The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award: James S. Heller, Kenneth J. Hirsh, Jacquelyn J. Jurkins, and Darcy Kirk. Established to recognize outstanding, extended, and sustained service to law librarianship, to the Association, or for contributions to the professional literature, this award is AALL’s highest honor. This year’s recipients will be recognized at the Association Luncheon on Tuesday, July 16, during the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

BY ELAINE M. KNECHT


On his dedication to the profession, one nominator from his institution wrote, “Jim is held in the highest regard by his colleagues on our law faculty, and by his library staff and the students and broader college community whose interests he has served for 30 years.”

On a professional level, Heller joined AALL in 1978. He served as AALL President from 1998-1999, as president of the Southeastern Chapter of AALL (SEAALL) from 1996-1997, and as president of the Virginia Chapter from 1994-1995. Heller chaired several AALL committees, including the Awards.
Kenneth J. Hirsh, known to many as “Ken” from the Computing Services Special Interest Section’s (CS-SIS) annual Karaoke with Ken, is retiring this summer as director of the Robert S. Marx Law Library and professor of practice at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Hirsh practiced law in Florida for 10 years before entering what was then the School of Library and Information Studies at Florida State University. He joined AALL as a student member in 1989, and later that year began work as a reference librarian at Duke University Law School. While at Duke, Hirsh set up the University’s first PC local area network for students and founded one of the earliest computing services departments at a law school, becoming its manager in 1993. He also helped launch Duke’s website in the fall of 1995. In 2001, he became director of computing services, and together with Wayne Miller, then director of educational technologies, initiated a course in Law Practice Technology in 2007.

He was appointed director of the law library and information technology at the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2009. While there, he introduced a Law Practice Technology course, co-taught Advanced Legal Research, represented the library in two American Bar Association (ABA) accreditation site visits, and served on committees at the college and university levels, including as chair.

Hirsh found a welcoming professional home at both AALL and the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Education (CALI). He has served in a number of leadership roles within AALL since joining in 1989, including on the Executive Board, the Executive Board Finance & Budget Committee, the Executive Board Strategic Directions Committee, and on the AALL LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee, to name a few. He is a past president of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL), and served as president from 2007-2008, receiving the chapter’s Service to SEAALL Award in 2015. He is also a member of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries and Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, and is a member of the Academic Special Interest Section (SIS) and the CS-SIS. He was honored by both AALL and CALI for his outstanding service and contribution, and AALL named its distinguished service award in the area of computing services after him. Hirsh is also active within CALI and hosted the 2003 CALI Conference at Duke and served on the CALI Board of Directors for 12 years. He received the CALI Excellence in Service Award in 2000. In 2013, Hirsh was named one of the Fastcase 50, honoring the law’s smartest and most courageous innovators, techies, visionaries, and leaders. He has presented at several AALL meetings and CALI conferences, and has published articles in AALL Spectrum, Law Library Journal, Legal Reference Services Quarterly, and the William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal.

As one nominator wrote, “Ken’s passion for the Association and legal information is evidenced [by his] impactful contributions [and service] as an Executive Board member, board liaison, chair, and member of nearly 30 committees over the past 25 years.” His services to the profession make him a deserving recipient of the 2019 Marian Gould Gallagher Award.
Jacquelyn J. Jurkins is the director of the Multnomah County Law Library in Oregon, a position she took on in 1964. In 2014, her title changed to Emeritus; however, she remains on the Library’s Board of Directors and is currently working on special projects.

Jurkins received her JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1952, followed by a Master of Laws in 1954. While working on a doctorate she became interested in library science; having worked as a student in the law library. She enrolled in the University of Washington’s law librarianship program, then under the direction of Marian Gould Gallagher; she completed the program in 1960. Her first law library position was as assistant librarian at the Washington Supreme Court Library, followed by the role of international and foreign law librarian at the University of Washington, she then became director of the Colorado Supreme Court Library (1962-1964). From 1967 until 1972, she was the acting law librarian and a professor at Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Jurkins attended her first AALL meeting in 1960 as a student. She joined AALL at the insistence of her mentor Marian Gould Gallagher in 1960. Since then she has been involved in numerous committees, including serving as AALL President from 1984-1985, as chair of the Relations with Publishers and Dealers Committee, Statistics Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and the 1973 Annual Meeting Program Committee. She even served on the committee that worked to establish the permanent headquarters office in Chicago.

