

# Law Library Lights

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## A BRIEF GUIDE FOR RESEARCHING MIDDLE EASTERN LEGISLATION

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*Author's note: The views expressed herein are those of the author and do not constitute an endorsement by Wilmer Cutler Pickering LLP*

### INTRODUCTION

The recent U.S. war against Iraq together with the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian situation have prompted me to organize a brief guide for doing legislative research in the Middle East. The first question one might pose in response to this is why? There is no short answer, but there are many different legal systems functioning in those countries, and it would help to know the sources for various rules and regulations in effect in those countries. A second obvious question is the definition of the term Middle East. While many countries may fit into this category, I have focused on the following: Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, The Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Syria and Yemen. I have omitted nations that are on the fringes of the Middle East, such as the Gulf States, Afghanistan, India, and Mauritania.

It is also important to recognize that many of these nation states in their present geographic borders are the creations of 19th and 20th Century Western European powers. The breakup of the Ottoman Empire after WWI precipitated the emergence of most of these nation states; and even today parts of Ottoman Turkish Law are still in force in some of these countries. France, Great Britain, and to a lesser extent Italy are inexorably linked to the modern states of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya. The British Mandate for Palestine preceded the creation of Israel (1948) and Palestine (1995). So the task before me is to provide resources, country by country, for doing research in the legislation of these countries. I have omitted searching case law resources

for each of these countries- that would be another article by itself.

A more in depth treatment of law sources for these countries can be found in *Foreign Law Current Sources of Codes and Legislation*, by Thomas H. Reynolds and Arturo A. Flores. AALL Publication Series NO. 33. Littleton, OH: Fred B. Rothman, 1994-. (abbreviated below as Reynolds and Flores)

*Note:* The Library of Congress has current and archival copies of the Official Journal of many of the countries listed below in the original language and in English or French translations. I have noted those holdings by the country.

### COUNTRIES (In Alphabetical Order)

**ALGERIA.** The Algerian Constitution is found at <http://confinder.richmond.edu/algeria.html>

**RESEARCHING ALGERIAN LEGISLATION:** A description of the Algerian Parliament and its legislative procedures can be found, in English, at <http://www.apn-dz.org/apn/english/index.htm>. The web site also contains a record of the debates of the Algerian Parliament.

A comprehensive survey of Algerian legislation and law has been published on the web by Dahmène Touchent. The web site is <http://www.llrx.com/features/algerian.htm>. Parliament publishes an Official Journal, in Arabic and French. Its French title is *Journal officiel de la République algérienne démocratique et populaire*, since 1962. The Arabic title is *al-Jaridah al-rasmiyah al-Jumhuriyah al-Jaz'iriyah al-dimurqratiyah al-Shabiyah*. The Library of Congress (LC) receives the journal in both Arabic and French and has archived copies on microform.

**EGYPT.** The Constitution of Egypt is located at <http://www.parliament.gov.eg/EPA/en/sections>.

*continued on page 3*

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Tricia Peavler  
Jenner & Block  
LLP

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG!** Alright, alright, it's summer already! The Spring issue of *Lights* has fallen sadly behind schedule. By the time this reaches you, the cicadas may have come and gone. My apologies to those who submitted timely columns only to have them be printed, like the election candidate bios, "for historical purposes." I hope this issue finds each of you experiencing or looking forward to some of the joys of summer—vacations, conferences, summer associates (!), sunshine, spending time outdoors, farmer's markets, swimming pools, mosquitoes...okay, not mosquitoes. And here's hoping we will be able to get the Summer issue out to you before fall! ■

## LIGHTS DEADLINE



If you would like to write for *Lights*, please contact Tricia Peavler at [lights@llsdc.org](mailto:lights@llsdc.org). For the most up-to-date information regarding the 2004-2005 submission deadlines and issue themes, check the LLSDC Web site at <http://www.llsdc.org>.

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**RESEARCHING EGYPTIAN LEGISLATION:** Modern Egyptian Legislation is based on English common law, Islamic law, and the Napoleonic codes, reflecting the influence of the various rulers of Modern Egypt. The Egyptian Parliament is known as the People's Assembly. Its web site is located at <http://www.parliament.gov.eg/EPA/en/Index.jsp>. Some of the information here is available in English, but a knowledge of Arabic is required to navigate this page. Legislation and legislative activity is published in the Official Egyptian Gazette, now titled *al-Jaridah l-rasmiyah-Jumhuriat Misr al-Arabiyah, Riyasat al-Jumhuriyah*. The Gazette is available in Arabic; a French language edition was published from 1873-1958. I have seen references to the Egyptian Gazette in English, but have not been able to confirm them, although various laws that have appeared in the Gazette have been translated into English. See above Reynolds and Flores.

**IRAN.** The full text of the Iranian Constitution can be located at [http://www.iranonline.com/iran/iran info/Government/constitution.html](http://www.iranonline.com/iran/iran%20info/Government/constitution.html).

**RESEARCHING IRANIAN LEGISLATION:** This involves searching the official Gazette, published by the Majlis, the Parliament. A description of the activities of the Majlis can be found at this web site, <http://netiran.com/statestructure.html>. "Iran Laws on Line" (<http://www.iranlaws.com/index.html>) tracks and translates into English selected laws published in the Official Iranian Gazette.

The current title of the Gazette is *Ruznamah rasmī*, and is available in Persian in current and archived issues at LC from as far back as 1945. Other websites that provide Iranian legislative items can be found by opening up this site: <http://llrx.com/features/islamiclaw.htm> and then searching the various links assembled there.

**IRAQ.** The Constitution of Iraq (pre war) can be located at the following site: [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/iz00000\\_html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/iz00000_html). Since the occupying administration is in the process of drafting a new constitution, this version may be out of date as you are reading this. A draft of the new Iraqi constitution can be found, in English translation, at <http://www.geocities.com/nathanbrown1/interimiraqiconstitution.html>

**RESEARCHING IRAQI LEGISLATION:** Modern day Iraq was created by Great Britain in the 1920's. For a brief history of twentieth century Iraq, see [http://www.islamonline.net/english/In\\_Depth/Iraq\\_](http://www.islamonline.net/english/In_Depth/Iraq_)

[Aftermath/2004/01/article\\_03.shtml](http://www.islamonline.net/english/In_Depth/Iraq_Aftermath/2004/01/article_03.shtml). The official Iraq government gazette has been published since 1921 under several names; the latest is *Alwaqai Aliraqiya*, in Arabic. The Gazette is now also published in English. See also <http://www.law.emory.edu/IFL/legal/iraq.htm> for Iraqi legislation. LC has the Official Gazette from as far back as 1975.

**ISRAEL.** There is no written constitution for Israel; however, as you will see below, there are Basic Laws.

(Much of what is said here on Israel is condensed from the work of Ruth Levush, Senior Legal Specialist in the Eastern Law Division, Directorate of Legal Research, Law Library of Congress). See her "A Guide to the Israeli Legal System," at <http://www.llrx.com>.

**RESEARCHING ISRAELI LEGISLATION:** Researching Legislation in Israel requires one to be familiar with the governing power at the time. Up to 1918, the Ottoman Turks controlled what is present day Israel. From 1918 to 1948, the British ruled the land under what is known as the Palestine Mandate. Israel became independent in 1948, so one must turn to Israeli sources for legislative history from that period to the present

The Ottoman Period: From 1519 to 1919, the area known as Israel was part of the Ottoman Empire. Laws were a combination of European law and Islamic law. One legacy of the Ottoman period is the system of family law relations, in which religious law cases that concern marriage and divorce are heard before religious courts (Jewish, Moslem, or Christian).

A recommended source for researching law in Israel during the Ottoman period is *Israel: A Legal Research Guide*, by E. Snyder. William S. Hein & Co, Buffalo, NY 2000.

The British Mandate: The British Mandate was organized by the League of Nations after the end of the First World War. Preexisting law was kept, and the English principles of common law and equity were added. The British also maintained the Ottoman system of religious courts for family law issues.

For researching legislation from the Mandate period, the Snyder book referred to above is a good place to begin. There is also an English edition of *Laws of the State of Israel*, for pre-State legislation. There is an Official Gazette of the government of Palestine, from 1920-1932; and *The Palestine Gazette: an official gazette of the government of Palestine*, from 1932-1948.

**ISRAEL SINCE 1948:** In 1948, Israel was established as a sovereign nation. In 1950, the Knes-

**RESEARCHING MIDDLE EASTERN LEGISLATION OFTEN REQUIRES A FAMILIARITY WITH THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE NATION STATES COMPRISE THE MIDDLE EAST.**

**A READING KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH, ARABIC, HEBREW, OR TURKISH IS NOT REQUIRED FOR MANY OF THESE SOURCES, BUT IT CERTAINLY HELPS IN DOING THIS RESEARCH.**

set (Israeli Parliament) passed eleven basic laws that may someday form a constitution. All legislation comes from Israel's parliament, the Knesset. A description of the legislative process can be found at [http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng\\_work\\_mel2.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng_work_mel2.htm). All of the Knesset's legislative activities are recorded in the Official Gazette, published in two versions. *The Official Gazette: Bills-Knesset* and *The Official Gazette- Bills-Government*. The Hebrew name is *Reshumot*. Unfortunately, neither version is available in English and are published only in Hebrew. There is a government authorized English translation of Israeli legislation, *Laws of the State of Israel*. Jerusalem: Government Printing Office, volume 1- 1948-. Many other sources of Israeli legislation are cited in Ruth Levit's Guide, referred to above.

**JORDAN.** The Jordanian Constitution can be found at [http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution\\_jo.html](http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/constitution_jo.html)

For an explanation of the Jordanian Legislative procedure, see: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/jordan/legislature.html>

**RESEARCHING JORDANIAN LEGISLATION:** Note that Jordan has a bicameral legislature, consisting of a House of Notables and a House of Representatives. The above cite gives links to the laws of the Jordanian Legislature. The cite also refers to an Official Jordanian Gazette which publishes laws and regulations passed by the Jordanian Legislature. The name of the Gazette is *al-Mariyah al-rasmiyah lil-Mamlakah al-Urduniyah al-Hashimiyah*. The Library of Congress receives the Gazette in Arabic and English.

**LEBANON.** The Constitution of Lebanon can be located at [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/le00000\\_html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/le00000_html)

**RESEARCHING LEBANESE LEGISLATION:** A description of the role of the Lebanese parliament can be found at this web site: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/legislature/wahby1/section3.html>. The duties of the Lebanese Parliament can be found in the Lebanese Constitution, in the second Act of the second chapter and the third section of the fourth chapter. Legislation and regulations are recorded in the Official Lebanese Gazette, *al-Jaridah al-rasmiyah al-Jumhuriyah al-Lubnaniyah*, from 1865 in Arabic, until 1942 in both Arabic and French. The Gazette is available in Arabic at the Library of Congress. Other sources for the gazette including subscription are available at [http://www.finance.gov.lb/Guide%20to%](http://www.finance.gov.lb/Guide%20to%20tax%20research%20in%20Lebanon.pdf)

[http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly00000\\_html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly00000_html)

**LIBYA.** The Libyan constitution can be found at [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly00000\\_html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ly00000_html)  
**RESEARCHING LIBYAN LEGISLATION:** Libya has a unicameral legislature, known as the General People's Congress. Laws are published in the Official Gazette. The gazette was called *Jarida al-rasmiyah* from 1951-1969; it was issued also in English from 1951-1956. The name of the Gazette now is *al-Jaridah al-rasmiyah [al-Jumuriyah al-Arabiyyah al-Libiyah]*, published in Arabic since 1969. Some laws are available from searching the web, but I was not able to find a site for the Libyan Official Gazette. The Library of Congress does receive the Official Gazette of Libya.

**MOROCCO.** The Constitution of Morocco is located at [http://www.mincom.gov.ma/english/generalities/state\\_st/constitution.htm](http://www.mincom.gov.ma/english/generalities/state_st/constitution.htm).

**RESEARCHING MOROCCAN LEGISLATION:** Morocco has a bicameral legislature. A description of the legislature can be found at [http://mincom.gov.ma/english/generalities/state\\_st/chamber.html](http://mincom.gov.ma/english/generalities/state_st/chamber.html). All of the Parliamentary actives are published in the Official Gazette, *al-Jaridah al-rasmiyah*, which is published in Arabic and French. LC has issues from 1970.

**PALESTINE.** The Palestinian Constitution can be found at <http://www.imra.org.il/story.php3?id=15523>

A brief overview of Palestinian legal history can be found at <http://lawcenter.birzeit.edu/overview/ottoman.html>

**RESEARCHING PALESTINIAN LEGISLATION:** Bir Zeit University has a database that contains all of the legislation enacted in Palestine since the middle of the nineteenth century. It is known as Al-Muqtafi and is described at this web site: <http://lawcenter.birzeit.edu/databank.html>. However, a subscription is required with user ID and a password to search for legislation, which is available in English. See above also for Palestine under Israel, the pre-1948 era.

**SAUDI ARABIA.** The Saudi Arabian constitution can be found at [http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sa00000\\_html](http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sa00000_html)

**RESEARCHING SAUDI ARABIAN LEGISLATION:** Saudi Arabia is a monarchy; all laws and regulations are the product of a regulatory authority and various councils. All statutes are published in the Official Gazette. I am not aware if it is published in any language except Arabic. The current name of the Gazette is *Umm al-Qur*.



**THE SUDAN.** The Sudanese Constitution can be found at <http://www.sudan.net/government/constitution/english.html>

**RESEARCHING SUDANESE LEGISLATION:** The Sudanese Parliament is not currently meeting and was suspended in 1999. Information about the Parliament (unicameral) can be found at <http://www.sudan.net>. Laws and regulations are published in the Sudan Gazette, known today as *Republic of the Sudan gazette*. See also <http://www.emory.edu/IFL/legal/sudan.htm> or information on the Sudanese Legal System. LC has some issues of the Gazette.

**SYRIA.** The Constitution of Syria can be located at <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/sy00000.html>

**RESEARCHING SYRIAN LEGISLATION:** Information on the Syrian Parliament can be found at <http://syria-people-counsel.org/english/about/html>.

The rules for the parliament can be located at <http://www.undp-pogar.org/countries/syria/legislature.html>. Laws and regulations are published in the Official Gazette, known today as *Al-Jaridah al rasmiyah Al-Jumuriyah al-Arabiyah al Suriyah*. This is available only in Arabic from the Library of Congress. The Gazette was published in Arabic and French from 1932 to about 1940.

**TUNISIA.** The Tunisian Constitution can be found at <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ts00000.html>

**RESEARCHING TUNISIAN LEGISLATION:** Tunisian legislative activities are recorded in the Tunisian Official Journal, *Journal officiel de la Republique tunisienne*. Published in Arabic and French, it can be accessed at this web site (French only): <http://www.codi-net.com/index.asp>. LC receives the French version and has older archived issues. See also <http://www.jurisitetunisie.com/>, also only in French, for Tunisian laws.

**TURKEY.** The Turkish Constitution is located at <http://www.tbmm.gov.tr/anayasa/constitution.htm>

**RESEARCHING TURKISH LEGISLATION:** A description of the Turkish legislative process can be found at <http://www.mfa.gov.tr/grupc/cc/cca/bl.htm>. The laws establishing the parliament, called the Grand National Assembly, can be found at <http://www.hri.org/docs/turkey/law3361.html>.

