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Michigan Association of Law Libraries

President's Column

*By Joan Byerly, MichALL President and
US Courts Law Librarian*

Recently, I was asked to obtain a relatively obscure commentary on one of the Hague Conventions. After making the request, the person asking for it said, "I really don't expect that you will find this, but I think it might be useful so I called, just in case."

This exchange made me wonder just what are the expectations of those who seek information from me. How many times am I not asked a question because someone assumes I can't find the information? By providing web pages and links to information am I giving the impression that it is all out there on the web my friend - now don't bother me with your problems?

One of the joys of being a reference librarian is finding obscure information. The hunt is half the fun of the discovery. It used to be that most of the questions I received were relatively easy; now the questions that come to me usually have been posed to at least one internet search engine, run through Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis (as appropriate) and thoroughly considered before coming my way.

This usually means that the questions are more difficult, but when the information is presented to the requestor, he or she thinks I am a genius, or at least is grateful. But have I been missing the point, have I been busy selling people on all the things we can provide them on their desktop and forgetting to sell the most important part of the library - the minds of its staff?

In other words have I concentrated so much on the technical aspects that I have forgotten what is really important? Have I become the enemy?

Perhaps I'm not alone in this. Perhaps, we as librarians, in our rush to embrace new technology have created new problems for ourselves, or enhanced the problems that were already there. I know that I need to go back to basics, get out from behind this computer and make sure I am keeping in touch with my clientele and their information problems. I need to let them know that while I will continue to encourage and enhance their ability to find information I will also be there to lead them in their pursuit of information, provide my expertise and yes answer their questions.

Oh, by the way, I found the Hague commentary at an out-of-state academic institution and had the information in the requestor's hands in 30 minutes. And her comment was "WOW!"

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Meet Ave Maria: A New Michigan Law School and Library



By Mitch Counts, Director, Ave Maria School of Law Library

The Ave Maria School of Law grew out of a convergence of thought between Professor Steve Safranek and Dominos' Pizza founder Tom Monaghan to create a new Catholic faith-based law school. Timing couldn't have been better – in 1998, Mr. Monaghan was in the process of selling 93% of his shares in Dominos' Pizza for 1 billion dollars. He eventually gave \$50 million to the Ave Maria Law School to begin operations, and the school was officially created in April 1999.

Ave Maria's goal is to educate preeminent lawyers while remaining true to the Catholic faith. So, as with any first-rate law school, Ave Maria will train first-rate lawyers who can analyze, write, articulate and argue successfully. The difference is that Ave Maria graduates will also understand that at its core, law is inextricably linked with morality and will believe in objective truth, a belief that right and wrong are things that transcend even the power of the majority. The school operates from the premise that law cannot and should not be separated from morality, and that law and morality interact within the Catholic intellectual tradition through the concept of natural law. Catholic natural law tradition holds that civil law must ultimately be judged by a higher moral code.

Thus, Ave Maria trained lawyers will stop and consider the moral consequences of law and will be

interested in doing the right thing rather than being interested in just winning and losing. They will go through the thought processes of "yes, I can take this case, I can represent this client, but should I?" and "I can make this defense, but should I?"

What the Ave Maria School of Law is all about is best summed up by a member of its 16 member Board of Governors, Archbishop Chaput of Denver, Colorado when he said, "renewing the soul of American law is a worthy goal."

The Library

With only one semester completed in the Law School's history, today the Ave Maria Law School Library already houses more than 250,000 volumes and volume equivalents, and is fully wired for direct network access in all of its study areas. Believing that the library is the intellectual heart of the law school experience, the collection is particularly strong in Canon Law, Catholic social thought, the U.S. Supreme Court, Criminal Justice and Michigan Law.

Since Ave Maria is not affiliated with a college or university on the same campus, the Law Library has numerous titles in the non-law social science and humanities areas as well. Our goal is to have 500,000 volumes and volume equivalents within the next five years. In particular, we are placing emphasis on the emerging areas of law such as Cyberlaw, E-commerce, Bioethics and Elder Law.

The library is housed in a 27,500 square foot area and has seating for 281 patrons. It has 22 computer terminals located in two computer labs, one of which is a training lab where students are taught the latest Computer-Assisted Legal Research Systems. Seven group study rooms offer areas for group projects and collaborative work. Every study table and student carrel is wired for direct network access allowing

students to use their laptop computers to access the same electronic resources found in the two computer labs. Additionally, as a student-friendly environment, food and drink are allowed everywhere in the library except the computer labs.

