

# NOCALL News

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Lin

Holy smoke (literally)! What a summer it's been!

It's been a busy 3 months of NOCALL duties for me and I'd like to provide an update.

In June, the Board approved a Black Lives Matter (BLM) Statement. In it, we listed steps we would take to demonstrate how Black professional lives matter to NOCALL.

- After the Black Caucus of AALL became a Special Interest Section of AALL, we were able to make a donation in the amount of \$1619.
- Jessica Brasch, Membership Chair, updated the member profile template in Wild Apricot with a field for members to indicate they are a Person of Color (POC). Please update your profile whether you're a POC or not, as the job duties fields were condensed.
- We updated the NOCALL Grant Application to include options for applicants to indicate they wish to be considered for dedicated funds for Black, non-Black POC and/or county law librarians.
- The Grants Committee Charge was updated to incorporate our goal of awarding 50% of the grants to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous & People of Color) members.
- We created a Student Trustee position for BIPOC library school students. Academic Relations Chair, Kristie Chamorro, advertised and selected a Student Trustee in September.
- Free anti-bias training open to the entire membership was held on September 11th, and ~25% of the membership attended.

In July, I sent out a survey to the membership, asking how NOCALL can better support you. You asked for more discussion/interaction on the listserv, and I led a 4-week discussion on working at home. You asked for opportunities to learn new skills, and I hosted a quick lunch-n-learn about how to lead meetings. We have plans in the works for more opportunities for professional development this year, following the anti-bias training on September 11th.

There is still much more work to be done, but we are making progress each month. Thank you all for your support and engagement!



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Finally, I want to urge everyone to consider applying for a grant this year, for something that would help you professionally, whether to do your job better, get a promotion, or acquire a new job that you desire. I've heard a lot of, "well, I might need it more next year or for some other future event." Sure, next year you might have a need, but why not make this year better and save next year's worries for then? You'll notice on the Grant Committee Charge (found on the website & the wiki) that the committee is able to take into consideration "special circumstances" and lower the time between grants if they judge it appropriate.

## 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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## HEADNOTES FROM HOLLY

Holly Riccio

**RIP RBG...** As if this year hadn't given us enough stress and strife to cope with, we lost the Notorious RBG. What an enormous loss for both the legal community and our nation. It often feels strange to mourn someone you didn't know, but I read a pair of Washington Post articles recently that shed light on this for me. One article explained it quite simply and eloquently, stating that grief "...is not a matter of kinship—it's a matter of attachment." If someone's presence or being mattered to you, you grieve their loss. The other article introduced the concept of "grief leadership." While grief leadership is often displayed in our public figures and others in positions of influence, we can all be grief leaders for our friends, family and loved ones—by acknowledging sadness, expressing it, being vulnerable, and helping others find meaning and move forward. And, as for the best way to honor RBG's legacy, a meme I saw the other day might have said it best: In Lieu of Flowers, Send Votes.

**STRANGER THINGS...** Sometimes, when the traffic noise subsides and I have a free moment, thoughts pop into my head about the many oddities 2020 has wrought. Sometimes, it's little things, like thinking about the fact that my purse has been sitting in the same spot in the bedroom for months, or that I can't even remember when the last time was that I put gas in the car. Sometimes, it's the more frivolous things, like how the fashion and beauty industry has changed—things like false lashes and athleisurewear are getting a huge popularity boost, and who could have possibly predicted that press-on nails would see a resurgence? Then, there are the really big topics and shifts that are heavy and often hard to think about—and are still changing regularly. I hope that we can all find some amusement in the strangeness of the little things, and also find our own ways to make peace with the strangeness of the bigger things.

**MUSIC FOR THE MASSES...** One of my weekly appointments on my calendar isn't a librarian Zoom meeting or a professional association webinar—it's a concert. One of my favorite singer/songwriters, Jonatha Brooke, started doing what she dubbed Kitchen COVID Concerts back in March, and has continued to perform virtually every Monday at 12:00 noon PT.

While she is a touring musician, I would typically only get to see her every few years or so, as that is as often as she would get out to California for gigs, so getting a weekly concert from her for the last 20+ weeks has been a real treat. I don't know if or when she will stop doing them, but until she does, they will remain on my calendar and an uplifting way to start off each week.

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## LEGAL TECH RECAP

Delia L. Montesinos, Ropes & Gray

With my fall associates delayed until January, I now have ample time to plan their onboarding and figure out what that onboarding should look like. But I have to admit I am quite anxious about it, especially since there is a very real chance that their intro to library services will be fully remote or, at the very least, hybrid in nature.

I'm not fretting about teaching the tech; I'm good with that. Besides, I know I can rely on our amazing vendors to assist with trainings. What I'm struggling to figure out is the non-tech part: the personal connections I make with the first years during those stressful first weeks.

