

A Chapter of The American
Association of Law Libraries

SCALL Newsletter

March /April 2011, vol. 38, no. 4

From the President ... Hugh J. Treacy

A few of you may have noticed that I was not present at the 2011 SCALL Institute in Temecula last month. I had planned to attend and introduce two speakers at this very successful event and to learn more about the fascinating topic of California Municipal and Public Agency Law Practice.

My reason for not being there with you was that my father--who suffered through weeks of complications after breaking his arm in January in a fall at his Virginia home--had taken a turn for the worse on March 16th, the day prior to my planned arrival at the Institute. His condition grew worse with each passing day and, with our family present, my father died on March 24th. I returned to work on April 4, 2011, after a week of grieving, a funeral, and military honors at Quantico National Cemetery.

I offer many thanks to all of the SCALL members who have contacted me, left me voice mail, email, and many words of condolence and support at my family's

most difficult time. Your kindness will never be forgotten by me or my family.

Vice President **Mark Gedi-**
man and my colleagues here at
Whittier Law School have told me
that the Institute was very suc-
cessful, its programs and speak-
ers were quite interesting, and it
was among the most enjoyable
they have attended. Congratula-
tions to Mark and all of the Insti-
tute planners and participants! I
want to thank Past President **Brian Raphael** for
agreeing to pinch hit for me by introducing two of the
Institute speakers and hosting the President's Dinner
following the Friday evening reception. I have heard
that all of our VIP guests and SCALL Board members
greatly enjoyed the meal at the Meritage Restaurant
at Callaway Winery.



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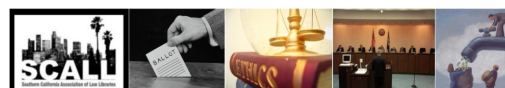
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39th Annual SCALL Institute

**Let The Sun Shine In:
California Municipal & Public Agency
Law & Practice**

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Submission Deadlines

We welcome the submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Patricia Pelz Hart, **SCALL Newsletter Editor**: hart@chapman.edu

All submissions should be received by the following dates:

May 9, 2011
September 12, 2011
November 14, 2011
January 9, 2012
March 12, 2012

May / June 2011 issue
Sept. / Oct. 2011 issue
Nov. / Dec. 2011 issue
Jan. / Feb. 2012 issue
Mar. / Apr. 2012 issue

Editor's Notes ... by Patricia Pelz Hart



The terrific 39th SCALL Institute was chock full of interesting programs, informative speakers, and helpful exhibits. The theme, "Let the Sun Shine In: California Municipal & Public Agency Law & Practice" was fully relevant and timely.

Thanks to the numerous attendees who agreed to write. Thanks to the photographers, my two Chapman Law School colleagues: Ashley Spencer, Circulation Technician, and Diana Quevedo, Catalog Technician. You were all a pleasure to work with.

The Temecula Creek Inn should be among anyone's favorite places to get away and relax. Of course, we were all there to learn. The hospitable facilities and lovely surroundings, however, certainly made learning a delight.

This issue celebrates, commemorates, and documents the 39th Institute. I hope you enjoy the issue to read and for reference.

SCALL Scholarship Awards 2011

SCALL Scholarships 2011

The SCALL Library School Liaison Committee is pleased to announce that the following library school students have been awarded 2011 SCALL Scholarships:

Channa Cajero (Los Angeles, CA) – SJSU/Distance

Stephanie Der (Culver City, CA) – UCLA

Jennifer Gibson (Los Angeles, CA) – SJSU/Distance

Amber Kennedy Madole (Los Angeles, CA) – UCLA

Domonique Roberts (Westchester, CA) – UCLA

Congratulations to these bright and ambitious MLIS candidates who have demonstrated a vested interest in law librarianship as a career! We look forward to their future contributions to our profession.

Cheryl Kelly Fischer
Chair, SCALL Library School Liaison Committee

AALL Webinar

AALL Webinar: Copyright issues in Distance Education and Training

Join **Tomas Lipinski**, professor and executive associate dean at the Indiana University School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University-Purdue University, on **May 5, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CST**, for [Copyright Issues in Distance Education and Training](#) as he answers common copyright questions that arise in virtual classes and training sessions. Issues covered during this webinar will include handouts, video usage, participant comments, and post-virtual session issues.

Due to the expansion of distance learning to both the academic and commercial realms, the webinar will look at situations that arise in nonprofit academic institutions as well as law firm online trainings and online professional development sessions.

Learning objectives:

- Discuss how to determine which aspects of U.S. copyright law apply to your institution
- Learn types and amounts of materials that can be circulated to virtual session attendees
- Learn permission requirements and limitations for continued use of recorded online sessions

[Register by April 28.](#)

(Webinar calendar link: <http://www.aallnet.org/calendar/eventdisplay.asp?eid=351&arc=no>; registration link: https://www.regonline.com/copy_distance)

From the President ... *continued from page 1*

Planning for the 2012 Joint Institute continues. Our committee of NOCALL, SCALL, and SANDALL leaders has narrowed its focus from several cities—including Riverside here in our area—to one, San Diego. At this writing, two hotels are being considered there. In mid-April I will be conferring again by phone with the Joint Institute planning committee; and I will bring to our Board the latest information. Of course, once a decision is made as to time and place and other details of the Joint Institute, we will also inform the SCALL membership.

For reasons beyond our control, the SCALL Spring Meeting will be delayed until early May. You will receive email updates from our Programs Committee co-chairs **Michael Saint-Onge** and **Michelle Tolley**. Of course, as is our practice, a SCALL Board meeting also will be held at 4:00 pm on the day and at the location chosen by our Programs co-chairs. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Hugh J. Treacy is Associate Director of the Law Library, Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa

SCALL Membership News ... by Judy K. Davis

Welcome new members!

Laurie Ann Cameron

Assistant Librarian
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

Lesley Angela Chan

Reference Librarian
Western State University College of Law

Catherine Deane

Reference Librarian
Thomas Jefferson School of Law

April Eudy

Research Librarian
Nossaman LLP

James Krusling

Associate Director of the Library
Western State University College of Law

Anna Russell

Electronic Services Reference Librarian
University of San Diego Pardee Legal Research Center

Any corrections, changes, or additions to your membership information, as well as any announcements for Membership News, should be sent to:

*Judy K. Davis
Chair, SCALL Membership Committee
Phone: (213) 740-6482
Email: jkdavis@law.usc.edu*

Welcome new student members!

Jeremy C. Hufton

San Jose State University

Domonique Roberts

UCLA Department of Information Studies

Aric Wu

San Jose State University

Other News:

Adam Benitez, formerly of Loyola Law School, is now with the California Attorney General Law Library.

Michele Lucero, formerly of West, is now with the LA Law Library.

