

# ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

MARCH, 2018

VOLUME 2018, NUMBER 1

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## *President's Column – Ingrid Mattson*

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### ***Need a Laugh?***

I think I was too fun to be a lawyer. Sure, a sense of humor is valuable in a profession that often addresses very serious issues, but my particular comedic streak wasn't always appreciated. When I declared I was becoming a law librarian, people periodically inquired about librarians being old fashioned and stodgy. I don't think that's quite me either, but I know for certain that people who work in libraries have exceptional senses of humor. Yet the public perception persists. Take this headline from Bored Panda's photographic series highlighting librarian humor: [20+ Times Librarians Surprised Everyone With Their Sense of Humor](#)<sup>1</sup> (hat tip to AALL's [KnowItAALL](#), a helpful way to stay current on matters of interest to law librarians).

Why are people surprised librarians have senses of humor? Evidence to the contrary abounds. Two Twitter accounts in particular are sure to delight you and provide respite from dark news days: Fake Library Statistics ([@FakeLibStats](#)) and Lousy Librarian ([@LousyLibrarian](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> If I had to pick a favorite instance of humor from this post, it might be the one where the staff named all of the book trucks: Es Cart Go, Dolly Lama, Paul

The lengthy search results you get on Google when you type [library stapler life], including [The Lives and Deaths of Academic Staplers](#), also show librarian humor in fine form.

And it's not just public service librarians who resort to humor to enliven the workday. The website [Awful Library Books](#) is an irreverent look at books the site's curators "find amusing and/or questionable for libraries trying to maintain a current and relevant collection." These are titles, like the juvenile nonfiction work [The Story of Watergate \(1988\)](#) and the how-to gem [Brainwashing is a Cinch \(1966\)](#), that strike me as candidates for weeding yet remain on the shelves because, well, weeding is tough.

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McCartney, etc. I'd add my own to the mix: Cart Blanche.

# ORALL

## Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

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### Membership

**Members: 285**

**Dues: \$20 per year**

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### Newsletter

**The ORALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. Published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.**

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**Unsolicited contributions are encouraged; contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. For extra copies, contact the editor.**

**Deadlines for submissions: Feb. 28, May 30, Aug. 30, and Nov. 30**

**Advertising (per issue) : \$150 for full page, \$90 for half page, \$55 for quarter page, and \$35 for eighth page.**

### *Profile*

ORALL is a 3-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky]. It was formed in 1949 "to further the development and usefulness of law libraries and to stimulate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among law libraries of this region." An annual conference is held each fall. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

## **President's Column *continued***

These sites demonstrate the value of humor in libraries. We're working in a service industry, and that brings us in contact with patrons. On one hand, humor helps us cope with frustrations wrought by our patrons. Endless jokes about the staplers patrons seem to destroy after a mere two weeks of acquisition and finding wry humor in a patron's absolute joy you were able to quickly find an article in the catalog for them after they'd looked "everywhere" for "hours" help us let off steam pent up because the people we help don't always understand what we do. @LousyLibrarian's tweet reflects this sentiment: "Instead of libraries everyone should just get a Kindle." "Great idea! And instead of roads everyone should just get a bucket of asphalt."

But humor also enables us to connect with our patrons. As we near April Fools' Day, consider creating a humorous display to engage your patrons. Why not feature all of your books on lawyer jokes? Alternatively, empty bookstands with a sign that reads "Please be patient. Our display on procrastination will be up soon."<sup>2</sup> could be an easy way to get patrons to reach out, if only because they view you as approachable and not too self-serious. I appreciate that outright silliness may not fly in your office. If you've been using a newsletter to inform law firm partners of the latest trends in legal research or your staff's expertise, consider incorporating a lighthearted reference to attorneys' favorite print works now available electronically by referencing the book's color or location, like "You now have access to CCH eBooks by clicking here. You may recall that these are the blue and white books we used to shelve near the portrait of [insert name]. They'd also go missing regularly around February in advance of tax time. Electronic access should resolve this issue."

As I mentioned in my last article, I've been reading [past ORALL newsletters](#). I can't say we've always been laugh-out-loud funny<sup>3</sup> in our newsletter, but our desire to connect with each other to share information is the same desire we

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<sup>2</sup> This is on the first page of Bored Panda's humorous photos from real libraries.

