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THE ANNUAL CONFERENCES

DIVIDE AND CONQUER: AN ACCOUNT OF TWO LIBRARIANS' EXPERIENCES ATTENDING THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

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WHAT DO YOU DO when you have a tremendous range of choices of interesting events to go to and not a lot of time? This was the "dilemma" facing us this year when planning which events to attend during the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in Washington, D.C. As it does every year for many librarians, this year's AALL meeting presented an opportunity to not only attend a dizzying series of educational programs and social events, but to also participate in several hours of planning and training sessions for firm-related activities. Our solution to the question of how to select which AALL sessions to attend was a simple one: We browsed through the schedule and divided up a selection of events that were either connected to the work we do on a daily basis or looked interesting. We coordinated our schedules in a way that allowed us to balance working in Beveridge & Diamond's Washington office with visiting the Convention Center for the annual meeting's programs and educational sessions. Each day of the meeting was split up so that we could each attend the portions that we wanted to go to. What follows are two accounts of our experiences and observations following this approach.

THAT'S A WRAP

by *Darlene Kaskie*

The 1999 American Association of Law Libraries annual conference was another wonderful exchange for business, education, and socialization. As always, the committee planners organized a diverse program. I attended presentations that were law-firm specific and which introduced "outside" speakers such as lawyers, legal administrators, and consultants. One of the most engaging topics was *Gumshoe Librarians: Using Investigative Sources and Techniques*. It met the program hand-

book description and was a crowd-pleaser. Connie Kaplan, a licensed professional investigator from Kroll Associates, Inc., was entertaining and informative. She immediately caught my attention by sneaking on stage disguised as the infamous Inspector Clouseau from *The Pink Panther*. Her Power Point visuals and handouts offered useful information. For example, I learned of new web sites, such as www.BRISnet.com, produced by Bloodstock Research Information Services, Inc., which compiles statistical data of Thoroughbred horses, and www.artquest.com, produced by ArtQuest, Inc., which provides a forum for locating, buying, and selling art. These resources can be used for locating assets of individuals.

Another interesting session was titled, *At the Crossroads: Law Firm Management Speaks Out About Their Law Library Expectations*. The panel included Karen Knab, Administrator for Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, and Todd Miller, Managing Partner for Holland & Hart, LLP. The dialogue format encouraged the audience to pose questions pertaining to the organization and management of law firm libraries. After listening to the librarians' frustrations of being unappreciated, overworked, and inadequately staffed, the panelists provided insights into how librarians might gain management's attention and resolve these common grievances. In particular, the speakers emphasized that librarians need to promote their value by making their contributions more visible to firm management. For example, librarians need to create ad hoc meetings with key partners to discuss how they were able to contribute to a specific problem-solving project which benefited a large number of users. The session reminded me that the relationship between librarians and law-firm management needs to be more collegial. I was also encouraged to hear man-

continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Brian L. Baker

ALL RIGHT, THE SUMMER'S OVER and we are all now focused on our tasks and not dreaming of the fun we had during vacation.

Yeah right.

I know I'm having a hard time getting back up to speed, and I imagine many of you are in the same boat as well. Unfortunately, work has resumed its regular grind and we must force ourselves to be focused. So, with that theme in mind, I am going to try and outline my vision of the upcoming year and the Society as a whole.

When I go to many of the Society's events I am sometimes taken aback at how few people I recognize or know there. It often makes me wonder how I got elected. There are so many people who are members of the Society and who are interested in attending Society events, but do not seem to be participating in the business of the society. I want to meet those people and attempt to convince them to spend some time giving back to LLSDC.

Being active in the Society is a fabulous way to network. That, first and foremost, should appeal to many of you out there. Couple that with the respect that superiors might have with your serving in elected positions; it might actually allow you to get greater salary increases at review time. It all comes down to money, doesn't it?

No, I didn't think so. What does it come

down to? What can we do to entice you to become more active? I really want to know. Call me with your ideas at 202/274-7354, or, better yet, email them to me at bbaker@firebirds.udc.edu.

On the theory that some of you want to have more fun, I am attempting to plan fun events at a steep discount to the members of the Society. First, our opening reception will be an evening of fine dining (four-course meal) and fun dancing (funk, disco, power pop) aboard the ship the Dandy as it glides up and down the Potomac river past the monuments. I believe it will be a splendid event.

Second, we are planning an event at the MCI Center, probably a Wizards game, in late winter or early spring, and hopefully a baseball game out at the Bowie Baysox facility later in the spring. Finally, the closing Banquet is still up in the air, so if anyone has an idea, I'm all ears.

I want education programs that focus on your needs as professionals, whether they are technology related or related to one or more basic functions within a law library. I would like, as AALL did, to reach out more to support staff, and have some programs that assist in their development as well.

More than anything though, I want to be responsive to your needs. So, as I said above, please call or email me; that's what I'm here for. I look forward to a fun year, meeting as many of you as possible. ■

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agement advance a proactive and productive role for the librarian in the legal environment.

I also did more than attend educational talks. I explored the exhibit hall where the publishers displayed their wares and bestowed candy, pencils, computer screen cleaners, and other logo-stamped trinkets. The vendors also enticed us to view their new products by creating games with the chance to win a trip to Amsterdam or a laptop computer. It was a good marketing strategy. I also appreciated the company-sponsored parties. The Opening Reception allowed us to climb onto the large dais in the middle of the Reading Room which once seated the Supervisor of the Library of Congress and permitted us to stroll through the enormous, but now obsolete, card catalog vault. The Closing Banquet was fun, too, as the hilarious *Capitol Steps* performed their up-to-date satire of "business as usual" in D.C.

