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Government Documents
Special Interest Section

From the Chair

by Chris Anglim

Often, a crisis demands the community to speak and to act. In our small rural setting, thousands of Prairie View students marched to the courthouse recently demanding the right to vote in the face of a county attorney's attempts to restrict this right. This issue had been decided by the US Supreme Court in 1979, and the right of students to vote in the area where they attend a college or university is recognized by Texas state law. This controversy is now being investigated by the US Department of Justice. This part of the Civil Rights struggle in the United States reminds us that for democracy to be effective, the people must be informed, speak-out, and act.

Now is also the moment that demands our attention as members of the government documents community. Our institutions and constituencies may vary greatly, but we all perform many of the same service functions. On a daily basis, we all answer user questions, teach students, construct finding guides and web pages, and assist the faculty with research and course content. And more than ever, we have the need to assert the right of the people to access the government information they need. Despite our diversity, we all share the common need to articulate the value of our program, to teach our constituencies how valuable our collections are to their work, and to play an active role in molding a Federal Depository Library Program that will meet the needs and challenges of the 21st Century. The FDLP is vital to the dissemination and access of Federal government to our citizens and will continue to be so in the indefinite future.

Judy Russell, the Superintendent of Documents, invites us to participate in the redesigning of the FDLP. She said at the depository library conference that, "GPO administers the program on behalf of the participating libraries and the public we jointly serve. That community – with help from each of you – must drive the decisions about what the program should be in the future." We must take her up on this invitation.

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The importance of our work should never, ever be underestimated. Government documents, as government documents librarians in law libraries well understand, provide access to justice for the public. More than just “materials”, the primary legal information, judicial opinions, legislative enactments, administrative decisions, rules and orders in our collections, profoundly effect the rights and property of all the people we serve .

The Documents community has long had to contend with many complex and compelling questions involving technological and momentous political issues including: the public’s right to know vs. legitimate security concerns; public accountability for government actions v. government secrecy; permanent public access vs. instantaneous (but maybe temporary) electronic access; and the authoritativeness of electronic documents. There have also been persistent concerns over the very future and shape of the FDLP itself.

Discussions of a Model

Mr. Bruce James, the Public Printer, said that GPO does not have a sustainable business model and that GPO must “create a business model that will once again allow us to bring revenue in the door.” He reportedly wants GPO and the library and information communities to collaborate to devise a feasible business model that would help the GPO recover revenue. While we all must be concerned about the economic viability of the FDLP and cooperate with the GPO in order help it continue for us to be able to provide information to our users effectively, the type of business model suggested by Mr. James seems unsuitable for the FDLP, considering the values, purposes, and functions our program. Judy Russell, speaking at ALA, conceded that such a model may not be possible.

Ms. Russell said that a committee is being established, including members of the library community, to see if a viable model can be created. The meeting is expected to take place in March and a report issued of their deliberations. I urge our membership to follow these discussions closely, to review the report when it is made available, that we discuss it, and see if our SIS can make a decision on that report.

As a community of documents librarians, we must oppose “value-added business models” that include funneling materials available through commercial entities, because these materials should be available to depositories for free, and we must hold GPO responsible for permanent public access to electronic documents and not allow the responsibility as another unfunded mandate to the libraries.

As librarians, we must be concerned that if GPO attempts to implement business models based on replacing revenue from sales, that its commitment to public access may be lost. The GPO, as a government agency that provides information, was never intended to function as a business. Thus, Quint Thurman expressed the situation very well: “The people own the government, the people pay for the government, the people own the information the government collects and the documents its produces, the government owes the people what they have paid for.”

One concern in these efforts to establish a “business model” is how this would affect GPO Access. GPO Access is the federal government’s most successful internet service. It is of crucial importance because

everyday thousands of Americans rely on the GPO Access system to locate the vital electronic government information they need. Furthermore, GPO Access has a longstanding and publicly announced policy that its content will be supported forever.

GPO developed its free access policy after originally attempting to implement payment mechanisms, both on a subscription and per-document basis. A statute (PL 103-40) requires GPO not to charge depository libraries. Those libraries started reproducing and redelivering GPO Access, content and building mirror sites – all available free on the open web. In 1995, GPO provided free access to this service.

