

6-1-2012

## Message from the Chair

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### Recommended Citation

Margaret Butler, Message from the Chair, SR-SIS Newsl., Summer 2012

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# SR-SIS Newsletter

Vol. 20, No. 1, Fall 2011 Issue

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## Message from the Chair

To My Fellow SR Members:

Looking forward to our coming year, the Social Responsibilities SIS plans to continue our usual good work. Jorge Juarez, our immediate past chair, did a great job of leading us through the last annual meeting—we had great programs proposed and executed, and the standing committees are continuing to do their great work. You can read more about the activities and events at the 2011 Annual Meeting in this newsletter.

I want the SR to continue its vital and important role in the association—including raising the consciousness of the members regarding issues of social justice that affect us all. A recent past chair described the SR to me as “the social conscience of AALL.” With that in mind, and considering the programming offered by the SR and its standing committees, I hope to survey the membership and develop a strategic plan for the SR’s next few years. What do we want our role in the association to continue to be? And more importantly, how will we fulfill that role? When you see questions related to these discussions in your in box, please participate!

The book drive for Boston is underway—or at least is beginning to plan. Sarah Jaramillo has volunteered to co-ordinate the drive this year with Alissa Black-Dorward of Fordham Law Library. Sarah and Alissa are working with the Boston-based Hospitality Committee to identify a fantastic book drive beneficiary.

I look forward to serving you all this year. If you have any issues, interests, or projects that you would like to share with me and the SR, please let me know.

Margaret (Meg) Butler  
Georgia State University College of Law Library

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## Annual Business Meeting Minutes -- July 25, 2011, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jorge Juarez at 5:35 p.m.. Jorge also distributed the 2011 SR-SIS

Annual Report and the minutes from the 2010 SR-SIS Business Meeting.

## **AMPC Liaison**

Jorge introduced our liaison from the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Gail Zwirner. Gail encouraged members of the SIS to submit programs and to contact her if they have any questions about program proposals.

## **2010 Business Meeting Minutes**

After a brief discussion of the proper spelling of some members' names, the minutes from the 2010 Business Meeting were approved by a voice vote, with the condition that members' names be properly spelled.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Pam Brannon reported that the treasurer's report was not yet fully prepared, and would be made available to the membership to be voted upon at a future date. She provided some of the numbers that were available. Total revenues for the previous year were \$5210, while total expenditures were \$3776.57. The previous year's Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues reception resulted in \$1,938.58 to go toward the Holoch Fund. This year's reception received \$3,000 from BNA, Hein, LexisNexis, and Wolters Kluwer; as the reception cost just under that amount, the entirety of the money made at the reception will be donated to the Holoch Fund.

## **Review of 2011 Programs**

Jorge presented a brief overview of the programs sponsored by the SIS at the annual meeting. SR-SIS sponsored three programs, "The Real 'Philadelphia' Story: From Cain v. Hyatt to 21st Century HIV/AIDS Discrimination Case Law," cosponsored with the Black Caucus; "Can the FCC Regulate the Internet?"; and "Libricide as a War Crime: From the Lieber Code to Personal Liability," cosponsored with the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section. Pam Brannon reported that she attended "The Real 'Philadelphia' Story" and found it to be an interesting program with great speakers.

## **Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues**

David Holt, Chair of the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues, presented a brief overview of the Standing Committee's business meeting the previous day. A major point of discussion at the meeting was the issue of privacy of Standing Committee documents; Meg Butler and Richard Jost will investigate these issues over the coming year. C.J. Pipins is the new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for the Standing Committee. David also mentioned that he has had difficulty receiving applicants for the Holoch Grant, and there was a brief discussion of strategies that can be used to get more applicants, including potentially reaching out to library schools.

## **Standing Committee on Service to Institutional Residents**

Ann Hemmens, Chair of the Standing Committee on Service to Institutional Residents, reported for the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee's business meeting will be held on July 26th. Ann also reported on the Joint Roundtable on Service to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners, which was co-sponsored with the State, Court, and County Law Library and Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Sections; the roundtable went very well, and featured both the Legal Director for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project and an exonerated prisoner.

