

# NOCALL NEWS

Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
A Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Yesterday we had our Business Meeting at Gunderson Dettmer. Thanks to the firm's generosity, we were able to host our first webcast presentation at a fabulous conference room. Dr. Roland Vogl, Codex's Executive Director, shared his fascinating insights on legal tech's disruptive potential. Over 50 AALL and NOCALL members expressed interest in the webcast, and over 40 participated. We could not have featured the webcast, or had such a lovely facility for our Meeting, without the exceptional initiative of three NOCALL stars at Gunderson Dettmer - Cara Henley Johnson, Rosie Siegel, and Nancy Walker.

Our Nominations Committee recommended an outstanding slate of officer candidates to lead NOCALL in 2017-18. Check out their statements in this issue. I encourage you to vote in our upcoming election. We may also extend our special thanks to two NOCALL officers for the latest examples of their dedication - Coral Henning and Diane Rodriguez. Coral will remain our Treasurer through the remaining 2017-18 term of Rachael Samberg, who needed to resign last year. Diane Rodriguez will continue to serve in 2017-18 as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The Spring Institute Committee has been busy preparing for an educational and networking experience you will not want to miss. So please see the Institute's [website page](#). The Committee will soon post an online registration form.

Have you joined NOCALL within the last few years? Are you otherwise looking for ways to connect with NOCALL members? Our "Connect With NOCALL" lunch will take place on February 16th at Hanson Bridgett. Leslie Hesdorfer and I hope that up to 3 "veteran" members can join for the lunch as prospective mentors.

We recently honored Mary Staats on the occasion of her retirement. "To know Mary is to love her," her colleague, Judy Heier recently said in a tribute. So it's wonderful news that Mary will work part-time at the San Francisco Law Library. Congratulations, Mary!

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The rest of my column belongs to another of our special members - Mark Mackler. At yesterday's Business Meeting, we had the privilege of wishing Mark a happy retirement.

Most of us know about Mark's Musings in the Newsletter. We are drawn to the Musings not just because of what Mark says, but how he says it. Consider this response from retired member Mary Ann Parker:

"I have always thought that "Musings from Mark" gave *NOCALL News* great distinction from other chapter newsletters. I told him once that it reminded me of Herb Caen's beloved *San Francisco Chronicle* column, always readable, with a particular Northern California sensibility. I'm happy to know he will continue his column in retirement."

Through his writing Mark has favored us for many years with his wit, grace, candor, insight, and collegiality. He has served NOCALL in many other capacities, and has had a long record of service to AALL, SLA, and the Mid-Sized Law Firm Librarians Group. For his accomplishments, he received our Professional Achievement Award in 2002.

When he announced his retirement, Mark told us,

"You care about doing good for each other and you care about doing good for our singular profession."

He was returning to a hallmark theme of his career, for in a column 20 years earlier, Mark underscored the same ideal:

"Perhaps the one and only constant is the support which we continue to receive from each other. I hope that never changes."

Mark has been a model of his - *our* - cherished ideal and has helped us sustain it. As Jane Metz observed in her 2002 tribute, Mark "frequently made himself available to other librarians for lunch, to lend a listening ear, or to mentor and guide. A number of NOCALL members can say that Mark has supported us through challenging personal issues as well."

Thank you, Mark, for being such a wonderful colleague and friend. We are relieved that your Musings will continue!

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### NOCALL News

The NOCALL News is published five times a year by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership.

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## MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...** I left the Attorney General's Office at the end of 2016. I had every intention of retiring "Musings"-- although I never use the word "retire" when it pertains to me. However, two librarians asked me if I would continue to write the column. I asked Mary, our *NOCALL News* editor, what she thought about this idea and she foolishly gave me the go-ahead. So here we are. I would like the new column to go forth with two goals in mind. First, I will share what it's like to make the transition from full-time employment to my new situation. I am well aware that a number of you have been considering leaving the wonderful world of fulltime employment. Second, having something to do (like writing this column) will help to keep me off the street and out of trouble. So, thanks for the calls from my colleagues, and thanks to Mary.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?

Nora Levine

For your convenience, should you like to know more about the titles reviewed, I've added hyperlinks to the titles' Amazon pages.

If you are an audio book fan, there's a relatively new service which allows you to purchase downloads from your local independent bookstore.

[LIBRO.FM](#) has a free app for iOS and Android. Register with your local [Libro affiliated independent bookstore](#), or select it from the libro.fm website. Then just search for and purchase a download; a portion of a sale goes to the bookstore. The app has nice functionality.

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For several months now I've been reading a number of police detective stories set in the Lake District of England. The most recent series is by [Peter Grainger](#),

and features DC Smith who is of course a somewhat complicated but not unsympathetic character. He was a DCI, but is now a sergeant; DC is his name. His wife recently passed away, and he is nearing retirement age. It is clear that at least one of his superiors would like him to retire, but he isn't ready. There are six stories in the series and I'm reading the third now. Each story is different, but all involve issues with immigrants in one way or another. The main characters continue to grow and change. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series.

On the non-fiction front I just finished [Weapons of Math Destruction](#) by Cathy O'Neil. It is a quick read, and very easy for a non-math person to understand. O'Neil discusses the algorithms that we encounter on a daily basis and how these models, if not designed well, can go very wrong. She calls on the designers of mathematical models to take more responsibility for their algorithms, and on all of us to be more aware of how decisions are made, and to advocate for change. You can also follow the author on her blog at [mathbabe.org](#).

Cathy Hardy  
Fenwick & West

[Sapien: A Brief History of Humankind](#), by Yuval Noah Harari

If you enjoyed *Guns, Germs and Steel* or *A Short History of Nearly Everything* you'll love this book written by Israeli macro-historian, Yuval Noah Harari. Originally published in Hebrew, where it became a sensation in Israel, this title ostensibly covers human evolution -- but the author covers so much more than that. He details why humanity created religion and came together in settled communities and how evolution continues to shape our modern societies. The book is into divided into four "revolutions": the cognitive, agricultural, unification of humankind, and finally the scientific. This was easily the best book I read this year. Highly recommended.

David Holt  
Ninth Circuit Libraries

50 Great American Places: Essential Historic SitesAcross the U.S. by Brent D. Glass

I very much enjoyed this collection of essays written by the Director Emeritus of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. I don't recall if this book is catalogued as a travel book or a history book; it is a bit of both. Considering the size of this country, there are far too many locations to choose from so to narrow it down to fifty means that his list is eclectic. Some of the places I hadn't a clue even existed.

Each essay includes the history of the place, the back story so to speak, and the end of each chapter has websites for more info. I would have liked more photos.

He also included places that I think have been talked about too much, but those chapters you can skip.

Days of Rage: America's Radical Underground the FBI, and the First Age of Terror by Bryan Burrough

At over 600 pages, this is a very long book, and one that, without the support of my book club, I wouldn't have read on my own.

It turns out to be a very interesting book, the timeline taking place back when I didn't care about the news. (I should have stuck with the hard copy rather than the audio version as there is a lot of detail that I wouldn't have minded skimming over.)

Julie Horst

9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals

Why Not Me?

and

Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns) by Mindy Kaling

Having harbored a screen crush on Mindy Kaling since *The Office* in 2008, I finally read both of her books over the past few weeks. Recently I needed some comedy in my life and Kaling's books did not disappoint. *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* is a short read that delves into Mindy's life in a mostly light and funny way. Mindy covers everything from

romance and friendships to Hollywood and the perfect amount of fame. *Why Not Me?* is also a short, funny read that covers her relationship with BJ Novak, fashion tips, and being dumped by a Hollywood best friend. She is a very relatable writer. I recommend either or both of Mindy's books as fun distractions.

