Editor's Note: Cheryl L. Jackson, Manager, Information and Resources Services, Virginia General Assembly, Division of Legislative Services, presented a practical but lively talk on “Finding your Way Through the Legislative History Maze” at the VALL/LLSDC Fall Joint Meeting on October 6, 2000 at George Mason University School of Law. Cheryl began her presentation by repeating several times: “There is no legislative history in Virginia.” This article has been adapted with permission from “Legislative History: The Intent Behind the Action,” 48 Virginia Lawyer #7 (February 2000). Cheryl’s input on the Division of Legislative Services website is another valuable tool in the legislative research process: http://dls.state.va.us/lrc/leghist.htm.

Legislative History: The Intent Behind the Action

Background

“Why did they choose that wording?”
“Was it modeled after the Maryland statute, which was upheld last month?”
“Did they intend for it to cover a situation like this?”

Many judges, attorneys and researchers ponder these and other questions when interpreting a statute. They hope to understand the intent of the statute by reviewing its legislative history. The term “legislative history” has two meanings. One definition is the process by which a bill advances through the legislature, and includes the recorded votes, amendments offered and other bill tracking information. The term, however, can also mean legislative intent — what was the intent of a particular piece of legislation and why did lawmakers choose the specific language that appears in the statute? For purposes of this article, legislative history will be synonymous with intent.

Most legal researchers are familiar with legislative history as it is recorded on the congressional level. Explanatory committee reports accompany bills, testimony is noted, and floor comments are entered into and become part of the official record. The majority of states, though, do not keep such thorough history. In fact, in a recent survey, only 11 states reported that a legislative history is prepared for bills. Some of those histories are quite complete, including tapes or written transcripts of committee and/or floor questions and debates, in-depth staff explanations of the bill’s purpose, and complete records of public hearing testimony. However, even in states that do not identify themselves as actively preparing legislative history, some documentation generally exists to provide even a glimmer of intent to the persistent researcher. More often than not, the state has some sort of bill file, which may contain fiscal notes, a bill request form, or some other type of explanatory correspondence or analysis.

Virginia legislative history

Virginia falls into this last category — we do not keep official legislative history. We do not have transcripts of floor debates or committee discussions about a bill, nor are standing committee reports issued which explain or state the purpose for proposals. The intent of the General Assembly in passing a bill is generally not recorded, but if it is, it is printed on the face of the bill and referenced in the Code of Virginia.

Researchers can, nonetheless, attempt to glean the legislative intent of particular pieces of legislation in the following ways:

1. Check for legislative studies on the topic
2. Request the legislative draft file of the bill

continued on page 3
I was delighted to see so many of you at the LLSDC Opening Banquet on October 5, 2000. The food was fantastic and the turnout of 120 was terrific. Thanks to Marvin Lewis, Arrangements Committee Chair for his hard work and those who helped him staff the event: Mary Longchamp, Michelle Wollmann and Keith Gabel. Speaker John Morreal provided several moments of true hilarity during his discussion “Humor at Work.” I know other Past Presidents could not agree with me more - the one thing you really need to be President of LLSDC is a sense of humor!

Local Legislative Research Issue
This issue of Lights is dedicated to the topic of legislative research in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. The idea behind the issue sprang from the October 6, 2000 Joint Meeting of LLSDC and VALL, the Virginia Association of Law Libraries. Several members of the Virginia Chapter of SLA also joined us. The discussions of sources of legislative intent were useful, but for many of us who attended the program, the opportunity to network with the speakers and members of other chapters face to face, was equally valuable. Speakers included Cheryl Jackson, Manager, Information and Resource Services, Virginia General Assembly, Division of Legislative Services; Rick J. McKinney, Assistant Law Librarian, Federal Reserve Board; and Mary Alice Baish, AALL Washington Affairs Representative. I would like to publicly thank VALL, and especially Jill Burr, Wahab Public Law Library, Virginia Beach, VA and VALL President, Donna K. Bausch for asking us to co-host this event. Jill, along with the entire VALL group, did a terrific job of organizing the program. I extend my thanks as well to Deborah Mann Keene and Rae Ellen Best at George Mason University Law School for the use of their space. The Legislative SIS is planning future programs on Maryland and District of Columbia Legislative Intent.

No legislative discussion is complete without promoting two LLSDC tools for federal legislative intent: (1) Union List of Legislative Histories 2000; and (2) Legislative Sourcebook. The 7th edition Union List of Legislative Histories 2000 has just been published and is available from the LLSDC Management company, 703/683-5107. The new Union List of Legislative Histories will soon be available from Hein, and you will be able to

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3. Consult other sources, such as videotapes of floor proceedings, fiscal impact statements, newspaper interviews, etc. The thorough researcher will naturally want to consult with a law librarian before embarking upon any legislative history research to help clarify the search focus and to discuss searching techniques.

I. LEGISLATIVE STUDIES
Specially appointed subcommittees, permanent commissions, or state agencies can be charged with studying particular issues and reporting the findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor. The authority for these studies comes through either a House or Senate Joint Resolution (e.g., HJR 174, 1998), and the resulting report is issued in the form of a House of Senate Document (e.g., HD 68, 1999).

There are at least four options available to the researcher to determine whether or not a study exists on a certain topic. First, a searchable database is available through the Legislative Information System on the World Wide Web. The second option is the Topical Studies index, in which studies are arranged by subject and year of publication. Third, the annual Final Cumulative Index lists each document reported to the General Assembly. Finally, many law libraries throughout the state include the individual studies as part of their collection, and catalog them accordingly.

