Steve Anderson Finds His Way 'Home' to Law Libraries

Why did you join AALL and what made you become involved in a leadership capacity?

Shortly after I was hired, the director of the Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library, Betsy Sandison, encouraged me to join. I soon found that AALL publications reinforced the professional information I was learning by attending meetings of my local chapter, the Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM). My first Annual Meeting was the one in Baltimore in 1997, and by then I was "hooked." I loved learning from a community of caring professionals who were doing essentially the same things I was doing at work every day. I first became involved in leadership through LLAM. Because it was, and still is, a relatively small chapter, participation by new librarians was strongly promoted. I discovered that I learned even more about law librarianship by being engaged at the chapter leadership level. By that time, I also felt comfortable enough to volunteer for AALL committees and propose Annual Meeting programs. The more time I gave to AALL and LLAM, the more I seemed to learn about the profession. And the more I learned, the better I could serve library users. Although this sounds somewhat utilitarian, at some point I came to understand that I also could make AALL members because of the wide-ranging experience I was gaining. I had something that I could give back to the community.

What value does AALL provide to its members?

I think it offers community to a group of professionals who learn from each other and share common goals and interests. And it does so in a strategic and sustainable way. Social media, despite its many advantages, really can't compare to the depth of understanding one might receive from a conference program, an in-person conversation with a colleague who has a comparable job, or even a webinar with a Q&A session. AALL provides a connectedness among people who have similar work experiences. About one-third of our adult lives are spent on the job. I think it makes a lot of sense for people to find ways to nourish that time commitment and to make it more rewarding. AALL does that, not just with a few blog posts here and there, but rather through long-term dedication to members’ careers. AALL is there for young students’ scholarships at the beginning and recognizes members’ professional achievements at retirement. In between those points in time, AALL offers a variety of professional development opportunities ranging from Spectrum to the Annual Meeting.

Collaboration: Various Libraries Team Up for Sunday Programs

by Ingrid Mattson

A number of educational programs on Sunday reflected the work of librarian-presenters from all manner of law libraries, making sense of the numbers: Understanding Vendor Statistics; Innovations in Serving People Without Lawyers; It’s 3 a.m.—Show Me! A Toolkit for Screencasting Legal Research Instruction; and Fishbowl Fun! A Closer Look at Four Key Licensing Provisions. All featured the joint efforts of librarians from law firms, academia, courts, county and state law libraries, and more. Though we often focus on sessions that clearly address your specific patrons’ needs, joining the conversations of colleagues from other types of libraries can give you the strategies and new perspective you need to address your own library’s vexing issues.

Fishbowl Fun! A Closer Look at Four Key Licensing Provisions was particularly remarkable in that its format was the key to engaging librarians from across the library spectrum. Tracy Thompson-Pryluky, executive director of the New England Law Library Consortium and Library Procurement Process Improvements Task Force co-chair, coordinated the session, which was centered around three specific licensing provisions and addressed future trends in licensing. The three licensing provisions identified were: non-disclosure terms, interlibrary loan services and fair uses of licensed material, and usage statistics. A show-of-hands survey suggested that roughly one third of the session attendees were responsible for negotiating their library’s vendor licenses. Tracy then began the conversation by explaining the
Lib Fashion: Spotted at the Conference

by Stina McClintock

Lib fashion features the stylings of conference goers both in style and inspiration.

Name: Rita Dermody, director at Public Law Library of King County

Where are you from: Seattle

How would you describe your style: Casual

What program are you most excited to see: Equitable, Accessible, and Affordable—Equity Principles Inspire Workable Technology Solutions

Flats or heels / Ties or bow ties: Flats

Who inspires you: My fellow county law librarians

Need Some Advice? Visit the AALL Mentor Booth

Stop by the Mentor Booth in the Member Services Area of the Exhibit Hall to learn more about AALL’s new online Mentor Match Program. This is a chance for newer law librarians to meet mentors, ask questions, and get a taste of all the great wisdom mentors can provide.

This is also a chance to ask for advice on more substantive questions about the profession, such as dealing with difficult work situations, job searches, moving between library types, professional development opportunities, etc. Who better to answer these inquiries than AALL’s mentors?!

Tuesday, July 16
10 a.m.-noon

Three Webcast Programs Free on AALL2go

A ALL was proud to offer free live webcasts of three great educational programs from this year’s conference. These programs will also be available for free to all AALL members through AALL2go, your online center for professional development.

• Opening General Session with Keynote Speaker David Weinberger
  - D2: Copyright and Digital Images: “If It’s on the Web, I Can Use it, Right?”
  - F3: Rethinking the Value of Your Time and Attention: Practices and Technology Tools to Protect Your Most Valuable Resources

You may view these videos following the 2013 Annual Meeting at aall.scivelaearningcenter.com.

