

# Law Library Lights

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 2

WINTER 2005

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

## PLANNING YOUR CONFERENCE CALENDAR- DECISIONS, DECISIONS

SLA BALTIMORE, 2006  
Elaine Clark

**LIKE EVERY GOOD LIBRARIAN**, I get excited and enthusiastic when the conference schedules for SLA and AALL are finally published. I pore over the annual meeting calendar with highlighters in pink and blue and yellow, noting my “must do’s” and “want to’s” and “nice to do’s” with the same rapt attention as a bride picking out a registry. I am particularly excited for this year’s Special Libraries conference in Baltimore, notably because my colleague Wendy Brown is the program coordinator, and because it is local and so many friends and respected librarians are offering such an excellent variety of great programs. Still, it is helpful for me to have guideposts when selecting my daily activities—perhaps you can relate?

### **ONE: THE THEME**

Now, each year the association itself has a theme, which is always nice to follow. Sometimes it is international, youth-focused, celebrating diversity, knowledge-management-oriented. This year the theme for SLA is “Where Tradition and Transformation Converge”. A nice-sounding theme, especially for the city of Baltimore, where kitschy John Waters stands in line with Old Line families to buy Kleenex and Pine Sol, but not particularly helpful in terms of my decision making. It is hard enough re-balancing libraries with print and electronic. Wait! That has to be my theme this year—a perennial favorite, unquestionably, but a good stand-by. Print and Electronic. Tradition meets efficiency.

### **TWO: THE MUST-DO’S**

This year’s key note speakers are Gwen Ifill and some other guy. Well, as a slavering fan of the Jim Leher news hour and Washington Week, and in particular Gwen’s quality journalism, this is a must-do for me. (The “some other guy” is Walt Mossberg of the Wall Street

Journal. That looks nice too, but doesn’t make my Must-do list.)

I scan down the Conference-at-a-Glance for the first day and notice a not-so-typical list for Saturday offerings. Sure, there are the usual library management and indexing sessions, but there’s also a session called “Terrorism Informatics: Developing the Skills Needed to Support Homeland Security.” That sure seems relevant in light of this month’s Patriot Act. And a marketing session: Branding 101- What it Takes to Build a library Brand. There’s also a great-looking offering for Business Intelligence in the afternoon. Saturday is going to involve some tough choices.

### **THREE: THE WANT TO DO’S**

I was pretty impressed with a Sunday offering called “Taxonomy Design- Creative Techniques that Support Enterprise Goals” and then another class that sounds darkly mysterious dealing with the “opaque” web for research and competitive intelligence. Looks like Competitive Intel is the definite buzz-word for 2006.

### **FOUR: THE NICE TO DO’S**

A legal division international symposium tops this list, in addition to checking out the Show-Time Singers and, of course, the Expo-Hall. The News Division roundtable discussion of the digitized microfilm of newspapers sounds important and relevant, and, just to satisfy my tech appetite, a session called “Evolving the Resolving: Open URL” looks like something very Nice to Do on Monday. In fact, I might have to move that to the Must Do column.

A mysterious selection called “Amazing Parrots” seems to be calling out to me, and even though I live just an hour outside of scenic Baltimore, I am considering signing up

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN

Elaine M. Clark

*A vote is like a rifle: its usefulness depends upon the character of the user.*

—Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)

**FOLLOWING CLOSE ON THE WAKE** of the Cheney controversy I couldn't resist using this quote.

This Editor's Note is devoted to the importance of participation. We're so fortunate to have a thriving law librarian organization in Washington, DC. There are some highly and

uniquely qualified candidates running for office of the Society. What a great service they are offering to perform for all of us! It is our privilege, and our obligation, in turn, to assess their qualifications and, as is our right, to elect our chosen candidates to office.

Let us honor these candidates' commitment to serve by taking the time to participate in the Elections 2006. And, by doing so, we will hold up the principles and missions of LLSDC. ■

### 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 Elaine Clark, editor, at [lights@llsdc.org](mailto:lights@llsdc.org) or 202/842-7570.

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce a full slate of candidates for the spring election. Voting is scheduled to take place between April 15th and May 10th, and will be done electronically. Mike Gentile, of the Nominations Committee has found that electronic voting will not only save the Society money, but will also streamline the elections process. The Board is excited to bring electronic voting to the membership.

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BERNAN AD

**CANDIDATE FOR RECORDING SECRETARY**

**BARBARA FISHER**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP, 1982-present

**EDUCATION:** MSLS, Catholic University; BA Miami University

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL member, 1992-present; LLSDC member, 1982-present; New Members Chair, 2000-2001; Treasurer, 1999-2000; Assistant Treasurer, 1998-1999; New Members Co-Chair, 1997-1998; Directory Co-Chair, 1997-1998.

