The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund

by Michael Fleckenstein

Comic book creators and distributors have faced numerous legal challenges over the decades. The classic text, Seduction of the Innocent by Dr. Frederick Wertham in 1954, claimed that comic books led directly to juvenile delinquency. Numerous prosecutions of comic shop owners, for allegedly distributing offensive materials have occurred over the years as well. The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund (CBLDF), a non-profit, charitable organization was founded in 1986 to provide legal assistance to the comic book artists and distributors who face legal attacks from prosecutors and legislators.

Comprised of a veritable who’s who of comic insiders, including Neil Gaiman and Peter David, the CBLDF is mainly concerned with fighting censorship and defending the First Amendment rights of both comic artists and the comic shop owners who distribute the works. The 1986 case that launched the organization concerned a comic shop, Friendly Frank’s in Lansing, IL, that allegedly sold “obscene” materials. With assistance from the CBLDF, the owner was eventually acquitted of all charges after the case rose to the appellate level. Left over donations for the defense of Friendly Frank’s were

Pennsylvania Administrative Law:
An Introduction to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and Its Website

by Joel Fishman and Amy Lovell

Readers know that we normally cannot provide a legislative history for rules/regulations published in the Pennsylvania Code. However, it is important to not overlook the information gathered by the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission and published on its website which may provide researchers with additional information concerning passage of regulations.
Editor's Note

The latest issue of the WPLLA newsletter is here for your edification and entertainment. This issue looks at a topic not usually found in law library literature - Comic Books. The first piece, by Mike Fleckenstein, looks at prosecution against and legal defense of artists, distributors and sellers. The second article, by Sallie Smith, discusses how graphic novels and comic books can be used as an innovative method to illustrate legal ideas. Also included is a book review by Joel Fishman, some tech tips by Susanna Leers, detailed reviews of recent WPLLA sponsored events and information about some special upcoming events.

It is with sadness that we bid farewell to our Vice-President, Brian Eckel-Hare. Brian has taken a position as the Director of the Liberty Center Public Library in Liberty Center, Ohio. We wish him all the best and are certain that this is only the beginning of a wonderful career. We hope that at some point in the future he will be able to return to Law Librarianship. Brian is committed to the profession and we can always use people with his enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism.

I will certainly miss Brian as he was my right-hand-man in the creation of the WPLLA Newsletter. Brian handled all of the photography, layout and design and his departure was certainly felt during the compilation of this issue. Thanks Brian for all of your contributions. Of course I wish to thank all of the writers for their contributions as well, your help is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to member, Alex Alessi and non-member James Morar who assisted with proofreading.

Hope you enjoy the issue - Pat

Pat Roncevich is the Acquisitions/Serials Librarian at the Barco Law Library. She is the Treasurer for WPLLA as well as the editor and photographer, unless noted otherwise in this newsletter.

Currently, Pat is working on a Professional Masters in GIS and Remote Sensing through the Geology Department at Pitt. She is keenly interested in information visualization and hopes to find some time soon to pen an article on the topic in a future issue.
used to officially incorporate the organization in January 1990.

The comic boom of the 1990’s saw a rise in similar cases, as the number of comic shops increased and the line between “adult oriented” and “kid friendly” books blurred. Retailers were routinely charged with either selling or displaying obscene materials, often as the result of raids on stores or complaints filed by parent. The CBLDF came to the aid of many of these owners over the decade, and many charges were dropped without explanation. One theory posited is that that comic shops became easy targets, due to the belief that all comic books, regardless of content, were meant for children and thus could not be sold to them if they were deemed to contain offensive material. Recently, Marvel started to release comics with ratings attached to all of their books and DC has labeled comics for years as being “suggested for mature readers.” The prosecutions most often targeted books from smaller, independent publishers. The number of these cases has dwindled over the years, due to the fact that other content is increasingly more prevalent than comic books.

