Board Members
Members of the 2013-2014 Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section (PLL-SIS) board were:
Chair, Jean P. O’Grady; Chair-Elect Cheryl Niemeier, Kristine Lloyd, Secretary; Emily Florio, Treasurer; Cameron Gowan and Saskia Mehlhorn, Members-at-large; and Linda Jean Schneider, Immediate Past Chair.

Private Law Libraries SIS Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon
The combined PLL-SIS Annual business meeting/luncheon was held on Sunday, July 13, 2014, at the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel. More than 175 PLL members attended, and recognition was extended to the PLL VIP Guests, the sponsors—Bloomberg BNA-- and several AALL Liaisons and Board members. The current Board was acknowledged, and incoming board introduced: Scott Baily, Chair-Elect; Nancy Rine, Secretary; and Marcia Burris, Member-at-Large. Awards were conferred on twelve members. (See awards below.) Incoming Chair, Cheryl Niemeier outlined her plans for her term as Chair.

SIS Name Change
One of the most significant issues undertaken this past year was discussing the need to change the name of the SIS in order to more accurately reflect the ongoing transformation of our members’ roles and responsibilities beyond those associated with traditional law librarianship. Many of our members provide "non-library" services, in Competitive Intelligence, Business Intelligence, Knowledge Management, records, docket, web development, and other emerging digital roles. Members are intentionally embedding information professionals in practice groups outside of the library. The word "library" understates and implicitly excludes members from being considered for emerging opportunities outside "the library." Perhaps more importantly we need to recognize that law firms are undertaking radical reassessment of support staff roles. We need to support members in helping them effectively redefine their roles beyond traditional library management which will be more vulnerable to outsourcing and marginalization. It is the sense of the Board that this will heighten awareness of our new roles in the larger legal community and attract a new generation of members who provide legal knowledge support outside of traditional library environments. Additional information on the name change discussion can be found in the September PLL Newsletter.
http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs124/1108193340304/archive/1115063371950.html
The PLL Board appeared on Rich Leiter’s *Law Librarian Conversations Radio Show* on October 23rd to discuss the possible PLL name change. A lively discussion emerged from the panelists and call-in questions. The program is available at: http://www.blogtalkradio.com/lawlibcon/2013/10/23/pll-whats-in-a-name-librarian-thats-what

In December The PLL Board conducted an informal poll to determine the sense of the membership regarding whether “law librarian” describes their role and whether the SIS should have a name change. Members overwhelmingly indicated that the word “librarian” no longer describes what they do but they were evenly spilt on the idea of changing the name of PLL.

Here are some key findings of the poll:

- 70% of the respondents indicated that the word “librarian” does not describe their current role.
- 42% of the respondents work in firms where they have a considered or acted on outsourcing.
- 27% work in firms that have retained outside consultants to assess administrative operations
- 55% have proactively centralized functions
- 71% have reduced space occupied by library in the past 5 years.
- 25% have begun a liaison/embedding program
- 95% indicate that their jobs have changed substantially or somewhat in recent years.

Results were summarized in the February 2014 PLL Newsletter.
http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs124/1108193340304/archive/1116594584057.html

**Future Action on Name Change**

The Board had decided that we will continue to examine the issue and develop some alternative names, possibly with the assistance of a consultant. This initiative will continue under Cheryl Niemeier’s Chairmanship.

In addition we will reexamine the “goals of the PLL-SIS” as stated in the Bylaws on which the name of the SIS is based. We plan to conduct a formal vote on the name change within the next
year.

Education and Programs

AALL Annual Meeting:

Board Member Emily Florio attended the AMPC meeting in Chicago. There are three PLL-SIS members on the AMPC: Emily Florio, Jennifer Hill and LaJean Humphries. Three PLL programs were accepted for the 2014 annual meeting. Some of the accepted programs include: The Law & Ethics of Content Aggregation (Jean O’Grady), Empowering the Next Generation of Law Firm Librarians (Scott Bailey and Steve Lastres), Leveraging IP (Shannon Malcolm and Lucy Curci-Gonzalez), Vendor Shoot Out at the Alamo: Current Awareness Tools (Mark Gediman).

• PLL-SIS Summit July 12, 2014: Co-Chairs Cheryl Niemeier and Marcia Burris guided the fifth annual PLL-SIS Summit, *The Voice of the Client* and again it was a terrific success. Keynote Speaker, Susan Hackett’s talk on “Reengineering Law Firm Librarians” was a spectacular hit. Three corporate in-House attorneys from USAA, Kia and Prudential appeared on a panel “The Clients Speak: Extending the Role of Librarians in the Age of Corporate Counsel” to discuss how our members can bring value to clients. Additional programs on: Leadership strategies, AFA’s and Research Audits were offered as concurrent breakout sessions in the afternoon. Key sponsorship was provided by Bloomberg BNA, LexisNexis, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, FastCase, and Thomson Reuters. More than 235 attendees confirmed the value of the Summit. Agenda, handouts and slides are available at [http://pllsummit.wordpress.com/home/](http://pllsummit.wordpress.com/home/).

