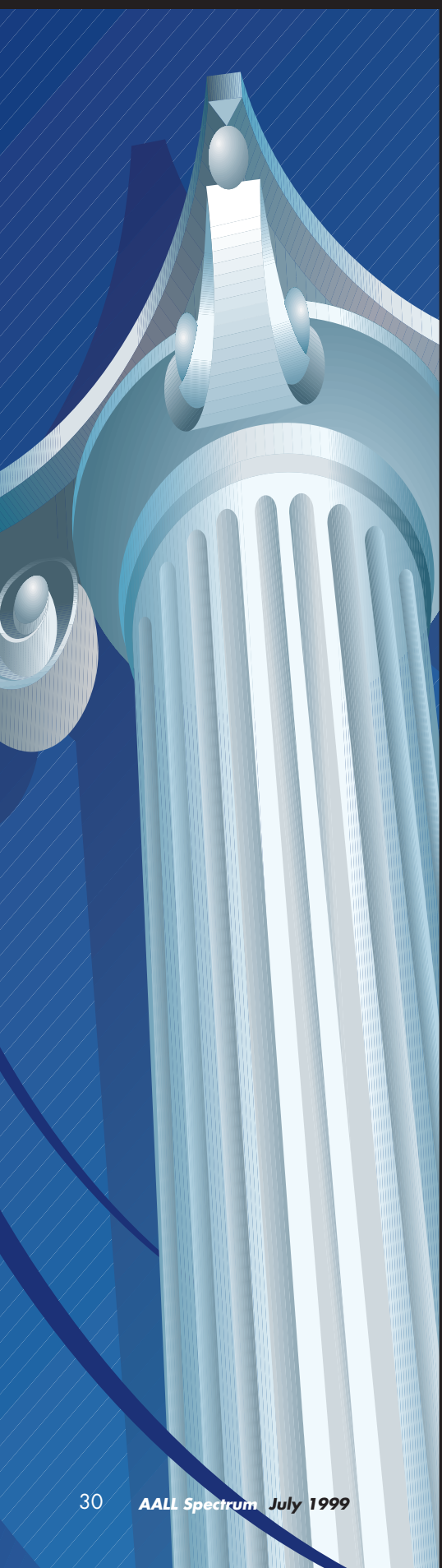


Experience the Law Library of Congress!



After the Opening Reception of the Association's Annual Meeting in the Thomas Jefferson Building's magnificent Great Hall in the Library of Congress on Sunday evening, July 18, 1999, Law Librarian of Congress Rubens Medina invites colleagues from across the nation back to Capitol Hill to **Experience the Law Library of Congress (LLC)** for a series of tours and programs with members of his staff. The types of programs and tours planned are geared at those interested in technical services as well as those interested in research and automation. Check the new LLC Web site (<http://lcweb.loc.gov://lcweb2.loc.gov/lawweb>) as well as the daily AALL Convention newsletter *Capital Crossroads* for details.

The Law Library is jumpstarting the 1999 Convention by offering a sequel to its 1993 AALL Winter Institute, "Introduction to Foreign Legal Systems." Members are invited to "Meet the Legal Specialists: Expert Advice on Research and Acquisition of Foreign Law in the Vernacular," a **pre-Convention Workshop** for the experienced researcher on Friday, July 16, 1999. The Workshop offers an opportunity for members of the Association to learn about the Law Library's mission and its unique staff: out of a staff of 84, some 26 are foreign-trained attorneys and legal analysts conversant in approximately 40 different languages who interpret the collection and support the foreign, comparative, and international law research needs of Congress and other branches of the U.S. government. The new Director of Legal Research, David Sales, who reported for duty on June 14, 1999, just in time for the AALL Annual Meeting, oversees the Eastern and Western Law Divisions, as well as the Research and Reference Support Unit.

As a separate service unit of the Library of Congress, the LLC plays an important role in the institution. Other service units

are frequent users of the collections of the Law Library, such as the Congressional Research Service, whose staff collaborates with Law Library staff in the preparation of research products for Congress. Margaret Whitlock (Director of Law Library Services) is the liaison to numerous library-wide committees that set policy for various central LC library functions, and has a particularly important role as the Chair of the LC Collections Policy Committee. She relies heavily on the support of her deputies Robert N. Gee (Chief of Public Services) and Mark Strattner (Chief of Collections Services).

