

**American Association of Law Librarians, Private Law Librarians
Candidate Statement 2003**

Candidates for Vice President/President Elect

Sue H. Johnson, Librarian, Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, L.L.P. Dallas, Texas

Former Position: Special Collections Librarian, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Professional Activities: American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), 1983-present; Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section, Public Relations Committee; Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL) 1982-present; Dallas Association of Law Librarians (DALL), 1981-present; Dallas Public Library; Southeastern Paralegal Institute.

Publications: "So much information, so little time", Texas Lawyer, September, 2000.

Statement: It is an honor to run for the position of Chair-Elect of PLL. Over the years of my involvement with PLL, I have seen its growth and gained knowledge, insight and encouragement from past leaders. If I am elected an officer in PLL, I believe I can help us effectively communicate to our employers the necessity of having and relying on trained librarians. I will, with knowledge and enthusiasm, encourage our members to become proactive in information management, collection reorganization and vendor relations. Most importantly, I believe I can lead the way in demonstrating the value we add to our organizations and their bottom lines. This is extremely important because as more attorneys become conversant with the resources available on the Internet--not only fee-based but also the multitude of free sites--it is incumbent on us as information professionals to guide them in the most cost-efficient use of their research time. Too often, untrained users fall into the trap of believing "everything is available on the web" and they waste valuable time surfing blindly, or, worse yet, obtain unreliable information. Our obligation to our organizations is to help attorneys and support staff to obtain the most relevant information in the shortest possible time. By accepting an active role as an officer in PLL, I believe I can help us communicate the significance of our function to our employers.

Name: James H. Walther, Manager of Library Services, Bryan Cave LLP, Washington, DC.

Former Positions: Faculty, The Catholic University of America, School of Library & Information Science; The Advisory Board Company, Washington, DC; LEXIS-NEXIS, Washington, DC; Holland & Knight, Washington, DC.

Professional Activities: The Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Inc., Vice-President and Education Committee Chair; American Library Association, Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT); District of Columbia Library Association, Student Loan Committee Chair

Publications: Articles and quarterly editorials in, **The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances**, EMERALD, Bradford, UK, Editor, 1999 to 2003; Ryan, S. & Walther, J.H. (2001). "Are Future Lawyers Even Trained?: The Tale of Two Summer Associate Programs." Library Instruction Round Table News, Vol. 24, No. 1/2, pp. 11,19; Walther, J.H. (2000). "Copyright Concerns in the Age of Distance Education." ERIC Digest. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Washington, D.C.; Wood, P.A. & Walther, J.H. (2000). "The Future of Academic Libraries: Changing Formats and Changing Delivery", The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances, Vol. 13, No. 4, pp. 173-181; Walther, J.H. (1999). "Change in the Age of Technology: A New Look at Licensing and Copyright for Colleges and Universities." ERIC Digest. ED 435382. U.S. Department of Education Office of Educational Research and Improvement, Washington, D.C.; Walther, J.H. (1998). "Assessing Library Vendor Relations: A Focus on Evaluation & Communication." The Bottom Line: Managing Library Finances, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 149-157. Recipient of Highly Commended Papers Award.; Walther, J.H. and Speisser, N. (1997). "Developing and Delivering Medical Reference Source Instruction in a Special Library." Issues in Science and Technology Librarianship, No. 16: (Fall 1997). Available at: <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/97-fall/article2.html>; Directory of Library Instruction and Related Groups, 2nd ed. (1994). American Library Association, Library Instruction Round Table (LIRT), Professional Associations Networking Committee, Editorial Staff; Walther, J.H. (1993). "The TRIPLL Conference: A Lesson for All Librarians." Library Instruction Round Table News, Vol. 16, No. 2, pp. 5.

Statement: I believe the PLL stands as one of the most productive examples of meeting both the individual and group goals of the membership. By educating ourselves and each other how to best meet the needs of our users and organizations, we are best positioned to move forward. With my experience in libraries, as a manager, researcher, editor and educator, I believe I could well serve the PLL and take it in new directions. As times change, we must look for new solutions to providing information for patrons, with a watchful eye on the finances of our libraries. I

am more than willing to offer my ability to work hard to accomplish the tasks at hand and provide a service to the association typical of the spirit of our previous energy in the PLL.

Candidates for Treasurer

Caren Z. Luckie, Librarian, Jackson Walker L.L.P., Houston, TX

Professional Activities: AALL, PLL Mentoring Committee 2000-present; HALL Grants Committee Chair 2000, 2003, Treasurer 2000-present, VP/President/Past-President 1997-1999, Speaker, "Legal Research on the Internet" seminar, March 2002; SWALL; SLA; Houston Legal Assistants Association; Institute for Paralegal Education, Houston Association of Legal Secretaries, Instructor, Beginning Legal Secretary Course, Friends of the Houston Public Library Board member 1996-1999, President 1999-present

Publications: "Locating Expert Witnesses: Books and Beyond," *Expert Witness Manual*; State Bar of Texas, Family Law Section

Personal Statement: I've been a member of AALL for my entire law library career, and have been very involved at the local chapter level, but never to a great extent on a larger scale. While I have chaired a PLL committee for the last few years, it has not been a very active committee (it now consists solely of its 2 co-chairs), and I thought it was time I took a more active role. I'm running for PLL Treasurer not because I have lofty goals, but simply because I wanted to help. To sum up my experience, I've been Treasurer of the Houston chapter for several years, and I haven't lost any money (that I know of), the chapter is fiscally sound, and I can balance my check book while riding my horse. Seriously, I'll do my best to do a good job for PLL.

