My (Professional) Life as an Embedded Librarian
by Rita Young-Jones

I was invited to join a panel of law librarians presenting on “Embedded Librarianship” at the American Association of Law Libraries Conference in Boston, MA this past summer. It was a golden opportunity to share with fellow law librarians my freshly minted experiences as an embedded law librarian and to learn from others who had tried and failed, tried and succeeded, or not tried but were weighing their options.

As a personal aside, this was my first experience speaking in a professional capacity and it was amazing. Albeit there is a LOT of “cat herding” in the initial phases of the planning and coordinating, but in the end – when the so-to-speak lights go down and the curtain comes up - the effort pays off. As you begin your presentation you get feedback from the audience and know they are engaged with you on the topic. I encourage anyone who has considered giving a presentation to go ahead and try. The best part of presenting at AALL is that you are among colleagues and supporters. But more on embedded librarianship…

My embedded librarian life began when my manager advised the Library Research Team that we would each adopt a practice area on which to focus our research services. I selected the firm-wide Intellectual Property Group. I had begun to develop my knowledge of conducting intellectual property research at my prior firm and I wanted to keep that development going. So in the spring of 2009, I initiated my practice area “adoption” by presenting a cost-effective legal research talk to the IP Group. My presentation let them know what electronic resources were available for them, and it helped me to gauge their knowledge of the resources. However, as far as the talk being my debut as their embedded librarian, it kind of fizzled.

See Embedded Librarian, pg. 3

The author wishes to extend special thanks to the WPLLA Board for awarding a grant to attend AALL 2012, Boston.
Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2012 issue of the WPLLA Newsletter. It took a little while to “get the presses rolling...” but we think you’ll be pleased with the result. This newsletter is truly a team effort – it would not have been possible without the initiating work of Mike Fleckenstein, the capable assistance of layout magician Pat Roncevich, and the determination of Karen Shephard who did some subtle arm-twisting to encourage me to assume the helm.

This issue features a wide variety of informative articles – from tracking local legislation to tracking airplanes – as well as information on upcoming WPLLA events. We also follow fellow law librarians as they attend professional meetings and implement new initiatives in their work place.

It’s not too soon to start thinking about the Spring newsletter. We need volunteer reporters to cover WPLLA programs and events, and members willing to write about work experiences, newly discovered information resources, and any other topic of interest to law librarians generally or Pittsburghers in particular. So send us your ideas and articles – we look forward to hearing from you!

*Sallie Smith
Cataloging/Systems Librarian
Barco Law Library

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*Infinite Possibilities
The Art of Changing Your Life
with Michele Kristakis

Please join us for our January program
Thursday, January 10, 2013, noon to 1 p.m.
K&L Gates

Infinite Possibilities outlines the universal principles that enable every person to thrive instead of simply survive. This program will show you how to apply those universal principles in order to improve all facets of your life. Michele Kristakis, certified trainer/coach will lead you through fun and engaging exercises designed to guarantee your success.
Embedded Librarian cont’d. from page 1

But sometimes you get lucky. By performing some ordinary work for an IP attorney who considered my work product extraordinary, I became her go-to researcher. Gradually the work began to come in, some of it from other offices. Also, the Library’s electronic bulletin board for requests enabled me to see who was asking for IP research and I would assign the work to myself regardless of the initiating office. (I’d let the office librarian know I had taken it and why.) Then a legal secretary needed help locating a few patent file histories. I retrieved the histories for her, followed up with a few articles and suddenly the IP team in that office recognized me as their embedded librarian!

Beginning this year, I also requested permission to attend the IP group meetings. During these meetings I sometimes conduct brief “How Do you Do?” sessions to help people put a face to my name while I demonstrate a new product or approach to their practice. I am now actively involved with my group on various projects for cases, and I provide material for pitches to potential clients. The additional work is rewarding but requires a delicate balancing act with other non-IP research requests. Now that I have successfully adopted one practice group, my manager rewarded me this year by having me adopt yet another practice group!

