



The Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (“GPLLA”) is an AALL chapter with approximately 180 members. The members of the GPLLA Executive Board for 2022-23 were:

- Eric Berg, President;
- Charlie Perkins, Vice President/President-Elect;
- David Haendler, Immediate Past President;
- Tom Baer, Treasurer (2022-2024 term);
- Andrew Hutchinson, Secretary (2022-2024 term);
- Brian Carroll, Director at Large (2021-2023 term);
- Mary Shelly, Director at Large (2021-2023 term);
- Chava Spivak-Birndorf, Director at Large (2022-2024 term).

GPLLA’s Executive Board offers its thanks to all the members, committee members, volunteers, and speakers who have made its work possible.

Educational Programming

In November 2022, GPLLA held its annual Institute. For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, we returned to a live, in-person format, with Drexel’s Kline Institute for Trial Advocacy in Center City Philadelphia as the venue. The theme of the event was “History and the Law Library.” It featured keynote speaker Brianne Gorod (Constitutional Accountability Center), a panel of speakers on legal history research moderated by Education and Programming Committee Chair Julie Randolph, and a panel of speakers on legislative and regulatory history research.

In April 2023, GPLLA held a virtual lunch and learn discussion, “A Conversation with Pennsylvania Court Librarians,” moderated by Julie Randolph and featuring Michael Hayes (Third Circuit Libraries) and Jamie Knizner (Washington County Courts) to educate members about careers in court libraries and the services that court libraries provide to the public.

Promoting Access to Legal Information & Charitable Activities

GPLLA’s Social Responsibilities Committee (“SRC”) continued its mission of making legal information more accessible and building relationships with partner organizations. In fall 2022, the SRC finishing drafting *Pennsylvania Legal Research 101: About the Law and How to Find It*, a free legal research guide for the general public. In January 2023, the SRC launched the online version of the guide at <https://palegalresearch.org/>.

The SRC promoted the launch of *Pennsylvania Legal Research 101* with a virtual webinar in March 2023 where SRC members spoke about the creation of the guide and its potential uses, then solicited feedback from attendees in breakout groups.

The reception to *Pennsylvania Legal Research 101* has been overwhelmingly positive. We have received feedback from librarians all over Pennsylvania and the SRC was awarded the Dr. Joel Fishman Professional Publication Award from AALL's Government Law Libraries SIS.

The SRC also resumed GPLLA's pre-pandemic volunteer activities with Books Through Bars, a charitable organization that provides inmates in Pennsylvania area prisons with free reading materials. GPLLA volunteers spend two Saturday afternoons in Spring 2023 at Books Through Bars' West Philadelphia office picking and packing books for incarcerated readers.

Social Events & Networking

Finally, GPLLA held its annual spring meeting and happy hour at Uptown Beer Garden in Philadelphia in May 2023. Our second in-person spring meeting since the start of the pandemic was well-attended, and we are excited to hold more face-to-face networking events.

Incoming Board

GPLLA is pleased to welcome two newly elected Directors at Large as well as several returning Executive Board members:

- Charlie Perkins, President;
- Eric Berg, Immediate Past President;
- Tom Baer, Treasurer (2022-2024 term);
- Andrew Hutchinson, Secretary (2022-2024 term);
- Chava Spivak-Birndorf, Director at Large (2022-2024 term);
- Scott DeMaris, Director at Large (2023-2025 term);
- Lizzie Yazvac, Director at Large (2023-2025 term).

Unfortunately, we are facing a vacancy for the position of Vice President/President-Elect despite our recruitment efforts.

Submitted by Eric Berg, President (2022-23) & Immediate Past President (2023-24)