Library

Most of the models encompass a partnership between a bar association, AALL chapter, academic law libraries, public libraries, and community organizations. Only one example shows a library that produces their own CLEs (Brown Library for US Courts). Partnering allows a more diverse viewpoint and involvement as well as a sharing of manpower and costs. “Community” involves legal organizations like legal assistance and other non-profit legal service providers. These models were culled from responses to the task force’s call for information (see Appendix B). It is in no way comprehensive.

Playing a Leadership Role in Access to Justice

County-wide Consortia of Legal Services Providers

Several communities have a formal or informal consortium of legal services providers that meets regularly to discuss emerging issues, unmet needs, and common challenges in providing low- and no-cost legal services in their community. Public law libraries can be a leading force in bringing service providers together, providing space for volunteer clinics, and helping to ensure that the community’s legal needs are being addressed.

In Alameda County, California, a consortium of legal services providers already existed. Alameda County Law Library Director Mark Estes reached out to the group, began attending their quarterly meetings, and has become a valued member of the group. Several successful partnerships have emerged from the group, including using library conference rooms for clinics and workshops and the creation of a satellite legal collection (funded by an Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the state library) in a branch of the county public library to reach underserved areas of the county.

In San Diego County, California, no such consortium existed, so San Diego Law Library Director John Adkins decided to form one. He reached out to the community’s legal service providers, including legal aid, volunteer lawyers program, courts, county bar, the local law schools, and more. The group, co-sponsored by the San Diego County Association of Law Libraries, meets twice a year and has initiated long-overdue conversations between service providers, and has spurred a new level of coordination

among the law schools' clinics. A county-wide survey on collaborative initiatives for increasing access to justice is being rolled out right now.

State Bar's Access to Justice Commissions & Task Forces

In answer to the "Access to Justice" movement, nearly all states have now created an Access to Justice Commission or similar body. Most are led by the state high court, though some are led by bar associations or other nonprofit organizations. Although the size and precise make-up varies from state to state, the member slots are typically allocated to various stakeholders, including representatives of the judiciary, legal aid, state bar association, the private bar, advocacy organizations and others. Several states have allocated slots to the state law librarian or chair of a state law librarian association.

When the Virginia Supreme Court was establishing its [access to justice commission](#), Gail Warren, Virginia State Law Librarian, contacted the state's chief justice. She urged that a law librarian be appointed to the state's new access to justice commission and she was invited to serve on the commission. She sees herself as a spokesperson not only for law libraries and the patrons they serve, but also for public libraries and their patrons. In rural areas of the state without law libraries, public libraries are frequently called on to provide services to pro se patrons. Gail has been an active and valuable member of the commission, using library funds to set up a wiki for commission members' work. She's also advocated for the appointment of other law librarians to the commission's working committees, which include non-members of the Commission. The Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) created an "Access to Justice Committee." The members of that committee serve as advisors to Gail and as advocates for the law librarian's role in access to justice initiatives.

When Jessica Van Buren became the Utah State Law Librarian, there was already a [Committee on Resources for Self-represented Parties](#) with a slot allocated for the state law librarian. With the help of a State Justice Institute grant, the energetic and motivated committee piloted a virtual self-help center, housed in the state law library. The state law library provides administrative support to a small staff of attorneys who provide services to pro se litigants all over the state by telephone and online. The cooperation between libraries across the state and the self-help center has been tremendous. Law librarians have reached out to public libraries, educating them about the line between permissible services and the unauthorized practice of law. This clarity has empowered public librarians to provide more legal-related services, equalizing the level of services available between urban and rural areas of the state.

Jessica continues to do a lot of advocacy, reminding members of the committee and larger legal community of the many services that public and law libraries already provide to self-represented litigants as well as the role they could play in future coordinated efforts. Jessica encourages librarians in other states to talk to practitioners, the bench, court clerks, and others about the services they provide to self-represented litigants.

Talking about the specific patron issues that law librarians see each day can demonstrate that law librarians are in a position to effect change and are a critical piece to the community's response to access to justice issues.

Strategies for Facilitating Low- and No-Cost Legal Services

Law libraries would do best to partner with existing legal service providers in their community, building on each partner's relative strengths. Public law libraries can offer venues for clinics or public seminars. By keeping an ear to the ground when assisting pro se patrons, law librarians can play a key role in identifying the types of assistance or law clinics that are needed in the community (i.e. family law, tenant/landlord, small claims court). Initiating conversations with members of the bench, bar, and community organizations can lead to creative responses to unmet needs.

