

LLNE News

Newsletter of the Law Librarians of New England
Volume 25, Number 3, 2005

The Blawgs of New England and Beyond

By Susan Vaughn
Reference Librarian Suffolk Law Library

Previously we introduced you to the LLNE Blog. We hope that you are finding this blawg helpful to keep up with member news and other items of interest during the dry spells between issues of the LLNE News.

If you are scratching your head at the term Blawg, it is just a term coined to describe a legal blog and a blog is just a website that is typified by frequent posts, usually in chronological order, often times containing links to items of interest found on the web. For example, on October 24th on the LLNE Blog, we posted information about the upcoming SNELLA fall meeting with links to the SNELLA website and program registration.

If you want to expand your blawg consumption beyond the LLNE blog, there are lots of great local ones popping up all the time. The following is a list of some that have caught our eye recently, focused mainly on blawgs in the New England area with a couple of more resources from further afield. If you know of any other great blawgs, please email me or, better yet, post it for general consumption on the LLNE Blog. You can post by going to www.blogger.com. The username is: llneuser; and the password is: llnepass.

New England Blawgs

Law School Blogs

Lillian Goldman Law Library – Yale Law School

Yale Law Library's current announcement page contains information about library hours, recent acquisitions, and some interesting pointers, like to the Saddam Hussein Trial Blog (if you are interested).

New England Law Library Reference Blog

This one has research tips, such as how to customize on Westlaw using tabs, recommended readings, and links to other legal blogs of interest.

Pierce Law IP News Blog

Interesting multi-author blog devoted to news on intellectual property, commerce, and technology.

Suffolk Law Library Blog

This blog has entries on the library holiday hours, library-sponsored classes, new acquisitions, research tips, and legal news.

Vermont Law Library

Vermont is using a blog-type interface on its home page. Check out the extensive archives for a taste of what this site has to offer.

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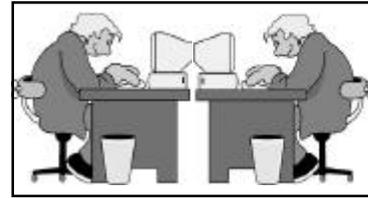
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CO-EDITORS' NOTE

Hello Friends,

Our long lingering summer and fall here in New England appears to be finally drawing to a close with the prediction of a snow/rain mix on Thanksgiving and we are entering the home stretch of a very busy, productive and exciting year. As Michelle mentioned in her President's Message, LLNE has received an award for the new blog and we've started thinking about all the different ways that LLNE now has to communicate, including the website, the quarterly issues of the Newsletter linked as pdf files to the website, the listserv and the new blog.

Much of the time-sensitive information about events is now published in one of the more easily updated formats, the website, listserv or blog. It continues to be difficult to rally writers to contribute content to the quarterly newsletter, and the need to edit and format submitted content leads to significant lags in publication. [See box on page 6.] We'd like to hear what you think about how LLNE communicates in each of these formats, with an eye toward becoming more modern, streamlined and efficient. The Executive Board will discuss the question, "what is the ideal content of each of the methods of communication that LLNE uses?" at the Spring Meeting and we'd love to hear what *you* think!

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President's Message

As we settle down into the long winter months here in New England, I feel warmed by thoughts of LLNE—fond memories of the past, as well as hopeful contemplations of the future. Lately, in nearly every setting, I see people reflecting on the past and adapting to the inevitable changes in our profession and society. In the upcoming year, I look forward to learning from our rich organizational history, thinking about how we can carry on our substantive traditions as we embrace the excitement (and uncertainty) of the future.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our Fall Meeting at the Bristol Harbor Inn in Bristol, Rhode Island. *Law, Nature and Gifts from the Sea* proved to be a lively and engaging program, itself an interesting journey with reflections on the past and contemplations of the future. Thank you to Roger Williams University School of Law Library for a fabulous program. Not only was the program itself great, but the weather that day was perfect!