With the explosion of the internet and the increasing amount of attention paid to video-game violence, the CBLDF has branched out into arenas beyond print comics. A search for cases in which the CBLDF is named as a party reveals cases involving state statutes: the selling and marking of materials to minors (on the internet or in brick and mortar stores); the selling of mature video games to minors; and sales tax issues from the sale of original artwork. Most of these cases are filed in conjunction with other organizations varying from the ACLU, to Planned Parenthood, to book sellers such as Powell’s.

Even as the focus on censorship shifts away from comic books, the CBLDF continues to fight for the rights of retailers and artists. The materials may change, but censorship always seems to be something that’s on the horizon.

Michael Fleckenstein is a law librarian with Eckert Seamans and a comic book fan and collector. Photo courtesy of author.

Using Comics and Graphic Literature to Illustrate Legal Concepts

Inspiration for the following display came about after Sallie Smith volunteered to write a review of a program at last summer’s AALL meeting entitled, *Unmasking a Marvel of an Idea in D.C: How Graphic Literature Can be Supertools for Law Librarians*.

The program sufficiently piqued her interest that she created a display based upon the ideas and references that were presented.

Section 1 – The History of Comic Characters

The History of Comic Characters: The Early Years 1840s-1940s (Gemstone Publishing Inc., 2003), provides a snapshot of early comic characters and their impact on history. The publication was compiled by Geppis Entertainment Museum http://www.geppismuseum.com at which one of the program speakers, Dr. Arnold Blumberg is curator.

“…the literature and characters of our childhood had significance in shaping our country, our culture, and ourselves as a people. Graphic literature is a rich reflection of the history of our country, providing many examples of the law at work, and should not be viewed as merely leisure time activity.”

Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg

Section 2 – Liberty & Justice

Both the Junior Justice Society of America Certificate and pages from The History of Comic Characters: The Early Years 1840s-1940s, were displayed, highlighting the following sections of text:

“Though replete with standard fantasy elements, superhero comics were among the vanguard in beginning to address the dark clouds then looming over America’s future in 1940…While the real world accounts that inspired such stories were often discounted or entirely ignored by the general media, they began to find a home in comics very quickly. Though played delicately at the time, this would soon play an important role in the Junior Justice Society of America.”

“What All-American Comics and DC did with the Junior Justice Society changed what could have been perceived as a cynical promotion ploy into something more altruistic….In the form of a simple certificate intended for children, they held that “with liberty and justice for all” meant something, even if we as a nation hadn’t quite worked out exactly what it meant.”

J.C. Vaughn

Section 3 – Ownership Rights

In 1952, the famed legal character Judge Learned Hand issued a ruling in the copyright battle over comic superheroes Captain Marvel and Superman, National Comics Publications v. Fawcett Publications (191 F.2d 594) with image of Captain Marvel and Superman displayed on the actual reporter volume.

“Another notable legal character, Judge Posner, not only defines comic books judicially but also gives a lengthy and accurate history of the character Spawn in this copyright battle between two famous comic creators (Gaiman v. McFarlane, 360 F.3d 644),” with image of Spawn displayed on the Reporter volume.
Using Comics, cont’d

Section 4 – Free Speech

Following the publication of Frederic Wertham’s *Seduction of the Innocent* (NY: Rinehart, 1954), critics attacked certain types of comic books as having a “demoralizing” effect on children, and lobbied for government control. Legal scholars responded with commentary on First Amendment rights and the dangers of censorship, with such articles displayed as:

Kletter, Fern L. *First Amendment Protection Afforded to Comic Books, Comic Strips, and Cartoons*, 118 ALR5th 213


“The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, www.cbldf.org, has worked since 1986 to protect the First Amendment rights of comic book professionals. Their website provides numerous resources concerning the struggle between the comics industry and censorship.”

Section 5 – Intellectual Property Rights

This section displays the Superboy rights battle in *Siegel v. Time Warner*, 496 F. Supp.2d 111, on which was clipped a comic cover image Superboy.

