NOCALL’s 2014 – 2015 executive board consisted of Michele Finerty, president; Tara Crabtree, vice president; Jean Willis, past president; Jen Fell, secretary; Rachael Smith, treasurer; and Hadi Amjadi and Sherry Takacs, board members at large. With the exception of the president, each board member serves as a Cluster Coordinator for one of the six groupings of the chapter’s 19 committees.

NOCALL holds a business meeting and luncheon in September, January and May, each in a different location throughout the Northern California region. Each event includes a scheduled slot for networking with our colleagues. The September 2014 business meeting was held at the California State Library’s Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building in Sacramento, where newly-appointed state librarian, Greg Lucas, was the guest speaker. For the January business meeting at the firm of McDermott, Will & Emery, and LLP in Menlo Park, Sharon Pate and Basil Fedorchenko of Bloomberg BNA provided an update on BloombergBNA Online content, which was followed by a discussion of how our law library colleagues are using this service in their work environments. At the May event in San Francisco, traditionally held without a guest speaker, Sharon Borbon was presented with the 2015 NOCALL Professional Achievement Award, and the membership heard detailed financial, technology, and committee reports. At the meeting’s conclusion, the 2015 -2016 executive board was installed into office.

The annual Fall Workshop, developed by the Education Committee, was held on November 7, 2014, at Farella Braun & Martel LLP in San Francisco. Kim Clancy, Managing Director of Hampton O’Bannon Partners, LLC, and Heather Larrick, Bay Area Office Administrator at Shearman & Sterling, presented Salary Negotiation in the Age of Transparency. A luncheon and small group gatherings on the subject followed the panel.

NOCALL’s Annual Spring Institute, Too Hot to Handle: Librarians on Fire, was held at the historic Preservation Park in Oakland, California, on April 18 with presentations by Hanni Fakhoury of the Electronic Frontiers Foundation speaking on Digital Search & Seizure: Burning Issues After Riley v. California; Samorn Selim, UC Hastings School of Law, discussing Careers On Fire: How to Find and Be a Sponsor; and a panel of NOCALL members relating their experiences with A Decade of Change: What Law Librarians Are Saying About Then and Now!

NOCALL’s Networking Committee organized its traditional 4-Corners Holiday gatherings in San Francisco, Sacramento, the South Bay/Peninsula and Fresno on December 8 at local restaurants where the membership gathered together to network and to celebrate the upcoming holidays. The committee promoted a Mozzarella Making class at Alameda County Law Library on March 14, and chapter members, their family and friends, were invited to expand their culinary skills. Our Public Relations Committee always presents a popular table display at the Annual Meeting’s Activities Area. This year was no exception where NOCALL snow globes
were distributed to those visiting the Exhibit Hall. The Grants Committee awarded funds to the following individuals to attend AALL in Philadelphia: Jaye Lapachet, Mark Mackler, Lori Ruth, and Sarah Lin. Emily Bergfeld was awarded the AALL Newer Member Registration Grant to attend the AALL as well as a $100 NOCALL stipend toward her costs at the convention. The Government Relations Committee continues to actively support advocacy initiatives on both the state and federal levels, joining signatories from other organizations and writing individual letters to California legislators requesting their support.

In March of 2015, NOCALL President Michele Finerty formed a task force to consider the fact that our chapter finds itself in the position that is affecting many regional and national professional associations. Due to the economy, administrations for academic, law firm, government, and public law libraries have cut back on their financial support of chapter membership. The task force’s mission was to consider a following challenges: The decline in membership and income from membership dues; lack of financial support for chapter members to attend Business Meetings, workshops and Institutes; lack of some employers’ support for NOCALL members to spend time on NOCALL business due to staffing cuts; and the increasing costs of holding two-day Spring Institutes held in San Francisco, the preferred location. These circumstances impact on our chapter’s ability to provide educational opportunities, give grants to attend chapter and AALL Annual Programs, and to support the technology required for the membership database and other online services. Task force chair Chuck Marcus submitted their analysis and recommendations to the 2015-2016 executive board for their review.

Respectfully Submitted
Michele Finerty
2014-2015 NOCALL President