Returning Members:

Martin Zacks

Librarian

Hire ICYIP Summer Interns



Los Angeles
Education Partnership



BENEFITS TO LAW FIRMS & LAW LIBRARIES

- Help local high school students "learn and earn"
- Access to productive employees at minimum cost
- Ensure a well-educated, diverse workforce
- Reduce the cost of employee recruitment, selection & training
- Promote workforce and community development
- Receive local and national recognition

SCALL's Inner City Youth Internship Program (ICYIP) in partnership with L.A. Education Partnership offers the opportunity for motivated and talented students from Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, Foshay Learning Center, Roybal Learning Center, Downtown Magnets, Fremont, Manual Arts and University High schools who are eager and prepared to work for your firm or library.

THE BASICS

- Up to 10 week internship July – August 2011
- 20-40 hours per week paid employment (no benefits)
- Average rate \$8.00-\$10.00 per hour (approximately \$2,200 per student, including payroll costs)
- Students may be assigned to one department or rotated through different departments
- Academy provides internship training, placement coordination, technical assistance, and evaluation

Internship Details

- ☐ YES! We are interested in hiring interns.
Please send me more information.

- ☐ We cannot commit at this time:
please keep us informed for next year

Law Firm/Library: _____

Contact Person: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Total Number of Interns: _____ Hours Per Week: _____

Special Qualifications: _____

For more information on the Inner City Youth Internship Program, please contact Paul Moorman, (213) 740-2626 (pmoorman@law.usc.edu) or Lisa Baker (213) 629-7730 (l.baker@mpglaw.com). LAEP is a non-profit organization striving to increase educational opportunities for all students. SCALL is a partner of LAEP. PLEASE EMAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM TO PAUL OR FAX TO: (213) 740-7179.

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and 3 complimentary credits

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KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

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David Pashman
Legal Team Leader
Meetup, Inc.

MAY 18, 2011

*Trial by Sound Byte:
Law in the New Millennium*

CLE
Eligible



Manny Medrano
Trial Attorney/
TV Broadcaster
Medrano & Carlton

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Heard Around Town ... by Larry Meyer



In the last issue, I mentioned the upcoming San Diego Law Library "Empty House Party." SCALL and SANDALL members were among the crowd to enjoy the festivities in the recently gutted main law library building.

Amongst those espied at the event: former SCALL Rohan Award winner **Larry Dershem**, former SCALL Board member **Nancy Carol Carter**,

L.A. Law Library Director **Marcia Koslov**, Riverside County Law Library Director **Sarah Eggleston**, former SCALL President **Patrick Meyer** and a host of others.

Many of our members, including **Carol Ebbinghouse**, **Carole Levitt**, **Mary Dryden** and **Bill Ketchum**, have been busy writing, rehearsing and performing the last few months. Carol recently wrote: "New Platforms in Legal Information, Bloomberg, LexisNexis, Westlaw," 19 (1) *Searcher: The Magazine for Database Professionals* 28 (Jan/Feb 2011). Carole recently finished her newest book, *Find Info Like a Pro: Mining the Internet's Public Records for Investigative Research* (v. 2) with its debut planned for the ABA Tech Show, April 11, 2011. Mary is in rehearsal for her next play, an original entitled "Deus Ex Machina" by R.S. Bailey. Bill recently traveled to the East Coast with "L'Ensemble Medical of Munich". While out East, they were able to perform Bach's B Minor Mass in "German Latin" in Carnegie Hall. Bill also sings opera as a member of the Verdi Chorus in Santa Monica.

Congratulations go out to two of our members on their attainment of new positions. **Lisa Marks** has been added to the law librarian group at Bryan Cave. **Michele Lucero** is the new Director of Communications at L.A. Law Library. Congratulations to both as well as to their new employers.

Lastly, I received a message from **Rhonda K. Lawrence** to the SCALL membership. Rather than paraphrase her sentiments, the message is included below in its entirety. Again, I am sure that all SCALL members join me in extending our deepest and most sincere thoughts and wishes to Rhonda and her family.

I would like to thank SCALL and those colleagues who have expressed their sympathy upon the recent deaths of my mother Mary Lawrence and my husband Arthur Rosett. Your kindness has helped me through a very difficult time.

Arthur and I first met in 1988 at a SCALL dinner when Program Chair Adrienne Adan asked me to sit next to him. He was the featured speaker, commenting on Pacific Rim law from his perspective as a law professor who had established UCLA's East Asian law program. We were married five years later, so there is romance in law librarianship!

*Thank you,
Rhonda K. Lawrence*

It has been a couple months since we have asked a trivia question. I did not want to let this month, especially with such an important milestone, pass without notice. Here goes: on April 2nd, 2011, one of our former SCALL President's (As Vice President, this person's Institute was held in Solvang.) celebrated a milestone birthday. Who will be first to correctly identify this person and the milestone birthday?

Lawrence R. Meyer is Director of the Law Library for San Bernardino County in San Bernardino.

Ad for EOS

Temecula Creek Inn Is An Ideal Location ... by Diana Quevedo

The Temecula Creek Inn was the site for the 39th SCALL Institute, March 18-19, 2011. The inn is located in Riverside County, south of Lake Elsinore and off the I-15 Freeway. The inn is composed of several buildings, dotting the low slopes along the edge of a golf course.

The lobby provided both a welcome and helpful services, with complimentary coffee or water, a gift shop to buy snacks or wine, seating by a fireplace, and the free use of a computer. The lobby's rear exit led to a patio with tables and chairs. Adjacent were a swimming pool and hydro-spa, and a fitness room. Most of the rooms had balconies or nice patios with views of the Temecula Creek Inn Golf Course. Tennis courts were available across the street from the lobby area.

Our meetings met in the Yula Conference room. Breakfast, sponsored by CEB, and lunch, sponsored by Lexis/Nexis, were in the Kiva room. All the gatherings were held in areas that were in close distance from our rooms. The walk between buildings offered a refreshing exercise before and after events.

The opening reception and wine tasting at Stone House was provided by ThomsonReuters (West). The Temecula Valley is the location for vineyards in Southern California. The 180 year old Stone House is on the premises of the inn. The Stone House has an early California rustic ranch feeling, lots of trees, and a small wooden walking path over a creek. The Temecula Creek Inn provides a 5 min. shuttle to the spot.

The Temecula Creek Inn, for dinner or lunch, has The Temet Grill Restaurant. It includes a view of the golf course, woodsy views, hills and fountains. Meals such as seafood, prime rib, or pasta are provided. The facility is formal or casual, and is also used for weddings.

Diana Quevedo is the Catalog Technician at Chapman University School of Law in Orange.

