

# NOCALL NEWS

Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello NOCALLers! As I write this I am looking forward to the upcoming [Spring Institute](#) that VP David Holt has pulled together with the help of his committee. I will network with colleagues, and hopefully meet some new members. And I hope to come away with some fresh ideas and enthusiasm for advocating for ourselves, our institutions/employers, and our profession. Perhaps the most urgent issue needing our attention and advocacy is the funding of California's County Law Libraries. For background on the crisis, see [this article](#) authored in part by our own Mark Estes of the Alameda County Law Library.

Unfortunately, the issue of insufficient funding is not new. In a June 2002 *California Bar Journal* article<sup>1</sup>, Charles Dyer, then director of the San Diego County Law Library, said "It's been a creeping crisis." County Law Libraries have been "teetering on the brink" for too long. We'll need to get creative to find a way forward.

On a more positive note, I'm happy about the side benefit of visiting the [California Museum](#). The [Constitution wall](#) is my favorite permanent exhibit, but I'm particularly looking forward to seeing the [quilts](#) hand-crafted by artists in the Women of Color Quilter's Network (WCQN).

And now for something completely [different](#), a huge thank you to April Eudy who's headed up the [Networking committee](#) for the past few years. April (with help from committee member, Julie Horst) has offered many varied opportunities for NOCALL members to connect with each other. Members have gathered to work on their estate plans, make cheese, and visit the Oakland Zoo, to name just a few examples. April let me know that she needs to pass the Chair position on to another NOCALL member. Maybe you'd like to take it on? Think about it. You could visit possible locations for the Four Corners event this holiday season. (Bar-hopping with a professional purpose.) Is there an event you've been wanting to attend but needed an excuse to plan it? Here's your opportunity! Contact me at 510-642-1170 or [rccollins@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:rccollins@law.berkeley.edu) if you're interested.

If I don't see you at the Spring Institute, I hope to see you at our May Business Meeting which is just in the planning stages at this point. Happy Spring everyone!

1. Kristina Horton Flaherty, "Budget Squeeze Imperils County Law Libraries," Cal. B.J. (June 2002) at 1.



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## MUSINGS FROM MARK

Mark Mackler

**May It Please the Court...**As law librarians, you know that occasionally the United States Supreme Court fixes mistakes in its opinions. It does so very quietly, with no press releases and no public reading of the corrections. Usually, the Justices signal their fixes by adding the word “Modified” to newly-issued print and digital versions of the opinion. In 2014, Richard Lazarus of Harvard Law School published an article that exposed the Court’s methods for handling mistakes. “Serious practical problems arise when the version of the Court’s opinion upon which lower courts, other branches of government, and scholars and teachers rely can change without notice, as many as five years after publication.” In response, the Court’s website has flagged opinions that are modified after their initial release. It now posts digital copies of the decisions that highlight edits. However, this reform applies only to recent decisions. Details about the revisions--how the errors happened or were uncovered--are rarely in the documents.

**Oh, to be Wanted...** “Eleven county courts were placed out of commission today, and hundreds of lawyers were inconvenienced, by the strange disappearance of Percy Digby, the law librarian of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Digby has been librarian from the time when the county had only a few volumes and has kept track of the books ever since. Mr. Digby never created a catalogue of the 20,000 books in the Library, and once refused an offer from the county to design one. Mr. Digby declared that he wanted to hold his position for life. Recently, he has suffered from the effects of overwork, and for some time (according to his wife) he has been acting strangely. All county and city detectives are now looking for him.” *The New York Times*, September 28, 1907.

**How Times Have Changed I...**Representative Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY) has introduced the Lifesaving Librarians Act to empower unlikely heroes in the fight against overdose deaths. The Act directs the

Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for public libraries to purchase naloxone kits and to train library staff to use them effectively. “Library staff across the country are ready to save lives when people overdose—now it’s up to us to make sure they have the training and tools they need to provide immediate assistance to people who are struggling with addiction,” said Congressman Maloney.

**How Times Have Changed II...** “He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle” Edward R. Murrow writing about Winston Churchill.

