

How do you apply what you learn at conferences and put ideas into action?

“I create an action plan, present it to my legal administrator, and launch it within a week of approval. The action plan must demonstrate new efficiencies, lower costs, or greater value than the existing plan. To gain greater buy-in, I do personal presentations to my champions, knowing they will re-present the new ideas to others.”

—**Kevin Miles**, librarian at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP in Dallas

“I think being at a conference with colleagues is a big help to me as a solo librarian who is still learning the profession. The conference material translates to me as a confidence-building exercise. When I see that other librarians have similar problems as me or ideas for similar trouble shooting, it is eye opening and refreshing. That confidence translates into permission to go forward in my profession, implement ideas, and be less concerned about the problems. Going to the AALL conference definitely makes me a better librarian for these reasons.”

—**Marianne Sterna**, legal support assistant III/librarian at the County of San Diego Office of County Counsel

“I took pages of notes at the legal research roundtable and will compare what I have learned to what I am doing to make improvements. One idea from the conference I’m likely to steal for our next faculty conference is wrapping chocolate in marketing message-imbued labels.”

—**Shaun G. Jamison**, professor and assistant director of library services at Concord Law School of Kaplan University in Los Angeles

“I find most conference presentations to be inspiring, even if it tells me what not to do. When I get an idea, I flip to the back of my notebook and make a single list of items to address/consider when I’m back in the office—separate from my session notes. This year I was also tracking future article ideas for a column in my chapter’s newsletter, so I kept two sections in the back of my notebook. As the days wore on, I accumulated several bullet points and now have a great place to start.”

—**Emily Waitz**, head of technical services at Hamline University Law Library in St. Paul



Shaun G. Jamison

“Review: An old teacher of mine used to admonish: ‘Review is the student’s glue!’ Now as an adult, I appreciate how valuable review is. In fact, through reviewing my materials from the

Annual Meeting, I have discovered much that I can contribute to my library.

“Evaluate: Once I’ve reviewed what I learned, I like to evaluate new ideas, organizing them into categories based on my library’s work-flow and personnel. So I separate my paperwork into piles: *now*, *someday* and *never*, an unsophisticated, but effective system. ‘D1: I Want My Web 2.0’ goes into the *now* pile because we have a Facebook page that needs to be reinvigorated. ‘A3: The Thurgood Marshall Papers’ goes into the *someday* pile. My director wants an archive for our school’s namesake in three years. Unfortunately, some ideas must go into

the *never* pile because they lack relevance or feasibility.

“Implement: Lastly, I implement what I’ve learned. This requires planning, which can range from long-range strategies to simply clearing my schedule for the day to just ‘get ‘er done.’ I plan to do the latter to overhaul our Facebook page and the former to build our archive.”

—**Taciana Williams**, associate director at Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library in Houston



Emily Waitz



Taciana Williams