

From the President.....
Louise Beswick, Reed Smith LLP



2005-06 WPLLA BOARD

**IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE
TO SERVE YOU THIS YEAR!**

Front row left to right:

Linda Tashbook, Barbara Cage,
Louise Beswick, Sonya Koros

Second row left to right:

Rita Young-Jones, Michele
Kristakis, Mary Stacy

Since this is my last message as President of WPLLA, I would like to share some parting thoughts.

First of all I would like to thank Sonya Koros (Vice-President/President Elect), Mary Stacy (Secretary), Michele Kristakis (Treasurer), Executive Board Members Linda Tashbook and Barbara Cage, and Past-President, Rita Young-Jones for providing valuable guidance and vision to WPLLA this year. They represent true leadership in every sense of the word.

Secondly, I would like to thank all the committee chairs and members that have been an enormous help to me this past year. Nothing would have been accomplished without their support. All I had to do was ask and whatever I needed was accomplished. You have no idea how much this meant to me. Thank you for all you've done from the bottom of my heart!

And finally, if you haven't been involved with WPLLA, give it a second thought this year. The more you become involved and contribute, the more you will receive in return.

| | |
|--|------|
| President's Message | 1 |
| 2005-2006 WPLLA Board and Committees | 2 |
| Welcome New Members | 3 |
| New Member Spotlights | 4 |
| Member Spotlight | 5 |
| Featured articles | 6-8 |
| WPLLA Membership Form | 9-10 |

Quarterly Quote

**Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.
- Henry Ford**

2005 – 2006 WPLLA Board

President

Louise Beswick
Reed Smith LLP
lbeswick@reedsmit.com

Vice-President/President-Elect

Sonya Koros
Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellot, LLC
skoros@eckertseamans.com

Secretary

Mary Stacy
Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C.
mstacy@bccz.com

Treasurer

Michele Kristakis
University of Pittsburgh
Barco Law Library
Kristakis@law.pitt.edu

Executive Board Members

Linda Tashbook
University of Pittsburgh
Barco Law Library
Tashbook@law.pitt.edu

Barbara Cage
Reed Smith LLP
bcage@reedsmit.com

Immediate Past President

Rita Young-Jones
Buchanan Ingersoll PC
Youngjo1@bipc.com

2005-2006 Committees

Care

Mary Stacy
Sonya Koros

Directory

Trinka Reed
Ann Unger

Historian

Joel Fishman
Jean McBride

2005-2006 Committees

Membership

Ann Unger
Heather Love
Lauren Williams
Lauren Vucic

Mentoring

Ann Unger
Joel Fishman

Newsletter

Louise Beswick
Joel Fishman
Lauren Williams
Mike Stephan
Jamie Yoder

Nominations

Jan Luksik
Jean McBride

Program/Continuing Education

Sonya Koros
Barbara Alexander-Klein
Susan Broms
Melanie Cline
Karen Simon
Lauren Williams
Mary Stacy

Public Relations

Louise Beswick
Lauren Vucic
Lauren Williams

Web

Linda Tashbook
Lauren Williams
Rita Young Jones
Karen Shephard
Patricia Roncevich

WPLLA Cheer

By Jan Luksik/Reed
Smith

WPLLA is a mighty force
It will always stay the
course

When you need help,
rest assured

WPLLA's aid you can
afford

GO....WPLLA

When you are in need of
pals

WPLLA members never
fail

Social drinking is
condoned

Our celebrations are well
honed

CHEERS...WPLLA

Though we may be small
in number

WPLLA members aren't
encumbered

We shine through that
legal mess

When we are put to
the test

YEAH...WPLLA

Welcome New Members

Kamella K Carmino
Amani Magid
Audra Martin
Dennis J. Seese
Matthew K. Seibert
James Teng
Ruth Van Laningham
Lauren Wright

**TAKE A LOOK AT OUR TERRIFIC
WEBSITE THAT HAS BEEN UNDER
LINDA TASHBOOK'S CARE!**

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/wplla/>

WPLLA ListServ

The WPLLA ListServ should be used to post announcements to WPLLA members, ask for assistance from WPLLA members or post job announcements. **This is a closed list and is restricted to WPLLA Members only.**

To subscribe to the WPLLA listserv, go here:

http://share.aallnet.org/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=wplla

Once you submit your email address there you will be sent a confirmation message to which you'll need to reply to get onto the list.

The address for **posting** to this list is: wplla@aallnet.org.

Should you have any questions about how to subscribe to the list, please contact [Linda Tashbook](#).

Please join us for the 2006 WPLLA Annual Meeting & Banquet!

