# MAALL MARKINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MID-AMERICA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 2003

## Presidential Address

Susan Goldner, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

By the time you read this column, the folks in Norman will be getting anxious for us to arrive. I hope that many of you plan to attend our Annual Meeting. The Local Arrangements committee, under the leadership of Marilyn Nicely and Nickie Singleton, has done a great job of planning. I want to say a special thank you to Lisa Bowles who seems to step in every time Marilyn or Nickie needed help. The Education Committee, under Kay Andrus, has developed an interesting and varied program. We can head to Norman knowing that we will be educated and entertained.

About 50 of us met for lunch in Seattle. The room was very small, but the food was good and the company congenial. We missed those of you who could not join us. Once again, MAALL had a wonderful exhibit at AALL (see photos on the last page of the newsletter). Suzanne Morrison and her committee continue to be extremely creative. This year's exhibit was called *Law Librarians Think on Their Feet*. They got Amanda Credaro to donate a copy of her book, *Biblia's Guide to Warrior Librarianship*, which they gave as prize for a

drawing. The winner was Bill Beintema from the Joel A. Katz Law Library at the University of Tennessee School of Law. [photo]

As the MAALL year draws to a close, it is time to thank everyone who has contributed to our progress during the year. I will not use this column to thank each of them, but do want to mention one or two people. Janet McKinney, who so capably stepped in as Treasurer mid-term last year, will end that term. She played a very important roll in keeping us going. Fortunately for MAALL, we will have an opportunity to vote her into office as Vice-President/President-Elect during our upcoming business meeting. Also during that meeting, Kay Andrus will take over as President. We could not be in better hands. In his quiet, thoughtful way I know he has some good ideas for moving MAALL forward during the next year.

I have truly enjoyed being your President, even if the term of office was a bit out of the ordinary. I was privileged to have such a great group of officers and committee chairs to work with. But I'm not surprised by that, since MAALL is made up of wonderful people.



## MAALL NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

he MAALL Nomination Committee
(Joe Custer, Mary Ann Nelson Chair, Nicki Singleton, and Karen
Wallace) is pleased to announce the
following slate of candidates for the election
to be held at the MAALL Annual Business
Meeting in Norman, Oklahoma.

## Nominee for Vice-President/President Elect: JANET McKINNEY

Currently: Computer Services Librarian at Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. (2000+). Member of AALL Committees: Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals (Advisory Committee), Cataloging and Internet Access Special Committee, 2004 Annual Meeting Program Committee. MAALL Treasurer.

Education: B.A., Avila College, 1981; MALS, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1989; MARS, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, 1997.

Past Experience: Acquisition/Serials Librarian, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 1991-2000; Environmental Division Librarian, Black & Veatch, 1990-1991; various positions, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary library, 1981-1990. AALL: PLL-SIS Treasurer, TS-SIS Chair, CRIV. MAALL: Treasurer (first time around), bulletin Business Manager. SLA: Heart of America Chapter Treasurer (pattern here?), President.

Personal statement: It's taken me three days to write this statement. How do you explain a willingness to be an unopposed candidate for Vice-President/President-Elect of an association, while privately you wonder if you lost all your common sense? I'll give it a try.

I like MAALL, and I like the people in MAALL. Out of all the AALL -related entities of which I'm a member, there is only a handful in which I fell truly comfortable. MAALL tops that list. I believe in the value that MAALL provides to its members, to the legal community MAALL's "jurisdiction" encompasses, and to the law library profession in general. I want to contribute what I can to maintaining, maybe even increasing, that value.

## Nominee for Treasurer: SHARON P. KERN

Currently: Information Services Manager, Davis, Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, PC, Des Moines, IA. (since 1979). In addition to MAALL, member of AALL, Association of Legal Administrators.

Education: BS, 1965, Northwest Missouri State University.

Past Experience: Elementary School Librarian in Fairfax County, VA., (1965-69); Junior High Librarian in Muscatine, IA. (1970-76); Legal Assistant, Dickinson Law Firm in Des Moines, IA. (1976-1978); Have served as Treasurer of MAALL twice, Grants Committee, twice, and on various annual meeting committees.

