



President's Message Jill Gray



I kicked off my LLAGNY Presidency by attending the AALL Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. On the trip down, I had a feeling of déjà vu. The last time I was in Washington was also for an AALL Conference 10 years ago. That year, a shadow fell over the conference when the news broke that John F. Kennedy's plane had gone down en route to Martha's Vineyard. This time, I thought, the economy was casting the shadow. I expected the conference to be subdued and sparsely attended. Fortunately, I was wrong. The conference was well-attended and the mood generally positive. I arrived late to the session "Here today, Gone Tomorrow? The Future of Print Periodicals in Law Libraries" to find it was standing room only. I was also surprised to see how well LLAGNY was represented. Prior to the conference, no one I talked to was going. But at the Joint Reception of AAUNY/NJLLA/LLAGNY, there were many LLAGNY members I knew and a few I met for the first time. The Vice President, Patricia Barbone, and I both attended the Chapter Leadership Training and I left the conference feeling prepared for and enthusiastic about the coming year.

Shortly after returning from the conference, an unfortunately worded email ad released by West caused an uproar among legal librarians. Mary Beth Hernandez of Thomson Reuters immediately sent out an explanation and apology.

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But it was a large enough public relations misstep that the Board felt a formal response was called for. A letter was sent to Peter Warwick, President and Chief Executive Officer of Thomson Reuters Legal on September 4, 2009 registering our displeasure. The letter was not released to the listserv or posted on the website because the Board had no interest in continuing the controversy. West has always been a strong supporter of LLAGNY and the legal library community in general.

During the past twelve months, many of our members have been displaced by firm closures and layoffs. The Board realizes that many members depend on corporate support to pay for professional association membership fees. To help ease the financial burden that some displaced members may be experiencing, the Board is offering a one time benefit to waive the membership fee and extend membership until June 2010. Displaced members who have not already renewed their LLAGNY membership can find the Waiver Fee Form on the LLAGNY website under the Membership.

LLAGNY could not function without the volunteerism and talents of its members. The association is fortunate to have a core group of members that serve year after year. This year several members are taking on leadership roles for the first time. I would like to welcome the following new Committee Chairs: Anna Blaine, Advertising; Meg Butler, Law Lines; Karen Telford, Public Relations; Sally Munson, Membership; and Elizabeth Nicholson and Kerri Spennicchia, Student Relations. But more volunteers are needed for the committees to function efficiently. Please consider giving your time to your association. Serving on a committee is an excellent way to advance your career by becoming a presence within the larger legal community.





PROFILES: 2009 GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS David Dames, Hofstra University School of Law

LLAGNY awarded \$4,500 for three scholarships and one grant at the Annual Meeting & Dinner in June, with donations coming from from LexisNexis, Wolters Kluwer, Westlaw Business, and William S. Hein & Co. This year's award recipients are all starting out in different parts of the law library world. One is an academic librarian, another works at a large law firm, another is working for the copyright office at a university, and one recipient works for the in-house counsel of a corporation. Here's what they had to say about their early employment experiences and the AALL Annual Meeting.

Lindsay Weisbart, Queens College Graduate Program of Library and Information Sciences

Award: Type II Scholarship (awarded to a library school student who has already demonstrated a strong commitment to law librarianship)

Q: Are you currently working in a library?

A: Yes

Q: Where?

A: I work in the Legal Library at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. I handle the interlibrary loans.

Q: How do you like it? How does working in a library compare to what you expected?

A: I love it. I never expected to work in a law library (my undergraduate studies

were in history and Italian literature, so I always assumed I would find myself in an academic setting). However, the librarians at Skadden have made my time here both enjoyable and rewarding, and I am now considering a career in Law Librarianship.

Anna Blaine, Reference Librarian at New York Law School

Award: Travel grant to attend the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Washington, D.C.

"Were it not for the travel grant awarded by LLAGNY, my attendance at the annual meeting would have been unlikely. As this was my first meeting, I found the entire experience quite exciting and motivating. Being around so many colleagues at one time provided a sense of inclusion and not only did I make many new contacts but I was surprised at how many people I encountered that I already knew."

Michelle Whitehead, Rutgers Award: Type I Scholarship (awarded to a newer library school student)

Q: Are you currently working in a library?

