

American Association of Law Libraries
Legal Information Services to the Public SIS
Spring/Summer 2008 Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2008 Newsletter of AALL's Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section! This Newsletter highlights several undertakings of our section, including the election of LISP-SIS officers for the 2008-09 year, this year's recipients of the Kathy Garner Grants, this year's VIP at the Annual Meeting, volunteer opportunities to work on the state-specific Public Library Toolkits project, the Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships, and LISP's activities at the Annual Meeting.

Also, LISP is proposing amending its bylaws. These proposed amendments will be voted on at the LISP business meeting in Portland. The proposed amendments are set forth below, at pages 6-10, for the membership's consideration.

Election of LISP-SIS Officers

During April 16-22, an election was held to select new officers of LISP for the July 2008 to July 2009 year. Terrye Conroy, Reference/Public Services Librarian at the Coleman Karesh Law Library of the University of South Carolina School of Law, was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Terrye will serve in this position during 2008-09, and then will serve as Chair during 2009-10.

LISP-SIS's current Secretary/Treasurer, John Cannan, of the Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library in Rockville, Maryland, was elected to serve a second term as Secretary/Treasurer during 2008-09.

As officers of LISP, Terrye and John will also serve on the LISP Executive Committee, together with the LISP's 2008-09 Chair, Betty Agin, and Luis Acosta, who will be the Immediate Past Chair.

The LISP Executive Committee thanks the Nominations Committee, Stacy Etheridge (who served as chair), Mon Yin Lung, and Emily Carr, and for their diligent efforts in finding members willing to seek office!

2008 Kathy Garner Grants Awarded

Kathy Garner was a beloved librarian at the Southern Illinois School of Law Library for 14 years, an active member of AALL, and a past chair of LISP. After her death in 2005, in honor of her memory, LISP established a travel grant to help members receive financial assistance to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

The recipients of the Kathy Garner Grant for 2008 are Melanie Salon and Mindy Rush. Melanie, a long-time active member of AALL and LISP, is the Law Librarian at the Berks County Law Library, in Reading, Pennsylvania. Melanie has been active on a number of fronts in improving public access to legal information in Berks County, and recently served as the coordinator of an AALL/BNA-sponsored continuing legal education program for Pennsylvania county law librarians on meeting the information needs of pro se litigants in counties with limited resources. Mindy is currently an MLS candidate at the University of Missouri - Columbia, who was inspired to enter law librarianship after working in a prison law library. The grant will enable Mindy to attend her first AALL Annual Meeting. Melanie and Mindy exemplify the public spiritedness that Kathy Garner embodied, so it is fitting that they are this year's grantees.

The LISP Executive Committee greatly appreciates the work of the 2008 Kathy Garner Grant Committee. The committee was very ably chaired by Janet Hedin, and included Joel Fishman, Nancy Strohmeier, and Lisa Rush.

Bonnie Rose Hough to be LISP-SIS's VIP at Annual Meeting

Bonnie Rose Hough, Managing Attorney with the California Administrative Office of the Court's Center for Families, Children & the Courts, has been selected to be LISP-SIS's "Valued Invited Participant" at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Portland. The VIP program was initiated by AALL to allow SISs and Chapters to invite non-AALL members to attend the Annual Meeting, as a means of spreading the word to prominent members of the legal community about the important role of AALL and law librarians in delivering legal information.

Bonnie has been with the Center for Families, Children & the Courts since 1997. She oversees the legal forms, rules and legal opinions for family, juvenile, domestic violence, child support and collaborative courts. A primary focus of her work is on helping courts meet the needs of self-represented litigants. She serves as Committee Counsel to the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants. Her unit coordinates the California Courts Self-Help Website (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp) which provides over 900 pages of legal and procedural information and referrals and has been translated into Spanish (www.sucorte.ca.gov). She oversees \$25 million in grant funds for court based self-help centers and legal services programs.