Personal Statement: I look forward to serving MAALL again as Treasurer. MAALL has been my primary contact with others in the law library profession and I have enjoyed my 20+ years as a member.

### MAALL EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President** Susan Goldner (501) 324-9980

Vice-Pres./Pres.Elect Kay Andrus (402) 280-2251 andrus@culaw.creighton.edu

**VACANT** 

**Past President** 

sdgoldner@ualr.edu

**Secretary** Charlie Condon (815) 753-9496 ccondon@niu.edu

**Treasurer** Janet McKinney (816) 474-6550 jmckinney@shb.com

### **MAALL Committees / 2003**

Listed below are the current assignments for MAALL committees

| Archives<br>Charlie Condon, Chair<br>Ann Fessenden<br>Frank Houdek<br>Cindy Shearrer<br>Joan Stevens                                       | <b>Bylaws</b> Gary Vander Meer, Chair Lorraine Lorne Eileen Searles   | Education Kay Andrus, Chair Lisa Bowles James Dugan S. Flannigan Mary Kay Jung Mary Stultz  | Government Relations<br>Susan Tulis, Chair<br>David Gay - OK<br>Melissa Serfass - AR<br>Newsletter<br>Steve Lambson, editor         |
|--|---|---|---|
| Grants   | Internet  | Library School Liaison  | Articles Editor   |
| Sharon Kern, Chair<br>Joe Katrosh  | Liz Glankler, Chair<br>Susan Boland   | Paul Callister, Liaison   | <vacant></vacant>   |
| Patty Monk   | Chris Tighe   |   | Member News Editor  |
| Nancy Strohmeyer   |   |   | Resa Kerns  |
| Local Arrangements   | Membership  | Nominations   | News from other   |
| Local All angements  | Wiembership   | Management  | THE WS II OILI OLLICI   |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky  | Peggy McDermott   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair  | Chapters  |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs  | Peggy McDermott<br>Leann Genovese   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair<br>Joe Custer  | - 10 110 0 0 00-  |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold  | Peggy McDermott   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair<br>Joe Custer<br>Nicky Singleton   | Chapters<br>Charlie Condon  |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke   | Peggy McDermott<br>Leann Genovese<br>Deborah Sulzbach   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair<br>Joe Custer  | Chapters Charlie Condon State Liaisons  |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden   | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair<br>Joe Custer<br>Nicky Singleton<br>Karen Wallace  | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR   |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden<br>Lou Lindsey                              | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations Suzanne Morrison, Chair                                 | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair Joe Custer Nicky Singleton Karen Wallace  Service to the Public  | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR Priscilla Stultz - IL   |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden<br>Lou Lindsey<br>Patti Monk                | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations Suzanne Morrison, Chair Donna Barratt                   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair Joe Custer Nicky Singleton Karen Wallace  Service to the Public Judith Clarke, Chair                               | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR Priscilla Stultz - IL Julie Thomas - IA                               |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden<br>Lou Lindsey<br>Patti Monk<br>Judy Morgan | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations Suzanne Morrison, Chair Donna Barratt Crata Castleberry | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair Joe Custer Nicky Singleton Karen Wallace  Service to the Public Judith Clarke, Chair Rebecca Alexander             | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR Priscilla Stultz - IL Julie Thomas - IA Pam Tull - KS                 |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden<br>Lou Lindsey<br>Patti Monk                | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations Suzanne Morrison, Chair Donna Barratt                   | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair Joe Custer Nicky Singleton Karen Wallace  Service to the Public Judith Clarke, Chair Rebecca Alexander Dave Hanson | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR Priscilla Stultz - IL Julie Thomas - IA Pam Tull - KS Jan Medved - MO |
| Marilyn Nicely, Nicky<br>Singleton, Co-Chairs<br>Carol Arnold<br>Judith Clarke<br>Nancy Cowden<br>Lou Lindsey<br>Patti Monk<br>Judy Morgan | Peggy McDermott Leann Genovese Deborah Sulzbach  Public Relations Suzanne Morrison, Chair Donna Barratt Crata Castleberry | Mary Ann Nelson, Chair Joe Custer Nicky Singleton Karen Wallace  Service to the Public Judith Clarke, Chair Rebecca Alexander             | Chapters Charlie Condon  State Liaisons Kathryn Fitzhugh - AR Priscilla Stultz - IL Julie Thomas - IA Pam Tull - KS                 |