Reception at Stone House



Exhibitors and Vendors at the SCALL Institute 2011 ... by George Carter

The Temecula Creek Inn hosted the 39th annual SCALL Institute, “Let the Sun Shine In: California Municipal & Public Agency Law & Practice.” Attendees were well served by the programming and by the continued support of vendors and exhibitors. Indeed, the institute would not have been possible without our major sponsors, which included, **BNA, CEB, LexisNexis (Librarian Relations Group), and Thomson Reuters (West)**. Other sponsors at the institute to which SCALL is deeply appreciative include **Courthouse News, Loose Leaf Filing Service, and Retrieval-It**. In addition, the institute benefited from the attendance of several exhibitors who participated in the exhibitor’s game and showed off all of their latest cutting edge products. To show our appreciation, we gave our exhibitors a post institute opportunity to share important news and updates about their respective organizations and products.

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) <http://aallnet.org/>

For the first time ever, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) visited the SCALL Institute to exhibit. Joyce Janto, President of AALL, was in attendance as SCALL’s VIP and guest speaker at the closing lunch. Christopher Siwa, Director of Information Technology for AALL, staffed the exhibit table. He talked with current and potential members about the benefits of membership with AALL. As a courtesy to SCALL members, AALL gave away one free membership and one free registration to the annual meeting. AALL will be unveiling its new website in the coming months, so be on the lookout.

Bureau of National Affairs (BNA) <http://www.bna.com/>

Stefanie Blasdel, a Law School Account Manager with BNA, shared information about their new Health Law Resource Center. The Health Law Resource Center merges—for the first time—BNA’s authoritative health law reporting and expert analysis with an extensive collection of primary source materials. To quote BNA, “[w]e’ve made your job easier by providing news, legal analysis, case law, statutes and regulations, agency guidance, health law portfolios and treatises, and more—all in one place.”



Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) <http://ceb.com/>

Suzanne Smith and Scott Valentino were at the Institute and exhibiting for CEB. Both were excited to report that CEB is completely social. In fact, CEB would like to encourage all of you to be social too and follow their twitter feed [@Law_Education](#). You can also find CEB on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) or follow their RSS feed at <http://blog.ceb.com/feed/>.



Courthouse News Service <http://www.courthousenews.com/>

Carole Sage from Courthouse News was in attendance and giving away t-shirts for attendees. They generously sponsored an exhibit break and provided some very substantial gift cards for the vendor game. To quote them, “Courthouse News Service is a nationwide news service for lawyers and the news media. Based in Pasadena, California, Courthouse News focuses on civil litigation, from the date of filing through the appellate level. Unlike other Internet-based publishers that simply aggregate information prepared by other content providers, Courthouse News publishes its own original news content prepared by its staff of reporters and editors based across the country.”



William S. Hein & Co. <https://www.wshein.com/>

Steve Roses wanted to highlight one of Hein’s newest products, *World Constitutions Illustrated: Contemporary & Historical Documents & Resources*. This database was released April 2010 and was selected by *Choice Magazine* to be included in the Outstanding Academic Title list for 2010. The platform focuses on the study of historic and current constitutions and governments. With the amount of documents related to constitutional materials, it’s not surprising why *Choice*



Exhibitors and Vendors ... *continued*

Magazine recognized this outstanding product.

Legislative Research & Intent LLC (LRI) www.lrihistory.com

Carolina Rose wanted to highlight their Governor's Chaptered Bill File service, same day, \$50. These files often have really great materials. If you decide you want more, you can roll the \$50 into a fully authenticated: (1) precompiled digital report at \$275 - \$325, (2) new economy Core research at \$175 - \$475 (add \$.30/page), or (3) new Custom research at \$235 - \$625 (add \$.30/page). Carolina teaches a highly rated and complimentary 1 hour MCLE ethics seminar entitled "How to Make Ethical and Winning Use of California Legislative History." (Have Power Point, Will Travel.) Schedule yours today. She is also a recognized expert witness in the reconstruction of legislative history and intent, and is happy to share arcane research tips with law librarians.

Questel <http://www.questel.com/>

Austin Englert was happy to speak with me about Questel's new platform *Orbit*. Questel has spent the last five years developing *Orbit* to be a comprehensive database suited to meet every user's need in finding patents and searching industrial designs. *Orbit* provides it users with multiple functions including analysis, annotation, sharing, ranking, and portfolio storage. Among other things, *Orbit* provides instant translation of materials for over 35 languages. You can read more about Questel's new IP Portal at www.orbit.com.

Raymond Research www.naj.net

Jan Raymond of Raymond Research was thrilled to share with Institute attendees the new options for accessing legislative history through his company. If you know the exact enactment or adoption you need, you can visit *Legislative History Clearinghouse* to see if the project is available for immediate access. For those of you that have a particular section, regulation, or rule but don't know exactly what enactments you need, *Rapid Access* will help you identify what you need and then you can see if it is immediately available. For those opposed to change, Raymond Research will continue to offer project-specific research. Visit www.naj.net to access their web pages and www.legislativeintent.com to access any of their research options.

Wolters Kluwer <http://www.wolterskluwer.com/>

Daman Farr from Wolters Kluwer was exhibiting at the SCALL Institute. Daman wanted attendees to know that Wolters Kluwer has some great Mobile Applications from the Law & Business division. If you subscribe to IntelliConnect you can now access the platform with IC Mobile. The mobile app includes access to research content such as Smart Charts and QuickCharts for a number of CCH products. And you can email and save your results for added convenience. Check it out and get out of the office.

We look forward to next year's Institute but until then, show our exhibitors some love, and thank them for supporting SCALL.

George P. Carter is Head of Reference & Public Services at the Law Library for San Bernardino County in San Bernardino.

Address by Joyce Janto, AALL President ... reported by Jim Senter

A Royal Address

~or~

The Queen's Speech



We were all enjoying the last crumbs of decadent deliciousness when Mark Gediman rose to introduce the closing banquet speaker, **Joyce Manna Janto**, President of the American Association of Law Libraries. Mark joked that Joyce had requested he introduce her as “Her Serene Highness.” She approached the podium, graciously thanked Mark, Larry Meyer, and the SCALL Board for their hospitality, and began her address, reporting on the following items of interest to the membership:

The Vendor Colloquium... on February 28–March 1, AALL hosted the long-anticipated vendor colloquium, “Creating, Disseminating, Using, and Preserving Legal Information in Challenging Times.” The idea, which had been on the Strategic Directions wish-list for some time, was to get vendors, librarians and stakeholders together in one room to find common ground. There were 15 vendors, 20 librarians, and 4 library stakeholder participants for this intense, productive two-day summit. At the end of the meeting, the colloquium formed a working group charged with drafting an action plan (similar to the Fair Practices Principles) to be distributed by summer to the membership for comments. Chair of the working group is Margie Maes, AALL vendor liaison, and members include Mary Jenkins, Greg Lambert, Linda Dev Dunton, Kristina Niedringhaus, Dick Spinelli, and Cindy Spohr.