Candidates for Treasurer biographies continue on the back of this page.

Candidate for Treasurer

David Mao, Assistant Librarian for Conflicts and Research Services, Covington & Burling, Washington, DC 20004

Former Positions: Covington & Burling: conflicts manager, 2000-2001; legislative librarian, 1997-2000.

Georgetown University Law Center: part-time reference librarian, 1998-2001; external services assistant, 1996-1997.

Professional Activities: AALL: member, 1996-present; copyright committee, 2000-2002; centennial celebration committee, 2003-present; Private Law Libraries SIS bylaws committee, 1999-2000. Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.: member 1996-present; Legislative Research SIS president, 2000-2001.

Publications: Author, *The Firm Library's Role in Conflicts*, 46 LAW LIBR. LIGHTS 16 (Fall 2002); Chairperson of compilation committee, UNION LIST OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORIES, (7th ed. 2000); Co-author, *Freightliner and Its Impact on Express and Implied Preemption*, LEADER'S PROD. LIABILITY L. & STRATEGY, August 1995.

Statement: As a member of AALL, I actively participate in law librarian events and programs both nationally and locally. On the national level, I recently completed a two-year term on AALL's Copyright Committee, working with other members on copyright and other intellectual property issues. For the next three years, I will work on the committee planning AALL's centennial celebration. I also worked previously with PLL/SIS's bylaws committee on drafting bylaws revisions. On the local level, I am a past president of the Law Librarian Society of Washington, D.C.'s Legislative Research SIS. I worked with the local board—and in particular, the treasurer—to secure funding for publication of LLSDC's Union List of Legislative Histories. I created and submitted a budget, and successfully completed this project. I hope to use these valuable experiences to serve PLL/SIS as treasurer.

Candidates for Board Member at Large

Sean M. Smith, Senior Research Librarian, Jenkins and Gilchrist, Dallas, TX 75202

Former Positions: Research Specialist, Leydig, Voit & Mayer, Chicago, IL

Activities: Treasurer, Dallas Association of Law Librarians, 2002-2003; Shirley Olofson Memorial Award Committee (ALA) 2000-2001.

Publications: Smith, Sean. "Where the Toys Are: How to Play Shamelessly on the Net and Still Maintain Your Professional Dignity." *The Informant*, 64(5), May, 2000 (available online at

<http://www.slaininois.org/pubs/informant/issues/v64n5/index.html#Toys>); Smith, Sean. "Cyberlaw: Intellectual

Property in the Digital Millennium.” (Review). *Legal Information Alert*, 20(9), October, 2001; Smith, Sean. “Hey, You Know What I Heard? Urban Legends in the Law Firm.” (Presentation). Dallas Association of Law Librarians, April, 2002.

Statement: If there is a single issue that will become of crucial relevance to the private law librarian in the coming years, it is that of meaningful certification. The continued perception among attorneys and other private law library patrons that the Internet and electronic databases have pushed the law librarian to the fringes of relevance has lead us to a point where we beginning to be seen as luxuries, rather than the essential partners we have been. We must, therefore, take steps to communicate to attorneys in their own language that we possess specialized skills and knowledge on a par with their own, and that language consists of objective standards and rigorous testing as a prerequisite for the title “law librarian.” Just as attorneys must pass the bar to practice, so should we be able to demonstrate our knowledge in an analogous fashion.

We are all familiar with the wall that separates those who have earned the right to practice law from those who have not in law firms and other private practices. We cannot pierce that wall, but we can demonstrate that there are other rooms in the house. While certification can never take the place of the hard work, intelligent use of resources, and patron service we provide as a matter of course every day, it is becoming necessary to increase our visibility and to demonstrate to those who don’t know any better that our profession is valuable and worthy of respect. If elected to the PLL Executive Committee, I will be an advocate for law librarian certification, as well as taking on the duties assigned to me by the Chair.

Laura A. Whitbeck, Library Technical Services Manager, Nixon Peabody LLP, Rochester, NY

Former Positions: Librarian, Bryan Cave, 1996-2001, Silverstein and Mullens, 1995-96, Ross & Hardies, 1994-95, Assistant Librarian, Verner, Liipfert, 1991-94, Library Assistant, Chadbourne & Parke, 1990-91

Activities: AALL and PLL-SIS member since 1991. Local Arrangements Committee, 1998-99. PLL-SIS, Grants Committee member, 1998-2000.

Publications: Editor, *Law Library Lights*, 1998-99; Editor, *Collage*, 1997-2000. Editor, *Dates to Remember*, 1996-1997.

Statement: Private law librarians are continually asked to perform more tasks and achieve greater results in a business environment where the focus is on the bottom line. The Private Law Librarians SIS should provide its members with practical solutions to everyday concerns: keeping within budget despite publishers’ double digit price increases, complying with copyright in a for-profit setting, managing staff (or managing without staff), and the numerous other day to day issues that confront us. I would welcome the opportunity to assist the PLL-SIS in using its strength within AALL to help PLL-SIS members.