Understandably, not everyone has the ability to embed. Solo librarians approached me after my presentation and asked, “How can I embed when I’m the only librarian?” I told them, “You are embedded. Unfortunately you don’t necessarily get to select your practice group, it may select you!” I also had librarians tell me they tried to embed but couldn’t seem to get any support. I said the support really starts with your managers and directors. If they want you to embed, they will help you succeed. No doubt, you need to build a ground-swell of support. But you only need one champion within the Library (although having more helps!) and one champion in your practice group to make things start to happen.

As managers and directors of a library team, I encourage you to consider the embedded librarian option. First, it is a great marketing tool. Telling a practice group that they have a dedicated librarian assigned to their research is a big deal. Don’t undersell the importance of it. Second, it gives a face to the library. In this day of electronic exchange, I can go for days without seeing any of my attorneys (and for those in other offices, months—until they show up at a group meeting). I had several attorneys send me emails after my first “How Do You Do?” session and say “HEY! It was nice putting a face to a name! Thanks for the presentation!”

Face-to-face personalized service adds value to your library services, especially where you have special-interest groups within your broader community. I’ve read how law school libraries are embedding librarians in clinics and moot court. I’ve heard how public libraries are embedding in elementary schools or high schools as a part of community outreach. What groups you identify for an embedded librarian should be determined by your own organization’s demographics and behaviors. If, during orientation for a lateral hire, you can say “We also have a librarian dedicated to your practice group’s research needs,” you have provided that person with a sense of the value the firm places on their group as well as a quiet safety net so they don’t have to worry about their potentially “arcane” research requests.

Admittedly, my version of embedded librarianship is not the purest sense of the term as coined by David Schumaker and Mary Tolley in their research study “Succeeding with Embedded Librarianship” (Information Outlook, June 2011). Mine is more of a hybrid version. I am a research librarian who is (now) assigned to two practice groups. As a result, I am more closely aligned with the needs and interests of each group, but still distanced enough to be objective. Personally, I have gained valuable experience as an embedded librarian because, ultimately, all research is a building block to the body of knowledge you amass on your life’s journey.

See next page for program highlights
Embedded Librarian cont’d. from page 3

Rita Young-Jones
Research Services Librarian
Reed Smith LLP

“We have our own program at K&L Gates where we assign librarian liaisons to various practice groups; we have had some great successes and admittedly, some flops! It was really helpful to hear about Rita’s experience. She is such a great speaker -- her enthusiasm made me want to go back to the office and re-ignite our program.”

Gwen S. Vargas, K&L Gates LLP

“Let’s face it: embedding librarians among those they serve is not a passing fancy and librarians of all stripes, particularly those in special libraries, ignore the concept at their peril. With that in mind, Rita Young-Jones' program on her own experience as an embedded librarian was both timely and enlightening. At K&L Gates, our long-running program of assigning librarians to serve as dedicatee liaisons to our practice groups -- a program much like embedded librarianship, but without the actual embed -- has been warmly received. Rita’s discussion of her own experience served to highlight the wonderful benefits embedded librarian programs afford, including: faster service and better answers for our users; a deeper understanding of our users' needs; and development of personal relationships that reward both the librarian and her department.”

Robert A. Duncan, Library Manager, K&L Gates LLP
Bloomberg Law has been around for several years. But it has only been recently that the law library community is beginning to view it as a serious contender in the legal research field. When Bloomberg bought BNA last year for $990M, everyone really sat up and noticed.

Here are some of the notable features of Bloomberg Law:

It feels like a born-digital database, unlike the “classic” versions of Lexis and Westlaw whose content migrated from print to digital. The Bloomberg Law interface is intuitive and easy to navigate.

All content is available to Bloomberg Law subscribers instead of being separately sold in “chunks” of information.