AALL's loss, the nation's gain... Mary Alice Baish has announced that she is stepping down as Director of the Government Relations Office of AALL to accept the post of Superintendent of Documents for the Government Printing Office. While we are tremendously proud of Mary Alice, her promotion leaves a big hole in AALL. The Executive Board will be considering a slate of highly qualified applicants over the next several months. Emily Feldman has been doing an outstanding job filling Mary Alice's shoes, especially dealing with the threatened elimination of funding for the Texas State Law Library.

The Annual Meeting is at hand... registration is now open for the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, which will be held July 23-26, 2011 in Philadelphia. This year there is no theme, and the keynote speaker is Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor at *Slate*. The Program Committee met for two days in Chicago over Halloween weekend and selected 51 programs from 179 excellent submissions.

History will be made... the Annual Meeting Review Special Committee has signed their Declaration of Recommended Changes to the Annual Meeting, and the Executive Board has endorsed and ratified several of them, many of which will be self-evident at the upcoming meeting in the birthplace of our nation:

- 1) This year members are invited to submit questions *in advance* of the Open Forum, and every attempt will be made to answer all questions at the forum. If not enough information is available to answer the question immediately a response will be given to the person who asked the question and to the membership in an edition of the AALL e-newsletter.
- 2) All AALL committee meetings will be in a *no-conflict* time slot this year, on Saturday afternoon, and the Diversity Symposium will be in a more visible slot on Sunday.
- 3) There will be *no* opening dessert reception this year. In its place, the Exhibit Hall Ribbon Cutting/Opening Reception will take place on Saturday afternoon at 5:00, leaving time for dine-arounds (and the Pacific Chapters Joint Reception!).
- 4) As an added enhancement to the educational offerings at this year's Annual Meeting, *poster sessions* will be on display in the exhibit hall.

Speech by Joyce Janto, AALL President ... *continued*

5) And the saddest cut of all (for some): *no closing banquet*. Instead, though, there will be a magnificent closing reception in the exhibit hall on Tuesday afternoon, with food, beverages, a slideshow about Boston, and a really big prize.

Marching fearlessly into the future... future Annual Meetings will be held in Boston (2012), Seattle (2013), San Antonio (2014), back to Philadelphia (2015), 2016 (Chicago, everything under one roof for the first time in a long long time), and a new city for 2017 (Austin)!

Excellent news from the home front... AALL membership is up, after a downturn in recent years, and the budget has careened from red in the 2010 fiscal year to black in 2011. That turnaround is due in large part to many significant cost-cutting measures, and also to a good year for our investments. Our investment advisor is “cautiously optimistic” for the coming year.

To thunderous applause, Ms. Janto concluded her remarks with an invitation to enjoy with her an afternoon in the Temecula Wine Country, with its many delights. With a royal wave, she withdrew from the balcony. His Excellency Mark Gediman thanked Ms. Janto for her informative address and wished the attendees a wonderful afternoon and a safe drive home.

Jim Senter is California Region Research Librarian at Jones Day, in Los Angeles



Ad for Wisconsin

Redevelopment & the State Budget: What It Is & Where We Are ... reported by Kenneth Rudolf

Local redevelopment agencies are in the headlines this year, as Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed abolishing them and using the funds they generate to help balance the state budget. Thus, the first session of the 2011 SCALL Institute, Redevelopment and the Proposed State Budget, was as timely as the morning newspaper and the nightly television news.

The speaker, **Iris P. Yang**, is a partner in the Municipal and Redevelopment Practice of Best Best & Krieger. She serves as special counsel to a number of redevelopment agencies and is the author of *Redevelopment in California*. The book, now in its fourth edition, is published by Solano Press Books. In addition, she lectures on redevelopment law and practice for the Redevelopment Institute, the education arm of the California Redevelopment Association. Eminently qualified on the topic, she spoke by Webex from her office in Sacramento. Ms. Yang was a late replacement for T. Brent Hawkins. The announced speaker, the general counsel of the California Redevelopment Association, had to withdraw to devote time to the state budget negotiations.

Redevelopment agencies are created by local (city or county) government. They are organized to improve a specific blighted area, and they must adopt a redevelopment plan for that area. They are funded by **tax increment financing**, which, in simple terms, means funds from additional property taxes generated by improvements to the redevelopment area. The redevelopment agency provides incentives to stimulate private investment in the redevelopment area. As a result of this investment, property values rise, generating additional property taxes. Property taxes still are divided among the various taxing authorities (city, county, school district, special district) based on the assessed value at the creation of the redevelopment agency (base year), but the redevelopment agency receives the major portion of the additional property taxes generated above the base year assessed value. Redevelopment agencies can issue bonds with tax increment pledges.

Redevelopment agencies have been authorized by California law for over sixty years. The first Community Redevelopment Act was passed in 1945. The current version is codified in the Health and Safety Code beginning with section 33000. A provision regarding redevelopment agencies was added to the California Constitution as early as 1952 and can now be found at article 16, section 16.

Redevelopment agencies were not extensively used, however, until after voters approved **Proposition 13** in 1978. The proposition limited the ability of local governments to increase property taxes. To counteract the inability to raise property taxes, local governments began to create redevelopment agencies to increase tax revenues and accomplish community projects without raising tax rates. Subsequent legislation created formulas for pass-through payments to taxing entities and required the state to “backfill” a portion of school district revenues.

Beginning in the early 1990s, the state began tapping into redevelopment funds to increase revenues for local school districts by requiring redevelopment agencies to make payments into local **Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds**. In 2008, the legislature set the ERAF payment at \$350 million. This requirement was challenged in court, and the payment was overturned for a lack of nexus between redevelopment and schools. In 2009 the legislature passed a new requirement that redevelopment agencies contribute \$1.7 billion for ERAF in fiscal year 2009-10 and \$350 million more in 2010-11. The new legislation was upheld by the same judge that overturned the previous legislation. This decision is now on appeal.

On January 31, 2011, Governor Brown announced his intent to disestablish redevelopment agencies and return taxes to “**core local government services**.” On February 23, the Department of Finance released a proposed bill, but the final language was not introduced to the legislature until later, in the form of amendments to A.B. 101 and S.B. 77

Redevelopment & the State Budget ... *continued*

The legislation would suspend all redevelopment activity upon the effective date, and redevelopment agencies would be abolished as of July 1, 2011. Successor agencies would be created to take over agency assets and obligations, pay off debts, liquidate, and wind down. In addition, the proposed legislation states that agreements between the agency and its local government are not enforceable obligations. The Assembly failed to pass the legislation by one vote on March 16. (It subsequently passed the Assembly on March 22 with all the Republican members abstaining.)

There is no question that redevelopment agencies provide significant benefit to local communities. Redevelopment agencies generate \$40.8 billion dollars in economic activity from dealings in goods and services. They contribute over \$2 billion annually to state and local government through increased tax revenues. Redevelopment agencies are responsible for supporting 304,000 jobs annually, including 170,000 construction jobs. Since 1995, over 78,000 affordable housing units have been built or rehabilitated. Redevelopment funds are also used to clean up environmentally contaminated sites.