To me, this is super-VIP because it not only helps me gauge their knowledge and comfort level with research tools, but it also sets the tone and the foundation for our future relationship. Virtual meeting rooms simply don't provide the cozy "what happens in Vegas" environment my office offers, and I also can't remotely bribe them with my willie-wonka-worthy drawer o'chocolate (though my not having 24/7 access to the happiness drawer is probably a good thing).

So I wonder: when it comes to your fall associates, how do you (versus your firm) plan to bridge the "personal gap" tech creates? I'd love to hear your ideas!

Lastly, I want to give a big shout out to my former boss and fellow NOCALLer Cynthia Brown for [being named](#) as one of Fastcase's 50 legal tech trailblazers for 2020. A well-deserved honor!

## BLOOMBERG LAW

- [Integrated](#) Brief Analyzer with Dockets so you can find relevant briefs and, with one click, run an analysis over them. In addition, you are now able to access Judicial, Attorney, and Company Analytics from the Dockets page.

- Added or enhanced Chart Builders include Pharmacy Benefit Manager Requirements, Practice of Telemedicine, and Insurance Coverage of Telehealth Services. Added info on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Occupational Safety Chart Builder.
- New Practical Guidance topic pages include ESG, Regulation Best Interest (REG BI), Return to Work Practical Guidance, At the Market Offerings, and Voluntary Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Proceedings. Added News Channels include Social Justice News, Private Equity, Cannabis, and Insurance Law.
- [Announced](#) that Casebriefs, a free electronic platform with study supplements, content, and tools for law and pre-law students, now links to Bloomberg Law.

### CAPITAL IQ/S&P MARKET INTELLIGENCE

- [Launched](#) S&P Global RiskGauge Reports, a new Credit Analytics tool that provides detailed credit risk views of businesses and investments. Reports are available for more than 50 million public and private companies globally.

### CEB (CONTINUING EDUCATION OF THE BAR)

- A new product, CEB Practitioner, coming 9/22. This California-focused tool offers Workflows, How-To Guides, Strategy Notes, Charts, Checklists, and annotated Sample Documents. You can watch a demo [here](#).

### DOCKET NAVIGATOR

- [Launched](#) *Weekly Insights*, a report that tracks each week's biggest case filed, the top patentee/patent challenger law firms, and the top damages award, among other stats.
- [Announced](#) a partnership with InQuartik that gives users access to a patent's key legal events from prosecution and post-grant proceedings. Docket Navigator Plus subscribers have unlimited access to all content initially displayed in the new QI Tabs, and InQuartik is offering a free trial for additional content.
- [Added](#) an editable Attorney Litigation History page, which allows a user to quickly and efficiently review and edit their patent litigation history, similar to updating a LinkedIn profile.

### FASTCASE

- [Announced](#) it acquired Judicata and plans to integrate its citation analysis, legal analytics and brief analysis tools into the Fastcase and Docket Alarm platforms—O'Grady [calls](#) this move a "game changer" that will help Fastcase gain a larger market share. Additionally, the company plans to build "a series of document automation tools" for the documents law firms commonly create.
- [Released](#) Fastcase 7.6: Mars, which added over 400 million documents and involved a ground-up redesign.

### GOVERNMENT

- PACER unveiled its first redesign in more than ten years. Bob Ambrogi [outlines](#) the changes, which include improved navigation, new accessibility tools, and a mobile-friendly design.
- The Library of Congress is [adding](#) the Bound Congressional Record to Congress.gov and plans to add finding aids in the future, such as the Daily Digest, History of Bills, and index. They also [added](#) a new feature to "Find your member by address."
- ICYMI (like me, despite the big banner), on Wednesdays and Thursdays the only version of Regulations.gov you will be [able to access](#) is the beta site.

### HEINONLINE

- [A new database](#), "COVID-19 in America: Response, Issues, and Law", gathers pandemic-related reports by the CSR and GAO reports, as well as scholarly articles. Included at no additional charge for all Core subscribers.
- [Added](#) two new chapters featuring Beer Law and Voter Laws to the National Survey of State Laws. In addition, updated several chapters.

### LEXIS

- Began to roll out Lexis+, its new legal research platform. In addition to a complete visual redesign, Lexis+ includes many AI-driven new and enhanced features. Ambrogi's review is [here](#).
- Made a number of enhancements to Courtlink, including [separate deliveries](#) of track and alert summary emails with an option to attach dockets, as well as having docket changes [delivered](#) in the body of track emails.

- [Added](#) a new, imho, super-helpful Archive Indicator Icon that notes when a source is only an archive or it is no longer being updated.
- [Launched](#) its second product in the Navigator franchise, Lexis Product Liability Navigator. This new tool helps corporate counsel and product liability attorneys quickly assess the validity, value and potential risk of a case.
- [Added](#) document-level alerts and the capability to download in-line notes/clauses to Lexis Practice Advisor.