In addition to the installation of new officers in July, the Executive Board has undergone some other changes. I wish to thank committee chairs who have left the Board for their outstanding service and welcome those who recently joined. Our Government Relations chair, Ed Hart (formerly of New England School of Law) recently relocated to the University of Florida. Christine Hepler (University of Maine School of Law) is our new chair. Christine is looking for representatives from every state, so please contact her or myself if you are interested in serving on the committee. During these times, it is particularly important that we be aware of both state and federal legislation impacting the information profession. The Board also bids adieu to our Service Committee co-chairs Pat Newcombe and Barbara West (both of Western New England School of Law). I recently appointed Jennifer Kessler (Goodwin Procter) and Andrea Rasmussen (Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge) as the new co-chairs. Please contact them if you are interested in participating in Service Committee events or have project ideas.

During the recent Fall Executive Board meeting, the Board reviewed goals and activities for the upcoming months. One very important item on the agenda is a celebration of our history! The year 2006 will be a big year for New England area law librarians as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of LLNE, as well as the AALL Centennial. Archives/History Chair Michael Hughes has been going through our archival materials in order to organize them and cull out materials for displays and promotions as we reminisce about our LLNE history. We will be on the lookout for materials to fill in some of our gaps, so be ready for some spring (or winter)

cleaning! If you have any ideas about how we can celebrate our anniversary, please contact Michael. We will also soon be unveiling our new LLNE logo designed by a local graphic artist. We think that it captures the essence of LLNE, combining the historical tradition of the organization with the modern changes impacting law librarianship.

Past-President and Communications Committee Chair Raquel Ortiz (Boston University School of Law Library) has reported that our LLNE blog was awarded a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation by AALL. Congratulations to newsletter editors Susan Vaughn and Sharon Persons for their hard work on the project! We would like to encourage LLNE members to use the blog for sharing announcements, research tips, etc. Please contact Sharon or Susan for the username and password for posting to the blog. If you are interested in becoming a regular contributor, please send a message to us for an invitation. We hope that members will take advantage of the blog to communicate things in a timely fashion or to reach a broader audience beyond strictly LLNE members as the blog is open to the public. With the listserv, the website and the blog, there are many ways for us to communicate with one another and the world at large.

On a separate, yet somewhat related note of change, congratulations to Raquel who has been selected as AALLnet Coordinator for AALL. I know that she is anxious to hear your thoughts about what you would like to see on AALLnet (as well as the LLNE website), so make sure that you share your thoughts with her.

In looking to the future of our education programming, LLNE Education Director Elaine Apostola recently participated in the AALL Education Summit where chapter and SIS representatives met to discuss how AALL could facilitate the continuing education of its members beyond the Annual Meeting. A report from the event is available on AALLnet. Hopefully, LLNE can also learn from the summit and look for ways in which we can collaborate with others and use technology to enhance the educational opportunities for our members.

In Membership Development news, are you a new LLNE member who would like the benefit of learning from a more experienced member librarian? Are you a longstanding LLNE member who would be interested in fostering a relationship with a person newer to the profession? LLNE is interested in developing a mentoring program. If you are interested in participating, please contact Membership Development Committee Chair Cathy Breen.

So onward to what will hopefully be an exciting year of looking forward and backward for LLNE. We look forward to our Spring Meeting, April 21st, hosted by the University of Connecticut School of Law Library in Hartford. Hope to see many of you there!

Michelle Pearse



High Tech Hints

By Susan Vaughn

I was lucky enough to attend an SLA talk given by Hope Tillman, Director of Libraries, Babson College, on November 3rd. The topic was Great Gadgets in Libraries: Keeping up with Current Technology. For all you techies (or aspiring techies), I am just going to give a quick synopsis of some of the gadgets and library applications that she mentioned, which I found particularly intriguing. For those of you interested in more, Hope's presentation can be found in pdf or Powerpoint formats.

Blackboard Backpack

For those academic institutions using Blackboard, there is a new product called Blackboard Backpack. Backpack allows students and professors to access blackboard materials and work with the materials offline, operating like a vpn system. For more on Blackboard Backpack, see its website.

Pocket Scanners (Reading Pen)

This is a pen shaped device that can scan, store, and send information. It can read notes aloud, can beam information to other devices, and also has a dictionary. Wouldn't this be great for an ESL student or maybe a library user with a visual impairment? A sample of this device can be found at its website.

