



# Association of Law Libraries of ALLUNY Upstate New York

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December, 2025

## Issue Highlights:

- Renew Your ALLUNY Membership!
- ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting Recap
- Updates from the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee

## Inside this issue:

<a href="#">2026 Renewal Reminder</a>	2
<a href="#">Updates from Government Relations and Advocacy Committee</a>	3
<a href="#">Member News</a>	3
<a href="#">ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting Recap</a>	3-5
<a href="#">Board Meeting Minutes - 9/8/25</a>	6-7
<a href="#">ALLUNY Board and Committees</a>	8

## Message From the President

**Kristin Neri**

Happy Winter!

I want to share my gratitude to **Karen Oesterle** and **Chris Lund** as they conclude their co-presidency and move into past-presidency after many years of service on the board. Their leadership and guidance are appreciated more than words can convey.

I offer special thanks to **Lisa Worhacz** and **Angela Patti** for their continued service as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Their dedication to ALLUNY is sincerely valued.

We are pleased to welcome **Ella Pieterse** to the board as Vice President. Ella joined ALLUNY last year just before presenting at the Spring Institute and soon stepped forward to chair the newly renewed Government Relations and Advocacy Committee.

We also welcome our new board member, **Yage Huang**.

**Olli Baker** has kindly stepped in as Interim Chair of the Archives Committee. Contact me or anyone on the board if you are interested in this position.

Behind the scenes, **Nichole McCarthy**, Parliamentarian, and **Chris Lund** are working diligently on updating ALLUNY by-laws and **Elaina Brown** has taken the Chair position of the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee.

The Public Relations Committee, led by **Sue Ludington**, is working out a new process for finding and sharing job opportunities, including networking for new connections. The committee is actively seeking new members!

The Communications Committee has worked hard this year. Thank you to **Sidney Sinclair** for keeping our listservs functioning and updated. The Newsletter Committee has revamped the newsletter and I think we can all agree it looks great. **Laura Suttell** has taken on the task of Social Media posts, so be on the look out for updates on LinkedIn, Facebook, and the soon-to-be revived ALLUNY blog.

Finally, a HUGE THANK YOU to **Melissa Sievers**. I cannot begin to list the things Melissa handled for ALLUNY this year, including the complete revamping of our entire website. Melissa is always so helpful when there are issues or concerns with the website, we really cannot thank her enough for the time she has spent taking care of us this year.



(Continued on [Page 2](#))



## Message From the President (Continued from [Page 1](#))

ALLUNY partnered with other organizations this year, including the CNY Women's Bar Association, the Onondaga County Bar Association, LGBTQ+ Judges Association of NYS, and the PRIDE Alliance of the NYS Courts, all in order to get into the community more. We attended multiple PRIDE events, including marching in the CNY Pride Parade. The newly revamped Government Relations and Advocacy Committee, under the leadership of Elaina Brown, is working on a new partnership with CNY Library Resources Council to provide the subcommittee with training on how to interact and work with Legislators.

It is my personal belief that community relationships are the most important form of networking. I am so pleased to see ALLUNY starting to participate in Community Outreach by tabling at events.

Our Annual Meeting was a great success with full sponsorship from William S. Hein & Co., Inc., who hosted the event in their space and provided the catering. I want to thank **Jessica Petitto**, our Vendors and Corporate Sponsors Chair, for researching sponsors for our events and maintaining an up-to-date list of interested sponsors. Our presenters were all amazing and well worth the work the Planning Committee put in to make sure the event went well. Our AALL executive board visitor was Shamika Dalton, who was so much fun! We were so happy to host Shamika in beautiful Getzville, NY.

Another special thanks to Jessica and Chris, who are often at the other end of my texts when there are issues or concerns that need to be addressed. And thank you to Ella for being willing to run for VP after watching the way I handled it last year!

ALLUNY had an amazing year in 2025. I am really excited for a great year ahead. Let's keep the momentum going!