II. LEGISLATIVE DRAFT FILES
The Division of Legislative Services’ (DLS) staff creates a legislative draft (LD) file when the request to draft a bill is received. The file may contain the following:
- Final draft of the bill
- Copies showing substantive drafting changes
- Request to draft the bill
- Correspondence between DLS staff and the requester
- Background information or material that explains the proposal

Although some files can be replete with background or explanatory information, it is important to note that more often than not, the file contains only the bill draft and editing copies.

Release of LD files:
There are a couple of caveats regarding release of the LD files, which are governed by § 30-28.18 of the Code of Virginia.

1. All files created prior to 1989 are confidential and can only be released with permission of the chief patron. If he or she is deceased, then the file is closed.
2. Files from 1989 to the present are open to the public if the bill was enacted into law, on its effective date. Legislative draft files for failed bills can only be released as noted above.

Requesting a Legislative Draft file:
The Legislative Reference Center is the proper entity from which to request access to an LD file. To do so, a researcher needs to know the bill number (or chapter of the Acts of Assembly) and year of the legislation. Keep in mind that the LD files are created for specific bills; there is no legislative history for entire Code sections.

The amount of research that must be done prior to requesting the LD file depends on the amount of information the researcher is starting with:
- Search the Code of Virginia to determine the relevant code section (e.g., § 55-331)
- Locate the parenthetical reference at the end of the section, which provides a
“map” to the amendments to that section. (Code 1950, § 8-906; 1952, c. 658, 1968, c. 251; 1977, c. 624)

Thus, the section cited in the above example existed as § 8-906 prior to the most recent codification of the Virginia Code (in 1950), was amended in 1952 by chapter 658 of the Acts of Assembly, etc.

- Backtrack through each Act listed in the parenthetical reference until the wording that is being researched appears in italics, signifying language that was added. Conversely, language that appears as was deleted.
- Locate the bill number in brackets at the top right, underneath the title of the Act (e.g., [H1408]).
- Contact the Legislative Reference Center with the information about the bill. Reference Center staff will examine the file to determine if it contains any background notes, memoranda, correspondence, or any other material that would provide even a hint of original intent. A written request may be required, and five (5) working days should be allowed for a response. Files that are confidential and require permission before releasing may take up to a month’s turnaround time.

III. OTHER SOURCES

Other means of discovering background information about a bill or code section include:

- Viewing videotapes of proceedings on the House and Senate floor, which may be available through the appropriate Clerk’s office. Before requesting, it is necessary to know the dates on which the bill was debated, which can be found in the Virginia House Journal and/or Virginia Senate Journal, or through the Legislative Information System on the World Wide Web.
- Reviewing the Fiscal Impact Statement, if applicable. These statements are prepared by the Department of Planning and Budget or another state agency, and contain a summary of the legislation, the anticipated cost to the state, and other pertinent information. They are available through the Legislative Reference Center or appropriate Clerk’s office.
- Checking the Virginia House Journal and/or Virginia Senate Journal on the chance, rare though it may be, that a member has submitted a statement about a bill to be included in the permanent record. This is a fairly new trend and happens no more than a handful of times per session.
- Looking in the major Virginia newspapers for articles which may have been written explaining the proposal during the General Assembly session (January - March).
- Searching for Attorney General opinions on the topic.
- Researching Virginia law review articles on point.

CONCLUSION

As is the case with many other states, legislative history in Virginia is elusive. Although the General Assembly prepares nothing official, however, there are still quite a few options available to the persistent researcher to understand legislative intent. Laws are not envisioned or made in a vacuum. The keys to unlock the reasoning behind them may lie deep, but uncovering them may be well worth the effort.
The government of the District of Columbia has no current contract in place for publication of the official code. To add to the confusion, LEXIS Publishing, successors to the Michie Co., are publishing and issuing new volumes and supplements to the official code under a new title, LEXIS District of Columbia Code Annotated. There is no guarantee that LEXIS Publishing will be given the new “official code” contract. WEST also competed for it, won it, then had it voided. The library of Wilmer Cutler & Pickering will keep the official and unofficial codes on the shelf separately with different classification numbers until this matter straightens itself out. (See Sewell Chan, District Finds Itself Without a Legal Clue; Publishers’ Dispute Delays Official Code, Wash. Post, Aug. 25, 2000 at B1). I have been informed that WEST plans to publish an “unofficial” version of the D.C. Code and expects to release it 2nd quarter 2001. The D.C. Council is expected to choose from among four offers from legal publishers. The next supplement for the D.C. Code is scheduled for June 2001 and will include 1999 and 2000 laws, according to the Washington Post (See Sewell Chan, New Editin of D.C. Code Set, Wash. Post, Nov. 6, 2000 at B2) paraphrasing Ben Bryant, Codification Counsel to the D.C. Council. We could end up with three codes, only one being official. The D.C. Council is accepting calls to be put on a mailing list for the new code. Telephone Karen Westbrook at 202-724-8133.

Online versions of the code are available from both LEXIS and WESTLAW. LEXIS is current through the June 2000 D.C. Register and the official and unofficial codes are being commingled in the data file. WESTLAW is current through March 1999, making WEST more risky for online research at this point. We are waiting to hear from the WESTLAW editor about what they will do.

To further complicate the situation, codification notes in the margins of new Acts published in the D.C. Register are also no longer being supplied, as that was part of the contract. The Council is irregular at best in indicating what code section they are adding/amending/repealing in the text. The D.C. Code Update chart published in the D.C. register is thus no longer current or of assistance. LEXIS also publishes reprints of these in an Advance Legislative Service. Confusingly, it has “Michie’s District of Columbia Code” on the cover.

