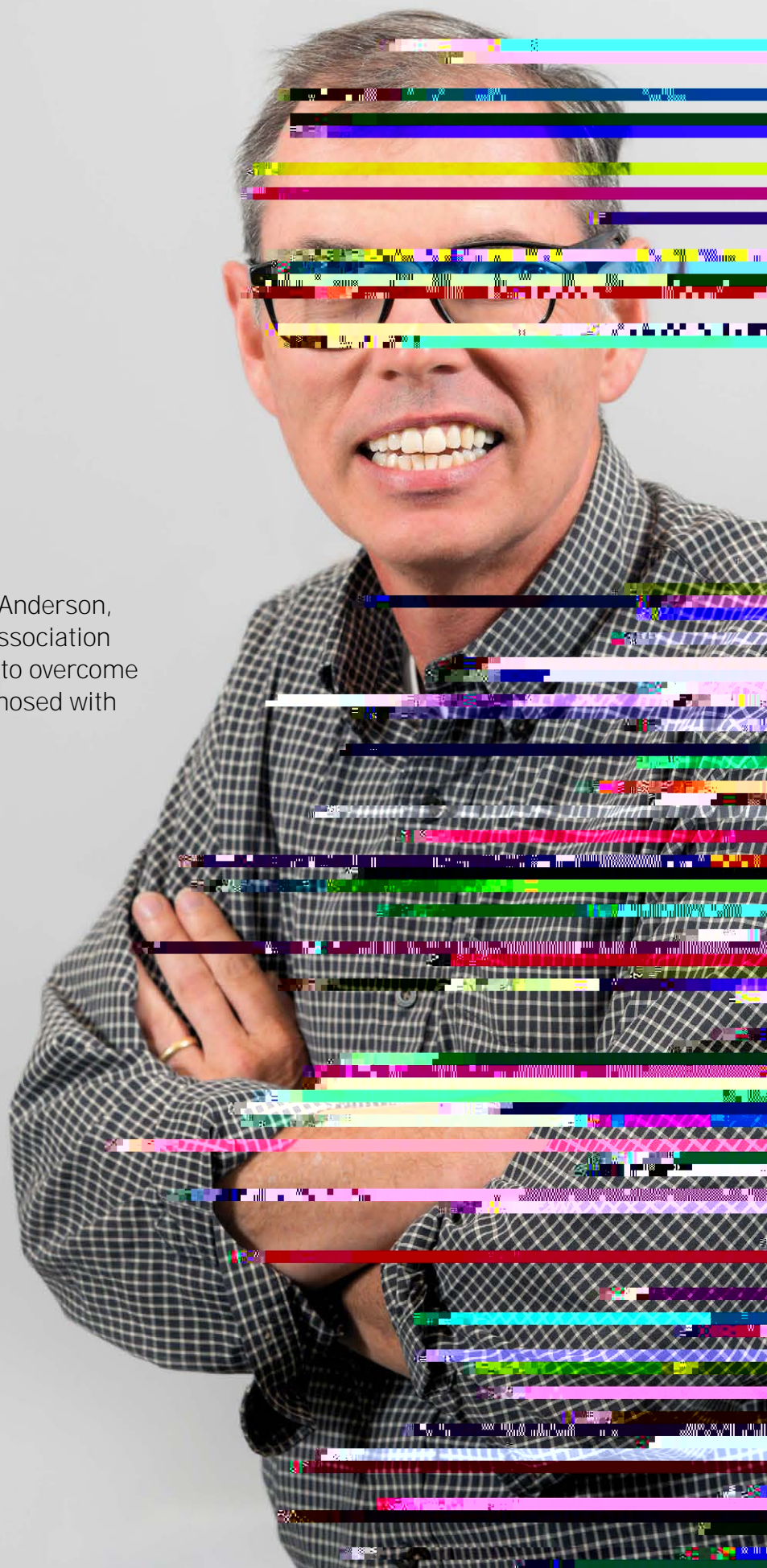


LEADER PROFILE

Throughout his career, Steven P. Anderson, past president of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), has had to overcome many obstacles. After being diagnosed with