## 2026 Renewal Reminder

Don't forget to renew your ALLUNY membership for 2026!

The membership renewal form is now live on our website at [https://alluny.org/?page\\_id=202](https://alluny.org/?page_id=202). You can renew directly through the website, or you can print out a paper renewal form to pay by check.

### **Current Membership Rates and Categories:**

- **Active Membership:** Open to all individuals employed within a law library or law section of a general library. Cost: \$30/year
- **Associate Membership:** Open to all individuals expressing interest in law libraries. Cost: \$30/year
- **Student Memberships:** Open to students enrolled in a Graduate School of Library Science. Cost: ~~\$15/year~~ **Waived for 2026.**
- **Free Memberships:** Individuals who are currently unemployed or who are life members can have their dues waived.

## Updates from the Government Relations and Advocacy Committee

Hello, my name is **Elaina Brown**, and I am the new chair for ALLUNY's Government Relations and Advocacy (GR/A) committee. I am excited to start my term and continue collaborating with so many wonderful law library professionals. My goal as chair is to expand the reach of our advocacy efforts and support the needs of our members. I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming. Our next meeting will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM. Please stop by; we would love to have you. To join the Teams meeting, [click here](#). You can contact me with any questions at [https://alluny.org/?page\\_id=2354](https://alluny.org/?page_id=2354).



## Member News

Welcome to the following new members, who have joined ALLUNY since our last issue:

- Sara Denbo

At this year's New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference, **Michele Coolbeth** was presented with NYLA's Academic/Special Librarian of the Year Award. For more information about the award, see the [NYLA website](#), and to watch a brief message from Michele, check out [NYLA's 2025 Awards Reception video](#).

**If you've recently presented at a conference, authored a new publication, changed jobs or job title, or if you have any other news you'd like to share, please submit your updates to Newsletter Editor Melissa Sievers or to Newsletter Committee Member Chris Lund**



## ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting Recap

By Meghan Lenahan

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, I attended the ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting that was generously hosted by HeinOnline at their headquarters in Getzville, NY, near Buffalo. While I am not a law librarian, I was interested in the sessions relating to LibGuides and marketing that could be applied to broader academic librarianship. There were about thirty in-person attendees, in addition to roughly forty virtual attendees. The morning session provided some continental breakfast, which also included hot breakfast sandwiches from Wegmans.

### The Spaghetti Method: Marketing Tips for Your Library Resources

The first session was presented by **B. Austin Waters** (pictured at right) from the University at Buffalo School of Law Library. Austin described the Spaghetti Method as "throwing everything at the wall and seeing what sticks." In terms of marketing, it's about making an educated guess based on your library's primary user base and keeping track of what works and what doesn't. I liked that Austin mentioned keeping track of both successes and failures, as both can be a way to learn from the experience. Some marketing ideas were shared, my favorite of which was the suggestion to share photos of librarians with fun facts on social media to help students get to know their librarians. Other ways of effective marketing include using LinkedIn and word-of-mouth, the latter being effective for those already using library services to tell their friends and colleagues.



### Lightning Talks

The next three sessions were lightning talks presented as follows:

(Continued on [Page 4](#))

**“In terms of marketing, it’s about making an educated guess based on your library’s primary user base and keeping track of what works and what doesn’t [and] keeping track of both successes and failures, as both can be a way to learn from the experience.”**



## ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting Recap (Continued From [Page 3](#))

### *Media Production: What You Meant vs. What They Heard*

The first of the lightning talks was presented by **Michele Coolbeth** from the Onondaga County Supreme Court Law Library. The session started with asking the audience how they defined media, followed by the definition from Chris Sperry of Project Look Sharp: “Media are messages made by someone using pictures, words, or sounds and then shared with someone who isn’t with them.” This quote was striking in how to best convey information to your audience. I was also surprised to learn that media can also include objects you wouldn’t normally consider “media” like stamps, statues, and currency. Michele also shared a clip from the TV show “Somebody’s Got to Do It” with Mike Rowe, who speaks with neon sign artist Evan Voyles about the importance of effective signage to promote your business or services. The audience was left with a quote by Evan: “You’re in the right place. This place is different from anywhere else you’ve seen.” The “you’re in the right place” message is particularly essential for library services, especially in the case of public access law libraries who offer help center services to self-represented litigants trying to navigate the court system.