## **Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues Archives**

David Holt reported another question that was raised as a result of the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues meeting, and moved to create a task force on archives, which would create recommendations for the storage of archival material, privacy policies, and the potential appointment of an archivist. After a brief discussion, the motion was tabled pending the results of the investigation by Meg Butler and Richard Jost.

## **PR Committee**

As Courtney Selby was not present, Ann Hemmens reported in her stead about the SR-SIS presence at CONELL,

which was successful. A question was raised as to whether the SIS bylaws needed to be amended in order to create the PR Committee, and it was concluded that there did not need to be an amendment. The executive board will draft a charge for the committee, and Jorge Juarez will look into contacting the members of the PR Committee.

## **Book Drive**

Sarah Jaramillo reported on the status of the annual book drive. This year's book drive recipient is the Philadelphia Children's Foundation, and there have been a lot of donations so far. Pam added that some exhibitors indicated that they would also contribute the books they had left over at the end of the conference; also, in addition to the donations that have been received from individuals, Pam reported that the Research, Instruction, and Patron Services Special Interest Section added a section to their bylaws stating that they would make an annual donation to the book drive. A motion was made and passed to add a donation of \$500 from the SR-SIS to the total raised by the drive.

## **Election**

Pam Brannon presented the results of the election for new officers. There was one position open, that of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and one nominee for that position, David Holt. The election was held, and David was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. A motion was made and passed to destroy the records of the election.

## **Newsletter**

David Holt announced that he would prefer to step down as editor of the SR-SIS newsletter. Sarah Jaramillo volunteered and was named as his replacement as editor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

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## **2011 Book Drive: Give Me Liberty & Give Me Books**

The SR-SIS would like to thank everyone for all the donations and support you gave to this year's book drive. As this Annual Meeting came to a close, many of those involved in coordinating the book drive converged in the Exhibit Hall during the chaos of the vendor booth deconstruction. At the last minute we had a pleasant surprise: even more books were added to the many boxes and bags that were collected during the Meeting because Oxford University Press donated the remainder of their world atlases and dictionaries.

Ann Hemmens, Sarah Jaramillo and Joseph Parsio hauled these books to a loading dock where Christina Chiolo of the Philadelphia Children's Foundation waited with a U-Haul. Shortly after we got to the loading dock and transferred the books that were donated at the meeting itself, John Cannan drove up with the many, many boxes of books that people donated through the mail. All present were thrilled to see so many boxes going into that moving truck. As the Philadelphia Children's Foundation U-Haul truck sped away, the close of the Drive was upon us. When all of the numbers were tabulated, the Philadelphia Children's Foundation was very heartened to receive over 400 books and over \$1300 from our members. This Fall these books will be distributed to the following K -8 schools: William D. Kelley, Potter-Thomas and Tanner Duckrey. A million thanks to all of you who donated to the Drive. You made it quite a success.

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## **Member News**

**Pam Brannon**, Faculty Services Librarian at Georgia State University College of Law Library, presented a session called "Online Resources for Managing and Providing Faculty Research Support" at the CALI Conference for Law School Computing in June 2011.

**Margaret (Meg) Butler**, Associate Director for Public Services at Georgia State University College of Law Library, won the New Member Division Award for her submission to the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers entitled

"Resource Based Learning and Course Design: A Brief Theoretical Overview and Practical Suggestions." This paper has also been accepted for publication in Law Library Journal's Spring 2012 issue.

**Margaret (Meg) Butler, Lisa Junghahn, Jane Larrington and C.J. Pipins** attended the recent AALL Leadership Academy.

**Stacy Etheredge** recently joined the staff at the West Virginia College of Law George R. Farmer Jr. Law Library.

**Elizabeth Outler** accepted the position of Associate Director and Head of Public Services for the University of Florida Levin College of Law Chiles Legal Information Center.

**Larry Reeves** recently accepted the position of Director at Alyne Queener Massey Law Library at Vanderbilt Law School.