The records of the Grand National Assembly are kept in the Official Gazette, known as *Takvim-i Vakai*. This is published only in Turkish. LC has archived issues (1835-1922) known as the Ottoman Official Gazette.

**YEMEN.** The Constitution of Yemen is located at <http://www.oefre.unibe.ch/law/icl/ym00000.html>.

**RESEARCHING YEMENI LEGISLATION:** For a description of the legislative process in Yemen, see this web site: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/legislature/wahby1/section6a.html>. There is a link to the Yemeni House of Parliament, but it appears to be only in Arabic: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/legislature/wahby1/section6a.html>. There is an Official Gazette that records the actions of Parliament, available in Arabic and English. The title of the Gazette is *al-Jar'idah al-rasm'iyah - Jumh'ur'iyat al-Yaman al-D'imuqr'at'iyah al-Sha'b'iyah*. LC receives both versions.

## CONCLUSION

This guide is designed to be a starting point for researching current and past Middle Eastern Legislation. The political situation in the Middle East is very volatile, and that can dictate the pace of enactment of new legislation. Laws in effect today can be nullified overnight. Nevertheless, the information compiled above will enable you to begin your research. ■

CAL INFO AD



## DOING RESEARCH IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Susan M. Ryan  
Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

**IN DECEMBER 2003, THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE** of the Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC sponsored a program on conducting research in the District of Columbia and in Maryland. This article is an outgrowth of the D.C. portion of that program. This article will cover both print and online sources for statutes, cases and regulations, along with helpful secondary sources. Where prices are mentioned for print materials, they do not include the cost of updating. Where prices for online services are given, they are per transaction, for non-academic customers only and do not reflect any discounts.

### STATUTES IN PRINT

The *District of Columbia Official Code*, 2001 edition, is published by Thomson/West. An unofficial version of the Code is published by LexisNexis. The previous edition of the Code was published in 1981 and enjoyed a checkered history, including several years when no updates were published. As the statutes were both re-published and re-codified in 2001, both versions of the current Code include tables to convert citations from the 1981 edition to the corresponding 2001 edition citations. As one would expect, both versions also include a subject index to facilitate access to the Code and both are annotated with citations to cases and secondary sources. A complete set of the West Code is \$600.00, and a complete set of the Lexis Code is \$1000.00.

### STATUTES ONLINE

Not surprisingly, the *D.C. Official Code* (published by West) is available on Westlaw; the database identifier is DC-ST-ANN and the cost of a search is \$58.00. The *Lexis D.C. Code* is available on Lexis by following this path: States Legal – U.S. / District of Columbia / DC – District of Columbia Code Annotated. The price to search is \$40.00. In addition to these subscription services, a free, unannotated version of the *D.C. Official Code* is available on the web at <http://dcode.westgroup.com/home/dccodes/default.wl>. The free version of the Code is as current as the Westlaw version, but offers fewer searching options than either Westlaw or Lexis.

### CASES IN PRINT

The District of Columbia, like the 50 states, has a local court system and a federal court system. Cases from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia are reported in *West's Federal Supplement* and *West's Federal Supplement 2d*. Cases from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit are reported in *Federal*

*Reporter*, *West's Federal Reporter 2d* and *West's Federal Reporter 3d*. Both District Court and Circuit Court cases are covered in the *Federal Practice Digest* series. Thus, finding federal cases from the District of Columbia is no different than finding federal cases from any of the states.

The local court system in D.C. has two levels: D.C. Superior Court, which is the trial level court, and the D.C. Court of Appeals, which is the court of last resort. There is no intermediate appellate court in the District of Columbia. Cases from the D.C. Court of Appeals are printed in *West's Atlantic Reporter* and *West's Atlantic Reporter 2d*. They are covered in *Atlantic Digest* and *West's Atlantic Digest 2d*. Cases from the Superior Court are much harder to find. Selected opinions are published in the *Daily Washington Law Reporter*; annual subscriptions are \$250.00.

### CASES ONLINE

D.C. federal cases from both the District and Circuit court levels are available on Lexis and Westlaw. The Westlaw database identifier is DCTDC for the District Court cases and CTADC for the Circuit Court cases. The cost to search either database is \$38.00. D.C. Circuit Court cases are available on Lexis by following this path: Federal Legal – U.S. / Circuit Court Cases – by Circuit / US Court of Appeals Cases – District of Columbia Circuit. D.C. District Court cases are available by following this path: Federal Legal – U.S. / District Court Cases – by Circuit / District of Columbia Circuit – US District Court Cases. The cost to search either database is \$40.00. Cases from the D.C. Circuit Court are available for free on the web at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/federal/judicial/cadc.cfm>. This site contains opinions dating back to February 1995 and has a search function. Opinions from the D.C. District Court are available at the court's homepage: <http://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/district-court.html>. This site contains opinions dating back to 1998 and allows keyword searching.

For local court cases, both Lexis and Westlaw have cases from the D.C. Court of Appeals. On Westlaw, the database identifier is DC-CS and the cost to search is \$44.00. On Lexis, the cases are available by following the path: States Legal – U.S. / District of Columbia / DC Cases, Combined. The cost to search is \$40.00. Neither service has cases from the D.C. Superior Court. There is a CD-ROM of Superior Court opinions published by the Daily Washington Law Reporter at a cost of \$449.95 that contains the text of decisions from 1972 to 2001. Opinions from the D.C. Court of Appeals are available for free on



the web at [http://www.dcbbar.org/for\\_lawyers/courts/court\\_of\\_appeals/opinions.cfm](http://www.dcbbar.org/for_lawyers/courts/court_of_appeals/opinions.cfm). This site has opinions dating back to August 1998 and allows keyword searching. Superior Court opinions are not available on the web.

#### **REGULATIONS IN PRINT**

The official publication for D.C. regulations is the *District of Columbia Municipal Regulations* or DCMR. For many years, the DCMR was so out-of-date as to be almost unusable, however, in recent years it has improved somewhat. It is still not a publication for the novice researcher or the faint of heart. The cost of a full set is \$627.00. R.T. Associates publishes the *DCMR Deskbook*, which provides some help to the user. It gives a table of contents for all the DCMR titles with chapter and section breakdowns, a table of authorities and a subject index. The cost for this publication is \$85.00.

A far more useful, albeit much more expensive, source for D.C. regulations is the *Weil's Code of D.C. Municipal Regulations*. Published in looseleaf format, it is updated monthly and contains such useful finding aids as a subject index and a table of authorities. The cost of the set is \$1580.00.

#### **REGULATIONS ONLINE**

The availability of D.C. regulations online is vastly different for academic customers than for other subscribers, so each customer base will be treated separately. For all customers except law schools, the Weil's code is available on both Lexis and Westlaw. It is current and fully searchable on both systems. On Westlaw, the database identifier is DC-ADC and the cost to search is \$44.00. On Lexis, the Weil's code is available by following this path: States Legal – U.S. / District of Columbia / DC – Weil's Code of DC Municipal Regulations. The cost to search is \$40.00.

For academic customers, the options are much less attractive. An older version of the Weil's Code, currently up-to-date as of December 2003, is available on Westlaw for full-text searching with the database identifier DC-ADC03. Academic customers can search the current text on Lexis only by using the "Get a Document" feature. Thus, one would need to run a full-text search on Westlaw to get the correct citation, and then run another search on Lexis to update one's results. This is unwieldy to say the least. In addition, this situation is subject to change. Over the course of the last two or three years, the availability of the Weil's code for aca-

OFFICE MOVERS AD

**[THE DCMR] IS  
STILL NOT A  
PUBLICATION  
FOR THE NOVICE  
RESEARCHER  
OR THE FAINT  
OF HEART.**

demographic customers on Lexis and Westlaw has ranged from full-text searching of the current version to no access at all.

Free web access to the DCMR has recently become available through the DC Government Web site. A "basic" version of the DCMR, which allows access only by browsing through the titles of the code, is available at [http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates\\$fn=main-nf.htm&vid=dcmr:free](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates$fn=main-nf.htm&vid=dcmr:free). An "advanced" version offers full-text searching, but at a cost of \$120 per year. Other pricing models are available; information is available at <http://os.dc.gov/os/cwp/view.asp?a=1206&q=522371>.

**D.C. REGISTER – LEGISLATIVE/  
ADMINISTRATIVE HYBRID**

The District of Columbia first publishes all enacted legislation and all regulations in one place, the *District of Columbia Register*. Most states and the federal government have separate publications for legislative information and regulatory information, but in the District, everything is published in one place. The *Register* appears weekly and contains copies of D.C. Council documents, including resolutions, notices of hearings and enacted

legislation; copies of public hearings and final and proposed rulemaking from executive agencies; and copies of Mayor's Orders.

The *Register* is available in print, on Lexis and Westlaw and free on the Web. The print subscription costs \$195.00 per year. Westlaw's coverage begins with volume 46, issue 1, dated January 1, 1999. The database identifier is DC-ADR and the cost to search is \$44.00. On Lexis, coverage begins with volume 45, issue 1, dated January 2, 1998. The path for the *D.C. Register* is States Legal – U.S. / District of Columbia / Statutes and Regulations / DC – District of Columbia Register. The cost to search is \$40.00. The *Register* is available to both private and academic customers. There is now a free version of the *Register* available through the DC Government Web site, [http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$vid=dcr:free](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates$fn=default.htm$vid=dcr:free). This site offers issues dating back to April 18, 2003.

**HELPFUL SECONDARY SOURCES**

D.C. research can be daunting, but there are some sources of assistance available. Prime among them is the book, *Legal Research in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia*, by Leah F. Chanin, Pamela J. Gregory and Sarah K. Wiant. The D.C. section includes a general history of D.C. governmental organization and information about researching statutes, regulations and cases. A third edition is currently in production; if you will be conducting research in any of these jurisdictions, it is a worthy addition to your reference collection. The second edition is available for purchase for \$65.00 from the William S. Hein Co.

Another useful source is the *D.C. Practice Manual*. Updated annually, it is published by the District of Columbia Bar and contains sections on finding D.C. law generally and on finding the law on various specific subjects. Currently in its 12<sup>th</sup> edition, the cost to purchase is \$185.00

The librarians at the Georgetown University Law Library maintain a District of Columbia Research Guide, which is available to anyone free of charge at [http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/sass/dc\\_guide.html](http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/sass/dc_guide.html). Updated annually, this guide was designed specifically for law students working as summer associates, but the information contained in the guide is helpful to anyone doing research in the District. ■

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**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ARE THE PRIMARY INSTRUMENTS** by which Congress has managed its daily business for most of the last two centuries. From their origins as temporary ad hoc legislative drafting bodies at the beginning of the Republic they have acquired the characteristics of set jurisdictions, professional staffs and relative permanence. Besides their role in crafting legislation, they have become the instruments through which Congress oversees executive agencies and participates in formulating national policy.

Congressional committees fall into four broad categories: standing, select, special and joint. Of the four, standing Committees are the workhorses of Congress. They are permanent bodies<sup>1</sup> created by resolution or statute and authorized to examine and report out legislation within their jurisdiction to the full House or Senate. They also oversee legislation and federal agencies within their jurisdiction, and conduct hearings, investigations and studies. There are currently (by informal count) seventeen standing committees in the Senate and nineteen in the House, not counting Joint Committees or the House and Senate select intelligence committees. A few examples of standing committees include the House and Senate committees on agriculture, appropriations, armed services, banking, commerce and foreign relations, which as their names suggest have jurisdictions corresponding with major sectors within the economy or major national policy concerns.

Select committees and special committees by contrast have a more limited role. They are, in theory, temporary committees created for a special purpose, often investigative in nature and may be dissolved once that purpose is completed. They may hold hearings, or issue reports but do not generally report out legislation. Garrison Nelson in *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Vol. 2* notes that while the original distinction between select and special committees was that the former were created by the presiding officers of the House and Senate and the latter by parties or floor leaders, now the basic practical difference is that select committees are usually longer lived.<sup>2</sup> The term of a special committee is usually reckoned to fall within the two-year life span of a Congress, while select committees may span several Congresses. The current roster of special and select committees, however, is replete with exceptions to this rule: the Senate Special Aging Committee, formed in 1961, for example, is a permanent committee even though it does not report out legislation. The Senate Special Ethics Committee has been in existence since the 95<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent

Select Committee on Intelligence are, in fact, permanent standing committees, which do report out legislation. The House Select Committee on Homeland Security, (currently the only House select committee) exercises oversight over the Department of Homeland Security – although not exclusively – and is authorized to report out related legislation, although it has reported out very little. It is a select committee only in that it is set to expire at the end of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, although at that point it may be made a permanent standing committee<sup>3</sup>.

Joint committees — at least as they currently exist — are different kinds of entities entirely. They may be temporary or permanent bodies. Their defining characteristic is a membership composed of equal numbers of Representatives and Senators. Currently there are four permanent joint committees and their functions are either advisory or administrative in nature. The Joint Tax Committee provides professional tax staff support for the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees but does not itself report out legislation. The Joint Economic Committee is also advisory, charged with examining national economic and budgetary issues. The Joint Committee on the Library of Congress and the Joint Committee on Printing provide oversight for the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office. It should be noted, however, that the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 conceived of joint committees as instruments for fostering collaboration between the House and the Senate. Indeed, as recently as the early 1970's, the Joint Atomic Energy Committee did report out legislation and oversee the nation's atomic energy program. Still, of the twelve joint committees named in the 1950's, none survives.<sup>4</sup>

The somewhat elastic nature of committee categories derives largely from the fact that neither the Constitution, federal law nor congressional rules established the committee system. Rather committees are formed singly and at different historical periods, often to handle some exigency and draw their structure largely from the work they are required to perform. They often evolve, expanding in size or jurisdiction, become consolidated into other committees, change their names, or are dissolved once their usefulness has passed. The current committee structure is the sum of surviving committees and subcommittees, together with the laws and resolutions that created them, and the rules, precedents and inter-party agreements governing such things as jurisdiction, chairmanships, numbers of assignments per member, staffing and party ratios in

## **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, PART I**

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Library of Medicine and  
Rick McKinney, Federal  
Reserve Board Law Library*

determining committee makeup. It is by examining the process of committee evolution that we can best understand the committee system, particularly by focusing on standing committees, the engines behind the legislative process.

#### **EARLY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES AND THE USE OF SELECT COMMITTEES**

To set the stage for the emergence of standing committees, it is useful to outline the legislative process as it was practiced in the House of Representatives during the early Congresses. In the House, the process of enacting legislation began not, as a rule, with the introduction of a bill, but with a broad discussion of a legislative proposal, often presented to the chamber in the form of a petition, memorial, resolution, or a message from the President. After the matter was discussed by the whole chamber, and the broad purpose of the legislation established, an ad hoc, or “select” committee would be appointed to draft a bill incorporating the chamber’s instructions, after which it would be returned to the full House.<sup>5</sup> Once a select committee’s task was completed, it would be dissolved. The full chamber would then proceed to debate, and generally pass the bill.<sup>6</sup> It should be noted that although similar procedures were employed by the Senate during the first decades of the Republic, the Senate did not generally initiate major legislation, but rather acted upon bills that were first introduced and passed by the House. The extensive use of select committees, and subsequent consideration by the full chamber ensured that the full House or Senate could maintain control and enforce a high degree of consensus over the legislative process.