Also highlighted is an image from Duke Law Center’s *Tales from the Public Domain, Bound by Law* c2006 Keith Aoki, James Boyle, Jennifer Jenkins, a comic book exploring the interplay between creativity and intellectual property law.

In an increasingly digital world of remixed culture, the comic explores the distinctions between fair use and copyright infringement.

[http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/zoomcomic.html](http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/zoomcomic.html)

Section 6 – The Court System

The *Justice Case Files* graphic novel series from The National Center for State Courts demonstrates that comics are gaining credibility in education as people turn a more critical eye to the messages they convey.

Two of their publications are displayed

*The Case of Internet Piracy, and The Case of the Stolen Identify*

*Placard reads* - The National Center for State Courts has created *Justice Case Files*, a graphic novel series with accompanying lessons plans to educate the public about the courts...


Sallie Smith is the Catalog/Systems Librarian at the Barco Law Library. Beneath the mild mannered and cool demeanor of this cataloger, lurks the intelligence, bravery and strength to rival that of any superhero.

The agency reviews Commonwealth Agency regulations, excluding the Game Commission, and the Fish and Boat Commission. (The House and Senate designate the standing committees for the purpose of regulatory review.) The IRRC web site states that “The Commission's mission is to review regulations to make certain that the agency has the statutory authority to enact the regulation and determine whether the regulation is consistent with legislative intent. IRRC then considers economic impact, public health and safety, reasonableness, and clarity. The Commission also acts as a clearinghouse for complaints, comments, and other input from the General Assembly and the public regarding not only proposed and final regulation, but also existing regulations.”

Readers know that Pennsylvania requires that proposed and final regulations have to be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin before they can go into effect. Following the publication of the final regulations in the Bulletin, they will then be published in the Pennsylvania Code. The IRRC reviews the regulations at both the proposed and final regulation stages. All documents and correspondence with the IRRC are part of the public record, including communication with agencies, the legislators, public meetings, and general public comments are made publically accessible via the IRRC web site for at least 4 years from the date of promulgation.

On the IRRC web site, under the “About Us” tab on the top of the page are links to a brochure on Introduction to IRRC Procedures and a much longer pamphlet on the Regulatory Review Process in Pennsylvania as of 2008. This latter 32-page document provides an in depth description of the regulatory process, a quite useful explanation. In addition to clearly detailing how regulations are created, the document also provides easy to follow flowcharts of the two stage process of regulation creation in the Appendix. Practice tips are also included.

The Regulatory Review Process in Pennsylvania document mentioned above discusses what is included in the IRRC review. First, comments, recommendations and objections are based on statutory law, 71 P.S. §745.5(g). It must determine whether the proposing agency has statutory authority to promulgate regulations and whether the regulations conform to the intent of the General Assembly. The IRRC examines the “[l]anguage used in the authorizing statute; [c]omments of the

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Pennsylvania Code - Research Refresher

For those using the Pennsylvania Code for research purposes, it is important to know that as a loose-leaf service, the Code is updated monthly with replacement pages.

On the bottom of each page is the date of the release, the release number, and a serial page found in parenthesis. The serial page numbers have appeared on every page since its initial publication in 1970.

Today, there are more than 350,000 pages published in the Code. For research purposes, in the source area, previously cited Code pages are listed to see how the regulations appeared in the previous pages. Looking at each previous citation, one can research the Code regulations back to 1970.

The Allegheny County Law Library is the only library in western Pennsylvania that contains bound volumes of these superseded pages (only six libraries in the state possess this title).
Committees and Members of the General Assembly; comments in the Legislative Journal; pertinent legal precedents; and Attorneys-General Opinions. (p.8)

Following that step, the IRRC then has to determine if the “regulation is in the public interest,” includes “[e]conomic or fiscal impact; [p]rotection of the public health, safety and welfare, and effect on the Commonwealth’s natural resources; [f]easibility, clarity and reasonableness; [s]ubstantive need for legislative review; comments, objects or recommendations of a Committee; and [c]ompliance with the RRA and IRRC’s regulations.” (p.9)

How many proposed and final regulations are reviewed by the Commission?