MP3 Players/Podcasting

Seems like everywhere you look, even (especially) in the library, everyone has one, be it the oh-so-trendy iPod, River, Zen, Samsung, or Sony. So how are libraries reaching out to users of this technology? Hope gave some great examples. Most of you have probably heard of the Duke iPod project but have you seen the latest list of classes using this technology and did you know that Duke Library is expanding its digital collections in order to support this program? Cool, huh?

Handheld/Smart Phone Applications

At Suffolk we are lucky enough to have a III catalog and a great systems librarian, Sarah Boling, so we were early adopters of a pda accessible version of our catalog. Hope gave us pointers to several other cool applications but here are a couple you might want to check out: NYU Libraries PDA accessible resource page and Legal Content at New York Law School.

I think you can gauge how successful a presentation is by how many ideas you leave with. By this standard Great Gadgets was a home run. I love to see what smart, innovative librarians are doing and find it challenging. I hope you do too.

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Blawgs, Continued from page 1

Law Student Blogs

American Constitution Society of New England School of Law

This blog contains, “news, information and discussion of interest to the ACS of NESL, other ACS members, and to anyone with a progressive vision of the Constitution, the law and the courts.”

New England School of Law OUTLaws

“News and information of interest for the New England School of Law OUTLaws, and other members and supporters of the GLBT law school community at large.”

Court Blogs

Massachusetts Law Blog

The Massachusetts Trial Court Libraries has changed the format of the “what’s new” page to a blog, to allow incorporation of more legal and library news as well as basic information about website updates. Definitely bookmark this page or add it to your RSS Reader.

Firm or Attorney Blogs

The Connecticut Law Blog

Site has great pointers to legal happenings in Connecticut.

Law Links | Health Links

Connecting legal, health, and marketing resources with a New England focus. I am not sure who is authoring this blog but it has some good pointers to interesting local legal news.

New Hampshire Law Blog

This is a blog by attorneys at Burke & Eisner Personal Attorneys, mostly focused on issues of personal injury law.

Robert Ambrogi’s Lawsites

Robert J. Ambrogi is a Massachusetts lawyer, writer and media consultant. He is author of the book, *The Essential Guide to the Best (and Worst) Legal Sites on the Web* and his blog is a must read.

AALL Chapter/SIS Blogs

CS-SIS Blawgs Committee

Blawg of the committee of the [Computing Services Special Interest Section](#) of the [American Association of Law Libraries](#).

LLMA Weblog

The weblog of the Law Library Association of Maryland.

Technical Services SIS

Blog of the Technical Services SIS.

Lists of Legal Blogs

Law Library Blog List

Moritz List of Legal Blogs

Rutgers List of Legal Blogs

Virtual Chase List of RSS News Feeds for Law



Do you enjoy getting your news in a timely manner? The co-editors of the LLNE News are considering delivering more content via the Blog and reducing the number of issues a year that the LLNE News is posted electronically. We are happy to entertain thoughts, ideas, or rants at s.persons@neu.edu or svaughn@suffolk.edu; or post your ideas or comments to the LLNE Blog. You can post by going to www.blogger.com. The username is: llneuser; and the password is : llnepass.

Dear
Miss
Nomer



Dear Miss Nomer:

My colleagues in technical services need you to settle an argument that we're having. I will outline our dilemma in a nutshell. During the cataloging process, we assign call numbers to the materials. As you know, a Call Number refers to the entire number typed on a label on a book and found in the catalog record.

*Each book is arranged on a shelf in the order of its call number, which may include the location, class number, Cutter number(s), year, volume, and copy number. For example: **LAW KF 245 A45 2003 c.8.** And herein is the crux of the problem.*

Some of my colleagues believe that the copy abbreviation should be "c", some contend that it should be "cop", and some (gasp) insist that the "copy" be spelled out. Please settle it once and for all by telling it like it is.

Which Which is Which in Catalogia.

Dear 3WC,

Well, well, well, let me respond in the immortal words of William Shatner: "You know, before I answer any more questions

there's something I wanted to say. Having received all your letters over the years, and I've spoken to many of you, and some of you have traveled... y'know... hundreds of miles to be here, I'd just like to say... GET ALIFE, will you people?" Miss Nomer conjectures that you have also consulted with those nitpicking grammarians who ask about placement of commas and quotation marks.