## LEX MACHINA

- [Added](#) a new Torts module, which provides data on civil claims in federal district court for torts, including premises liability, negligence, assault and battery, defamation, invasion of privacy, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and medical malpractice.
- [Expanded](#) its coverage of federal courts, adding nearly 800,000 cases to its database.

## NEXIS

- Diligence now [includes](#) D&B ultimate beneficial ownership data. Additionally, they improved both report delivery and alert management.

## PREQIN

- Released the Preqin Mobile App, available from the Apple Store and Google Play.
- [Added](#) Direct Alpha to their Public Market Equivalent (PME) comparison tool.
- [Launched](#) a new Market League Tables Tool, which identifies the top fund managers in the industry and allows the user to apply filters for granularity and customization.
- [Introduced](#) a new Geography Classification in the Funds and Performance sections, so you can run geography-specific searches with country- and region-specific search options.

## ROSS

- [Released](#) a free Chrome extension that makes it simple to find case law support for text found anywhere on the web. You can also use the extension to verify case currency using the ROSS citator. IMHO, this is uber-cool.

## TRELLIS

- [Announced](#) expanded coverage to trial courts in New York, Florida, and Texas, in addition to their existing coverage of California courts. If interested, they are offering a two-week free trial.

## vLEX JUSTIS

- [Added](#) 125K cases from superior courts in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia and began to update UK High Court dockets on a daily basis.
- [Announced](#) a partnership with Juta to provide access to around 80K cases from Southern African courts, dating back to 1910.
- [Released](#) the Precedent Map, a visualization of common law and civil law cases from the US, Canada, the UK, Ireland, the Caribbean, regions of Latin America, Australia and Asia.
- [Enhanced](#) its UK dockets collection with daily updates for dockets from the High Court.

## WESTLAW/THOMSON REUTERS

- [Debuted](#) Westlaw Today, a new product that provides legal news from Reuters, The Hill, CCH, CQ Rollcall, WK, and other legal newsletters, along with legal analysis from practitioners.
- [Added](#) Quick Check Judicial, a new brief-checking tool, to WL Edge. Beyond cite checking, this new feature allows users to “upload multiple briefs or memos from a single matter to surface highly relevant authority that neither party included.”

## WOLTERS KLUWER/CCH

- [Announced](#) a partnership with Oxford University Press to make its titles available through Kluwer Arbitration, Kluwer Competition Law, and Kluwer IP Law.
- [Added](#) RegReview to RBSourceFilings. This new drafting tool adds point-in-time redlining, integrated checklists, practical guidance, and workflow tools.
- [Released](#) a new feature in Cheetah’s Tax Reporters Plus Suite that allows users to set alerts for changes in the tax code, regulations, explanations, and other code-related documents.
- CRIV’s bi-annual call with WK took place in June; recap [here](#).

## NEW (TO ME) RESEARCH TOOLS

- Petition.ai [allows](#) you to find similar patent examination petitions and compare them for changes. The database includes 500K petitions going back to 2016; cost based on how many patents you filed in the prior year.
- AnyLaw provides free access to US federal and state and case law. Developed by an Israeli startup, it [just implemented](#) AI to identify cases that are relevant to the topic and location of the search.
- This nifty tool caught my eye: [Isolation.site](#) visits URLs that you want to check out but do not trust, and shows you what comes up.
- Super ashamed to admit I didn't know these existed: [National Legal Research Teach-In kits](#). I'm definitely going to poke through them and borrow heavily for my associate trainings.

## THINGS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

- Despite my best intentions, I missed Legal Week's [Uncertain Decade](#), a 4-part webinar debate between Richard Susskind and Mark Cohen on the future of the legal industry. If you're in the same boat, here are the recaps by [Prism Legal](#), [Thomson Reuters](#), and [Legal Mosaic](#). If anyone finds the videos online, please share!
- If you're making a case for PacerPro, a free [white paper](#) includes case studies and testimonials from 18 law firms who have implemented it.
- The 21st edition of the Bluebook is out with some [noteworthy changes](#).
- I had forgotten this super cool but, in some level, kind of scary tech exists. Is this where brief drafting is heading? [OpenAI's latest AI text generator GPT-3 amazes early adopters](#).
- Not law-related but, honestly, the [Food Timeline](#) is majorly cool. Plus, the curator job is open (and comes with 2,300+ books)!

## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Elisabeth McKechnie and Kristin Brandt  
U.C. Davis Law Library

**"The History Thief,"** by Travis McDade, *Smithsonian*, vol. 51, no. 5, September 2020, pp. 28-37

In 2016, the Oliver Room of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh discovered that it had lost everything of value in its special collections. Plates and maps, even books had been cut from bindings and stolen from the library. It was discovered that the theft was facilitated by the book room's manager, a library student, married to a librarian and fenced through a well-regarded used book dealer. "The only thing that keeps an insider from stealing from special collections is conscience." An interesting and shocking article that only highlights the need for ethical values inherent in our profession.

