Top stories in this newsletter

From the President
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ALA Midwinter 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap: Impressions
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Membership News
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ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap: Impressions 5
From the President

By Erik Y. Adams

Stay home. Be safe.

SCALL’s annual Institute was held March 6th and 7th in San Diego, and it already feels like a lifetime ago. In addition to the interesting topics and speakers, one topic of conversation that came up over and over was how our institutions were responding to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. It seemed that if one person reported a new employer mandate in the morning (e.g., no unnecessary travel, or no meetings with outside vendors), by the afternoon everyone else would have an email with a similar restriction. As I write this, most of us are now working from home and adjusting to life where most outside contact is mediated by the telephone or video conference software.

The Board met in March via teleconference and decided to cancel SCALL’s spring meeting, which is normally held at the end of March or beginning of April; most of us would not have been allowed to attend, anyway. We are now looking into how we will handle the business meeting, and I suspect it will have to be done virtually, which will be a first for SCALL. The American Library Association (ALA) announced that it has canceled its annual conference in June, and the American Association of Law Libraries has just announced that the in-person conference in July is also canceled.

Social distancing will eventually come to an end, and we will meet in person. There will be more Institutes and more business meetings. They have not left us; they have only been put aside, for a little while, for the greater good.

The How and Why of the Institute

The Institute has two objectives: educate the membership, and make money. Tremendous effort goes into planning an event that will appeal to a broad section of the membership–we really do try to appeal academics, law firm librarians, and public and government law librarians. I have often thought that we are a curious profession, as we are joined by a subject matter, rather than the circumstances of our employment. Appealing to such diverse professional needs is a challenge, and I think this year’s Institute did a particularly good job.

That said, we cannot ignore the fact that the Institute is a money maker for SCALL and makes possible the programs that are at the core of what SCALL does. Most regional chapters affiliated with AALL host some kind of annual meeting, but the scale and goals vary considerably. Some host one-day events, jam packed with educational content, but not particularly profitable. Others host events that are similar in scope and ambition to AALL’s annual conference. With our Institute, we try to split that difference and satisfy our two objectives. That is part of why our Institute spans two days of content: most subjects simply cannot be adequately covered in a single day.

The profits from the Institute make possible the grants we give to members to attend other educational events (like AALL), and sponsor the youth internship program which grows the profession. The majority of the budget that is devoted to these programs comes from profits from the Institute. The quarterly meetings generally break even, and membership dues contribute as well, but the bulk of the funding comes from the Institute.

There is an interplay between different aspects of the Institute that make it into the well-run machine we know and benefit from. For example, by having a two-day event that is out of town for most of our members, we can guarantee a number of overnight guests at the host hotel, which results in much better rates on conference rooms and other facilities. If we held the event closer to home, fewer members would stay overnight, and SCALL would not make as much money.

We are careful to choose hotels that will give us a good rate, but are also pleasant to work with and nice to stay at. There are many hotels that we have considered and found either to be too expensive, or not nice enough for our members. That is part of why we returned to the Horton Grand Hotel this year. There are other hotels in San Diego, but not as many would be as reasonable or pleasant. Sadly, that is also why we are probably not going to return to Santa Barbara any time soon; most hotels are simply too expensive for our membership.

Having a two-day event also makes the Institute more attractive to vendors, who contribute a considerable portion of the Institute’s profits. Without the sponsorship of our vendors, the event would not be as financially successful as it is.

We are now putting together a committee to work on the future of the Institute. If you want to have a say in how the Institute looks going forward, please reach out to Margaret Hall at mhall@swlaw.edu. We would love to hear your opinions. And see you next year.

