



Southern California Association of Law Libraries

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From the President

*By Alina Kelly
Director of Research and Library Services
Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP*

What a year it has been for SCALL. The privilege of working alongside such remarkable colleagues, each bringing their own expertise, warmth, and spirit of camaraderie, is something I will never take for granted. Our members and volunteers make this organization the powerhouse of mentorship and collegiality that it truly is. If you have not yet participated in a SCALL committee, I cannot encourage you enough to do so. The committee chairs are listed on the [SCALL website](#) and are happy to answer any questions you might have regarding their committee.

This year’s Board continued the work started by the previous year’s Board and Budget & Finance Committee by maintaining a conservative budget. This was a deliberate choice to ensure SCALL remains on sound financial footing well into the future. Our financial condition’s progress has been meaningful, thanks in no small part to the Institute Committee and its chair, Sherry Leysen, whose efforts have helped us catch up considerably.

A new Board is on the horizon, and I could not be more enthusiastic about our slate of candidates. Their statements and biographies appear in this issue of the newsletter, and I encourage you to read them before casting your vote. The election runs from **May 18 to June 10**, and you will receive an email from AALL with voting instructions. Though this slate is uncontested, a strong member

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turnout remains essential — your participation matters.

Our candidates are:

- Ryan Methany — Vice President
- Angie So — Secretary
- Victoria Ferroni — Board Member

Having had the pleasure of working with the candidates in an association setting, I can say with confidence that SCALL will be in excellent hands. Thank you all for generously offering your time and talent, and congratulations on your nominations. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the Nominations Committee, who once again rose to the occasion in securing such outstanding candidates.

The transition to the new Board will take place at the Annual Business Meeting on **Wednesday, June 17th at 12 pm PT**, where we will also bid farewell to several Board members completing their service. Tanya Livshits, whose tenure spanning Vice President, President, and Immediate Past President was instrumental in re-

turning SCALL to financial stability, deserves enormous recognition. Elyse Meyers brought sense, practicality, and the benefit of years of SCALL experience to the Board. And Julianne Odin — whose efficiency as Secretary was, frankly, impressive — managed elections, Board meeting minutes, and annual reports with remarkable precision. To each of them: thank you.

I look forward to seeing what next year brings! If you see me at the AALL Meeting in Cleveland, or the Pacific Joint Chapters Reception, please say hello!



SCALL Election May 18 – June 10

Meet the Candidates

The following candidates will be running for SCALL board positions this election cycle:

- Vice President / President Elect:** Ryan Metheny
Secretary: Yun Ji “Angie” So
Member of the Board: Victoria Ferroni



Vice President / President Elect (three-year term)
Ryan Metheny, Director, Reference & Collections, LA Law

I am honored to be nominated as Vice President / President Elect of SCALL, and thrilled with the opportunity to lead such an incredible group of professionals.

I first worked in law libraries twenty years ago as a 1L year research assistant at UCLA School of Law. After a foray into practice, I found my way back to law libraries and earned my MLIS at the University of Washington. I completed fieldwork at San Bernardino County Law Library, and shortly thereafter was hired as a reference librarian at LA Law Library, where I have remained ever since. I now serve as Director, Reference & Collections. I also teach part-time as a legal research lecturer at USC-Gould School of Law.

I believe that professional development opportunities like those provided by SCALL are one of the best aspects of law librarianship. We share resources and knowledge, and connect with each other in genuine ways. Among other SCALL activities, I served on the

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Board as Member-at-Large (2020-21) and as a speaker at the Institute. I have also contributed to AALL as a member of the Government Relations Committee (2024), and as an article author in *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum*.

These experiences have been among the most rewarding of my career. As Vice President / President Elect, I would love to help ensure that our local chapter continues offering amazing educational programming, opportunities to connect, and other resources that enrich the professional lives of our members and provide a bit of fun.



