

Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin

VOLUME 35 NUMBER 2

# **President's Message**

Kris Turner, UW Madison



I feel like every single one of these messages should begin with a thank you, even if it does not always happen. This time I have to say "thank you" to all the volunteers that made the Milwaukee MAALL meeting such a success. I was not able to attend. but I heard so many great reviews and so much positive feedback that I feel nothing but envy and jealousy of

those that did get to attend. LLAW was very wellrepresented, and presentations by our members were well-received. Extra thanks to Elana Olson and Marquette for doing such a wonderful job with the logistics, the hosting, the hospitality and juggling the thousands of little decisions and details that go into making a host city exciting and a great part of attending a conference. Congratulations to you on a well-done conference!

My thank you parade now continues on to all of you who were able to attend the LLAW 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary party that was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Olbrich Gardens in Madison. It was so wonderful to see so many LLAW members gathered in one place. The brain power in that one room was beyond calculation. By my rough estimate, LLAW had nearly half of its members attend the meeting, a great testament to the staying power and importance of the past 35 years of LLAW history. Greg Lambert, the AALL President, had a great time getting to know many of you, and I feel confident speaking for



A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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everyone when I say that his talk was very enlightening, interesting and informative.

Part of what made Greg's talk so informative was the honest and frank way he discussed the challenges that are facing not just AALL, but also chapters across the country. It is a familiar refrain that law librarians must "do more with less." Sometimes that is true, but other times, it just isn't possible. For example, it is difficult to do more with less when there are not enough members, or there isn't enough money to do everything you want. Greg outlined some strategies for confronting these tricky problems. For example, Greg advocated reaching out to new and younger staff and encouraging them to get involved in professional organizations. Many younger people do not have the same experiences of being social in professional groups, as many are used to interacting socially online or on their phone. It is up to us in our professional organizations to show that being a member is critical to fostering a relationship that goes beyond their own library or beyond the computer screen in front of them. If you know of any new librarians who may be a part of the "dreaded" millennial generation, now is the time to talk up LLAW and get them more involved. (continued on page 3)

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The LLAW Newsletter, official publication of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., is published three times a year in Spring, Summer, Fall/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 mlwollmann@michaelbest.com. © Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc. 2017 Page 3

A second strategy that Greg discussed was showing worth to your members. LLAW is great to be a part of, and every law librarian in Wisconsin should belong...but is that the only reason to join? Because you should? If so, then LLAW needs to prove our value more effectively. LLAW should be an organization that people want to take part in, and one big part of that is the educational programming that we put on four times a year. Another part is the social and networking aspect that does everything from connecting you to new jobs to helping you find that one pesky document that your patrons needs ASAP. But...is that enough? While that is not at all an exhaustive list of LLAW's value, I encourage everyone to think of more benefits to being LLAW members, which in turn will help us 'sell' LLAW to potential new members and wavering old members.

I really enjoyed Greg's talk, as it gave me plenty of food for thought on how we can grow LLAW and ensure that LLAW is still going strong 35 years from now. I hope that you all took something useful away from it as well, as the goal of LLAW's programs is to entertain and educate, as well as give you a chance to meet with your colleagues. If you think of any great 'Ah-ha!' ideas for encouraging new members or a new benefit of joining LLAW, please do let me know. I would be happy to add you to my ever-growing list of people to thank. Have a great Thanksgiving!

# Member News

Congratulations to LLAW member **Sandra Whitney** on her article in the Wisconsin Bar's September 6, 2017 issue of InsideTrack, Legal Research: How to Organize Your Research. Sandra provides great organizing tips in this article.

**Laura Olsen**, Quarles & Brady, wrote an article for the State Bar of Wisconsin's Inside Track on 50-state survey research, published on May 3, 2017: Jump-state State Survey Research: Tools and Techniques.

Bonnie Shucha, UW Law Library, published in the October issue of Wisconsin Lawyer. <u>"Badger State Infamy":</u> Wisconsin's Early Sex Trade.

**Laura Olsen** was one of four recipients of Quarles & Brady's Client Champion Award, offered in conjunction with the Firm's 125th anniversary celebration. A selection panel reviewed 60 nominations, and awarded the award to a librarian, a technical trainer, and two partners. The Firm's 125th celebration and the Client Champion Award were detailed in a Bloomberg BNA Big Law Business article, published on June 26, 2017.

**Kris Turner**, UW Law Library, published his article, <u>Putting Your Browser to Work: Extensions That Make You More</u> <u>Productive</u>, in Wisconsin Bar's October 4, 2017 issue of InsideTrack.