Miss Nomer

Dear Miss Nomer:

HELP! I am at my wits end. My assistant colleague, and I use the term loosely, will not leave me alone for one minute. He is always after me to ask me about every single detail of his job and how he should do it. This jellyfish will not stand on his own two feet without stepping on mine. What should I do? I have tried everything that I can think of up to now.

Witless in Wichita

Law Library Director Noel Garner

Dear Lone Ranger, if I may call you that, are you having trouble with your Tonto? Have you ever walked in his shoes? Have you tried traveling out of the building as much as possible to help build his confidence? Have you taken all your vacation time? Miss Nomer has many other questions since you did not provide enough fodder about your interactions with him. For instance, Miss Nomer wonders if he lost his spine in dealing with a thorny issue when you were otherwise engaged and not available for guidance. He may be afraid to get back on the horse after a particularly unfortunate event. All that said, what your sidekick may need is a kick in the side from you. And if he keeps stepping on your toes, make certain that he has plenty of shoe polish to keep polishing up to you when he tails along for the ride.

Miss Nomer

LLNE Fall 2005 Meeting: Law, Nature & Gifts from the Sea

*by Nan Balliot, Reader Services Librarian
Roger Williams University School of Law Library*

“Law, Nature & Gifts from the Sea” was the theme of the Law Librarians of New England Fall 2005 Meeting hosted by the staff of the Roger Williams University School of Law Library. The location of the meeting was the Bristol Harbor Inn in Bristol, Rhode Island. After the meeting, librarians toured the historic mansion Linden Place and the Law Library. The tour of Linden Place was generously sponsored by William S. Hein & Co., Inc. The exhibitors included ABC-CLIO; BNA, Inc.; LexisNexis; Social Law Library; Thomson/West; and William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

Attendees enjoyed a lively, informative panel discussion of the various issues involved in siting LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) receiving terminals in New England, more specifically the LNG receiving terminal proposed by Weaver’s Cove Energy for Fall River, Massachusetts. Members of the panel were Gordon Shearer, Christopher D’Ovidio, and Paul Roberti. Mr. Shearer is President and CEO of Hess LNG and CEO of Weaver’s Cove Energy. Mr. D’Ovidio is staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation’s Rhode Island Advocacy Center and an adjunct professor at the law school. Mr. Roberti is a Rhode Island Assistant Attorney General. He is the Public Utilities Regulatory Unit Chief. The panel discussion was moderated by Gail Winson, Director of the Law Library and Associate Professor of Law.

A summary of the panelists’ remarks follows.

Mr. Shearer began his presentation by showing a chart illustrating global natural gas demand versus reserves for 2004. The chart indicated that North America has the highest percentage of demand and the lowest percentage of reserves and therefore needs to import natural gas. He mentioned that there is a consensus among various industry and government entities on the need for LNG. However, there is no consensus on siting LNG terminals. According to Mr. Shearer, there has been demonization and scaremongering of LNG despite the industry’s superb safety record during the past forty years. He remarked that there are no perfect sites and that the LNG terminals will go where the market needs them. He pointed out that offshore siting may not be the solution due to costs, environment, and hurricanes (noting the devastating effects of this year’s hurricanes Katrina and Rita). He displayed a chart showing the location of existing and proposed North American LNG terminals, most of which are located on the California coast, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic coast.

Next, Mr. Shearer discussed some regulations pertaining to LNG siting. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for siting onshore terminals while the U.S. Coast Guard/Maritime Administration controls offshore terminals under the provisions of the Deep Water Port Act. Various federal and state agencies also have some role in LNG terminal siting. States retain

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), Clean Air Act (CAA) and Clean Water Act (CWA) oversight. Mr. Shearer talked about the LNG provisions of the Energy Act of 2005 which include the following: the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency and can set a timetable for all agency actions; states retain CZMA, CAA, and CWA oversight; there is a mandatory pre-filing process that is integrated with the United States Coast Guard; there is a common record for agencies and appeals; CZMA appeals will be streamlined; all appeals are to the D.C. Circuit with expedited treatment; and states have safety inspection rights.

