

LEADER PROFILE

FORMING

After discovering that practicing law is a lot to be desired, Pauline M. Aranas turned to a career in law librarianship and has never looked back. “My time as a part-time student worker in the University of California (UC) Berkeley Law Library put me in constant contact with Bob Berring, who was the law library director at the time,” said Aranas. “Bob was so passionate about being a law librarian and was so inspiring; he really became one of my early mentors.” After completing her MLIS, Aranas got word of an open position at the University of Southern California (USC) Law Library (her law school alma mater) and decided to apply. “It was like coming home—I had the opportunity to work for the late, great Albert Brecht and with the amazing Frank Houdek and Tory Trotta; people who really have a strong passion for the profession,” Aranas said.

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After a year serving as a reference librarian, Aranas was promoted to head of public services





Association of Law Libraries, and is a member of several special interest sections (SIS), including Academic Law Libraries SIS, Computing Services SIS, and the Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS.

We spoke with the California native about recent advancements in legal technology and what the future holds, as well as the value associations can provide, both educationally and professionally.

What inspired your career path?

In my youth, I was pretty clueless about what I wanted to do. I worked part-time as a student library assistant at the UCLA library while I was obtaining my Bachelor's in film and television from UCLA. After graduation, I didn't really know what I wanted to do, but I decided to apply to law school at USC and thankfully got accepted. However, I didn't have a long-term desire to be a lawyer, and I wasn't happy trying to work through the practice of law. Not long after I graduated law school, I was at a point where I wasn't terribly happy where things were going and after talking with a very close friend, who was a librarian, I decided to go to library school and get my MLIS. I had worked in a library while I was attending college at UCLA, so I was familiar with the library profession. I also thought an MLIS would provide me with some different career options.

On my first day of school at UC Berkeley I was talking to the associate dean, who said, "You have a law degree, why don't you go down to the law school and talk to Bob Berring," who was the director.

I find that attending educational programming and talking with my peers and colleagues helps affirm my knowledge within the profession and also offers fresh perspectives that can be very beneficial. The generosity of the people in our profession—their willingness to share their experience and ideas—is so beneficial and I value it a lot. The other thing I try to do is follow certain blogs, whether it's a law librar-