**STATEMENT:** Having been the beneficiary of the talents, innovations and expertise of the LLSDC membership for so many years, my primary motives in becoming more involved with the Society are to pay tribute to my mentors who guided me along the way and to try to give something back to the community that helped me succeed. I am strongly committed to the mission of this organization and feel privileged to be a part of it. If elected, I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve as Recording Secretary.

**HELEN FRAZER**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Associate Director/Public Services, Charles N. & Hilda H. M. Mason Law Library, University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law, 1999 to the present; Government Documents and Reference Librarian, Rutgers-Newark School of Law Library, 1997-1999; Consultant to the Science & Technology Law Center Project, Albany Law School, Albany, New York, 1997; Associate Professor, St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami, Florida, 1992-1996; Attorney Associate, Jones Day, Washington, D.C., 1990-1992; Judicial Law Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit, Judge James M. Sprouse (dec.), 1989-2000; Director, Legal Research and Writing Program, Albany Law School, 1987-1988; Instructor, Legal Research and Writing Program, Nova Southeastern Center for the Study of Law, Miami, Florida, 1986-1987; Research Fellow, Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, 1985-1986.

**EDUCATION:** M.L.S., University of Maryland, 2002; LL.M., Yale Law School, 1989.

J.D., University of California-Davis School of Law, 1984; M.A. & B.A., University of Southern California, 1966 and 1968.

**MEMBERSHIPS:** AALL, since 1997; LLSDC, since 1999; chair of the Volunteer Committee, 1999; NJLLA, 1997-1999.

**PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS:**

In progress: co-authoring with Brian L. Baker a CALI Legal Research Project on Washington, D.C., Secondary Authority (acceptance of proposal notification received November 4, 2005). Prepared and published within the Mason Law Library more than twenty research guides and PowerPoint presentations, including presentations for orientation of first year students and course and clinic research workshops on topics related to the Uniform Commercial Code and the Community Development/ Small Business, HIV/AIDS, and Juvenile/Special Education Clinics; Chapter 46, The Technology Administration and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, in West's Federal Practice Manual, 2000; Fair Use After the Copyright Term Extension Act, ALL-SIS Newsletter (February 1999); Distance Learning in Legal Education: Implications of Frame Relay Videoconferencing, 8 Alb. L.J. Sci. & Tech. 305-335 (1998); Legal Writing and Plain English: Does Voice Matter? 38 Syracuse L. Rev. 1193-1221 (1987); Chapter, State Governance Through Conflict of Interest Rules: The California Experience, in The Governance of Science and Technology 178-93 (M. Goggins, ed. 1986).

**STATEMENT:** The University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law is now fully accredited, and I feel free to devote time and attention to professional activities in the community. I take my responsibilities seriously and I would be a very reliable Recording Secretary. It would be an honor for me to serve the Society in this role. My goal would be to meet the very high standards of the Society, and to contribute to its continuing achievements as an outstanding resource and voice for law librarians.

**CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER AT LARGE**

**CAMERON GOWAN**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Law Librarian, Gilbert Heintz & Randolph, LLP

**EDUCATION:** J.D., Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 1998; B.A., University of Southern California, 1993

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:** Law Librarians' Society of D.C.;



American Association of Law Libraries; Junior League of Washington; Rachael's Women's Center; Children's Playtime Project; DC Village; The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

**STATEMENT:** As Law Librarian for Gilbert Heintz & Randolph, I am committed to a career in library sciences and am pursuing my Master's in Library Science at The Catholic University of America.

I have been given a leadership role at my firm and within the community as a whole. I chair the firm's volunteers for charity work to benefit Rachael's Women Center and GHR received the Community Enrichment Award for 2005 because of the firm's efforts. As a community volunteer, I Co-Chair the Junior League of Washington's major fundraiser and am a Team Captain for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. As a board member I will bring my legal education, practical knowledge and leadership skills to LLSDC.

