



CREATE Justice

Centre for Research, Evaluation,
and Action Towards Equal Justice

Access to Legal Services - Dispute Resolution - Systemic Justice



SASKATCHEWAN
ACCESS TO JUSTICE WEEK
OCTOBER 16-21



Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project

*Conference on the Role of Legal Information Providers and Public Libraries
in Promoting Access to Justice*

OCTOBER 20-21, 2017

law.usask.ca/createjustice

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Role of Legal Information Providers and Public Libraries in Promoting Access to Justice is a conference that will bring together legal scholars, library science scholars, legal information providers, and public library representatives from urban, rural, and remote areas of Saskatchewan to discuss the role of libraries in improving access to legal information. The conference, hosted by partners from the Saskatchewan Access to Legal Information Project (the SALI Project), will take place over two days (October 20 and 21, 2017) and will be oriented towards developing actionable strategies for making legal information more accessible through public libraries.

Through a series of panels and keynote speakers targeted to specific questions, the conference will explore in greater detail the themes identified in the 2016 "Putting the Public First" symposium: i) increasing general public awareness of access to justice issues and the role of libraries; ii) determining the differences between legal information and legal advice; iii) identifying existing legal information resources and gaps; iv) discussing how physical and online library spaces can be used to increase access to legal information; v) increasing empirical information on patrons' and librarians' legal information needs. Each of these areas will be the focus of a session followed by a short, structured discussion intended to identify concrete next steps in taking action towards the larger issue of access to legal information.

For more information about the SALI Project, please visit law.usask.ca/createjustice.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CREATE Justice, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan
Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon Public Library
Law Society of Saskatchewan
University Library, University of Saskatchewan

WIFI

uofs-guest

Username: sali2017

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



John Greacen is currently a principal of Greacen Associates, LLC. Mr. Greacen wrote the seminal article on the difference between legal information and legal advice for court staff in 1995 and continues to publish regularly on the topic. He was editor of the California Benchbook on Self-Represented Litigants and author of the benchbook chapter on judicial ethics. He has made educational presentations on dealing with self-represented litigants in many states and in Canada. Mr. Greacen received the National Association for Court Management Award of Merit in 1999. Mr. Greacen is Project Consultant to the Self-Represented Litigation Network and principal consultant for the Network's State Justice Institute-funded study of remote delivery of services to self-represented litigants. In 2017 he received the Ernest C. Friesen Award for Excellence from the Justice Management Institute. The award is "in recognition of his vision, leadership, and sustained commitment to the achievement of excellence in the administration of justice."



Janet Freeman, Consultant: Janet Freeman has worked in the field of legal information for the public since 1987. She worked as a Legal Advocate at a women's centre from 1987-2000. In 2000 she joined the Legal Services Society as a LawLine Librarian and also served as a Legal Information Outreach Worker and Fieldworker until 2007. Janet was hired in 2007 by Courthouse Libraries BC to develop the LawMatters at Your Local Public Library Program. The work included developing a province-wide collaboration of public librarians in 250 branches; establishing an annual distribution of grants for libraries to purchase legal materials; publishing an annual list of recommended legal titles for purchase; offering a series of training events in how to do legal reference; developing materials and websites to support public librarians in their work with legal information, including helping them provide a series of Legal Information Community Forums; and conducting several evaluation activities and reports.



Michele Leering is the Executive Director and a lawyer with the Community Advocacy & Legal Centre in Belleville, Ontario. Her work with public and courthouse librarians is expansive, beginning in 2010 as part of a legal needs assessment project. The report that was produced identified the important role that librarians could play as "trusted intermediaries" in helping to increase access to justice. On the heels of releasing that report in March 2011, she began a collaborative action research project to engage local librarians and the courthouse librarian in a fledgling legal literacy project. Inspired by the work of Janet Freeman, a local plan of action emerged. Eventually Michele became the lead on a project that hoped to scale up this initiative province wide, and co-hosted a provincial Libraries & Justice Forum in October 2015. This initiative was recently nominated for an American Bar Association Access to Justice Award.

AGENDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

Location: MLT AIKINS Lecture Theatre (Rm.150), College of Law, University of Saskatchewan (15 Campus Drive)

1:00pm

Registration

1:30-3:00pm

Panel 1 – Welcome, Opening Remarks, and Introductions

Welcome and Opening Remarks: College of Law Dean Martin Phillipson and Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General Glen Gardner, QC

Introduction to the Access to Justice Context and SALI Project: Beth Bilson, QC, Lead Investigator

Meet the SALI Project Partners: Beth Bilson, QC, SALI Project Lead Investigator, CREATE Justice, College of Law; Brea Lowenberger, SALI Project Coordinator, CREATE Justice, College of Law; Joel Janow, Executive Director, Public Legal Education Association of Saskatchewan; Shannon Mason, Manager, Branches, Saskatoon Public Library; Melanie Hodges-Neufeld, Director of Legal Resources, Law Society of Saskatchewan; and Charlene Sorensen, University of Saskatchewan Library

Introduction of Conference Attendees: Participants introduce themselves and their interest in the SALI Project

Theme: Project background and context, overview of access to justice, what makes libraries a good fit for distributing and accessing legal information, overview of each project partner's organization and interest in the project, and identifying each attendee's interest in the project.

3:00pm

Break (refreshments available)

3:15-4:45pm

Panel 2 – Reflections on Data Collection in Public Libraries and Legal Information Needs

Speakers: Janelle Anderson, Shannon Mason, Brea Lowenberger and Colin Evans

Theme: Increasing empirical information on patrons' and librarians' legal information needs. Summarize pilot data collection tool findings and some library representatives' feedback.

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Discussion about libraries as part of the access to justice solution and on expanding the reach of data collection in order to improve legal information resources and needs in Saskatchewan.

5:00pm

Dinner (Native Law Centre, Rm. 160, College of Law)

7:00-8:00pm

Keynote 1 – Legal Information, Legal Advice, and Access to Justice – The Distinction as it is Understood in the United States

Speaker: John Greacen

Theme: The differences between legal information and legal advice.

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Carried to Saturday morning.

**Schedule and topics subject to change.*

AGENDA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

Location: MLT AIKINS Lecture Theatre (Rm.150), College of Law, University of Saskatchewan (15 Campus Drive)

8:30am

Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30am

Panel 3 – Accessing Legal Information Resources

Speakers: Joel Janow, Jocelyn Gagne, Kim Newsham, Suneil Sarai, Melanie Hodges-Neufeld, Judy Shum and Greg Wurzer.

Theme: Identifying existing legal information resources and gaps and how physical and online library spaces can be used to increase access to legal information.

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Discussion about creation of training materials for librarians that help to outline the distinction between legal information and advice and of a legal information resources guide.

10:30am

Break (refreshments available)

10:45am-12:15pm

Panel 4 – Recognizing Context: Diverse and Overlapping Needs in Rural, Remote and Urban Centres

Speakers: Jean McKendry, James Hope Howard, Tanya Rogoschewsky and Nalini Vaddapalli (via conference system)

Theme: Increasing general public awareness of access to justice issues and the role of libraries and other stakeholders.

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Discussion about the diversity and similarities between different communities' needs, which can help inform the creation and implementation of next steps for the SALI Project.

12:15pm

Lunch (Native Law Centre, Rm. 160, College of Law)

1:00-2:30pm

Keynote 2 – Assessing Resources and Developing Collections Lists

Speaker: Janet Freeman

Theme: Identifying existing legal information resources and gaps.

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Following the first SALI meeting, the Law Society created a 'Saskatchewan version' of the BC Law Matters Collections List. Melanie Hodges-Neufeld will lead a roundtable discussion on the Saskatchewan Collections List that has been created, to elicit interest and feedback from conference attendees.

2:30-4:00pm

Keynote 3- Ongoing Partnerships Model and Moving Forward

Speaker: Michele Leering

Discussion on Proposed Action Item and Next Steps: Brea Lowenberger will moderate a roundtable discussion on actionable next steps in Saskatchewan, based on the themes addressed and discussion that has unfolded throughout the conference.

4:00pm

Closing remarks

**Schedule and topics subject to change.*

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