Over the course of several Congresses, however, the inconvenience of legislative select committees became apparent. Not only did the House and Senate have to appoint a select committee for each new legislative proposal, but the process of discussing a proposal, having the committee draft a bill, and then debating it again meant that legislation had to be debated twice by the entire chamber before a floor vote could occur. In the early Congresses, because of their smaller size — the House, for example, had only 59 members during the first Congress — this procedure functioned reasonably well.<sup>7</sup>

Population increases, however, and the resulting growth in House membership would change this. As a consequence of the 1790 census, House membership rose from 59 to 106; after 1800 it reached 142, more than double its initial size.<sup>8</sup> As membership increased it became virtually impossible, given the press of business brought by the

new members, to create select committees for each bill. The third Congress, for example, raised over 350 select committees.<sup>9</sup>

#### **THE EMERGENCE OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing committees, by providing continuity and defined jurisdictions, promised a means of managing the chaos. Within their structure, members could develop an area of expertise and the competence to effectively handle a higher volume of legislation. Both the House and the Senate experimented with quasi-permanent select committees before moving to true standing committees. The House, for example, borrowed from the experience of Pennsylvania by using its Ways and Means Committee as a model for the House Ways and Means Committee, which was initially created as a select committee in July 1789.<sup>10</sup> While it was dissolved shortly after its creation, it reappeared, essentially, as a continuing select committee in 1795. In 1802 it was established as a true standing committee.

The example of the House Ways and Means Committee illustrates another reason that the House moved slowly in creating permanent committees. The executive departments were being created during this same period, and with their creation, the shape and perquisites of both Congress and the executive branch were being defined. Within the framework of British ministerial government, a model of national government toward which many of the Federalists and even Jeffersonians initially leaned, executive departments often performed the study functions later assumed by congressional committees.

It is generally believed that Alexander Hamilton had the first select Ways and Means Committee killed by persuading House members that the Treasury Department would handle its functions. Indeed, within a week of Hamilton’s appointment as Secretary of the Treasury on September 11, 1789, the Ways and Means Committee was dissolved, and its business “was referred to the Secretary of the Treasury to report thereon.”<sup>11</sup> The State Department under Jefferson and the War Department also handled legislation referred to them by the House.<sup>12</sup> Several years later the House revived the Ways and Means Committee, in part as an assertion of its own prerogatives over revenues. In the revival of Ways and Means we can see an early example of Congress using a standing committee as an instrument to counterbalance the authority of a parallel Executive department.

During this period of institutional experimentation the House created several standing

**[C]OMMITTEES ARE FORMED SINGLY AND AT DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS, OFTEN TO HANDLE SOME EXIGENCY AND DRAW THEIR STRUCTURE LARGELY FROM THE WORK THEY ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM.**



committees. In 1794 it formed a Committee on Claims to handle the private bills that clogged its calendar. The following year it formed the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (which continues today as the House Energy and Commerce Committee). In its first 25 years, the House created 14 standing committees including Public Lands (1805) and Judiciary (1813). By 1825 there were 28 committees, including Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Naval Affairs and Military Affairs. Along with the growth of standing committees came new House procedures. By 1830 legislation was routinely referred to committees without first being discussed in the House chamber and by the end of the decade, all House committees could report out legislation.<sup>13</sup>

Although increases in House membership and the press of business were responsible for the creation of many standing committees, such as the House Committee on Claims, many committees represented an attempt by Congress to promote “special interests” within the country or to establish an oversight or policy role. The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, for example, represented an attempt to promote American manufacturers. The Committee on Public Lands, created after Jefferson’s 1803 Louisiana Purchase, reflected, in part, the House’s displeasure about being kept ignorant of this transaction, and an assertion of its right to be consulted about any future such undertakings.

While the standing committee system grew rapidly in the House, it evolved more slowly in the Senate and remained far less important in that body until after the Civil War. The Senate, like the House, experimented with quasi-permanent select committees, or “sessional” committees as they were called in the Senate. Beginning in 1806, the Senate adopted the practice of creating sessional committees with set jurisdictions and referring to them jurisdiction specific legislation during that session. It was a relatively small step from this procedure to creating standing committees. Still, it was not until 1816 that the Senate created any standing committees with a legislative jurisdiction. In that year it raised twelve, including Finance, Commerce and Manufactures, Foreign Relations, Public Lands, Naval Affairs, Claims and the Judiciary.<sup>14</sup> By the Civil War the Senate had only 22 standing committees compared to 39 for the House.<sup>15</sup>

In part this reflected the Senate’s smaller size, which allowed for unrestricted debate and amendment and thus made initial action in the committee less important. It also derived from the fact that the Senate during this period usually did

not initiate new legislation, but rather considered measures passed by the House. Senate committees were, therefore, less important than their House counterparts as gatekeepers.

Senate Committees prior to 1846 were also far less important because they were often poor instruments for effecting party policy. Because their members were chosen variously by ballot, by the President Pro Tem of the Senate or by others methods before 1846, (when the majority and minority party members agreed to use lists of committee members cleared by party caucuses), majority party leaders often could not control committees. Indeed it has been estimated that between 1819 and 1832 a fifth of Senate committees were controlled by the minority party; and that one-fourth were chaired by minority party members.<sup>16</sup>

As a result Senate leaders would often sidestep committees and perfect legislation on the Senate floor.<sup>17</sup> This difficulty was largely absent in the House where the Speaker appointed committee members and chairs, and thus exercised a far greater control over committee membership and business.

#### **CIVIL WAR AND POST CIVIL WAR ERA**

The Civil War, with its enormous demands for funding and debt repayments, led to the formation of separate appropriations committees in the House in 1865 and in the Senate in 1867.<sup>18</sup> Previously the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees exercised appropriations authority together with their revenue raising functions. By 1899, as a result of rules changes, the bulk of appropriations authority was taken over by other committees until nearly 20 committees took part in the appropriations process. The distribution of appropriations authority generally followed the jurisdictions of committees. Thus agricultural appropriations devolved upon the House and Senate Agriculture committees, and Post Office appropriations fell to the post office committees etc. This decentralization of appropriations authority is generally ascribed to a desire by interested committees to exert greater control over programs within their jurisdiction.

The post-Civil War period saw a major expansion of the committee system. By 1918 the House had almost 60 committees while the Senate had 74.<sup>19</sup> Population increases and economic growth impelled the formation of many new committees created to serve developing industries like railroads, mining, banking and the merchant marine.

The press of legislation and the need to give priority to more important bills led the House to create, as a standing committee, the Rules Committee in 1880. The Rules Committee, which had

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existed in prior congresses as a select committee, was authorized in the 1880's to report special orders determining which bills would be debated, and the amendments that would be in order. It thus not only gave great personal power to the Speaker, who until 1910 was made a member, but afforded the Committee a large degree of control over legislation reported out by other committees.<sup>20</sup>

The period also saw changes in the means by which committee members were chosen. On the House side, the Speaker still generally appointed committee members and chairmen, a practice since 1790.<sup>21</sup> The ouster of Joseph G. Cannon as Speaker in 1911, however, brought with it a major change in the House committee assignment process. The power to appoint committee members was given to Democratic and Republican Party groups.

The Senate used a variety of methods during the 1800's for determining appointments. These included choice by ballot, by the President Pro Tem, by the Vice President, and, in the mid-1840's by lists drawn up by leaders of the two major parties, and then by the President Pro Tem again. By 1846 the Senate had essentially returned to the system of accepting lists drawn up by the major parties, in which seniority figured heavily. That system with some modifications has continued into the 21st century.<sup>22</sup>

**CONSOLIDATION OF COMMITTEES AND  
BUDGETARY REFORM**

While the 1800's saw the development and expansion of standing committees, the 20th century was generally characterized by amalgamation, reform and the growth of subcommittees and congressional staffs.

The first major order of business for the House and the Senate in early 1900's was reducing the huge number of committees accreted from the 19th century and consolidating the appropriations process. As Garrison Nelson notes in his preface to *Committees in Congress, 1947-1992*, by 1914 "the committee system of the Senate was in danger of outnumbering the membership." There were 74 committees and 96 senators in that year.<sup>23</sup> Senate committees such as the long inactive Committee on Revolutionary Claims – created to provide pensions for revolutionary war widows – were typical of the deadwood that had accumulated over the century, serving no purpose but to provide members with office space and staff. It was by eliminating such inactive committees and by consolidating its appropriations committees that the Senate in 1921 cut 40 committees, trimming its committee roster from 74 to 34.<sup>24</sup>

The House, which had 61 standing committees in 1914, managed a somewhat smaller reduction. In 1920 it consolidated jurisdiction over appropriations into one appropriations committee. In 1927 the House folded eleven committees that handled oversight of government expenditures into a single committee for an overall reduction of 18 committees.<sup>25</sup>

Behind the consolidation of appropriations lay an attempt to rationalize the entire federal and congressional budgeting procedures. Before 1920 there was no national budget process. The Secretary of the Treasury transmitted annual budget requests from the various federal agencies to the eight House committees handling appropriations. Following their consideration the measures would be handled by separate committees in the Senate. The process produced great jurisdictional overlap, inefficiency and waste.

The Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 was the first step in rationalizing the federal budget process. The Act created a Bureau of the Budget to consolidate federal agency spending estimates and send one comprehensive annual budget to Congress. The Act also created the General Accounting Office to help Congress monitor government expenditures.<sup>26</sup>

**LEGISLATIVE REORGANIZATION ACT  
OF 1946**

With the expansion of executive power during the Roosevelt Administration, Congress felt itself relegated to a kind of secondary status, burdened with a heavy work load, overlapping committee jurisdictions and inadequate staffing, factors that also hindered it in asserting an effective role in policy formulation. To study these problems, Congress created the first Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress in 1945. As a result of its recommendations, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 was enacted, which reduced the Senate's then 33 committees to 15 and the House's 48 committees to 19.<sup>27</sup> The Act also merged committee jurisdictions and transformed many standing committees into subcommittees, a process that – initially, at least – greatly enhanced the power of the remaining chairmen. A kind of jurisdictional pairing was also established between House and Senate committees such that both bodies had banking, tax and foreign relations committees, with roughly corresponding jurisdictions. As the Final Report of the third Joint Committee on Congress noted in 1993 the 1946 Act also, for the first time, incorporated committee jurisdictions within the rules of each chamber.<sup>28</sup>

The Act also allowed committees to hire as



many as four professional and six clerical staffers, and it expanded the staff of the Legislative Reference Service, (the predecessor of the Congressional Research Service), giving committees greater competence in handling complicated policy issues. The Act further required that committees, where possible, open hearings to the public, keep accurate records and insure that bills once passed would be quickly reported out.<sup>29</sup> Finally, the Legislative Reorganization formalized the legislative oversight function of committees, a role that committees had played in practice since their founding, albeit without explicit legislative authorization.<sup>30</sup>

The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 created the basic short roster of House and Senate standing committee that survives today. It also underlies today's system of professional and clerical staffing, and stands as a kind of first step in the process of opening up committee activities and records to public scrutiny. Perhaps most interestingly, the Act set the agenda for reform over the next half century as much through its unanticipated, as through its implicit consequences. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, by reducing the number of full committees and then failing to limit the number of subcommittees, produced an explosion of subcommittees in the House and Senate. At the beginning of the 81<sup>st</sup> Congress (1949), for example, there were only about 60 subcommittees in the House and an equal number in the Senate. By 1975, however, the number had jumped to over 145 in the House and about 120 in the Senate.<sup>31</sup> The proliferation led junior members with subcommittee chairmanships to press for more staffing and a greater role in policy making, which, in turn, tended to erode the power of full committee chairmen and diffuse the policy making process. These unintended consequences of the 1946 Act and the backlash that it subsequently produced will form much of our discussion in the second half of this paper.

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Note: Tables and other information concerning the dates of creation and prior names of many Congressional Committees can be found in four of the sources listed above: within *Congressional Committee Prints Index*, "Jurisdictional Histories" pp. 641-657 is a history of many major committees from the beginning of the Republic until 1969; within *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992* is a more exhaustive committee listing (although one limited to committees existing during the 1947-1992 time period); In McConachie's *Congressional Committees...* pp. 348-358, are tables of the histories of major committees existing up to the time when he wrote in 1898; and finally the article *Congress and the Presidency* contains a list of all select committees created between the 1st and 20th Congresses (1789-1828).

#### ENDNOTES

1 "Permanent" is a relative term. House Committees must be reconstituted each Congress as the House, unlike the Senate is not a continuing body. Also both House and Senate can dissolve standing committees at their discretion.

2 Nelson, Garrison, et al. *Committees in the U.S. Congress 1947-1992, Vol. 2: Committee Histories and Member Assignments*, Washington D.C., Congressional Quarterly, Inc. 1994, at 981.

3 RollCall, *House Homeland Panel Needs Own Jurisdiction*. March 9, 2004, at 4.

4 Id. at xviii. Note that conference committees represent a category omitted from this discussion because they are ad hoc, generally very short lived, and narrowly focused on reconciling House and Senate versions of particular bills.

5 Cooper, Joseph and Young, Cheryl, *Bill Introduction in the Nineteenth Century: A Study in Institutional Change*, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Feb. 1989, at 69, 71. See also Harlow, Ralph Volney, *The History of Legislative Methods In the Period Before 1825*, Yale Historical Publications Miscellany V, Yale Univ. Press, 1917 at 2234. See also Smith, Steven S. and Deering, Christopher J, *Committees in Congress*, 2nd ed. Washington, D.C., CQ Press, 1990, at 26.

6 As a further example of the difference between the legislative process as practiced in the early Congresses, in the House, individual members could not introduce bills unless they first received approval from the entire chamber to do so. Id. Cooper and Young, at 69.

7 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 26.

8 *Guide to Congress*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., Washington, D.C. CQ Press, Inc. 1991, at 39, 40.

9 McConachie, Lauros G., *Congressional Committees: A Study of Origins and Development of Our National and Local Legislative Methods*, New York, N.Y. Burt Franklin Reprints 1973 at 124.

10 Harlow, Ralph Volney, supra note 5, at 129-30.

11 Id. at 130-133.

12 Id. 135; for a discussion of the Jeffersonians' approach to standing committees and ministerial government see

Cooper, Joseph, *The Origins of the Standing Committees and the Development of the Modern House*, Rice University Studies, Vol 56, No. 3 Summer 1970, William Marsh Rice University, Houston Texas, pgs. 1-41 passim.

13 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 28, 29. (It is interesting to note, however, that although standing committees came to exercise autonomy in reporting legislation, legislation referred to them continued to be in the form of petitions, memorials, messages from the President and the like. It was not until a long series of rules changes beginning in the late 1830s and ending around 1890 that bill introduction by members was established. See Cooper and Young; supra note 5, at 89-96).

14 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 28. See also *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8 at 540-541 which puts the number formed in 1816 at 11, and McConachie, supra note 9, at 349-358, for a listing of dates of creation of many committees.

