



SFALL Newsletter

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South Florida Association of Law Libraries
<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/sfall/>

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President's Message--Bob Riger, Miami-Dade County Law Library

Okay, it's now time for the "big thank you" column. It's hard to believe that a year has passed so quickly, and that my Presidency is about to end. Serving as President has been rewarding, challenging and educational. I encourage all SFALL members to consider serving on the Board.

My first thank you must be extended to the Board that served with me:

Kathy Rosin, Vice President; Kerri-Ann Philp, Secretary; Jeanne Korman, Treasurer; and Liz Chifari, Past President.

There were many accomplishments of which we can be proud. The Board actively engaged in systematizing procedures in the areas of records retention, criteria for awarding chapter scholarships to attend the AALL Annual Conference, and in streamlining procedures for amending the by-laws to accommodate dues increases. Current Treasurer Jeanne Korman and Past Treasurer Kathy Rosin did a great job in formalizing the duties and responsibilities of that office.

At the same time, SFALL continued its advocacy efforts by creating a standing Government Relations Committee to respond to important legislative and funding issues, and by publishing news of the Florida County Law Library funding crisis in the Newsletter.

The second group that I wish to thank is the committee chairs:

Linda Datko, Adilia Vasquez, Nora Everlove, Stephanie Dooley, Sheryll Rappaport, Johanna Porpiglia, Kerri-Ann Philp, Lisa Smith-Butler, & Robin Schard.

I extend another big thank you to all those who served on committees, hosted a luncheon meeting, or volunteered to help the organization in any way.

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SFALL Newsletter, published quarterly, is the Official publication of the South Florida Association of Law Libraries. Please send contributions, comments, news items, or advertising inquiries to Nora Everlove at nora@everlove.net or Alexandra Olson at Merrick888@aol.com

CALENDAR



Mark your calendars for

Friday June 17 at Noon

**Annual Membership Meeting
At the Intercontinental Hotel**

*Continued from the Cover,
President's Column*

Here are some highlights of our committees' accomplishments:

- The Program Committee presented a variety of programs that offered practical tips and networking on current professional challenges.
- The Membership Committee completed a successful membership initiative in 2005.
- The Public Relations Committee put together a Book Drive, published the membership news in AALL's "Spectrum" magazine, got our Meeting Notice published in the "Daily Business Review", and updated the SFALL brochure.
- The Nominations Committee worked hard to present a slate of qualified candidates.

I look forward to serving as Past President with the incoming Board of Kathy Rosin, President; Sid Kaskey, Vice President; Calmer Chatoo, Secretary; and Jeanne Korman, Treasurer.

Please don't forget an important event, our Annual Business meeting on June 17 at the Intercontinental Hotel.

It has been a privilege serving you as President of SFALL. Active participation by our membership will ensure that SFALL continues to be a vibrant chapter of AALL. Thank you all for your support and assistance during my term as President.



**Time is running out to register for the
98th AALL Annual Meeting &
Conference
July 16 - 20, 2005,
San Antonio, TX!**



You can get more information about dates and deadlines for the upcoming meeting from the AALL site:

<http://www.aallnet.org/>

From the Newsletter of the Federal Courts:

Law Libraries Mix Online with Hard Copy to Ease Access, Cut Costs

At the heart of much of the federal Judiciary's work is legal research—the hunt for precedent, consensus, legislative intent, and other decision-making factors. Federal court librarians can ease that often-daunting task amid today's technology explosion.

"The law library of today is an appropriately balanced combination of research and reference materials in print and online formats," said Seventh Circuit Librarian Gretchen Van Dam. "That means the law librarian of today is an expert at determining when print works best for the researcher and when online access is the superior method."

Third Circuit Librarian Susan English agrees, adding: "Ease of access is the key factor in today's busy work environment, whether the researcher is a librarian, law clerk or judge."

"The challenge for today's librarians is to provide the right mix of online and hard copy resources and to hone our researchers' skills by offering appropriate and timely training," English said.

A bigger challenge: budgetary belt tightening despite increased costs for research tools, both paper and electronic.

"Lawbook costs rise from 6 to 10 percent a year, and online contract costs

increase as well," said Leslie Campbell, law library program administrator with the Administrative Office. The Judiciary spends over \$30 million a year for lawbooks, and about \$11 million a year for online resources.

"We'll always be paying for top-notch legal research," Campbell said, but added that decentralized spending authority, cancellations, and substantial vendor discounts have helped battle inflationary costs.

The federal Judiciary is served by 13 circuit libraries, one for the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and one each for the 12 regional appellate courts. Each has a network of branch or satellite libraries. About 250 people work in the Judiciary's library system nationwide, serving all judges, law clerks, staff attorneys, judicial assistants and other staff in all courts—appellate, district, and bankruptcy.

Judge Royal Furgeson of the Western District of Texas said budgetary realities make federal court libraries more crucial than ever before...*(to continue the rest of the article go to:*

<http://www.uscourts.gov/ttb/dec04ttb/libraries/index.html>)

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