MAALL Markings is published quarterly in March, June, September and December in electronic format by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries

**Editor: Steve Lambson** lambsons@missouri.edu

Those wishing to submit items should contact the editor for policy and format information

### **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Compiled by Resa Kerns, Univ. of Missouri-Columbia School of Law Library

#### Iowa

### Drake University

John D. Edwards, Professor of Law and Director of the Drake University Law Library, gave a talk on Computer-Assisted Legal Research to the Iowa Judicial Institute on August 4. His *Iowa Legal Research Guide* was published earlier in the summer by William S. Hein & Co. and was described as "a must for all Iowa practitioners" in a book review in the *Iowa Lawyer*.

### Kansas

### University of Kansas Law Library

A new joint degree program between the KU School of Law and Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management began in August. This program will confer a 44-hour Master of Legal Information Management or a 15-hour Legal Information Managements Certificate. Joyce Pearson, Joe Custer, and Rob Mead are among the instructors this semester.

The third edition of the Kansas Legal Research and Reference Guide, edited by **Joe Custer**, was published by the Kansas Bar Association and distributed by LexisNexis Publishers this summer.

### Missouri

Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP

**Janet McKinney**, has been appointed chair of the Technology Committee for Kansas City Association of Law Librarians

University of Missouri-Kansas City --Leon E. Bloch Law Library

Professor Paul Callister joins UMCK as Director of the Leon E. Bloch Law Library and Associate Professor of Law after serving as Reference Librarian and Associate Professor of Law Library Administration at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Callister is a prolific scholar in legal research and is widely called upon for his expertise in the pedagogy of legal research instruction and information policy, law and regulation. He served as a columnist on legal research topics for the Illinois State Bar Journal and is a member of the Copyright Committee of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Callister practiced law for none years in Southern California. He received his Juris Doctorate from Cornell University Law School and a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Callister is passionate about his work and ready for dialog, collaboration and innovation. He states, "I believe that the future of librarianship and information science depends on finding new ways to assert our role as intermediators in an information milieu of ever increasing complexity."

## U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals Library

**Deborah Showalter-Johnson**, U.S. Court of Appeals Library 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit branch librarian has been appointed chair of the Program Committee for Kansas City Association of Law Librarians.

### Oklahoma

## The University of Tulsa – Mabee Legal Information Center

After over 25 years of service to the University of Tulsa, **Kathy Kane** has retired. Her last post was as Public Services/Faculty Research Law Librarian. She served most recently as the head of reference and as the specialist in international and comparative law resources. Kathy is

staying on part time on the reference desk, so we are grateful we still have her expertise and dedicated work.

After over 10 years at TU, **Christy Ryan** has assumed the position of Head of Technical Services at Texas Tech. She had the same job title at TU College of Law, and also worked as a serials cataloger at the main university library. We miss her already, and at the time of this writing she's been gone only one day!

We welcome new law librarian, Courtney Selby, who joined the staff on June 1st. Courtney was formerly the Research Adjunct for the Legal Reasoning, Authorities and Writing program at TU. She is the Collection Development/Instructional Services Law Librarian. Courtney is a TU College of Law graduate who is working on her library degree at University of Oklahoma.

## Stolen from the OU Law Library Home Page:



# NEWS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

compiled by Charlie Condon & Mike McReynolds

(Editor's Note: This will be Mike's last issue contributing to this column. The Chapter and the Newsletter would like to thank him for the stellar job he did during a time of great need. We also appreciate Charlie stepping up and covering multiple responsibilities. Kudos to both!)