Primary Law: There is robust content of federal and state case law, statutes and regulations. For case law, Bloomberg Law built its own citator called BCite (similar to Shepard’s and KeyCite) that works very well. A favorite feature for librarians is the dockets, which Bloomberg gets from PACER and then passes along to users.

Secondary sources: The one thing we notice lacking in Bloomberg Law is a full range of law reviews and journals. They do have some, but not all. They say they are working on it. However, Bloomberg Law has other strengths in secondary sources. For example, many PLI treatises and ABI treatises are available as well as some Wiley Press treatises and a series of practitioner-focused books called “Getting the Deal Through” offering information about business laws in all major foreign countries.

BNA: BNA’s legal news and information focuses on a range of legal, legislative and regulatory activities. Content from all the BNA online publications is now being integrated into the Bloomberg Law platform.

Transactional Law: As one might expect, Bloomberg Law is very strong in business-related law. There is a tab on the main page called “Transactional Law” that links to EDGAR, and there are some very useful sample documents that can be used as templates called Dealmaker Documents and Dealmaker Clauses. Another tab called “Companies & Markets” has links to a number of useful information tools for finding out about companies.

Visualizations: Bloomberg Law has visualizations, such as charts and graphs, integrated into many of their information displays to a greater degree than other legal databases.

Web 2.0 features: Bloomberg Law lets you highlight and write notes on documents that you use, and then save them to folders and share.

In summary, Bloomberg Law seems to be a worthy contender in the legal information marketplace. As the company continues to aggressively add both information and features to its database, so it should continue to grow in importance.
I’m sure we all joined the profession of law librarianship for one important reason: the promise of a career full of action and adventure. Granted, we don’t typically get to swing from bullwhips, scale cliffs, or disarm bombs, but behind every secret agent, spy, and lawyer is a great research department. And sometimes serving as James Bond’s Q gives us an opportunity to jump into the action, as was my fate when the following question hit my inbox (disclaimer: this question is hypothetical and for educational purposes only):

We were supposed to depose somebody who we think may’ve fled the country. He was scheduled for a deposition in Blawnox this morning, but he didn’t show up. He’s based in Texas and stated he couldn’t make the deposition because of hurricane-like weather in Florida, where his private plane was supposed to land and refuel three days ago. The tail fin # of his plane is N123AB. Can you check to see, first, if there were hurricane-like conditions in Miami, Florida earlier this week, and second, the trajectory and destination of his private plane?

Since librarians have refined perceptive abilities, we can all see that answering this question would require us to obtain two pieces of information: historical weather data and air traffic records. Luckily for us intrepid librarians, there are two free web resources that provide precisely this information.

Weather data:
Not to be confused with the late 1960s/early 1970s radical left activists, the Weather Underground [http://www.wunderground.com/history/] is a web-site with a search interface that allows users to retrieve historical weather information. Searching for the data is a simple: the user enters the name of the city, state, and date in which they’re interested and the site delivers the following weather-related information: temperature (mean, max, and min), degree days, moisture (dew point, average humidity, max humidity, and min humidity), precipitation, sea level pressure, and wind (wind speed, max wind speed, max gust speed, and visibility). Hour-by-hour data is also displayed measuring temperature, dew point, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction. For our example question, the user inputs the following information:

The user receives all available weather data for this particular date from the weather station nearest to the designated location. By merely changing the date field, users can retrieve datasets for multiple days. In this instance the user is interested in the wind data for October 10 and the 2 preceding days.

Stosh Jonjak is a Knowledge Management Specialist at Reed Smith and current WPLLA Secretary.
Air Traffic Records:
After finding the historical weather data, we must now see if it is possible to obtain and examine the flight log of a private plane. The free web resource Flightaware.com contains flight tracking information for both private and commercial aircrafts. To unlock the availability of complete datasets and full functionality of the site, a user must register, although registration is free. Knowing an airplane’s tail fin number, a user can track the current location of the plane (including its current altitude, speed, and direction), what company or individual holds the registration, the plane’s flight schedule, and even the average fare price.