**"The Intersectionality of Law Librarianship & Gender,"** by Jamie J. Baker, forthcoming *Villanova Law Review*, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3617231>

The existence of a hierarchy in legal academe is undisputed and librarians are not at the top of the pyramid. This article discusses the "pink ghetto" that librarians fall into despite the major support they provide to the education of law students, including teaching roles. Skills positions like librarians and writing teachers are feminized because of a perception that they provide more "nurturing" of the student than those of doctrinal (and tenured) faculty. The article goes on to discuss the microaggressions of higher status titles towards those of lower status and the negative impact on the person of lower status. It closes with suggestions to change the status quo within the system itself by drawing allies from within academe and educating them about the existence and consequences of these microaggressions against staff.

**"Erasure, Misrepresentation and Confusion: Investigating JSTOR Topics on Women's and Race Histories,"** by Sharon Block, *DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly*, 2020, Vol. 14, Issue 1.

It is critically important for librarians to understand the biases in the databases we are searching. This article investigates JSTOR's topic labeling system, particularly the representation of women and minority groups in the database's topical metadata. The author finds that JSTOR's topics repeatedly erase and misrepresent work

relating to histories of marginalized groups, including women, Africans and African Americans, and Native Americans. For example, JSTOR assigns works on women's histories with the topic "Men." JSTOR labels chapters on interactions with indigenous people with the topic "White people," but no other ethnicity-related metadata. This research raises concerns about the power of metadata, the need for transparency in algorithms used to create metadata, and implications for knowledge discovery.

**"'Aliens' vs. Catalogers: Bias in the Library of Congress Subject Heading,"** by Grace Lo, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly*, 2019, Vol. 38, No.4, pp. 170-196.

This article was written by NOCALLer Grace Lo, who is a Reference Librarian and Lecturer at Law at Stanford's Robert Crown Law Library. Lo examines bias in Library of Congress subject headings using the heading "Aliens" and related terms as a case study. She recounts the discovery by a Dartmouth student of the term in her library's catalog, the decision by the Library of Congress to change the subject heading, and the ensuing political backlash. As Lo states, "[T]hree years later, the subject headings remain unchanged." Lo comes up with some suggestions for external change – it's up to librarians, libraries, and library groups. If you want to learn more about the Dartmouth students who challenged the Library of Congress subject heading, the documentary "Change the Subject" chronicling the story is currently available to view through Vermont PBS <https://video.vermontpbs.org/video/change-the-subject-23nbpj/>.

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## COMMITTEE CORNER

**Kristin Brandt, Member-at-Large**

Over the next several months, we will be highlighting NOCALL committees and letting you know ways to get more involved in our chapter. NOCALL is a purely volunteer organization and we are only as strong as our members. In this installment, we will look at the Membership, Academic Relations, and Placement committees.

### Membership

Jessica Brasch leads NOCALL's Membership Committee. The committee provides guidance and direction on

how NOCALL manages its membership system and oversees Wild Apricot, our membership management software.

### *How can you help?*

The Membership Committee would like to reach out to new members to let them know about what NOCALL has to offer and invite them to attend business meetings and other NOCALL events. If you are interested in serving on a "welcoming committee" for your geographic area and/or library type, please contact Jessica at [membership@nocall.org](mailto:membership@nocall.org).

### Academic Relations

Kristina Chamorro chairs NOCALL's Academic Relations Committee. Academic Relations makes connections with students and faculty at San Jose State University's library and information science program to let them know about NOCALL grants and other opportunities, promote law librarianship, and recruit new law librarians into the profession. Additionally, the committee reaches out to law schools in our region. Kristina is also spearheading NOCALL's effort to recruit a student trustee.

### *How can you help?*

The committee could use a current MLIS student to look at ways to involve more students in NOCALL. If you are a current MLIS student or know a student who might be interested in getting more involved in NOCALL, contact Kristina at [academicrelations@nocall.org](mailto:academicrelations@nocall.org).

### Placement

Robyn Moltzen heads up the Placement Committee, with the assistance of Judy Heier. Placement connects prospective employers with job seekers looking for positions in law librarianship. The committee also promotes law librarianship in the community. When the committee receives job postings, it sends the position out on the list-serv and posts the information on NOCALL's website. The committee shares the weekly job list sent out by SANDALL (San Diego Area Law Libraries) on their list-serv.

### *How can you help?*

If you or your employer would like NOCALL to post a position, send your position announcement to the Placement Committee, at [placement@nocall.org](mailto:placement@nocall.org).

## REMEMBERING TODD BENNETT

NOCALL Memorials Committee  
Leslie Hesdorfer and Jane Metz

Todd Bennett, West Coast Head Librarian at Thelen LLP and former NOCALL President (1994/1995) passed away on August 15, 2020. Todd worked at Thelen for nearly 30 years, served on various NOCALL committees, coordinated the San Francisco law librarians' interlibrary loans group, and volunteered on the AALL Standing Committee for Lesbian and Gay issues. Last summer, Todd made the difficult decision to leave San Francisco and move closer to family in Ohio.