The [ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives](#) has a wealth of information about state access to justice commissions. Sadly, its document [Designing and Launching a New Access to Justice Commission](#), does not mention the inclusion of law librarians, although its [Hallmarks of Effective Access to Justice Commissions](#) does mention public librarians as valuable collaborative partners. There are several other potential partners on access to justice issues, including: [National Center for State Courts \(NSCS\)](#), [National Legal Aid and Defenders Association \(NLADA\)](#), [Conference of Chief Justices \(CCJ\)](#), [ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono](#), and others. The AALL [Access to Justice Special Committee](#) is currently investigating current and prospective roles for law librarians in fostering access to justice. The task force looks forward to reading the special committees findings and urges members to get involved.

Key AALL Entities & Programs

Probably the most important AALL entity in growing and sustaining practice-oriented education and publication programs will be chapters, but there are other AALL entities that can play a valuable role in supporting the work of the chapters and individual AALL members.

Chapters

Chapters have a critical role in growing law librarian involvement in practice-oriented education and publication for two reasons. First, as seen throughout this report, these types of activities depend heavily on professional connections and networks with non-librarian legal professionals. Because chapters are made up of law librarians from all library types, they can draw on a wider variety of connections than many other AALL entities that tend to silo members based on library type. As a chapter, members can capitalize on those many, varied connections. Second, these connections need to be local. Chapters are the only AALL entities that operate within confined geographic regions. Members of chapters that cover large areas, especially across state lines like SEALL and SNELLA, may find it useful to collaborate with a sub-group of proximately located members.

Connecticut members of the Southern New England Law Librarians' Association (SNELLA) provide a prime example of a chapter that's forged a particularly close and fruitful relationship with its state bar. The Connecticut State Library and the SNELLA developed a strong relationship with the Connecticut State Bar following the 2008 recession. Jonathan Stock, former Assistant Librarian at the Connecticut State Library and Supervising Law Librarian at the Connecticut Judicial Branch, lead the charge in building the partnership, during a time when budget cuts peaked and law library advocacy was needed the most.

In 2012, a Law Librarians Section was created within the Connecticut State Bar Association. As bar association members with their own membership section, Connecticut librarians are seen as peers and are more involved in bar activities. The section has contributed to the state bar's CLE programs and encourages Connecticut Law Librarians to join the section. Further CLE courses in collaboration with the state bar are planned as well. Their partnership has been well-documented in these *Spectrum* articles, which were re-published in a Connecticut State Bar publication:

Jonathan C. Stock, Saving Connecticut Judicial Branch Law Libraries: The Recent Crisis and Beyond, Jonathan C. Stock, Saving Libraries: Alliance, Advocacy, & Education, 15 *Spectrum* 24 (Feb. 2011) reprinted in 21 *Connecticut Lawyer* 26 (Apr. 2011).

Jonathan C. Stock, Saving Libraries: Alliance, Advocacy, & Education, 17 *Spectrum Online* <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/spectrum/Archives/vol-17/No-9/Saving-Libraries.html>, reprinted in 23 *Connecticut Lawyer* 24 (Feb./Mar. 2013).

Chapters can also partner with local chapters of other legal and allied professional associations to enhance the professional network of their members and to raise the visibility of law librarians generally. In 2013, both the Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY) and Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C. (LLSDC) hosted evening mixers with the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA), Special Libraries Association (SLA), International Legal Technology Association (ILTA), Legal Management Association (LMA), and ARMA International (formerly Association of Records Managers and Administrators)(see Appendix C). Each event was successful with a large turnout and led to further opportunities to network at the subsequent ILTA conference. To read more about the LLSDC event see Appendix D.

A number of other specific chapter activities were highlighted in the sections above. This section suggests ways that AALL can support and facilitate the work of chapters.

Chapter Summit

The inaugural biennial [Chapter Summit](#) will be held on the Friday before the Annual Meeting. The Chapter Summit is a venue for connecting Chapter leaders with AALL Executive Board leaders and exploring how they can best support one another. The Summit provides a good opportunity to encourage Chapters to partner with related professional associations and other organizations. A task force member will attend, highlight some innovative chapter programs, and continue the conversation with chapter leaders about ways AALL can support their practice-oriented education and publication efforts.

Annual report by chapter presidents

Each Chapter president is charged with preparing an [Annual Report](#) of chapter activities for distribution to the AALL Executive Board and for posting to AALLnet. This could be an opportunity to gather information about chapters that are leveraging partnerships and getting involved with practice-oriented education and publications. Such information could be requested specifically in the [written guidelines](#) for the narrative. Alternatively, a separate web-form could inquire about specific types of activities/partnerships.

Survey of Chapters

The current Chair of the Council of Chapter Presidents indicated a willingness to administer a survey of Chapters via the c-chpr listserv to gain further information about current Chapter activities. The survey may also prompt Chapters to seek out such opportunities. The Task Force's call for information did go out to the c-chpr listserv, but yielded only one 1 or 2 responses. A more targeted inquiry may prove more fruitful.