“Actually, throughout my life, my two greatest assets have been mental stability and being, like, really smart...I became President of the United States on my first try. I think that would qualify as not smart, but genius...and a very stable genius at that!”

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## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie, U.C. Davis Law Library

**“Incivility and Dysfunction in the Library Workplace: Perceptions and Feedback from the Field,”** by Jo Henry, Joe Eshleman, Rebecca Croxton, Richard Moniz, *Journal of Library Administration*, Vol. 58 , p128-152, 2017

Libraries generally are considered polite and professional workplaces, but is this true? This study is based on feedback from 4168 library employees via a self-reporting survey assisted by the American Library Association and analyzes civility in the library as a workplace. Respondents were mostly female (88%) and mostly public librarians, although academic librarians also participated. Results found that 40% indicated that they had been bullied by co-workers and 59% had seen others bullied. 47% dealt with incivility daily or weekly. The study points to causes like a lack of conflict resolution training among workers as well as a lack of Emotional Intelligence. Emotional Intelligence is defined as self-awareness, empathy and social skills. Unsurprisingly, librarians

see themselves as very empathetic but the survey results imply otherwise.

**“Google Scholar, Library Partner or Database Competitor?”**, by Nancy K. Herther, *Online Searcher*, September/October 2017, p30-34

Given the reality of steadily decreasing budgets, free sources of authoritative information are cherished by librarians and Google Scholar is one of them. The article points out inconsistencies in GS that make it less useful. For example, they find inconsistencies in the GS search functions, for example the most cited scientist isn't a person but "et. al". As a resource for systematically discovering new papers or searching deeply, GS falls down as well since the user is not provided with much information about the database extent and favors older materials over new articles. This article concludes that Google Scholar is best used in combination with other, robust, paid databases.

**“Why Paper Jams Persist, A Trivial Problem Reveals the Limits of Technology,”** by Joshua Rothman, *New Yorker Magazine*, February 12, 2018. Available at: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/02/12/why-paper-jams-persist>

The printer has a central position, at least in my library. When it jams, everything stops. This whimsical article describes what happened when a printing press in Asia tried to produce a book but the printer failed. Xerox, the fount of all that is print, has a special group of engineers whose mission it is to resolve print problems. Using a combination of engineering skills, a working knowledge of physics, computer modeling and whiteboards, these specialists dedicate themselves to solving Asia's print jam. While the article is lighthearted, it points out the importance of the availability of a good printer, describing one consequence in Chicago Childrens' Court. In the 1990's, prosecutors had a limited time to supply defense with certain documents, otherwise the Defendant would be released. Prosecutors were losing two out of three cases to paper jams because

the documents couldn't be delivered in time. The cause for the problem? Cheap paper. When they upgraded the paper, the jamming stopped. Read the article and find out more about your printer than you ever thought you could.

**“Ten Songs About Libraries and Librarians”**, by Philip Sutton, *New York Public Library*, April 18, 2017. Available at: <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2017/04/18/songs-libraries-librarians>

This isn't literature, per se, but Sutton has put together a nice list of songs about libraries and librarians that you wouldn't think of immediately. Be sure to read the comment section.

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### COMMITTEE CORNER: EDUCATION COMMITTEE Jourdan Corbitt, LibSource

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

#### ***Tell us about the Education Committee's latest news/accomplishments.***

The Education Committee creates annual events (usually a Fall Workshop) to support the professional development of our members. Past workshops have been held at the California Judicial Center, local law schools, and law firms on topics as wide-ranging as our membership. Last October, NOCALL partnered with the SLA Sierra Nevada Chapter to engage a speaker on the Generation Gap - Benefits and Challenges of a Mixed Generation Workforce. The 2016 Fall Workshop called *Hot or Not: You Be the Judge* with a panel on AI in law was honored with the AALL Chapter Professional Development Award!

***Why is the Education Committee important to NOCALL and the profession in general?***

Professional development is the heart of NOCALL's mission to support its members. Advancing in your career as a law librarian is impossible without constantly honing your skills and learning new ones.

