

## Self-Represented Litigation Network Public Libraries and Access to Justice

### Faculty Biographies

**Melissa Barr** started in the legal field in 1980 and worked in a variety of positions - records maintenance clerk, paralegal, bankruptcy liaison clerk, legal secretary, recruiting coordinator, and law library assistant before returning to graduate school for her MLS. In 1999 she became the Legal Resources Specialist for Cuyahoga County Public Library, providing legal reference services, librarian training, and collection development for the library system. As a member of the American Association of Law Libraries, Melissa has served on the Government Relations Committee and been a member of several special interest groups (State, Court and County; Research Instruction and Patron Services; and Legal Information Services to the Public). Melissa is also a member of the SRLN Librarian Working Group. After recent budget cuts, the Library system revised its mission and eliminated most of the subject specialties, including the legal resources position. Melissa is currently a Collection Development Specialist for the library system.

**Katherine Bladow** is currently employed by Pro Bono Net, a non-profit that helps organizations use technology to improve access to justice. She serves as the LawHelp Interactive Project Coordinator and is managing the national document assembly project. Katherine also co-manages and writes for Technola (<http://www.techno.la>), a blog for legal aid and public interest advocates. Prior to her present position, she was the Technology Project Coordinator for Montana Legal Services Association and was responsible for implementing, maintaining, and promoting projects that used technology to enhance client services and increase the public's access to self-help information and resources. Kate has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Mathematics from North Dakota State University.

**Charles R. Dyer** is a consultant for court systems and libraries, specializing in service to self represented litigants, legislative advocacy, and library administration. He served as Director of Libraries for the San Diego County Public Law Library from 1987-2005 and as Director of the Library and law professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law from 1977-87. He holds a B.A. in philosophy, a J.D., and an M.L.S. from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.A. in philosophy from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, and is a member of the Texas Bar. Mr. Dyer was a 2005 recipient of the Marian Gould Gallagher Award, the highest award given by the American Association of Law Libraries, as well as several other awards. Mr. Dyer retired in 2005 to devote more time to research on the problem that self represented litigants experience in understanding legal discourse. In that regard, with a grant from the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), he is writing an Essay and Bibliography on Cognitive Linguistics for the Legal Community. He chairs the Law Librarians Working Group of the Self Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) and serves on the Research Working Group, the Compliance Working Group, and the Information, Marketing and Outreach Working Group. He is a member of the AALL Joint Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships. His website is <http://www.charlesrdyer.com>.

**Judy Helms** has nine years of experience as a law Librarian. She earned her master's degree in library Science at Drexel University. She began her library career as a foreign-language cataloger at Drexel. A native of Austin, she returned to run her own business. Her contributions to law include two lawyer daughters, a lawyer husband, and tens of thousands of law library patrons helped. In 2000 she joined the staff of the Travis County Law Library as a reference librarian. In 2007 Judy was promoted to head of reference.

**Bonnie Rose Hough** is the Managing Attorney with the California Administrative Office of the Court's (AOC) Center for Families, Children & the Courts, where she has been employed since 1997. She serves as Committee Counsel to the Judicial Council's Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants and also is staff to the Elkins Family Law Task Force. Her unit coordinates the California Courts Self-Help Website ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help)); oversees grant funds for court based self-help centers and legal services programs and works to develop educational materials for judges and court staff to assist them in handling cases with self-represented litigants. She also assists the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council in drafting family law rules and forms. Prior to joining the AOC, she was in private practice in family law. She was also a co-founder of the Family Law Center, a nonprofit legal services organization in Marin County, and served as its executive director for six years. Ms. Hough received a J.D. from Hastings College of the Law, and an M.P.A. from San Francisco State University. She is a fellow with the Harvard Law School's Bellow-Sacks project. She is the recipient of the Faye Stender Award from California Women Lawyers, Opening Doors to Justice Award from the Public Interest Clearinghouse, Dale Sipes Spirit of Justice Award and the Public Service Award from Central California Legal Services.

**Leah Margulies** graduated from Brooklyn Law School, 1985. Founded and led International Boycott of the Nestle Company leading to first UN promulgated Code designed to restrict deadly promotion and marketing by baby formula industry. Legal Advisor, UN Centre on Transnational Corporations and UNICEF, 1989-96. Legal Services attorney specializing in housing and public benefits, 1985-89. Management and technology consultant in the private sector 1997-2005. Project Director of LawHelp/NY since 2006.

**Judy Meadows** has been the State Law Librarian of Montana since 1984. Since that time she has taken a book & paper-based library to a digital information resource that can serve all Montanans at the time and in the format that they request. She serves on the Montana Supreme Court's Equal Justice Taskforce and its Continuing Legal Education Commission. She Chairs the Court's Commission on Self-Represented Litigants, and as a member of the Commission on Technology she chairs the Taskforce on Privacy and Public Access to Court Records. Judy is a past President of the American Association of Law Libraries, and a past chair of their State, Court, and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section. She provides consulting services for the National Center for State Courts on issues affecting law libraries and legal information services. Most recently she has focused on training clerks of court on how to appropriately assist unrepresented litigants,

and recruiting public libraries to assist with access to justice.