Chapter-Match Program

The [chapter-match program](#) was created in 2012 to facilitate association to association connections. It strives to make those connections at the local level by leveraging AALL partnerships with law- and library-related associations through the AALL Representatives program (see below). This program is still new, but has the potential to greatly advance AALL members efforts in the area of practice-oriented education and publication. By connecting AALL chapters with local chapters of other law-related professional associations, AALL can amplify the resources, connections, visibility, reach and impact of chapter efforts. The task force applauds this program and hopes that it continues.

AALL Representatives Program

The AALL Representative program formalizes certain relationships between AALL and partner organizations which include our “stakeholders.” AALL appoints official representatives to other law- and library-related associations in order to promote librarianship, increase the usefulness of law libraries, cultivate the science of law librarianship, and develop connections with groups sharing similar interests.

The AALL Representatives program has the potential to play a key role in connecting Chapters and other AALL members and entities with partner organizations at a local level. Through the chapter-match program, AALL Representatives can take an active role in connecting our members with local chapters and members of partner organizations.

Task force members reached out to a number of AALL Representatives to get their thoughts on ways their role could help connect AALL members with other legal professionals in their communities in furtherance of practice-related education and publication efforts.

Legal Marketing Association

Julie Pabarja is the Research Services Manager at DLA Piper and current AALL Liaison to the Legal Marketing Association (LMA). Collaboration between librarians and law firm marketing becomes essential given the make-up of law firm departments and achieving successful work products. Librarian value and stories should be consistently conveyed in the legal marketing world. Working together strengthens both organizations and workplaces. In the past AALL members have presented at the LMA Annual Conference and LMA members have presented at the AALL annual conference. This year, AALL is partnering up with LMA to put on a program on Alternate Fee Agreements at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio as part of the Partner Association Program Collaboration. AALL is also working towards a program proposal for the LMA annual conference. The symbiotic relationship between AALL and LMA also includes AALL and PLL-SIS members writing for LMA publications. AALL is regularly notified about deadlines to submit pieces for LMA publications.

Several opportunities are available to further strengthen AALL’s relationship with LMA. First, LMA has a vast network of presenters and speakers. In trying to find speakers, either for local chapter meetings, special interest section gatherings, etc., law librarians have the option of reaching out to LMA. Finding speakers from diverse backgrounds and fields is a benefit librarians may find in working with LMA. Second, LMA members are often connected to executives, Chief Marketing Officers, and other upper-level individuals. Reaching those connections, through publication, presentation, and networking, will strengthen the message of librarian value in law firms. To increase publishing outside of library publication members can inquire about publishing or reprinting their articles in LMA’s publications. Lastly, although AALL’s speaker pool is also vast and could be a valuable resource for LMA, it can be difficult to identify

potential speakers. A formal depository with articles and/or speaker lists would help liaisons meet requests from their counterparts.

Special Library Association

Diane Rodriguez is the current AALL liaison to the Special Library Association (SLA) Legal Division. SLA is locally active in Northern California where Diane works. They host monthly dinner meetings with speakers, an annual spring institute, and various workshops. NOCALL members are invited to all events. NOCALL also extends invitations to SLA for their events and spring institute. SLA networks and speaker pools are expansive; they have often been able to recommend presenters for NOCALL events.

In communities where the relationship between AALL and SLA chapters is not so well-developed, the AALL liaison and/or chapter-match program can facilitate such connections. These connections can be particularly fruitful where an AALL chapter covers a large geographical region. Partnering with local SLA chapters may allow AALL chapters to host chapter events in more areas of the region, involving more AALL members in chapter activities.

American Association of Law Schools

The American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Section on Law Libraries and Technology is comprised mostly of academic law library directors. Most of its members are also active in AALL activities. The focus at AALS annual meetings tends to be on scholarship. AALL could work with the AALL Representative, the Chair of the AALS Section on Law Libraries and Technology, and other AALL members involved with AALS to bring more attention to practice-oriented legal education. They could sponsor programming at the AALS annual meeting that encourages AALS support and member involvement in practice-focused legal education.

American Bar Association. Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar

The American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar has a critical role to play in the incorporation of more practical skills training in legal education. As the accrediting body and author of the accrediting rules for ABA-approved law schools, has the authority to impose requirements on law schools. For example, at the March 2014 meeting of the Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, the Council voted to require six credit hours of experiential courses.

As an affiliated organization, AALL has the opportunity to present a report to the Council several times each year. AALL's March 2014 affiliate report, given by the AALL Representative, included information about the AALL [*Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency*](#). The principles and standards were well-received by the Council and AALL was thanked for preparing the valuable document. This effort helps position AALL and its members as leaders in defining what it means to better prepare law graduates for practice. AALL's affiliate report also mentioned briefly the work of this task force.