Student Body

Ave Maria School of Law's inaugural class includes seventy-four men and women from thirty-one states and Canada, representing thirty-nine undergraduate institutions. The students possess median LSAT's of 158 (78-80th percentile) and average undergraduate GPA's of 3.33. These credentials are similar to those of students at law schools ranked in the top 25% by U.S. News and World Report. Many students come to Ave Maria School of Law after receiving graduate degrees, or enjoying successful careers as accountants, engineers, salespersons, social workers, educators, or military officers. The ultimate goal is to have a student body of 450 students with a student/faculty ratio of 14 to 1.

The Ave Maria School of Law has every intention of becoming ABA accredited the very first time it is eligible to do so. The goal will be to not only meet but exceed every ABA standard and requirement during the accreditation process. Any law school must be in operation for one full year before it is eligible for an accreditation site visit by the American Bar Association. Thus, Ave Maria will make application for this purpose in spring 2001.

Announcements

New Library Director Named

Professor Charles Ten Brink has recently been appointed as the Director of Library and Technology Services for Michigan State University - Detroit

College of Law by Dean Terence Blackburn. Prof. Ten Brink received his BS from Michigan State University (Phi Beta Kappa, 1976), and his JD (Cum Laude, 1979) and his MLS (Phi Beta Mu, 1985) from the University of Michigan.

With the University of Chicago D'Angelo Law Library since 1985, he currently serves as Associate Law Librarian and Lecturer in Law. Prof. Ten Brink is admitted to practice law in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Florida and various federal courts. His professional membership activities include committee work with the American Association of Law Libraries and the Chicago Association of Law Libraries. At the 2001 AALL Annual Convention, he will present a program on Trends in Services to Law Faculty. The entire library staff is

extremely pleased with Chuck's appointment. As you can imagine, Chuck is very busy with the relocation process, but we hope to welcome him to his new position by mid-March. ~*Hildur Hanna, Acting Director, MSU-DCL Law Library.*

County Law Library Survey

The State Bar Committee on Libraries, Legal Research & Publications, which meets quarterly, is made up of interested attorneys and six librarians (MichALL members) who serve as Advisory Members. A re-occurring topic that is now a priority on its project list is concern for access to the state's County Law Libraries.

The committee has decided to do a survey to determine where county law libraries in Michigan are located, who controls them, what materials they have, what services (if any) are available, etc. The committee has agreed to ask the State Bar for funds to conduct the survey, which will probably be sent to County Chief Judges and the presidents of the County Bar Associations. If you are interested in working on this project, or have any suggestions, please contact Carol A. Parker, Chairperson of the Committee at parkerc3@msu.edu or Kathy Vance, Advisory Member at vancek@mjsc.com. ~ *Kathy Vance, Advisory Member and law librarian, Miller Johnson Snell & Cummiskey PLC.*

2001 MichALL Annual Meeting: A Celebration of the Past and the Future at the Henry Ford Estate!

The year 2001 marks MichALL's silver (25th) anniversary. This year's meeting will give us the opportunity to reflect upon our association's beginning and development through the years, and also to look back upon some of our state's institutions as well.

The 2001 annual meeting will be held on **May 4, 2001** at the historical Henry Ford Estate in Dearborn. The Estate, a National Historic Landmark on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is the former home of automaker Henry Ford and his wife Clara. The Fords lived at the Estate from 1915 until their deaths in 1947 and 1950. (Visit the [website http://www.umd.umich.edu/fairlane](http://www.umd.umich.edu/fairlane) to find out more about it.) We will meet in the Music Room which features an immense hand-carved fireplace of Italian walnut and marble.

Our program will center around the Michigan Supreme Court--it's past and future. The Education Committee is working on arrangements for 1 or 2 former Justices who will reflect upon aspects of the court's past. Future issues facing the Court will be addressed as well. There will be a celebration of MichALL's anniversary and our day will close with a tour of the estate. The grounds should be beautiful in May!

Please mark your calendars and watch for further announcements on MichALL's web site and listserv. We hope you plan to share the day with us! ~ **Mary Karpinski, Vice President/President Elect**

MichAll - AALL News Briefs

MICHALL AND ORALL TO MEET IN MINNEAPOLIS

Last year the ORALL/MichALL gathering was a huge success as a luncheon. This year MichALL is celebrating it's 25th anniversary and another large turnout is expected. Don't forget to block 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Tuesday July 17, 2001 for the annual MICHALL/ORALL Luncheon at the AALL annual conference in Minneapolis, MN. The early registration cost will be \$20.00. You will be able to catch up on the news about old friends and even meet some new ones. If you have any questions about the luncheon please contact Kathleen Gamache at Clark Hill, P.L.C. by phone at 313-965-8277 or by e-mail at kgamache@clarkhill.com

MichALL announces 2001 Travel Grant to American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Meeting

This year, MichALL is once again offering a travel grant for five-hundred dollars (\$500) to assist with expenses incurred for travel to the AALL Annual Meeting. MichALL is also eligible for an AALL grant to cover the cost of one full registration to the AALL annual meeting in Minneapolis. Therefore, the travel grant will be combined with the AALL grant and both will be awarded to a MichALL member selected from applications received.