In 2008, she received the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, and was inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame in 2011. She was also awarded the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section’s Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service in 2018.

Jurkins was one of the founders of the Western Pacific Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries in 1968, where she also served as the president from 1971-1973. She was a founder of the Oregon Council of County Law Libraries in 1978, as well as the Portland Downtown Law Librarians Association in 1985. She has also been active outside AALL. She was considered the “ unofficial” director of the Multnomah Bar Association until 1971, and the MBA honored her with the Award of Merit twice (1977 and 1985). In 1991, she was honored by the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office for her work with the county’s jail law library. She also helped establish three Oregon prison libraries pursuant to a consent decree in a civil rights action seeking better access to legal materials.

One nominator wrote, “For many Oregon law librarians, she is a teacher, mentor, and generous source of knowledge. Jacque is also a trailblazer, advocate, and leader in the community.”

She has dedicated her professional life to helping provide equal access to legal information for everyone. We can’t think of a more deserving recipient and are honored to present her with the Marian Gould Gallagher Award.

Darcy Kirk joined the University of Connecticut (UConn) Law faculty in 1996, and just two months before the opening of the law library she was hired as director. A nationally recognized expert in her field, associate dean Kirk directed all library operations and provided oversight for information systems serving the entire Law School community until August 2018. In 2014, Kirk was named associate dean of academic affairs at the Law School. She moved to that position fulltime in August 2018 upon leaving the law library. A tenured professor since 2000, she also teaches Advanced Legal Research, Higher Education Law, and Access to Justice.

A graduate of Vassar College, Simmons College (where she earned her MLS and MBA), and Boston College Law School, Kirk came to UConn with more than 25 years of academic library experience, including positions at Widener Library at Harvard, the Boston College Law Library, the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as associate...
She has held leadership positions in several professional organizations, including AALL, which she joined in 1981. Her AALL leadership experience is vast—she served as president from 2011-2012, and secretary from 2005-2008, and has served on the following committees: Awards Committee, Nominations Committee, the Federal Depository Library Program Task Force, the Strategic Directions Committee, and the Bylaws Committee, to name a few. Kirk also served as treasurer and as a member of the executive committee for the New England Law Library Consortium. She is also past president of the Law Librarians of New England. A frequent presenter at AALL and other professional conferences, including the Association of Boston Law Libraries, Kirk speaks on teaching legal research skills and many other topics including, recently, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.

In addition to her professional service, Kirk also found time to publish. She is the chapter author of “The Law School Librarian: Filling in the Gaps” in The Law School Librarian’s Role as an Educator: Leading Librarians on Adapting to New Technologies, Maximizing Research, and Helping Students Transition from Law School to Law Firm (Aspatore, 2008). She also published several articles, including “One Librarian at a Time,” in Law Librarians in the New Millennium, vol. 8, no. 2, 3 (March/April 2005), and “Reeling in First Year Law Students – Hook, Line and Sinker!” in 38 Law Library Lights 1 (May/June 1995).

As one nominator wrote, “Darcy possessed an unwavering focus on enhancing and improving the future of the Association, its members, and the profession of law librarianship.” We could not agree more and are happy to award her with the Marian Gould Gallagher Award.

Members of the Awards Committee include chair Elaine M. Knecht, Catherine Lemann, Kristina J. Alayan, Sarah Andeen, Kevin Carey, Jootaek Lee, and Tobe Liebert. Please join the Awards Committee and the Association in congratulating the winners.

Elaine M. Knecht; Director of Information Resources; Barclay Damon, LLP; Buffalo, NY (AALL Awards Committee Chair)