Services are not planned at this time. Donations in Todd's memory may be made to the National AIDS Memorial Grove at Golden Gate Park. NOCALL made a contribution to honor Todd and all that he meant to our community.

### *Jane Metz, Nixon Peabody, LLP:*

I don't recall the first time I met Todd, but one of my earlier memories is of Todd's 1994 NOCALL Spring Institute. The Institute was held at the elegant Saint Francis Hotel. The topic was intellectual property law. Thomas McCarthy (of McCarthy on Trademarks) spoke. During one presentation, a brass band suddenly belted out a rousing rendition of the old song "San Francisco" in an adjacent meeting room. The closing party was at the top floor nightclub called Oz. The institute was a success, and as the old movie says, it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Later that year, Todd asked me to help with the annual joint holiday dinner of the two local Special Libraries Association chapters and NOCALL. The dinner was held at the Jockey Club, a restaurant at the Bay Meadows Racetrack. Todd procured Paul Saffo, a Bay Area futurist, as the keynote speaker. Paul was late. Todd was annoyed. The jockey club and race track were later torn down for housing. But our friendship endured.

We worked together on spring institutes and a brown bag group that met in an auditorium at the Federal Reserve Bank. We occasionally bumped into each other on BART, and he told me that he wrote a college paper about the artist who created that giant macramé sculpture in the Embarcadero station. We walked through the historic Laclede's Landing neighborhood while in Saint Louis for the AALL conference. We sometimes met for drinks and dinner after work. Todd

shared stories of family in Ohio, his birthday supper club, and trips to Ireland. When I told him that I was reading a David Sedaris book, he replied, "I'm on page 144."

Years later, Todd agreed to be my "plus one" at the NOCALL 30th anniversary party. It was held at Harry Denton's Starlight Room at the top of the Drake hotel. Todd had retired, but here we were again – mingling with other NOCALL members and enjoying iconic views of San Francisco.

NOCALL was what brought us together, but our friendship really grew after Thelen dissolved, Todd retired, and we began a tradition of regular lunch dates. Todd loved a good meal and never shied away from an expensive lunch. As for me, I didn't shy away from taking a Friday afternoon off to join him for dim sum, raw oysters, or even a steak. After lunch, we would often walk through the Castro or the Mission. We might stop at Peet's for Todd's favorite coffee beans, A.G. Ferrari for groceries, Cliff's Variety for a toilet plunger, or Paxton Gates just to gawk. Sometimes we would end up at Todd's studio apartment in Bernal Heights, where he lived with his overweight Pug, Oscar. In July, a "memory" popped up on my phone. It was an old photo of Todd with a small batch frozen hot chocolate at Dandelion. Just like the chocolate, those afternoons with Todd were a treat.

When I started working at Nixon Peabody, we regularly met for lunch at the Meridian Hotel's Park Grill. Even though Todd had retired years earlier, he still liked hearing about the law library world. We talked about our health issues and Todd often quoted, "Youth is wasted on the young." I shared vacation photos. Todd worried about a lump on Oscar's back that required surgery. He had a cute way of referring to the men's restroom as "the little librarians' room." After lunch, we would walk through Embarcadero Center and talk about the changes. I recalled the lemon cake from Just Desserts, Todd remembered a fancy pet store where he bought an overpriced collar for Oscar's fat neck.

During those lunches, Todd would sometimes announce, "I wore long pants today." This was his way of saying that he would come upstairs to my office after lunch. Todd wore shorts, tennis shoes, and a bike messenger bag pretty much year-around – even if it was raining. But he never felt comfortable visiting the firm in such casual attire. On those days that he wore long pants, Todd made the rounds of the halls, greeting former Thelen employees now working at



Nixon. Secretaries would do a double-take and run down the hall to hug him. Partners would poke their heads out of their offices and exclaim, "Todd? Is that you?" Everyone loved seeing him, and faces lit up.

Last year, when Todd made the difficult decision to move back to Ohio, Mark Mackler, Todd, and I got together for one last lunch at the Park Grill. Afterwards, Todd went with me to the office for an open house in the firm café. Numerous attorneys and staff stopped by. Many of the partners had worked with Todd when they were associates. Fond memories were shared. Everyone wished Todd well on his return to Ohio. It was both gratifying and bittersweet.

Since Todd's passing, so many people have reached out to me to remember Todd's dry sense of humor and his quiet compassion. Tears fall today, but I try to concentrate on our lunches, how much he enjoyed his career, and the life that Todd built in his adopted city of San Francisco. Thank you, Todd, for sharing all of that with me.

***Carrie Meehan, Thelen LLP:***

I first met Todd in late autumn 1989 when we both worked at Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges in San Francisco. Our Midwest roots may have contributed to our instant connection; he exuded gentleness, sweetness, a groundedness, and a dry wit that drew me to him instantly. We were both going to school at night. On the nights we weren't in class, we were usually in the office late into the evening, studying, and sometimes we'd have a cup of tea in the library together when our brains needed a rest.