**Courtney Selby** became Director of the Deane Law Library at the Hofstra School of Law on May 16, 2011.

**Vicki Szymczak** joined the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law as Library Director and Associate Professor of Law.

**Ronald Wheeler**, Director of the Dorraine Zief Law Library and Associate Professor of Law at the University of San Francisco School of Law, was invited to serve as a convening member of the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) Content & Scope Workstream. The DPLA aims to create a publicly accessible digital collection of all the information housed in America's great libraries. He also published the following article: Does WestlawNext Really Change Everything: The Implications of WestlawNext on Legal Research, [103 LAW LIBR. J. 359](#), Summer 2011.

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## Standing Committee on Lesbian & Gay Issues Update

The SCLGI reception this year in Philadelphia was at the swank Valanni's restaurant and lounge right in the heart of Philadelphia's "Gayborhood" (see David Holt's report in this issue of the newsletter for more information). We raised \$621.00 this year that will help continue to fund our activities. I know that I speak for everyone who was able to attend that it was a swell evening and we all owe David Holt our thanks for his hard work on finding a great venue and rounding up generous donor support.

As many of you know, a bequest of \$10,000 was made to the SCLGI in 1992 from the estate of Alan Holoch, Law Librarian and Professor of Law at Ohio State University Law Library. This generous gift has been used for scholarships and has assisted current and prospective members of the SR-SIS to attend the Annual Meeting, mainly through providing funds for registration or travel expenses. At the Business Meeting in Philadelphia, there was a general discussion of the Holoch grant and how it was currently being allocated. A search through our past records has indicated that the requirements and language of the grant has changed over time and it now seems like a good time to poll the membership to see if there is any need or desire for changes. With this in mind, a survey will be sent to all SCGLI members in the near future that will ask for your opinions on how we should move forward with the Holoch grant and how the funds should be disbursed. This is an extraordinary benefit to our members and we should make sure that we are making the best use of this resource for everyone.

Richard Jost  
University of Washington School of Law Library

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## SCLGI Annual Business Meeting Minutes -- July 24, 2011, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

David Holt, chair of the Standing Committee, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **Secretary and Treasurer's Reports**

Pam Brannon reported that the minutes were distributed in the SR-SIS newsletter. The minutes for the prior year's meeting, along with the treasurer's report, will be presented to the membership for approval at a future date.

### **Holoch Grant**

Pam Brannon introduced Kyle Brown, this year's recipient of the Holoch Grant. David Holt reiterated the lack of clarity as to the conditions of the award, including the lack of clarity as to whether the award is for the set amount of \$500 or for registration. Richard Jost, Meg Butler, and Jeff Berns agreed to investigate the history of the Holoch Grant in order to answer these questions. Marilyn Raisch volunteered to provide some biographical information on Alan Holoch that can be scanned and included in the information gathered on the grant. The committee also agreed to require that future recipients of the Holoch Grant write an article for the SR-SIS newsletter.

### **Sexual Orientation and the Law Bibliography**

Stephanie Davidson presented an update on the status of the Sexual Orientation and the Law bibliography project, which she took over from James Donovan the previous year. Stephanie's intention was to have quarterly updates, but was unable to meet this goal. Stephanie called again for volunteers to write annotations; she also noted that the content management system in which the bibliography resides may need to be updated. A brief discussion as to how to recruit volunteers and quality annotations ensued, and Stephanie will investigate methods ensure more regular updates to the bibliography in the future.

### **Standing Committee Archives**

The committee moved into a discussion of the status of the committee archives, which was led by Richard Jost and Meg Butler. Richard and Meg distributed a proposal for the archives and explained the two main issues surrounding the archives, the first issue being the collection of information that already exists, whether in paper or in electronic formats, and the second issue being setting up a system to turn information created in the future over to the archives on a regular basis. Richard and Meg then proposed two action plans, one directed at collecting and organizing existing material and the second directed at developing a plan for archiving material on an ongoing basis in the future.