### **SEALL**

SEALL (Southeastern Chapter of AALL) celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at their annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky April 10-12. Events included an Opening Reception at the Children's Museum and dinner at the Spindletop. Some fourteen programs were offered and attendance was impressive as attendees described the experience as "fun," "fantastic," "great programs," and "very successful." It was noted that Filippa Anzalone presented a very effective workshop on project management and that Dick Danner was the Keynote speaker at the event.

An important highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the "Service to SEALL" award to Donna Bausch, presented by Sue Burch.

The newsletter editor informed the SEALL members that this was the last copy to be printed, as the next issue begins the *digital* format.

SEALL welcomed new members Nancy Strohmeyer and Sue Kelleher who joined the staff of the Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law Library at Barry University in Orlando. Susanna Marlowe joined the faculty at the Joel A. Katz Law Library at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville as Head of Public Services. Promotions were announced at the University of Richmond School of Law where Director Timothy Coggins was promoted to Professor of Law; Gail F. Zwirner to Head, Access Services; and, John R. Barden to Head, Reference and Research Services.

At the University of Virginia, Access Services Librarian Cathy Palombi was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries. Barbie Selby, Government Documents Librarian, has been appointed to Depository Library Council to the Public Printer beginning in October, 2003.

Finally, incoming SEALL President, Nancy Johnson, received the gavel from Past President Terry Long. <u>Southeastern Law Librarian</u>, Vol. 28, no. 2, Spring 2003.

### **HALL**

Outgoing HALL(Houston Area Law Libraries) President, Holly Watson, announces that HALL has pledged a \$5000.00 contribution to the George Strait Minority Scholarship Endowment. In her final column before passing the reins to incoming President Bethany Bletsch, Holly relates her own "Top Ten Summer Clerk Stories," a must read for academic and firm libraries alike.

Bethany begins her term with an announcement that Monica Ortale leads the planning for the 2004 SWALL meeting planned for Houston, a meeting that is expected to produce revenue to fund HALL projects. Future projects include funding scholarships for HALL members to attend AALL; Houston Public Library and Harris County Library employees to attend the Fall and Spring HALL seminars; and, raising money to contribute to AALL's Minority

Scholarship program.

HALL members attended a seminar on March 26<sup>th</sup>, entitled "How Case Law Summaries, Headnotes and Case Notes are Added to Our LexisNexis Service." Local LexisNexis Librarian Relations Consultant, Susan Skyzinski, teamed up with Case Law Editors Nathan Goldman and Rick Cagney to present detailed "behind the scenes" information showing how they create and produce the case law on the LexisNexis system.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, a luncheon presentation entitled "What's New on Dialog for the Librarian" was delivered by Sales Executive Tracy Allen and Senior Account Executive Bill Huberty.

AALL President Carol Avery Nicholson spoke at the HALL regular monthly business meeting. She also toured the John O'Quinn Law Library at the University of Houston, where flood waters caused by Tropical Storm Allison devastated the collection. (To read about the flood and recovery efforts, go to

www.law.uh.edu/librarians/jschultz/TheBig One.html

On a positive note, President Holly Watson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Barbara Szalkowski, the first recipient of the HALL "Volunteer of the Year" award.

<u>HALL Newsletter</u>, Vol. 20, no. 3 May/June 2003.

### **VALL**

Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) welcomed new President Bobbie Denny, who takes over from Past President Charles Oates. The spring business meeting held in Charlottesville was the forum for the installation of officers and directors for the

association. The meeting was held at the Jefferson Library on the grounds of Monticello, which included a box lunch and a tour of the Jefferson Vineyard.

Project Management Essentials for the Law Librarian, by Margaret L. Christiansen, offers a thoughtful and straightforward analysis of project planning and management. In two pages, she lays out the process of effective project management. A must read for those busy law librarians who want a quick overview of the project management process.