When I moved to Ireland in 1997, Todd promised we'd continue to share cups of tea, lunches, shopping sprees, and adventures. They'd simply take place in Europe. He kept his promise, and I shared my favorite places with him – including Paris – and we discovered new favorite places together – like Connemara, off the west coast of Ireland. He was a huge fan of Oscar Wilde, so we stayed at hotels in Dublin, as well as in Paris, where Oscar had resided. This was his inspiration for naming his beloved Oscar by that name, and it's no coincidence that the man with the largest heart ended up with the world's largest pug.

We picked up where we'd left off in 2009 when I moved back to San Francisco. Todd was an uncle to my children Leah and Louis. Holidays weren't complete without him. We adopted his tradition of dim sum

on Christmas day with him. And every autumn we'd take a long weekend and head to Bodega Bay for a spa adventure. Todd was my rock. He was there for me through my challenges (which for a while were so great he named me the mayor of crazy-town), with his characteristic dry wit, which always lifted my spirits. Our shared experiences were diverse: he was my gay husband, he served my divorce papers, and he was godfather to our first baby bull, Basil, born just before Todd's birthday this year.

There is an emptiness inside since he left that no one can fill. I miss him every moment of every day. Until we meet again, my beautiful friend. I love you.

***Loyd Auerbach, Lexis:***

I knew Todd well while working my initial lengthy stint with Lexis, and then again after he left Thelen (and when I was gone from Lexis). It was the later contact that had a big impact on me.

During the time he was at the firm, he asked me about something separate from the legal world – he asked about the best way to work with a spirit medium, as he was going to see one on a trip to Ireland (recommended by a former Thelen attorney-friend living there).

A few years ago, Todd got back in touch when that medium was coming to the US so he could introduce me to her, and bring me along to a session she was doing. That event led to me working with the medium, Sandra O'Hara, numerous times in various capacities, and led to Sandra being part of an upcoming Netflix series and featured in a bestselling book (I'm in both as well).

I haven't been in touch with Todd for a couple of years, and for that I'm saddened. He was a great guy, a pleasure to know and a pleasure to work with.

***Tina Dumas, Nossaman:***

Todd was such a welcoming individual who exemplified the sharing spirit that is such a large part of our Librarian community. His dedication to the ILL community and sharing resources was huge. When I worked at Lillick & Charles (later acquired by Nixon Peabody), we were located in the same building with Thelen, and we would often ride the elevator to each other's offices and walk into each other's libraries to borrow books – the receptionists at each firm were instructed to just let us in. Later when Thelen dissolved and Nixon brought

on a number of Thelen attorneys, I was able to make connections with them because I knew Todd, and he was so well-respected. I was also honored to have been able to work with him on a professional committee, as he cheerfully agreed to be on my Spring Institute Committee when I was NOCALL Vice President. I'm so honored to have known him.

***Marlene Harmon, UC Berkeley School of Law:***

Todd and I both began our careers as law librarians over 30 years ago at what was then Thelen, Marrin, Johnson & Bridges under the guidance of Head Librarian Sue Dyer, one of NOCALL's founding members. Todd arrived there a year or so before I did. He was a wonderful colleague and along with Lille Foster (then Koski) we were fortunate to have enjoyed a lively and rewarding working relationship and, even more fortunately, an enduring friendship. Todd was smart, generous and kind. He had a mischievous grin and a great sense of fun. He was good company, eager to learn, always ready to see the good in people, and he would do anything for you. He had a gift for making friends. I spoke with Todd a few months back, after we began working remotely. He was adjusting to his new home in Ohio, looking forward to getting a dog, missing his friends in San Francisco. He touched many people and he enriched my life in many ways. I miss him.

***Diane Rodriguez, San Francisco Law Library:***

Todd was a wonderful human. He was one of my first contacts in NOCALL and his bright light and welcoming spirit helped solidify my excitement about the profession. He was a great friend too. Thinking of him brings me back to old SF, a time of bike messengers, phone calls, NOCALL holiday luncheons, monthly librarian speaker meetings at the Federal Reserve Bank, and yes the ILL meetings. He was a generous soul and I will miss him.

***Mary Staats, retired:***

Todd Bennett was special. NOCALL was such an important part of his life. He was active on many committees and he was such an enthusiastic cheerleader for NOCALL when he was president. Todd was also very active in the San Francisco private law libraries group. He organized workshops and retreats so we could take time away from the office to share information and discuss common issues and goals. He was dedicated to service and to sharing resources and information.

Todd was always upbeat, friendly, warm and eager to help. He was a supportive colleague and a loyal friend. He was devoted to his dog Oscar (who accompanied him to lunch dates post retirement). He was a loyal, dedicated and well-loved employee of Thelen and served the firm through their growth from an original San Francisco law firm to a global firm. Todd was also very proud of his friendship with David Sedaris who was a former roommate and good friend.