The new edition of The Bluebook does not address these issues with specific examples, so you will have to rely on the more general rules in it for citation purposes as to official and unofficial versions of codes.
Editor’s Note: Should you need clues to what is available in the State of Maryland, please review the following article reprinted in its entirety with the permission of the authors. This article was originally published at 22 Maryland Bar J. 11, July/Aug. 1989, and is also available at the Maryland State Law Library website at: http://www.lawlib.state.md.us/screens/ghost_hunting.html. Thanks to co-authors Michael S. Miller, Director of the Maryland State Law Library, and Judith C. Levinson, Esquire, for sharing their knowledge with the Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C.

THE TITLE OF THIS ARTICLE WAS CHOSEN ADVISELY: when you are trying to find the legislative history of a particularly troublesome or cryptic Maryland statute, you soon discover the spectral mists enveloping the past of almost any law. Unhappily, there are few Maryland equivalents to the Congressional committee reports, hearings, floor debate records, and other extrinsic aids to construing federal statutes. But all is not hopeless. The checklist that follows, while not purporting to be exhaustive, catalogues many of the materials Maryland courts have consulted when they are attempting to ferret out the genesis or meaning of an ambiguous statute.

Two prerequisites of research into legislative history in Maryland are first, understanding the legislative process and second, knowing where to look for the materials. For assistance on the first, you should review two invaluable guides prepared by the Department of Legislative Services. One is the Maryland Legislator’s Handbook, designed for new members of the General Assembly; the other is Steps in Processing Legislation, a primer for the legislative staff. As to the second prerequisite, locating the sources, you will find that the most comprehensive collections of the legislative record and other extrinsic aids are housed in the following three repositories:

Maryland Department of Legislative Reference Library
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 946-5400
1-800-492-7122

Maryland State Law Library
Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-1430
toll free # 1-888-216-8156
http://www.lawlib.state.md.us

Smaller collections are found in the law schools’ libraries at the University of Maryland and University of Baltimore, the Baltimore City Bar Library, the Maryland Room at the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Attorney General’s Library in Baltimore, and the Marylandia Department at the University of Maryland’s McKeldin Library in College Park. The three Annapolis libraries, plus the Enoch Pratt and McKeldin libraries, are the five major repositories for state publications.

MATERIALS FROM WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM.

A. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF MARYLAND

1. Reports to the General Assembly
   The Legislative Council, which existed from 1939 through 1975, was charged by the General Assembly with the study and investigation of problems facing the State. The Council’s annual reports consist of a summary of proposals from members of the General Assembly and the Council, the Governor, private organizations and individuals, and state agencies, minutes of Council meetings, and full-text copies of Council bills submitted to the next session of the Legislature. Minutes from the late 1940’s on refer to Council files, some of which are in the Department of Legislative Reference Library; these files may contain more detail on particular Council recommendations.

2. Research Reports
   Between 1940 and 1958, the Research Division of the Legislative Council produced 32 factual and legal studies of topics ranging from almshouses to tax sales.

B. LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE:
   REPORTS OF COMMITTEES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

In 1976, the Legislative Policy Committee, in conjunction with other legislative committees, took over the principal roles of the Legislative Council and its Research Division. The Policy Committee’s annual reports, which include findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, represent the work done between sessions by the Standing, Statutory, and Special Joint Com-
mittees since 1976. Proposed bills and joint resolutions resulting from committee study generally are included in these reports. Until 1981, each year's reports of the various Committees were printed in one volume. Since then they have been published separately, without an index. However, some individual reports are catalogued. Familiarity with the scope of each committee's work is necessary to use these sources efficiently.

Studies on taxation and other fiscal matters, published as independent units since 1955, contain a wealth of information on state and local government revenue and expenditures.

C. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE BILL FILES, REPORTS, AND HEARINGS.
Standing Committees are probably the single most powerful force in the General Assembly. A bill that is reported favorably by a Committee in both houses will usually succeed on a floor vote. Conversely, rare indeed is the bill that is resuscitated on the floor of either house after it fails in Committee.

In 1975, one of the more productive sources of legislative history - the bill files of the various Standing Committees - began to be retained systematically. Previously, most files were discarded after the session. The bill files are microfilmed by the Department of Legislative Reference Library and subscribed to by the State Law Library, Marshall Law Library at the University of Maryland School of Law the University of Baltimore Law Library, the Attorney General's Library and others. Typically, bill files are retained by the Committee for one year, then turned over to Legislative Reference for filming. After filming, the original paper files are deposited with the Maryland State Archives.

Most files contain some of the following materials, where applicable:
1. bill drafting data such as who requested the bill, who drafted it, the purpose statement, various amending steps;
2. a copy of the bill as first submitted and subsequent readers;
3. the fiscal note that must accompany every bill;
4. witness lists, copies of written testimony submitted at Committee hearings, and, occasionally, notes on oral testimony;
5. each amendment prepared for a bill, whether or not is was submitted to a vote;
6. Committee votes;
7. miscellaneous notes, including any study commission reports;
8. floor votes on the bill, if any; and
9. the Attorney General's bill-review letter which is filed for every bill reaching the Governor's desk for signing;
10. reference to bill(s) in previous sessions on same topic.

Until 1982, there were few official reports of work done during the session. In that year, however, the Department of Legislative Reference instituted a pilot project which has generated some useful documentation in the form of section-by-section bill analyses and floor reports which include background information, an explanation of legislative intent, and a summary of the contents and purpose of any amendments on legislation referred to certain Standing Committees.