Bridging the Gap, by Joyce Manna Janto, reviews the approach taken by the University of Richmond Law Library to prepare law students for summer jobs. As she relates, research skills of summer associates are a point of discussion whenever academic librarians and firm librarians meet. So, what are they doing? First, they limit the program to students who are working in the state of Virginia in order to tailor the presentations to focus on Virginia law and procedure. They do include federal resources, and present both electronic and print resources throughout the program. A web page is developed and maintained for ready reference that the students can access all summer. They include a discussion of ethics and always invite firm librarians to participate as presenters in the program. Overall, the formula spells success and is well received by all those involved. This article should be of interest to firm librarians in particular since details are laid out for an effective program designed to improve the research skills of summer associates.

<u>Virginia Association Of Law Libraries</u>, Vol. 19 no. 1 Summer 2003

### Kansas City Association of Law Librarians (KCALL)

KCALL met at the law firm of Armstrong Teasdale in the Boardroom on Thursday, August 14. Lunch was provided by Armstrong Teasdale and hosted by librarian, Frances Schach. The informal program included reports from members who attended recent professional meetings such as AALL and SLA.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2003 at 11:30 a.m. at the law firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon in the second floor conference room, ""The Meeting Place"".

President Sharon Hom, U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals librarian, appointed Deborah Showalter-Johnson, U.S. Court of Appeals Library 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit branch librarian, chair of the Program Committee. Janet McKinney, Shook Hardy & Bacon, will chair the Technology Committee.

Ken Pallante, RIA Representative, is a new KCALL associate member

## Tribal Code Collection at the National Indian Law Library

Two librarians from the National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colorado published a lengthy article describing the holdings and means of access to the tribal codes available in their library. Martens, Monica and Selden, David, "Roadmap to the National Indian Law Library's Tribal Code Collection," <a href="SWALL Bulletin">SWALL Bulletin</a>, Vol. 33, no. 3, Spring 2003, pgs. 6-12.

### **Teaching & Learning**

The San Diego County Public Law Library has been conducting a series of training classes for self-represented litigants. Some of the classes were directed to public librarians in their large county who also help provide access to legal information. The program of classes was made possible in part with funding from the Library Services and Technology Act. Willis, Jean, "SRL Training Program Steams Full Speed Ahead," <u>SANDALL News</u>, Vol. 5, no. 5, May 2003, p. 7.

Some faculty from Brigham Young University's law library had an opportunity to teach legal writing in Beijing. One of the librarians describes the challenges, resources and technologies involved in this crosscultural venture in her article. Lyman, Lovisa, "Teaching Legal Writing in Beijing," WESTPAC News, Vol. 27, no. 3, Summer 2003, pgs. 4-5.

### **Preservation of Legal Information**

The Law Librarians of New England held their Spring conference entitled, "Digital Libraries: Realities, Myths and Misconceptions." The focus of the conference was the long term viability of information stored in microform and in digital form. From the information shared at this conference three members wrote articles on their observations. Engsberg, Rebecca, "The Future of Microforms in a Digital Age," LLNE News, Vol. 23, no. 2, 2003, pgs. 1, 5-6. Murley, Diane, "Fair Use in a Digital World," Id., p. 7. D'Angelo, Diane, "Digital Libraries: Myth, Reality or Somewhere in Between?" Id., pgs. 9-10.

### **Professional Development**

Wisconsin librarians actively participated in National Library Legislative Day by sending a group of librarians representing academic, public and school librarians to visit with the members of the Wisconsin delegation in Congress. One of the group was a librarian from the University of Wisconsin Law Library, who wrote an article for her chapter newsletter describing the experience. Center, Sue, "Librarians Visit Congress," <u>LLAW</u>

Newsletter, Vol. 20, no. 4, Summer 2003, pgs. 1 & 7.

An article outlining the wide variety of skills that a modern law librarian must possess was presented in a recent newsletter. The article derived from an in-house presentation by a librarian for a large multi office law firm. Vann, Amanda, "Attributes of Law Librarians: What to Look For," Atlanta Law Libraries Association Newsletter, <a href="http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/alla/newsletters/resources">http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/alla/newsletters/resources</a> 2003 Spring.htm (viewed 08/31/2003).