Chat with AALL Editors at the Member Services Booth

While you browse the Exhibit Hall in Seattle, take some time to meet the incoming Law Library Journal Editor James Duggan and AALL Spectrum Editorial Director Catherine Lemmer at the AALL Member Services Booth. Ask questions, discuss article ideas, or simply let James and Catherine know what you think of LLJ and Spectrum.

Tuesday, July 16
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Speakers Offer Intellectual Property Research Tips

Emily R. Flora (left) and Rita Y. Young-Jones highlight key databases in Intellectual Property Research. Their program, Intellectual Property Basics: Resources to Support an IP Practice, ran the gamut from patent litigation monitoring to secondary resources. They offered practical insight into free and paid services, measuring the pros and cons. Free services are welcome but sometimes you get what you pay for. Shockingly, Japan’s Industrial Property Digital Library is one of the worst, not only for the dynasty and Emperor at the time, Rita pronounced to much laughter, “If you don’t know the Emperors of Japan you’re kind of SOL.”

Steve Anderson

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What is your elevator pitch when someone asks what you do?

I try to work in a statement that my library owns law books that are more than 400 years old and that my job is to prepare for the preservation of judicial precedent—the law—for the next 400 years.

The recession has changed legal librarianship: what do you think are the best and worst aspects of these changes so far?

It’s a cliché to say that when the going gets tough, the tough get going, but there’s a lot of truth to that. I think that certain challenges make an extremely fertile environment for creativity. For example, many law libraries have undertaken new projects and services since the recession. While we might be doing more with less, our cooperation really serves our institutions and builds foundations, possibly for additional undertakings. The worst aspect of the recession is the impact of the loss of a job to that person and his or her family. That human cost, I think we’ll see, will have long-term implications. Another negative change, of course, would be the recession’s impact on law libraries’ collections—the books left unpurchased and the subscriptions left unrenewed.

You’ve announced that the theme of the 2014 San Antonio meeting is “Beyond Boundaries.” What does that mean to you?

Its purpose is twofold: to acknowledge San Antonio’s bicultural heritage and to inspire attendees to reach further and explore beyond their “comfort zones.” I think we need to see if we can overcome our limitations and investigate what the world beyond our boundaries has to offer us. On a more pragmatic level, I’d like us to reach outside the confines of our own types of librarians and ask ourselves what other libraries are doing to serve their users. And, what can we gain by looking outside of our profession, at business practices, for example?

What will you do in your free time after your term as president is over?

In addition to spending more time with family, I’ll likely become more involved in work related to treating and curing Parkinson’s Disease. I was diagnosed with young-onset PD several years ago, and I’m active in various support groups and events. There is always more that can be done, of course, and I’m looking forward to helping others understand more about the disease.
Thank you!

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HEIN Primus Inter Pares

Innovative Interfaces
Poster Sessions: Excellent Work by Innovative Librarians

by Jason Giesler

Located in the Exhibit Hall, this year’s poster session included 24 exhibits created by an eclectic mix of academic, government, and private firm law librarians. Ranging from digitization efforts to discovery platform changes, the 2013 AALL Poster Sessions highlight ambitious projects recently undertaken by AALL members.

Posters from the University of Memphis Law Library and the New York Law Institute (NYLI) focused on challenges associated with moving from clandestine OPACs to more integrated discovery platforms. The Humphreys School of Law Library at the University of Memphis recently updated the law school’s holdings with those of the undergraduate library, while the NYLI has created a seamless catalog module, allowing member libraries to share collection titles. One unique feature of the seamless catalog is that it allows the individual member of the seamless catalog is that collection titles. One unique feature of the seamless catalog is that it allows the individual member libraries to share holdings private by omitting law firm names, listing the “New York

Law Institute” as the physical location. Additional posters focused on projects relating to the library’s role in facilitating debates and discussion. Brian Anderson and Andrea Alexander, Taggart Law Library at Ohio Northern University, created a list of important policies for keeping the library neutral. Two policies provide that the library function as a commercial-free zone and offer equal access to all students and faculty. Moving beyond policy, University of Oklahoma City law librarians presented their “2013 LAB-rary,” in which their library hosted a three-day discussion on civility; participants included members of the law school and legal community. The LAB-rary proved successful, with more than 70 percent of participants reporting that information learned from the event was very or extremely valuable to them as legal professionals.

All in all, there were many thought-provoking posters this year. Be sure to catch the poster session QA today between 1:30 and 2:30 in the Exhibit Hall.

Collaboration

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session format. Attendees sat in chairs arranged around a round table in the center of the room (i.e., the fishbowl). Each attendee had received a Mardi Gras style necklace in purple, green, or yellow identifying their library type—purple for academic law libraries (ALLs); yellow for state, court & county law libraries (SCLLs); and green for private law libraries (PLLs). Tracy kicked off the discussion, and audience members were invited to join (and did join!) the table at the center of the room to share their experiences and expert perspectives on techniques and language that can help you get the license terms you need and with which you can comply. In a sense, the “fish” jumped in and out of the fishbowl throughout the session, fielding audience questions facilitated by roving helpers with microphones. The format was effective as it truly felt like a dialogue among all of the librarians in the room rather than a more static informational presentation on licensing terms.