I found having the conference in D.C. to be ideal. The nation's capital offered splendid sight-seeing diversions. I actually managed to tour one Smithsonian museum during a break from the activities. In addition, I was able to visit my firm's

main office, located within four walking blocks of the Convention Center. My colleague, the librarian for the firm's Washington, DC office, and I worked on a firm-wide cataloging project which was much easier to do in person than over the phone.

I came away from the annual meeting motivated and recharged. I am full of anticipation and excitement for next July, where, in Philadelphia, I again can reconvene with my professional colleagues to learn, share, and have fun in a great city.

IF IT'S 10:00AM, THIS MUST BE
MEETING ROOM 40

by *Scott Larson*

About a week before this year's annual meeting, the prospect of balancing plans to participate in many AALL activities while also working throughout the week at my job began to seem like a scary combination that would lead to a very conflicted schedule. ("Yes, I know that you're on your way to the AALL Closing Banquet, but I need those documents from [insert name of far way and inconvenient place] *now*.") However, by the conclusion of the AALL annual meeting, I was convinced that having the annual conference occur in the city where

Special Counsel1/2 page

**ANOTHER
REMARKABLE
SESSION WAS
DAVID P. BAUGHS
DISCUSSION OF
HIS EXPERIENCES
LITIGATING
CONSTITUTIONAL
LAW CASES.**

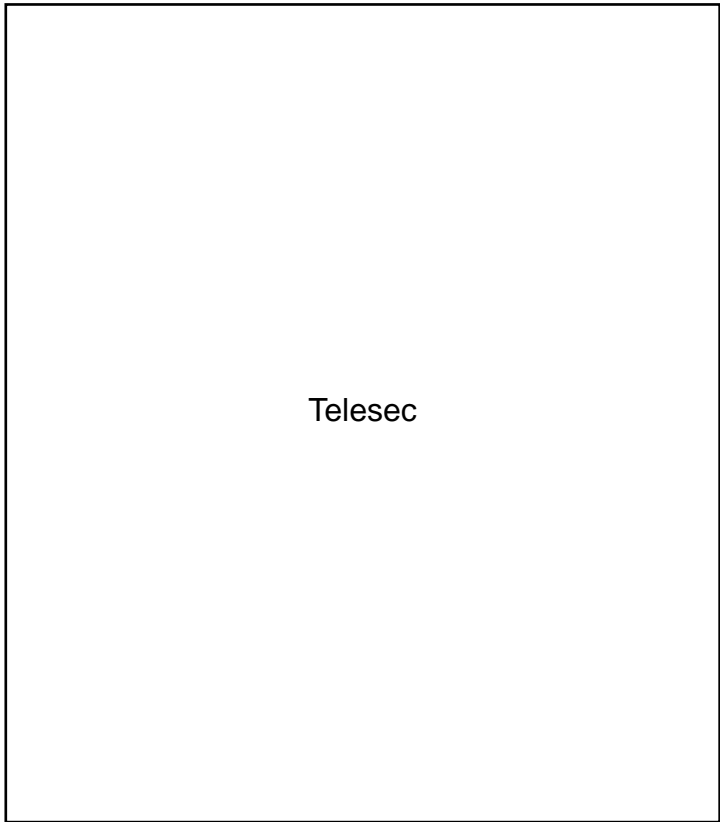
you work is a great idea. There are two reasons for this: First, all of the planners involved used the city as a broad canvas for the meeting. This was evident in many ways, including the spectacular staging of the Opening Reception inside the Library of Congress' Jefferson Building, the diverse array of speakers at the sessions representing various Washington-based libraries and organizations, the numerous tours, and many other events scattered throughout the city. The annual meeting was a great chance for visitors and residents to see many aspects of the nation's capital and how librarianship affects so many parts of it. The second reason I liked having the meeting in Washington is that I found it convenient to be able to attend many functions at the conference while being only a short distance from my office. The proximity between the two was helpful because it allowed me to sample educational events, meet with local vendor representatives in the Exhibit Hall, maintain (more or less) normal library operations, and discuss several upcoming projects with Darlene, my colleague from the firm's San Francisco office. In addition, the fact that the annual meeting was held in Washington provided a rare opportunity for both of the firm's librarians to meet in person with various other managers of firm departments to share a few

ideas and make plans for the forthcoming year.

Each of the education programs that I attended contained practical information that will be useful for daily research activities and long-range planning. One program that was especially thought-provoking was *Preservation at the Crossroads: A Debate Between the Traditional World of Print and the Brave New World of Digital*. The program was a thorough presentation of the merits and disadvantages of pursuing digital preservation of library holdings. The differing views were well-argued and logically presented by LeeEllen Friedland of the Library of Congress, Preservation Reformatting Division and Melody Busse Lembke of the Los Angeles County Law Library. Their debate ranged over many topics associated with digital preservation, including issues concerning the financial cost of committing to digitizing, the potential risks involved with evolving digital technology, concerns about which publications should be preserved in favor of others, and the question of what is (or will be) an "official" version of a document. Although the presenters agreed that there are no "right or wrong answers," their debate created a framework from which the audience-members could judge whether this solution is a suitable one for the preservation problems facing their libraries.

Another remarkable session was David P. Baugh's discussion of his experiences litigating constitutional law cases. This program, entitled *Revitalizing the Constitution*, was the third Plenary Session of the conference and was one of the highlights of the annual meeting. Mr. Baugh discussed his representation of a member of the Ku Klux Klan in a case concerning his client's arrest following a cross-burning. Mr. Baugh, an African American attorney, eloquently described the ironies involved with representing a Klansman in a First Amendment case. His thoughts concerning other constitutional issues in the news today and predictions of new developments with Second Amendment cases were equally fascinating.