15 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 25 for chart on numbers of committees per given time periods. See also *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 540 for a chart showing creation dates for some committees.

16 Kravitz, Walter, *The Evolution of the Senate's Committee System*, The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, January 1974, at 31-32.

17 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 30.

18 Nelson, supra note 2, at 910. For a discussion of the formation and history of the Senate Appropriations Committee see also United States Senate, Committee on Appropriations, 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1867-2002 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, Document No. 11, U.S. GPO, Washington, D.C. at 8.

19 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 33-34.

20 Galloway, George B. *History of the House of Representatives*, New York, N.Y., Thomas Y. Crowell Co.1969, 104. See also *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 541.

21 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 27. See also Harlow, Ralph Volney, *The History of Legislative Methods In the Period Before 1825*, Yale University Press, 1917, pgs. 249-56 passim.

22 *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 541. See also Smith and Deering, supra note 7, at 31.

23 Nelson, supra note 2, at 969. See also *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 544.

24 Id. *Guide to Congress*, at 544.

25 Galloway, supra note 20, at 65.

26 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 37; see also Oleszek, Walter J. *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., Congressional Quarterly, Inc. 1984, at 233.

27 Smith and Deering, supra note 5 at 39. See also id. Oleszek, at 225-6. See also *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 64.

28 *Organization of Congress: Final Report of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress*, December 1993, <http://www.house.gov/rules/jcoc2c.htm>

29 *Guide to Congress*, supra note 8, at 63-64. For a summary history of the Legislative Reorganization Act see Goodwin, George, Jr. *The Little Legislatures, Committees of Congress*, Univ. of Mass. Press, c, 1970, at 18-30.

30 Oleszek, supra note 26, at 226.

31 Smith and Deering, supra note 5, at 43. See also *Final Report of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress*, supra note 29 ■



WESTLAW AD

## **LAW LIBRARY MENTORING: WHOM ARE WE GUIDING INTO OUR PROFESSION?**

Susan M. Ryan,  
Seyfarth Shaw, LLP

**LAST SPRING, THEN PLL-VICE PRESIDENT JIM WALTHER** coordinated an informal discussion of law librarians in LLSDC about how future librarians could be mentored in our society and our profession. The facilitated group discussion gave the members present an opportunity to consider, *What could we as a society do to develop future law librarians in Washington, D.C.?* These thoughts are a synthesis of what we as an organization may consider.

### **THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING LIBRARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**

We thought the guiding force to any mentoring program would be involving the right people early on as we developed a formal program. These included: the LLSDC board and membership, a mentoring task-force or committee, a team of members to visit library school classes or trade show events, faculty contacts and library school deans. No program will be productive if it falls into an organizational vacuum, either on our end or at our two local library schools. Having active members more directly involved in library schools and in a library school student's life, would make the program more visible to the library school population.

### **WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO US? WHY DOES THIS MATTER TO THE SOCIETY?**

Without exposure to our slice of the information society, library school students may not consider law librarianship an option. Clearly, one reason for this is that local library schools teach legal research with practitioners as adjuncts, rather than creating a specialized law library track with on campus faculty, as in other library schools. While the lack of a comprehensive course of study is one issue, lack of knowledge is another. Graduate students probably have no idea of the diversity of job opportunities and career paths in law firm or law school libraries. A mentoring program would work both to educate students and to market the benefits of the profession as a career choice.

### **EXAMPLES ELSEWHERE**

In examining what LLSDC may take into account as options, some good examples already exist.

#### **AALL Mentoring**

The charge to the national committee on mentoring states the committee "shall be responsible for providing information and networking opportunities by advising and mentoring newer Association members or those contemplating job changes or desiring career guidance. To accomplish this goal the committee will plan, promote and present the Annual Conference of Newer

Law Librarians (CONELL) and pursue additional efforts to orient newer members to the benefits and opportunities of Association membership. (Approved by the Executive Board, October, 1999 Board Meeting Tab 8, 8A, page 2768-2769)". Within the national membership exists a great example of developing future leaders into our profession. [http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor\\_project.html](http://www.aallnet.org/committee/mentoring/mentor_project.html)

### **CONELL**

The CONELL program offers those new to law librarianship an opportunity to learn about the profession and to network with other "newbies." The conference is held every year at AALL and features a substantive program with speakers at different stages of their careers discussing their experiences in law librarianship. The AALL Marketplace offers new law librarians an opportunity to speak with representatives from many committees and special interest sections of AALL. The "Ask the Experts" roundtable discussions gives CONELL attendees the chance to talk in small groups to experienced law librarians from different geographic locations, hierarchical levels, areas of library work and years of experience to get a sense of what they do and how they do it. Of course, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, so CONELL ends with lunch at a local restaurant and a trip to a museum or landmark.

### **Library School Associations**

The avenue other library schools have chosen to take is to integrate alumni from their schools into mentor/protégé relationships. One such example is the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Information Studies' library science honor society Beta Rho. The honor society has a detailed mentorship program, which may be our best model for a program. The program connects students with mentor volunteers who are currently working in library or information settings of interest to the students. For more information, see: <http://www.slis.uwm.edu/mentors/MentorshipInformation.htm> Detailed forms and explanations exist on the website to show how the program is coordinated.

### **WHAT CHARACTERISTICS EXIST FOR MENTOR/PROTÉGÉ RELATIONSHIPS?**

Much discussion of mentors focused on who would be interested in working on something like this in the society. Would the program be a success if we mentored a half dozen library school students? Who would the six society members be and what should they think about before sign-





ing up? What characteristics should we look for in the matches?

#### **Characteristics of a Mentor**

- Provides a vision, broad view
- Willingness to support, counsel
- Has access to professional networks
- Has leadership experiences
- Political awareness
- Genuine interest in others
- Belief in others' capabilities
- Responsive openness, available
- Competent, authentic
- Sensitivity
- Teaching skills
- Motivator
- Strong moral and ethical fiber
- Committed to the relationship
- Able to sustain close personal relationship
- Understands others
- Objective
- Clear thinking
- Able to confront and accept

#### **Characteristics of a Protégé**

- Has potential to succeed
- Capacity for self-disclosure
- Willing to learn
- Confident to try new things
- Able to convince others of self-worth
- Good communicator
- Trusting
- Ambitious
- Internal locus of control
- High job investment
- Values relationships
- Sees relationship between personal and professional growth
- Active learner
- Direct, constant, focused

Robertson, S. C. (1992). Find a Mentor or Be One. The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

#### **CHECKLIST OF WHAT TO CONSIDER**

In terms of creating a program, our discussion last year of twenty-plus members focused on encouraging library school students to become members of LLSDC and ensuring their membership was connected to an active LLSDC member. We tried to develop a list of what type of things need to be thought through before library schools are presented with our *offer* and what the program may actually look like to students. Some thoughts to consider are:

HEIN ONLINE AD



**WITHOUT  
EXPOSURE TO  
OUR SLICE OF THE  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY, LIBRARY  
SCHOOL STUDENTS  
MAY NOT CONSIDER  
LAW LIBRARIANSHIP  
AN OPTION**

**Organizational**

- As a society, could we develop an “Adopt a Student” program, where the student is connected with an array of people rather than connected with just one person?
- Could we match the student with, for example, a cataloger at a large-national firm and a cataloger in a law school library?
- Does the association have the ability to allow students into the association during library school free of charge?
- Do we already have a mentoring culture with our new members outreach activities?
- Would we want to create mandatory connections, such as the UWM model, where students and members would fill out applications and be connected by the association to a specific person?
- Who would measure success or ensure connections were made?

**Individual**

- How much time is needed to be in a mentor/protégé relationship?
- Do I have the resources from the association, along with the skills and know-how to be a mentor?
- Should mentors/protégés meet with each

- other and students together?
- What focus should I be providing in the mentoring relationship (e.g. librarian/practitioner, examples of reference, how to become a financial manager)?
- What can I expect from the mentoring relationship?
- How long does the relationship last?

**CONCLUSION: WHAT DO WE DO NOW?**

So where do we go from here? Much has happened since our initial meeting, and mentoring has been an ongoing “thread” in a lot of LLSDC activities lately. The Society has started a focus group (similar to the Franklin Square group) at Catholic University’s library school. Members include students, faculty, alumni and a few others. So far, student interest in mentoring and job hunting has occupied much of the discussions. Perhaps those of us who are University of Maryland alums could start a similar group at College Park? There also seems to be some interest among Society members in offering internship or practicum opportunities to library school students. The PLL has also done some initial thinking about mentoring; as the largest group in the Society, their involvement is critical to any mentoring program’s success. Clearly, more discussion is needed among those most interested in pursuing a mentoring program. The checklists above could provide the basis for developing a coherent plan to present to the local library schools. A successful mentoring program will require careful planning at the start and an on-going commitment both by the Society and by those who agree to serve as mentors in the years to come.

**REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

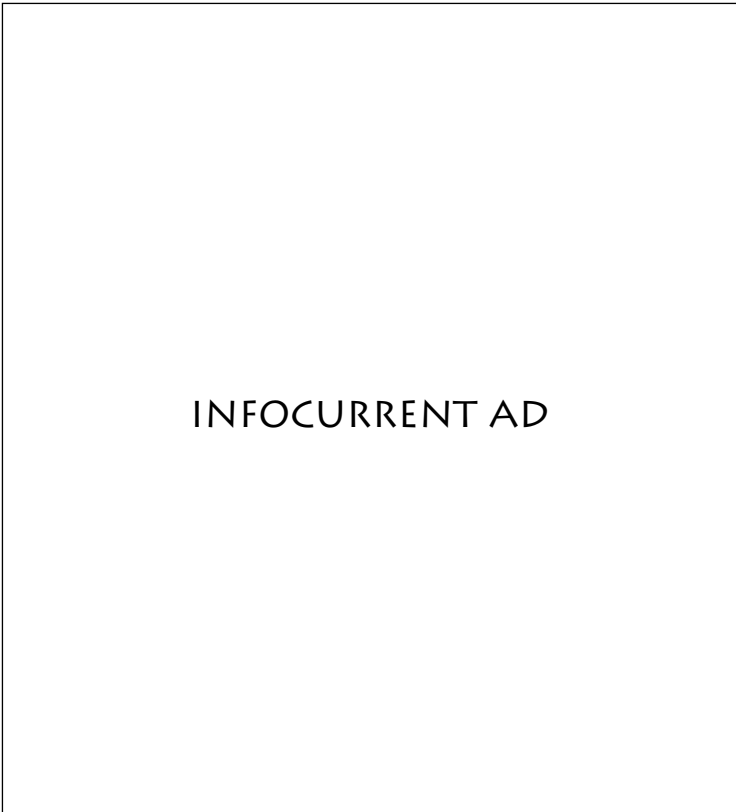
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INFOCURRENT AD



Except where noted, text for this guide is taken from the Web pages for the Federal Communications Commission.

### **BRIEF OVERVIEW – THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION:**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates interstate and foreign communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable. It is responsible for the orderly development and operation of broadcast services and the provision of rapid, efficient nationwide and worldwide telephone and telegraph services at reasonable rates. Its responsibilities also include the use of communications for promoting safety of life and property and for strengthening the national defense. The FCC was created by the Communications Act of 1934 to regulate interstate and foreign communications by wire and radio in the public interest. The scope of FCC regulation includes radio and television broadcasting; telephone, telegraph, and cable television operation; two-radio and radio operators; and satellite communication. The Commission is composed of five members, who are appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. One of the members is designated by the President as Chairman. (source: *United States Government Manual*. Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, revised June 15, 2003)

The Commission staff is organized by function. There are six operating bureaus and 10 staff offices. The bureaus' responsibilities include: processing applications for licenses and other filings; analyzing complaints; conducting investigations; developing and implementing regulatory programs; and taking part in agency and congressional hearings. The offices provide support services. The bureaus and offices regularly join forces and share expertise in addressing commission issues. Researchers are able to find specific people at the Commission by clicking on "Find People" at the right side of the top banner. As presented at <http://www.fcc.gov/aboutus>, brief functional descriptions and main telephone numbers for the bureaus and selected offices are as follows:

- **CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS BUREAU (CGB)** – educates and informs consumers about telecommunications goods and services and engages their input to help guide the work of the Commission. CGB coordinates telecommunications policy efforts with industry and with other governmental agencies – federal, tribal, state and local – in serving the public interest. The main telephone number is 202/418-1400.
- **ENFORCEMENT BUREAU** – enforces the Communications Act, as well as the Commission's rules, orders, and authorizations. The main telephone number is 202/418-7450.
- **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU** – represents the Commission in satellite and international matters. The main telephone number is 202/418-0437.
- **MEDIA BUREAU** – regulates AM/FM radio and television broadcast stations, as well as cable and satellite Multipoint Distribution and Instructional Television Fixed Services. The main telephone number is 202/418-7200.
- **WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU** – oversees cellular and PCS phones, pagers, and two-way radios. This bureau also regulates the use of radio spectrum to fulfill the communications needs of businesses, local and state governments, public safety service providers, aircraft and ship operators, and individuals. The main telephone number is 202/418-0600.
- **WIRELINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU** – responsible for rules and policies concerning telephone companies that provide interstate, and under certain circumstances, intrastate telecommunications services to the public through the use of wire-based transmission facilities (i.e., corded/cordless telephones). The main telephone number is 202/418-1500.
- **OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES** – presides over hearings and issues Initial Decisions. The main telephone number is 202/418-2280.
- **OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** – provides advice to the Commission on issues and policies concerning opportunities for ownership and contracting by small, minority and women-owned communications businesses. The main telephone number is 202/418-0990.
- **OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY** – allocates spectrum for non-government use and provides expert advice on technical issues before the Commission. The main telephone number is 202/418-2470.
- **OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY** – facilitates the Commission's decision-making process. Public inquiry tends to focus on public notice of ex parte presentations and legal notice of Commission decisions as published in the *Feder-*

## **POINT AND CLICK: INTRODUCTION TO CONDUCTING RESEARCH AT THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WEB PAGE**

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*Gloria Jean Thomas*  
Senior Research Librarian  
Federal Communications  
Commission



**RESEARCHERS ARE  
ABLE TO FIND  
SPECIFIC PEOPLE AT  
THE COMMISSION  
BY CLICKING ON  
"FIND PEOPLE" AT  
THE RIGHT SIDE OF  
THE TOP BANNER.**

*al Register* and the *FCC Record*. The main telephone number is 202/418-0300.

- **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL** – serves as chief legal advisor to the Commission's various bureaus and offices. The main telephone number is 202/418-1700.
- **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL** – conducts and supervises audits and investigations relating to the operations of the Commission. The main telephone number is 202/418-0476.

The FCC provides a national call center for public research. The toll-free telephone number is 1-888-CALL FCC (1-888-225-5322) with access for the hearing impaired at 1-888-835-.5322. The e-mail address is [fccinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:fccinfo@fcc.gov).

#### **E-GOVERNMENT AND THE FCC**

Public access to information is greatly facilitated by a federal government initiative on electronic access. The federal government implemented public access to information under the auspices of the E-Government Act of 2002, Public Law 107-347. The preamble to the E-Government Act states that it is "An Act to enhance the management and promotion of electronic Government services and processes by . . . establishing a broad framework of measures that require using Internet-based information technology to enhance citizen access to Government."

