

wplla Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Fall 2015

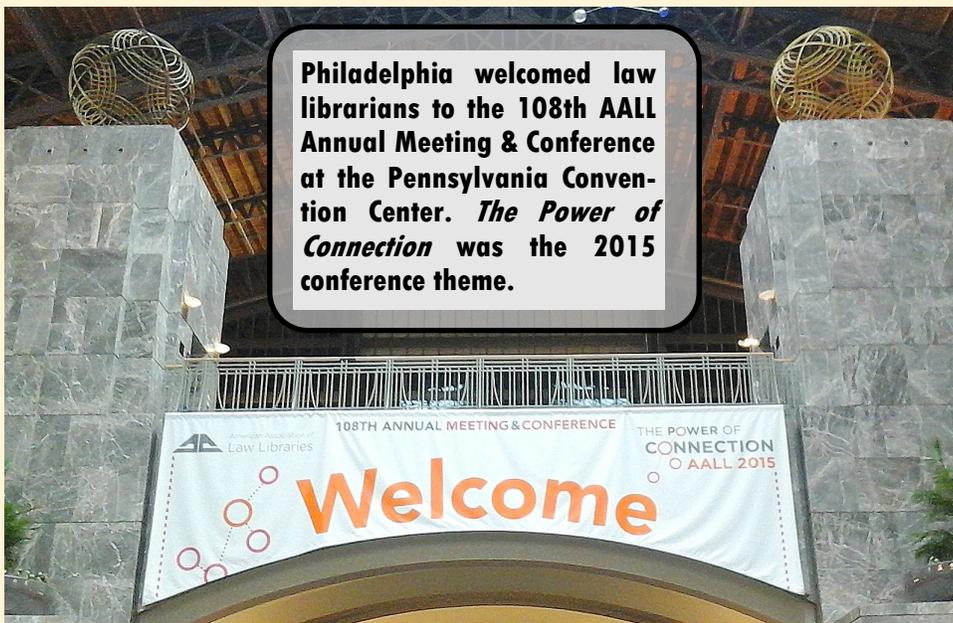
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AALL Survey Design Seminar Thursday, November 19

Law librarians are increasingly involved in deploying surveys and consulting on the design of quantitative data-gathering instruments. This webinar is the second in a series on survey development. It will cover core topics such as validity, reliability, item/question types and survey deployment systems. This webinar will be useful to both novice and seasoned survey designers.

Please register by
[November 16.](#)



Conference attendees (L-R) Barbara Alexander-Klein, Karen Shephard, Mary Stacy.

Editor's Message

At this year's AALL 108th Annual Meeting & Conference in Philadelphia, many of us had the opportunity to connect, once again, with fellow law librarians from across the country. I was encouraged to see so many fresh young faces among the attendees. These new and enthusiastic law librarians are eager to forge new paths in the profession while respecting the methods and techniques of old. Amazingly, I talked with a twenty-something librarian from California who had "done time" filing in an actual – NOT virtual – card catalog, with its drawers, rods, and paper cards. If that doesn't give you an appreciation of the library profession's history, I don't know what does! While making my rounds in the exhibit hall, I was pleased to see a large poster recognizing several of our WPLLA members marking 10 and even 40-year anniversaries! This issue recognizes their AALL membership milestones as well as their contributions to the profession.



The wide-variety of annual meeting educational programs and conference workshops were juxtaposed with yoga sessions, mindfulness meetings, and coffee talks – a reminder that all work and no relaxation makes a very dull law librarian, indeed. So, as we begin this chapter year, we hope to strike a balance between educational and entertaining activities. To that end, this issue introduces a new column, coordinated by Mary Stacy, highlighting recent reading selections of our members. Please consider sharing your reading choices – casual or work-related – with Mary for her next column in the spring newsletter. As always, we welcome member contributions to the newsletter.

Sallie Smith, Cataloging/Systems Librarian, Barco Law Library

2015 Marla Schwartz Grant Recipient

Samantha Cabo was this year's recipient of the AALL Marla Schwartz Grant. The grant provides assistance to a library school graduate student or newer law librarian to attend an AALL-sponsored education activity related to technical services. Samantha, a recent University of Pittsburgh MLIS graduate, is currently working as a taxonomy and search navigation contractor in an e-commerce corporate setting. She holds a JD from the Charlotte School of Law, and a BA in foreign language and literature from Old Dominion University. While working on her MLIS degree, Samantha was a Reference Assistant at the University's Barco Law Library and a Technical Services volunteer at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Library.



As a new conference attendee, Samantha enjoyed the camaraderie of CONELL's nearly 100 participants as they participated in speed networking, learned how to get involved association activities, and toured historic Philadelphia. Venturing into the conference's exhibit hall, Samantha was impressed by the number and variety of exhibitors displaying their various products and services. As for conference programs, Samantha focused on diversifying her skill set by attending a variety of technology-focused sessions.

You can read about Samantha's conference experience in her Marla Schwartz Grant Report at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/sections/ts/TSLI/Issues/Technical-Services-Law-Librarian-41-1-September-2015.pdf>.

WPLLA Members Mark AALL Anniversaries

40 years and counting . . .



Frank Liu

Frank Y. Liu is Associate Dean for Legal Programs, Professor of Law, and Director of the Duquesne Center for Legal Information and the Allegheny County Law Library. Liu teaches legal research and Chinese language, culture, history and law. He developed the faculty exchange program between Duquesne University School of Law and the China University of Political Science and Law, and co-founded the first ABA-approved Duquesne - CUPL summer Chinese Law program in Beijing. Liu also helped establish Duquesne’s LL.M. for Foreign Lawyers program. Liu co-authored *Pennsylvania Legal Research Handbook, 2008 Edition*. Among his many honors, Liu received the 2009 AALL Presidential Recognition of Appreciation for his leadership in the China – United States Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries Steering Committee, and is a recipient of the national “Roy M. Mersky Spirit of Law Librarianship” award.