Three of these Committees are in the Senate, Economic and Environmental Affairs, Judicial Proceedings, and Rules, Organization, and Procedure, and two is in the House, Rules and Executive Nominations and Judiciary. Unfortunately, the Senate and House Rules Committees consider very few bills. You will find the bill analyses and floor reports in the bill files of these Committees.

Transcripts of hearings on a few select bills have been prepared. Since 1992, the Department of Legislative Services Library has audiocassettes of all Senate Standing Committee hearings. Contact that library for assistance in this area.

D. AUDIOCASSETTES OF FLOOR DEBATE.
Debate on the Floor of the Senate of Maryland. Since 1992, debate of floor sessions in the Senate of Maryland have been audiotaped. The Legislative Services Library provides access to these tapes for interested researchers.

E. MARYLAND HOUSE AND SENATE JOURNALS (PROVINCIAL, 1725-1774; SENATE AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES, 1777-PRESENT).
As a source of legislative history, the Journals are less than a researcher might hope for. In them are recorded the first reading of all the bills (purpose clause only), the Committee to which the bill was referred, subsequent amendments, the vote on amendments, and the final roll-call vote in each bill reported favorably out of committee. The rules of the Senate and House usually are printed somewhere in the Journals, and last volume contains a subject index, along with voluminous budget-related documents in the appendices.

F. LAWS OF MARYLAND. (PROVINCIAL, 1719-1776; STATE, 1777-PRESENT).
Enactments of the General Assembly are pub-
lished, generally in the order they are approved by the Governor, at the end of each legislative session. In recent years these multi-volume compilations have been indexed by subject, sponsor, bill number, and article and section affected.

The texts of enacted laws in recent volumes can be some value in determining legislative history, as they include the purpose clause, preambles, and special sections, none of which are commonly codified. Also, the printed version of the final bill allows the researcher to see at a glance the new language, deletions from prior law, and amendments to the bill during the legislative process.

The session laws also contain amendments to municipal charters and to public local laws, joint resolutions, bills vetoed and the Governor’s veto message, the Governor’s executive orders and proclamations, certifications of results of referenda, and statements of the state’s revenue and expenditures.

Before being issued in bound volumes, the session laws appear in Advance Sheets. These paperbound volumes include a subject index to all bills introduced during the session, failed as well as passed. Session Reviews (since 1981) also highlight both failed and passed legislation of significance. These two sources may give your only easy access to bills that failed, which sometimes illuminate legislative history of similar bills later enacted.

G. Updates
Updates are occasional publications of the Department of Legislative Reference, which began to be issued in 1982. Each Update features analysis, surveys, and other background information on a significant topic that has been, is, or may be before the General Assembly. Legislative intent may be gleaned from the problems and solutions suggested in a particular Update.

H. Legislative Report Series
Another occasional publication, beginning in 1982 is the Legislative Report Series by the Research Division of the Department of Legislative Reference. These are in-depth treatments of a single topic of significant import, such as AIDS, health insurance, and criminal sentencing, containing more thorough and quantitative analysis than the Update series. Like Updates, these publications may generate future legislation or explain present law.

I. Statutory Revision
The Division of Statutory Revision of the Depart-
ment of Legislative Services began the bulk revision of Maryland statutes in the mid 1970’s. To date, 24 Articles have been enacted. The first publication of each new Article includes reviser’s notes, which explain changes made during the revision. Each bill to enact a new recodified article is accompanied by a report to the General Assembly, which contains a more complete description of the revision than that included in the reviser’s notes. Files on the articles are available in the Division offices, although at this time they are not indexed and can be cumbersome to use. The head of the Division, the Revisor of Statutes, is required by law to maintain a Style Manual for statutory law. The Division also has developed a Model Guide for Drafting Governmental Units and Licensing Provisions. The primary functions of the Model are to provide bill drafters with a uniform organizational framework and to ensure that substantively similar provisions are stated similarly. The effect of the Model is to highlight discrepancies in otherwise similar provisions.

J. Miscellaneous Fiscal Papers.  
The Department of Legislative Services prepares various reports on state revenues and appropriations as they affect agencies and programs. Among them are the Fiscal Effects Report, published every June (since 1969); Fiscal Digests (1936 to present); and the Four-Year Fiscal Summary (1979 to present). The Department also issues Sunset Reports (1979 to present), which, among other things, discuss the origins and purposes of state agencies, boards, and commissions.

Materials From Outside the Legislative System.

A. Governor’s Messages and Vetoes.  
The Governor’s messages often provide insight into the administration’s proposed legislation. The traditional State-of-the-State message of the Governor appears in the House and Senate Journals. The Governor’s budget message usually is submitted as a separate publication with the annual state budget books. All executive orders and proclamations are reprinted and indexed in the Journal volumes and session laws and some also appear in the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland Register, and COMAR. Published addresses and papers of each Governor, transcripts of press conferences (1977-present), and press releases also may contain useful information about executive programs. Executive veto messages generally appear in the Maryland House and Senate Journals (usually at the beginning of the session) and the Laws of Maryland.

B. Legislative and Executive Task Forces and Study Commissions.  
Many statutes are the culmination of studies by bodies charged by the Governor, and, or the General Assembly with finding legislative solutions to social or economic problems. The list of each session’s approved joint resolutions requesting such studies appears in a volume of the Laws of Maryland.

