

# BRIEFS

Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 2

# **President's Message**

Steven Weber, Quarles & Brady



I have learned many things during my short tenure as LLAW president—not the least of which, my inability to write whimsically about fall foliage. Therefore, I will spare you the colorful introduction and get down to business. We are

one-third of the way through the fiscal year, and I think now is a perfect time to highlight a few of the many contributions our members have made to LLAW so far.

In August, Lisa Winkler, past president and nominating chair, resigned her positions to pursue a new career opportunity. I know all members join me in wishing Lisa the very best in her future endeavors. After the announcement, Emily Gellings offered to fill the vacant positions. My appreciation goes out to Emily for volunteering her time to LLAW this year.

Deborah Darin, government relations chair, has been hard at work monitoring proposed changes to Wisconsin's open records laws. The changes, originally included within the Motion 999 budget amendment passed by the Join Finance Committee in July, would have exempted all "deliberative materials" from open records requests. Although legislators removed the A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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language from the final budget bill, they continue to discuss options to curb the state's open records laws. In response to these ongoing discussions, the LLAW Board agreed to draft a letter to state legislators emphasizing the importance of maintaining access to deliberative materials. I will share the letter with members when it is completed. I thank Deborah for taking the lead on this important issue, and encourage members interested in volunteering with the Government Relations Committee to contact Deborah.

Over the last few months, Carol Hassler and Sarah Frets reviewed the responsibilities of our Web and Social Media committees. They ultimately advised the Board that moving our social media presence within the Web Committee would better serve LLAW. The Board adopted this recommendation at its first quarterly meeting in September.

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The LLAW Newsletter, official publication of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter and distributed to all LLAW members. Dues renewal falls in June of each year. For membership information contact Katie Kvien, Chair of the Membership Committee, at kkvien@reinhartlaw.com. Address all inquiries or items of interest to the LLAW Newsletter Editor, Michelle Wollmann by e-mail at mwollmann@reinhartlaw.com. © Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., 2015.

# President's Message (continued from page 1)

Sarah did a superb job developing our social media presence, and will now expand her role as web chair overseeing the website and social media accounts. A big thank you goes out to Carol for her seven years of service as web chair. Not only did Carol maintain the LLAW website, but she also redesigned the website a few years ago, giving it its modern, easier-to-navigate layout.

A Special Committee on Bylaws will begin reviewing LLAW's bylaws over the next year. The special committee will have two main goals: recommend changes to ensure compliance with AALL requirements and propose ideas to make LLAW more nimble in responding to changing membership demographics. We will need five or seven members to serve on the special committee, including a past president or Board member to chair the committee. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering on the special committee. Thank you to those of you who have already expressed interested in serving.

Those are just a few of the things LLAW members have addressed over the last four months. I encourage everyone to find a way to support LLAW—volunteer on a committee, attend the upcoming second quarterly business meeting in November, or apply for a professional development grant!

Member News

Jenny Zook, UW Madison, <u>Mobile Apps for the Intellectual Property Professional</u> in the September 2015 issue of Inside Track.

Laura Olsen, Quarles & Brady, <u>Avoid the Dark and Stormy Night: Online Weather Resources</u> in the October 2015 issue of Inside Track

**Bonnie Shucha**, UW Madison, *White Slavery in the Northwoods: Early U.S. Anti-Sex Trafficking and its Continuing Relevance to Trafficking Reform*, has been accepted for publication in the William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law. It will appear in a special issue in 2016 but is available now on SSRN at <u>http://ssrn.com/abstract=2677445</u>.

# **\*\* New Members\*\***

Sarah Kober - Library Assistant - Godfrey & Kahn

Annie Mentkowski - Head of Reference & Research Services - Northern Illinois University

Travis Baptist - Research Specialist - Michael Best & Friedrich

### **Connected in Philadelphia**

Elana Olson, Marquette University Law Library

Thank you to LLAW for a grant that funded a portion of the cost for me to be among the approximately 1450 attendees at this year's AALL Annual Meeting, the theme of which was "The Power of Connection." That power of the collective expertise, skills and ideas of law librarians and other information professionals was strong in Philadelphia.

My conference began with Leadership Training and the Council of Chapter Presidents Business Meeting. In addition to a chance to (re)connect with librarians from around the country, these sessions laid a foundation for the annual meeting and our year ahead with LLAW. Chapters are focused on common issues, from the changing needs and time of members to revising bylaws.

Terry Gross, host of *Fresh Air* on NPR, gave the keynote speech to an audience eager to see the woman behind the voice. Gross offered a glimpse into stories behind some of her interviews and into her life. Of the interview excerpts to which Gross gave context, some were insightful, simply funny or even shocking, but it was her recollection of an interview she conducted with Maurice Sendak not long before he died that left many of us particularly reflective. As the author and illustrator advised Gross, "Live your life. Live your life. Live your life." Watch the interview excerpt and illustrations by Christoph Niemann at <u>http://nyti.ms/RIXIJj</u>. In answering questions after her talk, Gross showed her appreciation for our profession, acknowledging that she couldn't carry out her role without librarians and others who do great research.