The various social events of the annual meeting were, of course, also outstanding. The Opening Reception, which allowed hundreds of librarians to mingle throughout various levels of the Library of Congress, was an unforgettable event. The Closing Banquet and the dance that followed offered an interesting mix of humor from the **Capital Steps** and great "Gulf Coast Rhythm and Blues" songs from **Marcia Ball** and her band. AALL's selection of this Louisiana singer and student of the music of **Professor Longhair** to perform at the banquet is a sign of many great things to come at future annual meetings. On to Philadelphia! ■



LEXIS FULL PAGE AD



SLA LEGAL DIVISION CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Larry Guthrie
Chair, SLA Legal Division

FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES, MINNEAPOLIS GAVE NEW MEANING TO THE AXIOM, "If you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes." Tornado warnings rerouted arrivals and evacuated the Exhibit Hall once, and the skyways offered shelter from rain; but gave way to variable sunny, humid and dry cool weather.

Inside the meeting rooms, the Legal Division addressed the oncoming millennium and "new combinations" for information professionals envisioned by Chair and Program Planner Cassandra Morrow. Emphasis on the electronic culture and the accompanying fast pace of change, globalization and expanded legal research into other disciplines profiled the programs. Internet seminars were filled to capacity. Additional programs covered copyright developments, transgenic organisms, estate planning from the Retired Member Caucus, gumshoe librarians, Sports Caucus, the Supreme Court's unity through diversity, and an insight into decision-making from the Judge's Chambers.

Networking opportunities provided through breakfasts, annual business meeting, tea, exceptional social events and local color, and the hospitality suite were productive and rejuvenating. Meeting old and new friends through generous sponsorship was memorable. With old ties cemented and new ones forged, the Legal Division, rested and invigorated, is ready to address the upcoming year.

In defining our unique identity, the SLA Legal Division welcomes everyone interested in legal information issues; we have a vast network within SLA for cooperative programming; we are unencumbered by bureaucracy for determining policy and for taking action. As such we strive to be the "vanguard of the legal information age."

Following is a summary of a program presented at the conference, which has in the past been co-sponsored by the Business & Finance Division and the Legal Division:

UNDERSTANDING SHRINK-WRAP LICENSES: A SHORT COURSE IN HOW TO READ VENDOR CONTRACTS PRESENTED by Professor Mickie Voges

Once again Mickie Voges, Professor of Law and Director of the Information Center at Chicago-Kent School of Law, addressed copyright developments. She noted that the proposed Article 2B of the Uniform Commercial Code was withdrawn in May, but will reappear as a uniform law in another form. The fear is that contract law will govern, and that 2B does not eliminate contract terms. UCITA: (Uniform Computer Infor-

mation Transactions Act) is an effort to replace the Article 2B initiative.

Shrinkwrap licenses were determined as valid in the 7th Circuit in the Pro CD v. Zeidenberg case. We are in no negotiating position in these contracts. There could be a "time bomb" in the contract. The choice of law is up to the producer. In some cases it is the law of Ireland. There is much concern that licenses for cable, film, and recordings may not be interpreted the same. Books may not be exempted. Licenses are not an "arm's length" contract. Contract Law has always been state law, and federal law overrides state law. Now every piece of software must be routed to the legal department to read the "Terms and Conditions."

2B would result in legal certainty. She read through a shrink-wrap license. All rights go to the producer. There may be an "escrow of source code" in which a copy of your program is given to an escrow agent to keep locked up.

If you have a question about linking to a website, contact the group whose website you want to link to and ask them where they would like you to link.

Collective bargaining might work in changing the terms of shrinkwrap licenses in the future. However, it would take a group, such as the SLA Legal Division to speak collectively in negotiating such a change in the terms. What does a group want?

UCITA, as proposed now, is opposed by various groups such as libraries and the film industry for differing reasons.

For UCITA background story see <http://www.callaw.com/stories/edt0527.html> ■

NEED A FREELANCE LIBRARIAN? USE THE LLSDC FREELANCE LIBRARIAN'S REGISTRY



The Registry, offered as a free service of the LLSDC, is a listing of law library professionals available for temporary assignments and projects. To obtain a copy of the Registry or to add your name as a freelance professional to the list, please call Pam Mandel at Ballard, Spahr at 202/661-2247.



THIS YEAR I WAS DELIGHTED to attend AALL's Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. One particular session topic really attracted my attention. The session was called, *At the Crossroads: Law Firm Management Speaks Out About Their Law Library Expectations*.

THE PANEL

Moderator, Ms. Hazel L. Johnson, Law Library Services Consultant, McGuire Woods Battle & Boothe, Richmond, VA. Speaker (replacement), Mr. Perry L. Glantz, Administrative Partner, Holland & Hart, LLP, Greenwood Village, CO. Speaker, Ms. Karen Knab, Executive Director, Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, Washington, DC. Speaker, Mr. Gary A. Munneke, Chair-Elect, ABA Law Practice Management Section, Pace University School of Law Library, White Plains, NY.

The panel opened the dialog by encouraging the audience to respond openly to their views about librarians and their roles. Many librarians in the audience revealed their disappointment with attorneys and executive directors. They conveyed that upper management just didn't know or understand what they contributed to the firm. Several librarians believed that it was the responsibility of the executive director to know what everyone's roles were in the firm.

The executive director on the panel responded to the displayed frustration. She said that she believed that it was the job of the librarian to show them what their roles were. She said that librarians should demonstrate their skills, and promote their value to the firm.