AALL has been asked to testify on matters related to law libraries. For example, regarding proposed changes to Rule 603(c) on the credential requirements for law library directors, the AALL Representative testified before the Council and AALL submitted this [comment](#). If AALL continues to assert the profession's expertise on legal research competency and instruction, law librarians may have a key role to play in future efforts to improve practice skills instruction in legal education. Interestingly, the current Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Council is a law librarian.

Association of Legal Administrators

The Task Force recommends further exploring the possibilities of leveraging our relationship with the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA).

Self Represented Litigation Network

The Self-Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) works to ensure that the challenges of serving the self-represented are viewed as critical issues to be addressed throughout the justice system. Many members of AALL already work with SRLN to support the participation of law libraries in providing services to the self-represented. SRLN has a Law Librarians' Working Group which recently completed a survey of Library Self-Help Programs and Services, available here: <http://www.selfhelpsupport.org/surveys/>. The task force encourages continued collaborations with SRLN.

AALL Administration & Staff

The AALL Education & Events staff persons occasionally get inquiries about CLE credit for AALL annual meeting programs. Approximately 1/3 of AALL members have law degrees although the number of members required to comply with CLE requirements would likely be lower as many law librarians go on inactive status or do not belong to a state bar. Because the demand has been relatively low, and in light of the cost and logistics involved in getting approval, AALL staff have not seriously considered pursuing it. Because AALL members come from all 50 states, D.C., and a number of U.S. territories, it would likely be impractical to apply for CLE credit to all member bars. However, staff expressed an interest in further examining cost-effective ways that AALL could help members meet their CLE requirements as well as grow interest in AALL programming among non-librarian legal professionals.

To that end, task force members had a brainstorming session with AALL Education & Events staff and came up with the following ideas to explore:

1. AALL could apply for CLE credit in the state where the annual meeting is occurring. Perhaps a half-day of the meeting could concentrate topics of interest to non-librarian legal professionals and could provide a draw for local attorneys. Registration for that half-day could be billed at a separate rate, independent of AALL membership.

2. AALL could co-host webinars with CLE providers like the ABA, ALI, and PLI. Their status as approved providers in many states would relieve AALL of the burden of applying for CLE credit. Co-hosting with those entities will also broaden the reach of AALL programs beyond our membership.
3. AALL could maintain a “speakers bureau” of AALL members willing to present on certain topics. AALL could do outreach to CLE providers like the ABA, ALI, and PLI to encourage them to contact AALL when looking for speakers. Most of the major CLE providers have used law librarians as speakers in the past and are interested in recruiting law librarian speakers, but may not actively seek them out without regular outreach. To assist with this outreach, brochures could be produced, highlighting law librarians as CLE presenters, for distribution at AALL’s exhibit hall tables at other organizations’ events.

At a minimum, if attendees wish to submit annual meeting programs for credit, AALL is prepared to provide or retain paperwork as necessary.

Executive Director Kate Hagan has been actively developing AALL partnerships with related professional associations. She meets regularly with the executive directors of the Legal Marketing Association, Association of Legal Administrators, and others. The task force applauds these efforts.

AALL Public Relations Committee

The Task Force recommends exploring ways that practice-oriented education and publication efforts could complement the work of the Public Relations Committee.

Special Interest Sections

State, Court and County Law Libraries (SCCLL-SIS)

Public law libraries are a natural provider of practice-oriented education. The nature of their assistance varies from free CLEs to volunteer opportunities for lawyers to provide pro bono aid. Their mission, physical location, and ability to form relationships with the bench and bar make them an ideal provider of practice-oriented materials. These libraries are well situated to have access to members of the bench, bar, and public (self-represented litigants). Partnerships and creativity fuel the services they provide. Responses from AALL libraries demonstrate various models exist. Key limiting factors include staff, budget, and need for advertising.

Moving forward, SCCLL could lead the way on facilitating low- and no-cost legal services and provide best practices and webinars on how to facilitate, plan, and offer CLEs in their spaces and in coordination with public libraries. The SCCLL–SIS listserv could provide a forum for public law librarians to share and discuss best practices for CLE programming and facilitating low- and no-cost legal services. Work done by the Pro Bono Partnership committee should be highlighted and encouraged.

Additionally the publicity and public relations committee has a charge to identify list of appropriate, national and local, court-related newsletters/magazines and submit articles prepared for Resource Guide Series for publication with the help of AALL's Publishing Initiative Caucus (PIC). This endeavor should be encouraged.

Academic Law Libraries (ALL-SIS)

The ALL-SIS leadership has expressed an interest in seeing how the SIS might play a role among its members in practice-oriented education. This could include establishing a special committee to study the matter. More information will be available in the upcoming months.