A: I currently work in the in-house legal department of a corporation.

Q: How do you like it? How does working in a library compare to what you expected?

A: I enjoy my job very much. Although I do not work in a traditional library setting, I get the chance to perform a lot of legal



research and record keeping for the company.

Melissa Brown, Pratt Institute Award: Type I Scholarship

Q: Are you currently working in a library?

A: Currently I'm working part-time for the Copyright Advisory Office of the Columbia University Libraries. (During the spring/summer, I also interned in the archives department of the ACLU.)

Q: How do you like it? How does working in a library compare to what you expected?

A: Working in the Copyright Advisory Office has been really interesting in terms of learning about the various aspects of copyright law that libraries and universities are called upon to understand and deal with. Before starting at Pratt, I was pretty unfamiliar with how significantly copyright issues affect libraries, so in that sense coming to work at the CAO was unexpected!

Q: What type of job are you hoping to get after graduation (if you know)?

A: I'd definitely like to continue being in the legal field, because it's something I enjoy and because it's an additional area of knowledge that I can contribute to a library career. I'd like to work either in an academic law library, or in an academic or public library position focusing on copyright or other library-law issues.



LAW LINES EDITORIAL STAFF Margaret Butler, Contents Editor Brian Craig, Copy Editor Vija Doks, Cartoonist Marijah Sroczynski & Carolyn Tannen, Production Editors

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60 SITES ABRIDGED – 5 SITES PER NEWSLETTER Gayle Lynn-Nelson, LexisNexis

Hello and welcome to our first edition of "60 Sites Abridged." Some of you may have attended the Special Libraries Association Conference this year and listened to John DiGilio and I expound on 60 sites, both cool and educational. What I will recreate in this recurring column is 5 sites per newsletter from the large list of 60. Some may be useful for research and some might just give you a chuckle.

Enjoy!

This month we will focus on two law-related blogs and three fun sites.

Blogs

Common Scold –

http://commonscold.typepad.com/

This is the blog of Law Technology News Editor Monica Bay. The Common Scold is named after a cause of action that originated in Pilgrim days, when meddlesome, argumentative, opinionated women who displeased the Puritan elders were punished by a brisk dunk in the local pond. Believe it or not, the tort lasted until 1972. Monica says the thought of those feisty women, not afraid of a little cold water, has always cheered her up and inspired her. Monica's blog certainly is fiesty just like those women, with updates on legal technology news, and of course my favorite, the New York Yankees!

The Mac Lawyer – <u>http://themaclawyer.com/</u> Ben Stevens blog is devoted solely to using Macs in the practice of law. This blog focuses on two areas: 1) how Ben Stevens planned and implemented the move and 2) how he is using Mac software in his practice. Plus whatever else he might find interesting. This helpful resource is free, and joining is easy.

Fun sites

23andme - https://www.23andme.com/

I love the pun, since we all have 23 pairs of chromosomes. You can discover your genome through this new web service. Just supply a saliva sample and a check for \$399 to decode your DNA and unlock your distant family ancestry. Here is how it works, in four easy steps (not that I have done this):

1. Order a kit from their online store.

2. Claim your kit, spit into the tube, and send it to the lab.

3. Their CLIA-certified lab analyzes your DNA in 6-8 weeks.

4. Log in and start exploring your genome.

BreakupEmail – <u>http://breakupemail.com/</u>

The Avatar is pretty cool on this site. She even has red-hair! So you are ready to end your relationship but don't quite have the words? Just sign up at the site and answer a few questions. BreakupEmail does the rest, sending an e-mail to your soon to be former significant other that will leave no question that the relationship is over. BreakupEmail is a website for those who are lazy, po'd or evil enough to break up via e-mail. I cannot help but think of the *Sex and the City* episode when Burger broke up with Carey on a post-it!

The service is free, and the break up email is not sent directly from the site.

Hulu – <u>http://www.hulu.com/</u>

This is a free, on-demand Internet TV service from NBC and FOX which is meant to compete with YouTube when it comes to TV shows. It has really grown over the last couple of years and now includes movies as well as TV shows. The movies are not very current and most I've never heard of, but that might not be saying much! You can pick from popular episodes, in the case of TV, or popular clips. There are also featured videos. The same is true for the movie side of it: popular movies, documentaries, trailers, and the option to browse.