Beyond current flight information, the user can retrieve (for free) up to 4 months of the plane’s flight history. If a longer date range is needed, FlightAware offers historical datasets, for a price. (The amount of available data determines the price of the datasets.) FlightAware also provides data on individual planes, their flight histories, and airports. Users can track all planes arriving and departing from a particular airport (with an animated map showing both arrivals and departures), weather data per airport (updated, typically, on a 40-minute cycle), aerial maps and diagrams of the airport, and even PDFs of the arrival and departure protocols of all flight traffic. Historical data on airport arrivals and departures for the previous 36 months can be purchased. (Prices are determined by the size of the airport; data for larger airports is more expensive).

For our research example, entering the tail fin number N123AB retrieves an activity log of that individual plane. Clicking the particular rows in the activity log provides the visual data of the plane’s flight path.

For our particular plane, we can see it first left the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, and arrived at the Miami International Airport. But from Miami it flew to Owen Roberts International Airport in Grand Cayman. While Blawnox is nice, it’s no match for the Cayman Islands. And we can deliver screenshots of this information to the requesting attorney to let him or her know the whereabouts of person they were to depose.

Given the variety of research requests that librarians encounter, Weather Underground and FlightAware are two unique (and free) Internet resources to add to your research toolbox. With current and historical weather and air traffic data at hand, even the current rainfall in Looneyville, West Virginia and the historical arrivals and departures from Eek Airport in Alaska can be at your fingertips. Happy researching!
Message from the President

Our WPLLA year has gotten off to a nice start with several interesting programs. Vice President Mary Stacy and the Programming Committee will be bringing more your way throughout the coming months, including our Holiday Event in just a few days! I hope we’ll see you there. The WPLLA Board strives to respond to the needs and interests of WPLLA members by offering programming to advance our professional skills and knowledge, and to build collegiality within the association. In an effort to better-connect with members who, because of distance and time restraints, cannot make it to many—if any—of our programs or meetings, we also offer webinars (usually hosted by vendors) and PowerPoint presentations (posted to our website) when they are available. We hope to expand such outreach programs in the future.

Great programs are just one aspect of being a WPLLA member. Our listserv enables us to connect with one another to share knowledge, news and resources. Go ahead! Post a question to the listserv or give a colleague a call. Chances are very high that you’ll get a quick response. When WPLLA members come together—online or in person—we have the opportunity to learn so much from one another. Not only are WPLLA members dedicated to their profession, they represent many varieties of law librarians who share their time and talents to keep our organization in step with changing times and responsive to the needs of our membership.

If you haven’t yet served on a WPLLA committee (or if it has been awhile since you last served on one), I encourage you to become more involved in helping WPLLA grow as an organization. Committee participation is a great way to get to know your fellow WPLLA members and it’s definitely not too late to get involved - check out the committee list at the end of this newsletter and let me know if you are interested in joining one. I can be reached at shephard@pitt.edu or 412-648-1337. Much of today’s committee work can be handled through email and other forms of electronic communication, so you can be involved even if you can’t meet in person. Even if you only have a little time to spare, I think you’ll find the time you dedicate to the association to be an educational and rewarding experience.

Member ideas and input are welcomed and needed. It’s easy to communicate through the listserv, direct email, and now via Facebook. And don’t forget to check the WPLLA website http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/ as Webmaster Linda Tashbook alerts us to upcoming programs and events, links to useful resources, and more. Do you have ideas about additional content to post to the website? If so, just let us know! During my many years with WPLLA, I have seen how the collective voice and efforts of our members have helped our association evolve into what it is today. Take this newsletter as an example. Many members volunteered to provide news and feature stories. I am very grateful to those who already have contributed, and to those who may do so later this year. I am especially thankful to Sallie Smith who agreed to chair and to edit this issue of the newsletter, to Pat Roncevich who handled the design and layout, and to Mike Fleckenstein who got the process started.

