President’s Column

Happy Spring, WestPac Members! Now that the weather has finally turned a corner, it seems safe to look ahead to summer and the AALL Annual Meeting in Baltimore. We hope you can join us for the WestPac Business Meeting and Lunch, which will be held at Phillips Seafood. The meeting will take place from 12:45 to 2:15 pm on Sunday, July 15. A registration form will be posted on the WestPac website soon. The deadline for registering will be June 15.

As for the traditional Pacific Chapters Reception at AALL, plans are in the works to make it happen this year. Keep an eye on your inbox for further details.

If you aren’t enticed by the programming, the crab cakes, or the baseball, I hope you’ll consider venturing to Baltimore for the grand unveiling of our new WestPac chapter poster. With Mari Cheney’s help, we enlisted the aid of a skilled graphic designer (and future law librarian) who has created a beautiful poster that truly showcases all that our chapter and region have to offer. I hope you’ll get a chance to see it.

Speaking of regional pride, I’m sure you’re as excited as I am to attend this year’s WestPac Annual Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, from September 27th to 29th. Anchorage is a beautiful city and our Local Arrangements and Education Committees, chaired by Buck Sterling and Brian Huffman, respectively, are putting together a wonderful conference. My husband and I met while clerking in Anchorage fifteen years ago and are thrilled to go back. My six-year-old son is less enthusiastic, as it will mark the end of his close friendship with Willie. Willie, on the other hand, is more than ready for me to pass him along to Brian. He’s quite happy to trade the rain and fog of San Francisco for the tropical sunshine of Hawaii.

If you’re interested in attending the Anchorage conference but feeling the pinch budget-wise, I encourage you to apply for one of our three $1000 travel grants. That’s enough money to cover the airfare and registration, plus all the bear spray you’ll need to survive the trip. Applications are due August 1; you’ll find the application form on the WestPac website.

Before we leap ahead to summer and fall, we have one WestPac matter to attend to this spring: elections! Thanks to our Nominations Committee, spearheaded by Kerry Lohmeier, we have a great slate of candidates. Please read Kerry Fitz-Gerald’s and Jill Sturgeon’s statements in this newsletter and don’t forget to vote!
WestPac Elections

WestPac elections will be held this Spring from May 2 through May 16. Below are statements from each of the candidates. Additional details on the voting process will be sent through the WestPac listserv. Please keep an eye out for them!

Kerry Fitz-Gerald - Candidate for Vice President/President-Elect

I have been a WestPac member since 2002, and I am excited to be nominated for the Vice-President/President-Elect of WestPac. WestPac has always been a source of inspiration and support for me, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve such a wonderful group.

I received my JD from the University of Wisconsin, but after practicing law in Madison for a year I realized that litigation was not the life for me. Since I also missed the rain and mountains of the Pacific Northwest where I grew up, I quit my job and returned home to Seattle. Fortunately, the Public Law Library of King County took a chance on me even though I had “just a JD.” A few years later, with their mentorship, I earned my MLIS at the University of Washington and then was lucky enough to be hired by Seattle University School of Law Library. I have been here since. In addition to being a reference librarian, I teach Advanced Legal Research in both face-to-face and wholly online formats. And because life in libraries is never static, I have recently added roles in electronic services management and assessments.

I’ve worked in both public and academic law libraries and seen many technologically driven changes over the years. I understand that the demands of law librarianship are many, varied, and constantly evolving. What stays the same, though, is the creativity, generosity and sheer brain power of the librarians. In WestPac we have a dynamic and effective forum for sharing and benefiting from our diverse experiences. It would be an honor to continue this work and to see what new ideas we can bring to the table.

Jill Sturgeon - Candidate for WestPac Secretary

I am excited for the opportunity to run for WestPac Secretary.

I graduated from high school in Alaska and undergrad in Hawaii, so being a part of WestPac feels natural. I went to the University of Arizona for law school, practiced in Arizona for a few years, and then returned to complete library school and a law library fellowship at the University of Arizona’s Cracchiolo Law Library.