The ALL-SIS Sourcebook on AALLnet and the ALL-SIS listserv could provide forums for academic law librarians to share and discuss best practices for working with clinics.

Private Law Libraries (PLL-SIS)

The Private Law Librarians Special Interest Section is a perfect avenue for librarians to connect with colleagues who have developed relationships with their state and local bars. Members can learn from one another about how to initiate and make use of these relationships. PLL-SIS members sharing experiences can also provide ideas and topics for CLE and article publication. Moreover, PLL-SIS may be an arena in which to establish working committees to find publications and blogs (outside of bar associations) whose market are law practitioners and attorneys. PLL-SIS may develop those relationships and serve as the liaison in librarians publishing in practitioner-centric media. Many librarians have taken the initiative to contribute in this way on an array of topics. A challenge will be to find a leader and a group to coordinate communication and effort, maintain documentation, and develop regular volunteer authorship.

PLL-SIS may also have a role to play in improving the legal research skills of law students. With changes in the legal market, some attorneys have less time to supervise and mentor law students through internship and externship programs. Yet these types of placements are critical to law students' development of practical skills. Research tasks are the most common type of assignment given to legal interns and externs in law firms, government and other legal offices. Law librarians in those legal offices, whose time is often billed at lower rates, may be aptly suited to supervise and mentor those interns and externs. Such an arrangement has the potential to benefit both law students and law offices. Perhaps a joint effort between PLL-SIS and ALL-SIS could explore this possibility.

Research Instruction & Patron Services (RIPS-SIS)

RIPS-SIS has members from a variety of backgrounds and has the advantage of being able to draw on the networks and strengths of law librarians across library-types. The leadership of RIPS-SIS has expressed interest in further exploring ways in which RIPS-SIS can be involved in the work of the task force.

RIPS-SIS is currently investing in equipment and planning to host a series of webinars. One or more of these webinars could relate to putting on CLE programs, facilitating low- and no-cost legal services, or writing for blogs or other practitioner-focused publications. The RIPS-SIS Teach-in Toolkit and RIPS-SIS listserv could also provide forums for RIPS-SIS members to discuss best practices in providing CLE.

Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP-SIS)

The mission of LISP-SIS is to improve access to legal information and to promote legal information services to the public. LISP-SIS publishes a reference brochure, “How to Research a Legal Problem: A Guide for Non-Lawyers.” They also offer a public library toolkit meant to help public librarians understand the process of legal research, effectively develop and use the information located within their libraries, utilize information located outside their libraries, with the end goal of helping the patron locate the legal information they need. At present there are toolkits for 37 states. Task force member Brian Huffman is the incoming Chair of this SIS.

LISP-SIS would be a natural group to take a lead in advancing the role of law librarians in facilitating access to low- and non-cost legal services.

Publishing Initiatives Caucus

The Publishing Initiatives Caucus (PIC) was formed a number of years ago in order to do much of the “Practitioner-Oriented Publications” part of the task force’s charge (see <http://www.aallnet.org/caucus/pic/brochure.pdf>). PIC was organized to:

- Inspire and motivate law librarians to write articles for legal publications that are read by practicing attorneys, legal administrators, law professors, judges, and others in organizations that employ AALL members.
- Encourage publishing in publications as a way of promoting individual law librarians and the profession.
- Partner on publication projects with AALL chapters, the three type-of-library SISs, the Public Relations Committee, and the Committee on the Economic Status of Law Librarianship.
- Work cooperatively with other law-related groups interested in publishing articles by or about law librarians in their own publications.
- Provide a forum for sharing tips on writing articles and having them accepted for publication.
- Maintain a list of published articles, so that those on state-specific topics might be models for other AALL authors for publication in their own states and so that some articles might be re-purposed for printing in additional publications.

PIC has about ten consistent members. They are mostly firm librarians, although the group welcomes law librarians from all library types. The firm librarians sometimes struggle to find the time to participate in caucus activities or to actually write. PIC expressed interest in the work of the task force as a way of getting more librarians

involved in PIC. PIC leadership may be interested in exploring ways of reenergizing the group and building a sustainable model, perhaps by applying to become an SIS.

Although somewhat dated, the PIC webpages include:

- [examples](#) of law librarian articles published in practitioner publications
- [annotated alphabetical list](#) of publications and publishers contact information
- articles on [how to](#) begin writing for practitioner publications
- discussion forum

In collaboration with the Council of Chapter Presidents, Chapter-Match program, and the American Legal Administrators Representative, PIC has helped recruit librarians to write for the ALA publications and speak at events through their chapters. It took two years to really take hold, but has become quite successful.