Thanks to all of you who support me in my WPLLA role by sharing your talents, giving your time, and offering advice (and sometimes even doughnuts!) I look forward to serving WPLLA throughout the New Year and to working with even more of you as we celebrate 35 years of WPLLA this spring. Mary Stacy will keep us posted as plans develop.

In addition to serving as WPLLA President for 2012-13, Karen Shephard is the Information Services Librarian at the Barco Law Library and is currently working on a Graduate Certificate in Gerontology at the University of Pittsburgh.
Pennsylvania County Law Librarians (PaCLL) recently convened in Beaver County. Following their tradition of two meetings a year, rotating locations, the western Pennsylvania group met Oct. 19th in Beaver. In attendance were Bette Dengel (Beaver), Betty Ward (Westmoreland), Sue Megarry (Butler), Lucy Wolf (Blair) and Jamie Yancich (Washington). Jamie is the newest member having just been hired in September.

The first program of the morning was presented by Beaver County Detective Anthony “Tony” McClure. Detective McClure is the county’s “active shooter” expert. Tony put together a terrific program on what to do if there is a situation where someone starts shooting in a public place, such as the tragedy at the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh. Meeting participants viewed an eight minute reenactment of a school shooting. Even knowing it was just a reenactment, the film was chilling.

Tony’s advice to the public is that if you cannot safely escape the area, go to the “deepest” part of your department, get behind a locked door, call 9-1-1 to report who and where you are, then turn off your phone and lights and hide. Tony emphasized, “Get out of my way and let the professionals handle the situation.” The overall goal is to stop the shooter before they do any further damage.

After that tense program, meeting participants relaxed with an entertaining talk by Mark Stevenson of the Beaver County Library Commission who spoke on e-books in public libraries. Mark showed the Library’s website and how simple it is to view and download their e-books from Overdrive. Mark shared information on e-book costs and usage statistics. The program was both very informative and enjoyable.

After lunch, Brittany Neely from the Staunton Clinic spoke about mental illness and provided some tips on how to handle such impaired patrons when they come to our libraries. It was a topic relevant for all meeting attendees. The day concluded with a general discussion on various items of interest, followed by a book exchange swapping last year’s supplements.

Betty Dengel, Beaver County Law Library
In 2000, Allegheny County entered a new era of county government replacing its three-member commissioner system with a county executive and a fifteen-member executive council. State legislation created the Second Class County Charter Act (Act 12 of 1997) that resulted in the Charter being approved by the voters at the election on May 19, 1998 and subsequently amended by referendum on May 17, 2005. The county’s voters adopted a home rule charter that gave Allegheny County certain abilities to run its municipal government separate from that of the state legislature. The resulting legislation created the following organizational structure for the county government:

On the website for the County Council, at [http://www.alleghenycounty.us/council/index.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/council/index.aspx), the County Code of Ordinances and Home Rule Charter are in the center of the webpage. The Code of Ordinances is provided in full-text in an html version, or in Title 302 of the Pennsylvania Code at [www.pacode.com](http://www.pacode.com). (This service is provided by General Code, in its e360 electronic code collection.)

To view local legislation, find the heading *Legislation & Motions* (lower left side of the County Council website). Here, one can access Passed Ordinances, Passed Resolutions, and Passed Motions. Each category provides chronological lists, by year, of passed legislation since 2000. All passed legislation has an enactment number, title and file number followed by the legislative activity of when it was introduced, its sponsorship, and the date of passage by the executive.
The *Legislation & Motions* heading also provides an option to search for specific legislation. You can perform a simple search (by key word and date restriction) or an advanced search (by text, enactment number, stage of legislation, in control, final action). Either search strategy yields a list of retrieved records. Click on the record’s file number link for additional information. A “Text” tab lets you view the full document. A “History” tab displays meeting details and may even include a video of the full session.

