

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

DECEMBER, 2018

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President's Column – Rick Goheen

Library Caring

Janet Wallin, Ted Potter, Taylor Fitchett, Jim Hart, Mariano Morales-Lebron, Virginia Thomas, Ed Edmonds, and Margie Maes.

Ken Kozlowski, Steve Probst, Steve Miller, Emily Janoski-Haehlen, Sue Altmeyer, Shannon Kemen, Rob Myers, Angela Baldree, and especially Ingrid Mattson.

All of them are ORALL members who supervised/mentored me in my career (the first group), or preceded me as president (the second group). The first two on the list, Jan Wallin and Ted Potter, were both. I should also mention Tom Hanley and Laurie Miller, our two previous treasurers. And I'm thrilled that we found Susan Azyndar to be our new treasurer last year. In many ways she's already better at it than I was, and I had 8 years to figure it out.

My point in all of this is that we all came from somewhere, and each of us had at least one person, usually several people, who decided we were the right person for the job. They chose us to work with

them. And we honor their choice, and in some cases their memory, by doing the job well.

I am not the big idea person in my library, and as president I don't want to change much of anything about the way ORALL works. Rob and Angela and Ingrid had some bylaw and committee structure things they've been working on, and I hope to get some of that finished up this year. I have noticed that on the above list of presidents, everyone but Ken and Angela is an academic law librarian.

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ORALL

Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries

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Newsletter

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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*

Shannon had some excellent law firm experience before joining UC, but she's an academic now too, and I'd like to see more private, county and court librarians on the board. So if you are such a person and you've ever thought about being on the ORALL board, please volunteer. The nominations committee will appreciate it... once I appoint a nominations committee. Which makes this a good time to remind everyone that the committee volunteer form is available at <http://orall.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CommitteeApp1819.pdf> .

We are lucky to have so much employer diversity in ORALL, and I think we are a Goldilocks chapter in terms of our membership. We are not too large (SEALL has about 500 members from 13 states and Puerto Rico) and not too small (MALL has about half the members we do and 95% of them are in the Twin Cities metro). Three states (plus our unofficial fourth if you count Michigan) feels about right to me, and our annual meeting is just the right size for people to get involved and get to know each other.

I am looking forward to Kalahari for our 70th anniversary in October, and to Bloomington for Indiana University's 200th a year after that. I hope you are too. Happy holidays to all!



* * *

ORALL 2019 Local Arrangements Update

By Lisa Sarty and Angela Baldree, Local Arrangement Committee

The Local Arrangements Committee has begun working on next year's Annual Conference. It will be October 23 -25, 2019 at Kalahari, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio. Our opening reception will be at the Kalahari Resorts/Water Park and Conference Center (<https://www.kalahariresorts.com>). We are looking into meeting rooms and perusing the menu options. The hotel also has several restaurants and bars for after program conversations. We'll be selecting restaurants at Kalahari as well as a couple around the area for Thursday night's Dine Around. Also, we will be making plans for the annual Game Night following Thursday night's Dine Around. Additionally, we are looking into a couple of tours at local museums. We're sure the education Committee will have a great array of programs for us to choose from. Plan to join us in Sandusky in October 2019.

* * *

ORALL 2018 PROGRAM REVIEWS

ORALL Annual Meeting 2018, Program Review: Navigating the Stacks of Tax Law Research on the Internet

by Margaret Kiel-Morse, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

First, I would like to thank the ORALL Grants Committee for supporting my attendance at the Annual Meeting. I would also like to thank everyone who worked on planning and running the meeting. This was another wonderful conference with interesting and helpful presentations, and great opportunities for connecting with colleagues.

One of the presentations I attended was Susanna Marlowe's *Navigating the Stacks of Tax Law Research on the Internet*. Susanna is a Reference Librarian at Franklin County Law Library. This presentation was based on her [Tax Law Research LibGuide](#) and a Continuing Legal Education program that she presented in March of this year. Her talk focused on the process and resources for Federal and Ohio tax law research.

The presentation began with sources of Federal tax law, such as the United States Constitution, specifically the General Welfare Clause, Origination Clause, Commerce Clause, and the 16th Amendment. Another source is Title 26 of the United States Code, also known as the Internal Revenue Code. For both the Constitution and the United States Code, Susanna recommended Cornell's [Legal Information Institute](#) (LII) website as a reliable free source, pointing out that it includes some annotations and is good to use for linking in research guides.