ALA Midwinter

2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

By Rachel Galindo
Public Services Assistant — Archives
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

I like Philadelphia and I don’t care who knows it! It will always be the city where I attended my first major library conference, ALA Midwinter. It was only last January so I still feel positive about the experience. Here are a few highlights. First, my colleague and I had almost no luggage for the first two days due to an unexpected plane change. It was a little rough as one might imagine, but it gave us an excuse to visit Target and buy matching pajamas. The joke is on you, Southwest! Second, the people we met there were friendly and accommodating, and the food memorable. We found several vegetarian/vegan restaurants within walking distance of our hotel, including a vegan cheesesteak pizza at Blackbird Pizzeria. Third, Philadelphia does a wonderful job of preserving their history. History is everywhere you turn.

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Woven in with it are the accompaniments of a youthful, modern, and lively city. If you have never been, it’s truly a city of subtle balance.

The Philadelphia Convention Center is one of those modern places squeezed between smaller, older buildings. It is on top of the famous Reading Terminal Market, which houses many small restaurants, delis, and gift shops. The start of the conference was as exciting as it was overwhelming, but unless you had committee duties, first-time attendees could test drive a variety of information sessions and explore the exhibit hall. I picked a few sessions that related to my public services position at Loyola Law School, and a few unrelated that sounded interesting. The most valuable session I attended was a presentation from C.V. Martoni on library marketing with social media, which is a focus of mine at the law school. Martoni laid out a thorough 10-step program ideal for an entire marketing team, but I knew that I could implement some of her strategies at my own library. When I returned to work the following Wednesday, I proposed a social media committee per Martoni’s suggestion. My social media savvy team of coworkers showed up to our first meeting with an impressive number of great ideas and loads of enthusiasm. We are starting slow with weekly hashtags, Instagram stories, and simple branding.

Prior to the session on social media strategies, I attended a discussion about technology and privacy where participants discussed privacy issues within their library. Oddly enough, many shared issues concerned email. One participant complained that patrons in their public library cause privacy risks because they often forget or do not know how to log out of their email. Another public librarian struggled to answer questions from patrons about the best email service to use. Noting that all companies have potential security risks, discussion moderators Elisa Rodrigues and Anders Lyon, suggested there is no perfect answer or solution. They suggest informing patrons of the risks and recommending they consider their individual needs before signing up. The most surprising comment from the group was simply a struggle to define privacy within their institution.

This participant offered that with clearer policies and definitions, staff could better direct and protect their patrons.

Aside from our missing luggage, which was eventually returned, the trip went smoothly. The remaining sessions covered many other great topics like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, gender studies, and community impact. Naturally, the conference catered to readers, so yes, we walked away with too many free books. ALA Midwinter 2020, while largely meant for committees to meet, was proof that resource sharing is a major part of librarianship, but also a professional perk. It was inspirational to see so many librarians and library staff contribute to important ongoing conversations regarding technology and the future of libraries. It was also a good reminder to enlist help from those who know more than you. Sure, it is difficult to sit back and let others show you the ropes, but you will learn something new and hopefully come away with the confidence to push yourself further in the profession. Lastly (and this is more of a hot tip), I recommend setting specific goals for future conferences. You may go in with a productive mentality, but conferences move fast when you have a busy schedule. So, before you head to your next library conference plan to learn something new, meet another professional who shares your affinity for matching pajama sets, and take advantage of the many resources provided at conferences like ALA that can help you grow in your professional role.
Putting Ethics in Context: Professor Scott Cummings on “Legal Ethics in Unethical Times”

By Elyse Meyers
Assistant Director, Library Research Assistant
Program Chair, 2020 Institute Speakers Subcommittee
UCLA Law School

I had the pleasure of chairing this year’s 2020 SCALL Institute Speakers Subcommittee, which is responsible for the Institute’s educational program. We knew that we would have no trouble identifying a number of exciting topics related to ethics in law libraries, but a fortuitously-timed UCLA Law School presentation organized by Professor Scott Cummings inspired us to go beyond our original plan. After hearing Professor Cummings’s talk, called “Ethics in the Era of Trump,” we decided to design a session to contextualize the issues discussed at the Institute and to ground us in the past, present, and future of the ethics of lawyers, lawyering, and libraries. (The UCLA presentation took place just hours before our first committee phone call regarding Institute programming!) We were thrilled to secure Professor Cummings to deliver the Institute’s keynote address, “Legal Ethics in Unethical Times.” The speech was a riveting, thoughtful, sometimes dark look at where we came from, what is happening now, and what we can do in the future to address what we perceive as the sharp deterioration of ethics and values in our current system.