10 years and counting . . .



Karen Shephard

I began my current position as Information Services Librarian at the Barco Law Library in 2008. In addition to providing reference service, I help faculty members promote their scholarship as they submit papers to various platforms such as law review journals and Social Science Research Network (SSRN). Not only do I learn about the research our faculty members are doing, I save them time and frustration by being familiar with systems that they use infrequently. I also report various metrics related to the “productivity” of our faculty members such as the number of times their works are cited or downloaded. While working on my MLIS degree at Pitt, I was a Barco library services specialist in the technical services department. Through AALL and WPLLA, I have had many opportunities to learn from, and network with, fellow law librarians.

- Submitted by Karen Shephard



Mary Stacy

When I joined AALL in 2005, I was the newly elected President of WPLLA. Through the years, I have found AALL Conferences and materials to be very supportive of my position at Babst Calland, where I am a solo librarian providing research support to our attorneys and overseeing the library budget for the Pittsburgh office and four satellite offices. I joined the firm in 1987 as a part-time receptionist, and gained “on the job training” from attorneys, paralegals and WPLLA mentors. I also assist with the firm’s community activities such as the American Heart Association, the Holiday Giving Tree, RIF Book Programs and many more. Thanks to AALL, the Private Law Librarian section and WPLLA, I have learned so much and made many friends.

- Submitted by Mary Stacy

Time flies. It has been 10 years since I became a member of AALL and the WPLLA local chapter in Pittsburgh. And it has been a wonderful 10 years! In my law library setting, I have grown from a rookie cataloger to performing all aspects of technical services work with confidence. I have learned much from peers, both locally and nationally, by participating in online seminars, attending annual conferences, and collaborating through email. It is hard to imagine how I could have arrived at this point in my professional career without the help and shared wisdom of fellow librarians and the AALL community.

- Submitted by Yan Yu



Yan Yu

Upcoming Events



The **WPLLA Annual Holiday Party** will take place Wednesday, December 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Babst Calland, 2 Gateway Center, in downtown Pittsburgh. The social gathering will be a catered event, with guest entertainer ‘Slim’ Forsythe.



Upcoming WPLLA Brown Bag Programs (more details will be forthcoming)

January – Ann Unger explores useful and free legal research resources in a program tentatively titled “Kicking the Tires: Free and Cheap Online Legal Resources.”

February – Stosh Jonjak presents, via webinar, his third annual *Technology in Review* program, “Keeping Current with Legal Tech: Legal Technology Current Awareness Resources for Law Librarians.”

March – Robert Duncan returns with another popular roundtable discussion with members.

Conference Connections *continued from page 1*



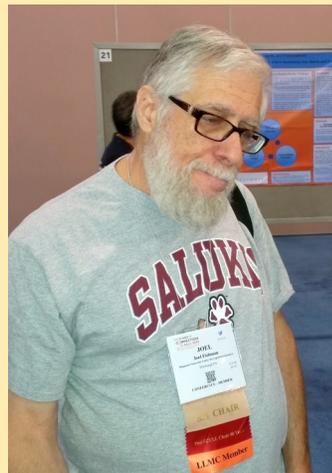
Former co-workers reunite (L-R): Spencer Clough, Univ. of Mass. Dartmouth School of Law; Marc Silverman, Univ. of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library; Jenni Parrish, UC Hastings College of the Law; Pat Roncevich, Univ. of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library.



Cynthia Cicco, Pepper Hamilton LLP (left) with Deb Silverman, YBP Library Services.



Susanna Leers, Univ. of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library, and CS-SIS past chair.



Joel Fishman, Duquesne Univ. Center for Legal Information/ Allegheny County Law Library.



Melanie Johnston, Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC.

Revisiting WPLLA's Summer Legal Research Workshop: A Call for Participation by Karen Shephard

WPLLA is reevaluating its summer Legal Research Workshop. For many years, WPLLA has offered Legal Research Workshops designed to sharpen the skills of area law students to better prepare them for work as summer associates at law firms, with the courts, and in other law-related internship positions. The workshops were also open to association members and others in the legal profession who were interested in improving their research skills. WPLLA first began offering these programs as a way for the organization to serve the broader legal community.

The Legal Research Workshops have been offered in a variety of formats -- as half-day programs covering various topics in a single day, or as several brief lunchtime sessions over a week or two. Training typically focused on Federal and Pennsylvania research skills along with special topics, such as Business research. WPLLA members with subject expertise led the instructional sessions. Joel Fishman (Duquesne & ACLL), Marc Silverman (Pitt Law), Rita Young-Jones (Reed Smith, Pittsburgh), and others in earlier days, dedicated time and effort to teaching valuable research skills to attendees. Several legal vendors, most recently Bloomberg Law, LexisNexis, and Thomson Reuters/Westlaw, provided generous support with food, financial contributions, useful tips and handouts, and free items.

However, much has changed in the legal profession since WPLLA first began offering the workshops. To better respond to today's legal research needs, WPLLA has formed an Ad Hoc Legal Research Committee to reevaluate the program's direction and focus. The committee will consider what changes might be needed in order to continue providing relevant and valuable services to the legal community.