Legislative history and pending legislation are also useful for thorough tax law research. Susanna recommended govinfo.gov for legislative history. This site contains the Congressional Record back to 1873 and all other materials that were on FDsys, which retires in December and is being replaced by govinfo.gov. Proposed and pending legislation can be found on congress.gov.

The presentation then moved on to the administrative law side of Federal tax law. Treasury regulations are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, and these sections are also sometimes referred to as Treasury Decisions. Researchers should use the Federal Register to keep up with new and proposed regulations as well. US Tax Court opinions and rules can be found on ustaxcourt.gov. Susanna pointed out that other guidance documents are available from the IRS. For example, the Internal Revenue Bulletin is a weekly publication announcing official rulings and procedures of the IRS, and is available on legalbitstream.com, a searchable free site with many other tax law materials.

Susanna also discussed Ohio tax law sources and research tips. She pointed to her Tax Law Research Guide as a good starting place with links to many Ohio resources, and information on special topics such as LLCs in Ohio and Ohio tax liens. Ohio tax laws are found in Article 12 of the Ohio Constitution, [Title 57](#) of the Ohio Revised Code, and regulations in [Chapter 5703](#) of the Ohio Administrative Code. Researchers should note that the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals has its own rules of procedure, contained in Chapter 5717 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Guidance documents are also available, including Ohio Department of Taxation [Information Releases](#) and Commissioner Opinions. However, researchers should be aware that these documents are specific to individual taxpayers.

Overall this was a very informative program, emphasizing free online sources that any library patron would have access to, making it a useful talk for someone working in any type of law library. She also included a handout for attendees with a list of helpful tax law links.

* * *

**“Ohio Legal Help: One Stop Legal Information Platform to Help Ohioans Navigate the Legal System”
by Michelle Graff, Ohio State Supreme Court**

I was excited to receive the ORALL Annual Meeting Grant and attend my very first ORALL Annual Meeting this October. I am new to law librarianship and I found my experience at the ORALL Annual Meeting very instructive. Not only did I get to network with fellow law librarians, I also had the chance to hear many of them speak.

The presentation I was most excited about was, “Ohio Legal Help: One Stop Legal Information Platform to Help Ohioans Navigate the Legal System” by Rachel Harris (Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation), Susan Choe (Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation), and Laura Novelo (Lucas County Law Library). The Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation is a statewide, nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that civil legal aid is available to all low-income Ohioans. They are currently working on launching a website called Ohio Legal Help (ohiolegalhelp.org). The target group is pro se litigants and low-income Ohioans, the focus of the website is civil issues.

When users visit the website they can select a broad topic (eviction, divorce, etc.) and then answer a series of questions to narrow down their issue and receive the needed information or forms. Among the questions asked is what county the user resides in, so any county specific rules or forms are accounted for. Users can opt out of the questions, though, and go directly to the topic pages. The topic pages are intended to function as mini websites.

The website will include forms that can be filled out online. The only down-side is the forms must be filled out in one sitting. However, the presenters mentioned that in the future, users might be able to create profiles and save forms. The website will also include information about finding a lawyer or getting assistance through legal aid.

The presenters also shared with us some of the website user testing they conducted and how what they learned informed their decisions about the website. Did you know that people prefer government websites to be blue? And that people tend to disregard the information that runs down the sides of websites? I didn't either, until this session (the bit about them ignoring the information on the sides of pages wasn't surprising, though).

While a lot of my reference questions come from lawyers and members of the court, I still get a ton of reference questions from people looking for forms and general legal information. These people usually do not have legal backgrounds and sometimes are taking on their own legal issues because they cannot afford an attorney. It is often difficult to find credible, easy to read resources to point these patrons towards. Depending on the county it can also be hard to find forms. This can often lead to frustration, for both myself and the patron. I have high hopes for the Ohio Legal Help website and look forward to being able to share it with patrons.

A soft launch of the website will occur this spring, with the official launch happening August 2019.