Completed applications must be postmarked, faxed or e-mailed by Friday, April 20, 2001. The successful applicant will be notified by Friday, May 4, 2001.

The recipient will be asked to write an article for the MichALL Newsletter about his or her conference/annual meeting experience. Please send your completed application to the Chair of the Nominations Committee:

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Michigan Association of Law Libraries Board Meeting

Held October 11, 2000 at 2:00 p.m. Cooley Law School Library, Lansing, Michigan. In attendance were Joan Byerly, Eric Kennedy, Duane Strojny, Kathleen Gamache, and Michele Howard (via speakerphone). Also in attendance were Jenny Upham (Membership) and Ardena Walsh (Pro Bono). Absent were Mary Karpinski and Rita Marsala.

1. Minutes.

The minutes of the August meeting were discussed and are in the process of being compiled.

2. Treasurer's Report.

Michelle gave the treasurer's report. As of October 11, 2000, MichALL has \$8,943.31 in the bank. There are currently 69 paid members, with 4 of them being new this year.

3. Old Business

A. Newsletter.

Andrea Muto, Lexis-Nexis, has agreed to be our newsletter editor. There is a newsletter going out this week that is being compiled by Duane. Barbara Taylor at Plunkett and Sharon Bradley at Cooley had different types of software to forward to Andrea to help her with the newsletter. Michael Samson will work with Mary Lou Calvin concerning formatting the newsletter for format and placing past issues on the Web. The Board decided that there should still be four issues per year, but only two would need to be hard copies with other issues appearing in Web format only.

B. Web Site.

The Board previewed a draft of the site. We will try to encourage listserv subscription via a link on the site. There is a skeleton setup ready with more information being added in the near future. The password for the membership directory is "directory". The database will contain only work information to avoid home addresses (some members have mailings go to their home address). The wording and enforcement of a privacy policy is up to the Board to decide, and limited access to membership information is comparable to what is available through AALLNet and other sites. We will also include an application for membership, brief Michigan legal research, and listserv instructions on our site with everything being posted in the next two weeks. Jenny asked for contact to committee chairs to be not links. Also, other things to add include background information on MichALL, a link to AALL events, and phone numbers to relevant offices.

C. Education Committee

Mary Karpinski was not present, but reports progress was being made for the 2001 annual meeting. At this time, it would likely take place in Lansing.

D. Bylaws

Kathleen sent out an e-mail to all past MichALL presidents still in the state. There was already one meeting of the group and a second one set up for October 18, 2000.

E. Where we are . . .

Joan passed out 1999 survey results. Among items surveyed for importance were the membership directory and education programs with the annual meeting and networking rounding out the top group. She reminded that we should be focused in trying to meet the needs of our members.

4. New Business

A. November Dinner –

The dinner will be held on November 9, 2000 at Weber's Inn at 6:30 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Our speaker will be someone from the new Ave Maria College of Law.

B. AALL Information

There will be a TELE-conference in UCITA on December 13th. The cost will be \$350 for each of the first three sites. The different sites that we could consider to host the event are Wayne State in Detroit, someplace in Grand Rapids, and either MSU-DCL, Lansing Community College, or the Library of Michigan in Lansing. We should also contact SLA and ASIS of Michigan about their plans to sponsor sites.

Kathleen has agreed to co-ordinate and work with ORALL about the MichALL/ORALL event at AALL. It is MichALL's year to set things up.

C. Membership

Jenny will contact Library student members and library schools to inform them about our plan to waive dues. The board is in favor for 2000-2001 and looking at the effect any loss of revenue would have. We also should look to more law firms and librarians employed by prisons for additional members. The new student category would allow for eligible students to be members for two years without any dues. Some members might be opposed to allowing student members voting rights, but the Board wants to encourage participation and this might be one of

the best ways to do it.

D. Pro Bono

Joan will forward membership list to Ardena so she can find volunteers. Ardena will also work with the State Bar Pro Bono group.

Adjourned 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Duane Strojny, Secretary.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries Submitted by Kathleen Gamache

In order for the association to best serve its members it is necessary to review the Constitution and if necessary update it. The Constitution for the Michigan Association of Law Libraries was last updated in 1993. The following changes have been proposed and accepted by the Executive Board. At MichALL’s annual meeting on May 4th the following changes will be voted on by the membership. Language to be removed is underlined and in parentheses. New language is in **bold**

1. Change acronym:

Rational: Our old acronym included a slash. To avoid confusion in the age of the Internet it is easier to identify the organization without using a slash.

CONSTITUTION OF *(Mich/ALL)* MichALL MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

As Amended to _____

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this Association shall be Michigan Association of Law Libraries (Mich/ALL) MichALL.