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Are you on a first name basis with the librarian?

If so, chances are you're spending too much time at the library. What you need is fast, reliable research you can access right in your office. And all it takes is West[®].

So read the e-mail sent by West, ostensibly to attorneys, on August 24. Anne Ellis, Senior Director of Librarian Relations for West, responded later that day, assuring anxious information professionals that the e-mail "does not reflect in any way how West feels about and values librarians."

That the e-mail did not reflect the feelings of Anne Ellis is beyond doubt. She wasn't even aware of the ad campaign until a San Francisco librarian posted the e-mail to the LAW-LIB listserv. However, I suspect that it does reflect the views of sales teams in parent companies like Thomson Reuters and Reed Elsevier. It certainly mirrors the sales strategies of some smaller vendors which circumvent library managers altogether and aggressively pursue individual attorneys, paralegals, and managing clerks.

Despite Ms. Ellis's protestations, the damage is done: the ad may well have been read by attorneys in our firms, perhaps even those faced with deciding who stays and who goes in a continually down market.

The sales strategies of vendors, however, merely reflect what has been happening ever since products began to be placed on a web platform and thus more accessible on the desktops of attorneys and paralegals. These technological advances are slowly killing the model of the busy reference desk, leaving the reference librarian a bit like the Maytag repairman waiting for the phone to ring. And unless we reference librarians make a muscular effort to rebrand ourselves and reposition our skills in the firms we work for, we may not be around ten years from now.

Web 2.0 technology affords law firm reference librarians a number of opportunities to leverage their skills in new ways, to anticipate information needs and push out information before anyone even makes a request for it.

We can use blogs, for example, as an intraday current awareness tool, tailored to a practice group or an individual transaction, case, or topic. In a recent webinar on blogs presented by Nina Platt (who blogs as The Strategic Librarian), Cindy Chick of Latham and Watkins

¹ Brian P. Craig is the Reference Librarian in the New York office of Mayer Brown LLP, and has been a librarian for over twelve years. The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of *LawLines* or of LLAGNY. He can be reached at <u>bpcraig@mayerbrown.com</u>.



offered several examples of how librarian-authored blogs can support firm work². One such blog offers the latest on the UK Companies Act of 2006, another a case digest on refugee law.

Chick also discussed the use of SharePoint to create "knowledgebase" blogs that can serve as clearinghouses for both primary material and internal analytical content. She offered as an example a "survival kit" devoted to the listing requirements of the Hong Kong stock exchange. Wiki technology could also be used for the same end.

If such projects are not possible or feasible in a firm, reference librarians can take the initiative and monitor RSS feeds and deliver breaking stories by e-mail to practice groups, client teams, or individual attorneys. For example, I monitor RSS feeds for news relating to copyright issues and worldwide governmental responses to the economic crisis. I even monitor *Above the Law* for news on attorney bonuses and compensation plans, sending links to my firm's legal personnel department. Ironically, these brief communications use Web 1.0 technology – e-mail – in a way that appeals to a consciousness increasingly shaped by Web 2.0. What is a very brief e-mail with a link to a breaking story but a "tweet" in a different package?

I originally intended simply to offer some nuts-and-bolts examples of how blogs and wikis can help law firm reference librarians create new opportunities to leverage their expertise in retrieving, analyzing, and synthesizing information to support the practice of law. The recent West advertisement, however, compels me to offer more of a jeremiad. Reference and research librarians need to avail themselves of whatever technology or marketing strategy it takes to remind law firm management of the important contributions they make. Web 2.0 is but one tool for the redefinition of the profession. We also need to be visible in training attorneys and paralegals in the use not only of Lexis and Westlaw, but of web search engines and of the many web-based products that have emerged over the last decade. We can also consider spending a few hours each week away from the reference desk and among attorneys and paralegals. Even the simple act of delivering a book or a printout in person can remind people who may decide our fate that we exist. By working closely with practice groups and marketing departments and making them see the value of our skills, we may be able to land on our feet in the event of the elimination of research and reference positions from law firm libraries.