Mr. Shearer went on to speak about various safety regulations. There are regulations creating exclusion zones since the proximity of LNG terminals raises public safety concerns. The Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration promulgates safety and security regulations. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission performs pre- and post-certificate reviews of LNG terminals with biennial reviews continuing for the life of the terminal. The Department of Transportation retains an inspection role. The United States Coast Guard enforces offshore ship safety and security.

Finally, Mr. Shearer summarized the critical role of LNG in the New England market. Foreign LNG shipments supplement dwindling domestic supplies to meet the region’s growing demand. LNG delivered directly to the region reduces the need for costly new pipeline capacity. LNG is the most cost-effective way to increase available storage in the region. New England has a large network of LNG peaking plants, accounting for 40% of peak day supply.

See more details about Weaver’s Cove Energy proposed LNG receiving terminal for Fall River.

Mr. D’Ovidio articulated the Conservation Law Foundation’s (CLF) position on siting LNG terminals. CLF is not opposed to natural gas as an energy source as it is less harmful to the environment than burning fossil fuels. CLF maintains that there is need for at least one or two more LNG receiving terminals in the Northeast. The current situation is that there are several proposals for LNG receiving terminals to be sited in New England and in Eastern Canada. This situation has resulted in discord among residents of those communities as they debate the benefits and disadvantages of having an LNG receiving terminal sited in their community. The Conservation Law Foundation advocates that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission along with federal, state and local policy makers conduct a strategic regional alternatives analysis as a solution to the first-come, first-serve basis of granting permits to energy companies to build an LNG receiving terminal. Mr. D’Ovidio commented on the Weaver’s Cove Energy proposed LNG receiving terminal. He said that

there should have been a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (i.e. strategic regional alternative analysis); that there was inadequate alternatives analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act; that there was no consideration of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and other environmental impacts; and that there was no showing that the proposal is in the public's best interest. See more information about the Conservation Law Foundation's position on the siting of LNG receiving terminals in New England.

Mr. Roberti explained that the Rhode Island Department of the Attorney General opposes KeySpan's proposed LNG expansion in Providence and the Weaver's Cove Energy LNG siting in Fall River. He said that the Department of the Attorney General is a representative of the State's interest and that LNG expansion in Providence and LNG siting in Fall River are not in the best interest of Rhode Island citizens. He described the impact of federal preemption as it relates to the siting of LNG terminals. He spoke on the limits of federal preemption as it relates to the sovereign rights of the State.

Next, Mr. Roberti talked about the threat to the public safety and the inability of entities to prevent a deliberate attack on LNG tankers or terminals, noting that the Naval War College would be an attractive target for terrorists in the post 9/11 world. He mentioned the lack of capability of federal and state responders to handle the consequences of an LNG catastrophe. He displayed various maps showing areas and entities (schools, hospitals) that would be affected by an explosion of an LNG tanker as it navigated up Narragansett Bay. He also showed photos of a recent study by the Sandia National Laboratory which depict the effects of an LNG explosion. He emphasized the negative impact that LNG terminals and vessels navigating the Narragansett Bay would have on the state's marine ecosystem and on the economic development of its coastline.

Last, Mr. Roberti pointed out that the states' political leaders are ultimately responsible for the energy needs of their citizens. He argued that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has no interest in vigilantly protecting the interests of citizens, only the interests of energy companies focused on profits.

In addition to the LNG panel discussion, the attendees enjoyed two terrific presentations which were in keeping with the theme of the meeting. A summary of Professor Jane Rindsberg's presentation and Ms. Kristen Fletcher's presentation follows.

“Sunken Treasure: the S.S. *Central America* - From the Bottom of the Ocean to the Highest Court in the Land” was the title of the presentation by Jane Rindsberg, Professor of Legal Writing at Roger Williams University School of Law. Professor Rindsberg gave a dramatic account of the sinking of the *S.S. Central America* on September 12, 1857. The side-wheel steamship *S.S. Central America* was laden with California Gold Rush gold in addition to the personal wealth of its many passengers. The steamship was in transit from San Francisco to New York City when it sank in deep waters about 160 miles east off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina during a hurricane.