Because we live in an information society, we must guard against a “caste system” which could emerge through restricting access to information, by selling it to the highest bidder. Such a system would reduce many of our users to second class citizenship, with their lack of access to information being based on their financial status. Free should never be confused with information having no value, for the legal information in our collections is inherently among the most valuable. These documents are made freely available because in a democracy, we must be concerned with fairness. Making these documents accessible for free is the fairest and most equitable way to ensure fair and equal access to government information, which is necessary for an informed citizenry and the proper operation of our democracy.



MEMBERSHIP/COMMITTEE NEWS

MINUTES OF THE GD-SIS BUSINESS MEETING

Wed. July 16, 2003

AALL Annual Meeting, Seattle

(Colleen C. Manning)

Present: Chris Anglim (Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect), Jaye Anne Barlous (2003 Veronica Maclay Grant Recipient), Mark Bartlett (Fugitive Documents Committee Coordinator), Charlene Cain, Shelly Clement, Joel Fishman, Virginia Davis, Andrew Evans, Galen Fletcher, Kevin Fredette (Publications Chair), Cecily Giardina, Janice Greer, Peggy Jarrett, Earlene Kuester, Susan Lyons (Chair), Colleen Manning (Secretary/Treasurer), Scott Matheson, David McFadden, Michael Roffer, Marcia Siebesma.

1. The minutes of the 2002 business meeting, distributed in the Fall 2002 issue of *JURISDOCS* (<http://www.aallnet.org/sis/gd/jurisdocus/jurisdocus2401.pdf>), were approved, with the correction that the meeting took place in Orlando.
2. Treasurer's Report: Colleen Manning:
The Treasurer reported that the SIS's financial situation is solid, with an estimated current balance of \$8,219.25. Total income from October through May was \$1,710 (up from \$550.00 at the same time last year). Income since May 31, 2001 includes \$240.00 for state bibliographies. The Treasurer thanked Kevin Fredette, the Chair of the Publications Committee, Eric Parker, SIS Webmaster, Sue Lyons, GD-SIS Chair, Steve Ligda, AALL's Director of Finance and Administration, and Ivonne Torres, AALL's Accounting Assistant in the Office of Finance and Administration, for her efficient handling of our accounts.
3. Report of the Grants Committee: Sue Lyons read Michael Samson's report:
The Committee reported that the Fall Student Grant to the Federal Depository Library Conference and Fall Depository Library Council Meeting held October 2002 in Alexandria, Virginia was awarded to Mr. Frank Richardson, government documents librarian with the Los Angeles County Law Library. The grant was for \$400.00. The Veronica Maclay Grant to attend the AALL annual conference in Seattle was awarded to Jaye Anne Barlous, a student in the University of Washington Information School. The grant was for \$400.00. This grant is awarded annually to a student to attend AALL annual meeting. (Veronica Maclay was a former Chair of the SIS who died in 2000. See the Memorial about her in LLJ at http://www.aallnet.org/products/2001_09.pdf). In addition, the committee set up an archive for the documents produced by the committee, so that materials will be easily accessible to future committee members. The committee thanked Eric Parker, the GD-SIS webmaster for all his support.
4. Report of the Publications Committee: Kevin Fredette:
The publications chair reported that bibliographies sales increased by three-fold this year. We sold 131 bibliographies this year. This number includes seventy-eight bibliographies that we sold as part of two large orders. Louisiana and Pennsylvania were our best sellers. The updating of these few bibliographies has increased all our sales. As people saw the advertisements of our new bibliographies not only would many of them order these new publications, but they would also order several of our older publications. We currently have commitments to update thirty-one of our older bibliographies

The publications chair, the webmaster, and the treasurer have begun discussions of how to institute a standing order for the bibliographies. Since we must have prepayment, we are considering a notification or invoice system. Electronic delivery of the bibliographies is still impractical as most the documents are not yet in an electronic format.

ACTION ITEM: Publications Committee Chair, the Webmaster and the Treasurer will continue to discuss the creation of standing orders for new bibliographies.

5. Report of the JURISDOCS Editor: Sue Lyons read Sue Kelleher's report:
Sue is stepping down as editor of JURISDOCS. Hays Butler has agreed to be the new

editor. Please send articles and notices to him (ahbutler@crab.rutgers.edu).