* * *

Review of the Lunch Presentation at ORALL 2018, Cincinnati
by Stephanie Ziegler, Moritz Law Library, the Ohio State University

What an enjoyable presentation we had for the lunchtime talk on Thursday! Kevin Grace, University Archivist at the University of Cincinnati, spoke about the history of Shakespeare productions in Cincinnati. One of Mr. Grace's areas of expertise and research is the Bard, and he teaches a course on Shakespeare in the Everyday World. (If you'd like to read some of Mr. Grace's work (in addition to Shakespeare, he writes, speaks, and teaches on folklore, the culture of reading and, of course, rare books), his professional page is here (<https://libraries.uc.edu/arb/about/staff/grace.html>)).

His presentation took a very specific topic and used it to paint a broader picture of the history of the city of Cincinnati as a whole, and beyond that to American social history and its evolution. Mr. Grace introduced listeners not only to the fascinating and quirky personalities and life stories of some of the well-known Shakespearean actors and stage producers of the past, but the audiences of the plays and how they changed over time, as well. One debate of the day was over the social class of the audiences: a few upper-class Cincinnatians performed Shakespeare solely in their own homes, believing Shakespeare was really only meant to be enjoyed by the upper classes; while some actors and producers argued for the continued inclusion of audience members who could only afford the "cheap seats," considering Shakespeare a sort of cultural equalizer.

Not a native of Cincinnati (or Ohio, for that matter!), this was a lovely glimpse into the history of the city and the state. It was fascinating to hear about the Shakespeare productions of old (including at a time when Ohio was considered to be right on the "frontier"!). When we ORALLians converge in different cities and towns for our Meetings, it can be all too easy to stay ensconced at the Meeting: drive in, park at the hotel, drive out two days later. Dine-Arounds help give us a little taste of the city (har), but mostly, we don't have a lot of time for sightseeing and learning more about a new place. (And this is as it should be, given the great lineup of programs at the Meetings!) But presentations like this give ORALL members a little glimpse into the history and culture of a city, whether you are a resident or not. As the Bard said, "pleasure and action make the hours seem short," and one of this Meeting's short hours gave us a small slice of the history that surrounded us. It was the kind of lunchtime program I would love to see every year.

* * *

ORALL Annual Meeting 2018 – Program Write-Up
by Emma MacGuidwin, Moritz Law Library, the Ohio State University

I am very grateful to ORALL for the grant it awarded me to attend this year's Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. As I am a new ORALL member, and this was my first Annual Meeting, I gained valuable insight from every program I attended.

In particular, however, I enjoyed the program *Comparing Local Laws in ORALL States*. Beau Steenken of the University of Kentucky, Sara Sampson of The Ohio State University, and Ashley Ahlbrand of Indiana University, discussed the idiosyncrasies involved in researching local laws within their respective states. Each presenter offered useful insights and strategies and very clearly reminded the audience that not all legal information is available on Westlaw or Lexis, or even available online!

Beau Steenken spoke about the prominence of home rule provisions and the different “classes” of cities in Kentucky. City governments typically operate under one of three models: mayor-council, commission, or city manager. In addition, Louisville and Jefferson County operate as a combined “Metro Government,” and Lexington and Fayette County operate as a consolidated “Urban-County Government.” Kentucky has a fairly large number of counties, 120, primarily because one of the original requirements for setting a county's boundaries was that a person had to be able to travel across the area by horseback in a single day! The process of changing county boundaries is fairly complicated and is set forth in the Kentucky Constitution and the Kentucky Revised Statutes. County governments also perform many services for smaller municipalities.

Sara Sampson explained that in Ohio, county government power is derived from the state government, while city government authority comes from the Ohio Constitution. Thus, municipalities in Ohio are separate legal entities and are not merely subdivisions of the state, and in matters of purely local law, home rule allows local law to trump state law. Ohio is made up of 88 counties, and the General Assembly has the power to change the county boundaries or create new counties. Ohio's counties were originally divided into townships, and cities later formed independently within these townships. Townships may adopt a limited form of home rule government, and townships can also create resolutions and enact building codes.