Professor Rindsberg talked about the efforts of the Columbus-America Discovery Group, lead by its founder Tommy Thompson, to locate the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*. They ultimately discovered the wreck of the *S.S. Central America* in 1986. She described the race to salvage a piece of the wreck in order to stake their claim to the wreckage. They salvaged a lump of coal because they had not yet ascertained that they had indeed found the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*. She spoke about the subsequent litigation between Columbus-America and numerous insurance companies over claims to nearly three tons of the nineteenth century gold. The legal issue before the Courts was whether to apply the “Law of Finds” or the “Law of Salvage.” The case was initially heard in the Eastern District Court of Virginia where Judge Kellam, applying the law of finds, held in favor of Columbus-America (742 F. Supp. 1327, 1990). The insurance companies appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit where the judges sitting *en banc* reversed and remanded the lower court's decision, holding that because the evidence was insufficient to find that the insurance companies had abandoned their interests to the gold, Judge Kellam had improperly applied the law of finds rather than the law of salvage (974 F. 2d 450, 1992). Columbus-America petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari which was denied. On remand in the district court, Judge Kellam applied the law of salvage and awarded to Columbus-America ninety (90) percent of the salvaged gold and awarded the remaining ten (10) percent to the insurance companies (1993 WL 580900). Again, the insurance companies appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals where the Court upheld Judge Kellam's award (56 F. 3d 556, 1995). The case finally ended when the U.S. Supreme Court denied the insurance companies' petition for a writ of certiorari in 1995.

In 1992, Professor Rindsberg was hired by Columbus-America along with several other attorneys to assist with the petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently, she became Assistant General Counsel for Columbus-America and spent almost seven years thereafter representing Columbus-America in the litigation related to its discovery of the *S.S. Central America*.

In addition to various websites, the story of the *S.S. Central America* is chronicled in the books *Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea* by Gary Kinder (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1998) and *America's Lost Treasure* by Tommy Thompson (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1998).

“Conservation of Marine Habitats: Leasing and Ownership of Submerged Lands” was the title of the presentation by Ms. Kristen Fletcher. Ms. Fletcher is Director of the Marine Affairs Institute at the Roger Williams University School of Law and Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. The subject of Ms. Fletcher's talk was a collaborative project involving The Nature Conservancy, Roger Williams University, and Rhode Island Sea Grant to research and analyze the pros and cons of leasing and ownership of submerged lands for purposes of conservation. Input was sought from various stakeholders

interested in conserving marine lands. The product resulting from this project is the report, "Towards Conservation of Submerged Lands: The Law and Policy of Conservation Leasing." Ms. Fletcher is a co-editor of the report. The purpose of the report is to inform and to inspire innovative thinking about the role of the public in conserving submerged lands in the United States.

It is only recently that The Nature Conservancy and its partners have been developing projects for leasing or purchasing submerged lands for purposes of conservation and restoration. She discussed several legal issues pertaining to the leasing of submerged lands. These included the productive use requirement, duration/exclusivity of the lease, fees, and proponent capacity. One issue is whether conservation satisfies the productive use requirement. Another issue is whether The Nature Conservancy should pay fees to state governments for restoring degraded marine lands when the states should be spending monies to do so. Also at issue is the capacity of an entity like The Nature Conservancy to manage a lease, restore or monitor a site, and close out the lease when appropriate.

She summarized some of the report's findings. These findings include the following: 1.) Leasing and purchasing submerged lands are compatible with the Public Trust Doctrine. 2.) Impact on riparian/coastal landowners is minimal. 3.) Restoration by the leaseholder is more likely to be viewed as meeting the productive use requirement while conservation might not. 4.) Leasing and ownership of submerged lands should be part of a comprehensive plan on the part of states to manage their marine ecosystems.

Members of the Conference Planning Committee were Lucinda Harrison-Cox, Nanette Balliot, Emilie Benoit, Stephanie Edwards, and Kathleen MacAndrew.



LLNE Member News

Kyle Courtney has been hired as the Electronic Services/Reference Librarian at Northeastern University School of Law Library. Kyle received his JD with Distinction from Suffolk University Law School in 2002 and is completing his coursework for the Master of Library Science at Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Kyle most recently worked as the Interlibrary Loan/Faculty Research and Information Delivery Assistant at Harvard Law School Library. (He asked me to tell you all that he is "awesome.") Did I mention that he has a great sense of humor?