#### CANDIDATE FOR ASSISTANT TREASURER / TREASURER

##### **Laurie Green**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Manager of Library & Research Services- Bryan Cave 2003-Present; Assistant Librarian-Holland & Knight 2000-2003; Librarian-Oppenheimer Wolf & Donnelly, 1997-2000; Librarian-Sanders Schnabel Brandenburg & Zimmerman 1995-1997; Librarian-Anderson Hibey & Blair-1990-1995; Library Assistant-Winston & Strawn, 1987-1990

**EDUCATION:** MLS-Catholic University; BA-University of Missouri

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL-Member since 1997; LLSDC-Member since 1987; PLL Education Committee 1998-1999; PLL Social Committee 2000-2002; Chair - Nominations Committee 2002-2004; Co-Chair - Arrangements Committee 2005-ILL SIS- Member 1998-2003; Franklin Square Focus Group-Member 1998-2000, 2003-; Managers Focus Group-Member 2004-; SLA-Member since 2004

**STATEMENT:** I am a law librarian due to the wonderful mentoring of my first law library supervisor. LLSDC has continued to provide me with those same benefits, both educationally and socially. I have benefited not just from the first-rate programs and event, but also through the colleagues I have met and the friends I have made. It is an organization that is truly dedicated to preparing law librarians for

an ever-changing world and I would enjoy the challenge of playing a greater role in its leadership. Giving back is an important component in my life and I would very much like to give back to the organization and people that have been so helpful to me.

#### CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER AT LARGE

##### **Lisa Harrington**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Librarian, Holland & Knight LLP

**EDUCATION:** MLS, The Catholic University of America, 1993; BS Management and Marketing, Alfred University, 1987

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:** Law Librarians Society of DC – member since 1990; President, 2002-2003; PLL-SIS Secretary 2000-2001; PLL-SIS Education Committee Chairperson 2000-2001; PLL-SIS President 1996-1997; PLL-SIS Vice President/President Elect 1995-1996; PLL-SIS Education Committee Chairperson 1995-1996; PLL-SIS Holiday Party Committee Chairperson, 1995.; American Association of Law Libraries – member since 1990; Local Arrangements Committee, Local Tours Co-Chair 1999

**STATEMENT:** After taking a few years off from being active in LLSDC, I've decided that I missed it. Whether it is the planning of programs, the networking at those programs or just the camaraderie that comes from being an active part of the association, those are all aspects that I enjoyed as well as found rewarding. It is my hope that if elected as board member, I can help LLSDC continue to provide the leadership and guidance that so many have come to rely on.

#### CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER AT LARGE

##### **Patricia A Kidd**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Reference Librarian, Howard University Law Library; Owner Issues and Answers Library Services

**EDUCATION:** MSLS, Catholic University of America; BS Fashion Merchandising, Florida State University

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS:** LLSDC since 2000; SEAALL since 2002; AALL since 2002; SLA since 2002; ALA since 1998

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:** LLSDC Mentoring Committee – Chairperson 2005-2006;



## HEIN ONLINE AD

65th Anniversary Souvenir Book Committee  
SEAALL; Education and Publications Com-  
mittee 2004-2005; Program Committee 2005-  
2006; AALL Diversity Committee 2005-2007;  
CO-Chair Academic Law Libraries SIS;  
CONALL Mentoring Committee; SLA Mary-  
land Chapter, Board of Directors 2005; Mary-  
land Chapter, Diversity Committee Chairman  
2005 -2006

**STATEMENT:** I have benefited tremendously from my membership with LLSDC. As a librarian who truly enjoys being a librarian working with LLSDC has helped me through some of the changing developments of this great profession. I am committed to this organization and its meaning and feel it is time for me to take this commitment to a level which shows how I will work for its benefit.

In this leadership position I will bring dedication and enthusiasm, pledge to ensure that members of LLSDC are in touch with diversity in ideas, that members experience willing leadership and witness continual growth within the organization. Working as a part of the Board of Director will give me the opportunity to contribute my time and ideas to continue the traditions of LLSDC.

### CANDIDATE FOR ASSISTANT TREASURER / TREASURER

#### **SIMA MIRKIN**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Catalog Librarian, Pence Law Library, Washington College of Law, American University 2004 -Present; Catalog Technician (1999-2004); Order Assistant (1995-1999), E.B. Williams Library, Georgetown University Law Center; Acquisitions Assistant, Judge Kathryn J. Dufour Law Library, Catholic University of America 1993-1995; Library Assistant (1991-1992), Library Specialist (1992-1993), Jacob Burns Law Library, George Washington University; Assistant Bookmobile Librarian, Skokie Public Library, Skokie, IL 1989-1990; Engineer-Economist, State Construction Company, Minsk, USSR 1974-1988

**EDUCATION:** M.L.S. – University of Maryland at College Park, 2000; B.Sc. in Engineering Economics – Byelorussian Polytechnic Institute, Minsk, USSR, 1974

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL: Member 1995 - Present; LLSDC: Member 1995 – Present; SEAALL: Member 2004 – Present

**STATEMENT:** My professional career in librarianship is tightly connected to the LLSDC.





Prior to my current professional position as a Catalog Librarian at the Pence Law Library I worked in several local law libraries in a para-professional capacity over the course of 15 years. I was a recipient of several LLSDC scholarships during my study at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of Maryland. The LLSDC programs, and the people I met there helped me to shape my professional interests and expanded my knowledge of the field. I view the opportunity to serve as a LLSDC Assistant Treasurer as a pay back to the organization which helped me so many times. I hope my life and working experience will allow me to make a valuable contribution to the further development of the LLSDC.

#### CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT / PRESIDENT

##### **RICHARD WILLIAM PALMER**

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** Research Services Manager, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, LLP, June 2004-present; Senior Researcher, Wilmer Cutler & Pickering LLP, April 2003-June 2004; Research Librarian, Shearman & Sterling, May 2001-April 2003; Reference Librarian, Arnold & Porter, February 1998-May 2001; Inter-library Loan Specialist, Arnold & Porter, 1990-1998; Library Assistant, Baker & Hostetler, 1987-1990.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Law Librarians' Society of DC ; Member, 1987-present; Nominating Committee member, 1995-1996; President, LLSDC Interlibrary Loan Special Interest Section, 1992-1993, during which I co-drafted the ILL Guidelines; American Association of Law Libraries Member, 1991-present; International Association of Law Libraries Member, 2001-2003.

**STATEMENT:** The LLSDC has been instrumental in creating what is an exceptionally supportive and collegial network of libraries in this city over the last 65 years. In my nearly 20 years of employment in DC law libraries, the Society and has been, and remains, invaluable. As an individual who does not possess an MLS, there is no doubt in my mind that the educational programs offered, and the mentoring that my fellow members have consistently provided, have been hugely significant components of my professional development. I am committed to continuing this wonderful legacy. As well, I feel strongly that the LLSDC must maintain itself as an active Chapter of

the AALL and relish the opportunity to work with our colleagues nationally. It would be a great honor to be elected and to have the opportunity to serve the library community that has benefited me so strongly.

##### **ABIGAIL F. ELLSWORTH ROSS**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Reference Librarian, Howrey LLP since April 2001

**EDUCATION:** MLS – University of Maryland; BSLA – Georgetown University

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS:** American Library Association; American Association of Law Librarians; Current President of LLSDC-PLL section; Presentation speaker at the AALL Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX in July 2005 – Marketing Schmarketing; Special Libraries Association; Advertising Manager for SLA's Legal Division Quarterly publication; Presentation speaker at SLA Annual Conference in Nashville, TN in June 2004 and Toronto, Canada in 2005 – "Legal Research for the Non-Law Librarian"; Member of the 2006 Lexis TRIPLL Advisory Council

**STATEMENT:** There is no more valuable resource to Law Librarians in DC than LLSDC – from the networking opportunities to the first-class educational programs to the purely fun social events. We are truly lucky to be part of a profession that encourages close ties. LLSDC certainly welcomed me as a new Law Librarian years ago and I would be honoured to serve as Vice President/President in order to continue the tradition of service to all the area's Law Librarians.

#### CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER AT LARGE

##### **KAREN W. SILBER**

**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT:** Law Librarian, The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc.

**EDUCATION:** M.S.L.S., The Catholic University of America; B.A., The George Washington University.

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:** AALL - Member 1989 – present; PLL Education Committee Co-Chair, 2005-present; PLL Nominations Committee, 2005; LLSDC - Member 1989 – present; Nominations Committee, 2004; Recording Secretary, 1998-2000; Chair/Moderator, Task Force on the State of the Profession, 1996-1997; Co-Chair, Contemporary and Social Issues Committee, 1994-1996;

**PUBLICATIONS/SEMINARS:** Coordinated pro-

gram G-3 “Indexes, Taxonomies and the Google Generation: What You Don’t Know Will Hurt You” at the 98th AALL Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX, July 2005; Coordinated Plenary Session II “International Privacy and Global Security” at the 97th AALL Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, July 2004; Coordinated and Moderated Program J-5 “Maximize Current Awareness: Acquire Information at Warp Speed” at the 96th AALL Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, July 2003; “Every Library is Special and So is Its Collection Development Policy” 4 AALL Spectrum

10 (Dec. 1999); “Libraries Without Boarders” 40 Law Library Lights 1 (Jan./Feb. 1997); Current column contributor to *Law Library Lights*.

