

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Officers for 2019-2020 were Jenny Silbiger, Chair; James Durham, Vice-Chair; Karen Westwood Secretary-Treasurer; Rob Mead, Joe Lawson, Liz Repp Members-at-Large; Christine Morton and Sara V. Pic, Newsletter Co-editors (ex officio); and Joan Bellistri, Past Chair.

The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession was given to Steve Anderson, Director, Thurgood Marshall State Law Library; Donna Bausch, Representative of the American Bar Association to the American Bar Association's National Litigation Network conference in Nashville, and to Marcelo Rodriguez, US Courts for the Second Circuit Library (Manhattan) to attend the 2020 AALL Virtual Leadership Academy.

Regarding the GLL sponsored programs for the Annual Meeting: The Education Committee coordinated "Loaves and Fishes: Providing Legal Assistance to SRLs When Resources Are Limited." Further, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AALL 2020 Conference in New Orleans was cancelled and converted to a Virtual Conference "Loaves and Fishes" was then selected from the original programming to be "pre-recorded" and have it offered in conjunction with the Virtual conference (a special distinction; not all original programming could be offered online).

The GLL Committee reports detail their work, some highlights follow. The Best A2J Committee identified topics for new Best Practices Guides: Pro Se appeals and training public librarians about legal information resources (to be continued).

The Strategic Planning Committee recommended updating our expired strategic plan to bring it current with our members' ideas and goals. To carry this out, the Committee recommends conducting a member survey as well as incorporating a statement of diversity as a value to reflect the diverse voices within our membership, as well as

represent the communities that GLL libraries serve to help dismantle systemic bias and racism within the legal system. The Newsletter continued being published three times a year.

Further, the GLL 2019-2020 year was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that deeply affected our global populations (10,399,000+ infections worldwide and 508,000+ deaths to date, with 127,000+ deaths in the United States as of 6/30/2020). As GLL member libraries are in various states of closure and/or providing services physically and/or remotely to colleagues and staff and/or to the public, we are all challenged to deliver services in ways that ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of both staff and patrons. Weekly videoconferencing meetings via Zoom were hosted by GLL member, Caroline Nevin, where GLL library colleagues across the country and in Canada shared status updates.

Additionally, our Education Committee, using converted LexisNexis sponsorship funds from our cancelled New Orleans GLL Annual Business Meeting, coordinated a special webinar entitled “Re-Opening is Hard to Do” with Dr. Timothy Kowalik, a professor of virology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and his copresenter, public health colleague, Andy Walsh, Chief Science Officer, Health Monitoring. Helpful resources shared from this webinar and shared among the GLL members in our Zoom calls include:

American Library Association’s (ALA) [COVID -19 Response](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#)  
[How to Yourself & Others](#)

GA RPLAC: Georgia Regents Public Library Advisory Council (RPLAC) –  
[Recommendations for Library Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](#)

IMLS/CDC:

OCLC study/Webjunction Project : [Reopening Archives, Libraries, and Museums \(REALM\) COVID -19 Research Project](#)

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Additionally , in the United States, Black Lives Matter protests against racism and police brutality across our nation, in response to the senseless murder of George Floyd and those before and after him, continue to raise awareness of systemic racism in our cities, counties, and states. Courts and public libraries across the country have come out with [statements](#) in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and staunch commitments to do better, to be better, not only for ourselves in the present, but to create a positive future for our colleagues of tomorrow and beyond.

In light of this, the GLL -Board committed to take actions that we hope will make a positive impact in our libraries and with our fellow colleagues. The Board invited GLL members to participate in the following actions:

Roundtables with AALL:

- 1) A cross-caucus round table will be held on July 8, 2020 hosted by the AALL Affinity Caucuses, D&I Committee, and SRSIS to address institutional racism, as well as brainstorm how we can dismantle toxic workplaces and make positive systemic changes there. The Board encouraged attendance by GLL members.
- 2) We know that systemic racism is not a one-