Please consider participating in this effort. We need input from all types of libraries (academic, firm, court, and county law libraries). With committee work being done virtually, do not let distance dissuade you from volunteering. If you are interested in helping WPLLA develop the future direction of this program, please contact Ann Unger aunger@dmclaw.com.

Karen Shephard is Information Services Librarian at the Barco Law Library.

Turn that great idea into a paper – and win!

The "Call for Papers" has begun! The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee promotes the scholarship of AALL members and of students through its annual "Call for Papers" competition. Papers, which may be submitted by active or retired AALL members, or by students in library, information management or law school, may address any subject relevant to law librarianship. If you have any questions, please contact Catherine A. Lemmer, Chair calemmer@upiu.edu.



Technology Corner by Susanna Leers

Hacking at AALL

There were plenty of opportunities to feed your inner geek at the July AALL annual meeting in Philly. The various activities kicked off with a daylong “AALL Hackathon” held a few blocks off-site at Peirce College and sponsored by CS-SIS, GD-SIS and RIPS-SIS.

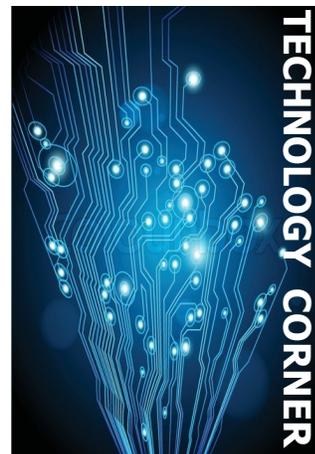
If you are unfamiliar with the term, a hackathon brings together those with knowledge of available resources and needs - like law librarians - with those who have the technological skill to build apps to use those resources and meet those needs. The result was a group of programmers collaborating with AALL members to transform government datasets into new resources to increase the data's accessibility and discoverability. The interesting group of 30 or so people – all armed with laptops - who gathered for the Hackathon included law librarians with varying amounts of programming skill as well as local geeks who love to program and attend every hackathon they can find.

We sorted ourselves into five groups. The goal was for each group to develop an idea of how to transform available government datasets into new resources that will increase the data's accessibility and discoverability. And there was a prize for the best result as determined by an illustrious group of judges headed by Mary Alice Baish, Superintendent of Documents for the US GPO.

I was fortunate to be in a lively group with some seasoned law librarians including a couple of excellent programmers. The idea we developed was a visualization tool - using the Statutes at Large dataset available from the FDsys website - to chronologically track legislation dealing with various subject topics. The result was an app that could create a visual timeline, making it easy to see when various topics – for example, “clean air” – were legislated in Congress, and how extensively it was legislated. Another group worked on a visualization app that would display geographic maps showing “hot” legal topics. Last year's winning project was a script that transformed the South Carolina Judicial Opinions webpage into a site with an integrated search interface and improved access to the judicial opinions.

Overall, the experience was challenging, stimulating and lots of fun, with a great sense of camaraderie developing as we worked. At the end of the day, my group was awarded the grand prize – woo hoo! – but nobody was disappointed. We all felt that the Hackathon gave us the opportunity to think innovatively about the vast amount of legal and government data freely available, and to come up with creative ideas for making the data more useful and accessible.

AALL is planning a third annual Hackathon next summer at the annual meeting in Chicago. Hope to see you there!



Susanna is the Electronic Research and Technology Services Librarian at the Barco Law Library.

Her photo is pixilated - she prefers it that way!

Message from the President by Ann Unger

Some things never change. Our members, past and present, are a truly talented and supportive group committed to serving our law libraries and our institutions and to helping each other! I have been a long time WPLLA member and am honored to be your 2015-2016 President.

Our programming and initiatives for the year have already launched, and several of these initiatives - like our website redesign and assessment of our Legal Research program - are continuations from prior terms. Please take some time to read all about our programs and initiatives in this newsletter's program reports and business meeting minutes.

One of the great things about WPLLA is the opportunity that it offers for members to spread their wings in a collegial and appreciative community. Members can contribute a tip to the listserv, write a program summary or newsletter article, or host a meeting. Speaking from experience, WPLLA has strengthened my relationships with members and has (hopefully) sharpened my skills in teamwork, organization, and presentations. The Board and Committees are working to structure volunteer opportunities for increased member participation. Such opportunities will require minimal time and effort but yield big rewards by encouraging member collaboration on our organization's projects and activities. More to come!

WPLLA is for its members. Our members join and renew their memberships largely for the informative programming and the opportunity to network. Networking activities include access to our listserv and wonderful newsletters. This year we are committed to providing members with a membership directory, which will be issued by the end of the year at the latest!

Without a doubt, challenges to our profession have been there in the past and are certainly here in the present. These challenges include demonstrating our unique and valuable expertise, meeting the day-to-day demands of work, and promoting our value and services within the legal community and to our organizations. But we, and WPLLA, are still going strong.

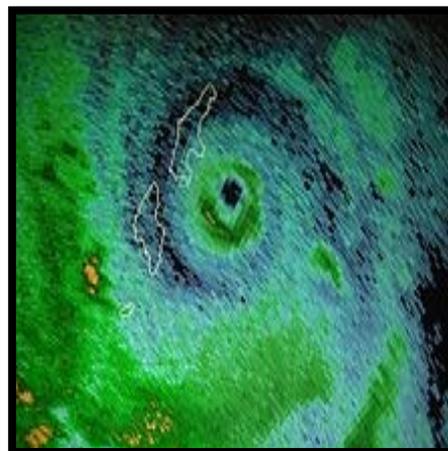
Let's draw strength from each other! Members, please let me know your suggestions on how WPLLA can help you. For those of you who are active in WPLLA – thank you! For those of you who want to get more involved - welcome aboard! With everyone's help, we are on the road to having many great years to come!