The FCC implementation of the E-Government Act has received critical acclaim. In September 2003, the Brown University, Taubman Center for Public Policy reported that it had worked with a team of researchers to examine and analyze 1,603 state Web sites as well as over 60 federal Web sites to evaluate the variety and quality of the electronic services offered. The Web sites were ranked on a 100-point scale for information and service availability, quality of citizen access, and material that would help citizens. The highest ranked federal government Web site was [FirstGov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov), which is the government-wide Web site. The second highest ranked government Web site was <http://www.fcc.gov>. The full text and press release of the Brown University study can be accessed from their Web site:

- <http://insidepolitics.org/PressRelease02.us.html> (press release)
- <http://insidepolitics.org/egovt02us.PDF> (full text of the study).

During 2003, the <http://www.fcc.gov> Web page received 243 million page views averaging 20 million page views per month with 667,000 average daily page views. Researchers starting at the federal government portal, [\[gov.gov\]\(http://www.fcc.gov\), are able to search on the term "Federal Communications Commission" and receive at least 1000 relevant results with the first result being the FCC Home Page. There is a wealth of information to be mined at the FCC Web pages. Researchers are able to access a comprehensive list of FCC electronic filing and public access systems at the <http://www.fcc.gov> home page by selecting E-Filing from the top banner.](http://www.first-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

#### **ELECTRONIC RESEARCH AT THE FCC**

At <http://www.fcc.gov>, a researcher clicks on "search" located at the top banner and is taken to the FCC Search Tools page. At the FCC Search Tools page, there are many links to FCC information. Federated (multiple database) search capability is available via FCC Search and FCC General Menu Reports (GenMen). Some of the databases available through the FCC Search Tools page include:

- **FCC SEARCH** - collects full-text information from Web pages and many types of documents including Word, WordPerfect, Acrobat, Excel and ASCII Text from the FCC's Web site and the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS).
- **FCC GENERAL MENU REPORTS (GENMEN)** - unites most of the Commission's licensing systems under this search engine. Research queries may include frequency range, state/count, location (longitude/latitude), call sign, and licensee names.
- **TOPICAL INDEX** - provides an alphabetical list of links to FCC Web pages that offer the best FCC information available on hundreds of diverse topics from access charge reform to world radio conferences.
- **ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM (ECFS)** - searches any document in ECFS including non-electronic documents that have been scanned into the system. ECFS includes data and images from 1992 onward.
- **ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EDOCS)** - searches Daily Digest entries for FCC documents posted to the FCC Web site since March 1996. The documents found at EDOCS are published in the agency reporter, the *FCC Record*. See the Appendix for more information on searching the *FCC Record*.
- **UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM (ULS)** - simplifies application and licensing processing. Researchers are able to look up applications and licenses currently on file with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. A



major enhancement to ULS is a software mapping technology that permits researchers to see the market areas of individual FCC licenses on a map.

- **BROADCAST RADIO AND TELEVISION ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM/CONSOLIDATED DATABASE SYSTEM (CDBS)** - provides the public with the ability to fill out Media Bureau application forms on-line via the World Wide Web and to file them electronically with the Media Bureau.
- **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU FILING SYSTEM (IBFS)** – accepts electronic filing of a variety of international and satellite applications.

The FCC Search Tools Web page also features a Rules and Regulations section with links to:

- US Code (FCC is codified at 47 USC)
- Code of Federal Regulation Search
- FCC Rules: CFR Title 47
- OET (Office of Engineering and Technology) Rules
- FCC's Regulations Implementing the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act)

Researchers have access to an electronic rulemaking guide that explains public contribution to Commission rulemaking. Each time Congress enacts a law affecting telecommunications, the FCC develops rules to implement the law. The commission takes various steps to develop these rules. Typically, these steps offer consumers an opportunity to submit comments and reply comments to the FCC. A rulemaking guide for navigating the process is accessed from the <http://www.fcc.gov> home page by clicking on "Rules and Regulations" in the left sidebar. The guide contains special terms with definitions as well as specific information requirements, and paper filing requirements (including numbers of copies, document type size, signatures, and delivery options).

#### **FCC-RELATED INTERNET RESEARCH LINKS**

There are non-FCC Web pages of interest to researchers. The regulatory issues before the FCC are discussed in diverse contexts. Researchers are able to find FCC information in other Web sites including:

- The House Energy and Commerce Committee communications law compilation entitled *Compilation of Selected Acts Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce: Communications Law, as amended through December 31, 2002*. <http://energycommerce.house.gov/108/pubs/108-D.pdf>

- The *Federal Register/Regulations.gov* at <http://www.regulations.gov> is a FirstGov.gov link that makes it easier for the public to participate in Federal rulemaking. At this site, it is possible find, review, and submit comments on Federal documents that are open to comment and published by the *Federal Register*.
- Library of Congress at <http://www.loc.gov/law/public> is a link where researchers may access THOMAS for legislative information. THOMAS may be accessed directly at <http://www.thomas.loc.gov>.
- Lexis is a subscription database with an established communications tab (Comm. & Telecom) for researching agency decisions, related agency court decisions, legislation, regulations, and news. The link is at <http://www.lexis.com>.
- Pike and Fischer Communications Regulations is a subscription database with legal reference services in communications and administrative law. The link is at <http://www.pf.com>.
- Westlaw is a subscription database with an established communications tab (Communications) for researching agency decision, related agency court decisions, legislation, regulations, and news. The link is at <http://www.westlaw.com>.

#### **PARTING NOTE**

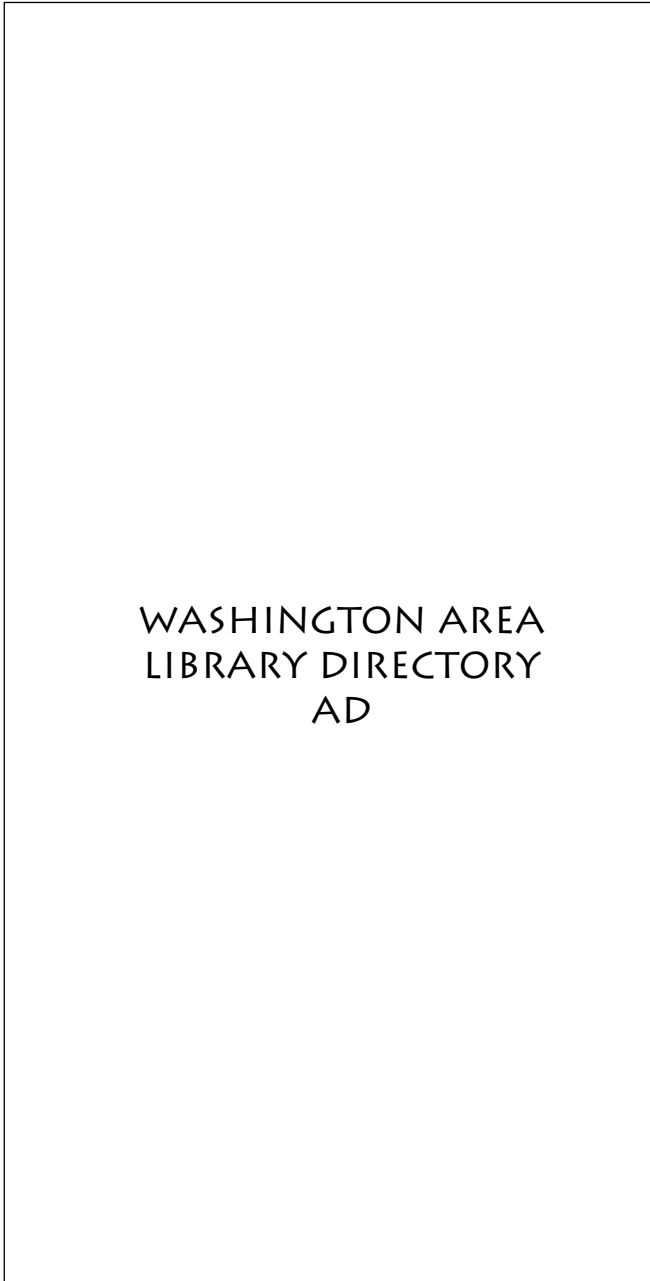
Electronic research provides an ease of access to information that is as close as a researcher's computer. Whenever inquiry exceeds the capacity of electronic research, a researcher may visit the FCC to obtain information. Sadly, it must be noted that the FCC Library has been closed to the public since December 2001. The FCC Library staff provides telephone research assistance at 202/418-0450. The public research point of contact is the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau/Reference Information Center in Room CY-A257 at 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

#### **APPENDIX: ELECTRONICALLY SEARCHING THE AGENCY REPORTER**

The official agency reporter is the *FCC Record*. The *FCC Record* is the third series of the Commission's reporter. The *FCC Reports* and the *FCC Reports, 2d Series* preceded the *FCC Record*. The *FCC Record* covers agency decisions from October 1986 to present. The *FCC Record* is searchable at <http://www.fcc.gov> through the Electronic Management Document System (EDOCS) located at the FCC Search Tools page. The advanced template, on the following page, guides researchers through a variety of search criteria including cita-

**THE FCC LIBRARY  
STAFF PROVIDES  
TELEPHONE  
RESEARCH  
ASSISTANCE AT  
202/418-0450.**

tions, title, description, docket numbers, and dates as well as other numeric fields. The EDOCS advanced query works with any data element or combination of data elements. Using more search terms will give more precise results and fewer retrievals. EDOCS advanced query results are displayed in reverse chronological order in three formats. The three formats are full record, condensed record, and Citator. The Citator format displays citations to the *FCC Record Index.*, *FCC Reports 2d Series*, and the *Federal Register*. EDOCS contains citations for documents back to 1982. ■



**DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION**

Document Type:

Bureau:

Title Contains:

Description Contains:

**DOCUMENT NUMBERS**

FCC-

DA-

Docket or RM Number:

File Number:

Report Number:

**DATES (MM/DD/YYYY)**

From:                      To:

Released:

Adopted:

Comment:

Reply Comment:

Issued:

**CITATIONS**

Vol:                      FR/No.                      Date/  
Page

Federal Register:  FR:  Date:

FCC Record:  No:  Page:

FCC 2nd:  No:

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GSI AD

## TECH TALK

Roger V. Skalbeck  
George Mason  
School of Law

**IN ORDER TO MAKE UP FOR NO TECH TALK COLUMN** in the last issue of Library Lights, I am offering an extra-long column for this issue. An infomercial would never offer just one Pasta Pot or one bottle of Miracle Orange Cleaner. So I present not *one* but **two** sections of *Tech Talk* this time around. Yes, it's "Buy one, get one free."

### **FIVE FAVORITE TECHNOLOGY TIME-SAVERS**

When I'm not working as a librarian/webmaster full-time during the week, I attend law school in the evenings so I spend a lot of time using computers to write documents and perform research. After a few years of this lifestyle, I've developed some personal preferences about technology: I like to save time and effort when I can. Oh, and I like to share my favorite "secrets" when I can. To these ends, I present my five favorite technology time savers. These are just things I use on a daily basis to try to work more quickly, hoping to spend more time *thinking* and less time *tinkering*.

#### **1. "PASTE SPECIAL"**

Do you cut and paste text from documents in Word, Internet Explorer or other applications? Do you get annoyed when it comes out in a different font than your email message or office memo? If so you will love "Paste Special." This is a concept available in almost every Windows application. It allows you to paste only the characters in Windows memory into your application, while ignoring all formatting and troublesome mark-up.

To use this, copy your text (<CTRL>-C), then go to the target application under "Edit" and "Paste Special". In Word, try "Unformatted Text" to get rid of tables and font styles. In Excel, you have no fewer than 15 options for paste special, including a way to transpose items (x and y coordinates) and paste values without formulas.

#### **2. MOZILLA AND FIREBIRD BROWSERS**

If you use the Internet frequently to perform research, consider trying out Mozilla as an alternative browser ([www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org)). Mozilla makes a suite of programs that includes email and Internet browsing, and it is the same technology behind the latest version of Netscape. If you have an existing mail program like Outlook, consider the standalone Mozilla browser called *Firebird*. Here are five quick reasons I've come to prefer this browser over Internet Explorer:

- A)** You can open multiple browser windows within one application and jump between windows with the click of a button (<CTRL>-<TAB>).
- B)** By simply typing the letters in a text-

based hyperlink, the browser jumps to that link. Hit return and you follow the link.

**C)** There is a "Download Manager" which tracks recent files you've downloaded. If you need something a day later, open the manager and click on the link to get it.

**D)** There are over 150 add-on programs available extend the functionality of the Mozilla/Firebird browser. These programs include utilities for Internet browsing, enhanced searching, website analysis tools for developers, and many more.

**E)** It's free and it isn't made by Microsoft. (But note: Some website features are available only in Internet Explorer, so you probably won't replace IE entirely.)

#### **3. GOOGLE TOOLBAR**

Do you search Google religiously? If so, consider the Google toolbar. For Internet Explorer, get it here: <http://toolbar.google.com>. The Google toolbar puts a search box directly in your Internet browser, allowing you to search Google for news, news groups, images or stock quotes without having to type even "goo" in your browser's address bar. It also has a popup blocker tool, and it's available for Mozilla (<http://googlebar.mozilla.org/>). In Mozilla's *Firebird* browser (see above) it's already installed for your use and enjoyment.

#### **4. MAKE URLS SHORTER**

Stop sending long URLs to attorneys and colleagues. A website address that includes something like "search=DocNumber&lg=en&nb\_docs=25&dom=Prepar&in\_force=NO&" might fail when sent in an email message, and it's tough to copy from a document to the web browser. Moreover, these long strings get in the way of any true message you are trying to convey. Avoid this hassle by shortening URLs through a website like TinyURL ([www.tinyurl.com](http://www.tinyurl.com)) or SnipURL ([www.snipurl.com](http://www.snipurl.com)). Both are free services that allow you to copy a long web address into a short string of text that takes you to the same location, i.e., I shortened a 154-character string to: <http://tinyurl.com/2g2c4>. Both programs have options that allow you to put these technologies in your browser's toolbar, which allows you to create the short URL links with a simple mouse click.

#### **5. THE SCROLL BUTTON'S NOT JUST FOR SCROLLING**

If your mouse has a wheel between the left and right buttons, you probably know that this allows you to zoom through long documents or scroll through web pages. Well, the scroll button is not





just for scrolling anymore. Here are three fun things you can do with it. Try these at home!

**A)** Use <CTRL>-<Scroll> in Microsoft Word. This allows you to zoom in or out on a document. Zoom from huge 400% resolution down to a bird's eye view of your entire multi-page document at as little as 10%.

**B)** In Internet Explorer or Mozilla, use <CTRL>-<Scroll> to increase text size. Program <ALT>-<Scroll> to move forward and back in the browser. In the latest versions of Mozilla/Firebird, you can program special functions for <ALT>, <CTRL> and <SHIFT> in combination with the scroll wheel.

**C)** Press the <Scroll> button down in Excel to navigate up/down and left/right by just moving the mouse. Look ma, no fingers! Press the <Scroll> button in Mozilla to open a web link in a new browser tab.

