

# RIPS-SIS Annual Report

2019-2020

## Executive Board Report

Genevieve Tung, Chair	Taryn Marks, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Ashley Ahlbrand, Immediate Past Chair	Clanitra Stewart Nejd, Secretary/Treasurer
Zanada Joyner, Member at Large	Karen Skinner, Member at Large

Despite the unexpected challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section (RIPS-SIS) had a fruitful year. This report will summarize the activities of the executive board, followed by reports of individual committees.

### Renaming the RIPS Publication Award in Honor of Paul Gatz

Paul Gatz served on the RIPS-SIS Executive Board and was a wonderful friend and colleague, as well as a devoted husband and father. After a year-long struggle with cancer, Paul passed away in January 2020. Many of his colleagues at the Ohio State Moritz Law Library, and other friends in our community, have shared their [thoughts and remembrances of Paul](#) on the RIPS Law Librarian Blog, where Paul published many excellent commentaries. The Executive Board voted to re-name the RIPS Publication Award in Paul's honor; the award will now be known as the Paul Gatz RIPS-SIS Publication Award.

### Continued work of the Membership Task Force

Entering its second year, the Board has continued to support the Membership Task Force in completing its duties assigned by the current Strategic Plan. The Board approved the Task Force to continue its work in 2020-2021 to suggest and implement changes to fulfill member needs as described in our 2020 MTF Survey. More details follow below.

### Shifting to a Remote Annual Meeting Format



# Committee Reports

## Grants

### **Committee Members:**

Marty Witt, Chair

Rebecca Mattson, Vice-Chair

Susan Azyndar

Iain Barksdale

Dan Brackmann

Matt Cooper

Matthew Flyntz

Sarah Kammer

Shira Megerman

Jill Sturgeon

Colleen Williams

### I. RIPS-SIS Leadership Academy Grant

In early January 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Leadership Academy grant, with a deadline of February 10, 2020. The Leadership Academy was originally scheduled to occur in Illinois in April 2020. The committee received two applications for one available grant, not to exceed \$500. The two applications were reviewed and Casandra Laskowski was selected by the committee as the grant recipient, based on the total of the numerical scores assigned by committee members using the evaluation matrix. On March 4, 2020, the offer of the grant was made to Casandra Laskowski, who accepted.

Due to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Leadership Academy did not occur.

grants to all 5 applicants: Sarah Starnes, Eileen Santos, Lori Corso, Jennifer Dixon, and Geraldine Kalim. These recipients were notified by email of their selection for grants on June 22, 2020.

Because over \$3500 in grant funding remained available, the committee, after consulting with the RIPS-SIS Executive Board, announced they would continue to receive and review applications on a rolling basis until July 8, 2020. All recipients who completed the application and who were verified as a RIPS-SIS member would be awarded a \$99 grant so long as funds were still available as of the date they applied. Committee Chair Marty Witt reviewed the applications, verified applicants' membership status, and notified the recipients without further involvement of the committee. Three grants were awarded to the following recipients in this manner: Judy Davis, Zanada Joyner, and Erin Grimes. One application (from Itunu Sofidiya) was received past the July 8, 2020 deadline, but the committee agreed to consider the application and award a grant to Itunu.

In total, 9 grants in the amount of \$99 were awarded for a total of \$891. As such, \$3109 in funds were rolled over to the 2020-2021 RIPS-SIS Annual Meeting grant fund.

### III. RIPS-SIS Service Award

In early April 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Service Award. The deadline was set for May 1, 2020. On May 1, due to the small number of applicants, the deadline was extended to May 11, 2020. On May 13, 2020, the committee met by conference call and selected Alyson Drake as the recipient of the award. On May 15, 2020, Alyson was notified that she had received the award. The formal announcement was made at the June 24, 2020 RIPS-SIS Annual Business Meeting.