Richard and Meg also presented the committee with three questions regarding the archives: whether the SCLGI wants to maintain its own digital archive separate from the official AALL archives, who will have access to the SCLGI archives, and whether there is a need for a privacy policy for those members who may not want their names to be part of a public record. Discussion of these questions ensued, centering on the issue of whether a privacy policy is necessary and the potential contours of such a policy. It was agreed that Richard and Meg will continue to explore drafting a privacy policy over the coming year, and Jeff Berns and Sarah Jaramillo volunteered to assist with the drafting of the archives policies.

### **Incoming Officers**

Richard Jost was introduced as the incoming Chair of the Standing Committee. David Holt nominated C.J. Pipins for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. There was a call for further nominations, and, seeing none, C.J. was elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect by a voice vote.

### **Reception and Adjournment**

David Holt reminded everyone that the Standing Committee reception will be held later in the evening, at 8:30, at Valanni Restaurant and Lounge, at 1229 Spruce Street. The meeting was adjourned just after 6:30 p.m.

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## Standing Committee on Lesbian & Gay Issues Reception

The 2011 Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues Reception in Philadelphia was a huge success! We had a great turnout of nearly 90 people. This year's reception was held at Vallani's right in the heart of Philadelphia's "gayborhood". Attendees enjoyed the trendy atmosphere of the restaurant while enjoying a menu comprised of Italian and Mediterranean selections. Additionally, the reception raised a considerable amount of money for the committee.

Our sponsors this year included BNA, LexisNexis, William S. Hein & Co., and Wolters Kluwer Law & Business. We wish to express our gratitude and deep thanks to our sponsors, without whom this event would not be possible. Thank you!

The money raised for this event goes towards assisting a law librarian member of the SCLGI to attend the Annual Meeting. We are very happy to announce that Kyle Grant, a MLIS student at the University of Washington, was selected as this year's recipient. Kyle was chosen by the committee because of his demonstrated promise as a future law library leader and colleague. Congratulations Kyle!

We all look forward to seeing you again next year in Boston!

David Brian Holt  
Santa Clara Law Library

## Sexual Orientation and the Law Bibliography Update

Work on the bibliography continues! Sexual Orientation and the Law: A Research Bibliography of Legal Literature Discussing Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, and Bisexual Persons, Their Rights and Their Families is an online publication that continues the SR-SIS' 2006 print bibliography (published by Hein as AALL Publication #74). Scholarly and practitioner-oriented publications are posted to <http://www.lgbtbib.org> in quarterly updates, organized by topic and with accompanying annotations to help the reader place the work in context.

We're currently working on the fourth quarter for 2010, and will begin 2011 soon! One recent change we've made to updating policy, based on feedback from the 2010 AALL Annual Meeting, is that we won't wait for annotations to be completed to load the citations and other metadata to the database. This means that we'll get articles out faster, and we hope the appearance of new articles on the site will encourage additional volunteers to help write annotations. Volunteers are also needed to help assign keywords and topical headings to articles, and also for data entry to the website. If you would like to volunteer for the current or future updates, please contact Editor Stephanie Davidson at [stephnd@law.illinois.edu](mailto:stephnd@law.illinois.edu). Thanks to all the volunteers who help keep this valuable project running!

Stephanie Davidson  
University of Illinois College of Law Library

## "I'm Gay"

I wrote that often 14 years ago this October. I wrote it to friends and family. I wrote it with confidence I would be okay. I lived in gay-friendly Dupont Circle in Washington, DC. I had been raised in cities by progressive people. I had succeeded in living as a tomboy without much thought even before I realized I was gay. Still, I lived very self consciously. I lived self consciously for my grandparents who were born in 1908. I lived self consciously for my then girlfriend (now wife) whose Catholic upbringing left her doubting. I lived self consciously for my high school swim team friends who may always be wondering.

Fortunately, society has achieved so much since 1997 and I no longer live self consciously. I can enjoy equal rights in several countries and US states. I have endless access to positive images of gay people in books, sitcoms, movies and even elected office. (Remember when it was just Ellen and KD Lang?) October is National Coming out Month, and I haven't come out in a long time. I no longer find that I need to explain that I am gay. I am a librarian who lives in Cambridge among very accepting friends and family. In everyday conversation, I don't hesitate to mention my partner or the trashy gay book I just finished. I don't usually think anyone really cares.