Cara Henley Johnson

Gunderson Dettmer et al.

People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

Excellent. If you haven't read it, run don't walk to get a copy. I loved the narration of Edwina Wren on the audio version.

A friend recommended and described this as a "butterfly wing" book and she was right. I love this book. Not only does it prominently feature librarians and lovers of historic books, but the story is well written and the narrator has the right kind of voice which sets the right tone. This book is beautifully written, interesting and unsentimental in most ways. The author relies on the book, the Sarajevo Haggadha, which is the object of the story, rather than a love story to tell the story. This is not to say that love is absent in this book; love is woven throughout the book. It just not a love story in the traditional sense, i.e., between two people. It is a love story of a book that incorporates all the people who came in contact with it.

One of the things I liked about this book were its gentle surprises. There were no car chases or extravagant drama even though this book was filled with danger and excitement.

It reminded me of several other books, for no apparent reason except one in the depths of my mind, including Deanna Raybourn's *A Curious Undertaking* and *The Dead Travel Fast*, *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova, and *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* by Alice Hoffman. None of these are in any way exact duplicates nor do they even share many, if any, common elements. There is something I can't name that links them together; something that made them come to mind when I starting reading this book.

The novel inspired me to research the Haggadah and I found that Wikipedia has a lot of information, including a special entry for the [Sarajevo Haggadah](#). Books that make me go searching for more information add another layer of happiness to my excitement.

Jaye Lapachet

[Mistakes I Made at Work: 25 Influential Women Reflect on What They Got Out of Getting It Wrong](#), edited by Jessica Bacal.

This book was published back in 2014 and recently donated to our library by a departing attorney. While it was eminently digestible because each chapter contained one interview of one inspirational woman, the wisdom, tips and advice for personal and professional life are ones that I'll carry with me for the rest of mine. I took three pages of notes of inspirational quotes and while some were a tad cliché – "listen to your voice" -- others were novel and perspective-changing -- the idea that life is not about balance but about "managed disequilibrium." It's a great one to put in your bag for 2017 and read a chapter here or there as you have a few moments of spare time.

Sarah Lin

Reed Smith

[The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry](#) by Gabrielle Zevin

This is a touching book about a crotchety book store owner with a grumpy heart and the surprise that changes all of that! It's a fun book with a hopeful look at the written word, containing twists you will never see coming. Although it's a couple of years old, if you haven't read it yet, it's well worth the pickup!

Janice Schmidt

Stanford Law Library

[The Keeper of Secrets](#) by Julie Thomas

This is a wonderful story of a 1742 Guarneri violin that had been in a family for generations until the Nazis confiscated it in 1939, and the resulting series of events that reunited the Horowitz family and the violin decades later. The novel is really about music, musicians, family bonds and history. I found it difficult to put this book down.

I was going to talk about Marcia Clark's *Without a Doubt*, which is interesting, but lawyers have been a big part of my life for 45 years and I need a break, so I haven't finished it.

Mary Staats

[The Scarlet Macaw](#) by S.P. Hozy.

[The Curse of the Pogo Stick](#) (Dr. Siri Paiboun, #5), by Colin Cotterill.

I picked up *The Scarlet Macaw* by chance but was intrigued by its settings in both the 1920s and present day Singapore (with a quick trip to British Columbia). The mystery involves a successful art gallery owner in Singapore, Peter Stone, and a protégé/mentee of his, an artist named Maris Cousins. Another story about a young British couple in 1920s Singapore is interwoven within the contemporary murder mystery.

I began reading Colin Cotterill's very witty and engaging Dr. Siri Paiboun mysteries with the first in the series, *The Coroner's Lunch*. Set in Laos in the 1970s following the American War with Viet Nam, these novels provide an interesting insight into life in Laos during a precarious and difficult time period. I bought *The Curse of the Pogo Stick* recently while visiting Luang Prabang, Laos, when I had run out of books to read. I highly recommend this series of mysteries. Dr. Paiboun and his friends provide endless amusement, while also shedding insight into Laos' multicultural social and political milieu.

Jean Willis

Sacramento County Law Library

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## TECH TALK: SAVING GOVERNMENT DIGITAL INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF THE TRANSITION

Ramona Martinez, Berkeley Law Library

Back in July, I attended a session at AALL entitled "[Harvesting Democracy](#)." At the time I was mildly interested and glad to hear about this project that supports library values: preservation of digital information in support of an educated citizenry. Now, given that US Ambassadors will have to leave



their posts by January 20 with no grace period<sup>1</sup>, the project's goal seems more prescient and takes on an increased urgency. A [blog post](#) by Abbie Grotke of the Library of Congress and one of the presenters at the AALL session, explained the process for nominating a government website for preservation. The result of all the collaboration and hard work of a team of librarians is the [End of Term Web Archive](#). Even our neighbors to the north lent a hand at a one-day [hackathon](#) to save environmental data.

Take some time to browse the archives of past presidential terms. Learn more about the project's [partners](#). Appreciate the technical [innovation](#) that was necessary to tackle a project of this scale. Finally, take pride in being a vital part of a profession that at its core exists to preserve democracy.

## FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY IN REPORTERS

Michael Stoler

When I started working in the San Francisco office of a big law (or is that Big Law?) firm in 2006, we had hundreds of linear feet of case reporters lining the elevator hallways and the adjacent walls. We had the California Reports and Appellate Reports going back to the beginnings, dignified if decaying, and many decades of Federal Reports and Supplements. Resplendent in tan, gold, black, and red or blue, they immediately informed visitors to the office that they were in a law firm. But that was **all** they did, besides gather dust; even then, they were purely decorative. They were almost never borrowed; why carry around a heavy tome for just a few pages of text when the cases were already easily available -- and searchable, and downloadable or printable -- online on various paid services, and even for free in some places? And indeed, we canceled our subscriptions to the new volumes the next year. But we kept the books we had.

1 See this: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/political-ambassadors-ordered-to-quit-by-inauguration/2017/01/06/ca2b1f5c-d3fa-11e6-9651-54a0154cf5b3\\_vid-eo.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/video/national/political-ambassadors-ordered-to-quit-by-inauguration/2017/01/06/ca2b1f5c-d3fa-11e6-9651-54a0154cf5b3_vid-eo.html)

But in 2015, the firm decided to renovate the office, and give it a fresh, up-to-date look. The case reporters would be going away to that library in the sky. I tried to find a good home for them, advertising on listservs, reaching out to correctional institutions and charities, suggesting to attorneys that they might want to own the volumes containing cases they had argued or were just interested in. (A practitioner of First Amendment law wanted the Supreme Court Reporter volume with *New York Times v. Sullivan*; an idealistic secretary asked for *Brown v. Board of Education*, which left me gratified and impressed.) I suggested that a few shelves of case reporters would be a handsome addition to any living room, cheaper than books by the foot (especially the leather-bound ones), and unlike an actual book collection, uniform and neat. Some of the volumes were more than a century old, and might have value at a vintage shop. But I was not getting a lot of interest.

I recalled a conversation I had once had with a team of legal videographers, in which we came up with the idea of slicing off the spines of some reporters and pasting them onto a foamcore board, which they could carry around with them to put behind any speaker and truthfully claim he or she had a legal background. I asked my attorneys if any of them had or was considering a side gig as a TV legal expert, since such pundits, and their opinions, are always backed up by a wall of law books, usually reporters (though I recently saw one with Deering's.) No takers. In the end, the office administrators found a service that promised to not just send the discards to a landfill, but cut the bindings off and recycle the paper, and I had to load up disposal bin after disposal bin with a century of legal history (as passing attorneys lamented that I couldn't find a use for them, and I protested how I had tried.)