I attended a range of engaging sessions on topics from the new ABA Standards on learning outcomes and assessment to collaborative legal research sites to views on the amount of information to include in library catalogs. One program that kept many of us in the room after the session ended was accurately titled *Attorney Research Skills: Join the Conversation Between Law Firm and Academic Law Librarians.* The presenters shared themes and key points from recent ALL-SIS Task Force on Identifying Legal Skills & Knowledge for Legal Practice reports, available at <a href="http://goo.gl/TDKKJ2">http://goo.gl/TDKKJ2</a>. Beyond that information, the great value of this session was in round table conversations with a mix of firm and government law librarians and academic law librarians. We shared challenges, successes and realities of research in practice and in law schools. Issues tackled included what should or can be taught in schools versus in firms, how to handle the apparent shift away from certain trusted resources and tools, and ways to focus on methodology. My table continued our conversation after the hour ended, but we soon had to go our separate ways to take part in a full day of additional programming ahead. In her article in this newsletter, Leslie Behroozi delves deeper into this program and the reports of the Task Force.

The chances to talk with colleagues continued in the Exhibit Hall, at meals and other gatherings. Elsie the cow anchored a well-themed LLAW table in the Exhibit Hall (thanks, Jenny Zook). Thank you, LLAW, for helping me connect in Philadelphia, whether through programs, conversations or by handing out cheese pencil-toppers!

# **Continuing the Conversation**

Leslie Behroozi, Marquette University Law Library

As someone who teaches legal research skills to law students, I am always interested in ways that I can improve my teaching. I am particularly interested in ensuring that my lessons correspond to the process of legal research in practice as much as is possible in a learning environment. I was therefore very happy to attend, at this year's AALL Annual Meeting, a program titled "Attorney Research Skills: Join the Conversation Between Law Firm and Academic Law Librarians."

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The program was presented as a panel discussion and roundtable facilitation by the members of the Academic Law Librarians Special Interest Section <u>Task Force on Legal Skills and Knowledge for Practice</u>. The panel discussed key findings of <u>three Task Force reports</u> based on surveys of 150 law librarians and over 600 attorneys. Program attendees then discussed the findings at roundtables consisting of both firm and academic law librarians. (Each attendee received a colored slip of paper when entering the room; one color was for firm librarians and one was for academic librarians. Facilitators then made sure that both academic and firm librarians were seated at each table.) The survey results provided some interesting topics for discussion.

The most recent of the three Task Force reports was released in June of 2015. In <u>A Report of the Qualitative Responses</u> from the Survey of Practitioners on the Legal Research Practices and Opinions of New Associates' Research Skills, the Task Force reports on the open-ended responses offered by the survey's attorney respondents. The open-ended responses were grouped into six different topics, including the value of free and low cost sources, the value of secondary sources, and the value of state- or practice-specific materials. The report also addresses open-ended responses consisting of negative comments about research practices of law students and recent graduates in general. I would not say I was surprised by any of the open-ended comments I read in the report. Many of them echo concerns that my colleagues and I have been discussing for some time. We've made adjustments in our teaching over time to specifically address such concerns, and we'll no doubt continue to make adjustments. I am quite happy, however, to have the survey's open-ended comments available to read to my students; the comments, coming from those in practice, may reinforce the points in a more immediate and persuasive way.

The second of the three reports, released in June of 2014, is <u>A Comparison of Responses from Attorneys and from Law</u> <u>Librarians on Legal Research Practices and Expectations for New Associates</u>. The report displays an often striking discrepancy between responses from attorneys and responses from law librarians when asked how often attorneys use certain types of research resources or processes. Law librarian respondents often assessed attorneys as using sources or processes far more or far less frequently than the attorney respondents reported using the sources. A similar discrepancy exists between attorney and law librarian responses regarding how well recent law school graduates are able to perform certain research tasks or use certain sources. It is perhaps not surprising that law librarians, as expert researchers, tended to rate recent graduates' research skills lower than did the attorney respondents.

The most interesting discussion at my table involved a challenge both the firm librarians and the academic librarians faced: competing interests and the amount of time available for research training. Both firm librarians and academic librarians lamented not having sufficient time to teach research resources and skills. Academic librarians noted that while they try to work in as many research concepts and sources as is advisable and as much active learning and practice as is possible within the instruction time they have with students, it is a small amount of time compared to the whole of the students' law school experience. Firm librarians noted that the time they have with new associates during firm orientation has steadily dwindled, if it exists at all.