***What are the future goals of the Education Committee?***

The NOCALL Board is eager to see a couple of enthusiastic members take charge of the Education Committee and run with it. The committee's charge is broad enough to allow for the members to be creative. We don't need to limit ourselves to one big workshop in the fall. Committee members could innovate and forge new paths.

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

Interested members can call me at 510-642-1170 or email me at [rcollins@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:rcollins@law.berkeley.edu). I'd be happy to talk to anyone and I can refer members to others who can help with venue and topic ideas.

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**SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC DEFENDER  
JEFF ADACHI SPEAKS AT THE  
SAN FRANCISCO LAW LIBRARY  
Aaron Parsons and Diane Rodriguez  
San Francisco Law Library**

The San Francisco Law Library was recently honored to feature Jeff Adachi, San Francisco Public Defender, speaking on *Public Defense, Immigrant Rights, and Racial Justice* at our free lunchtime speaker program. Mr. Adachi arrived at the Law Library directly from court, where he was working on the Garcia Zarate trial. Following the program, he raced off to a committee meeting on immigration policy. He is an incredibly busy Public Defender and legal advocate on cutting edge issues. We were fortunate to have him speak at the Law Library.

Mr. Adachi began the well-attended program discussing his personal history, including growing up in Sacramento, attending undergraduate and law school, and his early career trying cases in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office before being elected as San Francisco Public Defender in 2002. He is the only elected public defender in California, and among the very few elected public defenders in the country.

In addition to juggling a large caseload in a dynamic office, Mr. Adachi focused on two areas he is passionate about: immigration and bail reform. He discussed the conditions and difficulties immigrants face in immigration court. In many cases ICE defendants have no right to a lawyer, only appearing in court by closed-circuit television and often addressed in a language they don't understand. To help meet the needs posed by these defendants, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office created a unit to provide representation to those facing deportation. To help raise funds for these defendants, the Immigration Defense Fund was created as a joint effort with the International Institute of the Bay Area and the San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

Mr. Adachi teaches around the country where he advocates on bail reform and encourages criminal defense lawyers, many of whom have nearly impossible caseloads, to detect and fight bias against their clients. In response to a report released by California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Mr. Adachi's office is now challenging bail in every case.

*For further reading on the topics discussed by Mr. Adachi, see the links below:*

<http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Jury-reaches-verdict-in-killing-of-Kate-Steinle-12396509.php>

<http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2017/05/sf-public-defender-immigration-unit-launches-today/>

<http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2017/09/fund-launched-to-help-immigrants-fight-deportation/>  
<http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2017/10/sf-public-defenders-stand-up-to-money-bail/>

Watch the PBS documentary “Presumed Guilty” featuring Mr. Adachi : <http://www.pbs.org/kqed/presumedguilty/1.1.0.html>

The film “Defender,” about two cases in the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office won the ‘Best Documentary’ award at the Independent Television Festival: <http://sfpublicdefender.org/news/2017/10/defender-wins-best-documentary-at-film-fest/>

Watch the trailer at: <http://defenderfilm.com/>

This program included 1.5 hours of free participatory general MCLE credit. Additional information about our free lunchtime speaker program, including upcoming programs, can be found here: <http://calcountylib.libguides.com/sflawlunchtime>

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## E-READER LIBRARIAN’S DIGITAL BOOK REVIEWS

\*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.

**The House Next Door: A Ghost Story**, by Darcy Coates  
 Price: \$3.99 (free with Kindle Unlimited)  
 Formats: Kindle

Jo, a young woman who is between jobs, lives next door to a picturesque old house that can’t keep a tenant. Late one night she hears screaming and watches the family next door run from the house, fleeing to their car. They never return, even for their furniture. The next occupant, Anna, becomes her

friend. To her dismay, she discovers that Anna has bought the house and intends to stick it out even though it’s clearly haunted. As the house ramps up its activities, Jo discovers Anna’s reason for preferring life inside a haunted house to what might attack her from outside. Kept me reading and interested, especially since the ghost isn’t the only evil ‘haunting’ this house.