Under the Law Librarian's helm, and with the assistance of Nick Kozura (Automation Planning Specialist), the Law Library



Law Librarian Rubens Medina (back to camera) behind closed doors with members of his Management Team (counter clockwise): Director of Law Library Services, Margaret Whitlock; GLIN Program Officer Janice Hyde; Nick Kozura, Computer Specialist; and Law Library Operations Officer LaVerne P. Mullin.

is energetically pursuing the use of **groundbreaking technologies** and new solutions to old problems shared by libraries around the world. One of Medina's initiatives is **GLIN**, the Global Legal Information Network, a multinational, intergovernmental, cooperatively built database of legal information contributed by countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe. LLC Program Officer Janice Hyde is actively recruiting new members (read "nations") to help the staff of the Law Library enter the laws of the world into this shared, electronic, parliament-to-parliament network of law and law-related information sources. GLIN currently has 13 members, and several other nations have expressed interest in participating. Agencies and institutions including NASA, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank are partners and provide support

for various aspects of the project, such as funding travel for GLIN teams from around the world to travel to Washington for training.

Another digital initiative is "A century of lawmaking for a new nation: U.S. congressional documents and debates, 1774-1873," which constitutes LLC's effort to **digitize historical documents of the first 42 Congresses** as part of the National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress. The project, headed by Beth Davis-Brown under the direction of Robert N. Gee, includes digital conversion specialists, graphic designers, scanning specialists, quality review technicians, and information technology systems analysts who are bringing together online the records and acts of Congress from the *Journals of the Continental Congress* through *The Continental Globe*, which ceased publication in 1873.

The Law Library is marking the **200th anniversary** of the Library of Congress in the year 2000 by organizing a major international conference, "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order," co-sponsored with the New York University School of Law. The conference will bring together about one hundred legal scholars, jurists, legislators, and social scientists from many jurisdictions to discuss the bearing of changing legal patterns on the relationships between law and democracy. In charge of planning this multifaceted project is Rose Marie Clemandot.

Funding is key to maintaining GLIN and other services to make LLC more accessible. However, Congress has held the Law Library to a largely flat budget through most of the 1990s. It has had to absorb a 20 percent cut in staffing. Under its 1999 budget, LLC has been authorized to fill three new positions, and Medina says he hopes to receive similar authorization in 2000. The Law Library, therefore, needs to go outside for support, as well as for help in funding activities and programs which no longer receive congressionally appropriated funds. The most loyal of friends are the Friends of the Law Library of Congress, a national, private non-profit organization committed to the preservation and growth of the nation's law library. Founded in 1932 by some of the country's

Did You Know?

The Law Library is the oldest single department in the Library of Congress, having been created by an Act of Congress in 1832.

The LLC, with its holdings of over 2.3 million books, is the largest law library in the world.

One of the treasures of the Law Library of Congress is the Russian Imperial Collection, which in the 1930s was sold to the United States by the Soviet Union to raise cash.

During fiscal 1998, the LLC handled 130,835 research and reference requests and circulated some 304,000 items from its collections.

most distinguished attorneys and jurists, this membership organization today includes attorneys, scholars and librarians, law firms, publishers and corporations, and research and academic institutions across the nation. Abe Krash of the Washington-based law firm Arnold & Porter is its President and the driving force. On his side he has the dynamic new Executive Director Anne C. Mercer, who recently arranged the successful annual fundraising event, the Wickersham Award, given for exceptional public service and dedication to the legal profession. This year, George Mitchell was the honoree and received his award in the Supreme Court Chambers.

Another ally of the LLC of major significance is the American Bar Association. Janet S. Zagorin (Chair of its Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress) annually testifies before Congress in support of LLC's budget, often in conjunction with testimony by Mary Alice Baish of AALL's Washington Affairs Office.

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The Law Library's face to the world: the staff of its Reading Room. Gathered behind the kneeling Robert Gee, Chief of Public Services, are lawyer/librarian reference specialists and library technicians who assist Congressional, as well as Judicial and Executive branch staffers and members of the public in one of the busiest reading rooms of the Library of Congress.