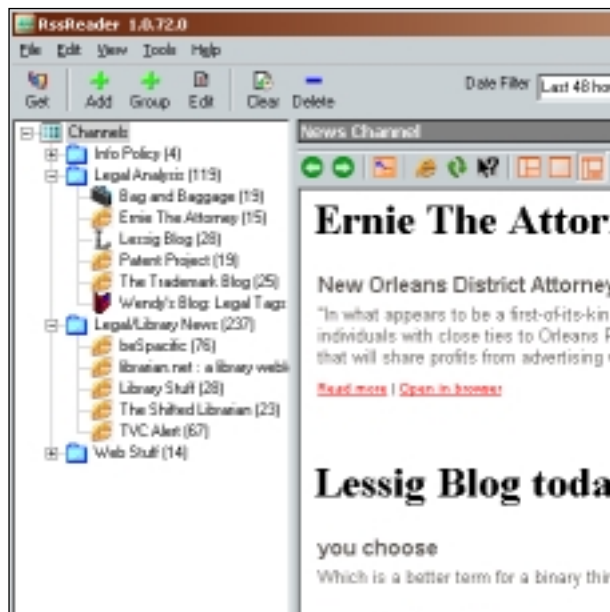
### READING BLOGS AND NEWSFEEDS

Here friends, is twice the *Tech Talk* for the same low, low price. Do you read blogs? Maybe you get email updates from beSpecific.com or perhaps you read TheVirtualChase.com website. For great coverage of blogs and legal-related update options, check out articles from the last two issues of *Lights*. Timothy McAllister wrote "Blogs: Delivering the Promise of the Internet" in the Summer 2003 issue. Also, Louise Tsang wrote "Current Awareness: Blogs, Blawgs and All" in the Winter 2004 issue. Both are great articles. They cover sources and background materials that are far beyond the scope of my column.

To take blog and newsfeed reading to a new level, consider using standalone software to collect and browse sources all in one convenient location. Instead of going to one website at a time to check for updates, you can use a new reader program to get the latest headlines and stories in one centralized location. If you've seen somebody brag that she reads "hundreds of blogs" on a regular basis, inevitably she is mostly scanning headlines with a separate software program.

If you want to track more than one blog at a time, there are several programs you can use to do this. The beauty of a program like this is that you can read updates based on the date that items were added, and you can scan headlines in a clean and simple interface. One program I have found to work well is called "RSS Reader" (www.rssreader.com). It's a free program that you can use to read, organize and track news feeds all in one location. See the screenshot for a view of the interface. This view displays updates from the last 48 hours, together with a heading for the blog source and brief

introduction from each entry. Blog sources can be organized into folders, and links typically point to the Internet sources where full documents reside.



One thing to note about the "RSS Reader": It is free to install this program, but it is built on what is called the "Microsoft .NET Framework." This is a hefty (20+ MB) download, but it's free from Microsoft, and it is pre-installed on many new computers. A copy of this can be downloaded through the Windows Update service. After you have the .NET Framework, RSSReader is a breeze to install. Several alternatives are listed here: <http://snipurl.com/2dwz>.

As this column was going to press, Yahoo! had just announced that they are beginning to offer Blog and newsfeed integration with their popular MyYahoo portal. This means that users can read Blog headlines in a personalized Yahoo! web page. There are also Blog and RSS reader add-ons for Microsoft's Outlook, and developing programs for the Mozilla browser programs.

Blogs and related news feeds can be a very valuable source of current awareness for any law-oriented endeavor. There are numerous sources available that provide information to keep you up to date on the latest legal developments. The decision as to where you read blogs will be mostly dictated by your reasons for doing so. If you've found more than one or two sources to be useful, I highly recommend that you consider setting up standalone news reader software. But beware: reading blogs can be addictive, especially if you do this in a central location. You may never go back to browsing Internet websites one-at-a-time, let alone "just" reading news in your email in-box. ■

## CAREER PATHS

*An interview with  
Cindy Diamond*

### **Q. TELL US ABOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND.**

My first job in a law library was doing interlibrary loan at Rogers & Wells in New York City. Initially I did not plan to make librarianship my career; but I was fortunate enough to have a wonderful mentor who introduced me to legal research and encouraged me to pursue my MLS. I received my MLS from SUNY Buffalo in 1995. While at Buffalo, I worked as a Research Assistant in the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (NCEER) Information Center. NCEER is a federally funded special library serving information requests from engineers worldwide. NCEER develops and maintains a bibliographic database called QUAKELINE. After graduating with my MLS, I worked at Ober Kaler in Baltimore and Clifford Chance in both the New York and Washington, DC offices. I had a hiatus from the law firm environment for a few years when I took a job at Navigant Consulting, Inc. (NCI). NCI is a consulting firm that specializes in litigation and financial consulting services. My role

was to support the research needs of economists and accountants engaged by attorneys to appear as expert witnesses and special masters. My current position is as the Knowledge Resource Coordinator in the Information Resource Center (IRC) of Hogan & Hartson's Washington DC office.

### **Q. WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE COORDINATOR?**

I am a member of the Information Technologies Unit within the Information Resource Center (IRC). Along with the Information Technologies Manager, I coordinate the efforts of three Law Practice Technologists and two Digital Content Specialists. Our team focuses on the evaluation, procurement, management, implementation and development of digital research resources as well as marketing, training, knowledge management and the integration of information resources. I also work closely with the Research Services Unit to assess research needs, communicate new products and coordinate vendor visits and training. I act as a liaison with the attorney practice groups and the Information Technology Department on technology issues. I also perform a fair amount of billable research. This year I am busy with some exciting large projects including the implementation of WestKm, conducting an information audit of IRC resources and services and the creation of an in-house legal research training curriculum.

### **Q. WHAT WERE YOU SEEKING IN YOUR CAREER PATH IN TAKING THIS POSITION?**

I decided to return to the law firm environment because I honestly missed working with attorneys. I also missed the law firm culture. I took the job as the Knowledge Resource Coordinator because the position offers me an excellent opportunity to be involved in research, technology, marketing, management and planning issues. I was looking for a challenging role in a high-paced setting. I was also eager to explore aspects of library work beyond reference services.

### **Q. WHICH OF YOUR SKILLS AS A LIBRARIAN HAVE BEEN THE MOST USEFUL IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION?**

Many of the skills I have developed throughout my career are useful in my current position. I have had considerable hands-on technical experience with integrated library systems, CD-ROM networking, website design and construction as well as database development. I have been involved with information organization and classification schemes. I have also had a great deal of experience conducting legal research using

WASHINGTON  
EXPRESS AD



the plethora of electronic and print resources on the market. Having worked at smaller firms in the past, I have had the opportunity to work closely with attorneys to understand their information needs and how they use information. So my library experience culminates with a combination of technology skills, information organization strategy, knowledge of research content along with an understanding of the user's perspective. However, perhaps the most useful skills are the ability to welcome new challenges, to think up creative alternative solutions to problems and to "go with the flow" of an ever-changing technology environment.

**Q. WHAT DO YOU MISS THE MOST? THE LEAST?**

Since I am doing less and less legal research, mostly I miss the quest for the right answer. I am very curious by nature and I have always enjoyed research. I also miss working closely with a team of attorneys, thus knowing all the projects they are working to proactively provide information to them. Least of all, I miss the pressure of having to provide an answer to a research request within minutes. It seems as if the expected turnaround time

has gotten significantly shorter.

**Q. WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?**

The best thing about my job is the organization within which I work and the people I work with. The IRC is managed by a Director who has great vision, innovative ideas and superb leadership abilities. As a result, the IRC is well regarded within the firm and sufficiently supported with the resources needed to provide excellent service. Furthermore, even though Hogan & Hartson is a large law firm, there is a great deal of collaboration between departments and extensive teamwork among the IRC staff.

**Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR LIBRARIANS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN NON-TRADITIONAL JOBS?**

My advice is to keep your technology skills as current as possible. It is important to keep up with trends and maintain marketable skills. I also encourage librarians to take on new seemingly challenging tasks and expanded roles within their organizations. The skills we have acquired as librarians prove to have applications in many other arenas. ■

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TRAK LEGAL AD



## THE PRO BONO LIBRARIAN THE READING CONNECTION SEEKS SUPPORT FROM LIBRARIANS

Scott Larson  
Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.

**THE READING CONNECTION**, a non-profit literacy outreach organization based in Arlington, VA, provides books to children in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area who are either temporarily homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Their goals are to promote literacy and educational opportunities for homeless children by coordinating read-aloud sessions with volunteers, giving away books, and stocking libraries at 11 homeless shelters, transitional housing sites, and family service providers in DC and VA. For many children, short-term or long-term homelessness interrupts their education and may cause them to drop out of school completely. The Reading Connection's programs are intended to help children maintain or increase their reading skills and encourage a love of reading by offering them books they can own. Since 1992, the organization has conducted reading events for over 10,000 children and provided them with over 25,000 new books. At every reading event the organization holds, children who attend it are given at least two new books. In addition, children can become members of a post-shelter Book Club, in which they can order new books each month. Currently, more than 280 children are members of the Book Club. The Reading Connection acquires new books from a variety of donors and from First Book, a non-profit organization previously profiled in this column.

There are several ways that librarians can assist the Reading Connection, including:

**1) SPONSOR A FUND-RAISER AT YOUR FIRM.** This year, as part National Library Week, Heather

Rories at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe and Sarah Stephens at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP held events to raise funds for the Reading Connection. Heather hosted a wine and cheese party and library open house for members of her firm and Sarah organized a library happy hour that featured partners reading aloud some of their favorite children's books. Sarah's firm also held a book drive for Reading Connection that week. Similar events can be held at any time of the year.

**2) HOLD A BOOK-DRIVE AT YOUR LIBRARY FOR NEW BOOKS.** The donated books can then be distributed by the Reading Connection to children at various sites and can also be added to the libraries they maintain.

**3) VOLUNTEER FOR READING CONNECTION.** You can join a group of more than 200 volunteers who hold read-aloud sessions sponsored by the Reading Connection at locations in Washington, Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax.

Sarah Koch, the Reading Connection's Executive Director, is interested in working with members of LLSDC on any of these projects and would like to collaborate with librarians as much as possible. For more information, please contact:

Sarah Koch, Executive Director  
The Reading Connection  
2009 N. 14th Street, Suite 307  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703-528-8317, ext. 12 ■

## WHAT IS ALL THE HUB-BUB?

Stephanie J. Burke  
Pappas Law Library  
Boston University  
School of Law

**"THE HUB,"** the daily newspaper for the 2004 AALL annual meeting in Boston, will be YOUR hub for up-to-date information throughout the 2004 AALL Annual Meeting. Published Sunday through Wednesday, The HUB will feature articles of interest to the profession, highlight the accomplishments of scheduled speakers, keep you up to date on SIS and Committee meetings and special sessions. Humorous anecdotes, historical tidbits, photos, and even original cartoon submissions are all welcome and encouraged. Trying to find your way around the Hub? You will also find articles about the Boston area, including local activities and sites of interest, tourist attractions, cultural events, and dining.

If you are interested in submitting an article or other information to the Daily prior to the convention, kindly send items to the Co-Editors, Stephanie Burke and Michelle Pearse at the addresses below. E-mail submissions are strong-

ly encouraged. The deadline for publication in the Sunday, July 10th edition is Monday, June 14th. During the convention, the submission deadline for the Monday through Wednesday editions is 1:00 p.m. of the preceding day. The HUB office will be located Room 305 of the Hynes Convention Center.

We look forward to hearing from you! ■

## LIGHTS DEADLINE

■ ■ ■ If you would like to write for *Lights*, please contact Tricia Peavler at [lights@llsdc.org](mailto:lights@llsdc.org). For the most up-to-date information regarding the 2003-2004 submission deadlines, check the LLSDC Web site at <http://www.llsdc.org>.

BNA AD

## LLSDC ELECTION RESULTS AND CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

Steve Mellin

LLSDC President 2004-05

Jenner & Block LLP

**CONGRATULATIONS TO LLSDC ELECTION WINNERS** Herb Somers, Diahann Munoz (formerly Diahann Kouznetsov), Elizabeth LeDoux, Linda Davis, and Frances Brillantine!

Here is your LLSDC Executive Board for 2004-2005:

(\* = newly elected Board member)

**PRESIDENT:** Steve Mellin -

Jenner & Block LLP

**\*VICE PRESIDENT/PRES.-ELECT:** Herb

Somers - George Washington University

**TREASURER:** David Mao -

Covington & Burling

**\*ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Diahann Munoz -

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** John Moore -

US Ct. of Appeals - Federal Circuit

**\*RECORDING SECRETARY:** Elizabeth LeDoux -

Covington & Burling

**BOARD MEMBER:** Keith Gabel -

Stewart and Stewart

**BOARD MEMBER:** Craig Lelansky -

Georgetown University

**\*BOARD MEMBER:** Linda Davis -

Georgetown University

**\*BOARD MEMBER:** Frances Brillantine -

Catholic University

**IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:** Scott Larson -

Beveridge & Diamond, PC

## CANDIDATES FOR LLSDC - 2004/2005 BIOGRAPHIES

*Editor's Note:* The 2004 election was completed by press time for this issue, but as a matter of record Lights is publishing all of the candidates bios.

### VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT

#### HERB SOMERS

**EMPLOYMENT:** Foreign/International Law Librarian, Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University College of Law, July, 1998—present. Government Documents/Reference Librarian, Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University College of Law, 1997-1998; Reference Librarian, Willamette University College of Law, 1994—1997; Head, Government Publications and Map Department, Northwestern University Library, 1991—1993; Assistant Documents Librarian, Yale University, 1988—1991.

**EDUCATION:** J.D., Willamette University College of Law; M.S.L.I.S., Simmons College;

A.B. Youngstown State University.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.: 1997—present; Executive Board Member, 1998-2000, President, Foreign and International SIS, 2000-present; AALL: Member, 1994—present. Member, Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section, 1988-present; Member, Government Relations Committee, 1997—1999; WestPac, Member, 1994—1997; ALA: Member, 1988—1997; Member, Government Documents Roundtable, 1988—1997. Member, Legislation Committee, 1993—1994, Chair, Publications Committee, 1991—1993, Member, Government Information Technology Committee, 1990—1992; Northeastern Illinois Documents Librarians: 1991—1993, Secretary, 1991—1992. Connecticut Library Association: 1988—1991, Government Documents Roundtable, 1988—1991, Chair, 1991, College and University Section, 1990—1991, Executive Board Member, 1990—1991. Government Publications Librarians of New England: 1988—1991, Treasurer, 1989—1991.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Herb Somers, Book Review, 95 L. Library J. 587-588 (2003). (reviewing William M. Oliver, *The Law And Order Presidency* (2003)). Herb Somers, Book Review, 31 *Int'l J. Legal Educ.* 401-403 (2003). (reviewing David Harris & John Darcy, *The European Social Charter* (2nd ed., 2001)). Ralph G. Steinhardt & Herb Somers. *International Civil Litigation: Cases And Materials On The Rise Of Intermestic Law: Documents Supplement* (2003) Herbert A. Somers et al., National Research and Education Network and the Federal Depository Library Program: A Position Paper for the American Library Association/ Government Documents Roundtable/Federal Documents Task Force, 19 Documents To The People 106-109 (1991); Herb Somers & Joanne Dionne, Review of Supermap (CD-ROM Product), Choice, April, 1990 at 1307-1308. Herb Somers, Review of CIS Congressional Masterfile, 1789-1969 (CD-ROM Product), 16 Gov't Publications Rev. 507-508 (1989). Herb Somers, Developing a Tape Load Profile with Marcive. Presented to the NOTIS Documents Cataloging Interest Group for ALA Annual, Dallas, TX (June 24, 1989). Herb Somers, Book Review, 6 Gov't Info. Q. 224-225 (1989) (reviewing Tom Gervasi, *Soviet Military Power: The Pentagon's Propaganda Document Annotated And Corrected* (1988)). Herb Somers, Book Review, 5 Gov't Info. Q. 77 (1988) (reviewing Julia Schwartz, *Easy Access To Information In United States Government Documents* (1986)).

