



GREATER PHILADELPHIA LAW LIBRARY ASSOCIATION **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

The Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (“GPLLA”) is an AALL chapter with approximately 180 members. The members of the GPLLA Board for 2021-22 were: David Haendler, President; Eric Berg, Vice President/President-Elect; Andrew Lang, Immediate Past President; Kristen Matteucci, Treasurer; Leigh Cohen, Secretary; Brian Carroll, Director at Large; Mary Shelly, Director at Large; Erin Vassalotti, Director at Large. GPLLA’s Board offers its thanks to all of the members, volunteers, and speakers who have made its work possible.

A. Educational Programming

Together with the Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C. and the Law Library Association of Maryland, GPLLA won the AALL Excellence in Community Engagement Award for the “Project 20/20: From Transition to Transformation Series,” a nine-month series of online programs, workshops, and social networking events which ran from October 2020 through June 2021.

In November 2021, GPLLA held its annual Institute. Due to the continued risks of COVID, this event was held online at with no attendance charge. The theme of the event was “Artificial Intelligence and the Law.” It featured speakers Susan Nevelow Mart (University of Colorado Law School), Joseph Racynski (Thomson Reuters), Damien Riehl (Standards Advancement for the Legal Industry) and a panel of Philadelphia-area law firm leaders discussing the implementation of AI solutions.

In January 2022, GPLLA’s Social Responsibilities Committee (“SRC”) organized a virtual lunch-and-learn session with a corrections librarian, helping GPLLA members better understand what is involved in offering information services to incarcerated persons.

In March 2022, GPLLA organized a presentation to Drexel law students on careers in law librarianship, featuring representatives from an academic law library, a firm law library, and a public law library. Given the number of outstanding law schools in the area, we would like to offer more such outreach events in the future to help foster the next generation of law librarians.

B. Promoting Access to Legal Information

The SRC continued its mission of making legal information more accessible and building relationships with partner organizations. The SRC has been working with Books Through Bars

and the Sheller Center for Social Justice at Temple University Beasley School of Law in their respective access to justice efforts, exploring opportunities to increase both prisoners' access to legal information and the capacity of public libraries to support Philadelphians' legal information needs.

SRC representatives attended Books Through Bars virtual meetings, assisting the organization with feedback on the pros and cons of various jailhouse lawyers' resources, sharing information and ideas to support a grant application, and developing a document on Legal Materials Donation Guidance to help Books Through Bars better determine what materials to accept or reject for donation or purchase.

The SRC also met with the Sheller Center to discuss how to support public libraries in promoting access to legal information. The SRC is currently drafting a Pennsylvania Legal Research Guide for members of the general public. When completed, it will be made available to all GPLLA members to use, post online, and otherwise share. We also hope to distribute it more widely in the future, including to public librarians.

C. Social Events & Networking

Finally, GPLLA began its return to in-person events and social activities with a spring happy hour in Philadelphia in May 2022. As the pandemic eases, we are hopeful that we will be able to start offering more opportunities for the law library community to come together again.

- Submitted by David Haendler, President