• The AALL Board and Executive Director provided significant support and assistance with obtaining sponsorship. The AALL Board also stepped forward to confirm that the choice to hold a Summit at the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting is up to the PLL Board. Accordingly the Board confirmed there will be a Summit during the Philadelphia Meeting in 2015. Marcia Burris and Denise Pagh have been appointed co-chairs of the 2015 PLL Summit.

• FREE Webinars:


2/20/2014: Resources for Researching & Tracking Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Filings
(recording here and handout here). Webinar presented by Diana Koppang, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP, moderated by Sarah Mauldin, Smith Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

1/29/2014: A Profession in Transformation: Including the Five Habits of Highly Effective Information Professionals

Awards and Grants

The Board decided to expand the number of awards offered to 6 in order to recognize a broader range of activities, especially activities which benefit the organizations we work for.

2014 PLL Award Recipients
- Innovative Professional of the Year – Ralph Monaco, Steve Lastres, Saskia Mehlhorn, and Alirio Gomez
- Best Blogger/Writer of the Year – Jean O’Grady
- Hall of Fame – Barbara Holt, Anne Ellis, and Joan Jarosek
- Advocate of the Year – Bess Reynolds, Scott Bailey
- Distinguished Librarian – Robert Oaks
- Emerging Leader – Ellyssa Kroski

PLL-SIS Grant Recipients
- PLL Summit Registration Grants – Patricia Barbone, Mark Desierto
- PLL Travel Grants - Patricia Barbone, Mark Desierto, Heather Williams
- Special PLL Travel Grant – PLL awarded PLL Chair Jean O’Grady a $500 travel grant to support her travel to speak at 2 conferences (Australian Law Library Association and Janders Deal Knowledge Management Conference) in Sydney, Australia.

AALL Awards to PLL Members: We would also like to recognize PLL members who have won the following AALL awards:

Volunteer Service Award
Karen B. Brunner
Director of Library Services
Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti LLP
Morristown, New Jersey

The Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award
Ellyssa Kroski
Director of Information Technology
New York Law Institute
New York, New York
Law Librarianship in the Digital Age

AALL Spectrum Article of the Year Award
Ingrid Mattson, Reference Librarian
Ohio State University, Moritz Law Library
Columbus, Ohio

Linda-Jean Schneider, Electronic Resources Manager
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"Negotiating and Complying with Electronic Database License Agreements" AALL Spectrum, February 2013

New Committee
Small and Medium Firm Committee In response to some comments in the 2013 PLL member survey we have created a new Small and Medium Size Firm group headed by Jane Baugh, in order to create a forum for discussion of issues relevant to that group.

Committee Disbanded
Technical Services – The last remaining members of the TS committee informed us that they are disbanding the committee due to lack of interest by PLL members. This may also be a reflection of the changing work activities of members which have shifted from traditional technical services to supporting electronic resources in newly defined roles.

Communications and Publications
• New PLL-SIS Website: We have continued to upgrade and improve the PLL website.
• Monthly e-Newsletter: Editor Sarah Mauldin has faithfully distributed the monthly issues through Constant Contact, which provides more robust push technology in addition to posting on the website.
• On Firmer Ground: Various members of the PLL Section continue to contribute to this joint blog effort, and have received international exposure due to these postings.
• Numerous articles in Spectrum were authored by, or featured, PLL-SIS members throughout the year.
Collaborative Efforts with other Professional Associations
In response to priorities expressed in both the PLL-SIS Strategic Plan and priorities on the part of AALL, there have been numerous joint efforts to reach out ‘on the grass roots’ as well as national and international level to promote the expertise and value of Law Firm Librarians.

- Cheryl Niemeier attended the CSuite Summit in Chicago
- We invited a representative of SLA Legal Division to attend the PLL Summit and PLL Lunch.
- We agreed to encourage members to contribute content to Spectrum and an AALL blog column.
- Both the American Bar Association and the American Law Institute contacted the PLL Chair and asked for our member input on their publications. We encouraged members to participate in their surveys.
- We participated in the AALL Conference VIP program by inviting George Scofield a partner from Norton Rose Fulbright who was able to attend the Tuesday Conference Lunch.

Conclusion
PLL members owe a great debt of gratitude to the hard work and dedication of the leadership of the PLL Board, PLL Committee Co-Chairs, Group Co-chairs, Liaison Leaders, and all of the volunteers who supported these entities. None of the above accomplishments would be possible without their support and significant contribution of talent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean O’Grady, PLL-SIS Chair, 2013-2013