Prior to joining the AOC, she was in private practice in family law. She was also a co-founder of the Family Law Center, a nonprofit legal services organization in Marin County, and served as its executive director for six years. Ms. Hough received a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law, an M.P.A. from San Francisco State University, and a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She serves as Vice Chair of the Access and Delivery Committee of the California Commission on Access to Justice and is a fellow with the Harvard Law School's Bellow-Sacks project. She is the recipient of the Faye Stender Award from California Women Lawyers, Opening Doors to Justice Award from the Public Interest Clearinghouse, Public Service Award from Central California Legal Services, Dale Sipes Spirit of Justice Award from the Administrative Office of the Courts and Award of Merit from the Legal Aid Association of California and Commission on Access to Justice. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Marin County Law Library.

In addition to serving as LISP's VIP at the Annual Meeting, Bonnie will also serve on a panel on Monday, July 14, at 4:00-5:15, in a program entitled "Avoiding Giving Legal Advice at the Library: Exploring the Ethical and Legal Framework of Assistance to the Self-Represented." Bonnie will also participate in the Joint Roundtable on Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners on Monday at 12:00-1:15.

Volunteer Opportunity - State-Specific Public Library Toolkits

LISP-SIS's state-specific public library toolkits project, <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/lisp/toolkit.htm>, is designed to assist non-law public librarians and pro se patrons in conducting legal research in their state. There are still a number of states for which no toolkit has been prepared. LISP needs volunteers to complete this project. If you know the legal research resources in one of the states not included in the toolkit, please consider volunteering to prepare a toolkit for a state lacking one.

Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships

This year, a new joint committee was formed of members of both LISP-SIS and the State, Court, and County Law Libraries SIS. The Joint LISP/SCCLL Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships was established to explore the ways in which law librarians can improve services for and engage in partnership opportunities with pro bono projects, and otherwise assist under-served members of the public. The Joint Committee has engaged in a number of activities in its inaugural year, including working on a state-by-state survey of successful pro bono projects, collaborating with the Self Represented Litigation Network, and sponsoring law librarian programs at the 2008 Equal Justice Conference. LISP members on the committee include co-chair Catherine McGuire, Elizabeth Schneider, and Ruth Stevens. SCCLL members of the committee include co-chair Jean Holcomb, Charley Dyer, John Pickett, and Sara Galligan.

LISP-SIS Activities at the 2008 AALL Annual Meeting

The following is a list of activities, meetings and programs at the AALL Annual Meeting in Portland that will be presented or co-sponsored by LISP:

Saturday, July 12, 9:00-12:00

Portland Community Service Projects Sponsored by SIS Council

AALL's Special Interest Section Council is sponsoring two unique volunteer opportunities in Portland during the Annual Meeting. The SIS Council is partnering with the Portland Parks and Recreation Community Gardens and the Oregon Food Bank to offer attendees the opportunity to spend a few hours in the community and lend a hand to support our host city. Learn more by visiting the Portland Community Service Projects Web page where you can register to participate:

<http://www.aallnet.org/events/communityproject.asp>.

Sunday, July 13, 3:00-4:00**AMPC Program Co-Sponsored by LISP-SIS and RIPS-SIS:****B-2 - Serving the Mentally Ill Patron: Theory and Techniques for Safe Interactions**

Public law libraries can attract patrons with a variety of mental illnesses. However, librarians typically are not versed in how to interact with such individuals or identify warning signs of potentially dangerous situations. This program will give you the basic skills you need to improve your ability to interact with the mentally ill. The speaker, who works with Washington County (Oregon) Adult Mental Health, is experienced with helping library staff to work effectively and respectfully with mentally ill patrons. With this guidance, you can develop an appropriate reference interview for mentally ill patrons and identify warning signs in their behavior that should be cause for concern. This program will leave you with the ability to treat this special patron base with the dignity they deserve, while at the same time preserving the safety and learning environment for other patrons and library staff.

