

Annual Report 2016-2017

Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)

The LLAM officers for 2016-2017 were CJ Pippins, President; Julia Viets, Vice President/President-Elect; Pat Behles, Secretary; Thea Warner, Treasurer; Elizabeth Lukes and Joe Neumann, Board Members; and James Durham, Past President.

This year marks LLAM's 35th anniversary as an AALL chapter.

LLAM held a variety of programs, including educational programs, social events, a Maryland Legislative Day, and a volunteer day. The social events were remunerative for the chapter and the Spring Fling collected an additional \$110 in donations for Maryland Legal Aid, a pro bono nonprofit.

LLAM's educational programs focused on a variety of topics that included Supreme Court mapping, a National Agricultural Library Special Collections tour, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) training, and legal cataloging training. One of the most successful programs was March's ASD training. At this well-received program, Pathfinders for Autism speakers provided LLAM members with considerations and strategies for working with and serving ASD individuals.

Maryland Legislative Day in February 2017 led to LLAM's biggest success—the culmination of a multi-year effort to pass the Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA). This act takes a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensure that official online legal materials will have the same level of trustworthiness as official print publications. On the day, LLAM partnered with the Maryland Library Association (MLA) to visit legislators in person to advocate for UELMA as well as a bill to make the Division of Library Development and Services (DLDS) a separate agency from the Department of Education. Thanks to LLAM's and MLA's work, UELMA was unanimously passed in both houses and signed into law in May 2017. The DLDS bill was also passed with some amendments.

Preceding Maryland Legislative Day, several LLAM members testified in support of UELMA before the Maryland General Assembly: Mary Jo Lazun, Director of the Charles County Public Law Library; Joan Bellistri, Director of the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Law Library; and Steve Anderson, Director of the Maryland State Law Library. Chi Song, Discovery Services Librarian at the Maryland State Law Library, also contributed to the UELMA efforts.

This year, several LLAM members were recognized for their service to their profession or community. In December 2016, Joan Bellistri was awarded the Willian L. Marbury Outstanding Advocate Award by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. This award is given to a non-attorney who demonstrates outstanding service representing the civil legal needs of low-income Marylanders or by expanding access to justice. In June 2017, Steve Anderson received the Mersky Spirit of Law Librarianship Award. This award recognizes individual law librarians engaged in significant acts of charitable work or community or social service. A special mention also goes to Kirstin Nelson, a law librarian for the National Agricultural Library, who was interviewed in June 2017 by the Law Library of Congress blog, *In Custodia Legis*.

Submitted by Julia Viets, LLAM President 2017-2018