

AALL Representative Annual Plan

Date: October 1, 2007 - October 1, 2008

Representative: Charles R. Dyer, charlesrdyer@clearwire.net, www.charlesrdyer.com. Mr. Dyer is also currently the chair of the SRLN Law Librarians Working Group.

Organization: Self Represented Litigation Network

Primary Contact: Richard Zorza, SRLN Network Coordinator, richard@zorza.net, www.zorza.net

Goals and Objectives for the Year

The Self Represented Litigation Network, www.srln.org, is a new organization, whose mission is: "The Self Represented Litigation Network is an open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all, including those who can not afford lawyers and are therefore forced to go to court on their own. The Network brings together courts and access to justice organizations in support of innovations in services for the self represented." The SRLN is maintained under the auspices of the National Center for State Courts. It is wholly dependent on various justice system organizations for financial support. All participants are voluntary, except the Coordinator and a couple of consultants on research projects.

By establishing the most official list of best practices and innovations for self represented litigants, the SRLN will exercise great influence on the nature of the American justice system over the next several years. Its philosophy and policy statements will have a major effect on justice within the United States as well. If law libraries and law librarians are to have a major role in these developments, they must be actively involved in the SRLN.

Participation in the SRLN supports every one of the five Core Values as listed on the AALL 2005-2010 Strategic Directions and the three goals of Leadership, Education, and Advocacy. As such, these are the recommended goals and objectives for 2007-08.

Goal 1. Leadership: Support the SRLN as a participating organization.

Objective 1. Provide such financial support as deemed appropriate. The AALL Executive Board voted to support the SRLN with a \$5,000 contribution for 2007-08. Continued participation will be re-evaluated after the first year, based in part on the report from the Representative. A \$5,000 annual contribution is the lowest amount that participating organizations pledge. Since the SRLN is quite new, any participation is very appreciated. The AALL is one of the first organizations to join that was not one of the organizations providing seed money.

Objective 2. Provide official contact to the SRLN. As the official representative from a participating organization, the AALL Representative sits on the SRLN's Management Team,

which plans for funding and determines focus for the organization. The Representative will report on activities of the SRLN, especially as they affect AALL interests and policies. When necessary and with AALL Executive Board approval, the Representative will make policy statements or positions on behalf of the AALL to the SRLN. The Representative will also report on the financial well-being of the SRLN and recommend contributions and/or grants to the SRLN to the AALL Executive Board. Some travel is necessary.

Objective 3. Encourage law librarians who work with self represented litigants to participate in SRLN activities, as requested by the SRLN. The SRLN Coordinator has asked law librarians to serve on the Network. Other law librarians have been encouraged to participate by other participating organizations, such as various state court systems. The SRLN working groups are supposed to be staffed by justice system professionals who have significant experience with serving self represented litigants. As the Coordinator and other working group chairs have sought information on possible participants, the chair of the Law Librarians Working Group has informally sought input from the SCCLL SIS and the LISP SIS. This role could be jointly handled by that chair and the AALL Representative, with input from the SIS's.

Objective 4. Encourage younger law librarians for leadership roles. This year's Representative was chosen because of his significant contacts with this new organization. He has been charged to develop a younger law librarian to continue this role next year.

Goal 2. Education: Create outreach, marketing and public relations opportunities for law libraries to other SRLN participants and participating organizations. Create educational opportunities for law librarians.

Objective 1. Encourage law librarians to participate in SRLN conferences, both as presenters and as attendees, and as presenters along with other SRLN members in its presentations at other conferences. Here again, the Representative should work with the SCCLL SIS and the LISP SIS, as well as the SRLN Law Librarians Working Group.

Objective 2. Foster AALL programs using SRLN members and themes. Non-AALL SRLN members were both speakers and VIPs in 2007. Law librarians from the SRLN Law Librarians Working Group have two program proposals up for 2008, sponsored by the SCCLL SIS and LISP SIS.

Objective 3. Encourage law librarians to use SRLN products and network functions, such as its mentoring services, www.selfhelpsupport.org, etc. The Representative should routinely write articles or otherwise inform the relevant SIS newsletters of new products and services. When appropriate, the Representative may write a article for *Spectrum* or AALLNET.

Goal 3. Advocacy: Enable law libraries and law librarians to be active in both strategic planning and tactical developments within the justice system as it fosters a response to the increasing presence of self represented litigants.

Objective 1. Inform and remind SRLN members of the special insight and talents that law librarians have in serving self represented litigants. Professionally staffed public law libraries provide significant triage resources to the justice system, simultaneously improving efficiency and justice.

Objective 2. Advocate, both within the SRLN and through the SRLN to others, for improved funding for public law libraries. Cooperative efforts between justice system agencies, such as self help centers located within law libraries, can help such agencies obtain better funding.

Liaison Function with Other Committees or Special Interest Sections

The Representative consults with a newly established joint committee of the SCCLL SIS and the LISP SIS.

Resources

Financial:

2007-08:

SRLN Participating Member Organization Contribution	\$5,000
Travel for the AALL Representative	
SRLN National Conference, February 2008 (5 days)	est. up to \$1,500
Equal Justice Conference, May 6-9, 2008	est. up to \$1,800

2008-09:

SRLN Participating Member Organization Contribution	\$5,000
Travel for the AALL Representative	
SLRN National Workshop, Harvard Law School, Fall 2008	est. up to \$1,500
SRLN National Conference, February 2009	est. up to \$1,500
Equal Justice Conference, May 2009	est. up to \$1,800