Jennifer S. Murray, Coordinator and Moderator, Maricopa County Superior Court Law Library
Elise Thompson, Washington County Adult Mental Health

Monday, July 14, 9:45-10:30**AMPC Program Co-Sponsored by LISP-SIS and SCCLL-SIS:****E-1- Lawyers in the Library: Exploring New Ways to Serve Our Public Patrons**

“Lawyers in the Library” programs are innovative partnerships between librarians and their legal community’s pro bono sector. This enhancement to library services helps fill a critical need among low-income people for access to the information that can help them function within the legal system. Speakers will cover their programs’ origins and evolution, and give planning and operational details. Participants will learn what has worked and what hasn’t in these trailblazing programs, pitfalls to avoid on the path to success, and methods of evaluating the effectiveness and measuring the outcomes of this win-win-win relationship.

Mareth Wilson, Coordinator, Moderator and Speaker, Sacramento County Public Law Library
Sandra Marz, Washoe County Law Library
Bret N. Christensen, Riverside County (CA) Law Library

Monday, July 14, 12:00-1:15**Joint Roundtable on Library Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners****Co-Sponsored by LISP-SIS, SR-SIS, and SCCLL-SIS**

All interested persons are encouraged to join our annual informal roundtable discussion on library services to pro se patrons and prisoners. Michael Tillman-Davis, of the Georgia State University Law Library, will discuss his experiences as a law librarian at the Rikers Island jail in New York. Sara Galligan will discuss what was learned at the Equal Justice Conference in Minneapolis this year with respect to librarians’ support for pro se patrons. Light refreshments will be served.

Monday, July 14, 4:00-5:15

AMPC Program Co-Sponsored by LISP-SIS and SCCLL-SIS:

G-2 - Avoiding Giving Legal Advice at the Library: Exploring the Ethical and Legal Framework of Assistance to the Self-Represented

Many librarians who work with non-lawyers and self-represented litigants are uncomfortable serving them, because of uncertainty about the line between providing legal information versus legal advice. As a result, librarians often err on the side of not helping the pro se library user as much as they could. This program will provide clear guidance for these situations. Two speakers who have done national training will discuss the standards involved in assisting pro ses without being accused of practicing law without a license, and explore the ethical framework for self-help services in law libraries. They will address the importance of the topic and its historical context, and provide participants with a sound policy based on clearly articulated ethical obligations, definitions and guidelines. Ample time will be allowed for questions and discussion with the audience.

Judith Meadows, Coordinator and Speaker, State Law Library of Montana
Bonnie Rose Hough, California Administrative Office of the Courts

Monday, July 14, 5:30-6:30

LISP-SIS Business Meeting

All LISP-SIS members and other interested AALL members are encouraged to attend our annual business meeting, where we will review this year's activities and plan for the 2008-09 year.

Tuesday, July 15, 9:00-10:30

LISP-SIS Program: Exploring the Evolving Field of Assisted Living for the Elderly

As baby boomers become senior citizens, they are facing the dilemma of providing their aging parents and eventually themselves with secure, comfortable, and attractive housing. Because of medical advances and new findings in the areas of nutrition and exercise, the senior population as a whole is more active and healthier than previous generations. Many older senior citizens postpone or even reject utilizing nursing home when they are no longer able to live independently. While they may need assistance, they do not require the skilled nursing care provide by nursing homes. Enter the rapidly growing industry of assisted living. To introduce the concept of assisted living and the legal information needed by its consumers, this program provides three segments: 1) an introduction with a description on assisted living and how it has evolved, the varieties of assisted living, and the different types of financing sources; 2) information on the legal issues arising in assisted living settings such as statutory and regulatory requirements; and 3) examples of the variety of assisted living options.