But this experience made me wonder: does anyone -- or any firm, or any library -- still have case reporters? And if so, do they actually serve any purpose other than cosmetic? I've been in a few other firms recently, and they generally had gotten rid of theirs, too, or at least weren't displaying them prominently and

proudly, especially if their offices had recently been upgraded for a sleek, contemporary look. (You know, indirect lighting, dark stone, high-tech conference rooms, standing desks for everyone, “cafés” instead of lunchrooms.) I have seen them at the county law libraries, so I asked some of their staff members if there were still a use for the hardcopies, especially when free Westlaw access is offered. Andrea at San Francisco County and Emily in Alameda told me that the bound reporters -- of which they have canceled some series but kept others -- get some use from patrons not comfortable with computers (including, but not limited to, older lawyers.) But I’d be willing to bet that very few law firm libraries see any reason to keep their reporter collections, or if they do, with space at a premium in most Bay Area offices, it hasn’t been strong enough to convince administrators that they should.

(Perhaps small offices that have been getting reporters for a while keep them, even after they have ceased receiving the new volumes, because they have very limited, expensive access to Westlaw or Lexis, and any case they can avoid looking up online represents a welcome savings. But wouldn’t that savings be obviated by the extra rent they have to pay for space in which to keep the bound editions? And I noticed a request recently on the LAW-LIB listserv for a photocopy from a reporter, rather than an online version, but Westlaw offers reporter images as a format option for downloads, though at an additional charge for some plans.)

But popular media, on the other hand, paints a very different picture. Many law offices in movies and TV still feature shelves of reporters, even in situations in which there are reasons not to have them that are far better than the simple ones described above, in which in fact their presence seems even a bit bizarre. Netflix has run two seasons of “Daredevil,” based on a Marvel Comics series that has been around for over 50 years. When the superhero protagonist isn’t leaping from building to building in Hell’s Kitchen, New York, and beating up large numbers of bad guys singlehandedly or with limited assistance, he’s Matt

Murdock, J.D., Esq., helping the poor and unjustly accused, in partnership with his law school buddy, out of barebones offices above a bodega, on which they can barely make rent. And here’s another twist, probably more of a challenge for a vigilante, but interesting for a lawyer as well: he’s blind. (OK, his superpower is that his other senses are phenomenally enhanced, but he doesn’t let on about that.) He uses a laptop with an attachment to translate text to Braille. But look at the still image below. What do we see behind our hero? They look a lot like ... case reporters! Why would a penniless firm, whose Millennial members certainly appear to be savvy enough with computers, have such things...when half the firm can’t even read them? All I could think of was that some kind law librarian (wait, is that



redundant?) was obliged to dispose of a set, and gave them to Nelson & Murdock, Attorneys at Law, for free. Unless they are some special New York publication? Or Braille editions, which is why they appear taller and thinner than is usual for reporters? The authors of two blogs that examine the legal aspects of comic book stories, Law and the Multiverse ([www.lawandthemultiverse.com](http://www.lawandthemultiverse.com)) and The Legal Geeks ([www.thelegalgeeks.com](http://www.thelegalgeeks.com)) have both rated the show, at least the first season, as reading reasonably realistically (especially concerning mens rea.) So how to explain the presence of the reporters, apart from a director’s insistence to the set dressers that you simply can’t have a law office without shelves of, you know, those book things, that without them an audience, no matter how much they see the characters engaged in the activity of lawyers, simply will not understand or believe them to be such?

Or let’s look at another example. In a recent episode

of CBS's highly successful comedy "The Big Bang Theory," the main characters, brilliant but/and nerdy scientists and engineers from CalTech, have an invention in which the military has taken a strong



interest, and are frantic about ensuring that they can keep both the profits from their work

and their personal liberty, rather than losing both on the grounds of national security. One of them has a cousin who is a lawyer (specializing in taxes, but he's family and will help them for free), and they consult him via Skype. And behind him, of course, we see...but look! Instead of being lined up and straight and uniform as an honor guard, some of them are leaning, or lying flat. Has anyone ever seen case reporters displayed thus? That's more disrespectful and humiliating to them than, say ... tossing them in recycling bins! (Or even placing them neatly there.)

Now, we could say that in general media, **no** profession is portrayed very accurately. Whether it's a fantasy figure like James Bond or a supposedly realistic one like Claire Danes's Carrie Mathison in "Homeland" (or even Jessica Chastain's bin Laden-hunting CIA analyst in "Zero Dark Thirty," "based on a true story"), I've heard or read dismissals from actual intelligence professionals of almost every spy portrayed on the large or small screen. The daily business of law enforcement isn't like "Hawaii Five-O," or even "CSI," and real hospitals don't operate like the ones in daytime soap operas. And the display of case reporters certainly isn't the most unrealistic aspect of most legal dramas (no matter how important it may seem to law librarians.)

But then, it's not just in fictional portrayals that we find the fiction of case reporters. As I argued to my attorneys in trying to fob the trash-destined tomes off on them, every supposed legal expert interviewed

for a news show or documentary proclaims and proves his bona fides by sitting before a backdrop of law books. A recent article in The New York Times on competition among firms (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/09/business/dealbook/with-competition-fierce-even-elite-law-firms-resort-to-the-unusual.html>) was illustrated with an image of a bank of *AmJur* -- not reporters, but still, probably not used in print very much anymore, and not exactly the first thing most lawyers, LAs, etc. would associate with their work. And even in the legal trade press, in the profiles in the *Daily Journal* and *Recorder*, every judge's portrait, whether official or more casual, has them posed before banks of reporters. I suppose that the more realistic alternative, a computer and monitor, just wouldn't convey the message, even to the legal professionals who read these publications. (And the logos of Lexis or Westlaw on the screens probably wouldn't show up well enough in a three-inch square newspaper photo. How about American or state flags? Well, those could denote officials of any branch of the government, not just the judicial.) But who besides judges wears robes like that? I mean, they generally look a little too mature to be graduating students, and they aren't wearing mortarboards....(if only the US hadn't become independent from Britain and courtroom protocol still demanded wigs!)

So if we really want to see accurate portrayals of legal information resources in popular culture, we may have to start with the professional media, and hope more general ones get the message from there. Or perhaps we should ignore the issue altogether. Part of the fun of being professionals ourselves, and experts in a field, is recognizing the mistakes that laypeople miss. I know I certainly enjoyed posting a correcting comment on the NPR site when one of their radio stories confused the Federal Register with the Code of Federal Regulations. And we can count our blessings that whatever the real-life judges and the semi-real TV commenters and the not-at-all-real movie characters appear to have to do to get their legal information, we don't have to use case reporters anymore. Or dust them.



## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie, U.C. Davis Law Library

**"Next-Level E-Mailing,"** by Jessamyn West, *Computers in Libraries*. Dec 2016, Vol. 36 Issue 10, p10-11.

Although classic e-mail is old technology by millennial standards, it still has professional utility, especially when communicating written material to large groups. This short article discusses free and low cost e-mail apps that can be used to distribute newsletters to large mailing lists. She also includes a link of resources, including one to the CAN-SPAM act, lest you be tempted to spam your readers. This is a short but sweet introduction that will help you modernize your mailing list because just sending to a looong list of names is passé.