Well, I sometimes think no one cares. I know well the sting of court decisions like Boy Scouts of America; the 2006 elections when several states passed amendments denying gay marriage; and the passage of Prop 8. I know well the sting when I read about a young gay person who has been bullied by his peers. I know well the sting of being glared at – even if it's rare. The sting reminds me someone still cares.

This past October, I felt the sting when Michelle Bachman stated she would reinstate Don't Ask Don't Tell. BUT, I also felt a new hope every time I watched an [American soldier](#) come out on YouTube. I cried happy tears seeing the intense look of relief and excitement on the faces of these very young people. I felt a new joy every time I watched Modern Family, saw a PSA on not using the word gay pejoratively, or met a gay law student. I feel hopeful for what the next 14 years will bring. And I am grateful to you, my SR-SIS colleagues, for maintaining the Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues.

Lisa Junghahn  
Harvard Law School Library

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## Standing Committee on Services to Institutional Residents (Prisoners) Update

The Standing Committee continued the tradition, begun in 2004, of coordinating a Joint Roundtable on Services to Pro Se Patrons and Prisoners on July 25th from 12-1:15pm. Special thanks to Amy Hale-Janeke and the LISP, SR, and SCCLL SISs for helping make this another successful event. The session began with Amy leading a discussion of some of the "Best of" services and resources librarians from around the country are providing to Pro Se/Pro Per patrons. She provided some handouts and has posted documents to a Google Wiki, <https://sites.google.com/site/2011bestprosepatronsprisoners/>. Librarians from court, academic, and correctional libraries contributed to a lively and informative discussion.

Next we had guest speakers addressing wrongful conviction and the role of prisoner legal research in securing a prisoner's freedom. Marissa Boyers Bluestine, Legal Director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project (<http://www.innocenceprojectpa.org/>) and adjunct professor at Temple Law, described the work of the Project to exonerate those who have been wrongfully convicted of crimes they did not commit. In addition, Ms. Bluestine discussed her work to coordinate the policy initiatives of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project geared toward reforming the criminal justice system to prevent wrongful convictions from occurring. She then introduced Fernando Bermudez, an exonerated prisoner, who served more than 18 years in New York State maximum security prisons following his wrongful conviction of murder in the shooting death of Raymond Blount in 1991 until proven innocent in late 2009 with assistance from pro bono attorneys from Washington, D.C., New Jersey, and New York. The evidence against him included eyewitness identification by five teenagers, who later recanted their testimony.

According to the Innocence Project, eyewitness misidentifications are the number one cause of wrongful convictions. The story of Mr. Bermudez has been featured on national and local news, including the New York Times and the Daily News, and on major TV networks and TRU TV, formerly Court TV. It was the subject of Innocent: Inside Wrongful Conviction Cases by Scott Christianson (NYU Press 2006). Mr. Bermudez is married with three children and lives in Connecticut. He is completing his bachelor's degree in behavioral science, and adjusting to life outside of prison. He discussed his case, the role his own legal research played in gaining his freedom, and his continuing work to advocate for other wrongfully convicted prisoners through public speaking engagements. His talk was very inspiring and prompted discussions about how librarians can help prisoners and the Innocence Projects in their local area. A handout listing select resources on wrongful conviction and eyewitness identification was distributed at the meeting and is posted to the SR-SIS website.



eyewitness identification was distributed at the meeting and is posted to the SRSIS website.

The Standing Committee continues to work on updating the information in the online Directory of Law Libraries Serving Prisoners, [http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/Directory\\_of\\_Law\\_Libraries\\_Serving\\_Prisoners.html](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/srsis/Directory_of_Law_Libraries_Serving_Prisoners.html). Please contact Ann Hemmens ([hemmens@law.unm.edu](mailto:hemmens@law.unm.edu)) if you are interested in volunteering.

Ann Hemmens  
University of New Mexico Law Library

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