



SFALL NEWSLETTER

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President's Message -- Liz Chifari, Holland & Knight LLP

Recently, I mentioned to a colleague that I was very proud of a difficult research request that I had fielded the previous day. It involved first unraveling a research puzzle to determine exactly what I was looking for, then tracking down the obscure material once I had identified what it was. The attorney who gave me the assignment said she had already invested a few hours in the search. I picked up where she left off, and it took me the better part of an afternoon. I hit any number of dead ends, but gut instinct told me that the answer was out there just waiting for me to outsmart it. After much head-banging and gnashing of teeth, I forced myself to think clearly, and the solution presented itself.

I still think I was justified in patting myself on the back for this little triumph. Yet, when I was describing it to my colleague, I found myself apologizing for boasting. She assured me that feeling satisfied with a job well done is not boastful. The incident, however, has made me reflect on why so many law librarians are uncomfortable about tooting their own horns. Attorneys certainly have no trouble letting the world know about their achievements. The marketing department at my law firm publishes an extensive weekly newsletter detailing our attorneys' most recent successes at trial and settlement. The newsletter also introduces the firm's newest clients and lists the week's marketing presentations, even if the client has not yet signed up with the firm. I can't imagine the reaction if I published a similar newsletter on behalf of the firm's library and emailed it firmwide! I could list all the most unusual and difficult reference questions the library staff fielded that week.

I could write Sherlock Holmes style mysteries about how we tracked down elusive answers, even when presented with completely incorrect information by the requesting attorney. I could publish lists of the all the sources we consulted that week – how many books we opened, how many websites accessed, how many databases searched, and how many phone calls made to obscure government offices. On that last one, I could even write scintillating copy about how many minutes we were on hold and how many times we got transferred before reaching an actual human with some actual relevant information. There's just no end to the fascinating details we could include.

Of course, we would never consider such a newsletter. Law librarians are among the most intelligent, accomplished, tenacious – and modest – individuals I've ever had the pleasure of working with. We have specialized skills, both the kind you can be taught and the instinctual kind that just grows over time. Happily, there are some attorneys who are dazzled by our abilities, rightfully so, and who let us know they think we're awesome. I love when these attorneys ask me to "work some magic." Other attorneys, however, have no idea what we do. We leave complex research projects on their chairs late at night, and they think we pushed a single button to produce it. Either way, we just keep plugging along. I guess my point is that we have a right to feel satisfied and proud and yes, even boastful, about what we do. Go ahead and toot your own horn. But let's think carefully about that newsletter idea

Hope to see everyone at the holiday party -- Liz

SFALL Holiday Party

Monday, December 15, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.
at Trattoria Romanza in Aventura.

The cost is \$30 per person and guests are welcome. Please RSVP by December 8 to Kathy Rosin at krosin@shb.com or 305-358-5171. Advance payment will be appreciated. See page 6 for menu, driving directions, and payment address.

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CALENDAR



December 2003

December 15: SFALL Holiday Party at Trattoria Romanza in Aventura.

January 2004

January 9-14: American Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries Midwinter Meeting, San Diego, CA.

March 2004

March 25-27: SEAALL Annual Meeting, Richmond, Virginia.

More Data but No Less Paper

A study by the University of California at Berkeley shows that during 2002, 5 billion gigabytes of data was generated around the world. That amount, which is the equivalent of about 800 megabytes per person, is enough to fill 500,000 U.S. Libraries of Congress. The university conducted a similar study in 1999, and the new results indicate a 30 percent rise since the first study in the amount of stored information. The amount of data stored on hard disk drives was up 114 percent from the earlier study. According to Peter Lyman, a professor at UC Berkeley, those involved in the 1999 study expected that use of film and paper would drop as users moved those media into electronic formats. Although film-based photographs have dropped 9 percent since 1999, paper documents, including books, journals, and others, have grown by as much as 43 percent. Lyman said that much of the content is accessed on computers, but users print it out. The full text of the article can be found at the Reuters website.

Reuters, 29 October 2003

www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?storyID=3713686

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 Stephanie Dooley, Editor: Holland & Knight LLP, 701 Brickell Ave, Ste. 3000, Miami, FL 33131 or email at sgdooley@hklaw.com.

SFALL INTERROGATORY--What do you collect?