6. Report of the GD-SIS Webmaster: Sue Lyons read Eric Parker's report:
The webmaster reported that the GD-SIS website has seen a number of challenges this year. The AALL website experienced technical problems at Washburn University which eventually resulted in the migration of the entire AALL site to a new server under the more direct control of AALL staff. As result of these problems and changes, our files could not be loaded at times and the interactive state bibliography order form was made ineffective. Despite these technical challenges, the complete run of JURISDOCS (dating back to 1978) is now available in PDF from our website. An electronic archive of the Grants Committee documentation was created to assist the transition of the changing leadership of the committee.

ACTION ITEM: The Webmaster will re-establish an online order form for the State Bibliographies.

7. Report of the GD-SIS Listserv owner: a report by Michael Samson was distributed. As of May 2003, the GD-SIS listserv has 250 members. The list was moved by AALL headquarters to new software in April. Now, the list is located at <http://share.aallnet.org/read/?forum=gd-sis>.
8. Report of the Education Committee: Sue Lyons delivered the report:
The deadline for program submissions is August 15th. Please send submissions to Chris Anglim (canglim@coleman.pvam.edu) or Cecily Giardina (chg3@psu.edu).
There really is no education committee. There is only the Chair. If any members are interested on serving on the education committee, please contact Chris Anglim.
9. Report of the Fugitive Documents Committee: Mark Bartlett:
The Committee Coordinator reported that since May 2001, Committee members have reported to GPO 150 fugitive federal publications on law and policy, which are listed at <http://fugitive.lawlib.asu.edu>. Of these titles: eight have been distributed to depositories in tangible format; 103 have been cataloged at "electronic only;" and thirty-nine remain fugitive. Committee members now monitor the Websites of seventy-seven federal agencies and departments. The committee has coordinated its fugitive reporting activities with those of GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group (EDWG). The Committee has reported to GPO and GPO has corrected more than one dozen broken PURLs for federal documents. Law librarians have been asked to report broken GPO PURLs to the committee. The committee helped to draft the AALL GD-SIS's July 2002 resolution urging resumption of the depository distribution of U.S. Supreme Court Slip Opinions and placing of the Slip Opinions and the Preliminary Prints on GPO's Essential Titles list. The resolution as revised by Mary Alice Baish of the AALL Washington Affairs Office was approved by the AALL Executive Board in April 2003. The Committee's website moved to a new address: <http://fugitive.lawlib.asu.edu/>. This site includes a number of items, including the committee's revised procedures for identifying and reporting fugitive federal documents. The committee submitted a panel program from the 2003 annual AALL meeting. This program entitled "On the Loose, on the Run: Fugitive Federal Government

Documents” was accepted and held on July 15th in Seattle. The committee continued to work closely with the Washington Affairs Office. The William S. Hein Co., Inc. has continued to publish print copies of selected titles identified by the committee as electronic-only in “Hein’s Electronic Documents Reprint Series.” The committee’s work has been documented this year in various publications.

The Coordinator thanked all the committee members, including former members Rob Richards and Georgia Chadwick for their outstanding work and welcomed the seven new members who joined the committee in Seattle at the meeting. The Committee thanked numerous other individuals and offices for their cooperation and work.

10. New Business:

1. Motion Concerning the Ballots for the 2002 Election:
Sue Lyons made the motion to allow the Chair of the Nominations Committee to destroy the 2002 SIS election ballots. Janice Greer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: The Nominations Chair will destroy the 2003 SIS election ballots

2. Motion Concerning a Contribution to the George A Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment:
Mark Bartlett moved that the SIS should donate \$501.00 to the George A Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment. Peggy Jarrett seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: The Secretary/Treasure will make sure the donation is completed.

3. GPO Update as a Program:
There was a general discussion as to whether the SIS should submit the GPO Update as a program instead of a meeting at the annual AALL conferences.

ACTION ITEM: The SIS will submit the GPO Update as a program at the annual AALL conference with a new title each year. If it is turned down, the SIS should submit it as a meeting.