Ms. Yang observed that the proposed legislation would establish a complicated and unworkable structure, would not produce \$1.7 billion in savings, as suggested, and violates the California Constitution. In addition, dismantling the redevelopment agencies now would not result in savings for future years. Currently, redevelopment agencies, local government officials, affordable housing advocates, environmental, business, and labor leaders are lobbying against the legislation. Redevelopment agencies have also begun transferring their assets to local governments so they will not be taken over by the state. The California Redevelopment Association has proposed compromise legislation.

The operation and funding of redevelopment agencies are fairly complex. Ms. Yang succeeded in presenting these complexities in a way to make them accessible to her audience. However, it was clear from her conclusions that Ms. Wang disagrees with the governor's plan to abolish redevelopment agencies. Although she mentioned compromise legislation proposed by the California Redevelopment Association, she did not elaborate on what that legislation would accomplish. Nor did she address news reports of abuses and oversight problems in redevelopment agencies. Nevertheless, Ms. Yang's presentation left her audience with a solid understanding of the background and issues regarding redevelopment agencies in California.

Kenneth Rudolf is Professor of Law and Director of the Law Library, University of La Verne College of Law in Ontario.

Public Agencies & CEQA ... reported by April E. Eudy



With Senate Bill 77, revising California redevelopment agencies, pending, redevelopment was on everyone's mind at the 2011 SCALL institute. Each of the speakers discussed how the proposed legislation will affect other

areas of the law, and in doing so showed the integrated nature of the legal field. **Alisha Winterswyk**, an associate at Best Best & Krieger LLP and an adjunct professor at Whittier Law School, took a moment to point out that under cur-

rent law *all* redevelopment projects must take some action according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

CEQA was introduced in 1970 to ensure the protection of the environment. The statute can be found in California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq. Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq. implements the statute. CEQA was enacted to regulate the impact that different types of projects have on the environment. Its purpose is not to stop projects from going forward, but to make sure that the project follows the best en-

Public Agencies ... *continued*

environmental practices, ensuring the environment is safeguarded during implementation.

There are two types of projects that Public Agencies generally deal with; discretionary or ministerial. Each one has specific guidelines or steps that must be followed. Only the **discretionary** projects will trigger a CEQA action. A **ministerial** decision is based totally on required steps being satisfied. The example that was given for a ministerial action was when a person files for a business license. Specific requirements are met, and the license is granted. Discretionary actions, on the other hand are decisions that are made by weighing of evidence by the Public Agency. For example: If a builder wanted to construct a subdivision of housing units he would have to file a development plan with the City Planning Department. The Planning Department would decide if the project could go forward, and if the project is subject to CEQA. A decision was made by the Planning Department by weighing the evidence given to them by the builder.

Winterswyk then outlined a **CEQA action**, which is a three-step administrative process. The first step is the **preliminary review** where the Agency confirms the project is subject to CEQA. The second step is the **initial study** that will indicate which type of document will be needed for the CEQA action. There are a range of documents for CEQA actions, from a “Negative Declaration”, which states there will be no environmental impact, to a full “Environmental Impact Report”, which states that there will be an environmental impact and what that impact is believed to be. After the documents are created, they are then open for public comment. The third step of the CEQA process is **compiling the administrative record**. All discussions should be recorded in the administrative record and it should be documented showing that concerns were discussed and answered.

In conjunction, there is also the cost of the CEQA action that must be considered; who will be paying for the documents, who will be preparing the documents, and what is the chance of litigation on this action? The cost and process of CEQA is not to discourage projects from going forward, but to go forward in a responsible manner for the environment.

Throughout this very complex topic Alisha was able to unravel the basic structure of CEQA so that the participants with or without a background in the subject could not only understand the process, but the reason behind CEQA and the impact that it has on the legal field in California.

April E. Eudy is Research Librarian at Nossaman LLP in Los Angeles

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The California Public Records Act: Shining the Light on Public Records ... reported by Cindy Guyer



The first time I submitted a public records request was while I was in law school, over 10 years ago. I was interning for a public interest agency that represented individuals with various disabilities. We were gearing up to file a class action lawsuit on behalf of children with developmental disabilities. Thus, we needed documents from several health and social services agencies to determine their processes and practices for providing services.

While I quickly learned about the California Public Records Act, I struggled to find answers as to how to submit such requests. What does a request look like? Which documents should we request? What does the request need to include? How do we submit it? Who do we submit it to? Do we have to pay for copies? I didn't have many resources to guide me, nor was information about administrative agencies very accessible – in fact, many of them didn't even have websites yet. It took me several days to work out the nuts 'n bolts of making a

public records request, but I finally figured it all out. Weeks later, we received several inches of documents which were instrumental toward making our lawsuit a successful one.

That was over a decade ago and times have certainly changed. Since then, I've made many more public records requests, under federal law, California law, and other states' laws as well. To understand the workings of our government, in order to make improvements and enforce our rights, is the fundamental purpose of making public records accessible and available.

Nancy G. Stubbs, a paralegal with Best Best & Krieger, indeed appreciates this purpose and possesses significant knowledge about submitting public records requests. At the 39th SCALL Institute, she provided an informative session about the California Public Records Act (Government Code §6250 et seq.). She gave a comprehensive overview of the act, including its history and purpose, the definition of a public record, agency requirements toward responding to, filling and denying requests, exemptions, timelines, and costs for requests. She explained the changes with regard to non-paper and electronic records, such as e-mails, data, voice mail messages, digital photographs, PDF documents, and e-calendars. All of these types of records may be subject to a public records request. As Nancy explained, it is “the content of a document, not its format, [that] determines whether it is a public record and whether it must be disclosed.”

However, solely because a public agency possesses a record does not automatically deem it a public record. Another way of figuring out whether a document is a public record subject to disclosure is to apply the “practical test.” This test consists of two questions: 1) Does the public agency use this particular record to conduct its daily business, and 2) Was this record brought before some kind of governing body (such as a city council or board)? If either answer is yes, it may be a disclosable public record. Now I say “may,” because there are several exemptions to be considered. These can be found in Government Code §6254 and are quite varied: e.g. document drafts, personnel files, library circulation records, records of Native American graves, and voter registration information.

I think the most critical part of the Nancy's session was when she imparted pointers and tips for submitting a public records request. In fact, I have learned some of these tips the hard way, from making mistakes. Some of her tips included: 1) check the public agency's website to see if any records are already available online and/or it provides a specific process or form for submitting a request, 2) always submit a request in writing to the correct office, department, and/or person, 3) include as many details as possible about the records requested, 4) acknowledge if records are exempted, privileged, and/or will need to be redacted, 5) include your contact information for any possible clarification needs, and 6) state whether if disclosure or inspection of documents in batches are acceptable.