I collect Shakespeare films on DVD and VHF. Not just any Shakespeare films...no, no, no. My films are those that take one of his plays and reformulate it. For instance, I have a copy of an old film titled *Joe Macbeth*. In this 1950's film, Macbeth is a gangster. Another favorite is a variation of *Richard III*. The setting is the 1940s, more or less. The stranger the variation, the better. -- **Sid Kaskey, Morgan Lewis and Bockius**

I have two collections. The first is a collection of several hundred matchbooks. Both my husband and I had individual collections that we combined when we got married. The second collection consists of hand-thrown pottery, the more rustic the better. -- **Stephanie Dooley, Holland & Knight LLP**

I collect miniature (dollhouse size) sewing machines. I easily have 100 pieces in the collection, everything from antique toys to crystal to Limoges boxes to holiday ornaments. I search for them whenever I travel. It's a great thing to collect because I know they're out there, but they're very difficult to find. I love the thrill of the hunt. My latest acquisition was an elusive set of salt-and-pepper shakers. -- **Liz Chifari, Holland & Knight LLP**

I collect all things Klingon (think *Star Trek*). I have a watch and a ship model and an autographed picture. But the biggest part of the collection are the Klingon action figures. Some are at home, but 20 of them sit on the windowsill in my office. They are quite a conversation starter. Qapla' (Farewell, Success). -- **Linda Datko, Federal Courts Library**

I'm not really into collectibles per se, but there are a few "theme" areas I try to stick to when purchasing souvenirs or decorative items. First is representations of Noah's Ark because of my love of animals. Second is anything related to grapes, wine, or viniculture because of my fondness for wine. Third is all things nautical, from whales to sailboats to racing trophies, because my husband and I are sailors. A fourth is the Fox Hunt because it includes both horses and dogs, and I come from a sporting family. -- **Leila Mestrits, University of Miami**

I collect refrigerator magnets. Most of them come from my travels, local events, and sports teams. I have a great set of Homer Simpson magnets that got as a gift. They've taken over most of the freezer door and are creeping down to the refrigerator door. -- **Jim Paul, Greenberg Traurig**

I collect scarves, old and new; sets of China, mostly old Noritake & Pickard; Royal Doulton figurines-- which my children swear they will use for target practice first chance they get. -- **Nora Everlove, Everlove and Assocaites**

I have been collecting Wee Forest Folk figurines - tiny mice - for 14 years. One of my favorites is dressed as a ghost for Halloween and another is outfitted in a rain slicker and matching hat. I have more than 30, including a 1920s flapper; a ballerina; a Spanish dancer; one dressed in a grass skirt and flowers, dancing the hula; an Irish lass, outfitted in green shamrocks; a little girl with her inner tube at the beach; another stealing cookies from the cookie jar; one taking refuge from the rain under some mushrooms; and a little witch leading several jack o' lanterns in song. For a future purchase, I have my eye on a little girl with her hobby horse. For me, they comprise a special little village. -- **Katherine Rosin, Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP**

SFALL extends a warm

Welcome

to our new and returning members

Theo Karantsalis
Library and Information
Science Group, Inc.

Jim Paul
Greenberg Traurig

An Interview With Former SFALL Member **Clare Donnelley Membiela**

Last August Clare accepted a job at Brennan Law Library in the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law and relocated to Michigan. Let's see how she and her family are adapting to the arctic north.

What made you decide to relocate to Michigan?

It was too good to pass up and it is an opportunity to work with an old friend. My husband and I also thought it would be nice to expose our children to a new environment including snow and the change of seasons. The third reason is the proximity of Michigan to my father's house in Pennsylvania. We are now within driving distance of my family, which hasn't been the case in almost 20 years!

How was the drive to Michigan with two cats and two kids, not to mention Dan, your husband?

It went surprisingly well. It took us exactly two 14-hour days of driving. The drudgery of the drive was eased by a new minivan and DVD player for the kids (which more than paid for itself). The scenery was beautiful, especially the mountains in Tennessee. The cats were good, so we let them out of the cage. They slept the whole time, but we thought we lost one. Turns out she had burrowed way beneath the luggage in the back of the van and hid for the entire two-day trip.

What is your new position?

I am the "Associate Director for Library and Instructional Services." Basically, I oversee the day to day operation of the Lansing Campus library. Cooley has three libraries; one main and two satellites. The Lansing library is the main library.

How many people work in the Law Library at Thomas Cooley?

Approximately 38.

Briefly describe a typical day in the life of the Associate Director for Library and Instructional Services.

I get to work at about 9:00 a.m., check e-mail, then check in with the heads of technical and public services and take a walk around the library. After that, I usually spend the day in meetings, on different projects for the director--we just finished the ABA statistics--and/or working the reference or circulation desks.

From hurricanes to blizzards, are you looking forward to or dreading your first winter?

People keep trying to scare Dan and me by saying "It hardly ever gets below 20 degrees" or "It doesn't snow much past March." My stock response is "At least you don't have to board your house up when it snows!" Dan and I are trying to get the knack of our fireplace--we have filled the house with smoke a couple times! I already warned my office that I will be late the first few times it snows because I know it will take me forever to get to work! My kids can't wait to try out all their new winter gear. They saw frost a few weeks ago and thought it was snow. It has been in the thirties lately and I think I am going to just freeze - so we'll see.

If anyone would like to contact you, where should they send their email or regular mail?

Clare Membiela c/o Brennan Law Library
Thomas Cooley Law School
PO Box 13038
Lansing, Michigan 48901
(517) 371-5140 x3402
e-mail: membielc@cooley.edu

SFALL Holiday Party

Please join us for an evening of fun, food, and friends.

