

It's hard to believe that our 2019 Spring Education Meeting is just around the corner. The theme for this year's program is *Sharing and Access*, and we've put together an agenda that includes timely topics and top-notch presenters. Our featured speakers are: Michelle Wu, Associate Dean for Library Services and Professor of Law at Georgetown University, who will be speaking on controlled digital lending; Clare Membiela, from the Library of Michigan, who will be discussing Michigan library laws; and AALL executive board member, Greg Lambert, Chief Knowledge Services Officer at Jackson Walker, who will be providing updates on what's happening at AALL. The meeting is set for May 17, at the Michigan State University College of Law in East Lansing. I hope you can join us for this event!

This was a noteworthy year for MichALL, highlighted by significant accomplishments, continuing collaborations, and unexpected transitions. In terms of accomplishments, our efforts in helping pass the Michigan Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA) paid off and on December 24, 2018 former Governor Snyder signed UELMA into law. If you'd like to read more about the passage of UELMA see the article by Marlene Coir and myself published elsewhere in the newsletter.

MichALL continued its advocacy efforts by submitting a letter to the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals supporting greater electronic access to briefs and applications filed in Michigan's appellate courts. The letter is part of an initiative started by the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar of Michigan to promote online access to briefs and applications filed in the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court. Hopefully, we will see this initiative move forward over the next few years.

The MichALL fall education meeting at the Michigan State University College of Law was a great success. Our featured speaker was law Professor Carla Reyes who discussed block chain technology and its impact on the practice of law and legal education.

We have many exciting events planned for the next year, not the least of which is our joint conference with the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries. The conference is scheduled for October 23-25 at Kalahari Waterpark and Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio and the theme for the joint conference is *Make a Splash: Advocate, Educate, Innovate*. We should have more information for you about programming and accommodations by mid-summer.

As I formally transition into the role of MichALL president, I have several projects that I'd like to pursue over the next year. One is to finalize the transition to our new website. We've been running two separate MichALL websites for quite some time. Aside of the confusion created by hosting two websites, we've also been dealing with a website that is technologically obsolete and needs to be retired. Our new website is simple and modern and best of all it works! You can access the new website here: <http://www.mich-all.org/>.

Over the last 5 years MichALL's membership took a significant hit, dropping from 80 members to just 40 in 2019. This reduction in force has had a significant impact on our ability to staff committees therefore I have two goals related to our membership changes. One is to explore

creative ways to recruit and retain members. The other is to revisit and streamline our committee structure so that we can play to our strengths and focus on serving our members. It's a lot to accomplish in one year, but with any luck we will be able to make some progress on these goals over the next year.

I'd like to conclude the President's message by recognizing former MichALL president, Laura Mancini. As many of you know, Laura stepped down from her position as MichALL President at the beginning of 2019. She was offered a position as the Northville District Library Director, which she happily accepted, and decided to resign from the MichALL board to focus her attention and energies on her new position. We certainly miss Laura's dedicated leadership, and we wish her well in her new endeavors.