Those of us who knew Todd will miss him. I feel so fortunate to have known him. In his time here, he did make the world a better place.

***Donna Williams, retired:***

I met Todd in the mid 80's when I was at Farella doing ILL's. I was new to the profession and Todd was a wonderful resource. Over the years we became friends and I still remember him coming to the court in San Jose for a visit. Todd was such a dedicated librarian and did a lot for NOCALL. He was caring and humble. I liked his bit of sarcastic humor. The world is a sadder place without him. My condolences to his family. We all lost a real gem.

# Eric Montes

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

## *How did you choose Law Librarianship as a career?*

I really didn't "choose." I just kind of fell into it. My undergraduate degree is in Anthropology/Archaeology at UCD and I had originally gone into a PhD program in Archaeology. Turned out to be a bad fit, so I went back into Retail at Tower Books and managed a couple of different stores for them in the Bay Area and Sacramento. A few years in Japan then put me back in the Bay Area in 1999 just in time for the Crash. Some conversations with a friend had put the seed of Library School in my head and was able to enter just ahead of the rush of Grad School applicants in 2001. I went into Library school with the clear intent of being an Academic Librarian.

During Library School, I worked for Taylor & Associates and was placed at a Biotechnology Company. Working with the scientific collection there and with patents (on a very basic level) led to a couple of interviews with IP Law firms. Was hired at Townsend & Townsend & Crew (now Kilpatrick Townsend) as a library assistant to help with filing, shelving, and organization. Attorneys started asking me for cases and patents and research. And I worked my way up the ladder...

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

To be honest, I really like the social aspect. When I lived in San Francisco, the ability to head for drinks after work and commiserate with others (or celebrate!) was a nice outlet. Programs are all well and good, but I feel that I learned more talking over beers than sitting in a conference room and listening to a presentation.

## *Who or what had the greatest impact on my Law Librarian Career.*

Jackie Grossman had the greatest impact on me as a Law Librarian. She hired me at Townsend as a Library Student and taught me how to use the legal databases and treatises. She was a mentor and a guide as I learned to navigate the legal research arena as well as learning the culture of law firms.

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

In one particular Japanese Martial Art, Tendo Ryu Naginatajutsu, I am one of the Senior Instructors outside of Japan.

# Delia Montesinos

Ropes & Gray, LLP

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

Some years back, I was looking to make a major life change and a former co-worker from Kepler's Books had just enrolled in library school. I looked into the MLIS program at SJSU and it sounded like a great opportunity, especially because they kept saying how tons of librarians were about to retire (ha!). So I enrolled in school, with a focus on public librarianship. During my first year, I got an internship with Santa Clara County Library and started working as a substitute librarian on weekends. That was an amazing experience because their system serves so many different populations and I got to work at all the libraries, from Gilroy to Los Altos. I was certain I was going to be a children's librarian and then reality hit: I lost my non-library job and desperately needed to be employed. So I applied for any kind of library-related job in San Francisco and landed at Littler Mendelson, where I stayed until they moved operations to Missouri. I then followed my former boss to Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB) and worked as their solo librarian for two years before moving on to my present position at Ropes & Gray. I have been very lucky in law librarianship: I love the work, I'm always learning something new, and I've worked with some truly wonderful librarians. Law is definitely something I was not looking to do, as anyone in my family can attest to, but I'm sure glad I fell into it by chance!

## *If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?*

Some days I really miss my previous life, working in the wine and spirits industry. I worked for some great places: Ridge Vineyards, Testarossa Winery, Dashe Cellars, Germain-Robin, St. George Spirits. Beyond getting free product, I miss watching the harvest moon from high up on Montebello Road, the blessing of each harvest's first grapes at the Novitiate, the smell of the old stone cellars, and seeing the alembic stills at work. Heck, I even miss 8am assemblage tastings! However, I don't miss living out of a suitcase 75% of the time, making cold-calls, or dealing with distributors. So, in a non-law librarianship world, I'd like to work at the Sonoma County Wine Library, with a side-job in a winery's tasting room.

## *What was the last book you read that you really enjoyed and why?*

It's been a long, long time since I read it but I keep recommending this book because it was so much fun: *The Disappearing Spoon* by Sam Kean. It's a history of the periodic table told through anecdotes; no chemistry degree needed. If you like Mary Roach, you will love this book. If you haven't read Mary Roach, what are you waiting for? If you prefer fiction, pick up *Bruno Chief of Police*; I want his life.

## *What do you consider the perfect meal?*

I've eaten at some great restaurants (wine & food expense account! Miss that too) but to be honest, nothing is better than going "de tapeo" in Spain, my birthplace. Tapas done right, where you go from bar to bar, not spending too much time at one place, just enough to drink a beer and eat a single serving of the house specialty before moving on, is my dream meal. Can't get that here and I miss it terribly.