Scott Cummings, the Robert Henigson Professor of Legal Ethics and Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law, began with a reminder that Americans have a history of believing ethics is in decline. He made clear that his purpose was not to ignore past perceptions of contemporaneous times, but to assert that he believes that intensification of certain shifts in law teaching and practice, as well as new challenges, have made the present difficult. As he put it, “A key premise of my remarks this afternoon is that we have, in fact, entered a new, troubling ethical environment, which makes it incumbent on us to reconsider how we train law students (and lawyers), and how we support their professional development over time. Doing this requires that we reflect seriously upon the role of law schools generally, and law libraries in particular, as repositories of fact and truth.”

Professor Cummings began his address by describing two issues he has identified as contributing to our current state of affairs. The first, what the global
ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap: Impressions
By Jimmy Pak
Research Law Librarian for Technology Services
UC Irvine School of Law

For those of you unable to attend the American Bar Association’s 2020 Tech Show, here are some of my takeaways as a first-time attendee, a life-long Californian, and a technology law librarian. First, the cold. I was shocked how underprepared my wardrobe was for actual seasonal weather. Beyond the soul crushing temperature drops, I was happy to attend presentations geared towards academic instruction. The Tech Show felt like a snapshot of where the current legal technology market stands, bridging the gap between hypothetical future tech to practical (and profitable) implementation.

Overall, the Tech Show serves as a snapshot of the current legal technology market for small to midsized law firms. While a few niche legal market tools stood out from the vendor halls, the majority of the vendors represented varying customer relations management systems (CRMs). One key observation was that nearly all CRM systems automated the same processes in a law firm and had a similar dashboard style interface. Because of the uniformity in the user interface, law school instruction of a single CRM platform would develop skills that would be translatable to any CRM platform.

The educational tracks were also enlightening for a first time Tech Show participant. “Tech Toolbox 2020: What’s Right for Your Practice?” offered a fast paced, 60-minute presentation of the most popular legal technology tools for a law firm. The presentation detailed numerous

continued from page 4 (Putting Ethics in Context)

policy think tank RAND calls “truth decay,” Cummings described as a “waning respect for fact and truth.” He explained that truth decay has affected politics and that lawyers have always had a reputation for having a shady relationship with the truth. The second issue Cummings identified is a change in the legal profession away from idealizing the public good, and toward focusing on a “win at all costs” mentality. Professor Cummings then laid out a history of American ethics regimes over time, starting with Judge David Sharswood’s “Essay on Professional Ethics,” and covering the ABA’s 1908 Canons of Ethics, the ABA’s 1969 Code of Professional Responsibility, and the Rules of Professional Conduct issued just a few years later. He argued that we saw a real weakening of “the pillars that held up legal ethics” starting in the 1970s.

The heart of Cummings’s discussion was the three issues he sees as contributing to our declining ethical regime in the U.S. First is “fragmentation.” He argued that this fragmentation is expressed as inequality in the profession itself, including in the “hyper-stratification” of the gap in salary for firm lawyers vs. nonprofit lawyers, caused in part by changes in big firms’ practice and structure and by an increasing sense that success as a lawyer is about “keeping up with the Joneses.” The second factor Cummings identified is hyperpartisanship, both in the political sphere and in lawyers’ professional sphere. He asserted that, for lawyers, the idea of extreme loyalty to clients increasingly seems in conflict with their duties to the public good and the system (see, e.g., Rudy Giuliani). The audience audibly gasped when Professor Cummings said “we increasingly live in a world in which loyalty trumps—where what it means to be a lawyer has shifted from serving justice to serving just-us.” The third factor he discussed was hyperspecialization, which happens when

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software and application options for running a law firm. From cloud tops, document management, document assembly, voice recognition, security, sharing, encryption, social media, client portals, research analytics, and much more, this concise session broke down software options for them all.