Each study group’s papers, which usually include minutes, transcripts of public hearings, and interim and final reports, can be an excellent source of legislative history. The State Law Library currently has in excess of 800 such reports issued over the past 150 years. A checklist of these reports is available for sale at the State Law Library. Some of the reports of earlier commissions established by joint resolutions appear in the House and Senate Journals, Maryland Public Documents, and Maryland House and Senate Documents (see c. below). For reports never distributed or not kept by the major law libraries, the best source is the Executive Files maintained at the Maryland State Archives.

C. Annual Reports and Papers of Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches.  
The files, annual reports, and research studies done by executive branch agencies, the courts, and the General Assembly may yield pertinent materials. Early annual reports are published in Maryland Public Documents (1829-1854) and Maryland House and Senate Documents (1856-1920). In addition to annual reports from various state agencies and institutions, these volumes include reports of select and standing legislative committees, executive messages, and contested election cases. The State Law Library has compiled an extensive index to these historically significant series. For recent reports and studies consult one of the state repository libraries.

A subject index to the Governor’s Executive Files from 1957 has been made. However, the state restricts use of Executive Files of a Governor whose administration ended fewer than 30 years ago. The State Archives should be consulted about the availability of these files.

D. Maryland Attorney General’s Opinions and Files.  
Because the Office of the Attorney General is Counsel to the General Assembly, members and
committees of the Legislature and task forces often seek the advice of that office on the constitutionality or construction of bills and statutes. Advice may be rendered in formal opinions, written advice of counsel, or informal oral communications. The Attorney General’s Office of Counsel to the General Assembly is also responsible for reviewing all enacted legislation for constitutionality and preparing bill-review letters to the Governor prior to approval or veto of the bills.

In addition to the Reports and Official Opinions of the Attorney General (from 1916) and Unpublished Opinions (from 1973), you should consult bill-review letters, copies of which are usually in the Committee Bill files or may be requested from the Office of Counsel to the General Assembly, and “legislative letters” (from 1972) in the Office of Counsel to the General Assembly.

E. MARYLAND COURT OF APPEALS AND COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS BRIEFS AND RECORD EXTRACTS.
Prior appeals involving statutory construction may have generated source materials on related questions. Shepardizing the relevant statute may help you uncover such materials in briefs and record extracts submitted to the courts, as well as in the reported cases.

F. SUPERSeded EDITIONS OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.
A complete set of the superseded volumes of the Annotated Code can be of immeasurable help in tracing the history of a statute from its original form through subsequent amendments. Most major law libraries retain all superseded volumes of the Code. Unfortunately, the editors and publishers of the current recodified Code have abandoned the practice of listing the dates and chapter numbers of all amendments to a statute previously found at the end of each section of the 1957 edition of the Code, thereby complicating the search.

G. MISCELLANEOUS SOURCES.
1. Professional and Trade Associations, Local Government, and Other Legislative Lobbyists.
Although no one library or other site contains all of the documentation produced by lobbying groups, a periodic publication of the State Ethics Commission listing all registered Maryland lobbyists and the organization each represents can help you locate such materials. Some of the more prolific
advocacy groups and larger organizations publish newsletters, research papers, and convention proceedings which can provide information on their legislative programs. Of special interest and value are many of the legislative reports in the Transactions of the Maryland State Bar Association, 1896-1991.

2. Legislative Study Group Publications. The Legislative Study Group, which disbanded in 1984, issued studies and periodic newsletters between 1977 and 1984 to the public and legislators. The group’s Issue Reports provided actual summaries and debate about selected topics, including analyses of bills and the sponsor’s intent.

3. Annual Reports of the Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and Model Acts. Since 1896 Maryland has been a working member in the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Annual Report of the Maryland Commissioners contains references to uniform acts proposed for enactment and reports on those enacted in recent sessions. The report also lists all uniform laws adopted in Maryland. Other uniform and model law proposals are the American Law Institute codes and the Council of State Governments, Suggested State Legislation. Also helpful is West Publishing Company’s Uniform Laws Annotated for application and analysis of the various uniform laws.

4. Similar Statutes of Other States or the Federal Government. Frequently, Maryland statutes are based on similar statutes enacted by other states or the U.S. Congress. While not dispositive, the legislative history and construction of these statutes is often persuasive evidence of the purpose and meaning of the Maryland law. A comparison if differing provisions in the two statutes may be particularly illuminating.

5. Newspapers, Magazines, and Journal Articles. Contemporary newspapers and journal articles may explain legislation or track the history of an important enactment.

History of State Constitutions and Constitutional Amendments
Maryland has adopted four constitutions: in 1776, 1851, 1864, and 1867. The 1867 Constitution, still in force, has been amended more than 150 times. The primary sources of state constitutional history are the convention proceedings and debates. Noteworthy secondary sources include A. Niles, Maryland Constitutional Law (1915); J. Harry, The Maryland Constitution of 1851 (1902); H. Walker Lewis, The Maryland Constitution-1776 (1976); and W. Myers, The Constitution of 1864 (1901). A year after Maryland’s last Constitutional Convention in 1967, a revised Constitution was submitted to the people. Although it failed, many of its reform proposals have since been adopted. As a result, the voluminous output of the Convention is now fertile ground for researching the history of enactments of subsequent laws and constitutional amendments. See, e.g., Constitutional Revision Study Documents of the Constitutional Convention of Maryland (1968). While most major law libraries have a substantial portion of the proceedings and reports of the four conventions, the only comprehensive collections are in the Maryland State Archives and the State Law Library.
November 15, 2000 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Green at 9:05 a.m. The minutes of the October 18, 2000 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Reports

Treasurer’s Report: L. Lee gave an updated spreadsheet with the balance for all accounts. Assistant Treasurer’s Report: L. Lee reported for Mary Alice Durphy that there were no deposits this month. Management Company report: D. Trocchi was absent. The motion to accept new members as presented was passed.