In its annual report for 2008, there were 86 proposed regulations of which 15 were from state boards; final regulations and final-omitted regulations numbered 82 of which 21 were from state boards. Each agency has to submit a Regulatory Analysis Form for the IRRC to review. The completed form is part of the public record available on the IRRC web site and may offer insights to those doing regulatory research.

What is in the web site that is not available in the Pennsylvania Code or Bulletin?

The site provides the legislative history materials relating to the proposed and final regulations. On the home page are links to Recent IRRC Comments and Recent Orders. Each regulation or order has the agency’s comments in pdf format. Clicking on the IRC number brings up the information concerning a regulation: agency, dates, Pa. Code citations, proposed and final regulation, and the comments from public, legislature, and IRRC.

How can you find comments for a specific regulation?

There is a regulation search box at the top of the home page to perform a basic search. You can then “search for a regulation” under the Proposed and Final Regulations on the home page or access it from the Regulations Tab at the top of the page. An Advanced Search feature provides a template for searching by regulation number, by IRRC number, regulation title, agency, and date range, PA Code Title and chapter, and a document key word searching. Once the regulation is retrieved, the comment information is provided. There is a category of Recent IRRC Comments on the home page. You can also select the Regulations tab at the top of the home page and find a link to

Regulation Search Box Screen Shot
Image from www.irrc.state.pa.us website
Once a regulation is retrieved, the different categories of information are available for observation. Under Legislative Comments, comments offered by House and Senate members can be searched. There are also Proposed IRRC Comments offered as well. There is also a topic called Related Documents which may be submissions or transcripts of hearings.

Under Final Regulation, there may or may not be Final Public Comments and IRRC’s Orders relating to that regulation.

A Frequently Asked Questions section is broken down into proposed and final regulations.

The web site also has a calendar for meetings and agenda. It is also possible to signup for an email alert when the Commission receives a regulation or takes action on a regulation.

For those interested in writing regulations, under Agency Toolbox, there is also a Pennsylvania Code and Bulletin Style Manual pamphlet.

As a new web site beginning in 2008, the IRRC has done an excellent job in making the information from their agency available to the people of Pennsylvania. We hope that through articles like this, members of the legal profession will gain an appreciation of the work that goes into creating regulations for the state departments and agencies.

Amy L. Lovell, M.L.S. is Manager of Database Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library.

Joel Fishman, Ph.D. is the Assistant Director for Lawyer Services, Duquesne University Center for Legal Information/Allegheny County Law Library.
**TECHNOLOGY CORNER**  
by Susanna Leers

**Keyboard Shortcuts Pop Quiz**

Using keyboard shortcuts when you are working at your computer helps you work smoother and faster. Test your knowledge of keyboard shortcuts by matching the shortcut in column A with its effect in column B. Note that these are shortcuts that work in the Windows XP operating system and in Microsoft Word 2007 word processing software (though many of them hold true for other OS’s and word processors). You can find lots more keyboard shortcuts on the Microsoft website at http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard.aspx.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS</th>
<th>B. KEYBOARD SHORTCUT</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>a. Insert an ellipsis</td>
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<td>2. CTRL + SHIFT + W</td>
<td>b. Cut the selected text and add to the</td>
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<td>c. Insert an endnote</td>
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<td>g. Insert a copyright symbol</td>
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<td>j. Maximize the document window</td>
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<td>11. ALT + CTRL + C</td>
<td>k. Increase the font size by 1 point</td>
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<td>12. CTRL + DELETE</td>
<td>l. Format letters as small capitals</td>
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<td>13. CTRL + 5</td>
<td>m. Change the case of the selection</td>
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<td>14. CTRL + ]</td>
<td>n. Set 1.5 line spacing to the selected</td>
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<td>15. CTRL + SHIFT + Q</td>
<td>o. Underline words but not spaces</td>
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<td>16. ALT + CTRL + D</td>
<td>p. Undo the last thing you did</td>
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**Regulation Search Box Screen Shot**