A few librarians shared their success stories. One librarian stated that she maintained close contact with the management of the firm. Another librarian suggested that the library staff make it a point to get on committees like the technology or computer committee. These opportunities got the library more involved in decision-making. Another librarian shared ideas she used for her library newsletter: she included articles about useful legal web sites, information about new library acquisitions, and even had an advice column. She said that the newsletter gave the library exposure.

TIPS FROM THE PANEL

■ *Market yourself and your library*

Become marketing experts. Market your library. Show the staff what the library has to offer. Find a few allies in the firm like a partner and/or computer staff member that will help you make things happen.

■ *Develop an outreach program*

Don't expect attorneys to attend training ses-

sions. Visit them in their offices. Showcase new technologies, tricks, and resources right at their own desktops.

■ *Develop a relationship with the executive director*

Bring your skills to the attention of the executive director. Meet regularly with the executive director, bring fresh ideas to their attention and show off your problem-solving skills by tackling a job that no one else wants.

POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE?

Law firm management needs to become more exposed to the many roles of a law librarian. If they don't know what skills you have or what you are capable of, show them. Demonstrate your strengths; your skills need exposure. Take the first step.

PROGRESS ON THE HORIZON

The session had a positive impact. The panel had the opportunity to express their views to an audience of law librarians from all over the country and the audience had the opportunity to express to law firm management that their frustrations were relevant. I hope the open dialog doesn't stop at the meeting door.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the audio cassette for this program, please contact AALL for more information at 312/939-4764. ■

LAW FIRM MANAGERS AND LAW LIBRARIANS: AN OPEN DIALOG

Eve Valdivia

Spiegel & McDiarmid

LIBRARIANS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THEIR SKILLS, AND PROMOTE THEIR VALUE TO THE FIRM. DEMONSTRATE YOUR STRENGTHS. YOUR SKILLS NEED EXPOSURE.

Alert Publications

REAL FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION:
ALTERNATIVE
RESOURCES FOR
U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY (OR
WHAT I LEARNED
AT ALA)

Meredith Hoffman
Howrey & Simon

THIS YEAR I HAD MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY to attend both the ALA and AALL annual conferences. As I am new to the library profession, I was interested to see how and if the topics at ALA would be applicable to law libraries or just address issues for public and school libraries. The theme of ALA's annual conference was "Celebrating the Freedom to Read! Learn! Connect!" and I was pleased to discover seminars that dealt with practical issues for the law library.

One example of the cross-over practicality was ALA's Social Responsibility Round Table seminar, "Searching for the 'Enemy': Alternative Resources on U.S. Foreign Policy". Too often we look only to the mainstream resources for any information on U.S. Foreign Policy. Sadly, this is true without our even realizing the bias of the information we may be getting. Often, because it is all we see, we do not recognize that the channels of distribution serve the interests and view points of corporate entities, and that such corporations dominate the publishing, marketing and production of information selection tools. Libraries are in position to rectify this imbalance.

Much of ALA focused on the potential

problems of the internet and of electronic resources. Certainly we know that high technical potential does not always make for improved quality or utility of the information we provide. However, this rise in technology has made access to alternative resources more timely and economically feasible. Following is a brief introduction to web resources used to find a more balanced view of U.S. Foreign Policy:

RESOURCES

1. WWW.FOREIGNPOLICY-INFOCUS.ORG This website, published by the Interhemispheric Resource Center and the Institute of Policy Studies, is a gateway to foreign policy information. It includes policy briefs, links to other key organizations which provide information and analysis of global affairs. Information is presented by category (including U.S. agency), country or issue.

2. WWW.COMMONDREAMS.ORG This metacite is a daily news center that provides links to hundreds of columns, periodicals, and media news resources.

3. WWW.ALTTPRESS.ORG This site is published by the folks who put out the Alternative Press Index. While neither the most recent directory nor articles in fulltext are available, the site does have a directory of online alternative resources, including links to their web pages, subscription information and availability of fulltext articles through UNCOVER. There is also a 30-day free trial subscription to the Alternative Press Index online through Biblioline.

4. WWW.FOREIGNPOLICY.COM This website is published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. It is the online version of the Foreign Policy Journal, providing articles and in-depth discussion forums on issues confronting U.S. foreign policy.

As librarians, we can and should be advocates for real, unbiased information. If for no other reason than to broaden our knowledge base so as to better serve our patrons, we should understand all the issues at hand when addressing policy questions. I am glad I had the opportunity to attend both ALA and AALL to be reminded that no matter what our specialty, there are principles, especially that of intellectual freedom, that affect all libraries. (This is the point where all librarians link arms and sing Kum-Ba-Yah.) ■

Cal Info

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Robert Arnett
Latham & Watkins

**AS PARA-
PROFESSIONALS,
WE HAVE TO EARN
THE RESPECT OF
THE PEOPLE WE
WORK WITH.**

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE had its first Paraprofessional Forum on July 19th. There were 100+ attendees from all over the country. There were eight topics from which to choose. In the morning I chose *Communication: The Key to Success* and *Time Management*. The program was an hour of how to and theory sessions. The topics ranged from the basics of communication to dealing with difficult people. The skits were interesting and funny. Jill Lynch and Carolyn Ahearn did a great job in conveying what could happen when your body language and the tone of your voice turn a calm situation into one in which an argument may occur. We all agreed that listening is the key to communication.