“Skills Building: Best Practices for Teaching Tech to Law Students” featured April G. Dawson, Debbie Ginsberg, Nicole Morris, and Jennifer L. Wondrocek who presented an overview of what law students should know and how to get law schools/faculty involved in legal technology instruction. The panel suggested many ways to engage students and faculty at every level. The key takeaway of the presentation: blame your local state bar for making you do it. As state bar associations continue to adopt a legal tech competency requirement, it is only a matter of time when legal tech instruction becomes a requirement. The panel suggests using this to “encourage” more cooperation from your administration and faculty for more technology instruction.

CaseText unveiled their new motion-drafting tool ‘Compose’ which joins a less crowded legal technology marketplace. CaseText has no current plans to collaborate with law schools, instead focusing on adding more practice areas and jurisdictions to their functionality. Motion automation appears to be the next big AI tech push, with the promise of replacing what would normally take junior associates hours of billable time in mere minutes. It is a shame this tool will likely be out of reach for law schools for the time being, but motion automation appears to be the way of the future.

On a bleaker note, another program I attended focused on the problems with AI, presented by Damien A. Riehl from Fastcase and Thomas Hamilton, VP at Ross Intelligence. Given the overreliance on AI in the legal field, the speakers’ main concern was addressing biases in the data and acceptable AI standards. The speakers differentiated malicious human bias to non-malicious bias, human error, and address the question of how “good” does an AI program have to be before it is trusted to do the work of a human (i.e. how many deaths are acceptable for autonomous vehicles before being generally accepted by society). As dark as these topics appeared, it was just another reality in our current age of AI automation, but at least it beats dealing with the terminator.

Finally, the Chicago scene was unfamiliar at first but inviting for a first time traveler. The kindness of strangers, the food, and the architecture all gave me more reason to make it out to the ABA Tech Show on a more regular basis. I can honestly say that the best burger, pizza, and hot dog I have had in my life were in Chicago. Overall, the Tech Show was a worthwhile experience. If I ever get the chance, I am sure I will be making my way back to this conference any year I can.
Membership News
By Judy K. Davis and Karen Skinner

Cara Henley Johnson of O’Melveny, and her partner Tomas Velazquez celebrated the due date of their son Tommy. Tommy was born at 23 weeks, so his due date marks an incredible milestone. Congratulations, Cara, Tomas, and Tommy!

Leonette Williams, Emerita Law Librarian at USC, was presented with the 2019 Albert O. Brecht Lifetime Achievement Award at the SCALL Holiday Party. Thank you, Leonette, for your many years of service to Southern California law librarians!

Welcome new members!

Araceli Argueta is Collection Management Services Assistant - Serials & Acquisitions at Loyola Law School
Diane Ellis is a student at San Jose State University
Jane Lah is Library Supervisor at the USC Law Library
Jane Lippmann is Information Management Advisor at Thomson Reuters
Kelly Maldnado is Librarian I at the University of Southern California
Jenna Pontious is Reference and Instruction Librarian at Riverside County Law Library
Victoria Tokar is Reference Librarian at UNLV

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

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<tr>
<th>Judy K. Davis</th>
<th>Karen Skinner</th>
</tr>
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<td>Co-Chair, SCALL Membership Committee</td>
<td>Co-Chair, SCALL Membership Committee</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:jkdavis@law.usc.edu">jkdavis@law.usc.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kskinner@law.usc.edu">kskinner@law.usc.edu</a></td>
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Tommy Velasquez celebrates his due date at a healthy 8 lb. 1.5 oz.
## Career Opportunities