**STATEMENT:** I recently started writing the *Law Library Lights* book review column to help the LLSDC community and keep abreast of new publications. I view running for a Board seat in the same capacity; that is to reach out and relay information to the LLSDC community. I look forward to working with the members and the Board to continue to reach out and offer programs that will benefit LLSDC members. ■

## PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES SIS NEWS

Abigail Ross  
Howrey LLP

**ON MARCH 8, 2006,** join us for a brown bag lunch from 12:00 - 1:00 to hear Akin Gump’s Lola McComb speak on Financial Research: End The Fear Factor. Lola will help all of us in overcoming our fear of financial research, touching on credit rating agencies, earnings calls, and top-rated analysts. Beverages will be provided. The lunch will be held at Akin Gump at 1333 New Hampshire Ave. NW. Closest Metro: Farragut North. Please RSVP to Abigail Ross at (202) 383-7473 or [rossa@howrey.com](mailto:rossa@howrey.com)

### FUTURE PLL PROGRAMS WILL INCLUDE:

*Bowling!* — The PLL Social committee will be organizing an evening of bowling in March — keep an eye out for further announcements and bring your bowling shirts!

*People Information* — Listen to real a Private Investigator tell you his tricks for finding information on people who might not want to be found.

Join us as we continue a great year of programs and events! ■

## LEGISLATIVE SIS NEWS

Debra Atkins  
Sonnenschein Nath &  
Rosenthal LLP

**THE LEGISLATIVE SIS GROUP KICKED OFF THE NEW YEAR** with a Welcome Back to Congress luncheon, a nice, casual gathering where we all just sat back, shared ideas and dined. We had a nice mix of old timers and newer members in our group. Interestingly, the topic of lobbying reform on the Hill — a very hot current topic as we met — really did not generate much conversation among us. It will be interesting to see what potential changes may be proposed to limit lobbyists from obtaining so-called “inside knowledge.” Develop-

ments in this area could potentially impact our jobs as the need arises to contact Hill staffers for information on current legislation.

The group also bounced around a few ideas for upcoming programs that we may sponsor, including a Regulatory History research session, Basic Legislative History tutorials, How the Appropriations Process Really Works, and the use of RSS and Blogs for current awareness. If you would like to express a suggestion on possible programs, please feel to contact me at [datkins@sonnenschein.com](mailto:datkins@sonnenschein.com). ■

## ACADEMIC SIS NEWS

Christine Ciambella  
George Mason  
University Law Library

**THE ACADEMIC SIS HAS BEEN RATHER QUIET OVER THE WINTER MONTHS,** but we plan to emerge regenerated and active in the spring. We will continue our program of informal round table meetings on various topics of interest to the academic community. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting a round table, or in proposing a topic.

Please let me take this opportunity to men-

tion the joint meeting between LLSDC and VALL (the Virginia Association of Law Libraries). We will be hosting this meeting at George Mason University on Friday, May 19. Look for details on the LLSDC listserv and web site. GMU is a bit out of the way for both our Virginia and DC colleagues so we are all very excited about hosting this meeting here and looking forward to seeing all of you there. ■





## THE ILL SIS WRAPPED UP 2005 WITH THE ANNUAL DECEMBER COOKIE PARTY.

This year, the party returned to its traditional home at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. Host Dannie Young treated the attendees to quite a spread: he provided sandwiches, music, and tours of the firm's new library. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of visiting, they've got quite the setup at Pillsbury Winthrop; Dannie even has a fish tank! Partygoers were treated to a delicious variety of cookies contributed by the attendees. Thanks to everyone for participating so enthusiastically! The festive atmosphere was somewhat tempered by the departure of this year's ILL SIS vice president, Emily Skelton. Formerly with the library at Blank Rome, Emily is now working as a Project Manager with MVI Post, a digital post-production company. We sent her off with thanks for all her contributions this year and best wishes for the future.

We began the New Year at Clifford Chance with a lively discussion about problem patrons. Tips were traded on a variety of issues from how best to enforce due dates to how to deliver news that an item cannot be obtained. Everyone seemed to agree that it is best to prevent potential problem situations before they start. Defensive strategies include clearly communicating

due dates and loan terms, keeping clients informed on the progress and status of their requests, maintaining records of actions taken, and establishing definite time frames. We also took a moment to mourn the loss of the Gelman Library Information Service (GLIS), which closed down at the end of December. Many of us had come to rely on Gerald & Dawn's superior service and unfailing good cheer. GLIS, you will be missed! Thanks to Craig Levin for hosting such a successful and enjoyable meeting!