### IV. RIPS-SIS Publication Award

In early April 2020, the committee posted a call for applications for the RIPS-SIS Publication Award. The deadline was set for May 1, 2020. On May 1, due to the small number of applicants, the deadline was extended to May 11, 2020. On May 13, 2020 the committee met by conference call to review applications and selected Rena Seidler as the recipient of the Publication Award. Ms. Seidler was not immediately notified of the award, due to the pending decision by the RIPS-SIS Executive Board to rename the award in honor of the late Paul Gatz. Ms. Seidler was notified by email of her receipt of the award on June 15, 2020 and the formal announcement was made at the June 24, 2020 RIPS-SIS Annual Business meeting. Between June 15 and June 24, 2020, Susan Azyndar and Matt Cooper of the committee drafted language for the RIPS-SIS website for the new RIPS-SIS Paul Gatz Publication Award and the new language was published to coincide with the RIPS-SIS Annual Business Meeting.





## Membership Task Force

### Members:

Genevieve Tung, Chair  
Ashley Ahlbrand  
Shari Berkowitz  
Shawn Friend  
Malikah Hall  
Becky Mattson  
Kristen R. Moore  
Jason Zarin  
Annmarie Zell

The Membership Task Force focused its work this year on designing and running a survey of the RIPS-SIS membership, as required by our current strategic plan, to get an idea of members' impressions of the SIS, their expectations, and their preferences.

### The Survey

The survey was comprised of 14 questions, seeking information about RIPS' members careers, their SIS engagement, what they liked about RIPS, and what RIPS could do better. The questions, summarized for brevity, were as follows:

1. Are you a RIPS member?
2. What law library type that best describes your workplace [list of choices]
3. Please select the role description that best matches your job [Public services, Technical services, or other]
4. How long have you been working in/with law libraries or legal information? [range of years]
5. Has your job description or your daily work changed significantly in the past five years? [Yes/No]
- 6.

A large majority of respondents identified themselves as academics, with 92 working in either public or private academic libraries. 11 respondents identified as government and court librarians. 6 respondents identified as law firm librarians or working in private law libraries.

Most respondents work in public services (103) as compared to technical services (6). The majority of respondents have been working in the profession 8 years or longer (76). Only 13 have been in the profession for 3 years or fewer.

When asked if there has been a significant change in daily work in the past five years the results were split with 53 saying, "yes" and 51 saying, "no." Among those who had experienced changes in their daily work, the most common responses focused on:

- Taking on new managerial positions or receiving a promotion;
- Jobs that had become more technical in nature, involving electronic resources or technology;
- Increased teaching responsibilities.

Some respondents mentioned they were doing more research, while others mentioned doing less. Others are still dealing with taking on more responsibilities without promotion due to budget cuts and





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22 Other  
9 Vendors

## Nominations

### **Committee Members:**

Kimberly Mattioli, Chair  
Alyson Drake, Vice-Chair  
Kathy Darvil  
Rachel Green  
Deborah Heller  
Colleen Williams

The committee had two positions to fill on the RIPS Executive Board: Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large. After calls for nominations, the committee had difficulty finding RIPS members willing to run for the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect position. As a result, the current Executive Board voted to allow the committee to deviate from the bylaws and have an unopposed contest for that position. The final slate presented to the membership was: Rebecca Mattson for Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Mark Williams and Nicole Downing for Member-at-Large.

The election opened on February 17, 2020 and closed on March 2, 2020. The election results were announced to the membership on March 4, 2020. Rebecca Mattson was elected as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and Nicole Downing was elected as Member-at-Large.

The committee received several nominations for RIPS members who ended up being unable to commit to serving as Executive Board members. To help with this issue, future Nominations Committees may want to find ways to encourage RIPS members to self-nominate for Executive Board positions.

