

## **Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals-SIS Annual Report 2014-2015**

### **Board Members**

Members of the 2014-2015 Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals - Special Interest Section (PLLIP-SIS) Board were:

- Cheryl Niemeier, Chair
- Scott Bailey, Chair-Elect
- Nancy Rine, Secretary
- Emily Florio, Treasurer
- Saskia Mehlhorn, Member-at-Large,
- Marcia Burris, Member-at-Large
- Jean O'Grady, Immediate Past Chair

### **Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon**

The combined PLLIP-SIS Annual business meeting/luncheon was held on Sunday, July 19, 2015, at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Approximately 189 PLLIP members attended, and recognition was extended to several VIP guests, luncheon sponsor LexisNexis, and several AALL Liaisons and Board members. The current Board was acknowledged, and incoming board introduced: Cameron Gowan, Chair-elect; Laurel Evans, Treasurer; and Liz Whittington, Board Member. PLLIP Awards were conferred on 11 PLLIP members and a new special award was conferred on an outside vendor champion (see list of awards and recipients below.) PLLIP awarded 8 grants to members this year (see list of grants and recipients below). Incoming Chair, Scott Bailey outlined his plans for his term as Chair.

### **Significant accomplishments:**

#### **SIS Name Change**

Continuing the name change initiative which began in the 2013-2014 term, in the fall of 2014 the board contracted with Jennifer Brand of Brand Consulting Group for ½ day session which took place on October 22, 2014. The session was designed to help us uncover solutions to aid in shifting perceptions, both internally within the membership and law library community, and also externally with our organizations influencers in the C-suite as well as others in the larger legal industry.

Jennifer also helped us with drafting a membership survey on the name change initiative that was sent to all PLLIP members so that the board could better gauge the pulse of members thoughts and ideas on a name change as well as get their input on 4 proposed new names for PLLIP. Via the results of two surveys sent to the members and perusing the many comments provided, the chosen name was put to a name change vote which passed, followed by a Bylaws amendment vote which also passed and finally approval was granted by the AALL Executive board via a special Board call on June 10, 2015. As a result, our SIS successfully advanced the name change initiative and the new name became *Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals – Special Interest Section (PLLIP-SIS)*. Related to the new name we also revised our old logo to reflect the new name and launched a redesigned Website incorporating our new name and revised logo.

The Board also worked closely with the AALL Economic Status of Law Librarians Committee to revise the Private Firm/Corporate Libraries job titles and job descriptions for the 2015 AALL Salary Survey set to go out in the 2d quarter of 2015.

### **Conformity Bylaws Amendments – ballot**

PLLIP undertook the task of amending the Bylaws to bring them into conformity with the AALL Bylaws as well as amending the Bylaws to reflect the new name. A vote to amend both as severable items commenced May 11 and closed May 25 and successfully passed.

### **PLLIP Handbook**

Finally, our SIS completed and finalized the revisions of the PLLIP Handbook begun in 2012, and it has been uploaded to the PLLIP website.

### **Educational Events and Programs**

#### **AALL Annual Meeting:**

There were 3 PLLIP-SIS members on the AALL AMPC for the 2014-2015 term: Elaine Knecht, Mary Matuszak, and Michelle Tolley. The PLLIP-SIS sponsored one program at the AALL 2015 annual meeting titled *So You Want to Be a Web Services Librarian?* It was submitted by Linda-Jean Schneider. A total of 10 programs were submitted to the PLLIP AMPC Committee and all were submitted to AALL AMPC.

**PLLIP-SIS Summit July 2015:** Co-Chairs Marcia Burris and Denise Pagh guided the sixth annual *2015 PLLIP-SIS Summit: Innovation Imperative* and it was a resounding success. The AALL Board and Executive Director provided significant support and assistance with obtaining sponsorships.

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

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

- We invited representatives of SLA Legal Division to attend the PLLIP Summit and PLLIP Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting as VIPs.
- We encouraged members to contribute content to Spectrum and the AALL blog, and publications in the larger legal industry such as ILTA’s Peer to Peer Magazine and other legal industry publications. And our members took us up on this with many PLLIP members writing for and getting published in many law library legal industry publications and blogs. Additionally, we revived the On Firmer Ground blog and expanded opportunities for our members to more easily contribute content to it.