Everyone looked forward to the February meeting on copyright. Carrie Russell, an ALA copyright expert and the author of *Complete Copyright: an Everyday Guide for Librarians*, delivered a presentation based on questions submitted by our members. The program proved to be a very informative session and will hopefully alleviate some of the confusion and trepidation many of us feel when faced with copyright issues. The meeting was held on Wednesday, February 8th at the offices of Crowell & Moring.

I've been ridiculously lucky this past year to have had so many people volunteer to host ILL meetings, but I'm still looking for people to host our spring meetings. If you're interested, please contact me at [soconnell@wc.com](mailto:soconnell@wc.com) or 202-434-5303. ■

## INTERLIBRARY LOAN SIS NEWS

*Shannon O'Connell  
Williams & Connolly*

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**ON DECEMBER 1, 2005**, a large number of federal, private, and academic law librarians toured the Department of Justice Library, both physically and virtually. A tour of the Main Library and a demonstration of the DOJ Virtual Library were provided by Jennifer McMahan. In addition, a tour of the beautiful artwork and architecture of the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building was conducted by Jan Oberla. Many thanks to Jennifer, Jan, Blane Dessy, and the rest of the Department of Justice

Library Staff.

At the time of writing, we are planning a program on Legislative History Collections in Federal Libraries, a tour of the GPO in conjunction with the Education Committee, and a demonstration of PACER, the Federal Courts' electronic docketing information system. If you have any ideas for future programs, particularly for this year's Annual Agency Day, please contact David Lockwood at [lockwodd@cafc.uscourts.gov](mailto:lockwodd@cafc.uscourts.gov) or by phone at 202-312-5502. ■

## FEDERAL LAW LIBRARIANS SIS NEWS

*David Lockwood  
U.S. Court of Appeals,  
Federal Circuit*

## LIGHTS DEADLINE

■ ■ ■ If you would like to write for *Lights*, please contact Elaine Clark at [lights@llsdc.org](mailto:lights@llsdc.org). For the most up-to-date information regarding the 2005-2006 submission deadlines and issue themes, check the LLSDC Web site at <http://www.llsdc.org>.

**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (ASIL)** will hold its Centennial Meeting this spring. The theme for the Society's 100th Annual Meeting will be "A Just World Under Law." Please consider attending the session, which begins March 29th and closes April 1st, 2006. Registration is available online at the Society's website [www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org).

If you have ideas for upcoming programs, please contact me at [JPFridie@Venable.com](mailto:JPFridie@Venable.com). ■

## FOREIGN & INTERNATIONAL LAW SIS NEWS

*Janice Fridie  
Venable LLP*

LEXIS NEXIS AD

## WHAT A GREAT PROFESSION!

Sometimes, I get so bogged down in the day-to-day details of running the serials department at GW that I forget I am part of a larger profession. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2006 ALA Midwinter Conference in San Antonio in January, and I was instantly reminded of how great a profession librarianship is.

The flight to San Antonio was full, as usual. Seated next to me was a children's librarian from Baltimore's Pratt Library. She is one of 15 librarians who decide on the Caldecott, a prestigious award given to the finest illustrated children's book each year. She described what the next week would entail for her: closed-door meetings to narrow the field to six books, then more and more discussion until the committee finally decides on the winner. After that, the committee contacts the winner and holds a press conference on Monday morning to announce the newest Caldecott recipient.

Once on the ground, I was amazed, as always, at how we librarians can "take over" a city. Librarians everywhere on the streets of San Antonio! Although the ALA Midwinter Conference is smaller than its annual conference, it is much larger than the AALL conventions I am accustomed to attending. The sheer volume of librarians and the variety of "librarian-types" is daunting.

ALA Midwinter has evolved over the years from a venue in which committees meet to discuss their committee tasks, to a meeting with the look and feel of a bona fide conference, complete with a massive exhibit hall, programs, and lots of open discussion forums. For me, with all the transitions that serials have

faced in the past few years and will continue to face, it is nice to get together with other people who face similar issues.

And now for a few new serials developments....