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Joel Fishman is the Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Education/Allegheny County Law Library - caricature created at AALL Boston 2012.
This year’s WPLLA programs have already gotten the year off to a wonderful start. September featured Constance M. Bayles, Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh Graduate School Public Health, who spoke on “10 Keys to Healthy Aging.” The program at Reed Smith focused on the health and well being of the whole person. Dr. Bayles engaged the audience as she prompted attendees to guess and discuss the 10 Keys and their importance. More information on the “10 Keys” program is available at: http://www.healthyaging.pitt.edu/logo.html

October’s meeting at Reed Smith featured WPLLA member Rita Young-Jones who shared her experience as an embedded librarian in her firm’s Intellectual Property area. This timely talk discussed both good points and some of the bad points of embedded librarianship. This was a lively and well-attended event.

In November, at Eckert Seamans, Rod Wittenberg of Reed Archives demonstrated the Reed Web Preserver service. This product enables you to instantly capture, organize and preserve website and social media for use as evidence, research and competitive insight. All captures preserve the content as it existed when a site was live, including all images and links. A digital signature and date/time stamp is added so a legal team can authenticate the evidence in court. Eckert Seamans librarian Melanie Johnston who uses the Reed product says, “The service allows me to perform and present many kinds of research, from business development to expert witness, as well as to capture websites in their entirety.”

December’s annual Holiday Party will be held December 6 at Tambellini’s downtown restaurant, followed by “A Grand Night of Singing,” featuring music by Rogers and Hammerstein, at CLO’s Cabaret. The programming committee is busy working on more activities, including a lunchtime January 10th presentation at K&L Gates with Michelle Kristakis on Infinite Possibilities – The Art of Changing Your Life.

We hope to see you soon!

Kate Frey is the Fiscal Services Director at the Barco Law Library and current WPLLA Treasurer.
Executive Board, August 23, 8:45 a.m.  
Reed Smith

WPLLA Treasurer Kate Frey reported the association had approximately $2,600 available in checking, in addition to a $5,000 certificate of deposit with accumulated interest. Kate reported that current enrollment was just over 60, and expected membership renewals would bring the total membership to more than 70. Plans were made for WPLLA participation at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Information Science annual orientation program. Upcoming programming (the October Opening Business Meeting, the annual holiday event, and others) was discussed. The Board considered if an afternoon versus evening holiday event would yield higher attendance. It was decided to seek input from members at the Opening Business Meeting. (A prior survey for the spring banquet indicated evenings were preferred but the event had low attendance.) Prompted by a suggestion from WPLLA member Rita Young-Jones, the Board discussed creating a WPLLA Facebook page to share news and information. Secretary Stosh Jonjak agreed to work with Young-Jones to investigate what other chapters are doing with Facebook.

Executive Board, September 26, 8:45 a.m.  
K&L Gates

Treasurer Kate Frey reported that WPLLA’s certificate of deposit has earned just over $600 in interest. The Board decided to survey members to determine what to do with the earnings. When the CD first was purchased, the intent was to use earnings (once accumulated to a substantial amount) for purposes approved by WPLLA members, such as funding for grants, scholarships, programming, and needy libraries. WPLLA representatives at Pitt’s SIS orientation reported limited traffic to the WPLLA table due to arrangement of tables at the event and the lunchtime scheduling (many students were eating rather than investigating the information tables.) Still, six individuals signed up to learn more about WPLLA and law librarianship. Each received a follow-up welcome email from WPLLA’s President Karen Shephard, and Webmaster Linda Tashbook added them to WPLLA’s listserv to inform them of WPLLA’s activities and programs. Plans for the Opening Business Meeting were discussed, as was the importance of the newsletter and a desire to increase its frequency to more than once a year. The board recognized that committee members generously volunteer their time to produce the publication and that additional member participation was needed. The holiday event was again discussed. Board member Sue Megarry expressed concern that an afternoon event poses attendance problems for some. She also suggested members may want to see a show in addition to the dinner or reception. (Sue provided information on CLO’s "A Grand Night for Singing.") Programming Chair Mary Stacy is investigating affordable dinner venues. It was decided to solicit member input at the Opening Business Meeting. In other matters, the Board considered how to best share information on its activities with WPLLA members. Considerations included posting activities on the website, sharing them via the listserv, and including them in the newsletters. Karen Shephard expressed concern about WPLLA committees that are no longer active and the implications this may have on WPLLA’s operations. Both of these items were added to the Oct. 3 Business Meeting agenda.