One remarkable collaborative session benefit was a discussion on differing library types’ bargaining positions, offering various viewpoints. For example, SCLLs often cannot abide by nondisclosure provisions because sunshine laws obligate them to provide the contract information if requested. PLLs do not have that same leverage for striking nondisclosure language (which often goes one way in benefiting the vendor), so they have to get strategic in revising the provision. Because of the collaborative nature of the session, academics in the room, who may or may not have the obligations SCLLs do, received the benefit of hearing a spectrum of approaches taken by PLL and SCLL negotiators. Thus, an ALL encountering nondisclosure language could simply (a) strike it entirely and wait to see whether a vendor responds (an approach identified as successful by one ALL); (b) propose language stating that the contract will be provided on request as required by law though the vendor will be notified that the contract will be shared; or (c) agree to the non-disclosure provision (likely signed by other, competing PLLs) but request a “most-favored nation” style provision which gives them insight into the prices agreed to by other PLLs. In other words, vendors may include nondisclosure provisions to prohibit libraries from sharing pricing information with others. By agreeing to the nondisclosure provision, a library can make a trade to receive an average price agreed to by similarly situated colleagues and gauge overspending.

This sharing of experiences among ALLs, SCLLs, and PLLs continued throughout the session, highlighting the fact that librarians who communicate with each other, regardless of library type, will benefit from each other’s experiences. After leaving the AALL Conference, consider continuing that collaborative experience by reaching out to a colleague in your town who works at a different type of library. Grab coffee or lunch and start a discussion to see what you can learn from each other.

Take the Annual Meeting to Go

The education and inspiration you experience in Seattle doesn’t have to end when you go home. Audio recordings of the 2013 Annual Meeting educational programs will be available for download in mid-August on AALL2go—and they’re FREE with your Conference Registration package. Visit aall.sclilearningcenter.com

Placement Office

The AALL Placement Office is located in the Sheraton Seattle Hotel – Issaquah (3rd Floor)

Placement Office hours:
Tuesday, July 16, 9-11 a.m.
Interview rooms are available:
Tuesday, July 16, 7 a.m.-noon

Interview rooms must be reserved in advance through the Placement Office.
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- Shepard’s results now include depth of treatment indicators for citing cases.
  - Check Table of Authorities from your Shepard’s report.
  - Work folder enhancements.
  - Save your favorite post-search filter combinations.

Take a closer look at Lexis Advance at LexisNexis booth # 403!

Bloomberg BNA Authors Receive 2013 Burton Awards for BNA Insights Articles

For the past fourteen years, the Burton Awards for Legal Achievement have recognized the best in legal writing at the nation’s largest and most prestigious law firms. This year, authors for articles appearing in BNA Insights won thirteen of these esteemed awards, highlighting the exceptional analysis and perspectives BNA Insights deliver to Bloomberg BNA and Bloomberg Law subscribers.

The articles honored by the 2013 Burton Awards covered a diverse set of issues across a broad range of legal practice areas, including securities, legal procedure, class-action litigation, intellectual property, tax, environment & safety, privacy, health, and social media.

Winning articles included “Preserving Privacy Inside the Beltway,” written by Steven R. Ross, Raphael A. Prober and Tom Moyer from Akzin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; and “PAYCO May Open Pandora’s Box of Civil and Criminal Tax Liability,” written by Adam S. Lurie, Daniel J. Mulcahy, Dean C. Berry and Mark P. Howe from Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP.

BNA Insights feature original, expert commentary from leading practitioners on current legal issues and developments, with an emphasis on practical implications and emerging trends. In addition to being featured online in Bloomberg BNA products and on Bloomberg Law, BNA Insights articles are also accessible via the new award-winning BNA Insights iPad app.

“Congratulations to each of the extraordinary authors who were recognized by the Burton Awards for Legal Writing. We could not be prouder that thirteen of the articles honored with the Burton Award this year were written for BNA Insights,” said Michael Eisenstein, Vice President and Group Publisher, Legal & Business Publishing Group at Bloomberg BNA. “These gifted practitioners, who make their mark on the law every day, are the heart of the cutting-edge analysis that makes BNA Insights a must-have resource for the legal profession.”

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BNA Insights deliver expert commentary from leading practitioners on a wide range of current legal issues and trends, providing deeper understanding and expertise around the legal issues of the day.

In fact, BNA Insights authors won more Burton Awards for excellence in legal writing this year than any other organization, with a wide range of articles addressing key issues in privacy, federal tax, securities, patent infringement, and health care, among others.

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