The California Records Act is a complex and evolving act. Nancy provided an insightful and worthy session that was useful to not only the novice, but also to individuals who have experience submitting public records requests. In addition to her session, she provided many supplementary documents. On the flash drive you will find the following resources:

- Public Records Act FAQs (16 general and specific questions with answers citing the applicable statutory sections)

The California Public Records Act ...

- “The People’s Business: A Guide to the California Public Records Act” (comprehensive guide with chapter end-notes citing applicable code sections and case law, published by the League of California Cities)
- “California Public Records Act 2011 – Government Code Sections 6250 – 6276.48” (Best Best & Kreiger’s very convenient 84-page compilation of the act’s statutory text)
- Handout of the session PowerPoint slides

Cindy Guyer is a Law Librarian at USC Gould School of Law Library

Ethical Decisionmaking: How Public Meetings Are Conducted ... reported by Marjorie Jay



Day One of the 39th Annual SCALL Institute in Temecula concluded with a session titled, “Ethical Decision Making: How Public Meetings Are Conducted,” presented by **Rahsaan J. Tilford** and **Janice Rutherford-Lim**.

Mr. Tilford is an associate in the Municipal and Redevelopment Law practice group at Best Best & Krieger LLP. He provides legal advice and assistance to local government agencies, including the cities of Ontario and Fontana, the City of Colton Planning Commission, and the San Jacinto Redevelopment Agency.

Mr. Tilford provided an explanation of California’s **open meetings law**, commonly known as the **Ralph M. Brown Act**. The Brown Act, which is contained in sections 54950 et seq. of the California Government Code, governs meetings conducted by local legislative bodies such as boards of supervisors, city councils, and school boards. The purpose of the Act is to facilitate public participation in the decision making process, by guaranteeing the public’s right to attend and participate in open meetings.

Government Code § 54952.2(a) defines a meeting as “any congregation of a majority of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location . . . to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.”

The Act expressly prohibits serial meetings. A serial meeting is defined as a series of communications of any kind between less than a quorum of the members of the legislative body that, when taken as a whole, involve a majority. Examples include telephone calls, email exchanges, written correspondence, and communications using social media such as Facebook and Twitter.

Government Code § 54952.2(c) lists six exceptions to the definition of a meeting: 1) individual contacts; 2) conferences and seminars open to the public on issues of general interest; 3) community meetings; 4) purely social or ceremonial events; 5) attendance at meetings of standing committees of the agency, provided that the legislative body members who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers; and 6) attendance at open and public meetings of other legislative bodies.

Under the Brown Act, a meeting must take place at a location within the agency’s jurisdiction, except under specific conditions. For example, a meeting may take place outside the agency’s jurisdiction if the jurisdiction lacks an appropriate meeting facility, or if the purpose of the meeting is to inspect real or personal property located outside the agency’s boundaries.

Mr. Tilford also explained the Act’s public notice requirements. Every regular meeting of a legislative body, including meetings of advisory and standing committees, must be preceded by an agenda that advises the public of the location and time of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed. The agenda must be posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting and must be available in ADA format. Items to be considered in closed session, which may include pending litigation, personnel matters, real property negotiations, or other confidential matters, must also be described in the agenda. In addition to the agenda,

Ethical Decisionmaking ... *continued*

the public has the right, under the California Public Records Act, to review any other writings distributed for discussion or consideration at the meeting.

Notice of a special meeting must be provided to members of the legislative body, the media, and the public no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The notice must state the time and place of the meeting, and include a brief description of the items to be discussed, including closed-door items. Only one hour notice is required for emergency meetings. An emergency is defined as a work stoppage, crippling activity, or other activity, such as a natural disaster or terrorist act, which severely impairs public safety or health.

Additional provisions of the Brown Act govern the public's right to comment at public meetings. The Act states that members of the public must be given an opportunity to comment on agenda items before or during the body's consideration of the agenda. Members of the public also have the right to directly address the body on any item of public interest if that item is under the body's jurisdiction. Although the legislative body cannot prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, the agency may adopt reasonable time limits on public testimony, as long as the regulations are enforced fairly and without regard to the speakers' viewpoints.

Mr. Tilford concluded his presentation by briefly discussing the statutory remedies and penalties available for violations of the Act. Under Government Code § 54960, the district attorney may seek misdemeanor penalties against a member of a body who attends a meeting where action is taken in violation of the Act, or where the member intends to deprive the public of information which the member knows, or has reason to know, the public is entitled to receive. In addition, the district attorney, or individuals, may file civil lawsuits for injunctive, mandatory, or declaratory relief, or to void action taken in actual or threatened violation of the Act. Upon notification, the governing body must be provided an opportunity to cure the violation.

Janice Rutherford-Lim spoke next. Ms. Rutherford-Lim was elected to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors from the Second District in November 2010. She previously served as a member of the Fontana City Council, chair of the Fontana Redevelopment Agency, and president of the Fontana Fire Protection District.

Ms. Rutherford-Lim began with a brief reference to the recent revelations concerning government corruption and mismanagement in the City of Bell. She reminded us that we live in a participatory democracy and that the situation

in Bell could have been avoided had its citizens exercised their rights under the Brown Act to attend public meetings and actively participate in their local government.

Ms. Rutherford-Lim then discussed the practical challenges that implementation of the Brown Act creates for public officials. She explained that under the Act, elected officials must balance the need for openness, transparency, and public participation in the decision making process against the need for confidentiality, candor, and spontaneity when drafting, debating, and enacting legislation.

Ms. Rutherford-Lim illustrated the tensions inherent in the Act by describing several situations that could lead to perceived or actual violations, including the use of laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices to communicate during meetings; community meetings with more than a minority of agency members in attendance; informal gatherings of agency members or staff that assume the appearance of meetings; inadequate descriptions of agenda items; responding to public comments or questions related to items not on the agenda; discussing matters in a closed meeting outside the authorized scope of the session; holding an excessive number of closed meetings; and controlling grandstanding by showboating constituents. Techniques that work well in the business world, such as back-room compromises and the working lunch, breed distrust in local government by creating the appearance of secrecy. Such techniques are therefore not allowed under the Act.

The session concluded with questions from the audience. Mr. Tilford and Ms. Rutherford-Lim reiterated that any problems related to compliance with California's open meetings law are a price worth paying for transparency and openness in a participatory democracy. As stated in the first section of the Act,

The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.
(Government Code § 54950.)

Marjorie Jay is the Director of Library and Research Services at Greenberg Glusker LLP, in Century City.

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Elections in California ... reported by Karen Skinner



Bradley W. Hertz, Of Counsel at Reed & Davidson LLP and adjunct professor at the Chapman University School of Law, kicked off Saturday's session at the 2011 SCALL Institute.