MENU

Soup (choice of 1)

Minestrone
Pasta e Fagioli

House Salad

Entrée (choice of 1)

Chicken Parmigiana
Chicken Marsala
Veal Parmigiana
Veal Piccata
Broiled Salmon
Farfalle al Vodka
Cappellini Caprese
Cappellini Primavera
Eggplant Rollatini
Baked Ziti
Baked Penne Primavera
Lasagna
Eggplant Parmigiana

Dessert (choice of 1)

Italian Cheesecake
Cannoli
Tiramisu
Tartufo
Chocolate Cake

Beverages

Unlimited Soda or Iced Tea
American Coffee, Hot Tea
Cash bar available



Trattoria Romanza

20475 Biscayne Blvd. (storefront #10)
Monday, Dec. 15, 2003 at 6:30 p.m.
\$30 per person (guests are welcome)

RSVP by December 8 to:
Katherine Rosin, SFALL Treasurer
Shook, Hardy & Bacon
201 S. Biscayne Blvd., Suite 2400
Miami, FL 33131-4332
krosin@shb.com
305-358-5171

Prepayment will be greatly appreciated!

Great food

Cash bar

Music and dancing

Lots of surprises

***Time to socialize with your SFALL
friends and meet our new members***

Directions From the south:

- Take I-95 North.
- Exit at Ives Dairy Road.
- Turn right onto Ives Dairy Road to head east.
- Go about 1 mile. Follow sign that says "East to 203 St." and go straight over the overpass.
- At the bottom of the overpass, turn left at the traffic light (sign says "NE 2800 Blk") into Promenade Shops shopping center.
- Follow road to end.
- Trattoria Romanza is in the middle of the strip next to the wig shop. Plenty of parking is available.

Directions from the north:

- Take I-95 South. Exit at Ives Dairy Road.
- Turn left onto Ives Dairy Road to head east.
- Go about 1 mile. Follow sign that says "East to 203 St." and go straight over the overpass.
- At the bottom of the overpass, turn left at the traffic light (sign says "NE 2800 Blk") into Promenade Shops shopping center.
- Follow road to end.
- Trattoria Romanza is in the middle of the strip next to the wig shop. Plenty of parking is available.

New Member Spotlight: Kay Mackey

Immediately prior to a sojourn in Mexico a few years back, Kay was a reference librarian at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami. She has also worked as a reference librarian at Hughes Hubbard & Reed, Rogers & Wells, and the New York County Lawyers' Association in New York City. Kay has a MS-LIS from Pratt Institute, a J.D. from New York Law School, and a B.A. from George Washington University. Prior to attending library school, she served as Assistant General Counsel at DC-37, AFSCME in NYC for five years.

Upon returning to the United States after two years in Mexico City, Kay joined the library staff at the University of Miami Law School as a reference librarian. At UM, her responsibilities include coordinating instructional services for the Library and Law School staff and administration.

If you would like to see a new SFALL member spotlighted, please contact Stephanie Dooley at (305) 789-7407 or sgdooley@hklaw.com

News & Announcements



Miami-Dade County Law Library's New Acquisitions List Now Available on the MDCLL Website

<http://www.mdcll.org/html/NewAcquisitions.htm>

Have you ever wondered what is new in the stacks at the Miami-Dade County Law Library? You can now instantly satisfy your curiosity by visiting the MDCLL webpage and clicking on the New Acquisitions link. All newly acquired materials are listed each month to keep users abreast of additions, changes, and growth in the collection.

Virtual Reference Desk 2003 San Antonio, Texas

Embracing Virtual Technologies:
A Library Experience with Virtual Reference and Artificial Intelligence

SFALL members Roy Balleste and Gordon Russell of St. Thomas University School of Law and former SFALL member Brian Williams of the University of San Diego Legal Research Center presented a program on Artificial

Intelligence and its use in an academic law library setting. Artificial Intelligence is still a growing technology. Both St. Thomas University and the San Diego Research Center are exploring its potential in regard to real-time reference services like the *AI Assistant Librarian* systems.

AALL OBS/TS Joint Research Grant funding available for 2004

The Online Bibliographic Services/Technical Services Joint Research Grant, to provide support for technical services law librarians to perform research that will enhance law librarianship in service to our clients, is available each year. Applicants must be members of AALL, and must show evidence that the research will benefit technical services law librarianship. The goal of the Joint Research Grant Committee is to award grants amounting to no more than \$1,000 in a single year. Additional general information about the grant is available at:

www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/research/researchinfo.htm

The agreement form for grant recipients can be viewed at www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/research/agreement.htm

Grant recipients will be announced at the annual AALL meeting. Award amounts will be mailed to successful grant recipients as soon as final approval is received by the JRGC Chair. For additional information, please contact this year's chair of the committee, Eloise Vondruska, by email at: evondruska@law.northwestern.edu or, by phone at: 312-503-7369.

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Pitney Bowes.
SFALL thanks them for their generous support of the South Florida law librarian community.