The deep recession has hurt the position of law firm research and reference librarians grievously. But if we do not respond quickly to the implications of this advertisement from West, the profession of reference or research librarian may very well cease to exist in law firms. I hope I have offered some good suggestions for a discussion we must have as an organization.

² *Imagining Web 2.0 in Your Organization: Thinking Inside the Blog*, webinar presented May 7, 2009. Platt and Chick presented the sequel, *Imagining Web 2.0 in Your Organization: The Wonderful World of Wikis* on May 21, 2009. Nina Platt blogs at <u>http://strategiclibrarian.com</u>, and Cindy Chick blogs at <u>http://www.lawlibtech.com</u>.



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-ABRAHAM LINCOLN

BNA. Now more than ever.

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BNA's Corporate Accountability Report launched SARBANED-OXLEY ACT
BNA's Employment Discrimination Report launched CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991
BNA's Toxics Law Reporter launched SUPERFUND AMENDMENT & REAUTHORIZATION ACT
BNA's Pension & Benefits Reporter launched EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT
BNA's Occupational Safety & Health Reporter launched OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT
BNA's Environment Reporter launched AMENDMENTS TO THE CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1963
BNA's Labor Relations Reporter launched NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS (OR WAGNER) ACT

Essential Information, Expert Analysis.



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A LLAGNY MEMBER REPORTS ON CHINA Rachael H. Moller, Proskauer Rose LLP

In July 2007 at the AALL conference in New Orleans I attended the FCIL-SIS (Foreign Comparative and International Law Special Interest Section) presentation "Executive Committee Presents: A Panel on Chinese Government and Legal Information". During the question-and-answer period after the presentation, a librarian asked if there was an organization similar to AALL in China. Yu Liying, a librarian at Tsinghua University Law School, stood up and spoke about efforts to form such an organization. In addition to any difficulties that we might have in the U.S., all associations in China have to be under a government ministry. She had been looking for official standing to form such an association. She was gracious and happy to speak about her efforts even when put on the spot in a language foreign to her. I knew that I was going to Beijing the next month, so I gathered up my courage and asked for her card to call on her while I was there. Luckily, she agreed.

My trip to China was a once in a lifetime experience. My brother-in-law, Tevia, married a Chinese national, Yuhong He, and we went to China for the wedding. The wedding took place in Wafangdian, a "small" town of 300,000+ outside of Dalian, the fastest growing city in China. We first flew through Beijing into Dalian at night and took a cab to Wafangdian, over an hour away. Our new family housed us and took care of us. We represented Tevia's family at the wedding and received the (symbolic) dowry.

Unlike Beijing, Wafangdian must not get many outsiders. I stopped traffic by walking down the street, me! People had no hesitation about gawking at strangers. While walking down the street with Tevia and my husband David, I caught the eye of a man on a moped. Next thing I knew I heard the screeching of brakes behind me. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Tevia also had a run in with the curiosity of the locals, literally. He went running beside a drainage ditch and was followed back to Yuhong's parents' apartment. Three or four men burst through the door saying that they were looking for foreigners who robbed a bank. They described the foreigners as small and dark skinned. As Tevia is over six feet and pale to pasty by Chinese standards, Yuhong's mother was able to convince them to leave. Tevia wanted to call the police: what right did they have to invade our hosts' privacy? Isn't it a crime to break in to someone's home? But no, no, our hosts said, the matter was resolved peacefully, the men went away, there was no need. This was quite a reminder that the law is different in China and held in a different regard.

My new sister-in-law, Yuhong, went to Tsinghua University in Beijing for her undergraduate degree. When we flew back to Beijing, Yuhong took all of us to the campus and we met with her former advisor. The advisor mentioned that Tsinghua is the top university in China because it receives the top students, but that currently they have some problems retaining the top professors and staff. It was obvious from the campus that the government has invested in Tsinghua University.