Dealing with difficult people or clients gave me a better insight of how to accommodate people who try to be difficult. We were told to let the difficult person vent, only interrupt when they start to repeat themselves, to accept the blame and explain to them it will not happen again. Don't argue, always stand when talking, keep eye contact with them and to let them know that hostile behavior will not be accepted.

The second session I attended was *Time Management*, in which Wes Cochran was the speaker. Some of the topics he went over included tips for organizing your work and your workspace, doing more in less time and working under pressure. We were taught to recognize what was urgent and its importance, and what was non-urgent and its importance. Always start with a plan for the day. Rank the tasks in importance and urgency so you will know what to do first. Focus on your priorities first and combine some tasks together.

Don't procrastinate and make a commitment to your boss and yourself. Put a red dot on the top of each piece of paper that you handle, when you handle that piece of paper again do something with it, file it or throw it out. Avoid distractions; work at another desk to avoid interruptions. Analyze your daily routine every two weeks and see what progress you have made. Reward yourself for a job well done.

The two afternoon programs I attended were *The World of the Internet in the Library World* and *Successful Dealings with Managers/Up the Hierarchy*. The Internet session basically identified sites and applications to be used to find the appropriate search engines. Rita Kaiser talked about how the Internet was used in the law libraries. She also told us about electronic publications, E-Mail, Intranets, and Websites. Her reviews on Publication Information such as: Indexmaster, Findlaw, Publist, YBP and Free books were informative.

In closing, she mentioned publishers sites for claim orders and to order documents. NorthernLight was not one of her favorite websites because of the costs involved.

The last program gave me an insight into how a Paraprofessional should carry him/herself. It expressed the right and wrong times to talk with my supervisor. Using the phrase, "Excuse me, is this a good time for you?" is one thing that will help you communicate better with your boss. As paraprofessionals, we have to earn the respect of the people we work with. Do your best to resolve all problems and conflicts. We must show our bosses that we are capable of doing the work and trustworthy enough that they don't have to do the work behind us. We have to be accurate in our work and keep up with the new technology, programs and classes that will help us do our jobs better. In other words, we must be professionals. Pamela Gregory did a great job.

I thought the Paraprofessional Forum was a great learning experience. The Time Management program gave me some skills to help me organize my job in a non-complex way. The Communication program made me take a long look at how communicating, not only with your boss but the entire office, is a very good way to make life in the office simpler. I learned that the Internet is a knowledge highway, but you must read all the road signs so as not to go in the wrong direction. Dealing with Managers really put me in the manager's shoes. I learned how their daily operations can be more difficult than it appears on the surface. I hope they will continue to include the Paraprofessional Forum in future AALL annual meetings, and I hope to get an invitation to Philadelphia, where the next Paraprofessional Forum will be held. ■

LLSDC SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS COMMITTEE

■ ■ ■ The LLSDC Scholarships and Grants Committee provides awards for registration fees to professional meetings, seminars, workshops, classes, coursework, and other forms of continuing education. Deadlines are August 1 (for Fall semester), December 1 (for Spring semester) and May 1 (for summer). For more information please contact, Gordon Van Pelt at 202/662-9191. Application forms are available on the LLSDC website at www.llsdc.org/llsdc/grants.html.

I ATTENDED MY FIRST SLA MEETING in Minneapolis, MN on June 5-10, 1999. I first joined SLA in 1997 and became a member of DC Chapter, the Legal Division and the Solo Division. About nine months after joining SLA I decided to become Legal Division Team Leader for the Washington DC area. I convened a meeting, we discussed an agenda, and I submitted a written report to the Legal Division business meeting at the 1998 conference. I volunteered to be Team Leader to see what SLA was all about. We continued to hold meetings throughout that year and I soon realized that I had to attend the 1999 annual conference in Minneapolis. If I were going to be an active member at the SLA chapter level, I should see the larger organization in action. I went, I got a look at the organization and I was very encouraged by the depth and breath of experience of members who attended the meeting. In addition to meeting librarians working in special library settings, I also met academic librarians working in a variety of specialties. After the conference, our local bylaws committee, Jeff Stickle, Barbara Folensbee-Moore and I, met to finish our work and in August, we will attend the DC Chapter's board meeting to submit a request to the Chapter for formal group status. We will be the Legal Issues Group. We look forward to meeting SLA members this fall when we convene our meetings!

The theme of this year's SLA conference was "Knowledge Leaders for the Millennium: Creators of the Information Future." The theme is an empowering vision of special librarians in the 21st century. The conference was meant to be a reflection of this future by assisting members with achieving the competencies of special librarians. (For more about the Competencies of Special Librarians link to <http://www.sla.org/professional/competency.html>). The variety and scope of the library experience at the conference was impressive, over 6,000 members attended the conference this year. SLA has 56 regional chapters and 25 divisions. A sampling of the divisions include Business & Finance, Communications, Environment and Resources Management, Insurance & Employee Benefits, Information Technology, Legal, Library Management, Military, News, Social Science, Solo, and Transportation. The Legal Division continues to gain new members. There are now approximately 1,000 librarians who are members of the Legal Division. Membership is open to any SLA member who has an interest in legal or regulatory affairs. I met many Legal Division members who are librarians in brokerage and accounting firms. I was eager to learn what these librarians did on their jobs, the pressures they faced, their budgets, the informa-

tion requests and resources they used and how that compared to my experience in a law firm.