<sup>3</sup> There are some exceptions, of course, like Mike Whiteman's [March 2008 President's Column](#) where he professes disappointment with the ORALL Presidency not meeting his expectations: "First of all, where is the shiny ORALL limo to take me from point A to point B? How about the ORALL mansion where I would live during my tenure as President? And what about the ORALL army that I could use to crush my enemies?" I don't disagree with Mike's complaints, but I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that he could've changed the bylaws to include these perks during his years on the Bylaws Committee (i.e., 2010-present). (Most of these years he chaired the committee.)

seem to evidence when we use humor to reach out to our patrons. My two favorite experiences have been learning about past members<sup>4</sup> and discovering that the more things change, the more they stay the same.<sup>5</sup> With this in mind, I'm happy to report that we have received a list from AALL of all of its members in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky in hopes that we can reach out to their members who are not ours. The membership committee is working on several projects associated with this goal. Also, I hope to create an ad-hoc archives committee to help us explore matters relating to ORALL's archives, which are housed in the law library of the Supreme Court of Ohio. We have an extensive print history, and I'd love it if we could make it more readily accessible to our members. If you're interested in helping with this project, please email me at [Mattson.30@osu.edu](mailto:Mattson.30@osu.edu) or wait until you see the official inquiry over the ORALL listerv.

And to leave you with a joke that I hope appeals to law librarians:

Q: Why didn't the thief burgle the library?

A: Because he was afraid the judge would give him a long sentence.

\* \* \*

***Report of the Nominations Committee***  
**by Amelia Landenberger, Committee Chair**

The Nominations Committee respectfully presents this year's candidates for ORALL Executive Board Positions. The candidate for President will be running unopposed but the elections for Secretary and for Member-at-Large will be contested. Please give this matter your serious consideration and please take the time to vote when the election begins. Also, please join me in thanking all of these members of ORALL, whether they win or lose their elections, for volunteering their time to make our organization better. We are lucky to have such wonderful members!

**Candidate for Vice President/President Elect: Beau Steenken**  
**Beau Steenken**

Beau Steenken is Instructional Services Librarian at the University of Kentucky College of Law. Beau joined the Law Library Faculty at the University of

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<sup>4</sup> Who remembers working with Paul G. Mitchell (Marathon Oil Company) in the early 1990s or Jules Lipton (Judge Advocate General's Office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) who went to Vietnam in 1967 and provided his mailing address for letters?

<sup>5</sup> A March 1993 article titled *The "VIRTUAL LIBRARY": Closer than We Think?* is one such example: "As many librarians struggle with lack of space and diminishing budgets, the concepts [a virtual library] invoke[s] more attractive and less farfetched."

Kentucky in September 2010. As Instructional Services Librarian, he engaged in a revamp of the Legal Research curriculum as the UK College of Law shifted from an adjunct-model to a full-time faculty model of LRW instruction. He teaches two to four sections of 1L Legal Research a year, Foreign & International Legal Research every other year, and also coordinates informal research instruction of various sorts.

Before coming to the University of Kentucky, he managed to collect a B.A., a J.D., and an M.S.I.S. from the University of Texas, as well as an M.A. in history from Texas State University and an LL.M. in Public International law from the University of Nottingham, where he also took up archery. His notable ORALL activities include twice chairing the Nominations Committee, chairing the Bylaws Committee, presenting at several annual meetings, and coming in dead last in the euchre tournament in Fort Wayne.

### **Candidates for Secretary: Jennifer Baker and Shara Parkomaki**

#### **Jennifer Baker**

Jennifer L. Baker has been a Research Librarian with Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP since December 2015. Prior to joining Dinsmore, she spent four years as a Reference and Electronic Services Professional at Keating, Muething & Klekamp PLL. Jenni has been a member of both AALL and ORALL since early in her career in law librarianship, and has served on ORALL's Education Committee since 2016, and the ORALL Grants Committee prior to that. She was the Treasurer of the Cincinnati Chapter of SLA from 2014 until 2016, and also a member of the Nominating and Programming Committees.