### **"Algorithmic Bias in Library Discovery Systems,"**

by Matthew Reidsma, March 11, 2016. Available at: <https://matthew.reidsrow.com/articles/173>

This is an older article with a relevant and frightening discussion. Our library discovery systems are black boxes that operate via algorithms written by other people. Put a search in, click a button and get a result. An algorithm functions by selecting some things and excluding others, but, Reidsma points out that each algorithm has a human being behind it. And so bias can creep into the results. We, the users, assume that the result is accurate and unbiased. Our faith may be misplaced since there has been little research on accuracy and bias of commercial search algorithms. He describes a variety of searches done by himself and others using varieties of platforms which turned up blatant sexism and racism caused by the algorithm's assumptions.

**"#Thank a Librarian,"** by Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Kim Duckett and Aaron Welborn, *College and Research Libraries News*, December 2016. Available via EBSCOHost.

Academic librarians of all persuasions have a continuing concern about marketing their services to the students they serve. A group of librarians at Duke University came up with a novel National Library

Week program that may be useful to other varieties of library. The libraries at Duke created the "#Thank a Librarian" program, staffing tables throughout the campus at times that the students would be available and amenable to discussing why they like librarians. They would then be invited to write their reasons on a whiteboard and pose for photos to be uploaded to the libraries' social media sites. The librarians hoped to get 100 responses but drew nearly 300. The social media sites were successful as well. The article discusses the logistics of the project in depth for any library wanting to repeat the program.

**"Top 10 Library Stories of 2016,"** by Andrew Richard Albanese, *Publishers Weekly* 12/19/2016, Vol. 263 Issue 52, p34-48.

In case you haven't been keeping up with library news, this article should set you straight. From the new Librarian of Congress to the ramifications of the Trump presidency to the U.S. Copyright Office, Simply-E and others, you will catch up quickly.

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## COMMITTEE CORNER

Jourdan Corbitt  
LibSource

In this installment, Jean Willis highlights the recent accomplishments and the broader goals of the Audit and Budget Committee: Have committee business you'd like to share with the community? Please email [Jourdan.Corbitt@LibSource.com](mailto:Jourdan.Corbitt@LibSource.com).

### ***Why is the Audit and Budget Committee important to NOCALL and the profession in general?***

Before you fall asleep from boredom (look, I get it: Auditing and Budgeting aren't glamorous topics), just hang in here with me. This is a very important NOCALL Committee. Why? Because if we ain't got the money, honey, we ain't got an association. Someone's gotta do it, and right now, it's me. But hopefully someday another one of you will step up to the plate. It's an important job. It's a job where you stand a good chance of learning stuff that will enhance your work cred (really), and it's not hard (really).

A&B assists the Treasurer in managing NOCALL's money via budgeting and a type of audit process (sort of). By tracking our expenditures and income, NOCALL's Executive Board is capable of making rational and sensible financial decisions, which may have an impact on NOCALL for many years to come. Some of you know that I am currently the Treasurer on the Executive Board of AALL. Without hesitation, I can tell you that being the A&B Chair of NOCALL is a piece of cake in comparison, and I'm happy doing this work to ensure NOCALL's financial viability for as long as I'm in this position.

I've created and managed budgets throughout my career, so budgeting nowadays comes easily to me. If you haven't created (m)any budgets in your career, then this volunteer role is the one for you! Seriously. I think it's critical for all law librarians to know how to create and manage budgets and how to create and use Excel spreadsheets. Once you get the hang of it, it's not that difficult. Anyone who wants to learn and grow in their law library career should really consider this role as a career opportunity, while also being a chance to give back to your profession.

***Tell us about your latest news/accomplishments.***

The biggest news was revising how NOCALL's budget spreadsheet was set up. Hopefully the current iteration is clearer for all members, but most especially for the Executive Board. Also last year I suggested that the Executive Board begin a serious review of NOCALL's committees' annual budget requests. It seemed as if past practice had been a "rubber stamp" of what committees requested for their annual budgets. Now the Board reviews and approves these requests – sometimes increasing or decreasing the requested amounts – depending on needs and finances during that particular year. This also has insured that the Executive Board, in total, is more aware of NOCALL's financial picture, including where our revenue is coming from and how money is being spent.

***Do you know when/how/why the Audit and Budget Committee started?***

No. Maybe some long-time NOCALL members might know the answer.

***How many committee members are there?***

Just little old me. In my opinion, I think this role is probably best handled by one person working closely with NOCALL's Treasurer. I've thought about this over the past 4 years that I've volunteered in this position, and I'm still not seeing a good way to incorporate more members into this committee. That said, at some point in the near future, I do want to rotate off of this committee. I could see a point to having an incoming new A&B Chair work with me for one year to get the hang of it. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

***Please describe the important work done by the Audit and Budget Committee.***

Every spring, NOCALL's Secretary contacts the Committee Chairs requesting their annual reports, which should also include budget requests for the following NOCALL year, which runs from June through May. Sometimes, as A&B Chair, I have to contact committee chairs to remind them to send me their budget requests. Once I receive the budget requests, I set up the new year's budget spreadsheet. This includes a column for the committee budget requests, which the Board reviews and approves in September. Once the Board approves the budget requests, I enter the approved amounts in the correct column. Easy-peasy and not that time-consuming.

Throughout the year, I receive banking information from the Treasurer, which includes income and expenditures. I track both on the budget spreadsheet, as well as keeping a running tabulation of how much money is currently in NOCALL's checking and savings accounts. Typically I batch this work and complete it four times per year before each Board and Business meeting, plus before the Cross-Over meeting in the summer.

Typically I attend most Board meetings to be available to explain budget expenditures or answer questions. This isn't an absolute requirement, but it's helpful for all concerned. At the very least, I update NOCALL's Budget spreadsheet to be available for all concerned at NOCALL Board and Business meetings. That is an important requirement of this position. I am also available for questions about finances and the budget from members at Business meetings.

**What are the future goals of the Audit and Budget Committee?**

Keep NOCALL on track and financially secure for many years to come.

**What would be the best way for a NOCALL member to get more information about or to participate in the Audit and Budget Committee?**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns: [jwillis@saclaw.org](mailto:jwillis@saclaw.org) Or 916-874-8917. Any input is welcome and any interest in working on the A&B Committee is encouraged. The [A&B page is available here](#) on NOCALL's website. This is somewhat out of date, and I'm anticipating updating this in the near future to more accurately reflect what I do.

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### EREADER LIBRARIAN'S DIGITAL BOOK REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie,  
Mabie Law Library, UC Davis School of Law

Reviewing free and low cost digital books for Kindle, iPad, Nook and other tablets.

\*Book prices will be listed where available; All prices are accurate as of writing date and may have changed by the time this column goes to press.

**Shirley Jackson, A Rather Haunted Life**, by Ruth Franklin

Published: Liveright

Available via Overdrive from Sacramento Public Library

Price: Free in public library

Formats: kindle, epub

This biography of Shirley Jackson was a notable book by *Kirkus Reviews* (2016) and *New York Times* (2015) in addition to other laurels. Jackson, best known for the short story "The Lottery" is depicted in all her messy, disorganized glory. Much time is given to her troubled marriage to critic Stanley Edgar Hyman. Although Jackson is considered primarily as a writer of horror, she didn't see herself that way, instead focusing her writings on detailing the evil in everyday life. An excellent and engaging read, especially for Jackson fans.