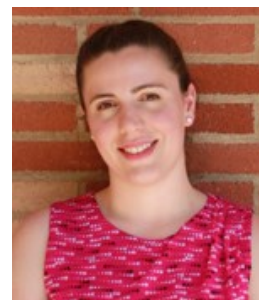
Secretary (two-year term)

Yun Ji "Angie" So, Access Services Librarian, William M. Rains Library, Loyola Law School

I started my librarian career when I joined Loyola Law School’s William M. Rains Library team in March 2022 as the Access Services Librarian. In this position, I get to hire and work with students, deliver outreach, programming, and wellness events, work as part of the public services team, and work in tandem with various departments across campus. Prior to my “migration” to the law school campus, I worked as a library assistant in several positions at the William H. Hannon Library on Loyola Marymount University’s main campus – which is where I received my B.A. degree. While working at Hannon Library, I earned my M.L.I.S. degree via San Jose State’s online program. I’ve been a loyal lion since 2009!

Not long after moving to the law library, I joined SCALL’s Public Relations Committee in August 2022. Then about a month later, I also joined the Membership team. Being a part of SCALL has been wonderfully rewarding. Aside from the professional developmental advantages of being on SCALL’s committees, many of the connections forged here have become great friendships. Serving on the Executive Board would not only help me expand my involvement with SCALL, but this would also allow me to give back to this brilliant community.

I’m totally humbled by the nomination. Thank you for considering me for this role. I am super excited about the opportunity/possibility of serving as SCALL’s secretary.



Board Member (two-year term)

Victoria Ferroni, Access Services Librarian, UCLA Law Library

I am honored to be a candidate for Member of the Board and excited for the opportunity to serve the Southern California Association of Law Libraries. I bring over a decade of experience in academic law librarianship, along with a strong commitment to collaboration and professional growth within our field.

I earned my M.L.I.S. from San José State University in 2015. I began my career at the University of California, Merced Library in 2012, where I developed a foundation in public service and user-centered library support. In 2017, I joined the UCLA School of Law Library, where I have continued to grow professionally and deepen my engagement with legal information services. In 2024, I was promoted to Access Services Librarian, a role that has allowed me to strengthen operations, improve access to resources, and support law students, staff, and faculty.

Throughout my career, I have prioritized teamwork, recognizing that strong collaboration leads to more effective and inclusive outcomes. I am dedicated to the continued growth and evolution of law librarianship, particularly in how we adapt to changing user needs and technologies.

If elected, I will bring a thoughtful, engaged, and collaborative approach to the Board. I am eager to contribute my experience, learn from colleagues, and help advance SCALL’s mission. Thank you for your consideration.





Neutrality, Duty, and Silence in Federal Court Libraries

By Eric J. H. Chapman
Assistant Pasadena Branch Librarian
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

The debate over whether a library should remain a place of neutrality, politically and socially, has a long and contentious history. However, in the federal courts, the argument is simple: libraries are obliged to remain neutral. Talk to me privately and I might tell you a story. Talk to me publicly and I will but nod.

The [Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees](#) directs all employees to refrain from partisan political activity, as well as non-partisan political activity that reflects adversely on the impartiality of the court or “interfere[s] with the proper performance of official duties.” The Code further prohibits lawyers employed by the court who assist judges on cases from engaging in a broader swath of nonpartisan political activity, including so much as contributing to a nonpartisan political event. Many law librarians employed by the court are lawyers, hired because of their legal backgrounds and ability to assist judges in research for cases. Arguably, the stricter prohibitions on non-partisan political activity apply only to people hired as lawyers; however, it ultimately matters not. Federal court librarians are still prohibited from such activity because it could interfere with the proper performance of their duties.

As a librarian for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the cornerstone of my position is supporting the research and information needs of judges and their staff. If they say jump, I do not ask how high; I find and clear the bar. My personal opinions about how the law should be interpreted and applied are immaterial. Whether conservative or liberal, textualist or pragmatist, every patron receives the same level of service. As a result, albeit without attribution, my research can be found in many opinions and memoranda with which I disagree. Naturally, I have my own opinions, but to share them publicly would jeopardize my position and my service to the court.

Federal court librarians account for a small fraction of the total number of law librarians in the nation. Sprinkled throughout the country, we sit secluded from our peers, both in establishment and in the activities in which we engage. Not that we do not engage, but when we do, we must dampen our voices and actions. Our work calls on us to be among the most politically impartial workers in the nation.



