

Creating Connections in Orlando

Annual Meeting to Feature Renowned Speakers, Continuing Education and Much More

by Victoria Trotta

seems more meaningful and even poignant considering the events and aftermath of 9/11.

The Competencies of Law Librarianship

The newly adopted "Competencies of Law Librarianship" serve as the basis of the conference's education program. The competencies describe the expertise and define the value law library professionals provide to the legal field. The Annual Meeting Program Committee focused on two of the specialized competencies, library management and information technology. But attendees will find a selection of programs covering the other competencies, including collection care and management, reference, research and patron services, and teaching.

With all the various and diverse programs punctuating this year's Annual Meeting, there is no way to provide a meaningful summary of what you will find when you join AALL this summer. But here are some highlights to look forward to: One of the judges involved in the 2000 Florida recount will give his insights on the presidential election. See what new gadgets are on the scene to make law librarians' professional lives easier. Find out what is new in 24/7 reference service or learn about managing your library's financial resources. Are you curious about public key infrastructure? Navigating license agreements? A new way to teach legal research? Programs on these and many more topics await you in Orlando.

The Plenary Sessions

The three provocative and informational Plenary Sessions address management and technology issues that affect all law librarians. The sessions are in keeping with President Bintliff's resolve to bring AALL members together to study and think about some "big picture" topics common to the profession.

Feeling stressed and overwhelmed by the pace and form of the unrelenting change law librarians are experiencing professionally? The series of plenary sessions kick off on July 21 with Michael L.

Ray, a social psychologist and emeritus professor from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. "Destroy judgment, create curiosity" is but one of the lessons he will discuss with attendees at his plenary session. Expect him to provide tips to help law librarians draw upon their own internal creativity to become less stressed and to thrive in a world of constant uncertainty and change. Ray, the author of *The Path of the Everyday Hero* and *The Creative Spirit*, now consults with businesses and organizations through his course on creativity in business.

The plenary session on management on July 22 stars Ron Zemke, president of Performance Research Associates and author of the *Generations @ Work: Managing the Clash of Veterans, Boomers, Xers and Nexters in Today's Workplace*. With more people of diverse ages and backgrounds working together than ever before, Zemke's session will explore how generational differences can work for, not against, organizations. Understanding those generational differences is key for an organization to create harmony, mutual respect and joint effort, instead of suspicion, mistrust, isolation and turnover, according to Zemke.

creating connections

July 23 is unofficially dubbed Technology Day at the AALL Annual Meeting. The day will begin with a general plenary session on technology, featuring Eric Miller, activity lead for the Semantic Web Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium and a colleague of Tim Berners-Lee, generally known as one of the developers of the World Wide Web. Miller will discuss how the semantic web, touted widely as the next revolution in electronic information access, will affect research and reference services in law libraries. Get a head start by reading about this exciting new innovation in the article titled "The Next

Orange County Convention Center.

credit: Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

When people think of Orlando, Fla., different images are conjured up. Some anticipate the opportunity of visiting one, or many, of the area's theme parks. Others contemplate the luxuries of a warm tropical beach environment. But when law librarians think about Orlando, Fla., this year, they envision the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference July 20-24 at the Orange County Convention Center.

The Theme

The AALL Annual Meeting is the largest networking and education event dedicated exclusively to law library professionals. In setting the 2002 Annual Meeting theme, AALL President Barbara Bintliff considered the meeting as an opportunity for attendees to reinvigorate their excitement for the profession and connect with their colleagues via the meeting's education programs and social events. Thus, "Creating Connections" became the theme of the 2002 meeting.

The meeting will provide relevant educational programs featuring AALL members as well as knowledgeable outside experts. In addition to continuing education, the meeting is intended to bring large groups of members together, so that they can celebrate their accomplishments, refresh their spirits, and reaffirm the many shared values that underscore the joys of their profession. Although the theme was determined in the spring of 2001, "Creating Connections"

Web” in the March 4 issue of *Business Week*.

After Miller’s general plenary session on technology, three additional technology plenary sessions will follow — each targeted to a different type of law library. David Sobel from the Electronic Privacy Information Center will discuss with academic law librarians how legal and privacy rights of citizens are affected in an ever-expanding electronic environment. Private law librarians will work with Etienne Wenger, an independent consultant best known for his work on communities of practice and the intellectual underpinnings of knowledge management, as he explores how communities of practice are effective in managing and cultivating knowledge. F. Dale Kasperek of the National Center for State Courts will examine cutting-edge courtroom technologies with state, court and county law librarians.

The remaining programs on July 23 include an array of offerings with more

practical applications of information technology in law libraries.

All Technology Day plenary programs are generously supported by BNA, Inc.

The Association Luncheon

No Annual Meeting would be complete without a dynamic, respected Association Luncheon speaker. President Bintliff, with generous support from West Group, has arranged for Emmy award-winning journalist Catherine Crier, the host of the popular Court TV show “Crier Today,” to deliver the keynote address at the Association Luncheon. In her message titled “You Make the Difference,” Crier will focus on empowering the individual in a society that sometimes discourages leadership, creativity and assertiveness.

See You in Orlando

There you have it: A brief rundown on some of the special programs specifically planned for your edification, education and pleasure. The Annual Meeting

Program Committee worked diligently to select the final program offerings, but in the final analysis, the success of any Annual Meeting is only guaranteed by the thoughtfulness and diligence of its members. AMPC extends its thanks and gratitude to each and every person who took the time to develop and propose a program. We all look forward to seeing you and creating connections in Orlando.

The Orlando Annual Meeting Program Committee members are Pauline Aranas, Anna Delgado, Janice Henderson, Meredith Hoffman, Tim Knight, Frosty Owen, Ruth Hill (ex officio) and Victoria Trotta.

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