**To Shield the Queen** by Fiona Buckley

Published: Pocket Books 1998

Available via Open Library at [https://openlibrary.org/works/OL16079856W/To\\_shield\\_the\\_Queen](https://openlibrary.org/works/OL16079856W/To_shield_the_Queen)

Price: Free

Formats: html, epub, pdf

Originally published as *The Robsart Mystery*, this Elizabethan mystery series introduces Ursula Blanchard, a widowed gentlewoman who becomes a spy for Queen Elizabeth I. Lacking money and needing to support her young daughter, Ursula agrees to travel to Cumnor Place to companion and guard Amy Robsart, the ailing wife of Elizabeth's would-be fiancée Robert Dudley. If Amy should die by unnatural means, guilt would be cast on Dudley and thereby on Elizabeth herself. When Amy is found dead, it is up to Ursula to clear Dudley's (and thereby Elizabeth's) name. Sequels are also available at the Open Library, a branch of the Internet Archive. Library card is free and available to anyone.

**1632**, by Eric Flint

Published: Baen Books, 2001

Available: Baen Free Library at <http://www.baen.com/categories/free-library.html>

Price: Free

Formats: read online, kindle, epub, Microsoft reader, Sony reader

This alternate future science fiction novel follows the adventures of the small American town of Grantville, which suddenly finds itself transplanted from West Virginia into northern Germany in the year 1632. Local miners' union leader, Mike Stearns finds himself leading a townful of very disoriented Americans in the middle of The Thirty Years War. But they do have the high school library, which gives them the tools they need to recreate modern amenities in their new world and leverage to negotiate local politics with Kings, cardinals and the Pope.



*Spotlight on...*

**Ramona Martinez**

***How did you choose law librarianship as a career?***

My career path has been a series of happy accidents. I graduated with a degree in Spanish and quickly discovered I didn't want to be a teacher. The daughter of the owner of the restaurant I was working at referred me to a legal secretary job. The lawyer I worked for thought I should apply to law school. I got in but this was back in ... a long time ago. We were in a recession and I knew people with law degrees who were working as paralegals so I opted for a paralegal certificate rather than a JD. All was going swimmingly until I landed a job that I grew to hate. It made me reflect, and I consulted with a career counselor who identified librarianship as something that would suit me. Well, I had two small children at the time and I couldn't swing going back to school. I got a different, more pleasant paralegal job and then applied to grad school five years later. I went to the School of Information Management and Systems at Cal, and I landed an internship at the law school in my second year. My internship has morphed into my dream job. I feel so blessed.

***What have you enjoyed the most from being involved with NOCALL?***

I started going to the NOCALL Spring Institutes while I was still in school. I enjoy all the different opportunities NOCALL provides to get together with colleagues – whether there's an educational component or not. I'm also pretty fond of the collection of NOCALL swag that I've amassed from all the annual AALL meetings I've been to.

***Is there anything obscure that you know more than the average bear about?***

I am pretty sure I know more about the establishment of the State Printer's office and how that affected the first volume of California Reports than anyone else on earth. (Because, really, who in their right mind would research that?) You can read my paper that got published in the California Supreme Court Historical Society Newsletter here: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/8457f7mh?query=california%20reports>.

***Is there anything that most people don't know about you that you would like to share?***

I am 100% Italian despite what you might assume from my last name. Martinez is a remnant from a failed marriage. I am actually getting married again in 2017. I've decided to take back my original family name as my middle name and take my new husband's last name. [How to Change Your Name in California](#) by Nolo Press has been very helpful in explaining all the steps I'll need to take. Thinking about this decision has made me realize how very patriarchal the whole last name thing really is.



## 2017 NOCALL ELECTION - CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

### CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT

#### David Brian Holt

**Title:** Branch Librarian

**Organization:** Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals – Library and Research Services

**City:** San Jose, CA

**Years Employed:** Less than one year (started in May 2016).

**Education:**

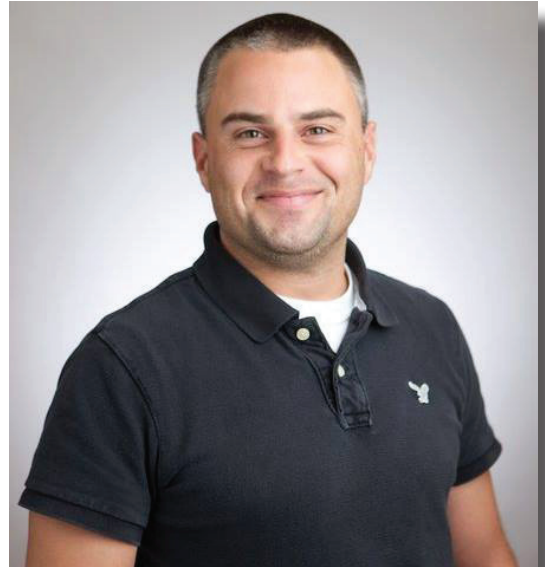
- Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR  
BA in English (2000)
- San Jose State University, San Jose, CA  
MLIS (2006)
- Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA  
JD (2013)

**Previous Employment:**

**Organization:** Santa Clara University – School of Law

**Title:** Emerging Technologies Reference Law Librarian

**Years Employed:** Over 10 years



#### Candidate Statement

I am very excited to be nominated as NOCALL's Vice-President/President-Elect. Most of you know me already as I have been a familiar face in NOCALL for nearly 12 years.

To be blunt, our profession is in crisis. We are constantly fighting increasingly uphill battles to defend our budgets, our staff, and our mission goals. Large numbers of people, both inside the legal profession and out, continue to believe that information technology and the movement towards electronic resources has replaced much of the work we do as librarians. And yet, we have reasons to be optimistic and energized about the future.

To start, the need for information literacy instruction has never been as pressing, nor as consequential, as it is now. We have all witnessed the impact "fake news" and reliance on untrustworthy information sources have had on our public policy, discourse, and civic engagement. This phenomenon is true even among highly skilled legal professionals.

*continued on page 13*



Second, in an age of “big data” our role as librarians to curate and navigate information is critically needed. The patrons we serve are falling behind in how they manage the information sources upon which they rely. Increasingly, legal professionals and the public find themselves overwhelmed with information sources and lack the necessary information literacy skills to make informed decisions about which sources are authoritative and relevant to their information needs.

To respond to the rapid changes in our profession, we need professional organizations that are both nimble and relevant to our needs. NOCALL serves an important function in providing networking and job opportunities but perhaps more critically it serves to educate our membership on how to confront misconceptions about our work and effectively communicate our value to those we serve.

I look forward to continuing this work together.

### **NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities**

Member at Large, 2013/14  
Technology Columnist, 2009-2013  
Technology Committee Chair, 2014-Present

### **Other Professional Activities**

AALL SR-SIS Chair, 2012-2013  
AALL SR-SIS Co-Chair, 2011-2012  
AALL SR-SIS Webmaster, 2007-Present  
Harrington Park Press, Advisory Board for Library and Information Resources, 2015-Present

**CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY****Jodi L. Collova****Title:** Research Librarian and Adjunct Professor**Organization:** University of San Francisco School of Law**City:** San Francisco**Years Employed:** 1.5**Education:**

- JD, University of Minnesota Law School
- MLIS, San Jose State University
- BA, Carleton College

**Previous Employment:****Organization:** Golden Gate University School of Law**Title:** Reference Librarian and Adjunct Professor**Years Employed:** 3**Candidate Statement**

I like NOCALL because it is a wonderful group of smart, dedicated, service-oriented people. I appreciate the exchange of ideas between librarians from academic, court, government, and private law libraries. I have strong organizational and communication skills, which will allow me to serve our organization well as Secretary. I look forward to being a part of this group's leadership team.

**NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities**

- Academic Relations Chair, 2016-present
- Education Committee Chair, 2013-2014
- Grant Recipient to attend AALL, 2014

**Other Professional Activities**

- Research and Scholarship Committee, AALL Academic Law Libraries – Special Interest Section, 2016-present
- Programs Committee, AALL Academic Law Libraries – Special Interest Section, 2013-2015
- Boulder Conference Fellow, 2015

**CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE****Sarah E. M. Lin****Title:** Library Systems Librarian**Organization:** Reed Smith LLP**City:** San Francisco**Years Employed:** 2007-present**Education:** MSLIS, University of Illinois 2006;  
BA with Honors, University of Chicago 2003**Previous Employment:****Organization:** Illinois College of Optometry**Title:** Serials/Indexing Library**Years Employed:** 2006-2007**Candidate Statement**

I've been a NOCALL member since I moved to the Bay Area in 2014, having transferred from Reed Smith's Chicago office. I've been with Reed Smith for 9 years as a technical services librarian. I presented at the 2016 NOCALL conference at SCU on RS's use of Google Analytics, a revised version of the program I did at AALL in 2015 for which I was a NOCALL grant recipient. I was just given approval to start a TS interest group within NOCALL and I hope that group grows over the coming years. Within the profession I have been active within AALL's TS-SIS and AMPC, as well as having moderated 3 AALL webinars (with a 4th scheduled for late January 2017) and written a number of articles over the years (mostly recently in the July issue of Spectrum). I'm particularly interested in the needs of private librarians and technical services librarians, and feel my experience as a technical services librarian would bring a different perspective to the NOCALL Board. I look forward to serving NOCALL and its members during this term as Member-at-Large.

**NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities**

Speaker, Google Analytics, 2016 Spring Institute  
2015 Grant recipient

**Other Professional Activities****AALL**2016-2018 *Technical Services Law Librarian* Board Member

2016-2017 AMPC member

2016 Emerging Leader Award

2015-2016 AMPC member

2015-2016 OBS-SIS Nominating Committee member

2015-2016 TS-SIS Membership Committee Chair

2014-2016 *Technical Services Law Librarian* Private Law Libraries co-columnist

2014-2015 TS-SIS Membership Committee member

2014-2015 OBS-SIS Education Committee member

2009 Leadership Academy Fellow

## CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE

## Cindy Beck Weller

**Title:** Law Library Manager

**Organization:** Cooper White & Cooper LLP

**City:** San Francisco, CA

**Years Employed:** 18

**Education:**

- MLS San Jose State University, 1981
- San Francisco State Paralegal Extension Course – Legal Research, 1984
- BA History, California State University, Fresno, 1980

**Previous Employment:**

**Organization:** Pillsbury Madison & Sutro LLP

(now Pillsbury Winthrop)

**Title:** Information Specialist III

**Years Employed:** 12



**Candidate Statement:**

I am very excited to be nominated for the NOCALL Member at Large board position. In my 30-plus years in law librarianship, I have been a member of a team of information specialists at a very busy global firm, a mid-size firm library manager, and now, a solo librarian. Throughout my career in law librarianship, I have tried to bring creativity and energy to my positions from my early years to the present. I have seen considerable change in the world of information use and management. Yet one thing remains true – the need for information, no matter what the format, and someone to help navigate that information. I have attended many NOCALL and AALL educational events and always acquire something innovative to bring back to incorporate into my research and management knowledgebase. Many of these new ideas I've also merged into my personal world: board positions in high school band boosters, parent organizations, and other nonprofits. It is a great joy to have these skills that easily transition from my professional life to my personal life. Having had the privilege of wonderful mentors and colleagues in my professional life, I hope to follow this leadership tradition with NOCALL.

**NOCALL Committees, Offices and Activities:**

NOCALL AALL Conference Grant Recipient, 1995

NOCALL Spring Institute Program Committee, 1996

NOCALL, Member, 1985-present

*continued on page 17*

**Other Professional Activities:**

AALL, Member, 1985- present

West Library Relations National Library Week Acclaimed Performance – 2007

AALL Honorable Mention and Exhibitor for Best Campaign-National Library Week-*Life's a Beach @ your Library*

SLA, Member, 1986 - present

ALA, Member, 1982 – present

SF Library Managers Group

SF Mid-Size Law Firm Librarians Group



## **NINTH ANNUAL MORRIS L. COHEN STUDENT ESSAY COMPETITION**

The Legal History and Rare Books (LH&RB) Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), in cooperation with Cengage Learning, announces the Ninth Annual Morris L. Cohen Student Essay Competition. The competition is named in honor of Morris L. Cohen, late Professor Emeritus of Law at Yale Law School.

The competition is designed to encourage scholarship and to acquaint students with the AALL and law librarianship, and is open to students currently enrolled in accredited graduate programs in library science, law, history, and related fields. Essays may be on any topic related to legal history, rare law books, or legal archives. The winner will receive a \$500.00 prize from Cengage Learning and up to \$1,000 for expenses to attend the AALL Annual Meeting.

Winning and runner-up entries will be invited to submit their entries to Unbound, the official journal of LH&RB. Past winning essays have gone on to be accepted by journals such as N.Y.U. Law Review, American Journal of Legal History, University of South Florida Law Review, William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law, Yale Journal of Law & the Humanities, and French Historical Review.

The entry form and instructions are available at the LH&RB website: <http://www.aallnet.org/sections/lhrb/awards> Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., April 17, 2017 (EDT).

## **NOCALL BOARD MEETING**

**September 22, 2016**

**10 a.m.**

**Downey Brand LLP**

Present:

Michael Ginsborg

Coral Henning

Mary Johnson

Jessica Brasch

Jean Willis

Leslie Hesdorfer

Rachael Samberg (via telephone)

President Michael Ginsborg called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

### **Welcome**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Approval of proposed minutes**

Proposed minutes were presented for the June 24th Board Meeting and the June 30th Crossover Meeting. Michael Ginsborg made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Coral Henning seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of all present.

#### **Proposed budget**

Jean Willis presented a proposed budget. She recommended increasing the Public Relations budget from \$600 to \$700, to cover the costs of NOCALL's giveaways at the AALL Annual Meeting.

Michael Ginsborg moved to adopt the budget with this change; Ramona Martinez seconded. The budget was approved by a vote of all present.

#### **Recommendation for a Chair/Vice-Chair structure for Committees as needed**

The board agrees that this structure should be used as needed. This structure has been implemented for the Membership Committee; the committee's charge will be changed to provide for a Vice-Chair when the Chair expects to transition from office.

### **Recommendation for assigning responsibility for planning Pacific Coast Chapters' Reception at AALL Annual meetings**

NOCALL is responsible for planning this event on a rotating basis. Going forward, the Past President will take responsibility for planning this event on NOCALL's behalf. This responsibility will be added to the Past President's charge.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Audit report on 2015-16 budget – Jean Willis**

Jean reported that no changes are needed to the 2015-16 budget. Overall, NOCALL did very well controlling costs last year.

#### **Spring Institute – Ramona Martinez**

The Spring Institute will be held 4/1/17 at the UC Davis Alumni Center. Ramona has received confirmation of our room rental. Kitchen space is available to us for an additional \$25; the board approved this expense. This will be a one-day event; the theme is state legal information. Ramona will be looking for committee members to assist with the planning.

#### **New GRC policy and procedures recommendations – Jessica Brasch**

The GRC has prepared two documents outlining its recommendations for coordinating NOCALL's advocacy efforts, both internally and in conjunction with SCALL and SANDALL.