PIC has also recently been involved with conversations to recruit law librarians to write for practitioner publications like the ABA Journal, National Law Journal, and paralegal publications. PIC is aware of opportunities to write for West, ALM Law Technology News, and American Lawyer's IT column.

The PIC leadership is committed to maintaining the quality of writing. If PIC were to refer an organization or vendor to an author who produces an inferior product, it could negatively impact that organization's interest in having law librarians write in the future. So, they tend to direct to the same reliable authors or simply write the article themselves. They find that personally recruiting an author is more effective than soliciting authors over a listserv. Perhaps a mentoring or co-authoring arrangement could help involve new authors while assuring quality.

Finding topics to write about can be difficult. Sharing ideas for writing topics, as well as a list of publications in which to place articles, might help new authors get involved.

Potential non-librarian partners & resources

Task force members identified a number of potential partners and useful resources in our efforts to discover how law librarians can get more involved in practice-oriented education and publications. These potential partners and resources include several ABA entities, other legal professionals associations, CLE vendors, and law school faculty groups focused on practical skills training and legal education reform.

American Bar Association

AALL already has close relationships with several American Bar Association entities (see *supra*, AALL Representatives program). These are a few other ABA entities with which AALL may wish to pursue formal or informal relationships. There are also some ABA entities which some AALL members may wish to join.

ABA Center for Professional Development (formerly ABA CLE Center)

The ABA puts on about 674 CLE programs per year, including 300 online programs. In the last 2 years, the CLE Center has begun a “premier speaker series” of free monthly CLEs. These are ninety minutes sessions, presented live, and are made available online for three months. Registration is free to ABA members. There is a modest fee for non-members. They look for broad topics that garner large scale interest (2000–7000 attendees).

One of the most popular was presented by a law librarian “How to Conduct Free Legal Research Online.” The speaker was Matthew Brawn, Senior Legal Research, Library of Congress. It had 6300 attendees. They have had law librarians present at other CLE programs as well. They’re always looking for new topics/speakers. They would also be interested in non-legal topics like online (non-law) research, social media (especially LinkedIn and Facebook), career-related programs, like Minding Your Business and legal project management. They would welcome ideas from AALL members and they may even be able to help find a sponsor so the program can be offered free of charge.

The governing body of this department is the ABA Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education. That would be the entity with which we would have a representative if interested. If the AALL Executive Board wishes to pursue that avenue, AALL can begin by contacting staff at the ABA Center for Professional Development who will take the question to the Standing Committee Chair.

ABA also has a MCLE department that coordinates the approval process for CLE for all states for a fee (see Appendix E).

ABA Law Practice Division

ABA Law Practice Division (LP), formerly known as the ABA Law Practice Management Section (LPM), focuses on the core areas of marketing, management, technology, and finance. The Division publishes a magazine, *Law Practice* and a webzine, *Law Practice Today*, as well as many monographs for practitioners like *iPad in One Hour for Lawyers*, *Social Media for Lawyers*, and *The 2014 Solo and Small Firm Legal Technology Guide*. The Division also sponsors a regular podcast, *The Digital Edge: Lawyers and Technology*.

The Law Practice Division is the membership entity where law librarians would best fit if interested in joining the ABA. The LP is also affiliated with the ABA Legal Technology Resource Center.

ABA Legal Technology Resource Center

Legal Technology Resource Center (LTRC) is a department of the ABA. It provides legal technology guidance to ABA members through various outlets including a technology blog, publications, monthly webinars, and an extensive website. There may be opportunities to write for the LTRC blog or other publications.

ABA Professional Responsibilities

The ABA model rules of professional responsibility, adopted by many state bars, contain an ethical duty to be a competent legal researcher. The ABA model rules were recently revised to include competency with technology. ABA members are in the process of revising the model rules regarding continuing legal education. As states begin to adopt the model rule changes, state bars will begin granting CLE credit for law practice and law technology-related topics. As these changes take place, law librarians can position themselves as experts to provide this type of CLE programming.

ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants

The ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID) has compiled information about all state-wide access to justice efforts in the [Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives](#). The resource center includes a directory of access to justice commissions, resources for newer access to justice commissions or for states exploring the creation of a commission, and white papers and other information on specific access to justice issues. The Standing Committee hosts an annual National Meeting of State Access to Justice Commission Chairs in conjunction with the Equal Justice Conference hosted by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono Public Services and the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association.

Associations of Other Legal Professionals

Association for Continuing Legal Education

The Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) is a professional association of CLE providers. Their membership is made up of staff from state, local, provincial, and law societies; commercial vendors, including ABA and NBI as well as smaller or jurisdiction-specific vendors; law schools that put on a lot of CLE programs; specialty

bars (practice area or affinity group like a women's bar society); and entrepreneurs who are CLE presenters themselves. They offer an associate membership (~\$65/year) that currently is for support staff, but may be something that could encompass professionals like law librarians who do not work on CLE full-time.