Both types of librarians noted that competing interests often prevent students and new associates from investing time in research instruction. Law students choose to spend time preparing for other classes (often "worth" more from a grade point perspective) as well as time networking, interviewing, interning, and participating in the extracurricular activities they feel are necessary to a well-rounded resume. Firm librarians find their training offerings competing with billable hours, a formidable opponent indeed. One panel member noted a new attorney's response when asked about research training offered by the firm librarians. The attorney noted that even though the research training would be helpful, "if I have to choose between going to a class and billing for an hour, I have to choose to bill." One firm librarian at my table noted that it is important to get both new attorneys and law students to see how much they *don't* know. New researchers may be able to complete their tasks (in a good-case scenario) but don't realize how much easier and more efficient it would be if they had the necessary training and skills. Both firm and academic librarians are trying to convey this through

individual "point of need" instruction, when the interest of the new researchers and their willingness to invest time is at a peak.

The surveys used by the Task Force, like any surveys, have their own limitations and are certainly subject to valid design criticism; it is not difficult to see reasons against drawing sweeping conclusions. Still, the endeavor of the Task Force was worth the effort. The results are very interesting, and the findings can still serve to inform our planning and improve our services to our patrons (attorneys or law students, as the case may be). This is true even if the surveys do nothing else but cause us to reflect on whether the responses ring true within our own legal community and what the impact of that may be.

We get this same benefit when we discuss our work and our experiences with fellow LLAW members. LLAW is such a valuable organization because it brings together law librarians from different types of institutions to share information. On a formal level, LLAW has in the past presented its own programming to facilitate a conversation between Wisconsin's firm and academic law librarians. On an informal level, I have found my LLAW colleagues in firm libraries to be extremely responsive to questions from me or my academic colleagues about how various resources are currently being used in firm settings; this provides us with valuable information that we can use to improve our teaching and service to our students. It may be that LLAW's formal programming made the informal conversations easier or it may simply be that LLAW consists of a group of cooperative, collaborative, and generous professionals who all have the greater good in mind. I have been the recipient of this professional generosity on frequent occasions, including the generous LLAW grant to attend this year's AALL Annual Meeting. For that generosity, I am grateful.



## LLAW Professional Development Grants Available Now

Are you considering attending an upcoming workshop, seminar or other continuing education event? Would you like financial support to be able to do so? If so, apply for a LLAW Professional Development Event Grant!

LLAW Grants may be used for registration fees, hotel expenses, and travel costs to and from an event.

Applications available at http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/membership/grants.html. Questions? Contact LLAW Grants Chair, Bonnie Shucha at bonnie.shucha@wisc.edu.



ALA Midwinter, January 30-February 3, 2016 Chicago, IL http://alamw15.ala.org/

# **AALL** Announcements

The AALL Rebranding Initiative has been moving forward using the results of the May member survey to inform the process. FAQs and a project update are available to keep you up-to-date on the progress of this project.



## AALL2go Pick of the Month- Surveys: When to Use Them and Why

In the webinar <u>Surveys: When to Use Them and Why</u>, Debbie Ginsburg, educational technology librarian at Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law, shares insights and best practices regarding creating and distributing surveys. She proposes the following steps for seeing a survey through from its creation to its distribution and review: plan, draft, test edit, distribute, analyze, and report. Also helpful is her evaluation of three popular survey tools: Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, and Google Forms.

## AALL2go Pick of the Month: Advancing CI at Your Midsize Firm

Advancing CI at Your Midsize Firm: You've Got the Theory - Now What? This competitive intelligence (CI) presentation from the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference is full of practical information. The speakers include Chief Business Development & Marketing Officer Iris Jones, Director of Information Resources Kate Pettegrew, and Research Librarian Amy Noll of McNees, Wallace & Nurick. Using their firm as a case study, the speakers provide examples, forms, and advice to improve your firm's competitive intelligence program. In addition to covering specific deliverables such as newsletters, reports, and intranet pages, the speakers share advice about collaborating with marketing and attorney teams and refining the deliverables over time.

Find this and many more archived continuing education programs on AALLNET.

# LLAW Meeting Minutes and Reports

#### Meeting minutes are available in PDF by clicking the links below.

- <u>2015-2016 First Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting</u>, September 3, 2015, Revere's Well Street Tavern, Delafield WI
- 2015-2016 First Quarterly Business Meeting, September 23, 2015, Delafield Brewhaus, Delafield, WI

# **Events Calendar**

## 2016

#### **SLA Annual Meetings**

June 12-14, 2016 Philadelphia, PA

#### **AALL Annual Meetings**

July 16-19, 2016 Chicago, IL

The deadline for submitting articles for the next

*LLAW BRIEFS* is January 15, 2016

Submit articles to mwollmann@reinhartlaw.com