Hertz's area of expertise is election law. After literally wearing 2

hats (one for Reed & Davidson and the other for Chapman Law) and recognizing the Chapman law library staff in attendance at the institute, he offered a political and election law primer for law librarians.

Election law is "the law that governs behavior in the world of politics and elections including campaign contributions, expenditures, independent expenditures, disclosures, disclaimers, communications, the administration of elections, voting rights, pre- and post-election remedies, and many related areas." Hertz noted that nobody knew what election law was before 2000, but then *Bush v. Gore* happened and now everybody knows. This is an interdisciplinary area of law that includes issues pertaining to the 1st Amendment, criminal and civil law, tax, etc. Hertz highlighted his point with a photo of Robert Rizzo, the former city manager of Bell, California, whom you may have heard of recently.

Hertz recommended starting your research with administrative agencies. Begin with the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) [website](#) for federal elections information.

The [Election Assistance Commission](#) was started after the hanging chad problems of the 2000 election. It is charged with the logistics of elections and things like modernizing equipment. Check out the [U.S. Electoral College](#) and [USA.gov](#) for topics on voting and elections. The [Library of Congress](#) also offers a list of resources on election law.

Some of the selected federal legal authorities you'll want to pay attention to are the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (both found at 2 U.S.C. §431, et seq.). Also consider the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. §1973, et seq.), otherwise known as the "Motor Voter" act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. §15301, et seq.) and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act

of 2007 (2 U.S.C. §1601, et seq.). This last Act was enacted as a response to the Jack Abramoff scandal. FEC regulations are located in Title 11 of the *C.F.R.*, while notable cases include *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (130 S. Ct. 876, 175 L. Ed. 2d 753), *Davis v. Federal Election Commission* (554 U.S. 724), and *Buckley v. Valeo* (424 U.S. 1).

In California, the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Cal. Gov't Code §81000, et seq.), passed by voters, created the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC). Like the FEC, the FPPC's [website](#) is an excellent starting point. On this website, you can access publications, campaign forms, and information about gifts and behested payments among many other types of information. The FPPC also produces special reports like [Independent Expenditures: The Giant Gorilla in Campaign Finance](#), which is interesting beyond just the photo on the report cover of a gorilla attacking the statehouse. Be sure to also check out the California Secretary of State's [website](#) for additional information.

Selected California legal authorities, in addition to the Political Reform Act, include Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations and the California Elections Code. Hertz highlighted several sections of the Elections Code including Counting Words (§9), Petitions and Petition Signers (§100), Election Dates (§1000), Voter Qualifications (§2000), and the Code of Fair Campaign Practices (§20400).

Local election websites can also be very useful. For Los Angeles, Hertz mentioned websites for the [Los Angeles County Registrar](#), [Los Angeles City Clerk](#), and the [Los Angeles City Ethics Commission](#), Los Angeles' equivalent to the FEC. Orange County residents can turn to the [Orange County Registrar of Voters](#) website. Additionally, Hertz brought up several general websites that can be helpful in election law research: the [League of Women Voters](#), [Martin Chapman](#), and [Smartvoter.org](#).

Hertz mentions several trends in election law. Several large California cities still have paper filing; but there's a push for electronic filing. Also, there is an issue between public disclosure and privacy in election law. Hertz says that, generally, letting the sunshine through outweighs the

Elections in California ... *continued*

privacy issues.

Proposition 14, passed by voters in June 2010, instituted open primaries in California. Keep an eye on the race for the 36th Congressional district in the South Bay, which will be one of the first races to have a voter-nominated primary on May 17th. The top two candidates, regardless of party affiliation, will compete in a later runoff. Hertz says that the thinking behind this move to open primaries is that voters will be able to choose from more moderate and conciliatory candidates. Hopefully, we can all look forward to better candidate selection in future elections.

Karen Skinner is a Research Services Librarian at the USC Law Library in Los Angeles.

After the Bonds: What Public Agencies Need to Disclose ... reported by George Carter

Vanessa Locklin, an Associate with Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, agreed to speak at the SCALL Institute on short notice about Municipal Bonds, or more specifically what happens after the bonds are issued. A brief look at some of the basics will help us wrap our minds around this very timely and complicated subject matter.

What are Bonds?

When a state, county or city needs to borrow funds for a public purpose, it usually does so by issuing bonds through capital markets. This usually requires that the municipality work with broker-dealers and banks (underwriters), who agree to purchase all of the bonds offered by the municipality. The underwriter of the bonds then turns around and resells those bonds to investors. The money that municipality receives for the sale of the bonds represents the loan proceeds that the municipality will use for its public purposes, e.g. schools, roads, and libraries.

The investors become the people who buy the bonds from the underwriters. Investors can include individuals, banks, insurance companies, trusts, mutual funds, hedge funds, corporations, and foreign entities among others. (See <http://emma.msrb.org/educationcenter/WhatAreBonds.aspx>).

Official Statement Required per Rule 15c2-12

Whenever a municipality wants to issue a bond it has to provide an official statement. Municipal Securities Disclosures, 17 CFR 240.15c2-12. The official statement describes the **necessary terms** of the bond, including how the bond can be redeemed by its investors prior to the maturity of that bond. The official statement will continue to serve as the most detailed description of the terms and features of the bond throughout its life.

The issuer of the bond is ultimately responsible for the official statement, but often the underwriter provides assistance with the statement. Because the official statement is **not** required to be **updated**, the best place for investors to research information is in the continuing disclosures.

(see <http://emma.msrb.org/EducationCenter/FAQs.aspx?topic=AboutOS>).

What is Continuing Disclosure?

After the bond is issued, the issuer (usually a municipality) is required to provide continuing disclosure statements, as Locklin noted in her discussion of 17 CFR 240.15c2-12. This information reflects the **financial** or **operating** condition of the issuer as it **changes** over time. This includes specific events that occur after the issuance that might affect the ability of the issuer to pay out on what is owed on the bond. For example, if California decides to go bankrupt, it's probably something that should be mentioned in a continuing disclosure as it would signal to investors that their bonds are junk. These disclosures are available to the public through the MSRB's [Electronic Municipal Market Access \(EMMA\) website](http://emma.msrb.org/EducationCenter/UnderstandingContinuingDisclosure.aspx). (See <http://emma.msrb.org/EducationCenter/UnderstandingContinuingDisclosure.aspx>).

After the Bonds ... *continued*

Locklin noted that failure to comply with the post bond disclosure requirements results in various consequences, not the least of which includes potential impact on bond pricing.

Locklin's presentation provided a wealth of information regarding rule 15c2-12 and provided attendees with the above cited websites for continuing research on this matter. SCALL would once again like to thank Ms. Locklin for speaking at the Institute and sharing her expertise on the subject. For those of you who prefer other types of bonds, I suggest you watch a number of instructional movies starring Sean Connery.

George P. Carter is Head of Reference & Public Services at the Law Library for San Bernardino County in San Bernardino.

