

Chicago Association of Law Libraries

2019-2020 Annual Report

2019-2020 CALL Executive Board

President: Jessie LeMar
Vice President: Lindsey Carpino
Past President: Joe Mitzenmacher
Secretary: Philip Johnson
Treasurer: Julie Swanson
Director: Jesse Boman
Director: Megan Butman

CALL offered many opportunities for its members to get involved and make a difference this year.

The Community Service Committee engaged membership by coordinating collections for local organizations for monetary and in-kind donations. In the past year, they raised funds on behalf of The Alliance for Great Lakes, the Greater Chicago Food Depository, and The Lawyer's Assistance Program. They also promoted CALL through participating in two days of service.

The Government Relations Committee kept the Association apprised of library-related government activity via their participation in the Illinois Library Association's Legislative Meet-Up, and by planning an educational event with the Seventh Circuit History Museum. They kept members informed on legislative topics such as net neutrality and local government fees, and they also began a project to update the 2012 edition of *Finding Illinois Law: A Librarian's Guide for Non-Lawyers*.

Our Nominations and Elections Committee recruited excellent candidates to run for the Executive Board. The results of the election were: Vice-President/President-Elect: Jamie Sommer, Treasurer: Tom Keefe, and Director: Mandy Lee.

CALL had several excellent in-person and virtual education and networking events this year. The Continuing Education Committee held three events and did an exceptional job providing a range of topics in various formats. They engaged their committee members and made good use of both outside speakers and talented experts within CALL. The topics offered included *Nailing Your AMPC Proposal- Tips from the Trenches*, *The Occasional Intellectual Property Law Researcher*, and *What's New and Improved in Free and Low-cost Legal Research*. These events were well received and well attended. In March, CALL moved to a new platform for virtual meetings, Zoom, just in time to take advantage of e-programs during the COVID shutdown as our members moved to remote work.

CALL held three Business Meetings, ably planned and executed by our Meetings Committee, who secured speakers and sponsors for the meetings. Unfortunately, the fourth and final meeting of the year was cancelled due to the pandemic and local restrictions on gathering. In addition, Meetings also created opportunities for members to meet and network informally at happy hours (both in-person and virtual) and a karaoke night. The Membership Committee also embarked on

a new stakeholders initiative in which our members could suggest leaders in the local legal community to attend meetings as the featured stakeholder. This provided an opportunity to demonstrate our members' skills and value to leaders outside of traditional legal information roles.

The Mentorship and Leadership Development Committee welcomed new members at our meetings and helped introduce them to the Association. The committee continues to match mentors with those seeking mentorship, and coordinates with Continuing Education and Placement and Recruitment to find new ways to provide outreach to potential new members.

The Association also offered excellent content through our online presence with the *Bulletin*, social media, and listserv. The *CALL Bulletin* published three issues that highlighted the work of the Association, recapped meetings, continuing education events, and conference attendance, and provided some helpful professional development articles. The *Bulletin* is now published in a reader-friendly online format that is easy to share and to access online. The Archives Committee continues to work toward digitizing the CALL Archive. The Public Relations Committee promoted CALL business meetings and continuing education events via the CALL website, Facebook, and Twitter. They sought out new ways to promote our members' achievements and market the association to identify new members and align with outreach goals highlighted in our strategic plan.

CALL recognized the achievements of our members and worked to create new opportunities to advance. The Grants and Chapter Awards Committee awarded a grant to allow a member to travel to the 38th Annual Course of the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) held in Sydney, Australia. The Committee diligently promoted grant opportunities to the membership. CALL gave three awards: the Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Law Librarianship to Kathleen Powers Goodridge; the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Law Librarianship to Clare Gaynor Willis and Diana Koppang; and the Award for Outstanding In-House Publication to Jesse Bowman at the Northwestern School of Law.

The Placement and Recruitment Committee posted over 19 new positions this year. The committee also pursued a number of initiatives to recruit new members to CALL and develop the Association's outreach to students and new members. They attended the University of Illinois School for Information Sciences Career Fair in November 2019, met with students interested in law librarianship, and shared information about CALL. The committee also promoted a Panel Discussion on A Day in the Life of a Law Librarian, and hosted a team at the CARPLS Trivia night in October.

The end of our CALL year, like that of many of our peers, was difficult. Events were postponed, traditions cancelled, and workflow turned upside down. However, we end the year proud of the way that our members were able to pivot to find new, creative ways to engage our members, provide valuable continuing education and networking opportunities, and, most importantly, support each other in our new remote world.