Ann



Typhoon Troubles: Former WPLLA Member Weathers the Storm by Sallie Smith

The word *typhoon* has little meaning to those of us here in Western Pennsylvania. The weather phenomenon, also known as a tropical cyclone, became a very real experience for former WPLLA member Chris Todd when he experienced the full force of Typhoon Soudelor this past summer. Chris is Director of Library Programs and Services, Northern Marianas College, Saipan (see "Greetings from Saipan," *WPLLA Newsletter* Fall 2013 at page 9: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/newsletterfall13.pdf>). He is also the territorial archivist of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the storm left him and his staff working full time to preserve the archives from damage (see Society of American Archivists post "Archives and typhoon damage in the Northern Mariana Islands," <http://offtherecord.archivists.org/2015/08/14/archives-and-typhoon-damage-in-the-northern-mariana-islands>)



Radar imagery of Typhoon Soudelor approaching Saipan on August 2.

Typhoon Soudelor passed directly over Saipan on August 2, causing widespread damage on the island. Winds gusting at 146 km/h (91 mph) downed numerous trees and power lines, leaving much of the island without power and rendering roads impassable. Many homes were destroyed or damaged, leaving residents to seek refuge in public shelters. With repairs to electric, water and wastewater systems expected to take weeks, relief supplies were quickly sent to Saipan from Guam and Hawaii. President Obama declared the U.S. Territory a federal disaster area, allowing residents to receive government aid.

Here are excerpts from Chris's emails as we "tracked" him and his wife Alex through the storm's aftermath.

Aug 12 – Saipan has not had power or water for almost two weeks and it will likely be a month or more before these services are restored. Almost half of the college was completely destroyed, though the library was largely untouched. In the meantime, we are all working with FEMA and the Red Cross relief teams instead of reporting to work. The scale of the damage is massive. Alex and I are fine and our house only sustained minimal damage. Pretty amazing considering the severity of the storm.

Aug 16 - We are actually running a siphon hose from the water tank in an abandoned castle next to our house. Not kidding at all. I will send a picture soon, I'm pretty proud of my Mcguyvering!

Aug 17 - The heat is insane. My parents have sent a few battery-operated fans, but we only run them when we sleep. The only consolation is that FEMA is providing Saipan residents with MREs, which I have a particular fondness for. For now, I have moved my office to the top floor of a Chinese casino that has donated office space to the college so I finally have access to the internet again. Fingers crossed we get back to some sort of normalcy before too long.

Aug 19 - Here is a photo of a gourmet FEMA dinner. The scotch was our addition.



Aug 20 - As promised, here are a few photos of my siphon system. First, I tap the water tank at the abandoned castle. Then collect the overflow in a 100-gallon tank. Then run a hose downhill into the house. Running water, island style!



At press time, Chris sent this update of island life post-Soudelor:

Three months after the impact of Typhoon Soudelor, the island is still in a state of recovery. However, many aspects of life on Saipan have begun to return to normal. Many of the traffic lights have been restored and most, but not all, homes have power and water.

Professionally, the experience has taught me that emergency preparedness is absolutely crucial for preserving print and digital collections. However, in an extreme situation like this, even the most extensive preparations only get you so far.

Our campus was without power for nearly two months. We staved off mold growth (a major threat to print collections in the tropics) in the library and archives using several dehumidifiers attached to gas-powered generators. This was a "quick and dirty" solution, but kept our collection intact while using minimal resources. – Chris Todd

Editor's Note:

According to its website, Northern Marianas College continues to see strong, healthy enrollment numbers, and this year's fall 2015 class is no different despite the devastating impact from Typhoon Soudelor. With the storm's extensive impact on the campus and community, the summer 2015 semester had to be temporarily suspended as the college underwent recovery and clean-up efforts. Understandably, when living in the Pacific region, one must quickly acclimatize to such tropical weather systems. Shortly after the fall semester began, campus was again impacted by heavy rains and winds with the passing of Tropical Storm Chapi. Keep those dehumidifiers handy, Chris!

AALL Rebranding Initiative



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.

Meet Our Newest WPLLA Members!



My name is **Mary Seitz**. I'm a Circulation Desk Attendant at the Barco Law Library with prior experience working in public libraries. Before finding my way to Barco, I was a Children's Library Assistant at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Even though I sometimes miss working with children, I am excited to be learning the ins and outs of an academic law library. I have just started the process of applying to the MLIS

program at Pitt's iSchool and I look forward to being a student again. I'm a native Floridian, but after 3 years of living in Pittsburgh, I'm finally feeling more at home. I love reading, research, yoga, hiking, and creative writing.

My name is **Veronica Hunt**, and I am a Library Specialist at the University of Pittsburgh's Barco Law Library. I am responsible for serial check-ins and claims, and processing bindery shipments. I earned my Bachelors of Information Science from Pitt, and plan to go back for my Masters in Library Science next year. I enjoy the evolution of libraries with emerging technology, the study of their usability, and how they can be designed to continue promoting resources for the present and into the future. As someone with no law experience, and a new addition to the Barco Law Library, I also enjoy learning about law librarianship! In my spare time, I dabble with needlework projects, photography, travelling, cooking, drinking coffee, and of course, reading (and I'll read pretty much anything). I have two cats and I volunteer at the Animal Rescue League (to get my fill of "dog love" until I can someday have one of my own).



