Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association 2010-2011 Annual Report

The Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA) began the 2010-2011 year with a 40th anniversary opening reception and celebration held in the Planetarium at The Franklin Institute on September 30, 2010. Members and their guests, as well as former members, enjoyed a great night of food, music, and conversation under the stars. A raffle benefiting the Friends of the Free Library for the South Philadelphia branch raised over $300 for future family-friendly programs and new materials.

This year GPLLA hosted two programs and we held our annual Legal Research Course. In October, members were invited to attend a program about single source providers titled, “Lexis & Westlaw: Can we live with just one?” A panel of local law library directors and librarians discussed the issues and benefits surrounding single source providers. The impact of other legal research providers, such as Bloomberg Law and FastCase was also discussed.

GPLLA’s annual Legal Research Course was held at Jenkins Law Library in March and April 2011. Philadelphia-area professionals interested in learning more about legal research and understanding Pennsylvania and federal laws met once a week for seven weeks in this introductory course. At the end of April, members were invited to attend another program called, “Finding the Knowledge Lost in Information: How to provide an as-it-happens update service for major legislative and administrative initiatives.” Librarians from Pepper Hamilton shared the system they created for tracking, spot-analyzing, and delivering news of the developments in the financial industry to members of their firm. This system was most recently used to organize and filter information on the Dodd-Frank bill.

Our programs and overall season concluded with the Annual Institute held at Villanova Law School on June 3, 2011. Meg Kribble, research librarian and outreach coordinator at the Harvard Law School Library, was our keynote speaker. Ms. Kribble gave an interesting and engaging presentation on “Social Media (a.k.a. Web 2.0) in the Law Library.” Members in attendance also heard from AALL Executive Board Member Lucy Curci-Gonzalez.

The Grants & Scholarships Committee, chaired by Margaret Stewart Adams, awarded scholarships to three promising library students. Suzanne Rosin (Clarion University) received $1,000, and Stephanie Miller (Drexel University) and Stephanie Enger (Wayne State) each received $500 towards their studies. Christy D’Antonio received GPLLA’s AALL Chapter Registration Award to attend the Philadelphia conference.

GPLLA board and members said a special thank you to Mary Marzolla for her 20-plus years of service as chair of the Membership Committee. Board members F. Scott DeMaris, Russell Rokicki, and Greg Weyant finished their terms. The newly elected board for GPLLA 2011-2012 is: Kristen N. Rook, president; Mary Elizabeth Newsom, vice president/president-elect; A. Kelley Darling, treasurer; Emily Roberts, secretary; Marianne Watson, Rosemary Zankiw, and Shari Berkowitz, directors-at-large. Tracey Rich, Jill Poretta, and Katie McDonald will continue their terms as directors-at-large, and Angela Stetler is the immediate past president.

Kristen N. Rook
President, 2011-2012