**STATEMENT:** My experiences as a member of the Society's Executive Board and as President of the Foreign and International Law Special Interest Section have convinced me that the strength and vitality of our organization is sustained by the incredible diversity and expertise of our members. The consistently high quality of the educational programs and publications sponsored by the Society attest to the dedication of our members in maintaining the Society's premier position among regional law librarian organizations in the United States. If I am honored to be selected as President, I pledge to support and nurture these efforts in the future by developing innovative new policies and programs that will enhance member's educational, resource-sharing, and networking opportunities within the Society and the profession.

#### **JOE MAGUIRE**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Professional Development and CLE Coordinator, Reed Smith LLP 2003-present. Government Services/Legislative Librarian, Reed Smith LLP 2001-2003. Delaware Valley Library Manager, Reed Smith LLP 1999-2001. International Law Librarian, University of Michigan School of Law 1997-1999. Library Specialist, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 1995-1997. Litigation Associate, Spence, Custer, Saylor, Wolfe, & Rose, 1994-1995. Senior Law Clerk, Court of Common Pleas of Cambria County, 1992-1994.

**EDUCATION:** M.L.I.S., University of Pittsburgh, J.D. Case Western Reserve University School of Law. B.A. Boston College.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL: Member, 1995-present. SLA: Member, 2000-2002. ASIL: Member, 1997-2000. GPLLA: 1999-2001. LLSDC: Member, 2001-present; Co-Chair, Franklin Square Focus Group, 2003-present; LLSDC Web Committee, 2003-present.

**STATEMENT:** When I was asked to run for Vice President/President-Elect, it was *deja vu* all over again. In 2001, as I was preparing to relocate from Philadelphia to Washington, the GPLLA nominations committee asked me run for office. I had to no choice but to decline; this time I knew I had to answer the call of duty.

Over the past several years, as I have found my way through the embarrassment of rich opportunities that LLSDC affords law librarians, my involvement with the organization has deepened. At first, I was lured by the selfish desire to spend time with fun and interesting people. However, the more meetings I attended and the more peers I befriended—uh, net-

worked with—the more I began to realize how non-traditional some of the most traditional of law librarian roles have become.

The importance of LLSDC and its role in helping us all navigate the changing landscape of the profession was increasingly relevant to my own career. So I committed myself to doing my part to ensure the continuing richness and vitality of the organization. I would be honored to take that commitment to another level.

#### **ASSISTANT TREASURER/ TREASURER ELECT**

##### **DIAHANN KOUZNETSOV**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Reference Librarian, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, August 2001-present; Law Librarian, Groom Law Group, 1998-August 2001; Senior Law Librarian, GCI (USPTO), 1997-1998; Library Director, Weston, Hurd, Fallon, Paisley & Howley (Cleveland), 1996-1997.

**EDUCATION:** M.L.I.S., Indiana University, 1994; B.A., Russian Area Studies, Wittenberg University, 1993.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** LLSDC Nominations Committee, 2001 & 2002

**STATEMENT:** Having been on the Nominations Committee for the previous two elections (and therefore, ineligible for office), I was delighted to be on the other side of the conversation when I got the call asking me to run this year for Treasurer. I truly enjoy being of service to such a terrific organization as LLSDC, and look forward to contributing to it again in another capacity, if elected. Professionally, I have held two positions in the past which have required the management of six-figure budgets. I am confident in my ability to serve this position well.

#### **JEFFREY T. BOWEN**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Georgetown University Law Library: Cataloger, Nov. 1999-present; Library Systems & Services: Contract Cataloger, Jan. 1997-Oct. 1999

**EDUCATION:** MLS from the University of Maryland, College Park in May 1996; B.A. in History from Baylor University, May 1994

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Member, LLSDC (Law Librarian Society of Washington, DC) – 11/1999-present, Treasurer, ALL-SIS (Academic Law Libraries-SIS) – 2002-2003, Co-Chair, LLSDC Arrangements Committee – 2003-present, Member, LLSDC Web Site Committee – Oct. 2003-present; Member, AALL – 11/1999-present, Member, AALL Indexing Periodicals Advisory Committee – 7/2001-present, Member, AALL – TS-SIS Cataloging and Classifica-

tion Committee – 7/2001-present; Member, MAIUG (Mid-Atlantic Innovative Users Group) – 1/2000-present, Treasurer – 6/2001-10/2003; Member, American Library Association – 11/1999-present.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The Library System of Brazil: as Observed in Brasilia, Brazil, “Southeastern Law Librarian” vol. 25, no. 3, p. 19-22.

**STATEMENT:** Here at Georgetown, we are encouraged to serve the greater community. This has never been a problem for me since I have always felt a strong desire to do just that. As you can see from my activities, I tend to agree to serve in areas where money is involved. In all areas of my life, I try to be fiscally responsible and this has been no different as I’ve served other organizations as their treasurer. I also feel a strong connection to LLSDC through my service to that group in other ways. If you give me the opportunity to serve as LLSDC treasurer, I will strive to act in the best interests of the LLSDC community.

#### **RECORDING SECRETARY**

##### **XIA MIE**

**EDUCATION:** M.S. in Software Engineering, Certification in Information Engineering, George Mason University Fairfax, VA - 2002. M.A. in Instructional Systems Development - Department of Education, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. - 1996. B.A. in Library Science and Information Services - Wuhan University, Wuhan, China - 1989

**EXPREIENCE:** Librarian/Cataloger (9/02 to current): Progressive Technology Federal Systems Inc. (worked on site for FCC Library, worked as contract librarian in FCC library) Instructional Designer (4/98 to 11/99) Advanced Engineering and Research Associates (AERA), Inc. Arlington, VA. Instructional Designer (9/96 to 3/98) Bell Atlantic Learning Center, Baltimore, MD. Technical Services Librarian (9/94 to 1/96) Weinberg & Green LLC, Baltimore, MD. Cataloger (10/92 to 8/94): The Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, Baltimore, MD Cataloging Assistant/Library Assistant (1/90 to 9/92): The Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, Baltimore, MD.

**STATEMENT:** I would like to be an officer of LLSDC, because a lot of us all benefit from this wonderful non-profit organization, so I would like to volunteer my time and effort to help to serve our law librarian society.

##### **ELIZABETH LEDOUX**

**EDUCATION:** University of Washington, BA

and MLS

**EMPLOYMENT:** Research and Conflicts Librarian, Covington & Burling, Washington DC Preston, Gate & Ellis, Seattle, WA, Reference Librarian Dickstein, Shapiro, Morin & Oshinsky, Washington DC, Legislative Librarian San Diego County Law Library, Vista, CA, Branch Manager McDermott, Will & Emery, Los Angeles, CA, Librarian

**STATEMENT:** I love being a librarian, and enjoy doing my part for the profession. I am running for Recording Secretary for LLSDC to keep my activities close to home. I am currently the Chair of the AALL Government Relations Committee, and the Secretary for the Private Law Libraries SIS. I have learned so much and met so many people, but the strain of “long distance” committee work is taking its toll. I am ready to work for our profession right here in Washington DC, and I’m looking forward to meeting more and more colleagues while I do it. I have been a member of AALL since 1990, and have done committee work almost every year. I’m looking forward to another great year.

#### **BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE (select two)**

##### **LINDA DAVIS**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Acquisitions Librarian, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University Law Center, 2003-present. Head of Acquisitions, Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University, 1998-2003. Head of Cataloging, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University Law Center, 1985-1998. Cataloging Librarian, Edward Bennett Williams Law Library, Georgetown University Law Center, 1981-1985.

**EDUCATION:** M.L.S. University of Maryland, College Park, MD; B.A. English, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL, Member, 1985-present; Chair, Membership & Retention Committee, 2002/03; Member, Membership & Retention Committee 2001/02; Member, Committee Appointment, 2002; 1999 Annual Meeting, Local Arrangements Committee, Registration Co-Chair. COSELL; Nominating Committee, 2003; LLSDC, Member, 1985-present; Chair, Education Committee, 1995-96; Treasurer, 1997-98; Assistant Treasurer, 1996-97; Chair, COUNSEL Subcommittee, 1998-99; Member, Scholarship/Grants Committee, 1997-98; SEAALL, Scholarship Committee 2002-present.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Co-Editor, *Law Library Systems Directory*, (AALL Publication Series)





**STATEMENT:** Over the years I have been a participant in LLSDC in varying capacities, much to my enjoyment and enrichment and I only hope that in some small measure I was able to give something back. I have always been impressed and inspired by the wealth of talent, generosity and dedication to the profession of its members. It has been some time since I have been an active member of what I have viewed as the best, most active chapter of AALL. I developed a deep respect and appreciation for its members and all the work they do for us while working on its board and committees in the past. When I heard they were looking for individuals to run for offices I jumped at the chance to once again be an active part of this organization and would welcome the opportunity to do so.

**FRANCES BRILLANTINE**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Head of Access Services, Catholic University Law Library, April 2000 – present. Circulation Librarian, Catholic University Law Library, September 1993 – March 2000. Circulation Manager, Catholic University Law Library, August 1990 – August 1993. Reference / Administrative Assistant, Fairfax Law Library, June 1989 – August 1990.

**EDUCATION:** M.S.L.S., Catholic University of America. B.A., George Mason University.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL: Member, 1990-present. LLSDC: Member, 1991 – present. LLSDC Treasurer, 2003-2004; LLSDC Assistant Treasurer, 2002-2003; Mid-Atlantic Innovative Users' Group Board Member, 2002-

2003; Mid-Atlantic Innovative Users' Group Nominations Committee Chair, 2003; LLSDC Elections Committee member, 2003; LLSDC Elections Committee Chair, 1999 – 2001; Mid-Atlantic Innovative Users' Group Program Committee member, 2000; LLSDC Nominations Committee member, 1998.

**STATEMENT:** LLSDC is a dynamic organization, made so by dedicated and talented volunteers. Over the years, I have benefited greatly from all that LLSDC has to offer: excellent publications, programs and the expertise of many LLSDC members. I currently serve on the Board as Treasurer and would welcome the opportunity to serve as a Board Member.

**MARY LONGCHAMP**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Librarian, Shook, Hardy & Bacon 1999 – present. Librarian, Alston & Bird, (Atlanta) 1995 – 1998. Librarian, Goldman Sachs, (New York) 1990 – 1994. Assistant Librarian, Goldman Sachs, 1986 – 1990.

**EDUCATION:** M.L.S., Pratt Institute, New York. B.S., Business Administration (SUNY) Fredonia State University.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** LLSDC, member 1999 – present. Joint Spring Workshop, Co-Chair 2001. SLA, member 1986 – 1994.

**STATEMENT:** Looking for an opportunity to become more involved in LLSDC, become acquainted with other individuals in the organization and share my organizational skills. I enjoyed serving in the past and look forward to doing it again. ■

**OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER**

■ ■ ■ Aside from needing volunteers for society activities, the LLSDC has been involved in a number of volunteer efforts with other groups, including regular support for membership drives at WETA, a local independent, non-profit television station. The LLSDC welcomes members to volunteer time for committee work or various society projects and tasks as needed. If you are interested in volunteering, please check the LLSDC Web site for committee and contact information.

**SEE YOUR NAME IN "LIGHTS!"**

■ ■ ■ *Law Library Lights* welcomes submissions of feature and hot topic articles for publication. Authors whose articles are selected for publication will receive a gift compliments of the *Lights* committee. Editorial inquiries or requests for additional information should be addressed to Tricia Peavler, editor, at [lights@llsdc.org](mailto:lights@llsdc.org) or 202/639-6011.

**WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS ... SO WHEN YOU USE THEIR SERVICES, TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN LAW LIBRARY LIGHTS!**

## FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL LAW SIS

Herb Somers  
George Washington University  
Law School Library

### AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ANNUAL MEETING

The American Society of International Law's 98th Annual Meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. March 31 - April 3, 2004. This year's meeting is entitled "Mapping New Boundaries: Shifting Norms In International Law." As in past years, the conference will feature a full schedule of programs dealing with cutting-edge issues in the field of international law. For more registration information go to: [http://www.asil.org/annual\\_meeting/index.htm](http://www.asil.org/annual_meeting/index.htm).

### UN INFORMATION CENTRE BRIEFINGS

The UN Information Centre is again sponsoring training sessions on UN Documentation and the wide variety of web resources it makes available to researchers. Sessions will take place on Thursday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 30. The sessions are from 12:00 - 1:30 pm (bring your lunch) and will be held at: 1775 K Street, NW, 4th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20006. Due to limited space registration is required. To register contact Jeanne Dixon at (202) 454-2112 or email: [jdixon@unicwash.org](mailto:jdixon@unicwash.org).

### ISLAMIC LAW IN THE 21ST CENTURY: TRADITIONS AND TRANSITIONS

On Wednesday, March 31, 2004 a one-day workshop will be held at the Library of Congress that will highlight Islamic law in its contemporary context. The primary focus will be jurisdictions in the Middle East, but the program will also highlight countries with large populations of Muslims but with predominantly different religions including India and Canada. The expert panel will include specialists from the Law Library of Congress and outside experts in Islamic law. This workshop will describe and highlight prominent issues in Islamic law and focus on the best resources for finding legal information. Relevant resources will include print and electronic formats.

The workshop is sponsored by the Law Library of Congress, the Friends of the Law Library of Congress, Law Librarians' Society of Washington D.C. (LLSDC), the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and the AALL Foreign, Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section (FCIL SIS). ■

## PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES SIS NEWS

Jennifer Korpacz  
Covington & Burling

**"LIBRARIANS GONE WILD," INDEED...** It was food, folks, and fun at the PLL Holiday party on December 4, 2003. From excellent food to raffles to all-around holiday cheer, a good time was had by all who attended. There are so many people to thank for putting such a great party together. Thanks to Keith Gabel, Nataly Gabel, Scott Larson, Laurie Green, Lisa Benjamin, and the PLL Social Committee for their hard work. PLL also thanks Kate Martin and her staff at McKenna Long & Aldridge for hosting the party. Finally, thanks to the William S. Hein and Co., Inc. and TRAK Legal for supporting the party with their generous grants.