At registration, I received a ribbon for my badge that said "First Time." Sometimes I have felt apprehensive about attending conferences wondering if I would know anyone or how I would spend my time when the conference sessions were not being held. However, the Division Hospitality Suites solved that problem! All the SLA Divisions host hotel room suites for conference attendees to meet, relax, eat, and network. The rooms are open usually from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. The Legal Division's Suite, sponsored by Lexis-Nexis, was open throughout the conference. From my participation in the local group, I already knew some librarians who were attending from the chapter. The DC Chapter was well represented at the meeting. Donna Scheeder, Congressional Research Service, is President-Elect and will assume the Presidency of SLA at the 2000 conference in Philadelphia. Joan Gervino, American Bankers Association Center for Banking Information, is Division Cabinet Chair, Lynne McCay, Congressional Research Service, is Conference Committee Chair and Larry Guthrie, Covington & Burling, is Chair of the Legal Division. I attended the President's Reception, held on the top floor of the IDS with a spectacular view of Minneapolis, I greeted and congratulated Donna and Joan whom I knew from the local Legal Issues Group meetings. (And as a shy person, I did not even feel nervous about doing it.) The reception was a benefit held for the SLA scholarship fund sponsored by Hoover's Online. I met a librarian who was on the staff of Baker & McKenzie when they made their famous firings. I did miss out on the Legal Division Dutch Treat Dinner, held at the same time as the President's Reception.

There were 375 exhibitors at SLA occupying 540 booths at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Many were subject specific vendors who deal inclusively in an arena of information like science, law, or securities. I saw many vendors familiar to the legal community, BNA, CCH, Lexis-Nexis, Matthew Bender, West Group. The online information community also was well represented. I visited booths sponsored by DowJones Interactive, Dun & Bradstreet, FIS, Hoover's Online, Primark, Northern Lights, in addition to library automation companies like Inmagic and OCLC and finally publishers like Bowne, Gale Group, Faxon, H.W. Wilson, John Wiley & Sons, and Rand. A complete list of all the exhibitors is located on the SLA website.

There were two speakers at the conference that made quite an impression on their audiences. The first was keynote speaker, Laurence Prusak

MY FIRST SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

*Margo L. Chisholm
Spiegel & McDiarmid*

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S SLA CONFERENCE WAS "KNOWLEDGE LEADERS FOR THE MILLENNIUM: CREATORS OF THE INFORMATION FUTURE."

author many books on information management, who spoke about knowledge management but implied that librarians would probably be obsolete in the next millennium. Everyone was talking about that one! The other was motivational speaker Harry Beckwith, author of *A Field Guide to Modern Marketing*, who gave an excellent talk with concrete sales and marketing advice to do our jobs better and win the respect needed in today's business climate.

Many of the Legal Division conference members commented that they attended conference sessions sponsored by the News, Legal, Solo, Information Technology Information Technology and Management Divisions. A sampling of the Legal Division sessions included: Legal Megatrends in the Global Marketplace sponsored by Lexis/Nexis which discussed the future of legal information providers in the global environment, in addition, BNA sponsored a breakfast session to discuss future trends in legal publishing likely to influence information providers; West Group sponsored Legal Research in the Non-Legal Environmental for members who perform legal research but not in a law firm environment; Melody Hainsworth, International College, spoke on methods by which Appellate

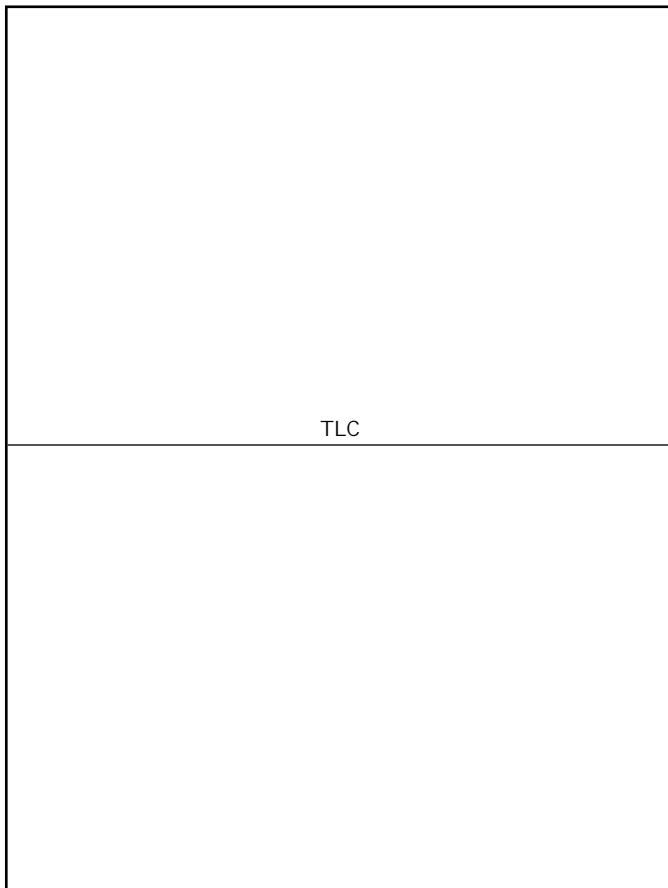
Court Judges decide cases; Sabrina Pacifici, Sidley & Austin, discussed the intranet in the law firm. The News Division sessions included Copyright and Intellectual Property Issues sponsored by Lexis-Nexis presented by David Wittenstein, Dow, Lohnes and Albertson. The Information Technology Division sponsored Choosing and Using Internet Search Engines presented by Mary Ellen Bates, Bates Information Services, Jian Liu, Indiana University, and Greg Notess, Montana State University. The well-attended Solos Division's Networking for Shy People was one session I really liked.