4. Government Relations Committee Announcement
The Government Relations Committee and The Washington Affairs Office have completed the *State-by-State Report on Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Information* and it is now posted at <http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/aallwash/PPAreport.htm>. The next step is to start advocating and they look to the support from GD-SIS .
5. Motion to Increase the amount of the Veronica Maclay Grant
Scott Matheson made a motion to increase the Veronica Maclay Grant to a LIS student to attend the AALL annual conference to \$500 and to suggest to the

recipients that they might want to attend CONELL. Colleen Manning seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: The Grants Committee and the Secretary/Treasurer will increase the amount awarded for the Veronica Maclay Grant to \$500.00.

11. The Chair, Sue Lyons, thanked everyone and handed her gavel over to Chris Anglim.
12. The Meeting was Adjourned.



Treasurer's Report
Colleen Manning, Secretary/Treasurer

The SIS's financial situation appears to be solid. Our estimated current Balance is \$8,219.25.

As of May 31, 2001, the date of our latest financial statement from AALL Headquarters, our balance was \$7,979.25. This is up (\$2,383.11) from \$5,596.14 as of May 31, 2001. We will probably incur some expense from the SIS events at the AALL meeting, however it is not expected to be considerable as LexisNexis Academic & Library Solutions is sponsoring the breakfast.

Our total income from October through May was \$1,710 (up from \$550.00 at the same time last year). Income since May 31, 2001 includes \$240.00 for state bibliographies.

For details of income and expenses for October 1, 2001 to May 31, 2001, please see the attached Revenues and Expenses report.

Other activities this year include keeping the bibliographies order webpage current and reacting to the AALL website changes that disrupted our bibliography ordering page. Thank you to Eric Parker for all of his continued work on the SIS webpage.

Thank you to Susan Lyons, GD-SIS Chair and Steve Ligda, AALL's Director of Finance and Administration. A very special thank you to Kevin Fredette, the Chair of the Publications Committee for his teamwork in processing orders for state bibliographies; and Ivonne Torres, AALL's Accounting Assistant in the Office of Finance and Administration for her efficient handling of our accounts.



2003 Committee Annual Report
Mark Bartlett, Committee Coordinator

On behalf of the AALL GD-SIS Fugitive & Electronic-Only Documents Committee, I am pleased to present the Committee's 2003 Annual Report.

The committee's 14 members during 2002-03 were Christopher Anglim, Mark Bartlett, A. Hays Butler, Georgia Chadwick, Cecily A. H. Giardina, Peggy Roebuck Jarrett*, Gwendolyn Lohmann, Susan Lyons, Scott Matheson, Michelle Pearse*, Rob Richards, Caitlin Robinson, Randall Tenor, and Alice I. Youmans (*new members this year). Georgia Chadwick and Rob Richards resigned during the year.

The purpose of the Committee is to:

1. Identify and report to GPO fugitive and electronic-only U.S. federal documents on law and policy. A "fugitive document" is defined as a U.S. federal publication that, according to U.S. Code Title 44, should be distributed to libraries through the Federal Depository Library Program, but that hasn't been cataloged or distributed by GPO. An "electronic-only" document is defined as an electronic U.S. federal publication that GPO has cataloged and assigned a Persistent URL, but that GPO will not distribute to depository libraries in tangible format.
2. List fugitive, electronic-only, and tangibly-distributed U.S. federal documents on law and policy on the GD-SIS Website;
3. Facilitate hard copy publication of some of these documents.

Achievements and activities this year:

The committee had a very productive year and accomplished the following:

1. Since May 2001, committee members have reported 150 fugitive federal publications on law and policy, which are listed at <http://fugitive.lawlib.asu.edu/>. Of the titles represented, 8 have been distributed to depositories in tangible format; 103 have been cataloged as "electronic only"; and 39 remain fugitive. Committee members currently monitor the websites of 77 federal agencies and departments.
2. Cecily Giardina and Caitlin Robinson have several times notified the law library and documents communities about the committee's lists of reported titles, through messages to the following mailing lists: LAW-LIB, GOVDOC-L, ALL-SIS, GD-SIS, RIPS-SIS, TS-SIS, DOCTECH-L, and SLA-LAW.