Open Access Project ... reported by Sandy Li



Victoria Trotta, Associate Dean for the Ross-Blakely Law Library of the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, led a dynamic presentation at the 2011 SCALL Institute on open access in the context of government information. Trotta, who is highly involved with the

One of AALL's efforts has been to have the Government Printing Office authenticate and preserve the material on its website, GPO Access. Trotta mentioned, however, that GPO's efforts have been fraught with challenges, including institutional and cultural roadblocks.

Part of the reason for these roadblocks has been the complexities involved in authenticating online legal material. Trotta explained that there are a series of complex steps that are taken when material is authenticated. These steps begin with the author of the material, who must state what the material is and that the material belongs to him or her—the author. Subsequent steps involve establishing the chain of command for the material, such as having to establish that the material did in fact leave the author's hands and was sent to the next agency or group.

Open Access Project at Arizona State University, started the presentation by repeating a central principle of **open access**, which is that **legal information should be available to all and at no charge**.

Trotta explained that in the legal field, open access began to take form when primary source information was being uploaded on the Internet.

According to Trotta, in 2007, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) took significant steps toward the principle of open access. According to an AALL document on open access titled, **AALL Leadership on the Authentication and Preservation of Online Legal Resources**, AALL is committed to the belief that the federal government must ensure that online-only legal information must be authenticated and preserved.

In 2009, GPO launched the **Federal Digital System** (FDsys), which provides authenticated government information, such as public laws and congressional bills. Trotta explained that through authentication and preservation, FDsys aims to become an institutional repository of legal information.

Open Access Project ... *continued*

Although the transition to FDsys has been fraught with issues, such as cost and delay, Trotta believes that with Mary Alice Baish being recently named GPO's Superintendent of Documents, the FDsys project will move forward smoothly. Mary Alice Baish worked in Washington, D.C. for and on behalf of AALL for fifteen years, most recently as the first director of AALL's Government Relations Office.

Trotta also discussed the importance of open access at the state level. She explained that some states have been reluctant to authenticate and preserve their online legal materials, citing high cost and lack of resources as their reasons. Recognizing the importance of preserving digital information at the state level, at the National Summit in 2007, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) created a study committee to examine the issues regarding digital authentication. The study committee recommended that the drafting committee develop a uniform law that would prescribe minimum standards for the authentication and preservation of online state legal materials.

Despite the challenges of authenticating and preserving government information online, Trotta believes that librarians can make a significant difference. Notable efforts have already been made by Carl Malamud of Public.Resource.Org and Law.gov to make primary legal materials freely available, preserved, and authenticated. Trotta encouraged law libraries to develop partnerships and develop open access projects of their own. Her message reminds all of us that we have the power to make a true difference in our communities.

Sandy Li is an MLIS Student at San Jose State University

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30 Sites in 30 Minutes ... reported by Judy Davis



Once again, Michael Saint-Onge, Team Lead for the LexisNexis Librarian Relations Group, presented the closing session at the SCALL Institute. In a lively, fast-paced production, he introduced thirty websites relevant to the 2011 Institute's topic—"Let the Sun Shine In: California Municipal & Public Agency Law & Practice." The sites include background information on several topics, provide further instruction in various areas, or are just plain fun. Here is a sampling of the sites, organized by subject.

Budget

The state budget is a hot topic, and the Institute program reflected that fact. Michael presented several sites that are helpful for understanding budget issues. The **California State**

Budget website, www.ebudget.ca.gov, presents an overview as well as detailed information on the state budget process. It also provides financial and budget information for various state departments. The **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** website, www.cbpp.org, is geared toward national laws rather than California-specific information, but it is a useful resource that covers areas from the federal budget to climate change to welfare reform. Those who enjoy audio-visual learning will welcome the video clips, podcasts and slide shows that are available on a wide range of topics.

Public Records and Meetings

The **Brown Act** is a 1953 California statute that guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in local legislature meetings. Michael introduced a website, <http://brownact.4t.com>, that examines the Brown Act. The site provides several overviews and includes a number of articles about issues related to the Act. **Open the Government**, <http://openthegovernment.org>, is an organization geared toward advancing the public's right to knowledge, reducing government secrecy, and preserving information.

Redevelopment

The use of state funds for redevelopment is another topic that has generated considerable controversy in recent months. The **California Redevelopment Association**, www.calredevelop.org, provides information from the redeveloper's perspective. Users can also use the site to track bills and link to additional relevant sites relating to redevelopment.

Chlorinated Liberty, www.chlorinatedliberty.com, presents the other side of the redevelopment coin by advocating "limited government, smaller deficits and less intrusion into the daily lives of citizens." This conservative blog comments on several recent events in California's redevelopment debate.

Elections

Michael also included websites that would be helpful for learning about the various facets of elections. **DrawCongress**, www.drawcongress.org or www.law.columbia.edu/redistricting, presents the ongoing results of a Columbia Law School student-run project aimed at producing the first nonpartisan map of all 435 congressional districts in the U.S. An interactive map allows the user to see which districts already have potential plans.

For those interested specifically in California elections, the **California Secretary of State** provides an overview of all statewide **ballot measures** at www.sos.ca.gov/elections.

CEQA

CEQA is the California Environmental Quality Act, a statute enacted in 1970 to help ensure statewide environmental protection. The California Natural Resources Agency provides a wealth of helpful information on CEQA at the website of the **California Environmental Resources Evaluation System**, <http://ceres.ca.gov>. Those who teach or who simply enjoy different methods of learning will appreciate the educational component of this website. The **California Office of**

30 Sites in 30 Minutes ... *continued*

Planning and Research offers the **CEQAnet** database, www.ceqanet.ca.gov, in which users may search for individual CEQA documents submitted to the State Clearinghouse for state review since 1990.

Interesting and Fun Sites

Finally, Michael presented some websites that were not only pertinent to the Institute's topic but were especially interesting and entertaining, as well. Los Angeles challenges participants with an online game in which the player tries to balance the **Los Angeles City budget**, <http://labudgetchallenge.lacity.org>.

Dumblaws, www.dumblaws.com, presents absurd laws from across the country and also allows the user to search specific cities for less-than-brilliant legislation. Use it and find out which California city bans poker tournaments in elementary schools.

Michael included many more useful sites in his session than this article can contain. For additional information, refer to his list that was included in the Institute's electronic document handouts and will also be available on the Institute website soon.

Judy Davis is Head of Access Services at USC Gould School of Law in Los Angeles

Job Opportunities ... by Jodi Kruger

Assistant Technical Services Librarian; UC Hastings College of Law; San Francisco, March 16

Pool of Temporary Reference Librarians; Western State University Law Library; Fullerton, Ongoing

Librarians & Library Technical Assistants, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Statewide, Ongoing

***Jodi Kruger** is Research Services Librarian at Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu. She is currently Chair of the SCALL Placement Committee.*

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