Michael Ginsborg moved to adopt these recommendations; Jessica Brasch seconded. The recommendations were adopted by a vote of all present.

#### **Recommendations to streamline administration, and review of our document sharing systems and their use - Michael Ginsborg**

In an effort to streamline the process of incoming and outgoing committee chairs, the Secretary will assume the role of being all committee chairs' contact person for these types of issues, and for communicating

these changes to the board, webmaster, etc.

Making changes to banking authorizations is quite complicated. To streamline the process, Treasurer Coral Henning proposed having only two board members on the account: Treasurer and President. The board agreed this was a good idea.

The board approved the idea of creating a master calendar, upon which key dates for board and committee tasks are listed. Such a calendar will help ensure that no deadlines are missed. Secretary Mary Johnson will investigate setting up a Google Calendar for this purpose.

NOCALL is currently using two platforms for sharing documents: Our original PB Wiki and, more recently, Google Drive. The board agreed we should settle on a single platform. Each has its benefits; Michael Ginsborg will send out login information for the Google Drive, so that the board may fully explore both options before making a decision.

#### **Scope of NOCALL Policy on Financial Support for NOCALL Institutes – Michael Ginsborg**

The recently adopted policy on financial support mentions only the Spring Institute. After a discussion of the policy, the Board agreed that this policy applies to all other types of NOCALL events. The policy will be amended to clarify this point.

#### **Recommendation to extend complimentary registrations to members whose employers provide no-cost venues for NOCALL events – Michael Ginsborg**

Historically, we have not providing complimentary registrations to our hosts. The board does not see a need to do so going forward. Members facing a financial hardship may receive grant funding to attend.

#### **Update on Archives Committee and Stanford's archival services – Rachael Samberg**

Stanford does not currently have a staff member assigned to be responsible for archiving NOCALL documents. They have been automatically been running

their system quarterly to gather NOCALL documents into the archive. This is fine as a short-term solution, but is not an ideal long-term arrangement. The scanned documents do not include any metadata, so in the future we may want to have these documents re-scanned with metadata added. Additionally, Stanford does not want to continue as the physical holder of NOCALL documents, so we need to search for a new repository. Rachael reports that there are approximately 4 lateral files' worth of material. When a new repository is identified, the bylaws will need to be changed to reflect the new institution.

President Michael Ginsborg adjourned the meeting at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson  
NOCALL Secretary

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**NOCALL BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Offices of Downey Brand, LLP**  
**and via conference call**  
**September 22, 2016**

President Michael Ginsborg called the meeting to order at 12:48 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Approval of proposed minutes of May 5, 2016 Business Meeting**

Michael Ginsborg moved to approve the minutes as written; Coral Henning seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of members in attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. 2016-17 Budget and Treasurer's Report – Jean Willis and Coral Henning**

Jean Willis presented the proposed budget, which was approved by the board with a change to the

Public Relations line (increased to \$700). Jean noted that no money has been budgeted for a Sunshine Week event, since we do not have any previous expenditures on which to base an estimate. If funds are needed for such an event in the future, the organizers may make a special request to the board for funding.

Jean Willis moved to approve the budget (with the change to the Public Relations line); Diane Rodriguez seconded. Motion was approved by a vote of members in attendance.

**2. Ideas for Community Service, Public Relations, and Public Access Committees**

These committees are in need of members! Michael Ginsborg shared some ideas for possible committee projects:

*Community Service*

- Toy drives at the 4 Corners events
- Volunteering regularly for the Prison Literature Project

*Public Relations*

- We are restoring our monthly column in *The Daily Journal*; authors are needed!
- Investigate restoring our "Behind the Shelves" column in *The Recorder*
- Investigate contributing articles to local Bar journals

*Public Access*

- Investigate setting up a program whereby library materials set for discard are donated to libraries in need, particularly county law libraries

**3. Committee Reports**

*Spring Institute – Ramona Martinez*

The Spring Institute will be held 4/1/17 at the UC Davis Alumni Center. This will be a one-day event; the theme is state legal information. Ramona will be looking for committee members to assist with the planning.

*Education – Holly Riccio*

The Fall Workshop will be 10/14/2016 at the California Judicial Center. Registration is now open. The title is “Hot or Not: You Be the Judge,” and will feature three panel discussions on artificial intelligence; the use of technology in criminal justice; and cannabis law.

*Grants - Michael Ginsborg*

The deadline for Fall Workshop grant applications is 10/3/16.

*Government Relations – Judy Janes*

The Government Relations Committee followed a lot of legislation this year, and wrote several letters in support of, or opposition to, legislation. The committee also drafted two documents that better define the advocacy procedures within NOCALL, as well as to better coordinate efforts between NOCALL, SANDALL and SCALL to support or oppose legislation. These documents were adopted by the Board at their 9/22/16 meeting.

*Nominations – Diane Rodriguez*

The committee has been formed, and will be meeting in early October to begin the nominations process. Nominees will be sought for the Vice President/President-Elect, Secretary, and Members at Large positions.

*Membership – David Holt (via telephone)*

Tina Dumas formally passed off leadership of this committee to David Holt last week. He has emailed all lapsed members to remind them that their fees are due. We currently have 294 members, 60 of whom are overdue with their fees. We have added 4 new members this month.

Tina created a list of all new members who have joined NOCALL in the past year (since we moved to Wild Apricot). This list will be used when planning a new member luncheon early next year.

*AALL - Liaison*

Coral Henning agreed to become the AALL liaison.

A formal request needs to be submitted to AALL to have a VIP attend the Fall Workshop. Jean Willis will provide a link to access the form.

*Technology – David Holt*

David has been helping webmaster Julie Horst with the website, and has made some changes in Wild Apricot, so that invoices will automatically be emailed immediately after a member registers. Spring Institute binders have been uploaded to the Google Drive, making them accessible to future institute planners. David has also been looking into an issue with a previous vendor, who has been sending us overdue bills for an account we closed over two years ago.

*Academic Relations - Leslie Hesdorfer*

Jodi Collova and April Eudy created a flyer to give to library program students at SJSU and other schools. Jodi has been in contact with SJSU about their upcoming library career panel, and NOCALL will be able to participate in the event. SJSU will also allow NOCALL to distribute materials to library school students via their listserv.

*Networking – April Eudy*

A happy hour is being planned for 10/5/16 in San Francisco, and arrangements are underway to organize an outing to the San Francisco Zoo in early November. The committee is also looking for 4-5 people to be contacts for the 4 Corners events.

**4. Proposed Technical Services Forum**

Sarah Lin has offered to lead this forum, which would provide an informal way for NOCALL members specializing technical services to learn more about the many changes in the field.

**5. NOCALL at the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting**

Michael Ginsborg shared some videos and images of the NOCALL poster and giveaways at the AALL Annual Meeting.

**6. NOCALL social at AALL Annual Meeting**

In previous years, NOCALL has organized a social event at the AALL Annual Meeting. We'd like to

reinstitute this tradition, and need an organizer. Please let Michael Ginsborg know if you would like to help.

Past President Ellen Platt will be planning the Joint Chapters Reception at the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting in Austin. Responsibility for planning this event rotates between the participating chapters. Going forward, the past president will be charged with this duty when it is NOCALL's responsibility to plan the event.

### **7. Transparency initiative**

In an effort to increase transparency, proposed board and business meeting minutes and budget documents will be posted to the NOCALL website as soon as possible. Minutes will also continue to be published in the *NOCALL News*.

### **8. Winter Business Meeting**

Michael Ginsborg is looking for a law firm on the peninsula to host the business meeting. He hopes to schedule the meeting for the second week of January.