Ashley Ahlbrand explained that Indiana's Home Rule Act provides the same broad powers to counties, municipalities (cities/towns), and townships. These powers therefore overlap and are separated purely by geographic boundary. A good example is roads; county governments (there are 92 counties) are responsible for the maintenance of county roads, while municipal governments are responsible for the roads within city limits. A town or municipality with a population greater than 2,000 can petition the local governing body to become a

city. Township trustees are often called on to resolve local disputes, such as those arising from an Indiana fencing statute that requires neighboring landowners to share the burden of constructing fences that separate agricultural lands!

Researching local codes and ordinances is not always easy or straightforward. Lexis has current and archived codes for select local governments in each of the ORALL member states. Municode and American Legal Publishing also have select local ordinances for each state available online for free, and many counties and cities post the codes on their websites. For many smaller communities, however, ordinances might not be available online, or a version of the code is online but is not necessarily current. In these situations, researchers would need to contact the county or city clerk's office to obtain copies of local ordinances or find out about changes to the laws, or they might have to read through city council or county commission minutes to determine any changes to local laws.

Finally, the presenters spoke briefly about the availability of secondary sources for researching local law. A few of the prominent Kentucky sources include the Kentucky Legal Research Manual, Caldwell's Kentucky Form Book, and West's Kentucky Practice Series. In Ohio, researchers can refer to Ohio Jurisprudence (the section on counties, townships, and municipal corporations), the Local Government Law series in Baldwin's Ohio Practice, and Ohio Planning and Zoning Law. Other resources are available from the Ohio Municipal League, the County Commissioners Association of Ohio, and the Ohio Township Association. In Indiana, helpful resources include the Indiana Law Encyclopedia, the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Forum (ICLEF) collection, and the resources available from the Indiana Association of County Commissioners and Indiana Conference of Mayors. Also, researchers will undoubtedly find several prominent treatises such as McQuillen: The Law of Municipal Corporations and Antieau on Local Government Law helpful for researching local government law in any state.

This program was enlightening and enjoyable, and I learned a great deal about researching local laws in the ORALL member states. The information would be extremely helpful to any practitioner or law librarian working in these states, as research questions often arise that involve matters of local law.

* * *

Kathy Dugan Receives Second Annual George Baker Distinguished Service Award

by Ashley Ahlbrand, Chair, ORALL Grants Committee

At the ORALL Annual Meeting in October, the Grants Committee was thrilled to bestow this year's George Baker Distinguished Service Award on Kathleen (Kathy) Dugan, Librarian and Chief Administrator of the Cleveland Law Library. Kathy has been an active member of ORALL for many years, serving on several committees, including two stints as co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, chairing the County Law Libraries Special Interest Group, and serving on the Executive Board. In addition, she is active in the Consortium of Ohio County Law Libraries, serving as its secretary since 2009.

In addition to her years of active service to the profession, Kathy's nominators championed her fierce advocacy for law libraries as a particular hallmark of her qualifications for this award. One such advocacy effort involved her unwavering activism in the early 2000's when the future of Ohio county law libraries was in crisis. As one nominator wrote, "During this time, laws were being enacted that would have put most of our law libraries out of business. We had to fight to counteract these laws with new ones in order to protect our future existence.... As a representative for our county law libraries, [Kathy] worked with legislators, judges, commissioners, and the lobbyist to make new laws that would secure the continuation of Ohio county law libraries. Kathy tirelessly monitored the process to ensure that we county law librarians would get a fair shake when the new laws were created." Although those dark years have passed, the nominator continues, Kathy's service in this regard remains constant: "Although those years of turmoil are past, Kathy still remains vigilant – safeguarding the county law libraries with her service as secretary for the Statewide Consortium of Law Library Resources Boards. She keeps a watchful eye out for any matters relating to county law library operations and keeps us all informed of pertinent law library issues."

Kathy's advocacy efforts reach far beyond the protection of Ohio county law libraries, however. As another nominator noted, Kathy was instrumental in the in Ohio's adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA). "Many ORALL members did the legwork to get [UELMA] introduced and finally passed, but at the core of that legislative advocacy was the most important component: relationships. Kathy identified a likely sponsor and, through her networking and long-time, rich relationships, Kathy was pivotal to the ultimate enactment of UELMA. Her thorough knowledge of the legislative process and her connections made a world of difference."

These are only a sampling of the many ways in which Kathy Dugan has demonstrated extraordinary levels of service to ORALL, the profession, and beyond. It is evident that her advocacy and dedication will continue well into the future; the Grants Committee therefore found her more than deserving of the second annual George Baker Distinguished Service Award.