3. Susanna Marlowe and Cecily Giardina have coordinated the committee's fugitive reporting activities with those of GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group - EDWG (see http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/tools/ewgroup/), to avoid duplication of effort. The committee coordinator informally met with John Stevenson of EDWG at the Spring Depository Council Meeting in Reno, Nevada. They discussed each other's methods for identifying fugitive titles and ideas for improving communication between the AALL committee's members and the EDWG members. A listserv for fugitive "hunters" is being considered.
4. The committee helped to draft AALL GD-SIS's July 2002 resolution urging resumption of print depository distribution of U.S. Supreme Court Slip Opinions, and the placing of Slip Opinions and Preliminary Prints on GPO's Essential Titles list. Mary Alice Baish (AALL Washington Affairs Office) revised this resolution, and her version was approved in April 2003 by AALL Executive Board. The committee thanks the GD-SIS, Mary Alice, and the AALL Executive Board members.
5. The committee has reported to GPO --- and GPO has corrected --- more than one dozen broken PURLs for federal documents. David Bratman of Stanford University's Robert Crown Law Library has notified the committee of many broken GPO PURLs. Through listserv messages law librarians have been asked to report broken GPO PURLs to the committee.
6. The committee's website moved from the University of Colorado to Arizona State University. The current address is: <http://fugitive.lawlib.asu.edu/>. The site features lists of titles the committee has reported to GPO, a roster of current Committee members, links to GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group, references in professional literature to the committee's activities, and honors the committee has received.
7. The committee revised it's procedures for identifying and reporting fugitive federal documents (see <http://fugitive.lawlib.asu.edu/procedure.htm>).
8. A proposal for a panel program at AALL 2003 Seattle was submitted by Mark Bartlett in August 2002. The program, "On the Loose, on the Run: Fugitive Federal Government Documents", was approved by the Annual Meeting Program Committee and it will be held July 15, 2003. Scheduled speakers are Mary Alice Baish (AALL Washington Affairs Office), Gil Baldwin (GPO), Mark Bartlett (representing this committee), and Cecily Giardina (moderator).
9. The committee provided information about federal fugitive and electronic-only publications to the AALL Washington Affairs Office. The Office used this information in creating Congressional testimony, and in educating members of Congress's Joint Committee on Printing, about the issues of fugitive information and electronic dissemination.
10. The William S. Hein Co, Inc. has continued publishing print copies of selected titles identified by the committee as electronic-only. This series is entitled "Hein's electronic documents reprint series."

11. A partial group of the committee's members met at the 2002 AALL Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. They discussed the committee's work and plans for the next year. The committee members will meet again at AALL 2003 in Seattle.

12. The committee's work has been documented again this past year in various publications, including:

Gil Baldwin, *Future of the FDLP: Appointments, Policies, and Other News, Remarks at the AALL Annual Meeting, July 24, 2002*, Administrative Notes, Aug. 15, 2002, at 5, 12. Also available on Internet (last visited June 8, 2003)
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fdlp/pubs/adnotes/adnotes.html>.

Sue Lyons, *New Chair of Fugitive and Electronic-Only Committee*, AALL Spectrum, April 2003, at 28. Also available on Internet (last visited June 8, 2003)
<http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_sp0304.pdf>.

The coordinator thanks all of the committee members for their outstanding work during the past year, and extends a special thanks to departing members Georgia Chadwick and Rob Richards. The whole committee and the law library community expresses much gratitude to Rob Richards, committee coordinator from the inception of the group through December 2002.

The committee wishes to thank John Stevenson and our colleagues in GPO's Electronic Documents Working Group; Superintendent of Documents Judy Russell; GPO's Director of Library Programs Service Gil Baldwin; GPO's Chief of Cataloging Branch Theodore Downing; all the GPO cataloging staff; GPO's Supervisory Program Analyst Laurie Beyer Hall and her staff members Cynthia Etkin and Joe Paskoski; GPO's Chief of Depository Services Staff Robin Haun-Mohamed; AALL's President Carol Avery Nicholson; AALL's Past President Barbara Bintliff; AALL's Washington Affairs Representatives Robert Oakley and Mary Alice Baish; Charlene C. Cain, Chair of AALL Government Relations Committee and Member, Depository Library Council; Barbara S. Selby, Member, Depository Library Council; David Bratman of Stanford University's Robert Crown Law Library; Tim Byrne of the ALA GODORT Cataloging Committee; Brian Jablonski, Daniel Rosati, and Richard Spinelli of W.S. Hein & Co., Inc.; University of Colorado Law Library; Arizona State University, Ross-Blakley Law Library; and our many colleagues in the law library and documents communities.