"I was not interested in a career in law librarianship until I became essentially a law librarian," notes Anderson. He had been working in libraries for a number of years and eventually moved

on to shelving books at his college library. After college he worked for the U.S. Forest Service Library at the University of California Berkeley for two years. After receiving his JD from the University of Maryland in 1995, he began looking for potential jobs. "I had been in environmental law when I found a job that seemed

tailor-made for me at the Baltimore County Circuit Court Law Library," recalls Anderson. "The job required a JD—or rather, a JD with a law license." Anderson interviewed and got the job, and after that there was no looking back." After a few months, his boss at the time, Betsy Sanderson, encouraged

I was an associate librarian in Baltimore County. And that was pretty good because although we did a lot of reference and reference projects and things like that. I then moved on to Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander, LLC, where I was the director of the library. It was a small library and there were three of us, but it was a lot more project oriented. I look back on those days very fondly. Then in 2005, when the state law library position became available, I applied and got the job, and I've been very happy here ever since.

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Steven P. Anderson

him to get his Master's, so he attended the University of Arizona and completed his MLS in August of 1998.

Anderson began his career as a law librarian by serving as director of research services at Gordon Feinblatt Rothman Hoffberger & Hollander LLC, from 1998-2005. After that, he transitioned over to the government side of law librarianship, becoming director of the Maryland State Law Library (now the Maryland Thurgood Marshall State Law Library), a position he has held for 15 years.

A member of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) since 1996, Anderson has been active in the Government Relations Special Interest Section (SIS) and the Legal History & Rare Books SIS and is a member of the Law Librarian Association of Maryland. He

It is probably no surprise, but dealing with Parkinson's disease and working is a challenge in just about every way. Modulating my voice when talking to people is one of them. Another challenge is dealing with Parkinson's—going one way or the other, or taking a misstep and having to almost run because, when you have Parkinson's, you tend to keep doing what your brain has told you to keep doing, which is either to not do something or to do something. In my case, the part of the brain that tells me to do things is switched on, so for example, if I start running my brain tells me to keep running, and I can't stop.

- 3 DIRECTOR
- 3 THURGOOD MARSHALL STATE LAW LIBRARY
- 3 ANNAPOLIS, MD

The words public service really exemplify what the profession of librarianship is all about. We are a public service institution whether we like it or not. That means you should be a public servant in just about every aspect of your life. I still get calls to be on trials and stuff like that. I can't

to justice issues, it's impossible for most people to get the information they need without some



The Great British Baking Show

I wish I never got tired and I never slept.

“You think about what you are doing.” This is something that my son said to me when he was a toddler. I was using those words—you think about what you are doing—to get him to think of not doing bad things like putting

things in an electric plug and stuff like that. I got very mad at him one day, unjustly so, for doing something. I don't know what it was. He told me “you think about what you are doing,” to get back at me for whatever it was that I was preventing him from doing unjustly. And he called me on it. And I think we all need to think about what we are doing.

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U.S. Virgin Islands

Oh gosh, probably eating my wife's chocolate cake. She makes it with pumpkin, black beans, and cocoa. Her father still doesn't know what's in it, although he just loves it. And I've come to love it too, and I could just eat the whole thing up right now.

do it any longer because of the brain stimulation surgery I had in 2014, when I was president of AALL. But it made me want to give back to the community.

I think it's because the law is so far away from
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about the coronavirus, all you need to do is type in “coronavirus” and you've got an answer, whether it's from Google or a database online at your local public library. You type in “adult guardianship” in the same platforms—Google and the databases used at the public library—and you should be getting 50 different results from 50 different states. But you're not. And that's very frustrating for many people. We have an obligation to make legal research easier for everyone. It's that public service thing again. You want to make sure that you're serving the public and all its needs. When it comes to access

hoping that people are using the right material.
If it's material that's already in a UELMA state,
you can basically be assured that the material is
good and usable.

I think it's invaluable. You get to meet so many
new people and see so many older faces that you
know. I have come to have deep relationships
with my fellow law librarians whom I have met
at the AALL Annual Meeting.