The constraints on federal court librarians are unique among court employees. Judges, often viewed as having the strictest code of conduct, frequently speak and write about their legal philosophies. For a law librarian to do so could be tantamount to a letter of resignation. If I were to speak publicly about how I believe the courts should rely upon statutory analogs or interpret the constitution, I could dissuade my patrons from seeking help. Such actions would interfere with the “proper performance” of my duties.

Exploring the topic of library neutrality, Rick Anderson eloquently summarized that “the library sometimes and in some contexts must not be neutral, and in others absolutely must be neutral — and sometimes, it’s hard to say what we mean by ‘neutral’ and sometimes it’s hard to say whether ‘neutrality’ is the right or the wrong stance.” *Revisiting: Libraries and the Contested Terrain of “Neutrality,”* The Scholarly Kitchen (Sept. 3, 2024).

Federal court libraries naturally lack perfect balance. Typically, a library’s collection is tailored to the needs of the judges in the courthouse in which it is situated. This could result in some collections holding more conservative or liberal leaning resources than others. The courthouse in which I am situated has a fair balance between judges, which is represented in my library’s collection. Likely, the most controversial outputs from my library are my wry remarks regarding certain legal resources in my monthly newsletter.

Unlike public librarians, federal court librarians are fortunate in not having to fight many of today’s controversial cultural battles, such as those involving book bans. It is unlikely that they will struggle in deciding whether to include in the collection George M. Johnson’s *All Boys Aren’t Blue* or Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Obtaining a controversial book is often not up for debate. If a judge needed a book advocating racist, misogynistic, or otherwise broadly objectionable positions, would we get it? Of course.

It is the duty of a librarian in the federal courts to support the needs of any judge, any law clerk, or any staff attorney who requests help. With that, please accept but my wry smile when asked whether law achieves integrity when it speaks with one voice.


 Congratulations to SCALL’s
 AALL Meeting grant recipients,
 Caitlin Hunter and Jennifer Morley!
 

Member Spotlight: Getting to Know Brendan Starkey

By Sherry Leysen
Reference Librarian
UCLA Law Library

You may know longtime SCALL member Brendan Starkey from his extensive local, state, and national service to the law librarianship community, or through his leadership as Director of the Orange County Public Law Library. What may be less well known to SCALL members is Brendan's unique path to law librarianship. We recently chatted about his career and his love of music, cooking, and L.A.

While an undergraduate at the University of San Diego, Brendan studied History (major) and Music (minor). Enjoying the work of research and writing, he was set on achieving a Ph.D. in History and an academic career. But in his last year of college, Brendan shared he had a change of heart about his career choice, recalling, "I wanted to be out in the world and interacting with people," rather than pursue solo scholarly



*SCALL member Brendan Starkey
(Photo courtesy of Brendan Starkey)*

pursuits. His father—a Librarian—gently inquired as to whether a librarianship career was something Brendan might consider.

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He took a gap year to work and apply to MLS programs, attending the University of Kentucky, where he was offered a graduate assistant position. At the time, he was not thinking at all about pursuing law librarianship as a specialization.

With fond memories of his time in Kentucky, he returned to California after his program. His first post-graduate work was a cataloging project which led to on-the-job training and reference work at the USD Legal Research Center under one of his first mentors, Nancy Carter. When a librarian position opened at Whittier Law School, Brendan transitioned there, working under library director Denny Haythorn (SCALL President 1988-89), another mentor. He later headed to Seattle University School of Law for a reference librarian opportunity, eventually deciding that earning a J.D. would help him further progress with his career goals.

He attended U.S.C. Law School and enjoyed it immensely.

Not only was it located in one of his favorite cities, but he also appreciated its welcoming community and collegial vibe. Already an experienced researcher, he remembers being inspired by the excellent legal writing program instructors, who introduced him to a writing style that still resonates with him today: “The idea that legal writing is paring everything down to the essentials but doing it in such a way that you’re still using the best language. It’s a very targeted approach.”

Though his original intention was to resume his librarian career, his research and writing skills opened new opportunities he had not previously considered: big law litigation. As a litigation associate, he found law and motion practice enjoyable and rewarding.

After several years as a law firm litigator and researcher, Brendan returned to academia. He gained knowledge running legal research instructional programs, teaching legal research courses, hiring, supervising, and mentoring library staff and librarians, building collections, conducting strategic planning, and overseeing a public service department, among other accomplishments.

