

Northern California Association of Law Libraries 2019-2020 Annual Report

The NOCALL officers for 2019-20 are: Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, President; Sarah Lin, Vice-President/President Elect; David Holt, Past President; Nancy McEnroe, Treasurer; Hilary Hardcastle, Secretary; Donna Williams, Member-at-Large; and Jen Fell, Member-at-Large.

The officers for 2018-2019 were: David Holt, President; Jocelyn Stilwell-Tong, Vice-President/President Elect; Ramona Collins, Past President; Nancy McEnroe, Treasurer; Lori Ruth, Secretary; Pati Traktman, Member-at-Large; and Steve Feller, Member-at-Large.

Continuing Education:

NOCALL held its "2019 NOCALL Spring Institute: The Changing Face of Technology in Law Librarianship" on March 22, 2019 at the Milton Marks Conference Center (lower level of the CA Supreme Court Building) in downtown San Francisco. The keynote speaker was Michael Sander of Fastcase, Founder of Docket Alarm, who spoke about "Emerging Technology and Opportunities in the Legal Market." Our featured speaker, Jamie Baker, spoke about "The Duty of Technology Competence in the Algorithmic Society" - a talk based on a paper she did, of the same name. The remaining conference time was devoted to legal technology subjects of interest to a variety of law librarians (for the afternoon, there were at least two sessions in each time slot, so that librarians could pick the session of interest to them).

NOCALL was visibly present at this year's "2019 AALL Annual Meeting" in DC. Members created an RBG-inspired photo-op at our bulletin board, along with other NOCALL promotional materials. NOCALL also participated in the Pacific Chapters joint reception on with our other California regional chapters at the City Tap House. Many of our members presented at the conference, a full line-up is in the President's Column of the NOCALL News.

General News:

Congratulations, Diane! We were especially pleased to have our own NOCALLer, Diane Rodriguez, win the AALL election, and begin serving as AALL's VP! I know her presidential year will bring great change as we navigate COVID-19 and the disruptions involved, but she will be an amazing leader during this time. Her Presidential term is July 2020 to July 2021.

Comments on Regulatory Reform Proposals: During the 2019-2020 year, we also had the California State Bar reach out to NOCALL and other Law Librarian Organizations to get commentary on their initiative "State Bar Regulatory Reforms Aimed at Increasing Access to Lower-cost Legal Services Supported by Technology." We asked for commentary from our members, and wrote in reply, noting that the County Law Library System is there to help push out any reforms, but that they are facing a financial crisis, and that technology alone is not a solution to this problem. We also noted that if technology is rolled out to help lower income Californians access legal services, it would need to be consistently updated with new laws,

which will be an expensive and time consuming prospect. A copy of this letter is available in the NOCALL President's Google Drive.

COVID-19 Response: While the bulk of the response to COVID-19 fell in the 2020-2021 period, we were feeling the effects in early 2020 during the time covered by this report. We generally have our "Spring Institute" in March or April, and due to timing, the 2020 Spring Institute was cancelled due to a COVID-19 shutdown in Yolo County (the host county). Originally rescheduled for November, this event has now been cancelled due to the ongoing health concerns.

All of our NOCALL Business Meetings have gone virtual since the January 2020 Business Meeting. During this time, NOCALL has tried to respond to the virus by scheduling regular Networking events online (to combat any isolation our members may be feeling), by increasing our grant funding (to combat a lack of professional development funding, as firms, agencies, and schools face an unpredictable budget situation), and by sending out a survey to solicit ideas for other ways we can help, as a group.

Chapter Management:

Awards: This year, NOCALL's "Professional Achievement Award" went to Chuck Marcus. Chuck is a longstanding member of NOCALL, a past president, and was the Director of the Hastings Law Library for many years. He served as a NOCALL Member at Large as his final act of service before (and during the first few months of) his retirement. Our thanks to Chuck for his leadership and friendship over the years!

NOCALL's "Award for Advocacy" was presented to Kurt Melchior, the President of the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Law Library for the past two decades. Kurt's stalwart work to find the library a new home after their original location was retrofitted for earthquake safety and then repurposed involved years of work and collaboration with city hall, and in the end, it required a lawsuit. Kurt has been a staunch supporter of law libraries in his professional life, and a pleasure to work with for both the staff of the San Francisco Law Library and the Law Library at Nossaman LLP, where he has been a partner for many years.