Date: Tuesday, May 16th

Time: Meeting & Banquet from 5:00-7:00pm
Pirates vs. Cincinnati Reds 7:05pm

Location: Atria's at PNC Park
115 Federal Street (North Shore)
(412) 322-1850

**This year's Meeting & Banquet
will be sponsored by THOMSON WEST!**

R.S.V.P. by May 9 to Ruth Van Laningham at arvanelle@yahoo.com.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MICHAEL GINSBORG



I am a Research Analyst at Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin in San Francisco. I started my career in 1989 at Baker & McKenzie's Washington, D.C., Office, and earned an MLS at the University of Maryland. A year later I introduced a technological novelty to the Library – a telnet application that gave us access to the online catalog at the Library of Congress. I became Assistant Law Librarian of the California Supreme Court in 1993, and worked at the Court until I joined Howard Rice in 2001.

My wife and I have been considering a move to Pittsburgh so we can be closer to our family, who live in Ligonier. We recently visited Pittsburgh, and although we stayed for just one night, the city's charms piqued our curiosity and interest.

Questions about California legal research may seldom arise, but if I can help you find answers, I would be happy to try.

RUTH VAN LANINGHAM



I'm new to Pittsburgh, having moved here from the Washington, D.C. area just a couple of months ago. It's a fine city and I'm enjoying it.

My background is chiefly in cataloging, although I spent the last six years as solo librarian at the Middle East Institute, doing everything from helping scholars' with arcane questions to changing the toilet paper. Middle Eastern and Islamic law materials were among the materials I cataloged there – a little problematic sometimes as the K schedules for Islamic law are not yet finished.

I have a paralegal certificate from George Washington University, so although I've never worked as a law librarian I know a little about law. Having spent eight years in the Congressional relations offices of two major corporations, I am also intimately familiar with the Federal legislative process.

Currently I'm working part time at the local public library and hoping to be able to help some of you out as a freelance cataloger.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JAMIE YODER



I never planned on being a law librarian. I got my first “library job” during my sophomore year of college at Penn State Altoona. I actually was hired as a literacy tutor through an organization called *America Reads*, but ended up spending most of my time binding and shelving books at Altoona Area Public Library. When I transferred to the main campus, I applied at the University Library as a page, but instead got a position as an Information Specialist in the online research library. I really enjoyed the research atmosphere and the public services aspect of the position. My colleagues encouraged me to get my MLIS and I ended up attending the University of Pittsburgh.

While I was getting my degree at Pitt, I worked at both the University of Pittsburgh and at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library - in the children’s department. Again, I found myself torn between the public library environment and academia, so I decided to develop both areas by taking classes in Youth Services and Information Technology.

My first “professional” position was at Anne Arundel County Public Library in Maryland. I worked there for approximately 12 months, as a “generalist” that mostly provided services to children and young adults. After about a year, I decided to move back to Pittsburgh and got a position as a Reference Librarian at Duquesne Law School. I had never taken a legal resource or government document class, but I was excited to be back in an academic library. I anticipated that there would be much to learn, and I was excited for the challenge.

It has been exactly 2 years into my adventure as a law librarian, and I have accepted the fact that I may never know everything there is to know about this vast legal field. Everyday I learn something new, whether it’s researching case law for a public patron, performing legislative research with a student, or just doing topical research for a professor. Ultimately, it’s this combination of work experience, networking (thanks to organizations such as WPLLA and AALL), and professional development that makes the profession both multidimensional and surprisingly rewarding.

HELPING TO REBUILD THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY

By Rita Young-Jones

We all remember the devastation left behind in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina (August 29, 2005) and then Hurricane Rita (September 24, 2005). We saw the pictures and the looks of hopeless desperation on the faces of so many. Full well remembering the impact Hurricane Ivan had on the Western Pennsylvania region, how could one not react when viewing the scope of the damage? Well, WPLLA did.

It came to the attention of one of the Board Members that the New Orleans Public Library had taken heavy amounts of damage in several of its branches, particularly the Martin Luther King branch in the 9th ward. (See, <http://nutrias.org/> and link to the photos under "What happened to your Branch?") She presented a request that WPLLA consider a donation to the New Orleans Public Library to assist in its efforts to rebuild. We had called to see if they could accept physical library supplies however, they had no place to put any supplies as the clean up was expected take some time to complete, especially since the mold had had time to infiltrate everywhere.

The Board voted in favor of a \$500 donation to the Friends of New Orleans Public Library Rebuild Fund Drive at the February meeting. We are pleased to be able to reach out and lend a helping hand in this time of crisis!

WPLLA LAW LIBRARIES TOUR

By Neely Tang



Fifteen students from the University of Pittsburgh special library student organization had a wonderful opportunity to visit four different law libraries on Saint Patrick's Day afternoon. Our tour began with a pizza lunch at Reed Smith where we had the opportunity to meet and talk with various law librarians, which was my favorite part of the day. We all appreciated the time that the librarians took out of their busy schedules to answer our questions and get us thinking more about law librarianship. After touring through Reed Smith, we visited Eckert Seamans, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Allegheny County's Law Library. The tour was a great success with many students looking forward to this summer's law resources and services class and generating interest in law librarianship.