Old Business

LLSDC is considering the use of Paypal to conduct credit card transactions on our website. An account was created and is in the process of being tested by board members. Results of the trial will be discussed at the next board meeting.

New Business

The Board discussed whether or not to allow Hein to market and sell the 7th edition of the Union List of Legislative Histories. David Mao, Legislative SIS Chair, led the discussion. LLSDC spent approximately $16,000.00 to produce 500 copies of the new Union List. So far, we have sold 124 copies at various prices (member, non-member, sales tax and tax-exempt). The Board agreed that LLSDC could use Hein’s marketing help to sell more copies nationwide. The 6th edition of the Union List sold 400 copies at $100.00 per copy. David mentioned that we would need Hein to sell 150 copies to break even.

Under the current proposal, both the Management Company and Hein could sell the Union List. To minimize confusion, the Board discussed discontinuing the member rate for this title and offering it at one price. So far, the Union List has been advertised on LLSDC’s publication link as well as the SLA and Fed-Docs listservs. David noted that he had the text for the 6th and 7th editions on a CD, and suggested offering future editions and/or supplements in PDF format.

Capcon: M. Wu reported that Capcon would like to get out of the business of publishing Counsel and that the upcoming edition marks the end of our two year contract with Capcon. The Board discussed how we should proceed. The possibilities of placing an electronic version of Counsel on our webpage for free was mentioned, although many people seem to prefer a hard copy. Sima has expressed an interest in taking over. Access problems for non-OCLC members were discussed. The Publications Committee will report back at the January meeting. Deadline for LLSDC to tell Capcon to proceed or not is January 31, 2001.

Law Library Lights: On November 30, 2000, a meeting was held at Dickstein Shapiro with current and past Lights editors. The group set topics and deadlines for the remainder of the Lights year. The need to involve SIS chairs more fully in Lights was discussed. In the future, the Lights Committee will meet at least once a year. Lights Editor, Beth Conte, has left her job due to the birth of her baby. The group discussed new editors and guest editors to help out.

Education Committee: A. Green met with John Harbison, Committee Chair on October 9, 2000. Ann reported to the Board that the mission of the committee has become somewhat blurred as the SIS’s and other committees usually plan such excellent programs which are open to all of LLSDC. The role will be examined more closely in the future. Ann has appointed Mary Longchamp as the Joint Spring Workshop Chairperson. Plans are under way for a late April Joint Spring Workshop. LLSDC is the lead group this year. The Legal Research Institute will be held on March 13 and March 15, 2001. The contact is Ruth Bridges.

Hein’s Table Tennis Tournament: Mike Perit has agreed to serve as LLSDC’s team coach. Hein has suggested that all AALL chapters have teams that will compete at the Annual Meeting.

Motions: Ann Green was able to reach Brian Baker for quorum and the Board approved the following motions: Motion to allow Hein to buy on consignment copies of the Union List of Legislative Histories at 25% less than the purchase price. Hein will sell the Union List for one price. MOTION APPROVED. Motion to eliminate use of Capcon in the publishing of Counsel, to pursue other options and to determine prices at a later date. MOTION APPROVED.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.


Next meeting: December meeting cancelled.

Next meeting - January 17, 2001 at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, 1301 K St, NW, Suite 600 East, Washington, DC 20005. Contact Ann Green at 202-408-6452 or acg@sonnenschein.com.
Print Publications
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Title Change
Buffalo Womens’ Law Journal, 1999-
Published annually by the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, 11 O’Brian Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260; 716/645-3715; Fax: 716/645-2064.
Price: $25.00 per year.
Formerly Circles: the Buffalo Women’s Journal of Law and Social Policy, this new publication began with volume 7, dated Spring 1999. The last issue of the previous title was volume 6, dated 1998.

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**Mindy Klasky talks about her new novels in progress**

Mindy Klasky reports that the sequel to *The Glasswrights’ Apprentice*, *The Glasswrights’ Progress*, has been sent to her publisher for final editing. For those of you who are hooked on the adventures in Rani Trader’s world, it picks up with the story of Rani three years after the events in *Apprentice*. Rani is settling into her life at court, but she is kidnapped and taken to a northern kingdom, where she must fight her way to freedom, liberate children who are being forced to serve in an enemy army, and defeat a major threat to King Halaravilli. *Progress* will be out in June 2001. Mindy has also signed a new contract for an additional three books in the Glasswright world (release dates summer 2002, summer 2003, and summer 2004). She is also working hard on a third, unrelated fantasy novel, set in a completely different world, with completely different characters. It will be out in January 2002.

**New Lexis-Nexis Regional Information Manager**

Leanne Battle is the Regional Information Manager for Virginia, and along with Linda Hutchinson, also serves librarians in Washington, DC. Leanne has worked as a librarian in both law firm and academic environments. Most recently she was an Academic Technology Consultant at the University of Richmond, where she also taught “Effective Use of Microcomputers and Software Tools for Communication and Research” as an Adjunct Faculty Member. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Richmond and her MLS from the University of Texas at Austin. Leanne has authored “From Shelflist to Database Information Booklet” for the Virginia Library Association Paraprofessional Forum Conference; “Internet Strategies for the Paralegal in Virginia” for the Institute for Paralegal Education seminar booklet; and “Taking the Mystery Out of Federal Depository Inspections” for Southeastern Librarian. Leanne is a member of American Association of Law Libraries, Virginia Association of Law Libraries, Law Librarians’ Society of DC, Special Libraries Association, American Library Association, and Library and Information Technology Association. Leanne can be reached at leanne.battle@lexis-nexis.com.