My name is **Hayley Kile** and I am a Reference Assistant at K&L Gates. I have worked in their library for 18 years, supplementing my undergraduate English degree with on-the-job training. I am

amazed at the changes that have taken place over the years - from how the firm operates to how the library and its resources are used. I have "survived" some library moves: an in-house move during building renovations, and another from an old building to a new building. Nothing lets you learn the collection like a good move! When I began work at K&L, the Internet was still a baby, lawyers heavily used the library, and Westlaw and Lexis were on dedicated computers. I am very interested in the sustainability of Library and Information Sciences in our ever-changing world. My interests include mid-century modern design, books, food, sports, animals, gardening, hiking, birdwatching, live music, theater, modern dance and general rabble-rousing.



My name is **Kimberly Gregory** and I am a Law Librarian at K&L Gates LLP, providing legal and business reference to attorneys, paralegals and other staff throughout the organization. As library liaison to several practice groups, I learn about their information needs and recommend resources they may need or find useful. I also present to first-year and summer associates offering research tips, information on available resources, how-to guides, and 30-minute "Check-it-Out" Webex classes on particular topics. I also serve as co-chair of the Library's Business Intelligence Unit. I love traveling to new places, relaxing with friends and family, and am an exercise fanatic! In addition to being a certified Spinning™ instructor, I enjoy many other classes ranging from hot yoga to boxing. That keeps me busy and tired! I also love being a librarian. My career provides opportunities to learn something new almost every single day!

Pennsylvania County Law Librarians

2015 Spring Meeting Report by Sue Megarry

Editor's note: PACLL members gather twice a year, spring and fall, at locations hosted by member law librarians.

The Spring PACLL meeting was held on May 1, 2015. Jamie Yancich, Washington County Law Librarian, hosted the meeting at the beautiful Washington County Courthouse. The newly remodeled Judges' Library, complete with marble fireplaces and huge oak reading tables, set the scene for our gathering. Jamie recently re-configured the library shelving and streamlined the collection. The shelving arrangement, the beautiful wooden tables, and new draperies on the windows reminded us that we were in a special place.

First, we met with Jamie's library intern, who is considering a career in law librarianship. I hope we gave her encouragement. Next, we met with Sharon Francis, Director of the Washington County Domestic Relations department. Ms. Francis is an attorney and the newly appointed director. She discussed the new custody rules and their impact on her clients and staff.

After a delicious lunch at the Union Grill, we met in the Washington County Law Library's Public Access Computer Room. We discussed access to various databases, their usage by both attorneys and public patrons, and the many issues that arise on a daily basis such as computer glitches, user training, printing vs. downloading, etc. Finally, we held a round robin discussion on various issues confronting county law librarians, especially the influx of non-attorneys using the law library.

Sue Megarry is Law Librarian at the Butler County Law Library.

Congratulations!



Sarah Steers, WPLLA Board Member-at-Large and recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, was among the successful applicants passing the Pennsylvania bar examination given July 2015. She recently learned that she also passed the New Jersey bar exam. Sarah's legal interests include energy and the environment, and IP law. Here she is in France on the European vacation she took with her husband in May 2015 to celebrate her graduation from law school.

Under construction

The WPLLA Website Committee is hard at work developing an exciting new website for our chapter. The new site - hosted on WordPress.com – will have a more modern look and flexible design. The existing website content is currently being transitioned to the new platform. Stay tuned for more details as work on the new website progresses. Thanks go to Liz Whittington for leading this effort!

The screenshot shows the WPLLA website header with the logo and navigation links: OUR ORGANIZATION, PUBLICATIONS, EVENTS, JOIN WPLLA, DISCUSSION FORUM, IMAGE CREDITS, and CONTACT US. Below the header is a banner image of a city skyline. A news item is displayed with the title "2015 Annual Business Meeting - Minutes" and a date of "November 3, 2015". The text of the news item reads: "President Ann Unger called the October 21 meeting at Babri Calland to order at noon. She introduced board members Vice-President Pat Roncovich, Past-President Cindy Cicco, Treasurer Liz Whittington, Secretary Sallie Smith, Members-at-Large Donna Kielear and Sarah Steers. She thanked outgoing board members Amy Gillin, Stosh Jonjak, and Sue Megarry, and introduced new members. Lunch was provided for the 13 attendees; two members participated remotely." There are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn at the bottom right of the news item.

Off the Bookshelf compiled by Mary Stacy

Editor's note: This issue of the newsletter introduces a new column, coordinated by Mary Stacy, that highlights "recent reads" by WPLLA members. The next column will appear in the spring issue of the newsletter. You can share your book selections with newsletter readers by sending an original brief summary of your selected title(s) to Mary Stacy mstacy@babstcalland.com.

An Irish Country Doctor, by Patrick Taylor.

I love reading books about small town life. It's pure escapism from the constant bad news that surrounds us nowadays. I have recently discovered the first book in this series (Irish Country Books) of 11 titles. The main character is a new medical school graduate, Barry Laverty. He goes to work for an older, wiser general practitioner, Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, in the small Irish town of Ballybucklebo. Barry soon discovers that Dr. O'Reilly has his own way of dealing with the many colorful characters of Ballybucklebo, none of which he was taught in medical school.

Contributed by Cindy Cicco

Woe Is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English, by Patricia T. O'Connor.

It's an interesting book on grammar that provides little quips to help you remember things like, "does the period go before or after a quotation mark." - *Contributed by Suzan Dolfi*

Independence: The Tangled Roots of the American Revolution, by Thomas P. Slaughter.

The Gray Man Series, by Mark Greaney (*The Gray Man*, *On Target*, and *Dead Eye*).