Annual Opening Business Meeting, Oct. 3, noon  
Babst Calland

The Opening Business Meeting began with a welcome and member introductions as attendees enjoyed a buffet lunch. Treasurer Kate Frey reported the WPLLA account balance and that the $5,000 certificate of deposit had earned over $600. Members will be surveyed in early 2013 on how to spend the earnings to best support WPLLA’s objectives. Considerations include funding for grants, scholarships, programming, and needy libraries. Since the Oct. 3 meeting coincided with The Pittsburgh Foundation’s Day of Giving (which encourages donations to local charities by matching funds during that 24-hour period), WPLLA member Joel Fishman suggested a charitable donation. WPLLA members voted to support libraries and literacy by donating $100 to the Carnegie Libraries and $100 to Reading Is FUNdamental Pittsburgh.


Opening Business Meeting cont’d from prior page

(RIF Pittsburgh). Mary Stacy presented upcoming programming. (Contact Mary if you have suggestions for future programs: mstacy@babstcalland.com.) President Karen Shephard said WPLLA is in the process of deciding how to best share Executive Board Meeting minutes with members. Karen expressed concern about the preservation and archiving of WPLLA records, particularly the digital preservation of materials. Member Michele Kristakis suggested hiring a student intern to assist with the digitization. She, along with Patty Horvath and Pat Roncevich, agreed to serve as members on the Archives/Historian Committee to investigate best methods for WPLLA archiving and preservation. Karen offered to assist as well. Newsletter Chair Mike Fleckenstein discussed the WPLLA newsletter and encouraged members to submit more content-rich stories (or suggestions for such stories). After completing the meeting’s agenda, members took advantage of the vis-à-vis opportunity to talk with one another and learn more about what was happening in their lives and libraries.

Executive Board, October 23, 8:45 a.m.,
University of Pittsburgh’s Barco Law Library

Treasurer Kate Frey reported that, per decision of the Oct. 3 Opening Business Meeting, WPLLA donated $100 to the Carnegie Libraries and $100 to Reading Is FUNdamental Pittsburgh (RIF Pittsburgh). The gifts were made on The Pittsburgh Foundation’s Day of Giving thereby generating matching funds. Kate reported that the chapter’s digital camera, used for recording WPLLA events and programs, no longer functioned. The board approved her motion to purchase a new digital camera for approximately $100. Kate also shared information from AALL concerning Chapter Liability Insurance, and volunteered to investigate its cost. Mary Stacy reported on programs scheduled through December, including the holiday event. She stated that member feedback on scheduling (dinner or lunch) was inconclusive, so it was decided to continue the event as an evening program. The Board then discussed inactive committees and the importance of the Mentoring Committee. Board member Yan Yu said she had been involved in a mentorship program while in library school and found it to be very valuable. Secretary Stosh Jonjak reported his research showed that about 40% of AALL chapters currently have Facebook pages. He suggested creating a WPLLA Facebook page, which would provide free advertising for the group’s programming and serve as another outreach-oriented resource. The board voted to authorize the action. Stosh said the privacy setting for the page will be high, requiring approval for posts made to the page's wall. He and Rita Young-Jones agreed to initiate the endeavor. Karen shared AALL’s request for chapters to contact their legislators in support of enacting the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA). The Act concerns the verification and preservation of electronically-published primary legal materials, especially in light of materials ceasing to be available in hard copy. The board voted to send a letter of support to legislators.