**Shadows from the walls of death: facts and inferences prefacing a book of specimens of arsenical wall papers**, by R.C. Kedzie

Published: Michigan. State Board of Health. issuing body.1874

Price: Free at: <https://collections.nlm.nih.gov/catalog/nlm:nlmuid-0234555-bk>

Formats: PDF, Text or read on-site

It’s fortunate that this book is available in a PDF version because the paper version would poison you. This work was written to educate the Victorian public about the then-common arsenic dyes used to color fabrics and paper the color green. The three remaining originals, which must be covered with air-tight plastic or handled with gloves, contain samples and discussion of green wallpaper, found in many homes at the time, slowly poisoning the owners. The colors remain very vivid and even attractive but it makes you think about that lovely green wallpaper in the Victorian you just bought...

**Caroline: Little House Revisited**, by Sarah Miller  
 Published: William Morrow, 2017  
 Price: \$1.99 at Amazon.com

Most of us have read the Little House on the Prairie books or seen the television series and have been introduced to ‘Ma’ Ingalls. But in the books she seems incredibly strong, ascetic and a bit dour. Reading about the family’s adventures on the prairie, I used to think that this woman was nuts to allow herself to be dragged from pillar to post. Who was she, really? This book tries to answer that question by discussing Caroline Ingalls’ upbringing, her fears

(Indians) and ambitions (education for her girls) and how they originated. We forget that Caroline herself came from a settler family, with a strong religious bent. She was more serious than her daughters but no less intelligent. This biography gives her a good introduction.

***Face Down in the Marrow-Bone Pie***, by Kathy Lynn Emerson  
 Published: St. Martin's Minotaur & Kensington Books, 1997  
 Price: \$3.99 at Amazon.com  
 Formats: Kindle

Susana, Lady Appleton, begins to investigate when her steward dies under mysterious circumstances. Unfortunately, a lady in Tudor England who is also an expert in poisonous herbs, can expect to draw some negative attention to herself. This book combines a thorough knowledge of Elizabethan living (and poisons) with a nice twisty mystery as well. This is an older book, not self-published and so lacks the many spelling and usage errors e-books are prone to today. Best of all, there are sequels!

## TENTH 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 Tenth 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: <https://www.aallnet.org/lhrbsis/awards-grants/>

**Entries must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., April 16, 2018 (EDT).**

*Spotlight on...*

**Angela Wang**

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

I am, what you call it, an "accidental" law librarian. Without knowing much about law librarianship, I was offered my very first professional job as a Digital Librarian at Texas Tech University School of Law Library in early 2009. I had already finished my MLIS and was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Information Science at the time. I wanted to gain experience as a practitioner so I left my doctoral program in Florida and moved to Lubbock Texas where I later learned that the Dixie Chicks wrote a song about called "Lubbock or Leave It". For me, it was always "leave it" because I am a big city person and grew up in Beijing. Nevertheless, I remained there for four years. I was so lucky to have a wonderful mentor and a group of colleagues whom I learned so much from. I had many opportunities to learn all aspects of law librarianship during my time there. I helped the law library build its first institutional repository in 2010 (I cannot believe that was 8 years ago!). My job was very challenging, dynamic, and interesting. I also got to do reference, teaching, marketing and outreach, committee works, and management among other things. After that, I worked as Special Collection Services Librarian at St. Mary's University Sarita Kenedy East Law Library in San Antonio and then as User Experience Librarian and Head of Public Services at Riverside County Law Library. These professional positions allowed me to grow tremendously. I did attempt to escape the law library world at one point but I guess that didn't happen. After working in the profession for eight years now, I can proudly say I am a law librarian! (laughs)

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

Definitely the networking and professional development opportunities. I am still very new as a NOCALL member since I started at UC Hastings last April. But I was very involved in my local chapter SWALL when I worked in Texas so I wanted to do something similar here. I volunteered to serve on the nomination committee without knowing many people at all. I was welcomed with open arms and got to meet and work with great NOCALL veterans. I have an interest in leadership and professional service so I definitely plan on getting more involved with NOCALL!

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

Outside work, I enjoy trying new restaurants and writing food reviews. I have written close to six hundred reviews on Yelp and counting. I also had a fashion blog briefly and would still like to study fashion design one day. Travelling is another hobby of mine and I have plans to go on a road trip to visit all 50 states one day!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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