In January 2017, I started my law librarian career at University of Colorado, Boulder’s Wise Law Library, and couldn’t be happier to be working with the stellar people here. All of the librarians have given me great advice about becoming involved in the profession, and they’ve all told me wonderful things about the WestPac membership. I was happy to take over as Interim Secretary when Nick Harrell left to begin working at the 10th Circuit Court’s Library in Denver, and am hoping WestPac voters will give me the chance to continue as Secretary for the next term.

Thanks, and I look forward to meeting more of you at the WestPac conference and AALL in Baltimore!
WestPac Q&A: Megan Austin

1. Why are you the new Co-Editor of WestPac News?

If I am not overwhelmingly busy, I tend to get into mischief. So, I asked my colleague, former WestPac President Kelly Reynolds, to wield her power and influence to get me a volunteer position on the WestPac Newsletter. She came through! I love writing and editing, so I am thrilled to be working with David McClure on the newsletter. And, now that you know that I am legitimate, please, please say yes when I ask you to answer questions for the Member Q&A column.

2. What is your favorite app?

I am not a big App user, but I like “Untappd.” Clearly, it’s not work-related.

3. What book title best represents your day-to-day work life?

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey. As a transplant from the desert, I am trying to embrace everything that is quintessential Eugene, Oregon; and Ken Kesey is one of the darlings of Eugene. While I am not suggesting any parallels in characters between the story and my workplace, I do think that on a daily basis I struggle with my desire to rebel against the establishment, be free from daily obligations and just run from my office out into the sunshine, and escape the unproductive thoughts that sometimes pollute my mind.

4. If money was not an issue, what new library service would you offer in your library?

I would love to offer free legal information literacy classes for the general public. Power to the People!

5. What have you enjoyed the most from being involved with WestPac?

I haven’t been able to attend a WestPac Annual Conference yet, but I’m looking forward to attending this fall because I hear that WestPac members are a fun and friendly bunch.
Your WestPac Local Arrangements and Education Committees are hard at work planning the upcoming annual conference. After 16 years, WestPac is looking forward to returning to Alaska!

Local Arrangements Committee Update by Buck Sterling:
Please save the dates for a wonderful meeting in the Last Frontier, September 27-29, 2018. We will have an opening reception at the Anchorage Museum on the evening of Thursday, September 27. The program will commence in the morning of Friday, September 28, and will continue until noon on Saturday, September 29. On Friday night you will be able to join the Local Arrangements Committee for dine-arounds at some of Anchorage’s great restaurants.

The official conference hotel is the Hotel Captain Cook, located in downtown Anchorage at 4th Avenue and K Street. All programs will be held at the hotel. There is a block of 35 rooms set aside for WestPac attendees at a special conference rate of $140 per night + tax (a great rate!). There are also a few suites available at a reduced rate as well. The rate is valid September 24 through to checkout on October 2, 2018 – come early and stay late! Contact the Hotel Captain Cook at 800-843-1950 and tell them that you are with WestPac.

At this time we are still looking into the possibility of excursions and lining up information on other extra-curricular activities. So stay tuned for updates as the program gets put together.

Education Committee Update by Brian Huffman:
These are the tentative topics we have arranged for the conference and schedule:

Keynote: Alaska Legal History by Prof. Pamela Cravez

Regular sessions (50 min)
- Keeping Up with the Judiciary
- Cybersecurity
- Native Alaskan Law
- Blockchain

Teddy Talks (20 min)
- Word (MS Word) to the Wise
- Charting Legal Systems of West Pacific Islands
- Slack
- Denali

Thurs., Sep. 27
9am-4pm: Preconference Program (ALLStaR Benchmarking) with 1 hour lunch break
4-6pm: Conference Registration
7pm: Opening Reception - Anchorage Museum

Fri., Sep. 28
8am-5:30pm: Conference - Hotel Captain Cook
6pm: Dine Arounds

Sat., Sep. 29
9am-Noon: Conference - Hotel Captain Cook
Afternoon: Possible Tours (city tour)

Sun., Sep. 30
Excursion: Cruise on the Prince William Sound or the Kenai Fjords
(We can’t guarantee anything about excursions and tours at this point.)

