Annual Report (2019-2020)

2019-2020 LLSDC Executive Board
The LLSDC officers were Kristina J. Alayan, President; Amanda Costigan, Vice President/President-Elect; Victoria Capatosto, Corresponding Secretary; Andrea Muto, Recording Secretary; Abigail Falls, Membership Secretary; Kelly Booker, Treasurer; Amy Latalladi-Fulton, Assistant Treasurer; Marc Lovell, Board Member at Large; Kelly McGlynn, Board Member at Large; and Emily Florio, Immediate Past President.

Selected Events
A number of successful events took place, many of which were through the work of the Arrangements Committee Chair, Angela Krulc. Events included a Trivia Meet-Up which brought together DCLA, DCSLA, and Catholic University’s LIS students and alumni. The annual Holiday Party took place at Toro Toro and was sponsored by Thomson Reuters. Other event highlights include legislative history panel discussion at the Federal Reserve, organized by the Legislative Research SIS. Under LiMin Fields’ leadership, the Law Library Managers’ Group hosted a roundtable. The Private Law Library SIS continued to distinguish itself under Megan Moltrup’s leadership as one of the more active LLSDC SISes with events and brown bags throughout the year, including popular events that brought both academic and private law librarians together.

Sandy Peterson Memorial Lecture
The Board approved Ijeoma Oluo in early 2020 with a $12,000 speaker fee plus lodging and flight. The LLSDC President was able to negotiate the speaker fee to $8,000 and secured co-sponsorship from both LLAM and GPLLA for $1000 each, and a Bloomberg Continuing Education Grant for $5000. Total savings to the membership was over $11,000. While the lecture was postponed due to COVID-19, plans include making it available to individuals beyond the three original co-sponsoring chapters. A tiered registration model will be implemented that gives co-sponsoring chapter members the opportunity to register first, followed by opening it up to AALL and other law library organizations and members.¹

¹ Registration for the live closed-captioned event is over 200. A recording will be made available to those who aren’t able to attend.
Initiatives
LLSDC elected to have LLMC digitize three boxes of LLSDC archives currently held at the University of Illinois. This initiated a review of the LLSDC archives more generally. The Board approved moving all LLSDC archives to the Howard University School of Law Library (HULL). Once the three boxes in LLMC’s possession are digitized, they will be shipped to HULL at LLSDC’s expense. One of the HULL interns drafted an archives management proposal under Victoria Capatosto’s supervision.

Membership & Budget
Both the LLSDC membership and budget have remained steady. LLSDC has a generous grace period for membership renewal, which should help buffer members who are facing temporary financial hardship during this time.

Challenges
LLSDC struggled to secure volunteers at the SIS and Committee levels. Some positions remained vacant for the year. The Nominations Committee had difficulty securing candidates for the election and most positions were uncontested. Two resignations (Treasurer and Law Library Lights editor) were challenging. Emily Florio, a former LLSDC Treasurer, helped by stepping in and getting both the newly appointed Treasurer (Kelly Booker) and Assistant Treasurer (Amy Latalladi-Fulton) up to speed. We were fortunate that Anne Guha, a former Law Library Lights editor, was also able to step in. She was able to train the assistant editor and the publication resumed in Spring 2020.

The LLSDC Board was moved to respond unequivocally to the protests ignited by George Floyd’s murder. It drafted and approved a statement that outlined our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. It also included a proposed blueprint for the incoming Board to tackle in order to better serve our members – particularly those who have been historically marginalized.

Submitted by Kristina J. Alayan, LLSDC President (2019-2020)