### NEW PERIODICAL TITLES

*Art and Museum Law Journal*, 2004-Semiannual, Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Michigan Museums Association

*International Organizations Law Review*, 2004-Semiannual, M. Nijhoff Publishers

*The McGill International Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy*, 2005-Semiannual, McGill University, Faculty of Law

### TITLE CHANGES

*International Trade and Business Law Review*, 2005-Annual, Australian Institute of Foreign and Comparative Law. Continues: *International Trade and Business Law Annual*

*Temple Journal of Science, Technology & Environmental Law*, 2005-Semiannual, Temple University, School of Law. Continues: *Temple Environmental Law & Technology Journal*

### DEAD TITLES

*The Community Tax Law Report*, 1996-2005. Community Tax Law Project

*Journal of Taxation of Corporate Transactions*, 2002-2005. Commerce Clearing House (CCH) ■

**Robert Bratton** joined the George Washington, University Law School, Jacob Burns Law Library in January 2006 as a cataloguing librarian. Prior to coming to the GW Law School, he was a cataloguing librarian at the University of Maryland Libraries, Technical Services Division, Music/Audiovisual Cataloging Unit, in College Park, Maryland.

**Katherine (Kasia) Solon** joined the George Washington University Law School, Jacob Burns Law Library in January 2006 and serves as reference librarian. She received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law and is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan School of Information, where she received her M.S. in Information.

**Jeanna Faubell** is the new Library Director at Zuckerman Spaeder.

**Cameron Gowan**, the head of Information Resources at Gilbert Heintz & Randolph, has been accepted into the M.S.L.S. program at Catholic University.

**Melanie Michaelson** has joined the Department of Justice Civil Division as a Law Librarian.

**Kirstin Nelson**, is now library manager at Blank Rome. Kirstin worked at Steptoe & Johnson from 1999-2001 and then spent five years in Baltimore, first at the University of Maryland Law Library, and later at Piper Rudnick. She is happy to return to LLSDC.

**Carolyn McKelvey** has rejoined Covington & Burling as Conflicts/Research Librarian. ■

## EYE ON SERIALS

*Susan Chinoransky*  
The George Washington  
University Law Library

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

*Jeff Freilich*  
Ivins, Phillips & Barker

## TECH TALK **CREATING AND PUBLISHING RSS FEEDS**

Roger V. Skalbeck  
Technology Librarian  
George Mason  
School of Law

By now, probably a large percentage of *Law Library Lights* readers have heard of RSS technology. If not, here's a very brief description: RSS is a content formatting method used to distribute news, blogs, and just about anything you want to tell the world about. Depending on which source you check, the acronym means either "Real Simple Syndication" or "Rich Site Summary."

RSS is a method of distributing information so you can read it in any of several ways, instead of having to subscribe to email updates or visit various websites to see what's new. If you want to "read" RSS, you can use a browser such as Firefox or Opera, or you can read them using a web-based service such as Bloglines.com. Alternately, you can use features integrated with email such as with Mozilla's Thunderbird or try a separate program such as FeedDemon. Yahoo! also allows for RSS integration in the MyYahoo portal.

That's all fine and good, but what if you want to display RSS content right on your own website? Alternatively, what if you want to produce RSS feeds for your own sites? To respond very briefly, I offer four options in order of approximate increasing complexity. If you manage an intranet or external website, one of these programs is sure to help you expand your arsenal of options.

With a modest investment of time and money, you should be able to start incorporating direct links for everything from the Washington Post to the Huffington Post. Best of all, you can decide how to format this content, and you can place it alongside whatever else you have on your intranet.

**RSS-INFO** ([www.rss-info.com](http://www.rss-info.com)) – For people with no interest in programming and no access to Dreamweaver, the online form found under the "RSSinclude" tab on this site gives you enough to get you started. Once you have an RSS feed you'd like to publish, enter the URL in the form, add a few design parameters (e.g., color, width, number of entries), and you get a formatted code you can integrate on your website immediately. Note: The code generated here is processed by the RSS-Info server, which passes some formatting data through the RSS feeds. RSS-Info also has a Windows-based RSS editor to create these feeds, which is free to use. I haven't tried it out, but the interface looks straightforward.

**TECNORAMA DREAMWEAVER EXTENSION** (<http://snipurl.com/luo0>) – This is a free extension to the Dreamweaver software that allows you to display RSS feeds directly on web

pages you create. The only requirement is that you have Dreamweaver running on a server that supports the programming language PHP. Tecnorama is simple to set up, free to use, and it produces results without requiring that another server format them.

**MX RSS READER-WRITER** (InterAKT <http://snipurl.com/cu7z>) – If you're able to spend a modest \$30, this Dreamweaver extension is my favorite tool to create and distribute RSS feeds. It is also a great way to integrate RSS content on your website. The company provides animated demonstrations of the reader and writer components, and the documentation is very good.

In order to produce RSS feeds with this tool, you need some kind of database to distribute the items. Since we already use a MySQL database for news on our website, it works great, serving a dual purpose as the source for our RSS feeds.