**Vincent Morris** works for the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership (ALSP), where he is the Associate Director of Technology and Justice Projects. His job allows him to combine the law and technology in creative ways, with the goal of extending access to justice to all Arkansans. His work involves developing innovative methods of distributing legal resources and legal advice via multimedia. He also staffs the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission and the Arkansas Pro Bono Partnership. His pre-law career emphasized Internet technologies and non-profit/policy-based consulting work resulting in eight years experience of web development and design. Mr. Morris received a B.A. in Philosophy at the University of Central Arkansas and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He also participated in post-graduate studies in Internet Technologies at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

**Claudia C. Johnson** works with multiple states on access to justice issues. At Pro Bono Net she focuses on the integration of online document assembly forms in the delivery continuum, both in legal aid and court settings. Prior to joining Pro Bono Net, Claudia was part of the management team of Bay Area Legal Aid, a civil legal aid provider in the San Francisco Bay Area serving 1.2 Million low income residents. In this capacity, she created and then directed the Legal Advice Line for four years, a specialized unit of attorneys and paralegals providing on the spot counsel and advice in multiple substantive areas of law in multiple languages. Claudia worked for four years with the Bar Association of San Francisco, managing the intake and placement of pro bono cases with multiple volunteer panels. Claudia started her legal career in Philadelphia, first as a Skadden Fellow focusing on language access issues with focus in health care systems, and later on expanding her focus on language access to all public benefits at Community Legal Services, where she co-founded and co-directed the Language Access Project, which is still considered a model approach to civil rights advocacy. She is a graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and holds two Masters degrees and BA from the University of California, at Berkeley. She loves to read, cook, and to laugh and currently resides in Eastern Washington with her husband and two daughters.

**Marcia Koslov** is the seventh Director of the LA Law Library. She began her career in 1971 with the Missouri Supreme Court Library, serving first as Assistant Librarian and then as Head Librarian. In 1974, she was appointed State Law Librarian of the Wisconsin State Law Library. During a 26 year tenure, she instituted many innovative changes, taking the library from two manual typewriters through the development of an automated library system to the Web. In January, 2000, Marcia was appointed to be the first Director of Knowledge Management of the National Center for State Courts. From 2002 through 2003 she served as Deputy Director, University of Texas, Tarleton Law Library. Marcia holds Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO and is a Fellow of the Institute for Court Management of the National Center for State Courts. Marcia has been active in local and national organizations. She is a frequent contributor to magazines and journals and a frequent speaker at meetings, seminars and conferences.

**Glenn Rawdon** is Program Counsel for Technology with the Legal Services Corporation. He is responsible for helping legal services programs with their technology efforts and with the administration of the Technology Initiative Grants (TIG) program. Since the program started in 2000, TIG has made over 400 grants totaling nearly \$33 million. Before coming to LSC in 1999, he was a managing attorney at Legal Services of Eastern Oklahoma for five years and before that, he was in private practice. He has served as co-chair of the Law Office Management section of the Oklahoma Bar Association and was a member of the Legal Technical Advisory Counsel of the ABA.

**Lisa Rush** has managed the Travis County Law Library since 2000. She received her master's degree in library science from the University of Texas at Austin. She joined Travis County in 1996. Lisa is a member of the Self-Represented Litigants Network and the Texas Self-Representation Work Group. She serves on the Texas Access to Justice Commission's Special Projects Committee.

**Tina R. Sibbitt**, is an Associate Staff Attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts for the Access to Justice Program in Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is also Chair of the Self-Represented Litigant Working Group of the New Mexico Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission, which seeks to provide meaningful access to the courts and to the civil justice system for low income New Mexicans. Ms. Sibbitt was the Director of the Self Help Center (formerly Pro Se Division) of the Second Judicial District Court in Albuquerque from 1999-2008. The Center provides forms and procedural information to help the public navigate the legal system or to find legal assistance through appropriate referrals in mostly domestic relations, guardianships of both minors and of incapacitated adults, civil restraining orders and miscellaneous other matters. With a staff of one attorney, three paralegals and a clerk, the Self Help Center served an average of 400 people per month, turning away 200 for lack of staff to see them. Ms. Sibbitt also serves on the New Mexico State Bar's Alternative Dispute Resolution. She has served on the New Mexico State Self-Represented Litigant Task Force and Legal Services and Programs Committee. Ms. Sibbitt is a 1983 graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Law. After law school, she served as a law clerk for Justice William Riordan and Justice Mary Walters of the New Mexico Supreme Court. She is a member of the New Mexico and California State Bars, and has practiced general commercial law, eminent domain, risk management and housing law in both states. She is a native New Mexican from Los Alamos.

**Mary Ann Van Cura** serves as Library Development and Continuing Education Coordinator for Minnesota State Library Services. Prior to this, she provided basic technology training and reference for socio-economically diverse patrons of the Minneapolis Public Library. For over seventeen years she worked as a law librarian. She served as Associate Director for Technical Services at the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law (Lansing, MI) for over 5 years and as Head of Technical Services at the Hamline University School of Law (St. Paul, MN) for 10 years. As an Information Consultant, she performed work for several clients, including West Publishing. Early in her career, she held short-term positions at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library and the Dorsey and Whitney Law Firm. She began her library career as manager of the Serials

department of a multi-type (public/college) library on the Texas-Mexico border. She has been active in the American Library Association, American Association of Law Libraries, Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, and Minnesota Library Association. She has served as volunteer mediator and arbitrator with the Conflict Resolution Center (Minneapolis). Mary Ann received an M.L.S. from the Texas Woman's University and a B.S. in Education from the University of Minnesota E-mail:

**Richard Zorza** is an attorney and independent consultant who has worked for the past fifteen years on issues of access to justice. He is the coordinator of the national Self Represented Litigation Network, see [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org), acts as a consultant to the Harvard Law School Bellow-Sacks Project on the Future of Access to Civil Justice, [www.bellowsacks.org](http://www.bellowsacks.org), and works in support of the national LawHelp network of access to justice websites, [www.lawhelp.org](http://www.lawhelp.org). He is the recipient of the 2008 American Judicature Society Kate Sampson Access to Justice Award. Additional information and publications are available on his website, [www.zorza.net](http://www.zorza.net).