### *Springshare’s LibGuide A-Z Database List*

The second lightning talk was presented by **Martin Ambroz** from the Syracuse University Law Library. This presentation was the one that most closely ties in with my regular job responsibilities as an electronic resources librarian, where one of my duties includes maintaining my institution’s A-Z list. The A-Z list, according to Springshare’s website, lets you “browse, sort, search, and share your library’s research databases.” Martin mentioned the importance of setting goals and having best practices for setting up the entries in the list, primarily to provide information as clearly as quickly as possible for users, who may be scanning the list for resources. The A-Z list also has functionality for filtering by subject area, resource type, and alphabetically by title. Finally, collaborating with stakeholders to help decide whether sub-databases require their own entry on the A-Z list for discoverability, but Martin advises not to include individual journals or titles unless they are significant works.

### *Promoting and Marketing the Power of Internal Data*

The final lightning talk was presented by Janice E. Henderson, Esq., MLS, from Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Janice’s presentation discussed how to build a marketing plan to promote use of an internal database. This included understanding how the resource is unique and necessary in the library, gathering information from market research, and identifying the target audience.

### **Tour of HeinOnline Headquarters**

Hein was kind enough to offer up their space to host the ALLUNY annual meeting (and without being asked!). After the morning sessions, in-person attendees were given a tour of the space. This included seeing some of their fancy digitization equipment, including an automated bound book scanner, a camera set up for oversized and fragile materials, and a super-fast scanner that scanned 10,000 pages in an hour of unbound book pages. We also got to see Hein employees’ workspaces as well as their break room, complete with a kitchen, shelves of snacks, and massage chairs. One of the guides explained about the server room and how they are working on AI functionality that would be on its own server.

### **HeinOnline LibGuides and Other Tools that Drive Discovery**

After a Buffalo-themed lunch spread provided by Hein, the afternoon sessions kicked off with a presentation by Hein employees Stephanie Jacobson and Roxanne Marmion. The first half, conducted by Stephanie, gave some tips for best practices in building LibGuides, such as keeping pages clean and brief for easy scanning (avoid doom-scrolling), being intentional with using links and images, using templates for guides and adapting them to your needs, and reviewing them internally before going live. The second half was presented by Roxanne, who talked about upcoming HeinOnline tools such as AI summaries and scholarly impact rankings.

(Continued on [Page 5](#))

## ALLUNY 2025 Annual Meeting Recap (Continued from [Page 4](#))

### LibGuide Case Study: NYS First Time Voter Guide

The next session was presented by Pratt MLIS student **Nick Brenner**. As part of a project for a reference class, Nick and his classmates looked at other voter guides for common themes and noticed some guides didn't have a particular audience in mind and they just directed library users to an ALA guide instead. First time voters include groups such as residents who have recently reached the voting age, new citizens, and individuals newly released from incarceration. The voters guide created for Pratt included ballot information for both New York State and New York City and voters rights information. The section Nick worked on was about the history of voter suppression in the state (right up to a recent case involving the Onondaga Nation).



### Open Discussion on Creating and Marketing Legal Research Tools

This session was run by **Christine Demetros** of the Syracuse University College of Law Library. For this session, attendees were divided into two breakout groups (one for virtual attendees and one for in-person). For twenty minutes, groups discussed particular Springshare tools such as LibAnswers, LibStaffer, etc. We also talked about best practices for LibGuides, such as using side tabs instead of top tabs for better accessibility and mobile device usage. At the end, the groups came back together and compared notes.