Understanding the essential resources and expert services that legal researchers need led to his current role since 2018: running a thriving public law library that serves the local public and legal community. In addition to his leadership role, service to the profession is incredibly important to him. He serves on SCALL’s Library School Liaison Committee, holds a board position on the AALL Government Law Librar-

ies Special Interest Section (GLL-SIS), and is the current president of the Council of California County Law Librarians (CCLLL). He shared that he appreciates the variety of complementary responsibilities that come with committee service and the wonderful colleagues he has met along the way.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, he has a deep enthusiasm for music. A musician and performer—including playing in a rock and roll band in college—Brendan plays bass guitar, guitar, viola, and violin. Among other influences, he shared that he is fond of traditional acoustical sounds, inspired by early listening to the folk music collection of his parents. Brendan enjoys a range of live musical performances at venues large (Coachella) and small (next up: attending British group Ladytron’s performance in L.A.).

Another pastime is cooking, inspired by the flavors of his youth and international cuisines. He shared that he especially enjoys preparing specialties like paella—one of his favorites—and salsas from scratch, which he is currently learning. He fondly recalls that his mother, who is originally from the Alsace region (and yes, Brendan is fluent in French), would often prepare family meals from those collected in the *Charleston Receipts*, an early, classic cookbook purchased at a Charleston bookshop, and from the USDA’s early healthy recipe collections mailed to households. Brendan still cooks from these collections, complete with his mother’s annotations.



Brendan enjoys preparing specialties like paella (Photo courtesy of Brendan Starkey)

I asked Brendan what advice he had for librarians newer to the profession: “Don’t engage in ‘presentism.’ The present isn’t permanent. If your career isn’t heading in exactly the direction you thought it would,

don’t worry. You may end up going in a direction that you never thought of, and that turns out to be better. But you may also be able to eventually achieve what you want. There are things that will always be out of your control, whether it’s the economy or the hiring market ... Everything changes. Always be prepared for unexpected opportunities.”

A history buff, Brendan shared that he recently became reacquainted with Joan Didion’s 1979 essay on L.A. traffic travails in the 70s, *Bureaucrats*. For anyone spending time on So Cal freeways and toll roads, he suggested others may find it amusing, too. “She’s dryly funny in a way I really appreciate,” he said.

With decades of experience in academic, law firm, and government libraries, Brendan brings a deep sense of service and tremendous experience to the profession. Many thanks to Brendan for sharing his story with SCALL members!

Freedom to Read in California

By Victoria Tokar
Senior Reference Librarian
Loyola Law School

Censorship and book bans have been part of the fabric of the United States since before the founding of the nation. Following a general drop in book bans from the mid-twentieth century, efforts to ban books have spiked nationwide since 2021. Targeted books largely feature subjects like race, sex, and gender, or were written by POC- or LGBTQ+ authors.

While most of these bans came from conservative-majority states, California was not immune. In 2023, then Huntington Beach Councilmember Gracey Van der Mark accused the city's public libraries of providing "obscene and... pornographic children's books".¹ Against opposition from three councilmembers, the Huntington Beach City Council approved Resolution No. 2023-41. The resolution directed the library to remove books and materials containing "sexual writings, sexual references, explicit sexual images, and any other sexual content" from the children's section and require parental consent before making the materials available to anyone "under 18-years of age".² The resolution also established a "community parent/guardian review board".^{3,4} City librarians got to work removing books like *Once Upon a Potty* and *Puberty is Gross but Also Really Awesome* from the children's section.⁵ Upon rumors that Huntington Beach would

consider privatizing the library, the city's principal librarian resigned.⁶

Shortly after the Huntington Beach resolution passed, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors passed a strikingly similar resolution. County Supervisor Steve Brandau explained that the resolution stemmed from parent complaints about the Pride Month display in the Clovis Library children's section. Brandau visited the library in June 2023, the first time he had visited in years, and said that he was "horrified" by the books on display.⁷

In direct response to these efforts, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi introduced the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825) in January 2024.⁸ In its earliest iterations, the bill directed the governing bodies of public libraries to establish written selection policies, to prohibit discrimination in the selection or retention of materials based on protected characteristics such as race, gender identity, or sexuality, and to protect library patrons' rights of access to materials and of privacy, regardless of age, background, or views.⁹ An amendment in the Assembly explicitly added a cause of action for individuals impacted by actions that violated the Act¹⁰, but this provision was subsequently removed.¹¹ The Senate added provisions protecting librarians and library workers from termination and other adverse employment actions for refusing to remove material before review and for making displays, acquisitions, or library programming decisions.¹² The bill was approved by Governor Newsom on September 29, 2024.