There were plenty of social and networking opportunities for Legal Division members and others to attend: Northern Lights sponsored the First-Time Conference Attendees reception; The Legal Division was hosted to an Ice Cream Social by Oceana, West Group sponsored a tour of its facilities in Eagan and prepared traditional Minnesota foods like venison at the reception; LEXIS/NEXIS invited all Legal Division members for a riverboat ride on the St. Croix and in addition, sponsored the Legal Division lunch and business meeting. I did not attend the Primark party but the librarians in the Business & Finance Division told me that it was an annual event at SLA.

SLA 2000

I am looking forward to attending the next Special Libraries Association Meeting in Philadelphia, June 10-15, 2000. Yes, I do believe that we are creators of the information future and I am encouraged by the variety of backgrounds I see in the leadership of SLA. I will look to my professional leaders to articulate that future, to define pathways, and develop the skills necessary stay on the cutting edge of knowledge and management.

To learn more about SLA, SLA DC Chapter, or SLA Legal Division link to <http://www.sla.org/> or <http://www.sla.org/chapter/cdc/> or <http://www.slalegal.org/> or call me at 202-879-4055 margo.chisholm@spiegelmc.com ■



LIGHTS DEADLINE

■ ■ ■

The deadline for the November/December 1999 *Law Library Lights* is September 30, 1999. For submissions, call Beatrice Wise at 202/383-6868 or e-mail wiseb@howrey.com.

LEXIS FULL PAGE AD

INTERLIBRARY LOAN/SIS

Keith Gabel
Thompson Coburn LLP

THE APPROACH OF AUTUMN signals an end to the casual dress summer and long vacations. For inter-library loan librarians, it is also the time when we get back to the business of monthly meetings and the sharing of our professional experience. Pete Vay, vice-president of the SIS and the ILL specialist at Williams and Connolly, and I recently met to discuss the long-term goals of the Section, as well as to plan some tentative meeting topics. What follows is a brief synopsis of the direction we see the Section moving, subject to the approval of both new members and those who regularly participate in our functions.

The most important thing for any SIS to do is to provide its members with a service. If people are going to take an hour out of their day to go to a meeting, they must feel that they not only enjoyed themselves, but that the effort had some reward beyond the personal. To that end, we hope to streamline the manner in which meetings are conducted so that the discussion is suitable for the time allowed and participants do have some time to socialize once the meeting is complete. Our format will be simple and not a radical departure from the previous one. Discussion will be limited to thirty to forty-five minutes, depending on participant interest and how much can really be said about the topic. This will

also allow those members with tight time constraints to come to the meetings and be back to work within an hour. For those with a more leisurely timetable, this works in some time for networking and socializing. It is our hope that this format alteration will increase member participation and interest in the Section's activities.

The other area of growth for the Section is to provide its members the opportunity to meet and talk to one another outside of the monthly meetings or when conducting loans. Similar to the activities of the Private Law Libraries SIS, we hope to expand the social activities available to inter-library loan librarians. We propose to host monthly happy hours at local taverns as a means of putting faces with the voices we hear every day. It is also our plan to sponsor a Dutch-Treat dinner at a local restaurant with spouses and significant others invited to attend. If nothing else, this should put a friendly face on the Section and provide our members with some good nights out on the town.

As always, the Inter-Library Loan SIS will strive to provide quality meetings on the issues which affect both ILL librarians and their jobs. The Section has traditionally been participant driven and will remain so. Both Pete and I look forward to serving the needs of our members and presiding over such an enthusiastic and loyal group, both new faces and old. ■

ACADEMIC SIS NEWS

Susan Ryan
*Georgetown University
Law Center*

AS THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR GETS UNDERWAY, the Academic SIS also starts its new year of educational programs and social events. This year we have an ambitious plan of activities designed to inform and entertain. On our agenda, first of all, is the annual Academic SIS picnic. The location is the new library at George Mason University School of Law; many thanks to Rae Best and the rest of the staff there for offering to host this gathering. In addition to good food and an opportunity to see colleagues from other schools, we'll be able to tour the new library. Further details will be forthcoming. Other events planned for the 1999-2000 year include: a program focusing on effective teaching of Lexis and Westlaw, programs on preservation and binding topics presented by Hilary Seo, Preservation Librarian at Georgetown, and a tour of a local library.

NEW OFFICERS

This year's officers are Susan Ryan (president), Mike Petit (vice-president) and Gordon Van Piel (treasurer). Thank you to Gordon for agreeing to step in as treasurer due to the departure of Kimberly Pogue. Kim has resigned her post as she

will be leaving law librarianship to pursue a career as an elementary school librarian. We wish her all the best in her new job.

INCREASED COMMUNICATION

This column has always been a great way to keep our members up-to-date on Academic SIS happenings, but now we'd like to expand its focus a bit. We'd like to make it a forum for academic librarians to share information about current events in their library with others in the Society. Is there something exciting going on in your institution that you'd like to share with others? Make this your communication mechanism. Call Susan Ryan at 202/662-9142 with any announcements. ■

**WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS ...
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LIBRARY LIGHTS!**

THE LEGISLATIVE SIS BEGAN THE 1999-2000 TERM by presenting a program at the AALL Convention, "Changing Lanes on the Legislative Information Superhighway". I would like to thank our speakers, Cheryl Graunke from THOMAS and T.C. Evans from GPO, for providing us with an informative afternoon. I'd also like to congratulate Catherine Rogalin for coordinating the event, and for serving this past year as president 'extraordinaire' of the SIS.

