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YOU Get the Law - And YOU Get the Law - And You Get the Law

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From the Editor

YOU Get the Law! And YOU Get the Law! And YOU Get the Law!

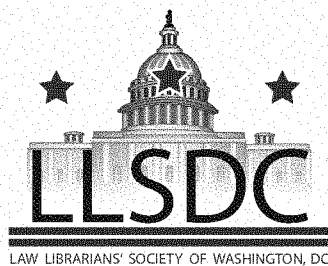
Shannon Roddy

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Happy New Year! The theme of this issue is Access to Justice/Free Law Movement, both of which are hot topics in the legal and library communities. The ABA defines access to justice initiatives as “effort[s] to remove barriers to civil justice for low-income and disadvantaged people.” The free law movement seeks to make legal information (primary and secondary sources) publicly and freely available to everyone. In my mind, these two concepts are inextricably intertwined, and law librarians have a vital role to play in both. I think it’s important for all of us to think about how we can help ensure that everyone who needs it gets access to the law.

In this issue, Khelani Clay, Special Projects Librarian at American University Washington College of Law, provides an overview of the free law movement and encourages law librarians to get involved. Pamela Lipscomb, Director of Library & Research Services at Arent Fox LLP, writes a tribute to Rick McKinney, the leading author of LLSDC’s *Legislative Source Book*, a freely available guide for researching legislative history and administrative law. In his president’s column, Andrew Martin discusses the vital role librarians play in the fight against fake news and misinformation. Matt Zimmerman’s tech column focuses on the future of artificial intelligence (AI) in law libraries and whether it will provide lower-cost



Submission Information

If you would like to write for Law Library Lights, contact Shannon Roddy at roddy@wcl.american.edu. For information regarding submission deadlines and issue themes, visit the LLSDC website at www.llsdc.org.

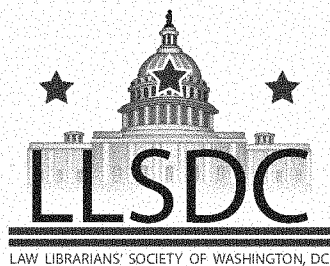


From the Editor, Continued

access to legal information and services. Andy Lang reviews Bryan Stevenson's memoir, *Just Mercy*, about his experience founding the Equal Justice Initiative and representing clients on death row.

If you would like to learn more about access to justice issues, consider participating in LLSDC's Access to Justice Committee. In December, the committee hosted the AALL Advocacy Update Meeting, where AALL Director of Government Relations Emily Feltren spoke about opportunities for law librarian advocacy in the new congress and new administration. Past projects of the committee include helping the DC Access to Justice Commission research how law schools can include access to justice topics in their curricula and hosting Dave Pantzer from the Maryland People's Law Library. You may also want to check out AALL's 2014 report, Law Libraries and Access to Justice, which details opportunities for law librarians to provide access to justice.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Please consider contributing to one of our next issues. The theme for the spring issue is The Law Library of the Future, and the summer theme is Year-End Round Up & AALL Conference Preview. We welcome articles on those subjects or on anything else you want to write about. ■



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