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¹ Michael Slaten, *Huntington Beach wants options for making it harder for children to access sexually explicit books*, ORANGE CNTY. REG. (June 20, 2023), <https://www.ocregister.com/2023/06/20/packed-room-for-tonights-huntington-beach-city-council-meeting-about-screening-childrens-books-at-city-libraries/>.

² Huntington Beach, Cal., Resolution 2023-41 (Oct. 17, 2023).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Huntington Beach voters repealed the ordinance establishing the citizen review board in a special election in June 2025. See Jill Replogle, *Huntington Beach voters push back at the polls against efforts to politicize the city's beloved libraries*, LAIST (June 11, 2025), <https://laist.com/news/politics/huntington-beach-library-measures-a-and-b-headed-for-defeat-in-early-results>.

⁵ Jill Replogle, *Huntington Beach Librarians Begin Reviewing Kids' Books for 'Sexual Content'*, LAIST (Feb. 7, 2024), <https://laist.com/news/politics/huntington-beach-library-sexual-content-review>.

⁶ Ryan Fonesca, *How Huntington Beach's library became a culture war battleground*, L.A. TIMES (May 10, 2024), <https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2024-05-10/>

[huntington-beach-library-book-restrictions-essential-california](https://www.huntington-beach-library-book-restrictions-essential-california).

⁷ Ben Morris, *New Parents Matter Act resolution announced in Fresno Co.*, YOURCENTRALVALLEY.COM (Nov. 2, 2023), <http://yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/new-parents-matter-act-resolution-announced-in-fresno-co/>; *Controversial Parents Matter Act passes Fresno County Board of Supervisors*, ABC30 (Nov. 28, 2023), <https://abc30.com/post/parents-matter-act-library-books-fresno-county-age-appropriate/14115038/>.

⁸ Alexei Koseff, *California Democrats strike back against local conservative rebellions on LGBTQ rights, abortion*, CAL MATTERS (Sept. 3, 2024), <https://calmatters.org/politics/capitol/2024/09/california-democrats-legislature-conservatives/>.

⁹ A.B. 1825, 2023-2024 Assemb. Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2024).

¹⁰ A.B. 1825, 2023-2024 Assemb. Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2024) (as amended by Assembly on Apr. 1, 2024).

¹¹ A.B.1825, 2023-2024 Assemb. Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2024) (as amended by Assembly on May 15, 2024).

¹² A.B. 1825, 2023-2024 Sen. Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2024) (as amended by Senate on June 18, 2024).



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While the California Freedom to Read Act did not include the explicit cause of action envisioned in early versions, the Act formed the basis of a lawsuit challenging the Huntington Beach resolution. On February 26, 2025, three Huntington Beach residents, two of them teenagers, along with non-profit Alianza Translatinx, petitioned the court over the city’s failure to comply with AB 1825 and for violations of the California Constitution.¹³ On September 5, 2025, Judge Lindsey Martinez overruled the city’s demurrer and granted plaintiffs’ petition.¹⁴ Huntington Beach has appealed the decision, but just this week, the city was ordered to pay \$1 million in legal fees.¹⁵

While states like California, Colorado¹⁶, Illinois¹⁷, and Minnesota¹⁸ have taken steps to protect access to information in public libraries, the freedom to read and even the ability of librarians and library workers to perform their jobs remain threatened. Arizona’s SB 1435 proposes making it a felony for public library employees to refer a minor to anything that depicts “sexual conduct.”¹⁹ At the federal level, H.R. 7661 would prohibit federal funds from being used to provide or promote “sexually oriented material” to children under 18.²⁰ Some fear this legislation could impact public libraries.²¹

¹³ Complaint, *Alianza Translatinx v. City of Huntington Beach*, No. 30-2025-01462835 (Orange Cnty. Super. Ct., Feb. 26, 2025).