Image from www.irrc.state.pa.us website
WPLLA NEWS & EVENTS

Travel Grant for AALL Conference

It's time for the 103rd AALL Annual Meeting and Conference. This year it will be in the mile-high city, Denver, Colorado July 10-13th!

If you would like to attend but can't quite find the funds to go, why not apply for a WPLLA scholarship? The WPLLA offers a $500 grant to help to sponsor a deserving member to attend the conference.

Everyone is eligible for grant money!

There are no restrictions. Recent members, student members, long-time members are all eligible, there are no restrictions as long as you are a current member of WPLLA.

To Apply

Write a 500 word (1 page, double-spaced) essay on why you should attend, and what you believe you will gain from the experience.

The WPLLA Scholarship Committee will review the essays and one member will receive a $500 scholarship which will cover the registration fees for the conference.

The recipient will be required to write a short article about his/her experience at the conference for publication in the Fall WPLLA newsletter.

To read more about the conference: http://www.aallnet.org/events/

Essay Deadline: May 14, 2010
Winners will be announced at the Banquet on May 20th!

Please send your essays to my attention myoungjones@reedsmith.com

Good luck.
Marguerita T. Young-Jones, J.D., MLIS
Senior Research Librarian Reed Smith LLP
WPLLA NEWS & EVENTS

Volunteer/Service Opportunity  RIF Pittsburgh Book Drive April 11-17

WPLLA will once again be sponsoring a “Book Drive” to benefit

Reading is Fundamental
RIF Pittsburgh.

In the past WPLLA has collected over 500 books and raised over $1500 for this organization.

This year the program will be once again held in conjunction with

National Library Week
April 11 thru 17, 2010

RIF provides children with the opportunity to pick their very own Brand New Books. For many children in our area, this is the only opportunity they have for owning their own books. We will be collecting Children’s Books for RIF Pittsburgh.

We need volunteers to spread the word at their firm or institution. We will be collecting New or Like New Children’s Books. RIF can purchase books at a very reasonable cost through book distributors, so please remember to inform your colleagues that a tax deductable check/cash donation would be welcome as well.

Volunteers will also need to set up a spot in their office to collect any donated books, and to designate a contact person for cash donations. I use the kitchen at my office because everyone goes to the kitchen!

If you are unable to collect books in your office, we will need help to deliver the collected books to the RIF office. Their office is located at the Children’s Museum on the North Side.

Any help will be greatly appreciated! Thanks as always for providing the youth of our area with wonderful books.

Mary E. Stacy
Librarian
Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C.

For more information about RIF Pittsburgh and what a valuable service it provides visit their website http://www.rifpittsburgh.org
The Annual WPLL News & Events

Holiday Party with Author Kathleen George by Karen Shephard

photos by Brian Eckel-Hare

The Annual WPLLA Holiday Event was held Thursday evening, December 3, 2009. Local author Kathleen George was the featured speaker, who, in addition to discussing her novels, talked about the research process involved and her journey to becoming a writer. The event was hosted by Reed Smith at its new office location in the lustrous Three PNC Plaza on Fifth Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh.

For many of the near 40 in attendance, this was their first opportunity to pass through the doors of Pittsburgh’s newest, 26-story, glass skyscraper, which was as impressive on the inside as it was from the street. Members and guests were escorted to the law firm’s reception hall upon arrival, to relax and mingle while enjoying beverages and an irresistible menu including spanakopita, California rolls, chicken tenders, Caprese salad kabobs, bruschetta, mini-quiches, crab cakes and mini-cupcakes.