They hold two membership meetings per year where members network, share best practices, and get ideas from each other. Membership also includes access to a number of helpful resources including best practices for CLE (everything from logistics, to adult learning styles, to marketing, and more) and a cheat sheet for CLE requirements for all states.

Continuing Legal Education Regulators' Association (CLEreg)

The Continuing Legal Education Regulators' Association (CLEreg) is a membership organization for state bar administrators. They offer an annual subscription (\$49.99) to *The MCLE Guide*, which provides information about mandatory CLE rules across all mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) jurisdictions. Information may be searched, sorted and viewable by jurisdiction. In addition to rules, regulations and statistical data, The MCLE Guide also contains comments from MCLE regulators to help explain rules and expound on regulations, policy and procedure. The Guide is updated regularly and directly by MCLE regulatory agencies.

National Association of Bar Executives (NABE)

The National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) is the professional association to which many bar publication editors belong. It would provide a good forum to make a pitch on a national level for law librarians as authors. Law librarians could mention Virginia and Wisconsin as successful examples and provide copies of law librarian articles published by those state bar publications. Rod Coggin, editor of the *Virginia Lawyer* (profiled above), welcomes law librarians to mention his name in talking to other editors. He would be happy to talk about how successful the partnership has been in Virginia. He also offered to send links or physical copies of issues.

International Legal Technology Association

The International Legal Technology Association (ILTA) is a "premier networking organization, providing information to members to maximize the value of technology in support of the legal profession." ILTA sponsors an annual meeting, regional events, white papers, e-groups, topic-focused peer groups, webinars, discussion forums, and maintains relationships with a number of legal market vendors.

CLE Vendors

CLE Vendors provide an array of services that can assist librarians in the CLE process. Partnering with a vendor may assist with creating topics, building speaker panels, finding venues, and begin the process in developing bar relationships. As chapters and librarians enter the CLE terrain vendor experience can provide a roadmap. Our committee contacted these services and information on their respective websites.

Vendor relations vary and regional vendors may be available too. Below are a few of the most well-known vendors that operation nationally.

American Law Institute

The American Law Institute (ALI) is actively looking for ways to collaborate with law librarians. Task force members talked with staff in ALI's Publications department about both publications and potential CLE partnerships. ALI is headquartered in Philadelphia, so the 2015 annual meeting would provide an ideal opportunity for collaborative efforts. ALI is also well-connected in CA, NY, DC, and slightly less so in TX. ALI provides both in-person and online CLEs.

Preliminary brainstorming presented these potential ideas:

- ALI could provide librarians the opportunity to use their studio for recording online CLEs—ALI has the equipment and support systems for creating online CLEs;
- AALL could send a call to membership regarding partnership with ALI seeking ideas for potential collaborations;
- ALI could help AALL put on seminars for sharing best practices;
- ALI and AALL could enter a formal relationship;
- Librarians could produce e-content for ALI's newsletters;
- ALI Publication department would welcome AALL input on a new effort geared at academics: ALI plans to provide faculty who teach LWR and first year doctrinal courses, as well as law librarians, with student exercises that use ALI material.

West Accreditation Services & LegalEdCenter

Thomson Reuters offers CLE assistance via West Accreditation Services. The service helps firms and organizations and bills itself as:

West Accreditation Service does more than just supply you with the information you need to navigate the accreditation process; we take care of all of the legwork for you. From preparing program applications to reporting attendance to the appropriate accrediting boards, West Accreditation Service takes care of the entire MCLE accreditation process for you.

Interested members should contact their local representatives for more information.

[West LegalEdCenter](http://westlegaledcenter.com/about_us/all_providers.jsf) is Thomson Reuters' fully online platform for earning CLE credit via the web. The resource covers an array of practices and requirements across the country. LegalEdCenter actively collaborates with legal organizations, capturing their CLE programs for online use: http://westlegaledcenter.com/about_us/all_providers.jsf.

Recommended for any CLE tool-kit is their listing of resources and a rules summary available at no charge:

<http://www.reqwiredlegal.com/reqwired/resources/resourcesOutside.jsp>

National Business Institute (NBI)

Another entity that recruits law librarians to present CLE courses is the [National Business Institute](#) a 501(c)(3):

NBI holds live, in-person seminars in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and has one of the largest and most diverse catalogs of legal courses, taught by experienced practitioners from your area with state-specific content and resources. We serve professionals in the legal industry as well as business, banking, insurance, accounting, human resources, real estate, education and government.