### Ask A Law Librarian Service

The next session was presented by Chloë Edwards-Stowe from the New York State Unified Court System's Office of Legal Information. Prior to 2019, the Ask a Law Librarian service was only used internally and not widely promoted. In 2019, the court law libraries adopted Springshare and launched in 2020. The service is now promoted on the court system's Court Help website as well as the court home page under "Representing Yourself." The use of chat service peaked in 2023, speculating that the more recently implemented FAQ page has helped answer users' questions, reducing the need for chat or email. Advice that Chloë gave was to keep information simple by using plain language. There are plans to expand information on LibGuides for basic topic information while referring users to visit the law library for more in-depth research needs.

### AALL Executive Board Member

The final session was presented by Shamika Dalton of the University of Colorado Law School and the AALL Executive Board. Chapter visits from AALL board members are a great opportunity to get to know members better, as the national conference tends to be very big and its harder to make those connections. Shamika shared what has been going on with AALL lately, including a search for a new and permanent executive director taking place this Winter, with the expectation of bringing a successful candidate on board by Spring 2026. The interim director is Dr. Joyce Gilbert. The search to fill the vacant Director of Government Relations position is on pause until the new executive director has been established. Shamika also encouraged AALL members to vote and make their voices heard, as well as nominate colleagues for board positions (but to please ask them first). At the time of this meeting, ninety-eight conference proposals had been submitted for the 2026 AALL conference in Cleveland.

### Final Thoughts

LibGuides and marketing are universal themes in the library world, which was relatable to me as an academic librarian. I used to work for the Unified Court System's law libraries, so it was interesting to me to learn about the great things law libraries have been doing recently. The size of the conference was not at all overwhelming and I prefer that over the larger conferences. I was able to chat with some of the law librarians and learned of mutual former colleagues, including one who now currently works at my institution and a former supervisor of mine. A special thank you to HeinOnline for their hospitality and inviting ALLUNY to use their space to hold the conference. I feel that every conference room needs a room mic, especially for attendee questions and that helped make the conference run smoothly.

### About the Author

Meghan Lenahan is the Electronic Resources Librarian at Binghamton University. In a previous life, she worked in the New York State Unified Court System's law libraries for 11 years. This was her first time attending an ALLUNY annual meeting.

*"... some tips for best practices in building LibGuides [include] keeping pages clean and brief for easy scanning (avoid doom-scrolling), being intentional with using links and images, using templates for guides and adapting them to your needs, and reviewing them internally before going live."*



## ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025 (Approved November 3, 2025)



ALLUNY Board Meeting

Held on Zoom

Monday, September 8, 2025, 10:00AM

Present: Karen Oesterle, Angela Patti, Chris Lund, Ella Pieterse, Jessica Petitto, Melissa Sievers, Allison Perry, Kristin Neri, Lisa Worhacz

Meeting called to order at 10:05 (Lund)

*(Oesterle, Patti, Unanimously Approved)*

Approval of 7/7/25 Meeting Minutes

*(Oesterle, Patti, Unanimously Approved)*

### Old Business

- Elections Results
  - 35 votes cast; new term starts at the Annual Meeting
  - New roles:
    - Ella Pieterse elected to serve as VP/President Elect.
    - Yage Huang elected Board Member.
    - Kristin Neri becomes President.
    - Chris Lund and Karen Oesterle will serve as Co-Past Presidents.
  - Departing:
    - Allison Perry and Jessica Petitto completed their terms.
  - Other officers/board members will remain in their positions.
- Annual Meeting updates
  - AALL representative: Shamika Dalton, Board Member, Law Library Director and Associate Professor at University of Colorado.
  - Location: Hein has offered/agreed to host the meeting at their headquarters.
  - Pre-meeting Social Event:
    - Thursday evening; possibly at NY Beer Project.
    - Waiting for confirmation whether Hein will host or sponsor.
    - Elaine Knecht and Beth Adelman have volunteered to organize event.
  - Most speakers/sessions finalized.
  - Syracuse University will host Zoom.
- AALL Joint Reception Recap
  - Received approximately 72 RSVPs; an estimated 50+ people attended.
  - Representatives from Hein joined.
  - Most attendees from LLAGNY, so a representative should suggest that they host next year.
  - Treasurer received and deposited Bloomberg's \$500 contribution a few weeks ago.
- Deborah "Debbie" Simonik Memorial Scholarship
  - Treasurer confirmed AALL received \$50 dollar scholarship donation. ALLUNY will send another \$50 next fiscal year (as agreed during 7/7/2025 meeting).
  - Ideas for further recognition:
    - New award or grant -- ALLUNY has the Anthony P. Grech Memorial Award and Katie M. Deveau Spirit Award to remember their legacy. Ask Bousquet Holstein to contribute to an award in Debbie's name? However, ALLUNY receives few grant applications since the new meeting format has lowered the cost for attendance.
    - Scholarship for a local grad student interested in law librarianship. This would enhance educational outreach as well. Alternative or in addition to, waive meeting registration fees while in school?
    - Discussion tabled until new Board term; Grants and Scholarships Committee to follow up.