More information will be provided soon!
University of North Dakota Law Library Wins Grant to Help Bring Legal Information to Rural Communities

By Tammy R. P. Oltz
Director of the Thormodsgard Law Library and Assistant Professor, University of North Dakota School of Law

Academic law libraries are very good at serving their core user groups – law faculty, staff, and students. For many law libraries, if they do this well, that’s enough. However, in states where the population is mostly rural and access to legal resources is in short supply, academic law libraries may play an important role in bringing legal information to the public.

That’s how things are in North Dakota, where the population of the entire state is about the same as that of the closest major city, Winnipeg in Manitoba. More than half of the population lives in small, rural communities, and the size of the state means that many of these places are fairly isolated from even a modest-sized town, let alone a law library.

The Thormodsgard Law Library (TLL for short) at the University of North Dakota School of Law recognized this issue and began brainstorming ways to reach out to our state’s rural citizens. As one of only two law libraries in the state, and the only one affiliated with a law school and university, the TLL is, by far, the largest, most comprehensive repository of legal information in North Dakota. We have an obligation to look for ways to ensure that all of the citizens in the state have access to legal information.

To that end, this past Spring, we were honored to receive a Library Vision 2020 grant from the North Dakota State Library. Library Vision 2020 is a North Dakota program aimed at empowering and enhancing libraries throughout the state as a way of strengthening communities. We received the grant for a project to create a collection of self-help legal materials that will circulate throughout the state.

With the grant, we were able to purchase 82 titles on topics from divorce to bankruptcy to credit repair and more. We focused on subject areas that form the “bread and butter” of the kinds of legal issues that ordinary people face – and can’t always afford an attorney to assist them with. We purchased two copies of most of the books, and our goal is to have these in circulation as much as possible via interlibrary loan to libraries closer to where our citizens live.

But what really makes this project exciting for us is the opportunity to meet and interact with all of these citizens. To advertise the collection, four librarians from UND Law will be traveling throughout the state this summer, speaking at local libraries about our collection, providing tutorials on basic legal research, and talking about what UND Law Library can do for all North Dakota residents. We think this is an amazing opportunity not only to help increase access to legal information but to remind the citizens of our state that UND Law is their law school, and, by extension, we are their law library.
California

Michele Knapp just began a new position as Head of Collection Services at the University of San Diego Legal Research Center.

Oregon

At the AALL Annual meeting in Baltimore, Jacque Jurkins will receive the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession given by the AALL Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section. The award is presented to a member who has made a significant contribution to law librarianship.

Alaska & Montana - Presidential Wedding Bells

Former WestPac presidents Stacey Gordon (2011-2012) and Buck Sterling (2007-2008) were married in December, 2017 in Anchorage by Chief Justice Stowers of the Alaska Supreme Court.

Buck and Stacey first met at the 1998 WestPac meeting in Missoula, and both are still active WestPac members.
Kathy Faust Retires After Nearly 40 Years at the Boley Law Library

By Rob Truman, Boley Law Library, Lewis & Clark Law School

We are happy/sad to announce that Katherine Faust, Assistant Director for Technical Services and preeminent legal cataloger, retired on February 28, 2018, after nearly 40 years at the Paul L. Boley Law Library.

Kathy is a graduate of Lewis & Clark College, ’74. She received her M.A. in Library Science in 1975 from the University of Wisconsin. In 1976 Kathy entered her first post-graduate library position at Illinois State University.

Kathy began her tenure at the Boley Law Library in 1978, long before there was an online catalog or a Wood Hall. Under her leadership and guidance the law library saw a number of significant accomplishments, including:

- the digitization of the catalog and the implementation of an integrated library system
- joining the union catalog and consortium now known as the ORBIS Cascade Alliance
- the expansion of the library’s collection to the 500,000 volume milestone
- the founding of the Nycum Rare Book Collection
- creation of world-class specialized collections in Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law, Indian Law, Estates & Trusts, Tax, Crime Victims, and Animal Law
- transition to the Ex Libris unified library services platform
- leadership on a number of vital initiatives with regional and national cataloging and library technical services groups.