**Carol Schmitt**, Boardman & Clark, published an article on family law resources, <u>Legal Research: Where to Find Family</u> <u>Law Resources</u> in Wisconsin Bar's November 1, 2017 issue of InsideTrack.

#### **New Members:**

Student member: Taylor Aberasturi, UW Madison Sustaining/Vendor:

- Haley Harris, Bloomberg BNA
- Carolyn Bach, LexisNexis

Active:

- Neill Harris, Quarles & Brady
- Heidi Yelk, Wis. State Law Library
- Emma Babler, UW Law Library



Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin

LLAW Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form

Nominee:

**Eligibility:** Nominations may be submitted by any Chapter member or members of the legal community. To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be a current Chapter member, active or retired, in good standing.

**Statement:** Please attach a statement detailing the contribution of your nominee using the criteria below, including all relevant service, activities and positions held in LLAW, or bibliographic information for any work product. We encourage you to be as complete in your nomination statement as possible. Remember that the LLAW archives area is available as an information resource in documenting a nomination as is the *LLAW Briefs*. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

**Criteria:** The following criteria will be used to select the recipient.

Achievement in a particular area of law librarianship, service to LLAW, and/or the legal community, or contributions to the professional literature. Particular attention should be given to local involvement and LLAW contributions. The following broad criteria will be considered in the selection process. Nominees may excel in one or more areas.

- Outstanding leadership in LLAW, at meetings, and in committee work.
- Special and notable service to the chapter, such as participation in special projects.
- Participation in seminars, teaching courses, and public speaking activities.
- Publication and editorial contributions to professional literature.
- Innovations at the worksite.
- Mentoring activities which encourage others in the profession.
- Extracurricular activities which provide the profession and/or LLAW with commendable publicity and acclaim.
- Other achievements indicating noteworthy dedication to the profession of law librarianship/information science.

**Submission and Deadline:** Mail, fax or e-mail this form with all attachments by 4:30 p.m., March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to:

Victoria A Coulter Associate Director of Collections and Administration University of Wisconsin Madison Law Library, room 5346 975 Bascom Mall Madison WI 53706 608-263-4325 vacoulter@wisc.edu

### IALL 2017 in Atlanta

Sunil Rao, UW Madison Law Library

It had been fifteen years since the annual International Association of Law Libraries conference was last held in the United States. This year's conference was held at the Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, GA, presenting a rare and convenient opportunity to attend. Thank you to LLAW for a grant that funded a portion of the cost.

The theme this year was **"Civil Rights, Human Rights, and Other Critical Issues in U.S. Law".** Some of the presenters were Emory University faculty, while others were staff members at nearby governmental or non-profit institutions. Collectively, they offered a series of informative and engaging sessions surrounding U.S. and global human rights law.

A few of the sessions focused on historical and contemporary civil and human rights issues in the United states, such as the rise and fall of Jim Crow legislation, and the "criminalization of poverty" through institutions such as the money bail system and traffic courts.

Other programs addressed human rights issues that were global in scope. It was these that were perhaps the most relevant for me as a foreign and international law librarian. One program, for example, addressed the controversy surrounding confederate monuments, but widened the scope of the topic by exploring similar issues in Russia, South Africa, several European counties, and former colonies of the United Kingdom. In general, governments and/or citizens have generally dealt with controversial moments by either removing the offending monument, or re-conceptualizing and/or re-contextualizing it in some way. The presenter suggested similar approaches might be possible in the United States.

Another program summarized the current challenges facing asylum seekers in the United States. At the root of these challenges, the presenter suggested, is a narrow interpretation of the 1951 Refugee Convention, highlighted by the Attorney General's October comments about what he saw as widespread fraud and abuse in the asylum system. Further study will have to be done as to flexibility of the Refugee Convention in being able to keep pace with the evolving causes of displacement, and whether there needs to be a new international paradigm to deal with these causes.

On a global level, one persistent challenge to the effective exercise of human and civil rights is access to information. A presenter from the Carter Center in Atlanta offered an excellent overview of the growth of access to information laws worldwide, and the challenges faced in particular by women in taking advantages of those laws, including corruption, literacy, paternalism, and lack of institutional capacity. The Access to Information Program at the Carter center collaborates with particular countries and institutions within those countries to raise awareness and develop innovative ways of getting information to women.