Mon Yin Lung, Associate Director, University of Houston Law Library, Coordinator and Speaker
Elizabeth Schneider, Librarian, Plattner, Schneidman & Schneider, Phoenix, Arizona
Janie Williams, Director, Brighton Gardens, Scottsdale, Arizona
Maria Protti, Deputy City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco, Moderator

Proposed Amendments to LISP-SIS Bylaws

The following proposed amendments to the LISP-SIS Bylaws will be voted on at the LISP Business Meeting in Portland on Monday, July 14, at 5:30-6:30. The proposed amendments have been reviewed and approved by the AALL's Bylaws Committee. Questions or comments regarding these proposed changes prior to the meeting are welcome. Please plan on attending the LISP Business Meeting to vote on the proposed amendments.

The LISP Executive Committee expresses its profound thanks to David McFadden, who painstakingly reviewed the Bylaws for necessary changes to bring them in line with the Bylaws Committee's Model SIS Bylaws and the current practices of our SIS.

The existing bylaws are set forth with proposed additions shown in *italics* and proposed deletions shown as ~~strikeouts~~.

Article I: NAME

The name of this Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) shall be the Legal Information Services to the Public *Special Interest* Section.

Comment: When LISP became an SIS in 1988 it was known as the Legal Information Service to the Public SIS. In recent years the common usage among LISP members, on AALLNET, etc., has been to add an "s" on to "Service" in the name. The amendment adding an "s" to "Service," and the amendment adding the words "Special Interest" before "Section" reflect common usage.

Article II: OBJECT

Section 1.

The objects of the Legal Information Services to the Public *Special Interest* Section shall be:

1. To *provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on* improveing access to legal information and ~~to promoteing~~ legal information services to the public.
2. To represent its members' interests and concerns within AALL.

Section 2.

~~It~~ *The special interest section* shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the ~~Constitution and~~ Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Comment: The proposed amendment conforms to a model object clause in the SIS Model Bylaws; the reference to the Constitution is deleted because the AALL Constitution was merged into the Bylaws.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any AALL member requesting affiliation with the Legal Information Services to the Public *Special Interest* Section as provided in the AALL *B*ylaws. *Membership shall be renewable each year.*

Comment: The proposed amendment derives from the SIS Model Bylaws.

Article IV: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings.

There shall be an annual meeting of the Legal Information Services to the Public *Special Interest* Section, preferably held in connection with, or during, that annual meeting of the AALL. *The scheduling of the annual meeting during the annual meeting of AALL shall be cleared with the annual meeting program chair, or as otherwise provided in the AALL Bylaws. Meetings shall be open to all members of AALL, but no person may vote in any meeting who is not a special interest section member in good standing.*

Section 2. Quorum.

A quorum shall consist of the members present at the meeting.

Comment: The proposed amendment derives from the SIS Model Bylaws.

Article V: OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. Officers.

The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair/Chair-elect, and a Secretary/Treasurer. ~~The Vice-Chair/Chair-elect shall automatically become Chair one year after being elected Vice-Chair, and shall serve as Chair during the second year following that election.~~

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

The Chair, Vice-Chair/Chair-elect, and Secretary/Treasurer shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices, and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee or the membership.

Section 3. Terms of Office.

The Vice-Chair/Chair-elect shall serve a two-year term, the first year as Vice-Chair, and the second year as Chair. A new Vice-Chair/Chair-elect shall be elected each year. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve a one-year term. Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the annual business meeting.

Section 3 4. Executive Committee.

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Officers named ~~above~~ *in Section 1*, and the immediate past Chair.

Section 4 5. Committees

There shall be such standing or special committees as the Executive Committee; or the membership of the *special interest s*Section shall create.

Section 6. Nominating Committee.

There shall be a ~~standing~~ Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, to consist of three members, ~~no one~~ of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and ~~no one~~ of whom shall be a candidate for office at the succeeding election. Each member of the Committee shall serve a term of one year. *The chair of the committee shall be designated by the Executive Committee.*

~~Article VI: Section 7. Nominations and Elections of Officers~~

(a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office.

(b) All candidates must be members in good standing of the special interest section.