I would also like to pay special tribute to the AALL program workers at this year's convention: the day went off without a hitch due to the organizational talents of these people. Unfortunately, I can only call them "these people". I never got the name of the person who met us at the door and let us know that the program ahead of ours was on time, that our speakers had checked in, and that the program sign outside the door would be changed at precisely 1:30. I didn't catch the names of the individuals who arrived with our computer setup; they were too fast for me! I entered our room, wondering aloud when the equipment would arrive, and ...there it was. We were all ready to run with a Power Point slide shining the name of our event onto the wall. And I didn't quite hear the name of the nice woman who approached us at the end of the program to thank us for our efforts, and who quietly began the orches-

tration for the next group of presenters. So to all of you who made everything run so smoothly on a hot Sunday afternoon, thank you. And I promise to hone up on my name tag reading skills.

Our last meeting was in June, and, for the most part, it was devoted to the aforementioned convention program. Another item of note - the production of the *Union List of Legislative Histories*. Yes, we have reached the production stage (thanks to David Mao of Covington & Burling, who also happens to be our new vice-president/president-elect). After extending the deadline for holdings submissions, and then deciding on a format, we are in the process of contracting out the conversion and typing duties and firming up the final details regarding a publisher. As for the posted lists of GPO's hearings available in print, for the foreseeable future we will maintain the status quo.

The next meeting will occur sometime in September, so watch for *Dates ToRemember* or look for a posting on the listserv. At that time, we'll be setting our agenda for the coming year, so this would be a good meeting not to miss. I'm looking forward to an active and productive schedule, so please attend and bring along plenty of ideas. And to those members who attended the AALL program, we all thank you for the support. ■

LEGISLATIVE/ SIS NEWS

Carole Waesche
Steptoe & Johnson

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PRIVATE LAW
LIBRARIES/SIS
NEWS

Mindy Klasky
*Arent Fox Kintner
Plotkin & Kahn*

THE PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION is looking forward to another exciting year of educational and social programs! This year's officers for PLL are Mindy Klasky (President), Maureen Stellino (Vice President-President Elect), Janet Baxter (Treasurer), and Beth Conte (Secretary.) If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about the Section or about specific events, please don't hesitate to contact any officer.

Last year, we were able to enjoy a number of social and educational events (at least one a month, and often two or three), and we look forward to the same types of activities this year. In addition to various no-host dinners, happy hours, and breakfasts, we eagerly anticipate our Library Murder Mystery evening. (Last year, we recruited a crack staff of actors and technicians, hid away clues, and rehearsed, but - alas! - we did not have an opportunity to stage our Grand Epic. We hope to remedy that oversight relatively early in the year.)

Of course, we will also host the Holiday Party in early December. That event, which has traditionally kicked off the holiday season, has been growing in attendance every year. We hope that 1999 will boast the largest crowds yet!

PLL is not only a social group. We also support a number of educational programs throughout the year. In the coming months we intend to host a number of brown-bag lunches, along with one or more major training programs. These programs will focus on issues common to private law libraries. If you have ideas for a brown-bag lunch, or if you have concerns you would like to address through the Education Committee, please feel free to contact any of the officers.

The variety of activities planned for the coming year is a direct response to the growing role of PLL last year. The current officers would like to thank last year's officers, Joan Sherer (President), Scott Larson (Treasurer), and Beatrice Wise (Secretary), for their time, creativity, and endless energy.

Finally, if you have ideas for any events - social or educational - please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of the current officers. If you would like to serve on the social committee, the educational committee, or the nominations committee (gathering nominations for officers for the 2000-2001 year!), please call Mindy Klasky. We hope to see you at our various activities! ■

West 1/2 page ad



LEXIS FULL PAGE AD

EYE ON SERIALS

Susan Ryan
Georgetown University
Law Center

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

University of Pennsylvania Journal of Labor and Employment Law, 1998-

Published semiannually in its first year and three times per year thereafter by the University of Pennsylvania Law School, 3400 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6204; 215/898-9289 or 215/898-6737, FAX: 215/573-2025, Website: www.law.upenn.edu/labor.

Price: \$36.00 per year.

The journal's mission is to provide a forum for discussion across disciplinary boundaries of matters concerning work and workers in the United States and internationally. The journal will organize an annual symposium to facilitate this discussion and seeks to publish essay-style pieces that contain cutting-edge thinking on timely matters.

Countdown 2000: Legal Commentary and Analysis of the Millennium Crisis, 1998-

Published monthly by Lexis Law Publishing, P.O. Box 7587, Charlottesville, VA 22906-7587; 800/562-1197, FAX: 800/643-1280.

Price: \$175.00 per year.

This monthly newsletter contains articles written by Year 2000 attorneys, case law and commentary, an e-mail question and answer section and information about noteworthy articles in other publications about Year 2000 issues. The newsletter plans to continue publishing past January 1,

2000, as lawsuits concerning Y2K issues develop.

ON-LINE SUBSCRIPTION

Scientific American Medicine Online, 1998-

Updated monthly by Scientific American Medicine, 415 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017; 800/377-9344, FAX: 212/980-3062, Website: www.samed.com.

Price: ranges from \$795.00 to 2995.00 depending on the number of simultaneous users.

This product is the online version of *Scientific American Medicine*, available in either loose-leaf format or CD-ROM. It is a continuously updated reference tool that provides information understandable to non-medical professionals. Entries provide hyperlinks to abstracts of full medical journal articles discussing the topic in more depth.

TITLE CHANGE

University of the District of Columbia Law Review, 1998-

Published annually by the University of the District of Columbia School of Law, 4250 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Building 48, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20008; 202/274-7362.

Price: \$25.00 per year.

Formerly *District of Columbia Law Review*, this new publication began with volume 4, dated 1998. The last issue of the previous title was volume 3, issue 2 dated Fall 1995. ■

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