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**Upcoming Programs to Watch For**

I believe that regional programs such as the LLSDC-VALL Joint Meeting are the future of our librarian associations. Along these lines, I will mention some upcoming opportunities for information sharing and networking. Watch Dates to Remember for future Legislative SIS meetings on Maryland and District of Columbia legislative affairs.

Plans are underway for the Joint Spring Workshop (JSW) which brings librarians together from LLSDC, DC-SLA, DCLA, ASIS; and FLICC. Members from LLAM, VALL, and the SLA chapters in Virginia and Maryland will also be invited. LLSDC is the lead group this year for planning purposes. Please contact JSW Chairperson, Mary Longchamp at 202/783-8400 if you can help plan or staff this event. LLSDC’s Legal Research Institute will be held March 13 and March 15, 2001 at the George Washington University Law School Library. This is a great opportunity to send your staff, the paralegals in your office or to invite other librarians from other disciplines to learn about legal research. Please contact Chairperson Ruth Bridges at 703/456-8188 if you can help with the Institute.

**Power restored!**

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Andrew Martin, Baker & Hostetler, will be the new Editor of *Law Library Lights*. Beth Conte, former *Lights* Editor, has left her job and will stay home to take care of her new baby. Thanks to Beth for all her work with *Lights*. I want to thank the *Lights* Committee which consists of Past Editors, SIS chairs and other dedicated LLSDC members including: Carolyn Ahearn, Yvette Brown, Rachel Jones, Leslie Lee, Judy Manion, Bob Oaks, Eve Valdivia, Laura Whitbeck and Michelle Wollmann.

*Lights* is looking for authors and coders for the upcoming issues. Please contact Andrew Martin if you are interested at 202/861-1582 or amartin@bakerlaw.com.

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**Continue from page 2**

purchase it from them using a credit card. The *Legislative Sourcebook* was recently updated this summer. It contains many nuggets of useful information and is available free on the LLSDC webpage at http://www.llsdc.org/sourcebook. A detailed, linked outline and narrative, *Federal Legislative History Research: Compiling the Documents and Sifting for Legislative Intent*, will soon be added to the electronic *Sourcebook*. Thanks to author Rick J. McKinney for this new addition as well as keeping the *Sourcebook* up-to-date.
LLSDC’s Federal Law Libraries Special Interest Section has sponsored a number of programs this year and is soliciting ideas for future programs and places for the coming year.

**February - December 2000**

Federal law library salary job descriptions and GS and salary ranges for them were discussed at a meeting hosted by Maureen Bryant at the International Trade Commission on February 24, 2000. Participants noted that although much work was done on the 1994 job descriptions and point assignments for the Federal Government’s GS-1410 Librarian Series (Grades 9-14) it is now rather dated by the emergence of the Internet and the rapid development of electronic services provided by librarians. The 1994 data is, however, a starting point that many have used in formulating Federal law librarian job descriptions.

Those attending shared their copies of library job descriptions and Rick J. McKinney volunteered to house them all in a binder at the Federal Reserve Board Law Library so that other Federal law librarians could come and photocopy parts they needed and make additions as well.

The section’s April 6, 2000, brown bag meeting on Electronic Legal Research was held at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and hosted by Library Director Daniel May. Discussion focused on LEXIS and WESTLAW flat rate contracts and exclusions, online versus Internet use, and other electronic subscription products. As a follow up to the meeting, representatives from various electronic vendors were invited to present their products at a meeting on April 27th held at the Small Business Administration hosted by Law Librarian Meldie Kish.

The Federal Law Libraries SIS sponsored a tour of the Executive Office of the President Law Library conducted by Randy Snyder, Supervisory Law Librarian on May 4, 2000. The annual Agency Day program was held May 27, 2000 at the Library of Congress (arrangements made by Special Assistant to the Law Librarian Marlo Bernal). Speakers from various Federal agency libraries talked about their agency’s publications, about what agency legal materials are on the Internet, and about the unique resources of the agency law library. Speakers included Robert A. Farina, Director, Trademark Law Library, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office; Jeanne Trahan Faubell, Librarian, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board; Meldie Kish, Law Librarian, U.S. Small Business Administration; Minnie Sue Ripy, Chief, Research Services, U.S. Internal Revenue Service Chief Counsel’s Law Library, and Joan Sherer, Associate Law Librarian, U.S. Department of State, Office of the Legal Advisor. A brief business meeting was held after the program in which Mary Grady, Law Librarian at the Environmental Protection Agency, was elected as Secretary/President Elect. Outgoing President Melanie Solon thanked all those who hosted and made other contributions to the Section’s success during the past year.

The Federal Depository Library Program was discussed at the June 29, 2000 meeting, featuring Sheila McGarr, Chief of the Library Division, Library Programs Service, Government Printing Office. Details about the meeting and the unique status of Federal agency libraries in the Federal Depository Library Program were reported in the previous issue of Lights.

On September 27, 2000, the Section sponsored a program on Federal agency law library Intranets. It was held at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and was hosted by PBGC Library Services Manager Felice Sacks, who was also the principal speaker. Many participants handed out a photocopy of their library’s Intranet home page as well.