NBI actively reaches out to law librarians and researchers. While librarians function as featured speakers, creating slides, guides, and other resources; NBI provides the outlines and topics. NBI also covers all logistics of program funding, marketing, hosting, accreditation process, etc. NBI collects revenue from CLEs that are hosted in OnDemand, CD, DVD, Course Book, and live seminar formats. Law librarians have presented on a variety of topics including: [Find it Free and Fast on the Net](#), [The Paralegal's Guide to Using Google for Legal Research](#), and [Internet Searches: The New Realities](#).

Practising Law Institute (PLI)

The [Practising Law Institute](#) is:

...a non-profit continuing legal education organization chartered by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, founded in 1933. PLI is dedicated to providing the legal community and allied professionals with the most up-to-date, relevant information and techniques which are critical to the development of a professional, competitive edge. We achieve these goals through the highest quality Seminars held annually in locations across the United States, annually supplemented Treatises, Audio CDs and DVDs, MP3s, Live Webcasts, Course Handbooks, and On-Demand Learning.

In form and function PLI is similar to NBI. Over the years, individual law librarians have been involved in presenting and coordinating PLI CLE events. An open channel is available via their Library Relations Department: <http://libraryrelations.pli.edu/>. Online programs involving law librarian presenters include: [Researching Ethical and Legal Issues in Data Privacy & Social Media](#) and [Thinking About Changing from Two to One Legal Database Vendor: How Do You Make That Decision?](#)

Legal Education Reform Alliances & Networks of Practice-Oriented Law Professors

Legal education is at a crossroads. Law faculties across the country are re-examining their curricula to see how they can better prepare their graduates for the practice of law. There is a concerted effort at many schools to integrate more skill-building into law school curricula. Legal research and legal technology are critical skills for law school graduates. As subject-experts and instructors in these areas, law librarians should seize the opportunity to offer input on these curricular changes.

This means getting involved with faculty efforts at their own institutions, which could take the form of serving on committees, or simply by providing faculty members with information. There are dozens of articles and white papers about how to best go about these types of curricular reforms. It also means getting involved on a broader scale by joining those groups that are drafting white papers and best practices for a more practice-focused legal education. There are consortia of law professors forming to share best practices and ease the burden of recreating entire programs. To date, few law librarians have gotten involved in these groups. The informal conversations task force members had with a few of them suggested that the groups would welcome our input, expertise, and enthusiasm about skill-building in law school. There are several associations of practice-oriented law professors, like legal writing and clinical faculty. These associations and their members are natural allies of law librarians in the effort to include more practice-oriented education in law schools. A few of these groups are profiled here.

Alliance for Experiential Learning in Law

The [Alliance for Experiential Learning in Law](#) was convened by Northeastern University School of Law in 2011 when a small group of legal educators met to discuss how best to improve legal education in response to significant disruptions in the profession and changes in our society. The Alliance has grown to include legal educators and practitioners affiliated with almost 100 law schools and legal service organizations who have joined together to develop a new approach to legal education and promote transformative approaches and programs for curriculum reform. The Alliance's ultimate goal is to ensure that law graduates are ready to practice with a full complement of skills and ethical and social values necessary to serve clients and the public interest, now and in the future. Law librarians are welcome to join the alliance and participate in drafting articles and best practices for practice-oriented legal education.

Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Consortium

The [Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers Consortium](#) is a group of law schools committed to innovation in the spirit of the Carnegie Report. The group is leading a national project to study and define the "Foundations for Practice" that entry-level lawyers need. The consortium is working to identify key components of "experiential education" and develop a common vocabulary. It convenes an annual conference on assessing legal education. Academic law librarians can let their faculty know about the consortium and the resources it offers, as well as assess their institution's level of interest in joining the consortium.

Clinical Legal Education Association

The [Clinical Legal Education Association](#) (CLEA) is a group of clinical faculty that advocates for clinical legal education as fundamental to the education of lawyers. Among other things, its members seek to reform legal education so as to prepare law students for excellent and reflective law practice.

Association of Legal Writing Directors

The [Association of Legal Writing Directors](#) (ALWD) is dedicated to improving legal education and the analytic, reasoning, and writing abilities of lawyers.

Legal Writing Institute

The [Legal Writing Institute](#) is a group of legal writing and research faculty. In addition to national conferences and webinars, LWI sponsors regional conferences. Responsibility for organizing these regional conferences rotates among member law schools. Law librarians can reach out to legal writing faculty at their law schools to inquire about opportunities to share best practices in legal research instruction.

Conclusion

Throughout our work, we frequently encountered AALL members who were very excited at the prospects for this task force. Members expressed that this was precisely the direction that the law librarian profession needs to be heading. It was a pleasure to speak with our members about their innovative programs and their thoughtful suggestions for colleagues looking to follow in their footsteps. We thank the Executive Board for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

CLE and Practice-Oriented Education and Publication Task Force

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