¹⁴ Order on Demurrer, *Alianza Translatinx v. City of Huntington Beach*, No. 30-2025-01462835 (Orange Cnty. Super. Ct., Sept. 5, 2025).

¹⁵ Jill Replogle, *Huntington Beach ordered to pay \$1M in legal fees for censoring library books*, LAIST (Apr. 28, 2026), <https://laist.com/news/politics/huntington-beach-legal-fees-censoring-library-books>.

¹⁶ S.B. 24-216, 2024 Reg. Sess. (Colo. 2024).

¹⁷ H.B. 2789, 103d Gen. Assemb. (Ill. 2023).

¹⁸ S.F. 3567, 93d Legis. (Minn. 2024).

¹⁹ S.B. 1435, 57th Legis. (Ariz. 2026).

²⁰ H.R. 7661, 119th Cong. § 2 (2026).

²¹ Kelly Jensen, *A Nationwide Book Ban Bill Has Been Introduced in the House of Representatives*, BOOK RIOT (Feb. 26, 2026), <https://bookriot.com/hr7661-book-ban-legislation/>.

Save the Date
Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, June 17th at 12pm PT

Membership News

By Angie So, Araceli Argueta, and Christina Boydston

Welcome, new members of SCALL!

- **Sierra Valadez** – California Western School of Law Library
- **Luna Saber-Bilder** (student) – San Jose State University | UCLA
- **Hayley Wilson** – Dickinson Wright
- **Rosalie Beard** – Knobbe Martens
- **Bianca Randall** – Harbor Global

SCALL Spring Meeting 2026

21st Century Law Library Collections

Join the SCALL Programs Committee for an informal discussion on modern law library collections. We'll be discussing issues related to acquisitions, collection development, transitioning from print to electronic, and more. Come share experiences, gather new ideas, and connect with other SCALL members!

Contact Julianne Odin (jodin@sandiego.edu) with any questions.

Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Time: 12-1pm

Location: Zoom <https://sandiego.zoom.us/j/92429282669?jst=2>

Register Here: <https://scall.wildapricot.org/event-6665714>

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

<p>Yun Ji (Angie) So, Co-Chair SCALL Membership Committee Access Services Librarian Loyola Law School Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 736-1126 yun.so@lls.edu</p>	<p>Araceli Argueta, Co-Chair SCALL Membership Committee Collection Management Services Specialist UCLA Law Library Los Angeles, A 90095 (310) 825-4321 araceli@law.ucla.edu</p>	<p>Christina Boydston, Co-Chair SCALL Membership Committee Reference Librarian Loyola Law School Los Angeles, CA 90015 (213) 736-8389 christina.boydston@lls.edu</p>
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Career Opportunities

Date Posted	Job Title	Location
May 11	Director; Riverside County Law Library	Riverside
May 8	Public Services Supervisor; Pepperdine Law Library	Malibu
May 8	Competitive Intelligence Research Librarian; Nixon Peabody	Los Angeles and Other Cities
May 5	Research Specialist; Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe	Any U.S. Office; Remote
May 5	Associate Director for Public Services; UC Irvine Law Library	Irvine
May 5	Associate Director for Collection Services; UC Irvine Law Library	Irvine
May 4	Research Analyst; Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck	Any Brownstein Office; Remote/ Hybrid
May 1	Library Assistant; Ninth Circuit Court Libraries	Los Angeles
May 1	Library Assistant; Ninth Circuit Court Libraries	San Francisco
April 30	Research Librarian; Knobbe Martens	Any West Coast Office; Hybrid Option
April 30	Reference Librarian; Orange County Public Law Library	Santa Ana
April 23	Research Services Assistant; Morgan Lewis & Bockius	Los Angeles
April 21	Law Librarian; San Francisco City Attorney's Office	San Francisco
April 17	Research Operations Manager; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman	San Diego; Los Angeles; or Other Cities
April 7	Competitive Intelligence Analyst; Cooley	Hybrid; Los Angeles; or Other Cities
February 20	Legal Research and Instruction Librarian; Chapman School of Law	Orange

By Don Buffalo
 Chair, SCALL Placement Committee
 donald.buffaloe@pepperdine.edu

View complete job descriptions at scallnet.org/career-opportunities/



SCALL Executive Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, February 11, 2026