Executive Board, November 20, 8:45 a.m.
Eckert Seamans

Vice-President Mary Stacy reported several responses to the holiday event, and that another reminder would be sent after Thanksgiving to let members know they can choose to attend only the dinner, if they prefer. Mary confirmed that Michele Kristakis will present the first program of 2013, Infinite Possibilities – The Art of Changing Your Life, on January 10 at K&L Gates. It was decided to announce the new WPLLA Facebook page on the listserv. Kate Frey reported the purchase of Chapter Liability Insurance for $50.

Please contact WPLLA Board Members if there are matters you would like to bring to their attention.

Reported by Stosh Jonjak; summarized by Karen Shephard.
Susanna Leers, Barco Law Library Electronic Services Librarian was recently honored by her family with a commemorative plaque and Law School donation in recognition of the many hours she spends creating displays for the Law School’s electronic faculty display kiosk. Susanna described the kiosk and her creative efforts in *Thinking Outside the (Glass) Box* AALL Spectrum, March 2009.

Susanna Leers, with son Philip and husband Dr. Steve

Linda Tashbook, Barco Law Library Foreign, International and Comparative Law Librarian and WPLLA Webmaster, was recently quoted in an article about the enactment of bills of rights for the homeless (“Activists Aim to Bolster Rhode Island’s Homeless Bill of Rights,” in Stateline, an online publication of the Pew Center on the States, [http://www.pewstates.org/projects/stateline/headlines/activists-aim-to-bolster-rhode-islands-homeless-bill-of-rights-85899429426](http://www.pewstates.org/projects/stateline/headlines/activists-aim-to-bolster-rhode-islands-homeless-bill-of-rights-85899429426)). The article discusses the nation’s first Homeless Bill of Rights which affirms that the homeless have the same rights as everyone else. In the article, Linda was quoted as saying the bill eliminates the need for advocates to parse arguments or find compelling stories. “With a Homeless Bill of Rights, the claim can be clear and simple,” she says. “There is no need to wait for a new incident of victimization.” Linda’s the creator/administrator of the Homeless Law Blog, [http://](http://)
Members, we need your input!

Please consider becoming an active part of our organization by serving on a committee. The committees are an integral part of our organization. Committee members work to promote our profession. They provide continuing education events, offer scholarship opportunities, and sponsor a few social events as well! WPLLA has a number of committees that are open to all current members. To join the committee of your choice, simply contact the Chair of that committee or the President.

WPLLA Committee Membership 2012-13

President
Karen Shephard

Vice President
Mary Stacy

Secretary
Stosh Jonjak

Treasurer
Kate Frey

Members-at-Large
Sue Megarry
Yan Yu

Immediate Past President
Melanie Johnston

Programming Committee
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Newsletter Committee
Sallie Smith - Chair (editor)
Pat Roncevich - Co-Chair
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Kate Frey
Stosh Jonjak
Karen Shephard

Nominating Committee
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Linda Tashbook

Grant/Scholarship Committee
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Amy Lovell

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Michele Kristakis - Co-Chair
Pat Roncevich - Co-Chair
Patty Horvath

Facebook (ad hoc)
Stosh Jonjak
Rita Young-Jones

Mentoring *
Recruitment *

* Members needed!
Contact Karen Shephard if interested.

WPLLA On the Web

Visit the WPLLA website for information about our organization, links to publications, information on programs, member directory and more. Messages to members can be posted to the listserv discussion forum. This is a closed list and is restricted to WPLLA Members only. To subscribe to the WPLLA listserv, go to: http://share.aallnet.org/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wplla.

Once you submit your email address, you must reply to the confirmation message to activate your listserv subscription. The address for posting to this list is: wplla@aallnet.org.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the website or listserv, please contact Linda Tashbook WPLLA Committee Membership 2012-13.

Calling All Writers

Do you have ideas for articles to read or that you wish to contribute? Contact any member of the Newsletter committee with your suggestions. What topics interest you? Please let us know. Thanks!

WPLLA Newsletter Committee

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