* * *

New ORALLiens at the 2018 ORALL Annual Conference

Once again, this year at prior to the official start of the ORALL Annual Conference there was a small group session available for new ORALLies to attend to try to get a handle on what ORALL is all about. Several “experienced” ORALL Members met with these new members once again to answer any questions. Also, as part of the meeting, new members were asked to get together and do a very brief interview; the findings from these interviews are what you will find below. Hopefully this will help us all get to know our newer members better.

Jan Bissett is currently a librarian at the Arthur Neef Law Library at Wayne State University. Jan was born in California, but moved to Michigan when her father accepted a faculty position at Wayne State University. After studying history as an undergraduate Jan went on to earn a law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law and a masters’ degree in library science from Wayne State University. She worked as a librarian in two different law firms before finding her way to academic law librarianship at Wayne State University. A fun fact about Jan is that she has an identical twin sister!

Kathryn Polgar, a law librarian at the Arthur Neef Law Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan in Economics and Sociology. She then attended law school at the University of Detroit Mercy. In her work life before becoming a law librarian, she did defense work for an insurance company, and worked in a credit union in the compliance and investment department. Perhaps Kathryn’s best pre-library career move may be the 2 years when she and her husband opened an ice cream shop. In addition to earning her MLIS, Kathryn worked at the Neef Law Library as a student library assistant, which led to her position as a Law Librarian at the Neef Law Library. Incidentally, during our meeting at ORALL, Kathryn and I discovered that not only have we both worked for Neef Law Library Director Virginia Thomas, but we also both lived in Besty Barbour while at U-M. It really is a small small world. And, um, Go Blue!

Sarah Starnes is a law librarian at the University of Akron. Sarah grew up in Indiana and earned her B.A. from IPFW and her J.D. from Valparaiso Law School. Sarah knew that she was interested in librarianship even while she was in law school, and she subsequently earned her M.L.S. from IUPUI. While getting her master’s degree, Sarah worked for a public library system in Celebration, Florida, where she lived after graduating from law school. In addition to providing reference services at the Akron Law Library, Sarah teaches Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing and Advanced Legal Research.

Michelle Graff joined the Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library in April 2018 as a Reference Librarian. It is her first law library - she has excited about law librarianship and quickly joined both ORALL and AALL. Michelle had experience in an academic and elementary school library before arriving in Columbus. She has also interned with the National Archives and Records Administration and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library while earning her MLIS from Dominican University. She is loyal to, and an avid fan of, Indiana sports teams including the Pacers and I.U. basketball, being an I.U. Bloomington graduate.

Emma MacGuidwin is an Ohio native, but earned all her degrees in Michigan! She attended the University of Michigan, Michigan State University College of Law, and Wayne State University School of Library & Information Science. After graduating, Emma has worked in a variety of roles including clerking for a federal magistrate judge in Georgia, working as a librarian for a firm in Grand Rapids, and working for the University of Dayton's undergraduate library. She is now a reference librarian at Ohio State University and provides support to the Drug Enforcement & Policy Center. She enjoys spending time with her husband and three young children.

Meet **Amy Kurlansky**, a Cincinnati native and a reference librarian at the Hamilton County Law Library since March of 2018. She has always had a love for libraries and working in them, her first library job was in high school. She continued her library experience while working at the Newberry library at the University of Michigan where she received her bachelor's degree. She went on to the University of Cincinnati Law school and worked at the law library while earning her JD and was inspired at the time to become a law librarian, but before she could do that full time, she was an attorney Guardian Ad Litem, a solo practitioner and worked for a nonprofit, Pro Seniors as an elder law attorney. In addition to her duties as a lawyer, she also worked at the Main branch of the Public library of Cincinnati for the past 8 years. She loves her job and the people she works with. She finds doing research interesting and likes that it keep her busy and engaged.

* * *

A Note from Your Newsletter Editor

Thanks to all who contributed this quarter to the Newsletter. I'm always appreciative of your input and ideas.

Our next newsletter will be published March 2019.

As always, please feel free to send any submissions you feel may be informative and useful to the ORALL Library Community.

As always, if you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, please e-mail me at pvenard1@udayton.edu.