### **PLLIP Committees and Groups reports:**

- **Summit 2015** - The PLL Summit Planning Committee was pleased to present the **2015 PLL**

**Summit: The Innovation Imperative** to over 250 attendees from a variety of law firms and other organizations. The Summit Keynote Speaker was Aric Press of Bernero & Press, former editor of the American Lawyer, on “The Legal Industry in Four Big Bites”, and our featured presentation of the day was Karl Ulrich, Vice Dean of Innovation at the Wharton School on Innovation Tournaments. Attendees were highly engaged during the interactive Innovation Tournament session, in which they brainstormed and presented great ideas for library innovation which many plan to develop further in their firms. This year’s summit earned highly favorable reviews, with over 80% of survey respondents indicating that the information presented was either likely or very likely to benefit them in their workplace or career. Special thanks to Summit committee members: Patricia Barbone, Lucy Curci-Gonzalez, Dina Dreifurst, Janice Henderson, Juli Hughes, Diana Koppang, Saskia Mehlhorn, Nina Platt, and Abigail Ross (Local Arrangements.) Thank you also to our generous PLL Summit sponsors: Bloomberg BNA, LexisNexis, Thomson Reuters, and Wolters Kluwer. The Committee looks forward to planning the 2016 PLLIP Summit and continuing the tradition of providing engaging, relevant and actionable programming to PLLIP members in 2016 and beyond.

- **ALA Liaison**
  - No report and this liaison will no longer be handled by a PLLIP member, as AALL is taking it over effective the 2015-16 term.
- **Awards - 2015 PLLIP-SIS Awards Recipients**
  - Distinguished Librarian - Ellen Callinan
  - Hall of Fame - Susan Yancey, Jane Holland, Jill Sidford
  - Advocate of the Year - Jean O’Grady
  - Innovative Professional of the Year - Denise Pagh and Marcia Burris
  - Best Blogger/Writer of the Year - Susan Catterall
  - Rookie of the Year - Jourdan Corbitt
  - Emerging Leader of the Year - Alicia M. Pappas
  - Service to PLLIP Award - Jennifer A. Berman
  - Vendor/Outside Champion Award – New Award - Monica Bay – formerly ALM
- **By-Laws** – Updated the language of the PLLIP Bylaws to bring them more in line with AALL Model Bylaws and put the changes to a ballot along with the proposed name change. Both passed and the AALL Executive Board approved the name change on a special board call on June 10, 2015.
- **Communications**
  - **PLLIP Webmaster team subcommittee worked diligently on the new PLLIP-SIS Website Redesign:** Significant progress was made by the PLLIP Webmaster team of Linda-Jean Schneider, Kevin Miles, and Heather Williams on redesigning a new PLLIP Webpage and the new site was launched Monday, June 22, 2015.
  - **PLLIP Webmaster team** also offered 1 program at the 2015 annual meeting:
  - So You Want to be A Web Services Librarian?
  - **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; this year we introduced two new regular columns to the e-Newsletter: ***Around the Blogosphere***, a editorially enhanced round up of blogs and news discussing the law library and legal industry and ***Member Spotlight***, which provided interviews of our very own PLLIP members and the roles in their organizations.
  - **On Firmer Ground:** Began process to rejuvenate this blog and opened it up and invited any members of PLLIP and the SLA Legal Division to contribute to this joint blog effort and thereby receive exposure from the postings.
  - **New AALL Blog:** Encouraged PLLIP members to contribute posts to this new

blogging initiative of AALL.

- A few articles in *Spectrum* were authored by, or featured, PLLIP-SIS members throughout the year.
- Completed final draft of the Communications section for the PLLIP Handbook
- Created and launched the following 2 new PLLIPIP Resource Guides and refreshed 1 guide
  - Guide 5(updated) *The Internet as a Legal Research Tool*
  - Guide Guide 8 (new): *Strategic Planning for Law Firm Libraries*
  - Guide 9 (new): *Law Firm Library Intranets*

- **Education and AMPC**

- 8/24/2014: *Online Tweet-up: Key Takeaways from the 2014 PLLIP Summit and AALL Annual Meeting* – Cheryl Niemeier and Bess Reynolds led this lightly attended but informative Twitter chat session.
- 9/30/2014: *Collection Development in the Age of the Virtual Law Firm Library* (recording [here](#) and handouts [here](#)). (107 attendees). Steve Lastres, Debevoise and Plimpton LLP led and Sarah Mauldin, Smith Gambrell & Russell, LLP moderated this webinar on the challenges and opportunities necessary to maintain an appropriate mix of print and digital resources to support your firm's 21st century practice.
- 11/13/2014: *CI Essentials: Deliverables* (recording [here](#) and handouts [here](#)) (123 attendees) Moderator/Coordinator - Kevin Miles, Norton Rose Fulbright, and speakers Emily C. Rushing, Haynes & Boone, Mark Gediman, Best, Best & Krieger, and Juli Stahl Hughes, Stradley Ronon led webinar that provided insights from three veteran CI professionals on CI best practices and how to tailor the library response to competitive intelligence research requests.
- 2/10/2015: *PACER, PAA, & NextGen: What Does it All Mean for Me?* (recording [here](#) and handouts [here](#)) (112 attendees) Presented by Edith Flores at PACER covered the following: what has changed on PACER, NextGen - what, where, when, why & how to prepare, upgrading accounts, managing multiple PACER accounts (PAA), what PACER has learned; tips and takeaways from our experience with courts that have converted to NextGen followed by a brief Q&A.
- 5/14/2015: *Pleadings in a Sea of Dockets: Panel Discussion*. (216 attendees) Description: Join us for an informative moderated panel discussion with representatives of leading docket research services.
- The Education Committee changed Webinar vendors this year from WebEx to Onstream Media and continues to work out the kinks with the new system.
- PLLIPIP AMPC received, edited, and commented on 9 programs this year. While this number is down from previous years, the way in which programs were created and submitted to AMPC was different. Some were accepted outright, and others were merged with other proposals. We hope to raise the number of proposals for next year.