By Julianne Odin

A virtual meeting of the SCALL Executive Board was held on February 11, 2026, via Zoom. A quorum being present, President Alina Kelly began the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

In attendance were:

Immediate Past President: Tanya Livshits

President: Alina Kelly

Vice President: Sherry Leysen

Treasurer: Michelle Gorospe

Secretary: Julianne Odin

Executive Board Members: Elyse Meyers and Cara Henley Johnson

1. Approval of minutes from Executive Board Meeting on October 17, 2025.
 - a. Julianne Odin distributed the minutes of the October 17, 2025, Executive Board Minutes in advance of the meeting for review.
 - b. Cara Henley Johnson moved to approve the minutes. Sherry Leysen seconded. Motion carried and minutes were approved.
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Michelle Gorospe provided the Treasurer's Report.
 - b. SCALL Balances as of February 11, 2026
 - i. Bank Balance: \$51,216.99
 - ii. Paypal Balance: \$38.71
 - iii. Petty Cash Balance: \$84.75
 - iv. Total Balance: \$51,340.45
 - c. Some funds currently in the balances will be used to finish financing the 2026 SCALL Institute.
 - d. Julianne moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Tanya Livshits seconded. Motion carried and Treasurer's report is approved.
3. Secretary's Report
 - a. Julianne Odin provided the Secretary's Report.
 - b. The SCALL Wilshire Mailbox was renewed for \$144 for a year in November. The treasurer added more funds to the account, so the mailbox currently has a forwarding credit of \$127.01 from the most recent receipt. Mail forwarding is running smoothly.
 - c. Julianne is starting to prepare for this year's SCALL Election. There are no plans to change election procedures from last year, meaning that we will use the AALL Election System at a cost of \$150. Per the bylaws, the election should begin 30 days before the annual business meeting and conclude 7 days before the annual business meeting. Julianne will be contacting the Nominations Committee to receive the names of nominees and the Programs Committee to pick a date for the business meeting in early March.
 - d. Michelle moved to approve the Secretary's report. Tanya seconded. Motion carried and the Secretary's report is approved.
4. Vice President's Report
 - a. Sherry Leysen provided the Vice President's Report.
 - b. The 2026 SCALL Institute is scheduled to be held February 20-21 in Palm Springs. There are currently 85 registrants including 9 exhibitors. LLMC is new exhibitor this year. The final headcount will be conveyed to the hotel today.
 - c. Julianne moved to approve the Vice President's Report. Alina Kelly seconded. Motion carried and the Vice President's report is approved.
5. President's Report
 - a. Alina Kelly provided the President's Report.
 - b. Alina is leading a big push for SCALL members to volunteer for committees to improve longevity and ensure committee knowledge is passed on to new members.
 - c. Julianne moved to approve the President's Report. Michelle seconded. Motion carried and the President's report is approved.
6. Committee Updates
 - a. Grants
 - i. The Grants Committee awarded a grant to the SCALL Institute to their single applicant.
 - ii. The Grants Committee has a current budget of \$1,736. Michelle will provide the committee with their current budget around the time they make awards.
 - b. Programs
 - i. The SCALL Winter Program was held on January 21, 2026. There were 19 attendees (out of 31 registrants) for a virtual post-holiday party that included a recipe exchange and discussions of books and cool tools. Recipes, book recommendations, and tools were shared with all SCALL members via the listserv. Attendees reported having a good time and enjoying their conversations.