AALL GD-SIS Grants Committee Report
Mike Samson

Every year the AALL GD-SIS awards two grants for professional development.

The first grant is awarded to a SIS member or a government documents support staff to attend the Fall Federal Depository Library Conference. The second grant, the VERONICA MACLAY (http://www.aallnet.org/products/2001_09.pdf) grant, is given to assist a library and information science student to attend the AALL Annual Conference.

The Fall 2002 recipient of the member grant was Frank Richardson, government documents librarian with the Los Angeles County Law Library, Los Angeles, CA. He used the grant to attend the October 2002 FDLP Conference in Alexandria, VA. The recipient of the 2003 summer grant was Jaye Anne Barlous, student in the University of Washington Information School, Seattle, WA. She used the grant to attend the July 2003 AALL Conference in Seattle, WA.

The grants committee members (Colleen C. Manning, Georgia Chadwick, Michael Samson) produced the announcements in several formats (.doc, .html, .pdf), and, with help from Eric Parker, the GD-SIS webmaster, web-based application forms were also created. About half of the applications were received via the web, by all committee members, with considerable savings of time for faxing, copying, scanning, etc. Paper announcements were also sent to all ALA accredited library schools. As a result of all this publicity the committee received over 20 applications.

All the documents produced by the committee are now posted on the GD-SIS web site (not for public display), so that they are within easy reach to present and future committee members.



AALL NEWS

The SIS received the following letter from President Janis L. Johnston thanking the SIS for its contribution to the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Fund.

November 12, 2003

I am Writing on behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries and its Executive board to thank the Government Documents Special Interest Section for your generous contribution of \$501 to the George A. Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment. The response of the SIS's to this important fund raising effort is greatly appreciated, and of equal importance is the demonstrated recognition of the need to ensure that our profession reflects the diversity in our society as we recruit a new generation of law librarians and legal information professionals.

To date we have raised \$64,749 towards our overall goal of \$100,000 for the Strait endowment fund. As you can see, we still have a lot to accomplish but I am certain that we will be successful with continued member support.

Thanks to the generosity of West Group we already are able to award Strait Minority Scholarships so I would also like to ask you to encourage your SIS members to help identify potential candidates to apply for the scholarship now. Scholarships are awarded annually and a copy of the application form can be found at http://www.aallnet.org/services/sch_strait.pdf.

On behalf of the Executive Board and the Strait Scholarship Committee, we truly appreciate your commitment to this worthy cause.

Best regards,

Janis L. Johnston
President



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CHAIR

Chris Anglim
Prairie View A&M University
John B. Coleman Library
Box 519
Prairie View University
Prairie View, TX 77446
Phone: 936-857-4886
Fax: 936-857-2755
E-mail: anglimc@law.stmarytx.edu

VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

Cecily Giardina
Associate Law Librarian
Dickinson School of Law
of the Pennsylvania State University
150 S. College St.
Carlisle, Pa. 17013
Phone: 717-240-5226
Fax: 717-240-5177

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Colleen Manning
Reference Librarian
Florida Coastal School of Law
Library & Technology Center
7565 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: (904) 680-7615
Fax: (904) 721-8999
E-mail: cmanning@fcsf.edu

***JURISDOCS* EDITOR**

A. Hays Butler
Associate Professor & Librarian
Rutgers School of Law - Camden
217 N. 5th St.
Camden, NJ 08102
Phone: 856-225-6496
Fax: 856-225-6488
E-mail: : ahbutler@crab.rutgers.edu

GD-SIS WEBMASTER

Eric Parker
Electronic Resources & Services
Librarian
Pritzker Legal Research Center
Northwestern Univ. School of Law
Phone: (312) 503-3274
E-mail: ecp278@law.northwestern.edu

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Chris Anglim

**FUGITIVE & ELECTRONIC-ONLY
DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE**

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