This list does not do full justice to all that Kathy Faust accomplished in her four decades at the law library. Generations of law students, faculty, staff, attorneys, and members of the community have relied on the work of Kathy and her team in order to research the law within the expansive print and digital collections of the Boley Law Library.

As Kathy said at the reception honoring her 35 years of working in the law library:

“I found my dream job here—a job that’s been challenging and rewarding. I also found a group of people I liked working with, including previous library director, Peter Nycum, who respected and trusted me enough that he didn’t involve himself too much in what I did. I’ve also been lucky enough to work in a very scenic spot. My current office is at tree-top level and I get to watch a variety of birds eating their way up and down the trees that practically touch my window.”

We were lucky to find a dream colleague in Kathy Faust. All of us at the Boley Law Library wish her the best on a well-deserved retirement.
WestPac Treasurer’s Report
Submitted by Ning Han, Treasurer

ACCOUNT ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 6, 2017 — APRIL 26, 2018

I. Business Checking Balance as of April 26, 2018

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<td>WestPac Annual Conference Sponsorship</td>
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II. Business Market Savings Balance

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<td>Balance as of April 26, 2018</td>
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I have no huge news to share at this time, which is always a good thing, right? Our bank balance has been healthy; our tax return has been filed; and other business-related renewals have been taken care of.

Planning for both the AALL Business Meeting and Annual Conference are well under way. I am starting to see vendor sponsorship coming in and hope to see more. If you know a specific vendor who’d like to sponsor our Alaska conference, please pass that information onto the Local Arrangements Committee.

Membership renewal has been the theme of the month. Thanks to the membership committee for sending out targeted renewal reminders. We received over 70 membership renewals from both new and current members since January 2018. If you haven’t renewed or joined, I encourage you to do so as soon as you can.

I will end my short April report here. Happy end of spring semester. It’s time to get out and enjoy some beautiful spring days.

Renew Your WestPac Membership Today!
By Ashley Sundin & Suzanne Darais, Co-Chairs, WestPac Membership Committee

If you have not done so already, it’s time to renew your WestPac membership, which runs from January through December! By renewing your membership, you are able to hold elective office, serve on committees, vote in WestPac elections (may vary by category of membership), connect with colleagues, apply for grant funding to attend AALL and our annual WestPac conference!

**Dues Categories**
- Active Member (officially connected with a law library): $20
- Associate Member (individuals or organizations not officially connected with a law library): $25
- Student/Retired Member: $12.50
- Life/Unemployed Member: Dues waived

Please avail yourself of the dues waiver policy for unemployed members if it applies.

You can use the [Membership Application/Renewal Form](#) and return it with your payment to Treasurer Ning Han at the address provided on the form OR use the [online form](#) and pay via PayPal.

For additional information contact Ashley Sundin and Suzanne Darais at westpac.membership@gmail.com.
Apply Now!

WestPac Annual Meeting Travel Grants!

Special Announcement:

WestPac is offering three $1000 travel grants for the 2018 WestPac Annual Meeting in Anchorage!

All WestPac members are encouraged to apply. Electronic services librarians are especially encouraged to apply for the D.J. Morrison travel grant.

Additional information and grant applications are available on the WestPac website. Applications are due August 1.

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WestPac welcomes these new members since December 2017:

Anna Amiot, Student
Erik Beck, University of Colorado
Hana Chan, University of Oregon
Brandy Ellis, Student
Samiyah Foster
Gerard Fowke, Student
Elaine Goff, Willamette University
Ulana Holtz, University of Montana
David Lewis, Student
Robert Linz, University of Colorado
Lisa Schultz, University of Colorado
Julia Seiter, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
Jill Sturgeon, University of Colorado
Maya Swanes, University of Washington
Angela Wang, UC Hastings College of the Law

Way to go!
Learning opportunities abound at this summer’s AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, from the preconference workshops on Saturday to the return of the innovation tournament on Tuesday and everything in between. Join your colleagues and register today!