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By Don Buffaloe
Chair, SCALL Placement Committee

donald.buffaloe@pepperdine.edu

View complete job descriptions at [scallnet.org/career-opportunities/](http://scallnet.org/career-opportunities/)
Treasurer’s Report
By Caitlin Hunter, Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

SCALL Balances

Bank Balance as of March 5, 2020 $43,764.30
PayPal Balance as of March 5, 2020 $4,236.79
Petty Cash Balance as of March 5, 2020 $101.06
Total Balance as of March 5, 2020 $48,102.15

Committee Income and Expenses since July 1, 2019

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*The Board approved a one-time additional expenditure of Awards funds, in order to give the Rohan Chapter Service Award to the entire PALI committee.

**The Board approved an additional $1,000 in grants for 2019-2020, due to the anticipated popularity of the AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

Submission Deadlines

The SCALL Newsletter team welcomes submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Christina Tsou, SCALL Newsletter Editor: ctsou@law.ucla.edu

All submissions should be received by:

| May/June 2020 | May 4, 2020 |
| Sept/Oct 2020 | September 8, 2020 |
| Nov/Dec 2020  | November 16, 2020 |
| Jan/ Feb 2021 | January 11, 2021 |
| Mar/Apr 2021  | March 15, 2021 |
Committee Chairs 2019–2020

Archives
Christine Langteau
LA Law Library
(213) 785-2542
clangteau@lalawlibrary.org

Awards
Jennifer A. Berman
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
(310) 551-9360
jberman@mwe.com

Budget & Finance
Jessica Wimer
UCI Law Library
(949) 824-7293
jwimer@law.uci.edu

Bylaws
Amy Atchison
UCI Law Library
(949) 824-3203
aatchison@law.uci.edu

Government Relations
David McFadden
Southwestern Law School Library
(213) 738-6726
dmcfadden@swlaw.edu

Grants
Cynthia Guyer
USC Law Library
(213) 740-2621
cguyer@law.usc.edu

Information Technology - Listserv & Website
Suzie Shatarevyan
Loyola Law School Library
(213) 736-1147
suzie.shatarevyan@lls.edu

Inner City Youth
Diana Jaque, Co-Chair
USC Law Library
(213) 740-6482
djaque@law.usc.edu

Institute
Erik Y. Adams
Sidley Austin LLP
(213) 896-6170
erik.adams@sidley.com

Institute Advisory
Jennifer Berman
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
(310) 551-9360
jberman@mwe.com

Library School Liaison
Stephanie Anayah
UCLA Law Library
(310) 206-4860
anayah@law.ucla.edu

Nominations
Pauline Aranas
USC Law Library
(949) 824-1430
paranas@law.usc.edu

Placement
Don Buffalo
Pepperdine University School of Law Library
Phone: (213) 740-7179
donald.buffalo@pepperdine.edu

Newsletter
Judy K. Davis, Co-Chair
USC Law Library
(213) 740-2189
jkdavis@law.usc.edu

Christina Tsou
UCI Law Library
(949) 824-1430
c.tsou@law.uci.edu

Jessica Wimer
UCI Law Library
(949) 824-7293
jwimer@law.uci.edu

Professional Development
Jennifer Berman, Co-Chair
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
(310) 551-9360
jberman@mwe.com

Mark Gediman, Co-Chair
Alston & Bird
(213) 576-2689
mark.gediman@alston.com

Programs
Alina Kelly, Co-Chair
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP
(310) 312-3779
aak@msk.com

Tanya Livshits, Co-Chair
Irell & Manella LLP
(310) 203-7517
tlivshits@irell.com

Public Access to Legal Information
Elizabeth Caulfield
Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District
(213) 830-7242
elizabeth.caulfield@jud.ca.gov

Public Relations
Daisy De Anda
Sheppard Mullin
(213) 617-5429
d.deanda@sheppardmullin.com

Relations with Vendors
Lawrence R. Meyer
San Bernardino County Law Library
(909) 885-4349
larry.m@sblawlibrary.org