Sir Edward Coke and the Reformation of the Laws: Religion, Politics, and Jurisprudence, 1578-1616, by David Chen Smith. - *Contributed by Joel Fishman*

A Discovery of Witches, by Deborah Harkness

The "All Souls Trilogy" begins with the book *A Discovery of Witches*. Fast action and good descriptions help move the story along as the main character, Diana Bishop, discovers an enchanted alchemical manuscript coveted by all the otherworldly species such as demons, vampires, etc. The ensuing chase crosses countries, continents, and time. As Diana slowly learns how to use her power as a witch, she falls in love with a vampire. Cross-species love is taboo. Diana has a hard time judging who is friend and who is foe. Her struggles while coming into the full flower of adulthood and being confident in herself both as a woman and as a witch provide a great background to this story. I couldn't put it down, and hope you like it also. - *Contributed by Kate Frey*

The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood.

Post-apocalyptic view of the world and religion with strict rules instead of chaos. Or is it? - *Contributed by Lori Hagen*

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, by Daniel James Brown.

This book holds your attention from start to finish. The story revolves around Joe Rantz, a young determined teenager with no family but a huge heart. He rows searching to find his place in the world. Enduring hardships from freezing temperatures to sickness and financial problems, these young men show remarkable determination in their quest for gold. I strongly recommend this book. - *Contributed by Mary Stacy*

Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World, by Linda Hirshman.

This narrative contrasts the justices' different backgrounds and experiences with their alliance in building a body of women's rights law. It is on my stack of books amidst cozy-ish mysteries, but promises to be a readable history for the first anecdotal pages. - *Contributed by Ann Unger*

WPLLA 2015 Annual Business Meeting

*Sallie Smith**Ann Unger**Donna Kielar**Pat Roncevich**Cindy Cicco**Liz Whittington*

President Ann Unger called the October 21 meeting at Babst Calland to order at noon. She introduced board members Vice-President Pat Roncevich, Past-President Cindy Cicco, Treasurer Liz Whittington, Secretary Sallie Smith, Members-at-Large Donna Kielar and Sarah Steers. She thanked outgoing board members Amy Gillin, Stosh Jonjak, and Sue Megarry, and introduced new members. Lunch was provided for the 13 attendees; two members participated remotely.

Status Report: President Ann Unger said WPLLA's purpose is to serve its members. Benefits include a listserv and forthcoming directory, programming and opportunities to network. Results of the 2014 survey indicated members joined for networking and are generally happy with programming. Remote participation at meetings and programs is now being routinely offered. Treasurer Liz Whittington reported a checking account balance of \$6,666.78, with 57 paid memberships, including 10 new members. The chapter purchased liability insurance through AALL to cover board members and WPLLA sponsored events.

Committee Reports: Ann Unger asked for increased participation in committee activities. She will initiate an effort by the chapter to better inform members of committee functions and the support that is needed.

Programming - Pat Roncevich said the first program of the 2015/2016 year, "Your Opinion Matters" was a member roundtable discussion of various topics. Ideas for upcoming programs include annual technology review, history of lawyering, presentation skills and free platforms for legal research. Pat also said West Virginia law librarians were interested in some collaboration with the WPLLA chapter.

Website and Listserv - Liz Whittington said the revamping effort is underway. The website's content is moving to WordPress.com with a new domain name wplla.org. The site will be more modern, flexible and linked to Facebook.

Scholarship & Grants – Cindy Cicco reported on an effort to help fund the Vice-President's attendance at AALL Leadership training. The training, held during the annual meeting, requires the expense of staying an additional day. Members agreed the valuable training benefitted the chapter through improved leadership skills, networking and ideas. Cindy moved, and members voted, to allocate \$250 each year to offset expenses for the vice president's attendance.

Legal Research Program –Ann Unger suggested the upcoming newsletter include a statement of the issue and a call for participation to develop new ideas for the program.

Mentoring – Cindy Cicco described her outreach last year to welcome new members. Ann asked for ideas about reaching out to library students at Pitt and Clarion.

Newsletter – Sallie Smith said the newsletter is published twice a year (fall and spring) and announced a new column, "Off the Bookshelf" coordinated by Mary Stacy, which will appear in the upcoming issue. She needs program reporters, and Pat Roncevich volunteered to include that request in forthcoming program invitations.

Publicity – members discussed the role of this committee, given the availability of social media.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

WPLLA Programs and Activities

Local Business Research Brown Bag - Past, Present and Future

At last April's brown bag on *Local Business Research – Past, Present and Future*, two guest speakers presented a variety of materials for researchers to use when conducting local and historical business research. Scott Pyle, Business Librarian at the Carnegie Public Library downtown branch, discussed the many unique reference materials available at the library. David R. Grinnell, University of Pittsburgh Reference and Access Archivist, spoke about historic Pittsburgh resources. WPLLA members learned about the rich array of resources available to them when fielding local business and historical reference questions. The event, at Dickie McCamey & Chilcote PC, was also available via webinar.



WPLLA members (L-R) Donna Kielar, Hayley Kile, Liz Whittington, Mary Stacy and Melanie Johnston.



Ann Unger with guest speaker Scott Pyle (standing) and David Grinnell (seated).

Technology in Review by Stosh Jonjak

At the second annual *Technology in Review* program for WPLLA members last July, I discussed three main categories of trends in legal research software: cloud storage, visualizations, and analytics.