## Online Training

### **Committee Members:**

Shira Megerman, Chair

Matt Timko, Vice-Chair

Rebecca Bryan

Sarah Gotschall

## Patron Services

### **Committee Members:**

Nicole Dyszlewski, Chair

Matt Cooper, Vice Chair

Deanna Barmakian

Kate E. Britt

Tracy Eaton

Paul Gatz

Rachel Gordon

Katie Hanschke

Alisha Hennen

Gail Mathapo

Gail McDonald

Kristen R. Moore

Matthew Neely

Kelly Reynolds

Jenny Zook

In November 2019, the committee hosted a webinar,



## Public Relations & Recruitment

### **Committee Members:**

Cassandra Patterson, Chair

Emma Wood, Vice-Chair

Ashley Ahlbrand

Jessica Almeida

Iain Barksdale

Kate E. Britt

Catherine Chick

Ana Delgado

Shari Berkowitz Duff

Rachel Green

Sarah Gotschall

The Public Relations and Recruitment Committee has carried out our charge for the 2019-2020 session by maintaining an active Facebook and Twitter presence, as well as planning and engaging in recruitment efforts for the SIS.

We are continuing to promote the work of RIPS members and SIS events as the AALL Virtual Annual approaches and are hoping to draw a spotlight to RIPS with virtual #AALL20 coverage on Twitter and Facebook. The RIPS poster, ribbons, stickers, and buttons for the live annual are in Cassandra's office. She will ensure that all materials are ready for the virtual annual.



## Research Instruction

### **Committee Member:**

Clanitra Stewart NejdI, Chair  
Robin C. Schard, Vice-Chair  
Meredith Capps  
Khelani Clay  
Cheryl Kelly Fischer  
Rebecca Fordon  
David Haendler  
Heather Joy  
Shannon Kemen  
Kelly Leong  
Adam Mackie  
Taryn Marks  
Savanna Nolan  
Cassandra Patterson  
Theresa Tarves  
Julie Tedjeske  
Matt Timko

This year, the RIPS-SIS Research Instruction Committee was extremely busy and accomplished quite a bit. This report contains a brief overview of the Committee's activities this year. As a reminder, the Research Instruction Committee has two primary charges: to provide research instruction resources through well-organized and user-friendly formats and to select topics and moderators for roundtables at the Annual Meeting.

### **I. Committee Charge #1 – Provision of Research Instruction Resources**

To satisfy the first charge, the Committee has traditionally created legal research text reviews to provide RIPS-SIS members with an overview of available textbooks covering a variety of topics related to legal research. The Committee has continued with this tradition this year. Since the latter half of the 2018-2019, however, this Committee has also been creating legal research article summaries to provide overviews of seminal and newly-published articles on legal research to those members who may not have had the time or inclination read them. This year is the first full year in which the Committee has produced both legal research text reviews and legal research article summaries.

This year, the Committee participated in two rounds of drafting the text reviews and article summaries. Round 1 lasted from July 2019 through December 2019. During Round 1, there were 10 legal research texts reviews and 34 legal research articles summaries created. Round 2 lasted from January 2020 through May 2020. During Round 2, there were 4 legal research texts reviews and 29 legal research articles summaries created. Adding in the previously created text reviews and article summaries, there are now a grand total of 92 legal research text reviews and 106 legal research article summaries, all of which are available online at

the RIPS-SIS website. Legal research text reviews can be found at <https://www.aallnet.org/ripssis/resources-publications/legal-research-text-reviews/> and legal research





Next steps: Review process for responding to submissions. Further publicize availability of form. Annually assign liaison to RIPS PR Committee. Review policy as necessary.

**Task: Create a record of RIPS scholarship.**

Report: Process begun; the submissions to the RIPS Scholarship Reporting Form are automatically entered into a spreadsheet stored on the committee's Google Drive.

## RIPS Law Librarian Blog – Editor’s Summary

**Malikah Hall, RIPS Blog Editor**

The RIPS Blog finished strong in 2019. We had 53,425 total views, 30,779 visitors, and 94 posts. As of June 2020, we’ve already had 22000+ views and over 13,000 visitors with 36 posts. The