Following the feast, the gathering moved into an adjoining conference room to hear the guest speaker.

The evening moved along quickly as Ms. George drew the audience into several of her books, discussing character and plot development, local settings and interviews. Much interest and many questions arose from the audience. One question posed was whether this was a lucrative career or not. The author responded that her research expenses often exceed her income as an author, which has raised some questions with the IRS. She also spoke about the variety of sources that she uses for her research including the FBI and the city of Pittsburgh Police Department for questions about procedure, and she has utilized the services of Marc Silverman at the University of Pittsburgh for legal research questions.

A native of Johnstown, PA and a resident of Pittsburgh, George has authored several novels, including her most current work, THE ODDS, a mystery which was nominated for an Edgar® award for best novel of the year by the Mystery Writers of America. She also authored the well reviewed novels TAKEN, FALLEN, and AFTERIMAGE, featuring Pittsburgh homicide detective Richard Christie, and the short story collection, THE MAN IN THE BUICK.

Her writings have also included several scholarly theatrical books and articles, and many short stories. George’s talents are not confined to writing; she also is a professor in the drama department at the University of Pittsburgh.

Following George’s talk, a book signing was held in the reception area. Thanks to the University of Pittsburgh Book Store, those in attendance were able to purchase copies of George’s works and have them personalized and signed. This time also provided an opportunity for individuals to meet with...
At the end of the evening a variety of door prizes were presented. Also, two lucky winners were given copies of Kathleen’s work which she autographed for them.

WPLLA extends a special thanks to Reed Smith for hosting the event, and to Westlaw and Lexis, for their generous sponsorship!

While I don’t have a count of the number of works sold, I do know the check-out line was quite lengthy at times and the book store staff member was kept quite busy. By the time I made it to the check-out counter, one of the books I was interested in had sold out!

For more information on the author and her works, you can visit her website at http://www.kathleengeorgebooks.com/.
On November 6, 2009, WPLLA members gathered at Pepper Hamilton to hear member Michele Kristakis, Account Executive CIS - LexisNexis, to speak about an exciting product, LexisNexis Congressional.

Attendees learned that the service provides excellent tools for tracking current bills and researching legislative history. We were able to observe Michele demonstrate the service’s capabilities and functions.

Michele quizzed the group with questions ranging from relatively easy trivia questions to esoteric research questions. Those lucky (and clever) enough to answer correctly were awarded “tchotckes” and other prizes. Some of the questions stumped the group of seasoned researchers. Michele used this opportunity to show how the answers could be found using the product. Michele also answered questions asked by the group as well and helped one attendee with a real research question.

Thanks to Lauren Vucic of Pepper Hamilton for providing the space for discussion and to Michele Kristakis for presenting.
WPLLA sponsored a lunch and learn program on Jan 21, 2010 hosted by Eckert Seimens on genealogical research. A group of about fifteen intrepid souls gathered, ate and were regaled by Marilyn C. Holt from the Pennsylvania Department of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Marylyn’s character is infectious, you can tell she loves her job and loves talking about it. She started off by discussing a Pedigree Chart, which is basically a method of organizing your family tree. She supplied the audience with copies, but they are readily available on the web at http://genealogy.about.com/library/freeCharts/pedigree.pdf.

Marilyn supplied us with a fact sheet on the Pennsylvania Department at the Carnegie Public’s Pennsylvania Collection. They have a variety of sources; I was amazed by the scope of the research materials available: newspapers, court records, birth, death, and marriage records are all accessible through the Carnegie and online at http://www.clpgh.org/research/genealogy. The Ancestry Library Edition is a genealogical database that contains all of the Federal Census data from 1790-1930 for all states and includes other genealogical data. Another resource that she mentioned was the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society www.wpgs.org. She included one of their handouts that included a number of points on things to help you start and to conduct your genealogical research.