Many of these articles are available on the websites of the Chapters. For more information about any of these news items, please contact Charlie Condon, Northern Illinois University College of Law Library.

participant and the host library. If there is a grant of money associated with the exchange, it must be approved by the Executive Board and the recipient must be a MAALL member. Applications should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the date of the exchange to allow for committee review and recommendations. The MAALL Grants Committee oversees the Staff Exchange Program..

## MAALL STAFF Exchange Reestablished

he MAALL Executive Board have reestablished the *Staff Exchange Program* (formerly known as the *Resource Sharing Program*) under the direction of the *Grants Committee*. An application and Travel Grant form may be found at the end of this newsletter. The mission statement follows:

### **Mission Statement:**

MAALL Staff Exchange Program:
The purpose of the Staff Exchange Program is to facilitate visits by
MAALL members to other MAALL institutions. This visit may be paired with the annual chapter meeting or arranged at other times selected by the



### "SOUP'S ON"!!

By Amber Hewette, Systems/Technical Services Librarian, Southern Illinois University Law Library

That's the difference between working in a gourmet restaurant versus working in a cafeteria/smorgasbord? And what do eating establishments or food have to do with law firm or academic law libraries? Well, the comparison occurred to me because my fellow academic law librarians were interested in what the "transition" was like for me between these two types of library environments. The editor asked me about my tastes. "The Bobs?" She asked. And then more. I had to admit I have been a Food Network gourmand. "Food TV?" She bullied me into it. "Amber that's it! That's great. Go with foods," she said.

To give you some background, I worked as a law firm librarian for many years and now I am a law school librarian. My past professional experience ranges from small law firm libraries to a large law firm, but this is my first position in an academic institution. My last job was at Latham & Watkins in L.A. which had about eight branch offices. While there, I worked both in reference and in cataloging. Currently, I work at SIU School of Law Library as Systems/Technical Services Librarian where I oversee cataloging, government documents, review invoices, write up financial reports, among other duties.

In thinking about what the "transition" was like for me, I thought of a law firm library as being similar to a gournet restaurant. The book collection or areas of practice in law firms are very specific much like the food in a gournet restaurant and the menu is more select for the diners/attorneys. Unless it's a large firm, the library has a small staff

or in some cases a staff of one, which means as a solo librarian you are the "chief cook and bottle washer." On the other hand, in a law school library there is a larger staff (many cooks and chefs). You need a larger staff because of the complexity of the "menu." The collection is much broader with treatises and loose-leaf materials covering many areas of law both foreign and domestic most of which is dictated by the American Bar Association standards. It's like a cafeteria in that there is a smorgasbord of many delights for the diner/faculty/student. Consider also a law school's ability to be a depository library for state and federal government documents. The words bonanza, cornucopia, feast come to mind when I think of government documents. With processing documents it seems it's always a feast and never a famine. Which is good for the users, the feasting ones, but difficult on the cooks and servers.

In a law firm the clientele is smaller and a little more "select" as with the gourmet restaurant while in the law school environment the clientele is much larger and more diverse. So it took me awhile to grow accustomed to so much variety in one place. In a law firm library, you are more likely to use or need interlibrary loans (take-out anyone?) to fill the gap or appease the palate. However, law school libraries do have rare book collections, so they too have a bit of the gourmet aspect to them.

One might think of keeping "tabs" on library books as similar to watching over the silverware, but it's difficult to find a good comparison with restaurants here. In the law firm, you just hoped the attorney/paralegal/secretary would remove the book card, sign and date it. Depending on the subject of the book (i.e. insurance), you might be able to guess which attorney might have it, but for other titles, like

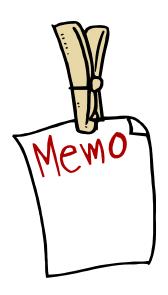
reporters, it would be impossible to know where it was. In a law school library, there is the circulation department which has the responsibility for keeping track of materials taken from the library, but with 24-hour access by faculty and students, it is still a challenge.