**BACK TO SCHOOL...** On January 29th, the PLL SIS and the Academic SIS jointly sponsored "Business School in a Day Part I." The first speaker was Michael Killian, Business Reference Librarian at George Mason's Fenwick Library who spoke about basic general corporate research and showed how a number of business databases work. The second speaker, Frank Locker, Librarian for the SEC Division of Investor Education and Assistance, gave a broad overview of SEC documents and gave many tips as to how to locate SEC information. Many thanks to Marvin Lewis and Crowell & Moring for hosting the session, and Martha

Klein, Iris Lee, and Carolyn McKelvey for organizing such a useful event.

**COMING SOON...** Next up on the social calendar: Ice skating at the Sculpture Garden Ice-Skating Rink on February 10th. Next up on the education front: "Business School in a Day, Part II" on February 26th, which will focus on competitive intelligence. Melanie Wing, a former librarian, who is now the First Vice-President at BankOne, as well as the President of the Society of Competitive Intelligence Professionals will be the speaker. We look forward to seeing you there. ■

### DATES TO REMEMBER

■ ■ ■ *Dates to Remember (DTR)* is a monthly (September - May) newsletter designed to keep the membership informed of current Society events. *DTR* and the Society's Master Calendars are now being handled by the Society's management office. To clear your date and publicize the event, please contact Millie Gallahan at 703/619-5033 or [management@llsdc.org](mailto:management@llsdc.org).

LEXIS NEXIS AD

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Barbara Folensbee-Moore  
Morgan Lewis & Bockius

### MINUTES - NOVEMBER 20, 2003

**PRESENT:** John Moore, Frances Brillantine, Craig Lelansky, Ellen Feldman, Steve Mellin, Scott Larson, David Mao, Deb Trocchi, Judy Leon

**ABSENT:** Keith Gabel

**CALL TO ORDER:** Board meeting was called to order at 9:03 on November 20, 2003 at Morgan Lewis & Bockius. The agenda was approved with no additions.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the last meeting were approved with corrections.

### REPORTS

**PRESIDENT:** Report on efforts to expand pro bono activities of LLSDC. A Breakfast is to be held on Jan. 15 with DC consortium of legal service providers. Discussion to be had on possible programs to participate in with the area bar groups. Robyn Rebollo and Jennifer Korpacz are involved in this effort. Interest has been expressed by members of LLSDC.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Reported that a response to the AALL Strategic Plan Chapter Report is in the works and discussed elements to put in the report regarding activities of the chapter.

**TREASURER:** Deposits are down a little, but still better than expected. More member checks are expected and a check from Lexis to help with the opening breakfast is also expected.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** Deposits have been made in the amount of \$9585 and more checks have been received that still need to be deposited.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Leanne Battle of Lexis-Nexis coordinated sponsorship of \$2000 for the Opening Reception in October.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** No report.

**LIAISON REPORTS:** *Academic* – plans in the works for meetings – possible topic is Book repair; *Lights* – discussion on number of copies published; possibility of reducing copies, increasing size; *Scholarships* – no activities but currently have \$1000 in fund; *Web Site* – Paul Weiss involved with new committee, problems with updating the job line – Corresponding Secretary to contact job line person- Jan Oberla; *Foreign* – program in November on Rebuilding the Legal System in Iraq – well attended, next regular meeting in December; *Federal* – co-sponsored the Iraq program, holiday party in the works; *Legislative* – working on the Welcome Back Congress event in January, possible sponsorship by CQ, also program on US Code in planning; *Education* – program planned on December 9 on state legislative resources, PR – Kevin Dames working on expanding efforts of committee, working with Paul Weiss of Web committee; *ILL* – discussions on guidelines for

interlibrary loan and use of listserv.

**MANAGEMENT COMPANY:** As of November, there are 722 members with 9 new members to vote on at meeting. Members are approved by motion from L. Harrington; seconded by J. Leon. Dates to Remember draft is reviewed and approved. Discussion of issues regarding bulk mailing of directories vs. first class or other ways to get the items to members more quickly.

### OLD BUSINESS

Discussion with Hein – proceeding in efforts to put Lights online. Discussion of efforts to obtain complete set of back issues to send to the publisher for inclusion. Discussed the ILL guidelines for the listserv. ILL committee will prepare draft of FAQ and submit it to the board for input.

### NEW BUSINESS

Requested input on awards – AALL Government Relations Committee. Also for the Professional Development Award, the Legal Research Institute is recommended for the award – the deadline to nominate is Feb. 1, Craig Lelansky is involved. Additional recommendations are – Public Access Award - the Legal Res. SIS – candidate for the award.

Topics for discussion at the next Town Meeting are solicited. Some suggestions include information on pro bono opportunities; Web site redesign; discussion on getting an AALL representative to attend and speak; begin the build up to the Centennial anniversary. Held additional discussion on doing a Sandy Peterson event at Morgan Lewis.

Discussion of request from student at Catholic University regarding LLSDC Student Focus group at the school to encourage membership. Board agrees to collect information on the possibility (number of student members, ideas on how to support) and discuss with student reps.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn at 10:10 – made by B Folensbee; seconded by F. Brillantine.

**NEXT MEETING:** scheduled for Dec. 18, 2003

### MINUTES - DECEMBER 18, 2003

**PRESENT:** Steve Mellin, Scott Larson, David Mao, Ellen Feldman, Frances Brillantine, Craig Lelansky, Judy Leon, Debbie Trocchi

**ABSENT:** John Moore, Keith Gabel, Lisa Harrington

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting began at 9am on December 18, 2003.

**MINUTES:** Minutes were approved as amended. Motion by Scott Larson; second by David Mao.

#### **REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT:** We are still working out details of Town meeting in 2004, also planning to check with Carolyn Ahearn about combining the Town meeting and a Sandy Peterson Fund event. Contact and discussion has been had regarding setting up a student focus group at Catholic University. The student contact, Anna Hall, will make efforts to determine interest at the school. Additionally, another possible focus group has been discussed with some librarians currently meeting informally to discuss management issues. This will also be pursued with the current attendees to see if they are interested in more formal arrangements.

Paul Weiss of the Web site committee has begun investigation of using PayPal for events via the Web site. Barbara Folensbee offered to have the DC/SLA treasurer pass on information about getting the service up and running on a Web site. In addition, the efforts to collect back issues of Lights to send to Hein Co. and put them up electronically have begun.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** No report.

**TREASURER:** Budget expenses are in line with last year. Accounts are fine and mutual funds are improving.

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** No recent checks but deposits since the last board meeting included \$4368.63. Mentioned problem with getting checks sent in timely fashion from the management company. This will be addressed when Debbie Trocchi returns to her office.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** No report.

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE/GROUP LIAISONS:** *Web* – meeting expected in January to discuss changes to Web site design; *Nominating* – efforts of committee are ongoing, nominations needed by January board meeting, efforts to particularly encourage Federal members to participate; *PLL* – no direct report, holiday party in December was very successful; *Lights* – winter issue a little late but due soon; *Scholarships/Grants* – applications have been processed and awards totaling \$5400 made, total for year equal \$7900, concern expressed to get more new applicants, several awards to were repeat applicants; *ILL* – cookie swap event held in December, still considering recommendations for the ILL FAQ; *Legislative* – tentative plans for Welcome Back Congress party on Jan. 29 to be held at Miller & Chevalier; *Education* – great turnout for Dec. 9 program on DC and MD legal research, next program probably in February or March.

**MANAGEMENT COMPANY REPORT:** Current membership is 728. Four new members are to be considered. The membership directories are expected out in January. Discussion and then decision to send them media rate to improve the shipping response over last year's shipping. Motion was made on this issue made by David Mao, seconded by Barbara Folensbee. New members were voted on – motion to accept new members as presented made by David Mao; seconded by Scott Larson.

Paul Weiss of the Web committee had been to the management company to update some files on the computer and has recommended an upgrade to their system as well.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

More discussion on who is going to be involved in submitting chapter for consideration for 2 awards from AALL – Comprehensive Chapter Professional Development Award and Public Access to Government Information Award.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion was held on possibility of having a board retreat/transfer of power meeting in June. The purpose is to provide continuity to the board and work on ways to get the chapter energized and organized for the new year. Discussion was also held concerning increasing the participation of local library school students in internships or practicums at area law libraries. More information to be gathered on what the schools would require for participants and also on how widespread interest would be in the LLSDC member community.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Formal adjournment at 10:15 A.M. – motion by David Mao; seconded by Ellen Feldman.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting is planned for January 16, 2004.

#### **MINUTES - JANUARY 16, 2004**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Harrington, Steve Mellin, Scott Larson, Keith Gabel, John Moore, Craig Lelansky, David Mao, Ellen Feldman, Judy Leon, Debbie Trocchi

**ABSENT:** Frances Brillantine

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Scott Larson called the meeting to order at 9:03am on January 16, 2004.

**MINUTES:** Minutes approved with no changes. Motion to approve by Judy Leon, seconded by Keith Gabel.

## REPORTS

President Scott Larson mentioned need to renew the contract with the management company. Discussion to be held at the next meeting. Expect to renew for 2 year period. Details to be emailed to the board before the next meeting. Report also given on the focus group at Catholic. Judy Leon and Scott attended a meeting. The group had a mix of faculty, students and alumni. Intention is to have monthly meetings.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Steve Mellin presented a preliminary list of nominations for the LLSDC Spring Election.

**TREASURER:** - no report

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:** David Mao reviewed deposits and discussed budget spread sheet in Treasurer's absence. Currently expenses are more than income but sponsorship checks are expected soon.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** - no report

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** - no report

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE/GROUP LIAISONS:**

*PLL* – mention made of the success of the holiday party, thanks on record to McKenna for hosting the event; *Legislative* – change of date for Welcome Back Congress event to Feb 4 to avoid conflicts, other events being planned; *Education* – discussion of possible program on benefits and opportunities in getting a library degree at local graduate schools; *Publications* – new union list is in the works, possibility of combining with Counsel being discussed with SIMA; *Federal* - two

brown bag events are being planned, looking to update information on the Web site; *International* - planning joint meeting with ASIL towards the end of March; *Lights* - new issue expected out soon, reduced number of copies by 200 to cut costs.

**MANAGEMENT COMPANY REPORT:** Currently have 733 members - 5 new members since the holidays. Vote on new members is done with question regarding new member who is also a West employee - vote subject to clarification of desired status of the new members. Motion to accept new members as discussed proposed by Steve Mellin/second by Judy Leon. Corrections made to the new Dates to Remember which will go out on Jan. 20

## OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of applications for various AALL awards. Due date for awards applications is Feb. 1. Town meeting and combined program with Sandy Peterson Memorial lecture. Date proposed is in March to be hosted at Morgan Lewis.

## NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept nominations as offered is made by Keith Gabel/seconded by Judy Leon. Contact for biographical information to include. Volunteer opportunities for LLSDC members in the DC community discussed.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Adjourned at 9:50am.

**NEXT MEETING:** planned for February 19, 2004. ■

## EYE ON SERIALS

Susan Ryan  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

## PRINT PUBLICATIONS

### *Ave Maria Law Review, 2003-*

Published annually by Ave Maria School of Law, 3475 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2550; 734/827-8040; Fax: 734/827-2025; E-mail: lr.businessmanager@avemarialaw.edu; Website: <http://www.avemarialaw.edu/publications/>  
Price: \$8.00 per issue.

This student-run journal publishes articles on a wide variety of legal and ethical issues. The inaugural issue covered the topic of law and culture.

### *Trademark Law Guide, 2003-*

Updated monthly by CCH Incorporated, 4025 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646-6085; 800/449-6435; Website: <http://www.online-store.cch.com>  
Price: \$975.00 per year.

This two volume loose-leaf set includes federal laws (full text of the Lanham Act and the

Cyberpiracy Law, as well as statutes relating to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office), federal regulations and state trademark laws. Monthly updates feature new legislation and regulations, judicial and agency developments, a list of pending legislation, and an informative newsletter.

## TITLE CHANGE

### *Tax planning international. Indirect taxes, 2003-*

Published monthly by BNA International, Inc., 29th Floor, Millbank Tower, 21-24 Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP England  
Price: 650.00 British pounds per year.

This title absorbed *Tax planning international e-commerce* and began with volume 1 dated July 2003. The last issue of *Tax planning international e-commerce* was volume 5, number 6 dated June 2003. ■



## **DATABASE PROTECTION BILL ADVANCES...NOT ANOTHER ONE!?!**

On January 21, 2004 the House Judiciary Committee approved legislation (H.R.3261) to protect certain factual information residing in databases. The controversial measure must also clear the Energy and Commerce Committee before it can come up for a vote on the House floor. Although the fate of this bill is uncertain, the potential "silver lining" is that Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX), a strong opponent to the database bill, is in line to succeed Rep. Billy Tauzin as chair of House Energy & Commerce.

Congress has attempted to pass database protection legislation every year since 1996, during which time the library community has been a vocal opponent. As this issue continues to take shape this spring we must stay tuned and continue to voice our opposition.

## **OPENTHEGOVERNMENT.ORG WANTS YOU!!**

OpenTheGovernment.org is a coalition of organizations and individuals concerned with growing government secrecy. AALL is a founding member of this coalition. The organization's focus is on making the federal government more open, strengthening public trust in government and supporting our country's democratic principles.

This coalition of journalists, consumer and government groups, environmentalists, and labor unions has united out of a concern for what U.S. News and World Report called a "shroud of secrecy" descending over our local, state and federal governments.

The coalition is governed by a steering committee representing its major constituents. Mary Alice Baish, AALL Associate Washington Affairs Representative, is a member of the steer-

ing committee.

OpenTheGovernment.org is currently recruiting state depository groups, state library associations, and others working to keep our government open. To sign the "Statement of Values," visit their web site at <http://openthegovernment.org/>

## **BE OUR GUEST" @ THE 2004 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

The 2004 Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training will be held on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Thanks to the support and commitment of AALL president Janis Johnston and the Executive Board, there is no registration fee for this event. This year's focus is on several crucial state issues including: crafting new "filing fee" legislation to alleviate the dire funding situation being faced by many county law libraries; opposing efforts to enact the *Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act* (UCITA) and the *E-Government Services Act*; utilizing the findings of the *State-by-State Report on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information* to promote "Best Practices" and even model state legislation to ensure the permanent public access of electronic information, especially web-based "born digital" information.

This year's session speakers are: Elizabeth LeDoux, Covington & Burling and chair of the Government Relations Committee (GRC); Judy Meadows, State Law Library of Montana and GRC member; Charley Dyer, San Diego Public Law Library and chair of the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS; and Bob Riger, Miami-Dade County Law Library.

To register today simply send an e-mail message to [baish@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:baish@law.georgetown.edu) and you'll be added to the guest list. ■

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**Amy Rachuba** joined the staff of George Washington University, Jacob Burns Law Library in November, 2003. She is the cataloging librarian. Amy received her MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Val Holley**, legislative librarian at Arent, Fox, had a book published in 2003, entitled "Mike Connolly and the Manly Art of Hollywood Gossip".

The book tells the true story of a gay gossip columnist for the Hollywood Reporter, in the 1950s and 1960s. The book deals with gay Hollywood history and with the blacklist period and the role of Connolly's column, "Rambling Reporter" in the anti-communist crusade. Val is also the author of "James Dean: The Biography". ■

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