2006 SLIS PIZZA PARTY A HIT

By Jamie Yoder

On January 18th, Louise Beswick, Ann Unger and I represented WPLLA at the SLIS pizza party, held at the University of Pittsburgh.

SLIS students were initially apprehensive when approaching the table. Common questions/ comments included: *What exactly is law librarianship?*, *Don't you need to be a lawyer?*, and the infamous *I don't think that will fit in my "track"*. After providing quick explanations of our job responsibilities and typical work environments, the three of us proved to the students that law librarianship is a highly diverse and fulfilling field of study that is worth considering. We even had 7 students sign up for WPLLA memberships!

So, what "real world" advice can we give to our student members of WPLLA? I came up with the following tips for getting the most out of that MLIS degree:

- 1.) **Don't get stuck in restrictive "tracks" that prevent course sampling from other subject areas.** Unless you are 100 % sure that you would only consider working as a School Library Specialist- don't commit to such a specialized program.
- 2.) **Broaden your horizons.** Libraries are being faced with budget cuts and staffing issues that require many librarians to multi-task and wear a variety of different hats. Taking classes in preservation, management, course instruction, and information management will broaden your understanding of the library field and make you more marketable to future employers.
- 3.) **Sample different libraries.** Pittsburgh is a goldmine for library students who are interested in working, volunteering, or interning in a variety of libraries. With hundreds of special, academic, public, and school libraries available, sampling can help deepen your understanding of the profession and gain the valuable work experience that today's employers require.
- 4.) **Take a Chance.** When the time comes to find that first job, don't narrow your search too restrictively. You will be surprised at how much is actually learned "on the job." You may keep that first job until you retire, or you may have 20 different employers in your lifetime. Either way, you can be sure that librarianship – no matter where you work- is a career requiring lifelong professional development, discovery and change.



Jamie Yoder and SLIS student Waheeda Dean

Moving/Renovating Your Law Library: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Barbara Cage, Reed Smith

WPLLA Brown Bag Lunch Series, 12:00 Noon, February 21, 2006,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Library

Let's start with the "Good". Linda Schneider and Barbara Alexander-Klein recently completed a renovation of their library at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and opened their doors to WPLLA members for a tour and meeting. Approximately twenty attendees had a chance to view the transformation of the new facility since their move. Members then settled into an informative discussion about moving and renovating a law library presented by Gwen Vargas, George Pike and Linda Schneider. Gwen discussed her renovation at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham; George elaborated on renovation issues at the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library; and Linda shared her experiences at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals Library.

On to the "Bad" and the "Ugly". There are difficult challenges integral to any move or renovation as realized by each of our speakers. While all offered details relating to their specific experiences, they agreed that the following suggestions allow for a more positive outcome:

- ✓ Rely on architect's design expertise but don't lose sight of your vision for the library and the needs of your users.
- ✓ Communicate regularly with your architect and contractors; be assertive when defining library renovation goals.
- ✓ Try to stay one step ahead of the movers as they progress; reorganization of shelves and merging of materials will be less overwhelming.
- ✓ Remain flexible as you relocate materials and furniture; propose alternative plans for conducting "business as usual".
- ✓ Appropriate lighting is an important design feature; especially relevant are lights over study carrels and under book shelves.
- ✓ Hold final payment to architect/contractors pending completion of all projects.

Linda, Barbara, George and Gwen have shown that the "good" can outweigh the "bad and ugly" with "planning", "patience", and "perseverance". Thank you to all of the presenters for these valuable insights.

WPLLA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association

2005-2006 NEW / RENEWAL APPLICATION

Name _____

Title _____

Firm/Institution _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Birthday _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES and DUES STRUCTURE (Check Desired Category)

Active Member \$20.00

Associate Member \$15.00

Student Member \$10.00

ORGANIZATION TYPE

(Check Appropriate Category)

Academic _____ Firm _____

Court/County _____ Vendor _____

Corporate _____ Other _____

\$_____ Total Dues Enclosed

Dues are for the membership year, June 1, 2005 - May 31, 2006;

Dues will be prorated to \$10 for new members joining as active members after Dec. 31, 2005.

Please make checks payable to the Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association and mail to the WPLLA Treasurer:

Michele Kristakis, Treasurer
Barco Law Library
University of Pittsburgh
School of Law
3900 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

WPLLA welcomes member participation in its committees:

- Program/Continuing Education**
- Newsletter**
- Membership/Recruitment**
- Nominating**
- Placement**
- Web**
- Scholarship**
- Archives/Historian.**

If interested indicate with a check or contact Louise Beswick, President at (412) 288-3207 or email: lbewick@reedsmith.com

Revised 05/26/05