~~Section 1. Nominating Committee~~ *(c) The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of candidates for the offices of Vice-Chair/Chair-elect and Secretary/Treasurer, together with their written acceptances, to the Chair in sufficient time to enable the Chair to inform the members of the Section of the nominations give (5) months prior to the annual meeting, either by publication in an AALL publication sent to all members, the SIS newsletter, or by mail. The Chair shall provide the names of the candidates, by mail or electronically, to the special interest section's members, or have them published in the special interest section's newsletter.*

~~Section 2. Nomination by Petition.~~ *(d) Further nominations may be made upon written petition of five (5) members of the special interest sSection. Such petitions, accompanied by written acceptance of the nominees, must be filed with the Chair not later than four (4) months prior to the annual meeting Secretary/Treasurer, who prepares an official ballot, including nominations by petition.*

~~Section 3. Ballots. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare an official ballot, nominations by petition. The professional position of each nominee shall appear on the ballot.~~

~~Section 4. Elections. The Officers of the Section shall be elected by ballot.~~ *(e) The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee the distribution of the official ballot to each member of the special interest sSection before April 1. The ballot shall be sent electronically. Members may receive a mail ballot upon request to the Secretary/Treasurer. Ballots shall be marked and returned to the Secretary/Treasurer at the latest two (2) months prior to the annual meeting by a specified deadline. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected, and shall be so reported by the Secretary/Treasurer at the annual meeting to the candidates, and thereafter to the members of the special interest sSection, All candidates shall be notified of the results of the election at the earliest possible time.*

(f) All of the above procedures must be scheduled and executed so that elections are completed at least two (2) months prior to the date of the AALL annual meeting.

~~Section 5. Tie Votes.~~ *(g) In case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held at the business meeting of the special interest sSection at the annual AALL convention. Run-off elections shall be by secret ballot. The ballots shall be immediately counted, and the candidate with the largest number of votes declared elected.*

~~Section 6. Destruction of ballots.~~ *(h) If there are no challenges to the results of the election, the ballots may be destroyed by the Secretary/Treasurer after the annual meeting.*

(i) All vacancies in offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next regular election of officers, at which time said vacancies shall be filled by election, except that the Vice-Chair/Chair-elect shall automatically become chair upon a vacancy in such office and shall continue in that office until the expiration of the term for which that person was originally elected to serve as chair.

Comment: The proposed amendments are derived primarily from the SIS Model Bylaws, with some minor variations intended to conform to AALL electronic voting practices.

Article ~~VH~~ VI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1.

~~These bBylaws of the Section may be adopted, amended or suspended at the annual meeting of the special interest sSection by a majority vote of the members present and voting, or by a majority of the votes cast by a mail or electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer. Or, bylaws may be adopted, amended, or suspended through a mail ballot. Whenever the bylaws are to be changed by mail vote, the Secretary/Treasurer shall mail ballots to every member in good standing of the Section. Such ballots shall state the text of the proposed change, the purpose of the change, and the date by which ballots must be returned to the Secretary/Treasurer. Proposed changes in the bylaws by mail must receive a majority vote of the ballots returned to the Secretary/Treasurer in order to pass. Tie votes shall be considered failure to pass.~~

Section 2.

~~Notice of proposed amendments to be considered at an annual meeting shall be provided, by mailed or electronically, to the special interest section's members, or be published in the SIS special interest section's newsletter, at least 30 days in advance of the meeting, or of the distribution of ballots.~~

Section 3.

~~Any amendment shall take effect after it has been approved by the AALL Executive Board.~~

Comment: The proposed amendments to sections 1 and 2 are derived from the SIS Model Bylaws. The

proposed elimination of Section 3 conforms with the SIS Model Bylaws.

Article ~~VIII~~ VII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

~~Robert's Rules of Order, in the latest edition, shall govern all deliberations of the Section when not in conflict with the bylaws of the Section.~~ *The Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries. The rules of order mandated by the Association's bylaws shall govern all deliberations of the Section.*

Comment: The proposed amendment conforms to the SIS Model Bylaws.