(Continued on [Page 7](#))

## ALLUNY Board Meeting Minutes September 8, 2025 (Approved November 3, 2025) (Continued from [Page 6](#))

### New Business

- Chapter Liability Insurance
  - Treasurer reports that ALLUNY is covered under AALL's policy (current contract expires end of November).
  - Webmaster will update calendar and website once confirmed.

### Committee Reports

- Government Relations Committee
  - Completed draft entry and survey for the Fall newsletter.
  - Chair stepping down (Ella Pieterse will assume VP/President Elect role); will post open position via Listserv.
  - Committee has been exploring tabling opportunities with the Office for New Americans.
- Membership Committee
  - Angela Patti will continue as temporary chair; no updates
- Newsletter Committee
  - Fall issue coming soon.
  - Plans to publish newsletter every 3 months, including December since the committee should have content after the Fall Meeting.
- Grants and Scholarships
  - No updates.
- Archives Committee
  - Olli Baker will assume role as Board liaison.
  - Olli reached out to Albany and was asked to follow up after the start of the semester.
- Social Media
  - No updates.
- Vendors and Corporate Sponsors
  - No updates.
- Nominations
  - No updates.
  - Thanks expressed to Jessica Petitto for her service on the Nominations Committee.
- Elections
  - Covered under Old Business.
  - Thanks to Nina Scholtz for managing the election.

### Announcements

- Next board meeting November 3, 2025, at 10:00 AM

Adjourned 10:41 AM (Lund)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Worhacz, Secretary



## 2025-2026 ALLUNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES OF UPSTATE NEW YORK

Website:  
[www.alluny.org](http://www.alluny.org)

Social Media:

[Facebook](#)

#### **President**

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Law Librarian  
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#### **Vice President**

Ella Pieterse  
Law Library Assistant  
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#### **Secretary**

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#### **Treasurer**

Angela Patti  
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Supreme Court Library at Buffalo  
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#### **Co-Past President**

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#### **Co-Past President**

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#### **Newsletter Editor**

Melissa Sievers  
Senior Research Analyst  
Harris Beach Murtha Cullina PLLC  
99 Garnsey Road  
Pittsford, NY 14534  
[Contact Melissa Sievers](#)

### Committees

#### **Archives**

Chair: Vacant

#### **Communications**

Listserv: Sidney Sinclair  
Newsletter: Melissa Sievers  
Public Relations: Sue Ludington  
Social Media: Laura Suttell  
Website: Melissa Sievers

#### **Continuing Education**

Chair: Ella Pieterse  
Vendors & Corporate Sponsors:  
Jessica Petitto

#### **Government Relations/ Advocacy**

Chair: Elaina Brown

#### **Members & Elections**

Membership: Angela Patti  
(Acting)  
Elections: Nina Scholtz  
Grants & Awards: Karen Oes-  
terle  
Nominations: Karen Oesterle &  
Chris Lund

#### **Parliamentarian**

Chair: Nichole McCarthy