**NOCALL Crossover Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2020 – 12 pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Attendees: Jessica Brasch, Shannon Burchard, Kristina Chamorro, Ramona Collins, Stephanie Chavez, Eli Edwards, April Eudy, Jen Fell, Hilary Hardcastle, Catherine Hardy, David Holt, Sarah Lin, Chuck Marcus, Delia Montesinos, Holly Riccio, Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, Sherlyn Takacs, Alyssa Thurston

Greetings and Introductions

Thank you to outgoing Board members Donna Williams, Nancy McEnroe, and David Holt for your years of service.

Welcome new Board members Chuck Marcus, Kristina Chamorro, and Jean Willis.

There are several changes to the Committee Chairs. Alyssa Thurston replaces Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong and Jaye Lapachet on the Wiki Committee. Stephanie Chavez replaces Stephen Richards on the Bylaws Committee. Shannon Burchard replaces Jean Willis on the Audit and Budget Committee, Jen Fell replaces Chuck Marcus on the Bylaws Committee. Eli Edwards replaces David Holt and Julie Horst as Webmaster, and Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong replaces David Holt on the Awards Committee.

Calendar of Events

Sarah Lin suggested mid-August as a potential time to schedule anti-bias training. Rachel Stark and Molly Higgins are happy to present the session they would have presented at the original Spring Institute in line with our Black Lives Matter (BLM) action plan. Several attendees from academic law libraries suggested that later in the fall – mid- to late-September – would work better for their schedules.

Maribel Nash anticipates organizing one NOCALL networking event per quarter. All will be virtual until restrictions are lifted. Maribel is still looking for throwback pictures for the upcoming event.

We are planning for the fall and winter Business Meetings to take place online. The Marines Memorial deposit has been rolled into 2021.

The Spring Institute is scheduled to take place at U.C. Davis in November, but it will be virtual if circumstances restrict gathering in person. The speakers are expected to present online. Delia Montesinos is working on a new lineup of speakers. The NOCALL website still has the old lineup until the new lineup is worked out. Delia will work with the Board in determining whether the event will take place in person or online.

Hopefully, the May Board/Business Meeting will take place in person in San Francisco.

### NOCALL News Deadline

The deadlines are tentatively set for September 5, 2020, November 7, 2020, January 9, 2021, March 6, 2021, and May 8, 2021.

### Grant Deadlines

Grant deadlines will be determined as events arise.

### Black Lives Matter Implementation Plan

Sarah Lin shared NOCALL's BLM Implementation Plan ([https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mQN2jWEK1twsc7IRgY06qn52G9w79loSlr\\_8gUWTsX4/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mQN2jWEK1twsc7IRgY06qn52G9w79loSlr_8gUWTsX4/edit?usp=sharing)) and invited discussion. She referred attendees to LLSDC's action plan (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EHA3-ID79O3tle5QuY0AV1SWANMEKJQAUQn3EweSmK4/edit>) and suggested we may want to add a few of their initiatives to our plan. There are still some details for the Board to work out this summer. Sarah wants to meet with the respective committee chairs to work through the logistics. April Eudy asked whether, within the context of membership, we have a means of identifying persons of color. Sarah suggested we add the option to self-identify to our Wild Apricot membership form.

There was a discussion regarding grants. Applicants would need to self-identify as qualifying for the selective grants. Sarah suggested earmarking a donation to the Black Caucus when they it is able to accept funds.

There was a discussion as to whether NOCALL should take steps to facilitate personal actions in support of BLM, but it was agreed that we should focus on institutional actions.

### NOCALL Committee Chairs

The responsibilities of the Committee Cluster Coordinators are to meet regularly with Chairs to monitor developments and committee budgets.

### 2019-2020 Committee Annual Report Status

Administration Cluster: Jean

- i. AALL Liaison (rec'd)

- ii. Archives -- CHAIR NEEDED
- iii. Audit & Budget (rec'd)
- iv. Bylaws (rec'd)
- v. Nominations (rec'd)
- Communication Cluster: Delia
- vi. Newsletter (rec'd)
- vii. Webmaster (rec'd)
- viii. Wiki (rec'd)
- ix. Technology (rec'd)
- x. Listserv
- Education Cluster: Chuck
- xi. Education
- xii. Networking (rec'd)
- xiii. Spring Institute (rec'd)
- Membership Cluster: Kristin
- xiv. Academic Relations
- xv. Membership
- xvi. Placement (rec'd)
- Outreach Cluster: Jocelyn
- xvii. Gov't Relations
- xviii. Access to Justice (rec'd)
- xix. Community Service -- CHAIR NEEDED
- xx. Public Relations
- Recognition Cluster: Hilary
- xxi. Awards (rec'd)
- xxii. Grants (rec'd)
- xxiii. Memorials (rec'd)

Further 2020/21 Ideas

Please email your ideas to [president@nocall.org](mailto:president@nocall.org).