**RSS DREAMFEEDER** ([www.rnssoft.com](http://www.rnssoft.com)) – The final option to consider if you want to create RSS feeds on your website is "RSS DreamFeeder." It costs between \$49 and \$79, depending on how many sites you use it for. I haven't tested this program because I've been happy with the InterAKT product. RSS DreamFeeder has more options than any of the others listed here; for example, it allows you to create an RSS feed without a database backend, and it supports a wider range of RSS versions. Read the detailed online tutorial (<http://snipurl.com/lupe>) to see if this program is right for you.

As a final note on this topic, the newest version of Dreamweaver, Adobe Dreamweaver 8 (after Adobe acquired Macromedia), includes much better integration support for RSS and the coding language XML (extensible markup language), which RSS is based on. If you (or somebody you know) can write code directly, or if you know what it means to "perform client-side XSL transformations", then you probably don't need one of the four options I mention above. For me though, I am comfortable with maintaining a rudimentary understanding of how RSS works. For now, I'll stick with the simplified tools.

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**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

for the Harbor Tour.

Well, I definitely have my tech and trend appetite whetted with my conference selec-

tions, but I am not certain about the tradition aspect. So many choices, so little time. I am sure that by the time my selections are made, the AALL schedule for Saint Louis will be waiting in my inbox! ■

## JOINT SPRING WORKSHOP 2006

### 21ST-CENTURY COMPETENCIES FOR INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JANE DYSART, DYSART AND JONES**

**TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2006**

In this one-day session, Jane Dysart; Roberta Shaffer, Executive Director of FLICC; Dr. Eileen Abels, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College of Information Studies; Rose Dawson, Deputy Director, Alexandria Public Library; and Donna Scheeder, Director Law Library Services, Library of Congress, will identify competencies and solutions necessary for your library's survival.

**TIME:** 8:30 to approximately 4:00 p.m. Please arrive promptly at 8:30, so you have enough time to go through security, find the Mumford Room, and get registered before the program begins at 9:00.

**PLACE:** Mumford Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Madison Building, Library of Congress (Capitol South metro station)

**COST:** \$40.00 members, \$20.00 students, and \$60.00 non-members (includes continental breakfast and lunch). The tax ID number is 54-1079345.

**REGISTRATION:** To use PayPal go to [www.dcla.org](http://www.dcla.org).

To bill the registration fee to your agency's FEDLINK Education Training (FT) account, call Elinda Deans, 202-707-4848

To pay by check make check payable to **Joint Spring Workshop** and mail with registration to:

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION** email [laura\\_hjerpe@yahoo.com](mailto:laura_hjerpe@yahoo.com) or call 703-597-2806.

No purchase orders or training request forms.

**REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY 12 APRIL 2006.**

**SPONSORS:** District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA), Lead Sponsor; DC Special Libraries Association (DC-SLA); Law Librarians' Society of Washington, DC (LLSDC); Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC)

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If you will need a receipt, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

The JSW complies with ADA. We can accommodate your needs provided you contact us by 10 April 2006.



BNA AD



**THE LLSDC ELECTION IS UPON US!** We have a great slate of officers running for the board in 2006. I hope you will take the time to vote. I can't remember a better group of dedicated volunteers who are stepping up to contribute to the Society. Of course, this could be said for you too. Join us in 2006 as a committee chair, a committee member, or head up your SIS. Getting involved in LLSDC is never a waste of time. You will get to know your colleagues, and maybe even your future boss. Volunteering is a great way to be part of the law librarian community, and as always, we can use your help.

We are revamping the LLSDC website. A Website Task Force has been appointed, and work started over the winter with a membership survey and a massive clean up of the content. Now we are in the process of creating a new website not only for our membership, but the greater legal community.

And speaking of the legal community, when was the last time you spoke to a group of attor-

neys outside your office, or wrote an article for a legal newspaper? The AALL Publishing Initiative Caucus (PIC) is compiling a bibliography of all of our publications outside the law library community. If you have written anything in the last few years, please let us know for our website and for the PIC website. It is time we stepped outside our comfort zone and let our light shine on the legal community.

Finally, the Virginia Association of Law Librarians (VALL) is hosting their annual meeting in Arlington this year, on Friday May 19, 2006. It will be a great opportunity to get to know our colleagues from all over Virginia. I encourage you to join us.

So there is the theme for this year — Get Out There, Network, Represent, Volunteer, Socialize!

It has been a pleasure serving you as president this year. More than anything, it has been a pleasure getting to know you. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm in LLSDC. ■

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Covington & Burling*

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