Cloud Storage—Under this category, we covered docketing software such as *PacerPro*, *Caseflex*, and *Inforuptcy*. All of this software essentially works the same: it situates the cloud between users and *PACER*. The motivation for doing this is to save the users money. *PACER*, of course, charges the user every time he or she accesses a court document. If, instead, someone uses *PacerPro*, *Caseflex*, or *Inforuptcy* to pull a document, that document is saved to the service's cloud, and becomes freely available for all other users subscribed to the software. Cloud storage enables commercial vendors to improve upon the *PACER* interface and design.

Visualizations— Visualizations let users quickly comprehend data and relevancy. They also provide users an opportunity to interact with data. Many of the current visualization software offerings are re-representations of research with which we are already familiar. The key difference, however, is that information is presented visually rather than syntactically. For example, *Ravel Law* enables a user to conduct a graphical version of a *KeyCite* or *Shepard's*; the relationship between case law is represented symbolically, with relevancy represented by bigger or smaller visual icons. *Picture It Settled* uses a visualization called a "hurricane graph" to predict the final price in a negotiation process. Lexis's *Verdict & Settlement Analyzer* uses graphs to inform attorneys about what potential monetary awards are at stake in various areas of litigation. Bloomberg Law's *Docket Analytics* and Thomson Reuters' *MonitorSuite*, create charts and graphs representing corporation litigation histories.

Analytics— Analytics essentially involves trying to predict the future by using big data. LexisNexis *MedMal Navigator's Case Value Assessment* ingests settlement and jury verdicts concerning medical malpractice. Users can input their client's symptoms and ailments and receive a relevancy-guided result list detailing possible settlement amounts. Lex Machina's *Patent Portfolio Analytics* incorporates analytics in an attempt to predict the costs and rewards of potential patent litigation. For legal services costs, *ELM Solutions*, *Serengeti Law*, and *Sky Analytics* all use analytics to predict the cost of legal spending. Their data source is invoices from big law firms, scrubbed to various criteria like type of litigation and regional location, so as to inform users of what market costs to expect in hiring firms.

WPLLA Programs and Activities

Your Opinion Matters! A WPLLA Members' Discussion

The first WPLLA program of the 2015-2016 year was a round table format discussing a variety of topics of interest to members. Patricia Roncevich, programming chair, led the discussion at the brown bag luncheon hosted by Donna Kielar at Clark Hill, Oxford Center. The attendees shared their viewpoints about challenges faced on the job, training needed, research tips, time management skills, and decluttering techniques.

Challenges – What are your current challenges? What challenges do you anticipate in the future?

In the challenges category, participants voiced concerns about budget uncertainty, program initiatives impacting the library without getting library input, limited staff and monetary resources, and poor top down management decisions. Participants also noted the challenge of maintaining access to online resources, decisions about how long to retain print materials, e-book issues and the frustrating cycle of cancelling print in lieu of e-resources, only to have to reinstate print when the electronic version becomes too expensive.

Training – What training should we provide to our users/ associates/students and how do we accomplish that? What training would be helpful to you?

On the topic of training, attendees expressed difficulty maintaining expertise in the many resources they need to use. They offered various ideas for training library users, particularly the younger “digital natives.” Suggestions included anticipating the type of training users need, and incorporating training with CLE credits. Round table participants said they themselves could benefit from programs and training on negotiation tactics and presentation skills.

Hot tips – What are some tips that help you do your job, and what tips might help others?

Finally, attendees shared research tips in a round table exchange. Suggestions included seeking out expert advice, understanding what the user really needs to know, and reading blog tips. Members also asked how we, as research librarians, should define ourselves as library physical space decreases or disappears, there is less library foot traffic, fewer face to face encounters, and requests are expected to be filled 24/7.



WPLLA members (L-R) Ann Unger, Cindy Cicco, Donna Kielar, Karen Shephard and Kate Frey.

WPLLA Meeting Minutes

Executive Board, August 25, 2015 9 a.m., Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote

Present: Ann Unger, Pat Roncevich, Liz Whittington, Cindy Cicco, Donna Kielar, Sallie Smith, Sarah Steers.

Minutes – The meeting was scheduled to “get the ball rolling” with more substantive meetings to follow starting September 15. The April 30, 2015 minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Liz Whittington reported a \$6,220.78 checking account balance. She is still collecting and depositing membership renewals. Ann Unger will check the P.O. Box on a monthly basis. After Liz receives all the memberships, she will compile committee lists.

WPLLA Website – The board approved Liz Whittington’s request to pay for the WordPress site and to designate www.wplla.org as the domain name. Annual cost is about \$100 for the website and \$25 for the domain name. Liz set up a Gmail account for the WPLLA webmaster, conducted a link inventory, and reviewed templates with an emphasis on usability and functionality. Pat Roncevich said the website should highlight the benefits of membership.

Programming – Members discussed various ideas, and liked the open discussion format of roundtables. Pat Roncevich shared ideas from AALL Leadership Training on engaging members based on psycho-demographic profiles (personalities, interests, etc.). She will ask members for suggestions and participation, with a focus on quality programs and not necessarily regular monthly lunchtime programs. Members discussed the need to address both firm and academic members, a program on first year associates (what they know/don’t know/need to know), opportunities for member socializing, and seeing what other chapters are doing. Ann Unger said it was important to schedule a program early in the membership year.

Grants/Scholarship – Ann Unger asked to postpone this discussion, but stated the importance of funding leadership training for the incoming president, vice-president. Cindy Cicco will summarize last year’s meetings on the topic in order to continue the discussion this year.

Budget – Ann Unger will review historical data in an effort to plan expenditures for the coming year. She suggested asking vendors in advance for possible program grants.

Legal Research Program – Ann Unger will follow-up on the status of restructuring the program.