Jenni enjoys reconnecting with her law school roots, and since 2014, she has presented on students' successful transition from law school to practice at the Annual Legal Research Bootcamp co-hosted by NKU Chase College of Law and the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She publishes regularly in the Cincinnati Bar Association Report, and recently published in the NKBA Lex Loci. Jenni earned a B.S. in Biology from Xavier University (Go Muskies!), her J.D. from NKU Chase College of Law, her M.L.S. from the University of Kentucky, and is an active member of the Ohio Bar.

#### **Shara H. Parkomaki**

Shara Parkomaki is the Director/Law Librarian for the Ashtabula County Law Library in Jefferson, Ohio. Shara received an Associates of Applied Business in Legal Assisting Technology in 1990 and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1992 from the University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. She has worked as a paralegal for more than twenty years in the legal field in law firms and as a freelance paralegal. For the past three (3) years she has been the Law Librarian and

Director of the Ashtabula County Law Library and serves as the Chief Administrator of the Ashtabula County Law Library Resources Board.

Her experience includes being the owner of Parkomaki Legal Support Services which provided legal support services to attorneys in general practice areas and a law firm paralegal specializing in probate/estate and general practice matters. In addition to her legal experience, she served as treasurer for a local judicial candidate and was the founder of an annual blood drive in her community. She received an Outstanding Commitment Award in 2008 and a Community Service Award in 2011 by the American Red Cross. She was the past chair and vice chair of ORALL's Special Interest Group (SIG) and is currently a board member of the Statewide Consortium of Ohio County Law Libraries.

### **Candidates for Member-at-Large: Kristen Hallows and Shannon Kemen**

#### **Kristin Hallows**

Hallows is a Research Analyst with Bricker & Eckler LLP. She is actively involved in competitive/business intelligence and thoroughly enjoys the domain of data collection, manipulation, retrieval, and integrity. She is the immediate past chair of the Columbus Bar Association's Legal Research & Information Resources Committee and is currently involved in several committees within AALL and ORALL.

Hallows' work has appeared in *The Serials Librarian*, *Law Library Journal*, *AALL Spectrum*, and elsewhere. She received her MLIS from Kent State University and is a member of Beta Phi Mu. She also holds a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in business administration from Franklin University.

#### **Shannon Kemen**

Ms. Kemen serves as a Reference Librarian at the University of Cincinnati Robert S. Marx Law Library. She is responsible for providing reference and research assistance to all library patrons. In addition, Ms. Kemen has also published numerous articles and frequently lectures on legal research topics. Prior to joining the library faculty at the University of Cincinnati, Ms. Kemen was a Reference and Electronic Services librarian at Keating Muething & Klekamp, PLL.

Ms. Kemen is a member of both AALL and ORALL and has previously served as Chair of the ORALL Grants Committee (2016-2017 & 2012-2013), as a member of the ORALL Adhoc Committee (2017), as President of ORALL (2015-2016), Chair of the Education Committee & Vice-President of ORALL (2014-2015) and as an ORALL Executive Board Member (2008-2010). Ms. Kemen is currently

serving as a member on the ORALL Local Arrangements Committee and the ORALL Grants Committee.

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### ***ORALL 2018 Local Arrangements Update***

**by Carol Bredemeyer & Lisa Britt Wernke, Local Arrangements Committee**

The Local Arrangements Committee has begun working on this year's Annual Conference. It will be October 17-20 at the Kingsgate Marriott on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. Our opening reception will be at the Cincinnati Art Museum (<http://www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org/>). We have looked at the meeting rooms and are perusing the menu options. The hotel also has a spacious bar for after program conversations. We'll be selecting restaurants for Dine Arounds on Thursday night and planning for our annual Game Night, including the euchre tournament. We're sure the Education Committee will have a great array of programs for us to choose from. Plan to join us in Cincinnati this fall!

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### ***Book Displays from the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library*** provided by Erin N. Waltz









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***A Note from Your Newsletter Editor***

Well, not a whole lot this quarter but thanks to those who did provide information and pictures.

Our next newsletter will be published June, 2018. I'm hoping we can get some more of you to share your knowledge and it will be our last newsletter before AALL. So it's a great chance to share any tips and tricks you may have learned in your previous conference attendance.

As always, if you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, please e-mail me at [pvenard1@udayton.edu](mailto:pvenard1@udayton.edu).