LLNE Member Publications

Ed Bander, LLNE Member, Professor *Emeritus at Suffolk University Law Library, and Editor Emeritus, Bimonthly Review of Law Books, with co-authors* Frank S. Bae, Francis R. Doyle, Joel Fishman, and Paul Richert has published *Searching the Law*, 3rd ed., Transnational Publications, 2005. The Publisher provides the following information on this book:

A new updated edition of the popular legal research tool used by many legal researchers from law students and law professors to law librarians, paralegals, and practitioners will be published in spring 2005. When a law student is faced with what book sources are available for a legal topic or even what research tools to use, this book gives a good start. For the law professor who is writing and needs to know some of the sources in an unfamiliar area to consult, this text gives many good leads. Busy law librarians asked to support a new practice area or answer a research question in an unfamiliar area of law will get a variety of good tips here. The paralegal that has a research assignment will be less frustrated if they consult the new edition for key sources. A practitioner who takes on a case in an unfamiliar area of law will spend less time looking for useful material if they use *Searching the Law*, 3d Edition.

Law school course descriptions and scope notes are included, to help the researcher determine if their particular subject is covered by a specific topic.

References to legal encyclopedias, the West Digest System, Lexis Search Advisor, and Westlaw KeySearch are included under each topic in the third edition.

Award Announcements

Public Access To Government Information Award

Description

A principal tenet of the American Association of Law Libraries is the right of equal access to information for all to ensure an informed citizenry and to promote a just and democratic society. Established in 1998, the Public Access to Government Information Award recognizes persons or organizations that have made significant contributions to protect and promote greater public access to government information.

Eligibility

Recipients of the award may be any individual or organization. Members of the Washington Affairs Office of AALL are not eligible. Recipients need not be law librarians or members of AALL.

Administration of the Award

The Public Access to Government Information Award shall be jointly administered by the AALL Government Relations Committee and the AALL Awards Committee. The Government Relations Committee shall: advertise the award; solicit nominations for the award; review the nominations; and recommend from two to four nominees to the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee shall make the final decision from the nominees presented and notify the winner. The Government Relations Committee will handle subsequent publicity activities and any miscellaneous tasks that arise in the administration of the award.

Judging Criteria

* A contribution that significantly improves public access to government information, thereby increasing the public's knowledge about the workings of government. The award is given in accordance with AALL's mission to provide leadership in the field of legal information and to promote equal access to government information. The award will reflect this by honoring the achievements of those who have championed public access.

* The extent to which the individual or organization has had a positive impact on protecting and promoting public access to governmental information.

* The extent to which the effort advances the AALL mission and Government Relations Policy.

Award Process

Nominations for this award are to be sent to Timothy L. Coggins, University of Richmond Law School, Richmond, Va., 23172, tcoggins@richmond.edu. It is preferred that the nominations be in electronic format. A subcommittee of the Government Relations Committee will screen the nominations and recommend from two to four nominees to the Awards Committee, which will make the final selection. All selection materials will be forwarded to the Chair of the Awards Committee.

A subcommittee of the Awards Committee, including the Awards Committee chair, will review the nominations and make a final decision on who will receive the award. Each nominee shall be considered individually and confidentially and will be judged according to the criteria listed above. Sources of information for the subcommittee about a candidate include the nominating letter(s) and recommendation(s) from the Government Relations Committee. To ensure confidentiality, contact with members of AALL other than the person(s) nominating, other Awards Committee members and Government Relations Committee members should be avoided.

Frequency and number of awards: The Award may be presented annually, but there is no requirement that the award be given each year.

Deadline for nomination: Nominations must be submitted to Timothy Coggins no later than February 1, 2006, to allow the two committees ample time to complete their deliberations and the administrative aspects of the award by April 15.

Award Presentation

The award shall be presented during the AALL Annual Meeting, and it will be given in the name of the Association. It will consist of an appropriate memorial to honor the achievements of the individual or organization.

Submitted by:

*A. Hays Butler, Chair
PAGI Award Subcommittee
Government Relations Committee
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