2. Change Membership classes and eligibility:

Rational: In order to include all persons interested in law libraries and law librarianship it is proposed the active member category be expanded to include anyone interested in law libraries and their promotion. After expanding the active member category the institutional/associate membership category is no longer necessary. It is proposed that a new student membership category be adopted in order to promote the participation of law students and/or library school students who may have an interest to the law library profession. The nondiscrimination clause is expanded to include sexual orientation and disability.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES.

B. There shall be three classes of membership:

2. *Active Members.* Any person officially connected with a law library, state library or a general library having a separately maintained law section, or who (has had such connection within the past three years may become an active member upon payment of dues.) **has an active interest in law libraries and their promotion.**

3. (Institutional/associate) Student Members. Any (law firm, company or individual may become an Institutional/associate member upon payment of dues.) **individual attending an accredited law or library school with the intention of entering the profession of law librarianship may become a student member for 2 years upon submitting a membership application.** (Institutional/associate members may attend meetings, serve on committees, be listed in the directory. Institutional/associate members may not vote or hold office.)

D. Membership or activity in the Association shall not be denied to any person on account of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (or), age, **sexual orientation or disability.**

3. Change time when officers shall begin their term of office:

Rational: The election of officers has traditionally taken place just before our annual meeting. The annual meeting is held in the spring. The lag time between our annual meeting and the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries is too long. In order for a successful transition to take place the new officers should officially take over at the end of the annual meeting of the Michigan Association of Law Libraries.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS.

B. Terms of Office.

1. *President.* The Vice President/President Elect shall become President of the Association at the close of the Annual Meeting of the (American) Michigan Association of Law Libraries one year following his or her election as Vice President/President Elect and shall serve a term of one year, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution. The Association's year shall be coterminous with the normal term of the President of the Association.

2. *Vice President/President Elect.* The Vice President/President Elect of the Association shall assume office at the close of the Annual Meeting of the (American) Michigan Association of Law Libraries following his or her election and shall serve a term of one year, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

3. *Secretary.* The Secretary of the Association shall assume office at the close of the Annual Meeting of the (American) Michigan Association of Law Libraries following his or her election and shall serve a term of two years, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

4. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer of the Association shall assume office at the close of the Annual Meeting of the (American) Michigan Association of Law Libraries following his or her election and shall serve a term of two years, except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD.

F. Terms of Office.

3. *At-Large Members.* At-large Executive Board Members shall assume office at the close of the Annual Meeting of the (American) Michigan Association of Law Libraries following his or her election and shall serve as term of two years.

4. Change the procedure for filling vacancies in the offices of Secretary and Treasurer:

Rational: It is a time consuming and expensive process to hold an election. The proposal will allow the board to appoint a replacement if the offices of either secretary or treasurer become vacant before the end of the term of office. A vacancy in the Vice President/President elect position will continue to require an election.

ARTICLE IX. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS.

B. Vacancies and Special Elections.

3. *Secretary.* In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary, the Executive Board will (elect) **appoint** a new Secretary to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

4. *Treasurer.* In the event that a vacancy occurs in the office of Treasurer, the Executive Board will (elect) **appoint** a new Treasurer to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

5. Amendment procedures:

Rational: The amendment process can take a very long time. In order to keep the delays to a minimum it is suggested that the time to submit a proposal to the board be changed to thirty days before an executive board meeting. At the last few annual meetings the organization has barely met the quorum requirement. In order to encourage as much participation as possible proposed changes in the Constitution should take place by mail ballot.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS.

Editor's Notes . . . by Andrea Muto.

Tell me something I don't know. In fact, tell **us** – the Michigan Association of Law Libraries – something we don't know. Your prose doesn't have to be an in-depth study (although article-length submissions are always encouraged!). Why not contribute a brief, a few lines, a picture perhaps – something you can add to make sure the MichALL newsletter not only survives, but also thrives!

Let me help get your literary wheels turning.

The **May 2001** issue will be a new **Technology** issue. Do you use a PDA? A Blackberry? A digital or wireless this-or-that? Another tech device meant to make your work or personal life easier? Tell us about it!! Share a brief review – what you have, how it works and whether or not you'd recommend it.

The **May 2001** issue will also include two new columns:

- **Favorite resources.** Tell us what you use and why – print or electronic, a certain web site or service. Send along a couple of lines to highlight trusted and valuable library resources you couldn't do without.
- **Reader's column.** Have you had time to read any good books lately? Have you had time to read anything lately? Whether reading for work or for fun, send along your reader's recommendations.

Deadline for the May 2001 issue will be Monday, May 7. Please send your newsletter submissions to Andrea Muto, andrea.muto@lexis-nexis.com. **Happy National Library Week!**