Other business – Pat Roncevich suggested the membership form include a permission statement for WPLLA to use photographs and contributed writing. She also asked if there was a protocol for program speakers. Cindy Cicco said that was a reason to consider liability insurance. Liz Whittington will review reporting requirements for WPLLA’s non-profit status. All agreed that duties should be well-documented for incoming board members.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Executive Board, September 15, 2015 9 a.m., Dickie, McCamey & Chilcote

Present: Ann Unger, Pat Roncevich, Liz Whittington, Donna Kielar, Sallie Smith. Absent: Cindy Cicco, Sarah Steers.

Minutes – The April 25 minutes were approved.

Programming – Pat Roncevich shared a tentative schedule of programs: September 29 conversational roundtable on various topics at Clark Hill, October business meeting, Holiday dinner and gathering at PPG Place Wintergarden, presentation on the History of Lawyering, review of Legal Technology, and spring banquet. She also suggested a possible joint program with West Virginia law librarians, a speaker on pro se patrons and the federal court, and a program on presentation tools. Ann Unger volunteered to do a webinar on free and low cost legal research tools.

Grants/Scholarship – Ann Unger tabled this discussion due to Cindy Cicco’s absence, but asked that board members email their input to Cindy. Members agreed it was important to fund the vice president’s conference attendance for leadership training.

Budget – Ann Unger presented a tentative budget based on past and anticipated expenses and credits. Members discussed line item amounts such as gift cards for presenters, website domain costs, and event catering costs. Pat Roncevich volunteered to ask Hein, Lexis and Bloomberg for event funding. Liz Whittington has placed treasurer information on the Google drive.

Business meeting plans and topics – Liz Whittington and Ann Unger investigated but found no indication that the chapter has non-profit status in Pennsylvania. It does have 501(c) status. Members discussed the whereabouts of chapter archives, and the possibility that Duquesne has some materials. Members discussed the problem of getting volunteers for committees. Pat Roncevich suggested being more specific about time commitments. Liz Whittington suggested emailing descriptions of committee work prior to the business meeting. Ann Unger read Karen Shephard’s response on restructuring the legal research program. Karen suggested forming a focus group of 5 to 9 members to survey what programs the firms need for summer associates. Ann Unger said any program should be short and punchy. Donna Kielar agreed that associates are short on time. Pat Roncevich said this could be one topic for discussion at the upcoming roundtable program. Liz Whittington is tracking membership renewals. Ann Unger said to set a deadline after the business meeting to finalize the active member list.

Treasurer’s Report – Liz Whittington reported a \$6,365.78 checking account balance as of August 27. She has a \$250 deposit to make.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

WPLLA 2015 Spring Banquet

WPLLA members celebrated another great year at their 2015 Spring Banquet. The event took place at *Caffe Amante* in downtown Pittsburgh on May 12, at 6 p.m. AALL Executive Board Member Amy Eaton was guest speaker, discussing "The Future of Law Libraries." The Italian-themed menu offered a choice of entrees and cash bar, followed by Pittsburgh's Own Pecan Ball for dessert. Prior to the banquet, Amy Eaton was met by Cindy Cicco, and traveled to the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library for a tour with Interim Director Marc Silverman. Marc also gave Ms. Eaton a tour of the Cathedral of Learning, complete with a panoramic view from the top. Following lunch with WPLLA Executive Board members at Nola on Market Square, Ms. Eaton toured the Allegheny County Law Library with Joel Fishman.

Thanks to LexisNexis for generously sponsoring this event. WPLLA was pleased to have Breigh Marling, Research Solutions Specialist, in attendance.



2014-2015 WPLLA Executive Board (L-R): Sue Megarry, Ann Unger, Amy Gillin, Donna Kielar, Stosh Jonjak, Cindy Cicco, (Sallie Smith, absent), with Amy Eaton.



2014-2015 President-elect Ann Unger (left) with Kim Lemon.



LexisNexis Research Solutions Specialist Breigh Marling (left) with WPLLA Board Member-at-Large Donna Kielar.



2014-2015 WPLLA President Cindy Cicco (left) with AALL Executive Board Member Amy Eaton.

Visit the WPLLA website:
<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/>

For directions on subscribing and posting to the
WPLLA listserv:
<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/wplalist.htm>.



Remember to check WPLLA's
Facebook page www.facebook.com/wplla for infor-
mation on events and communications from our
members.

WPLLA Committee Membership 2015-2016

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Ann Unger

Vice President

Pat Roncevich

Secretary

Sallie Smith

Treasurer

Liz Whittington

Members-at-Large

Donna Kielar
Sarah Steers

Immediate Past President

Cindy Cicco

Bylaws

Joel Fishman, Chair

Newsletter Committee

Sallie Smith, Chair
Pat Roncevich, Layout
Kate Frey
Kim Gregory
Veronica Hunt

Archives

Veronica Hunt
Kristy White

Grants/Scholarship

Veronica Hunt
Marc Silverman

Nominating Committee

Cindy Cicco, Chair

Programming Committee

Pat Roncevich, Chair
Mary Stacy
Sarah Steers

Public Relations

Kim Gregory
Sarah Steers

Recruitment/Mentoring

Web

Liz Whittington, Chair
Cindy Cicco
Veronica Hunt
Linda Tashbook
Kristy White

Ad Hoc Committee on Legal Research

Karen Shephard

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Calling all Writers!



Do you have ideas for an
upcoming newsletter?

Please contact
Sallie Smith, sas67@pitt.edu,
with suggestions for the
Spring 2016 issue.