When I called on Yu Liying at the Tsinghua University Law Library, she was most hospitable. She took me on a full tour of the library. She explained that the primary purpose of the library was the research and study needs of the faculty and students. The library was five floors. Many of the stacks were empty and she explained that they hoped and were working to grow the collection. Most of the collection was in print. I did see students (at study in the dog days of August in Beijing, which is dedication let me tell you) using a laptop to compose something but referring to books. The law school was fairly new to Tsinghua, four to five years old at



that point, that was why they had so much space and were so focused on growing. Yu Liying did not express much interest in computerized legal research. She was cognizant of the discrepancy between the Tsinghua University law library and the more established Peking University law library. She specifically mentioned overtaking Peking University's standing as part of library's and the school's long term goals. Given the support of the government and the cream of the student crop that Tsinghua University seems to enjoy, this seems realistic.

Richard Leiter's article in AALL's April 2009 Spectrum, "A Close Encounter", takes a look at the Peking University law library. He also gives a very good review of how Chinese law is becoming available on the internet and the difficulties involved in making it so. He mentions several points that were brought up in that 2007 FCIL-SIS discussion that first interested me. Most fascinating is that although China is an ancient land, The People's Republic of China is a relatively new nation, with about 30 years of established law, so there is not the depth of law that the US has. Additionally, there are over 2,000 ministries in China, creating a vast body of disconnected regulations. Leiter does an excellent job of explicating the complexities involved and reviewing a major Chinese online resource, LawInfoChina.com, which has Chinese and English versions.

It has been two years since my visit. I saw the CCTV complex while it was under construction, and it has since burned down. Going to China gave me a new perspective on many things. Among other things, it changed my view of how the law relates to people, government, and education. It is quite different in China. It seems that ordinary citizens do not call on the law for protection. The study of law is an academic exercise designed to affirm the authority of the Chinese government. Thus public access to the academic law library was not a consideration and there was not a demand for it.



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Minutes of the LLAGNY Board Meeting August 31, 2009 Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP

In attendance: Pauline Webster Jeff Cohan Jill Gray Karen Provost Rebecca Newton Patricia Barbone Caren Biberman Emily Moog Jeff Buckley

The meeting convened at approximately 6:00 pm.

1. Leadership Training

Jeff Cohan led a leadership training session with the newly appointed committee chairs. The board liaisons and committee chairs discussed future proceedings.

2. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report for the fiscal year July 1, 2008 to June 20, 2009 was presented by Pauline Webster. After review it was decided that the report will be revised to include income from the Union list and insurance expenses for the year, after which time the revised report will again be presented to the board.

3. Vote regarding motion by Jeff Cohan

It is moved 1) that LLAGNY request our local h representatives to sponsor federal legislation r prohibiting the practice of bringing guns to all political meetings involving federal officials and the public, or within a five mile radius thereof, and 2) f that LLAGNY offer its support to any other H scheduled for November 18 (Barbone). Seconded (Buckley).

chapters, AALL, or any other organizations who wish to widen this legislative initiative.

Comments were heard by Emily Moog. A motion to table was made (Buckley). Seconded (Barbone).

4. New Business

Westlaw Controversy

Comments were heard by Caren Biberman regarding the recent Westlaw advertisement concerning librarians and the subsequent controversy. Caren felt the apology issued by Anne Ellis was insufficient and LLAGNY should make a statement to West.

Motion that LLAGNY deliver a letter to West addressing LLAGNY's negative opinion of the recent Westlaw advertisement and request that West fund a promotional program to promote librarianship. Letter to be approved by e-mail by consensus (Cohan). Seconded (Biberman).

Education Program

Discussion of the AALL Hot Topic Program presented by Caren Biberman. This program was offered and well received at AALL in Washington, D.C. It was suggested that LLAGNY re-run the program for LLAGNY members. Discussion was held regarding invitations to organizations to cohost as well as possible sponsorship and location matters.

Motion to approve that the organization move forward with an education program entitled "New Economic Realities in New York" and tentatively).



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Fall Soiree

Karen Provost presented possible locations and menus for the Fall Soiree.

Motion to approve Tuesday, October 20, 2009 and the midtown Heartland Brewery as the date and location for the 2009 Fall Soiree (Moog). Seconded (Biberman).

Scholarship Donation in Memory of Frederick S. Baum

Motion to table discussion until the next meeting (Barbone). Seconded (Moog).

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Newton, LLAGNY secretary



If you have ideas for Law Lines, please contact lawlinesny@gmail.com.





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DIFFERENCES THAT MATTER

Summer 2009



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