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- ii. Up next, the Programs Committee will be looking into planning the Spring Program.
 - c. Newsletter
 - i. The Newsletter Committee is working on updating the sponsorship flyer for the Institute.
 - d. Library School Liaison
 - i. The Library School Liaison Committee has a current budget of \$2,006. Michelle will provide the committee with their current budget around the time they make awards.
 - e. Internship
 - i. The Internship Committee has a current budget of \$4,876. Michelle will provide the committee with their current budget around the time they make awards.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Cleaning up Wild Apricot Contact List – progress report
 - i. Membership did their annual piece of cleaning up contacts and Michelle reviewed inactive contacts for archiving. Archived contacts don't count against the 500 contact limit so Wild Apricot is no longer continuing to warn us about approaching the limit.
 - b. Transferring Financial/Bank Accounts – update on status
 - i. Bank account transfer was successful but credit card is still in flux. Michelle will update the Board when the transfer goes through.
 - ii. The Board considered whether the usefulness of a SCALL credit card makes up for the hassle of transferring when the Board turns over. Michelle will ask for the Budget and Finance Committee's opinion on maintaining a SCALL credit card.
- 8. New Business
 - a. SCALL award grant amounts
 - i. Last year, the Board provided the Grants Committee with guidance to provide the following types of grants
 - 1. \$300 and free registration for the SCALL Institute
 - 2. \$1,000 for the AALL Annual meeting
 - ii. The Grants Committee's budget is not enough to award multiple \$1,000 grants for AALL this year but would be enough to provide two \$850 grants.
 - iii. The Board recommends that the SCALL website be updated to reflect that grants for AALL can be up to \$1,000 and that the Grants Committee can determine the equal award amount given to each recipient for each AALL grant cycle.
 - b. Purchase of SCALL branded table cover
 - i. Sherry proposes purchasing a new branded cloth table cover for use at the Institute registration table and CONELL. Multiple vendors will sell 6ft. covers in black or green that can include the SCALL logo.
 - ii. The Board approves a \$200 expenditure for the purchase of a table cover.
 - c. Sign up sheet for committee volunteers at SCALL Institute – push for more unique volunteers
 - i. Alina will be persuading new members to sign up to volunteer for a SCALL committee at the Institute.
 - d. Potential committee re: hybrid Institute
 - i. Members of the Board have had multiple questions and comments from SCALL members and non-members about the format of the SCALL Institute. These questions and comments primarily focus on the possibility of providing a Zoom/hybrid option for the Institute and the possibility of hosting the Institute at an academic institution rather than a hotel. These formatting questions raise serious questions about the profitability of the Institute, which is the primary funder of our Grants, Scholarships, and Internships programs.
 - ii. Alina moved to appoint a special committee to review the format of the SCALL Institute. The special committee will be appointed upon the conclusion of the 2026 SCALL Institute and shall last for two years. The special committee will be charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the format of the Institute and evaluating the effectiveness of any changes implemented during the existence of the special committee. Tanya seconded the motion. The motion to create a

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special committee was passed unanimously.

- iii. This resolution will be presented to the SCALL membership at the 2026 SCALL Institute.

The meeting concluded at 3:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julianne Odin
SCALL Secretary, 2024-2026



Treasurer's Report

By Michelle Gorospe, Manager, Practice Resources, Paul Hastings LLP

SCALL Balances

Bank Balance as of May 1, 2026	\$45,062.09
PayPal as of May 1, 2026	\$38.71
Petty Cash as of May 1, 2026	\$84.75
Total Balance as of May 1, 2026	\$45,185.55

Committee Income and Expenses as of May 1, 2026

Committee	Budget	Carry Over	Income	Expenses	Budget Balance
Admin	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,659.99	\$2,840.01
Awards	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Board	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$218.59	\$0.00	\$2,218.59
CYIE	\$2,000.00	\$2,390.00	\$596.00	\$0.00	\$4,986.00
Grants	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$71.00	\$2,050.00	\$21.00
Institute	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31,837.37	\$20,967.24	\$10,870.13
Liaison	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$16.00	\$0.00	\$2,016.00
Membership	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$5,550.00	\$0.00	\$5,600.00
Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$629.00	\$0.00	\$629.00
Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$13,050.00	\$2,390.00	\$38,917.96	\$24,677.23	\$29,680.73

This simplified spreadsheet, created by the Budget and Finance Committee, includes only the committees that have expected income or expenses.

*The Admin category includes SCALL's current administrative expenses, including, but not limited to: WildApricot Membership, taxes, credit card processing fees, mailbox fees, software, etc.

**At the May 7, 2025 Executive Board Meeting a motion to roll over any unspent, allocated funds for Internships, Scholarships, and Grants to the next fiscal year was adopted.

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.uci.edu

All submissions should be received by:

Fall 2026	September 8, 2026
Winter 2026	November 9, 2026
Spring 2027	March 8, 2027
Summer 2027	May 3, 2027

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2025-2026

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