The topic was of great interest to the group. Marilyn fielded many questions ranging from how to start, to how to stay organized, how best to keep track of the resources you used and what database was the best and easiest to use. The discussion was peppered by stories from Marilyn about some of the characters and situations she has come up against. She noted that your family is often the best source of information, particularly in indentifying individuals and clarifying relationship, although she warned to remember that family members are not infallible and they can be mistaken at times.

Her knowledge of genealogical resources is not limited to Western Pennsylvania or even the US. Marilyn has participated in many seminars in genealogical research in other countries as well and knows where to look for international information. So if your family hails from Germany, Italy, France, Poland or other European countries, she is a good resource to point you in the right direction for your research.

There was a lot of information jammed into it the program, but unfortunately the presentation had to come to a close. Many of those present had done some genealogical research and had a basic knowledge, but some were like me and only had family stories to go on. Everyone who attended took away information to help them with their research. So, grab your old photo albums and start talking to your family before it’s too late!
WPLLA presented a brown-bag lunch-and-learn session, on Tuesday, March 16, 2010 featuring Richard Kaplan, the Assistant Manager of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP). Richard is an entertaining speaker with a vast knowledge on a variety of library and management topics. He started by taking a couple of questions from the audience and quickly decided to break from his prepared remarks and talk to the group about the CLP. He discussed the changes at the Carnegie; its’ separation from Carnegie Museum in the 1990’s, and the merging of the subject departments into one integrated library. He noted that, while areas such as music and art, still require a specialized librarian, the modern reference librarian needs to be a generalist.

The issue of special collections was discussed at some length. The Carnegie Library does not have the budget to maintain all collections in perpetuity. Mr. Kaplan reviewed some of the criteria that they utilize, when evaluating special collections. The mission statement, budgetary issues, legacy issues and usage issues all factor into the decision. CLP does make serious attempts to locate new and relevant homes for collections that can no longer be maintained.

The library does embrace digitization as a method to make collections more readily available. They were awarded a grant for the Steel Heritage Collection, which is being catalogued and digitized at the same time. Richard did acknowledge, that digitization is not yet considered an acceptable preservation format, whereas microfiche, is still considered to be a stable format. He discussed the need for the library to maintain older equipment to access some of the information that the library has in obsolete formats (diskettes, video, and cassette tapes).

One special collection that was highlighted was the Technical Standards Collection. The library collects ANSI industrial standards going back to the beginning of the 20th century. Not only does the library have superseded standards for many industries including: construction, pressure vessels, and nuclear power, but the library also subscribes to standards for many current industries as well. These materials are utilized by local, national and international researchers and are often used in liability cases.

Richard noted that the plethora of law information available online has changed the type of questions. Between Nolo books and findlaw.com, he recognized that most people can find answers to general law questions. The questions that the reference librarians now receive tend to be for legal advice, which of course they cannot provide. The librarians are fielding fewer questions, but the questions are much complicated and require more time.

Another lively topic discussed was “Jail Mail”, the written questions from inmates who need legal information. The reference staff treats these patrons in the same manner as they do all patrons. Each question is answered with a written response from the Carnegie Public Library staff, individual names are never used. The librarian can only provide limited help, due to budgetary constraints and the nature of the questions. The goal is to provide pointers to help these patrons with their research.
I read it on the Internet, cont’d.

Budget woes are a constant companion for librarians. The CLP has reduced its workforce by over 25%, reduced its’ GPO holdings from 65% to 25 or 30%, and all branches are running on a shoestring-budget, often at a deficit. Richard acknowledged that new librarians and those laid-off will be hard pressed to find work within the Carnegie Public Library system. Despite the infusion of monies from the city this year, the Carnegie faces the same problem for next year. The trend of cutbacks and closings will unfortunately continue into the future.

Richard spoke an hour and a half and the discussion would have continued all afternoon, but the attendees had to return to work. It was a fascinating discussion and we wish to thank Richard for an enlightening as well as an interesting program. If you missed the program don’t worry, it has already been decided that we are going to invite him back to present another program at a future date.