The statistical surveys required by the American Bar Association and Academic Research Libraries could be compared to the recipes used in restaurants. To me the ABA survey/recipe is more complicated requiring many and somewhat rare ingredients. My first involvement in filling-out the surveys for these various organizations came last year. The process of "translating" our statistics to those on the surveys was very time consuming and a little overwhelming. By comparison, the surveys from the American Association of Law Libraries are much easier to complete. Perhaps that's because I am more familiar with them. The AALL survey/recipe uses more basic ingredients almost like "down home" cooking? That may be stretching the comparison a bit, but I think you know what I mean.

Just like restaurants have servers to help with setting the tables and cleaning up, academic libraries use student workers to help with the large amount of filing in looseleaf volumes, pocket parts, special handling, etc. As we all know, law materials are a world unto themselves. So anyone new to them or not detailed oriented is very likely to make mistakes. Some common errors are finding pocket parts in the wrong edition, or prior supplements not removed from the shelves. With that in mind, I've become more tolerant when finding "errors" in filing. However, in the private law firm, such "errors" would not be tolerated. Law firms use professional filing services for most of the material and their own library

clerks to insert pocket parts. Use of professional filing services and library clerks is like the sous chefs who assist the chef. There is more training and stability of the law firm library staff.

I've been working in law firms for so long I don't know if my "transition" to a law school library will ever be complete. I think what has helped me in the process of "crossing-over" is the core component in all libraries which is to know your patron and provide the service required. Much like the chef who transitions from the gourmet restaurant to the cafeteria, I know a lot about the food and service, but have to adjust on the quantity served. Soups on!!!



## MAALL STAFF EXCHANGE & TRAVEL GRANT

## MAALL STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM APPLICATION

| Name  |
|---|
| Date  |
| Position  |
| Since   |
| Library   |
| Address   |
| Phone Fax E-Mail  |
| Library to be visited   |
| Proposed dates of visit: 1st choice   |
| 2nd choice  |
| Departments of interest: All Administration Cataloging Circulation Reference Acquisitions Serials Computer Services Other Work Experience: If you have law library experience prior to your current employment, please list. Include employer, position, and dates  |
|   |
| Education: List education beyond high school. Include schools attended, dates and degrees awarded.  |
|   |
| Are any of the following prerequisites for the visit?  a. Housing provided by host library or staff member? yes no  b. Some meals provided by host library or staff member? yes no  c. Receipt of a MAALL travel grant? yes no  If not, would you prefer to:  a. Have accommodations provided by the host library or staff member: yes no  b. Have some meals provided by the host library or staff member: yes no  Do you need someone to meet your: plane/train/bus? yes no |
| Estimated time of arrival: departure:   |

|               | MAALL STAFF EXCH                             | ANGE PR     | COGRAM TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION       |
|---------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
|               | mber of MAALL? yes<br>nd previous MAALL acti |             | If so, when did you become a member?  |
|               |  |             |                                       |
|               |  |             |                                       |
| Have you rec  | eived a MAALL travel gr                      | ant previo  | ously? yes no If so, when?            |
| •             | ployer pay any of your trawhat portion?      | ivel exper  | nses to visit another library? yes no |
| Estimated tra | vel expenses and means of                    | of transpoi | rtation                               |
| Estimated dis | tance to travel                              |             |                                       |
|               |  |             |                                       |

Please enclose a one page or less description of how the MAALL Staff Exchange Program will benefit you and/or your library and brief statement of your career goals. Also include two letters of recommendation from: 1) your library director and 2) someone who knows you professionally. RETURN TO:

Sharon Kern, Grants Committee Chair Davis, Brown Law Firm 666 Walnut, Suite 2500 Des Moines, IA 50309-3993 515-246-7859 515-243-0654 – FAX Sharon.Kern@lawiowa.com

### **MAALL GOES TO SEATTLE**



