Legal Information Services to the Public SIS

Annual Report 2013-2014

The Officers for the Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section (LISP-SIS) for 2013-2014 were Janine Liebert, Chair; Brian Huffman, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Janet Ann Hedin, Secretary/Treasurer. For 2014-2015, the LISP-SIS Officers will be Brian Huffman, Chair; Leslie Greenwood, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Pauline Afuso, Secretary/Treasurer.

This year, the section awarded three Kathy Garner Grants in the amount of $850 each. This year’s recipients were Scott G. Burgh, Chief Law Librarian from the City of Chicago Department of Law in Chicago, Illinois; Sarah Jaramillo, Reference/Documents Librarian, Fordham University School of Law, New York, New York, and Sue Ludington, Assistant Law Librarian, Washington County Law Library, Hillsboro, Oregon. There was a strong pool of candidates and LISP is grateful to the Education Committee, Janet Hedin (Chair), Dr. Joel Fishman, Brian Huffman, Stefanie Pearlman, Nancy L. Strohmeyer, and Jane Underwood for all of their time, energy, hard work and dedication.

The LISP-SIS was pleased to sponsor an independently produced program “Advocacy for Everyone: Get That Program Rolling, and Get That Bill Passed” at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference in San Antonio, TX. This session taught basic issue advocacy skills when making pitches for new programming, funding or other projects in their everyday lives. Presenters were:

- Honorable Lora Livingston, Travis County Courthouse, 261st Civil District Court
- Emily Feltren, AALL Government Relations Office
- Sandi Levin, LA Law Library

In addition, LISP once again co-sponsored the “Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners” with the SCCLL-SIS and the SR-SIS at the 2014 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference.

Panelists were:

- Rita Dermody, Public Law Library of King County (using Cy Pres funds for a videoconferencing program for prisoners' families)
- Joan Bellistri, Anne Arundel County Public Law Library (report on the doings of the SRLN)
- Janine Liebert, LA Law Library (law library collaborations to expand re-entry legal services)
- Joan Cochet, National Center for State Courts (short history of NCSC and their recent work involving their Center on Court Access to Justice for All)
The LISP-SIS Business Meeting was held as a breakfast on Monday, July 13, at 7:00 am, and the section received sponsorship for this event from Lexis/Nexis, Wolters Kluwer Law and Business, Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg BNA.

At the business meeting, the membership discussed memberships that lapsed and ways to reach out to past members and reinstate their memberships. The committees also provided status updates on projects that had been identified as priorities for 2012-2013.

**Revision of the Bylaws:** The Bylaws Committee, David McFadden and Luis Acosta, evaluated whether there was a need to update LISP’s bylaws. They determined that the bylaws were compliant with AALL’s model SIS bylaws and that at present there was no need to propose amendments.

**Public Libraries Toolkits:** The Public Libraries Toolkit Review Committee, Leslie Greenwood (Chair); Heather Simmons and Brian Huffman, reported on the new bookmarks promoting LISP’s state-specific Public Library Toolkit. The bookmarks were distributed at LISP’s table in the Events Hall to solicit volunteers for covering states who either not represented or whose toolkits need updating. Thanks to the efforts of AALL members, 40 state toolkits are now available on the LISP website. Many thanks to Pam Crawford, who has one again done a wonderful job as our LISP webmaster.

**LISP’s “How to Research a Legal Problem” Publication:** The publications committee, Brian Huffman and Leslie Greenwood report that this publication has been updated by various members of LISP and that the changes have been approved. The updated publication has been posted on AALLNET.

**Increased awareness of LISP at AALL:** In addition to the bookmark-sized handouts about LISP’s public library toolkit, the PR/Marketing Committee chaired by Bret Christensen, reported on the freebies and giveaways that were disseminated at CONELL and the LISP display table.

**Outreach:** For 2013-2014, the Outreach and External Relations Committee, Sarah Mauldin (Chair) and Nicole Dyszlewski focused their outreach efforts on non-law public librarians. This included outreach to SISs and chapters to find out about existing programs and services being offered and surveying local public librarians to confirm their interest in and need for basic legal resource education. As data collection was underway, Sarah Mauldin joined the Access to Justice Special Committee. The committee’s outreach efforts were tabled to avoid duplicating efforts. Feedback received to date from the SISs and Chairs was submitted to the Access to Justice Special Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Janine Liebert
Chair, 2013-2014