

State & Court & County

Law Libraries

NEWS

Vol. 22, No. 3 Spring 1996

Newsletter of the State, Court and County Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

From the Chair

This year's activities for our SIS will soon culminate at the annual meeting in Indianapolis in July. Our business meeting will be followed by an educational program developed by Frank Herch and co-sponsored by the Automation & Scientific SIS on automated access to legal information (see Page 11). In addition, our SIS is sponsoring two excellent programs for the annual meeting; one is on establishing the authenticity of electronic documents, including digital signatures, and the other is on the escalating cost of law books (see Page 11). Many thanks to Michele Finerty for her work as our Education Chair.

Thanks to Sue Roach and her nominating committee for an excellent slate of officers for the upcoming election for our Section (See Page 2 for candidate biographies). Be sure to cast your ballot. If you have people to recommend for future elections, either for the Section or for AALL, be sure to get in touch with the nominations committee. Believe me, they would appreciate hearing suggestions for possible candidates.

The proposed revised standards for appellate court and county law libraries were approved by the AALL Executive Board at their March 1996 meeting. We will now be investigating possible ways to publish and disseminate the adopted standards. The proposed standards were published in our newsletter last fall.

As my term as Chair winds down, many changes are in the offing. For instance, the pending sale of West Publishing Co. to Thomson portends more than just changing the imprint on the title page of books. Other noticeable changes include libraries, courts and public agencies adding home pages on the Internet and reaching out to their customers in new and various ways. While all this is formenting, I can't help but feel that the more things change the more they stay the same.

However we package it, information and access to it has been around for ages. We continue to package it in books as we have for centuries. But before we mass produced books, we packaged it in manuscripts, scrolls, paintings, and other visual means. Librarians have also been around for centuries, organizing the information and making it more accessible in whatever medium in which it was produced. As we move to new and as yet unimagined mediums, I don't see our role changing. For example, in the little over a month that my library has had a home page, we have been advising customers online about locations for legal information available on the

See Chair, Page 14

Contents

<i>AALL Grants Information</i>	<i>Page 8</i>
<i>AALL Call for Volunteers</i>	<i>Page 12</i>
<i>Indianapolic Programs</i>	<i>Page 11</i>
<i>Marie Antionette Solution</i>	<i>Page 13</i>
<i>Northeast Regional Meeting Update</i>	<i>Page 10</i>
SCCLL Election Ballot	Attached
<i>SCCLL Candidate Biographies</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>Significant Publication Award</i>	<i>Page 7</i>
<i>Team Management of CD-ROMs</i>	<i>Page 9</i>
<i>Thomson Tightens the Vise</i>	<i>Page 6</i>
<i>Trustee Development</i>	<i>Page 8</i>

SCCLL ELECTION 1996

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES--VICE CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

CHARLES R. DYER

Current Position

**Library Director, San Diego Law Library,
1987-**

Former Positions

Law Librarian, Law Professor, University of
Missouri-Kansas City, 1977-87

Associate Law Librarian, Law Professor, St. Louis
University, 1975-77

Readers Services Assistant, University of Texas,
Tarlton Law Library, 1974-75

Education

M.L.S., University of Texas at Austin, 1975

J.D., University of Texas at Austin, 1974

M.A., Northwestern University, 1971

B.A., University of Texas at Austin, 1969

Professional Activities

AALL

Editor, *Law Library Journal*, 1981-84

SCCLL

Executive Board Member, 1991-93

Chair, Trustees Development Committee, 1991-93

Chief Editor/Compiler, *Sourcebook for Law Library*

Governing Boards and Committees, 1994

MALL

Secretary, 1976-78

SWALL

Vice President, 1981-82

President 1982-83

AALS Section on Legal Research and Writing Executive Board
Member, 1977-78

Mid-America Consortium of Law School Libraries Corporate Secre-
tary, 1984-86

Council of California County Law Librarians Newsletter Editor, 1988

Honors

Service Award, SWALL, 1983

Appreciation Award, AALL, 1984

Exceptional Service Award, San Diego

County Bar Association, 1990

Appreciation Award, SCCLL, 1994

Publications

I have several publications and many speeches. Re-
cently, I served as Local Arrangements Chair for the 1995
AALL Winter Institute and on the faculty of the 1996 AALL
Winter Institute (for which my-friend Gail Warren served as
co-coordinator).

Statement

Our membership serves a much larger portion of
the legal community than our numbers represent within
AALL. AALL has often failed to address pressing concerns
that affect a large majority of Americans: access to legal
materials for all, the cost of online services to the poor and
middle class, the conflict between unauthorized practice of
law and provision of adequate reference services for pro se
patrons, and teaching new technologies to small firm prac-
titioners receive too little attention. Managing a board of
trustees, library insurance, lobbying at the local level,
handling employee problems, and the other problems of
running a free-standing library are left to small scale,
expensive education programs, such as institutes. What
shrift AALL has given has been due almost completely to
members of our SIS.

With your help, I would (1) continue to foster such
programs as last year's National Conference; (2) seek to
open membership in AALL to all who have a stake in our
libraries, such as trustees; (3) strive to get meaningful
education programs to our many members who have re-
stricted budgets; (4) seek ways that the SIS and AALL
might aid public law libraries and bar libraries to recover the
funding lost in recent years; (5) seek to have law librarians
and bar associations bargain the limits of legal advice each
can give, as real estate agents and accountants have done.

Since I became a county law librarian nine years
ago, through the example of my colleagues, I have found a
deeper sense of purpose for our work. We help achieve
justice in these United States. I would be proud to take on
this assignment. 