### **9. Special announcement**

Michael Ginsborg read a lovely tribute to Mary Staats, which was written by Judy Heier. Mary has stepped down as Placement Committee Chair, a position she has held for more than 20 years, and soon will be retiring.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **10. Open forum : Is \$25 too much to charge for a Business Meeting?**

Michael Ginsborg asked if lowering the registration fee for business meetings might increase attendance. Members in attendance discussed this issue, and provide some ideas:

- Charging a nominal fee encourages members to actually attend meetings they register for, and creates the perception that there is value in attending the meetings
- \$25 can be cost-prohibitive, especially for students and paraprofessional members. A tiered pricing structure may help with this issue.

- \$25 more than covers events held at free venues, but does not cover the costs of events held at restaurants or similar venues. Event registration fees could be based on actual costs, charging members more to attend more expensive events.

The board will take these ideas under consideration at a future meeting.

President Michael Ginsborg adjourned the meeting at 1:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson  
NOCALL Secretary

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## **NOCALL BOARD MEETING**

**January 11, 2017, 11 a.m.**

**Via conference call**

*Present:*

Michael Ginsborg  
Coral Henning  
Mary Johnson  
Jessica Brasch  
Jean Willis  
Leslie Hesdorfer  
Ramona Martinez

President Michael Ginsborg called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

### **Old Business**

#### ***Approval of proposed minutes***

Proposed minutes were presented for the September 9th Board Meeting. Michael Ginsborg moved to approve the minutes as written; Coral Henning seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of all present.

### **New Business**

#### ***Approval of board minutes by email as soon as possible after each meeting***

Michael Ginsborg proposed modifying our procedure, so that Board meeting minutes are approved via email as soon as possible after each meeting. Following the proposed procedure, the Secretary



will email a draft of the proposed minutes to the President as soon as they are ready. The President will provide feedback and/or approve the minutes. The updated minutes will then be sent to the board for approval via email.

Michael Ginsborg moved to approve the modified procedure; Ramona Martinez seconded. The procedure was approved by all present.

#### ***Approval of changes to the Board***

Mary Johnson moved to accept Rachael Samberg's resignation from the position of Treasurer, and to formally appoint Coral Henning to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of Rachael's term. Ramona Martinez seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all present.

#### ***Update on NOCALL Election***

The formal announcement of the slate must be made by January 20. Michael Ginsborg will make an announcement at the Business Meeting on January 19. Mary Johnson will follow up with a formal email to the listserv after the meeting, will provide Julie Horst with the candidate biographies for the website, and will publish the biographies in the *NOCALL News*. The Secretary must receive any petitions for additional candidates by February 15. Polls will be open March 1-22. Mary will work with Coral Henning to get Survey Monkey set up prior to the election.

#### ***Update on Spring Institute***

Ramona Martinez reported on the preparations for the Spring Institute. The venue is the UC Davis Alumni Center, and catering will be provided by Hannibal's. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Place on the UC Davis campus, for \$179/night. Julie Horst and April Eudy are working on a networking event for the night before the institute.

The theme is California Regulatory Research. Jodie Berger, Administrative Law Judge, will present the keynote address. Sessions will include How Regulations are Promulgated, How to Find Current Regulations, and How to Research Regulatory History.

Claudia Cohen is working with vendors; Coral Henning and David Holt are setting up Wild Apricot

for registration and a PDF form for vendors; Maribel Nash will be assisting with publicity; Julie Horst will be creating a webpage; Paula Ginsborg has designed a logo. During the meeting, Jessica Brasch agreed to assist with registration coordination.

Ramona received an AALL grant of up to \$2500. As a condition of the grant, the Institute's programs will be videotaped. AALL will not be exhibiting at the Institute, but will offer raffle prizes.

#### ***Reconsideration of NOCALL policy on financial support of NOCALL events hosts***

At a recent meeting, the Board decided that employees of institutions hosting NOCALL meetings would not receive complimentary registration for the event. Michael Ginsborg asked that the Board reconsider this policy. He has found that host organizations incur some costs for hosting, as their staff is involved in room and IT set-up, coordination with the caterers, etc.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to adopt the following policy:

When an organization provides a free venue for a NOCALL Business meeting, up to four staff members of the hosting organization may receive complimentary registration. This policy applies only to Business meetings, and only when free facilities are provided.

Coral Henning moved to adopt this policy; Ramona Martinez seconded. The motion was approved by all present.

#### ***Remote participation at meetings and other events***

It is becoming increasingly easy and common to allow members to attend meetings and other events remotely, via conference call or webcast. Michael Ginsborg asked if members should be required to pay a registration fee to attend events remotely. The board discussed this issue briefly, but reserved fuller discussion for the future, when the need arises. The decision to charge or allow free access would likely depend on the circumstances of a specific event.

**Committee reports***Public Access Committee:*

- Sarah Lin is applying for an AALL grant to fund the creation of a system that will allow public law libraries to accept outdated books from NOCALL libraries.
- Michael Ginsborg has reached out to Bay Area Legal Assistance, to gauge their interest in a pro bono legal research project, modeled after the Minnesota project.

*Community Service Committee:* Michael Ginsborg encourages all to join him in his monthly visit to the Prisoner Literature Project

*Memorials:* Committee Chair Mark Mackler has retired and resigned his chair. Committee members Leslie Hesdorfer and Jane Metz feel confident that they can handle the committee's work on their own for now.

*Archives:* Stanford is currently housing our physical archives, and using their Archive-It program to download documents from the NOCALL website. This is only an interim approach to archiving NOCALL materials; we need to find a permanent solution.

**Budget Report**

Jean Willis reported on the current budget. We are doing fine so far – we have income from both the September Business Meeting and membership dues. We have \$37,000 in total in our two accounts. Expenses have been limited mostly to recurring technology fees; we have not had many Spring Institute-related expenses so far.

Jean notes that our AALL Chapter Insurance, which is based on the number of members, was 202 this year; it was 263 last year, meaning we have lost 61 members. The Board will discuss ideas for recruiting and retaining members at a future meeting.

**NOCALL Connections luncheon**

Leslie Hesdorfer is planning a luncheon for newly added NOCALL members. She is hoping as many officers and committee members as possible can

attend. The event is scheduled for February 16 in San Francisco.

**Technology issues**

*Website:* David Holt recommends moving the NOCALL website to Amazon EC2, which will allow a bit more flexibility in terms of website design, and will provide a significant cost savings. The transition would be seamless for users. The Board agrees that the move makes sense, but would like to ensure that those who regularly post to the website are provided with training on how to use the new system. Michael Ginsborg will follow up with David Holt on this issue.

*Harassment policy:* A suggested policy was presented, which would set guidelines for NOCALL-related electronic communications. These guidelines would prohibit abusive language in all electronic communications; violators would face possible suspension or revocation of their membership.

The Board discussed this policy, but had some concerns, especially about the risk of legal liability. The Board felt this issue merited further investigation and discussion at a later date.

**Technical Services special interest section**

Sarah Lin has been working with David Holt to set up a NOCALL listserv for those members who are interested in participating in this special interest section.

**Amending the NOCALL Constitution**

Two amendments to the NOCALL Constitution have been proposed. These amendments must be discussed by the board, and if the board approves them, will be given to Chuck Marcus, so that he may present them to AALL for review. If approved by AALL, the amendments will then be presented to the membership for approval.

President Michael Ginsborg adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Johnson  
NOCALL Secretary

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

For more details, see <http://www.nocall.org/>