Thanks to Babst, Callahan for providing the space and drinks and to Mary Stacey for proving the tasty desserts!

Kim Lemon (L), Amy Lovell
Karen Shephard (R)

WPLLA Welcomes Our Newest Members

Christopher Todd, Circulation Desk,
Barco Law Library  crt27@pitt.edu
Larry Raftery, Reference Librarian
Barco Law Library  lar85@pitt.edu

...and Bids Goodbye and Good Luck to

Brian Eckel-Hare, Barco Law Library
Directory of Liberty Center Public
Library, Liberty Center, Ohio
Valerie Weis, Barco Law Library
Relocated to Boston, Mass

Member News and Notes

2010-2011 WPLLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Check your email in June, for your renewal form, it will also be available on the website.

To request a renewal form contact
Pat Roncevich
Roncevic@pitt.edu

When submitting your renewal, please consider volunteering for a committee!
WPLLA Banquet
Thursday, May 20, 2010
6:00 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.
Buca di Beppo
Station Square

JOIN AS WE CELEBRATE THE END OF THE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR AND BRING YOUR APPETITE

WPLLA will hold its 2010 closing banquet on Thursday, May 20, at Buca di Beppo Italian Restaurant in Pittsburgh's Station Square. The banquet will take place in Buca di Beppo's Cardinal Room at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner will include two salads, two pastas, a chicken entrée, two desserts and unlimited soft drinks, coffee and tea. A cash bar will also be available.

The event is sponsored by WPLLA. The price of this all-you-can-eat dinner is $15 for members and $30 for guests.

The WPLLA grant award winner will be announced that evening.

For more information contact
Louise Beswick
lbeswick@reedsmith.com.
Members, we need your input.

Please consider becoming an active part of our organization by serving on a committee. The committees are an integral part of our organization. Committee members work to promote our profession. They provide continuing education events, offer scholarship opportunities, and sponsor a few social events as well! WPLLA has a number of committees that are open to all current members. To join the committee of your choice, simply contact the Chair of that committee or Louise Beswick.

### WPLLA Committee Membership 2009-10

**2009-2010 Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Louise Beswick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Melanie Johnston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Pat Roncevich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Board Member</td>
<td>Joel Fishman</td>
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<td>Executive Board Member</td>
<td>Barbara Alexander-Klein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Lauren Vucic</td>
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**Programming Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Beswick—Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newkirk Hattaway</td>
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<td>Rita Young-Jones</td>
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<td>Susan Broms</td>
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**Grant/Scholarship Committee**

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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Frey—Chair</td>
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<td>Valerie Weis</td>
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<td>Rita Young-Jones</td>
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**Nominating Committee**

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<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lauren Vucic - Chair</td>
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**Recruiting/New Member Committee**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patty Horvath</td>
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**Newsletter Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pat Roncevich - Chair (editor, layout, design)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Fleckenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kate Frey</td>
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<td>Melanie Johnston</td>
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**Webmaster**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Tashbook</td>
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**What do you think?**

Let us know what you think, what you like, or what you don’t like in the newsletter. We will strive to provide relevant content in aesthetically pleasing manner. Send any and all comments to Pat Roncevich

roncevic@pitt.edu

**Calling all writers**

If you have ideas for articles to read or that you wish to contribute. Contact any member of the Newsletter committee with your ideas. What topics are of interest to you? Please let us know. Thanks!

Your Newsletter Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Fleckenstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MFleckenstein@eckertseamans.com">MFleckenstein@eckertseamans.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Frey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:frey@pitt.edu">frey@pitt.edu</a></td>
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<td>Melanie Johnston</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MIJohnston@eckertseamans.com">MIJohnston@eckertseamans.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Roncevich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:roncevic@pitt.edu">roncevic@pitt.edu</a></td>
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