The holiday social was held December 5, 2000, at the new Environmental Protection Agency Law Library, with informal discussions on future programs.

**Topics for 2001**


**Email List**

This year a specialized e-mail list of Federal law librarians was developed. Those wishing to use the list to place job announcements, announce items to give away, or inquire about other federal agency library policies may contact current President Rick J. McKinney with the Federal Reserve Board Law Library, rick.mckinney@frb.gov, who can post the query or announcement to the list.
The Legislative Research Special Interest Section held a brown bag lunch to discuss the legislative tracking service Gallerywatch.com, on December 14, 2000 at Dickstein, Shapiro Morin and Oshinsky. Basic information on services provided, clients, pricing, news articles, and a service trial account can be obtained through their website at http://www.gallerywatch.com.

Remember for information on our annual “Welcome Back Congress” party, welcoming not only the 107th Congress, but also the new President of the United States of America. Finally, we hope to follow the wonderful program LLSDC co-sponsored with Virginia Association of Law Librarians (VALL) on Virginia state and federal legislative research with programs on legislative research in other local jurisdictions.

Table Tennis Competition at AALL in Minneapolis

As part of the 2000 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, William S. Hein & Co., along with Bill Lindberg’s Ash Grove Group and the American Association of Law Libraries, sponsored a table tennis activity in the exhibit hall during exhibit hours. As a result of the positive response of those who participated, they are once again planning to conduct the activity at the 2001 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis.

They would like to have two to four representatives from each chapter for the competition in Minneapolis. We are hoping to form a team from LLSDC. If we get a number of volunteers, we would probably hold a local tournament to name the representatives for Minneapolis. Hein has offered to help underwrite the cost of equipment. They are planning on having two levels of play: advanced and intermediate. If you are interested in participating, contact Mike Petit, 202/274-4345 or mpetit@wcl.american.edu.

The Private Law Libraries Special Interest Section is in full swing!

By the time you read this our members will have enjoyed three events. We kicked off the year with a happy hour at Christopher Marks on November 8, 2000. PLL members were able to relax, enjoy each other’s company, and comment on the previous day’s election. The year continued with an education brown bag lunch on November 29, 2000 at Covington & Burling. Mary Dzurinko discussed setting up a home office, tax issues, and the potential for isolation of a home-based worker. Everyone enjoyed our December event, the Holiday Party. This annual kickoff to the season was hosted by Barbara Fisher, the Librarian at Mayer, Brown & Platt. Thanks go to Capitol District Information, Inc. and Infocurrent (formerly Telesec Corestaff) for underwriting a portion of the party’s expenses. The Social Committee is exploring many possibilities, including attending an evening film presentation at the Library of Congress and participating in a Thursday “Art Night” at the various galleries on 7th Street. The Education Committee has two exciting programs set for January and February. Gary Price will offer a presentation, the “Gumshoe Librarian,” with suggestions on how to find hidden information on the Internet. The following month Mary Ellen Bates will lead a discussion of the changing skills needed by today’s information professionals. Looking forward to seeing you at these (and other) 2001 events.

Membership Directory

If you have changes in your listing for the 2000-2001 LLSDC Membership & Law Library Directory, please contact Steve Mellin, Jenner & Block, at 202/639-6012 (phone) 202/637-6366 (FAX) or at smellin@jenner.com. Changes will be posted on the LLSDC website at http://www.llsdc.org/committees/directory/corrections.htm.

Lights Deadline

The deadline for the March/April 2001 issue of Law Library Lights is January 15, 2001, and the topic is “Copyright.” The deadline for the May/June 2001 issue of Law Library Lights is March 15, 2001, and the topic is “Continuing Library Education.”
**THE INTERLIBRARY LOAN SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION HAS SET OFF ON A COURSE FOR ADVENTURE** this fall with our sights on new knowledge. Here is a brief summary of the October, November and December meetings:

LLSDC President Ann C. Green met with the group in October to discuss a variety of LLSDC related subjects. Mentoring, volunteering, membership costs and possible educational programs were some of the topics discussed. Ann listened as members of the group expressed their opinions about these and other points of interest. We would like to thank Ann once again for taking the time to meet with our group and listening to our opinions. In November, we gathered at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene and MacRae for a round table discussion of document delivery/interlibrary loan sources of medical, scientific and technical information. Twenty-three members of the section were present to extol the virtues of their favorite sources. A number of libraries and other sources from around the U.S. and abroad were mentioned. Even the most seasoned ILL specialists present learned about new sources. We are especially grateful to our host, LeBoeuf, for providing pizza for the meeting. For the third year in a row, Shaw Pittman hosted the SIS Holiday Party. For all those not familiar with the meeting, it is better known as the “Cookie Party,” a social gathering rather than a business meeting. The emphasis is “peace on earth and goodwill to libraries” and holiday treats. The brownbag lunch meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. Announcements of upcoming meetings are included in Dates to Remember and posted on the LLSDC Listserv. For more information, email Pete Vay at pvay@wc.com.

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**INTERLIBRARY LOAN/SIS NEWS**

Pete Vay
Williams & Connolly

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

To publicize your event, please submit copy by the 21st of each month to Jeannine L. Coscia at Wiley, Rein & Fielding, jcoscia@wrf.com. Kindly contact Corresponding Secretary Nancy Crossed when planning LLSDC events. Nancy keeps the Society’s Master Calendar, and will help you determine a free date for your event. You can contact Nancy at 202/274-4344 or crossed@wcl.american.edu
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