- **Grants - 2015 PLLIP Grant Recipients**

- PLLIP Summit Registration Grant – Michelle Tolley, Electronic Technical Services Librarian, Paul Hastings, Los Angeles, CA
- AALL Annual Meeting Registration Grant - Michelle Tolley, Electronic Technical Services Librarian, Paul Hastings, Los Angeles, CA
- AALL Annual Meeting Travel Grant - Sarah Lin, Library Systems Librarian, Reed Smith, San Francisco, CA and Denise Pagh, Research & Information Operations Manager, Orrick, Sacramento, CA
- SLA Member Registration Grant for AALL Annual Meeting – Patti Schminke, Director of Library Research, Hunter Maclean, Savannah, GA.

- SLA Member Summit Registration Grant – Carolyn Hersch, Reference Librarian, Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, Chicago, IL
- PLLIP Registration and Travel Grant for PLLIP member to attend the 2015 AALL Management Institute in Chicago - 4 members applied and chosen recipient was Jessica Fields, Library Information Services Manager, Miller & Johnson
- **Membership**
  - Redesigned and updated the PLLIP Brochure to reflect current statistics, quotes and new logo. Copies of it were provided in July 2015 at the annual meeting at both the CONELL Marketplace and the PLLIP table in the exhibit hall. It was updated on the website too
  - Updated welcome letter & sent notifications: updated the letters to new AALL-non PLLIP members, and to new AALL PLLIP members. The names to contact were used from the ALL and PLLIP e-newsletters and the Chair manually looked up their emails for the first 6 months. The remaining 6 months, AALL HQ provided the lists to share and these lists were used to reach out to the individuals. Personal emails were sent to the individuals welcoming them to our SIS or contacting potential members to try to recruit them to join PLLIP
  - Create spreadsheet for outreach: started a Google document spreadsheet to update contacts and who we had reached out to. This project didn't get too far and should be continued ongoing
  - E-Newsletter or marketing E-campaign: We had several discussions about language for e-newsletter or article in other e-newsletters. This is something new committee can continue work on
  - Visit schools: We had goals to visit several institutions to discuss PLL. This effort should continue and be ongoing
- **Nominations**
  - Successfully fielded a great slate of candidates for the open officer seats of Chair-elect, Treasurer, and At-large Member
- **Small & Medium Firms**
  - No report
- **Strategic Directions**
  - No report
- **Competitive Intelligence**
  - Held 1st Annual CI Caucus Meeting (Did I just hear trumpets? Hmmm...) on Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 6:30 at the AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia
  - Offered the following 3 programs at the 2015 annual meeting:
    - *What Is Waldo Inc.? Connecting the Dots Using Competitive Intelligence*
    - *Worth A Thousand Words: Using Pictures and Formatting to Connect with Data*
    - *Advancing CI at Your Midsize Firm: You've Got the Theory - Now What?*
- **Corporate**
  - No report
- **Independents**
  - No report or activities this year and as this group has been inactive for a number of years it is recommended that the group be done away with.
- **Intellectual Property**
  - No report
- **Knowledge Management**
  - No report
- **One-Person Libraries**
  - No report

- **Records/Conflicts Management**
  - No report

## **Conclusion**

It was a very busy and productive year and much was accomplished! The PLLIP Board owes a great debt of gratitude to the hard work and dedication of the leadership of the PLLIP Committee and Groups Chairs and Co-Chairs, Liaison Leaders, and all of the group and committee volunteer members who supported and put in the hard work for these entities. None of the above accomplishments would have been possible without their support and significant contributions.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Niemeier, PLLIP-SIS Chair, 2014-2015

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