In his Keynote Address, Emory University's Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im offered a forceful challenge to U.S. policies and practices on human and civil rights. With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a backdrop, Dr. An-Na'im argued that the United States currently faces a crisis in human and civil rights issues. In particular, he argued, despite its attempts to lead in the area of human rights, the U.S. often fails to apply these same rights in its own borders. Recent developments in immigration law, confrontations with minorities and police, and health care issues, are but a few indications of this. Furthermore, the reluctance on the part of the U.S. to sign international treaties related to human rights, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, suggests that we hold ourselves to a different standard than the rest of the world. Dr. An-Na'im challenged the U.S. government and its citizens to examine its internal civil and human rights record, and to renounce the tendency to act as human and civil rights police for the world.

Thanks again to LLAW for its part in affording me the opportunity to connect with and learn from a dynamic group of information professionals and pioneers in the area of human and civil rights worldwide!

## What's in a Name: The L-Word

Laura Olsen, Quarles & Brady

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Romeo and Juliet (II, ii, 1-2)

Etymologically, the term "library" is based on the Latin term libr, meaning book. The ever-changing field of library and information science is experiencing a terminological shift in the nomenclature used to label libraries and librarians. Certainly, while books were once the core medium of our profession, this is no longer the case. As one who long fought for the preservation of the terms "library" and "librarian" in the workplace, I am rethinking my position, and pondering future possibilities.

I have long been proud of the tradition and heritage associated with the terms "library" and "librarian." I practically grew up in my neighborhood public library, worked as an academic library during college, and as college drew to a close, my interests in research and information sharing led to a graduate degree in library and information studies. Initially, as a young professional working in the private sector, I would tell people I worked in the "information business" or in "information technology" as opposed to using the term "library" or "librarian." I felt that many did not understand what librarians truly do. Then, I decided to do my part in educating, branding, and promoting the value of libraries.

Since the early phase of my career I have grown very proud and fiercely protective of the terms library and librarian. I laugh off the "shhhh" jokes and gently educate when asked if I shelve books for a living. I embrace teachable moments to promote the profession. As one who was once slightly embarrassed by my professional title, I now embrace the L-word. I was staunchly opposed to the American Association of Law Libraries' rebranding initiative, under which the association pondered a name change to the Association for Legal Information. While the measure failed, it was an opportunity for law librarians to redefine and reinvigorate the profession.

When my alma mater, the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies, recently changed their name to the iSchool, I was once again opposed to the change. With both the proposed AALL name change and the successful iSchool name change I engaged in discussion with a few younger librarians, both of whom helped me to see an alternate vantage point. They explained that not all who are interested in the field traditionally known as library science will work in a conventional library setting, and that these name changes were proposed to expand interest in the many facets of today's information industry, as well as gain additional members and students who may be turned away from the term "library."

I continue to feel a strong connection to the terms "library" and "librarian;" however, recent industry trends have me rethinking my position. Total or partial corporate and law firm library outsourcing, a movement that emerged in the mid-1990s, has resurfaced. In a recent conversation a respected colleague and friend said to me, point blank, "there is no future in the library." I cannot get this statement out of my mind: "there is no future in the library." With all the branding work done to promote the value of libraries and information innovators, coupled with the excellent service provided by library and information professionals, this statement has me quaking in my boots. More importantly, this has me rethinking my one-time staunch support of the terms "library" and "librarian" in my workplace.

I have witnessed many paradigm shifts in my years working in law libraries. The statement "there is no future in the library" has me reconsidering my position concerning the traditional terminology. If removing the terms "library" or "librarian" from department names and titles means preserving the profession and jobs, then I shall change my tune. Replace the label "library" with knowledge, information, insights, reference, or research, or any other term that more accurately represents the integral role that libraries fulfill in our knowledge-based economy. Replace the term "librarian"

with analyst, researcher, technologist, specialist, or another title that clearly communicates the role of information professionals in the Library 2.0 environment. I have long held that what we do as librarians is more important than the moniker, however, changing times may require changing terminology to stay relevant.



# LLAW Meeting Minutes and Reports

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

- 2017-2018 First Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, September 21, 2017, Delafield Brewhaus, Delafield, WI
- 2017-2018 First Quarterly Business Meeting, September 28, 2017, Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI

# **Events Calendar**

2017-18

<u>SLA Annual Conference</u> June 11-13, 2018 Baltimore, MD

### **AALL Annual Meeting**

July 14-17 Baltimore, MD

The deadline for submitting articles for the next

*LLAW BRIEFS* is March 1, 2018

Submit articles to mlwollmann@michaelbest.com