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## Telling Our Stories at IFLA's 2019 Meeting in Athens, Greece

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# DipLawMatic Dialogues // Published by the FCIL Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries

## Telling Our Stories at IFLA's 2019 Meeting in Athens, Greece

Posted on September 24, 2019 by FCIL-SIS

By Anne Burnett (<http://www.law.uga.edu/profile/anne-burnett>)



Law

Entrance to the Megaron Convention Center (Photo Credit: Anne Burnett)

Librarians joined 3,600+ colleagues from around the world for the 85<sup>th</sup> World Legal Information Congress (WLIC), the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions' (IFLA) annual meeting in the Megaron Convention Center, located in the Kolonaki neighborhood of Athens, Greece.

The IFLA Law Libraries Section (<https://www.ifla.org/law-libraries/conferences>),

which includes several AALL members, once again sponsored two conference programs:

- Monday, August 26: Law Libraries – Telling Our Stories (subject of this post)
- Tuesday, August 27: Access to the Laws of the Countries of the World (keep an eye out for Sally Holterhoff's report re this program).

Carole Hinchcliff, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne and AALL member, chaired and moderated the program which focused on the role law librarians can play in the telling of stories connected to law and cultural heritage.

Three librarians shared the stories of three special collections:



Panel Chair, Carole Hinchcliff (Photo Credit: Mark Engsborg)

1) AALL member

Yolanda Jones,

Florida A&M University, College of Law Library, spoke about the [Virgil Darnell Hawkins Collection: A Special Collection at the Heart of an HBCU Law School](http://library.ifla.org/2162/) (<http://library.ifla.org/2162/>). Florida established FAMU's law school in response to Mr. Hawkins' 1949 application to the University of Florida's law school. To avoid admitting a black man to the U of Florida, the state created the law school at FAMU solely for Mr. Hawkins. Understandably, he declined the opportunity to be the sole law student at a segregated law school and attended law school in another state. FAMU law school's first class entered in 1951; however, with desegregation, the law school closed its doors in 1968, and the library's collection went to FSU's Law Library. In 2002, FAMU law school reopened, and FSU began the time-consuming process of identifying and returning the materials to FAMU. Despite the darker

history surrounding this collection, the FAMU law library believes it is the appropriate home for it, and the law school's related [Virgil Darnell Hawkins Archive](https://commons.law.famu.edu/virgil-hawkins-archive/) (<https://commons.law.famu.edu/virgil-hawkins-archive/>) is a testament to the man who never actually attended FAMU College of Law. [Slides](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/virgil_hawkins_special_collection.pdf) ([https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/virgil\\_hawkins\\_special\\_collection.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/virgil_hawkins_special_collection.pdf))



L-R Panelists: Beth Williams, Sonia Smith, Yolanda Jones (Photo Credit: Mark Engsborg)

2) Sonia Smith, McGill University, Montreal, Canada shared [And the Seed of a Bequest Sprouted: The Wainwright Collection of the Nahum Gelber Law Library at McGill University](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/and_the_seed_of_a_bequest_sprouted_smaller_size.pdf) ([https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/and\\_the\\_seed\\_of\\_a\\_bequest\\_sprouted\\_smaller\\_size.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/and_the_seed_of_a_bequest_sprouted_smaller_size.pdf)). Early 20<sup>th</sup> C. French legal Historian François-Jean-Marie Olivier-Martin's private library contained books on French legal history, customary law, church law and history, political science and more. In 1958, McGill University Professor Emeritus Arnold Wainwright presented this collection, considered one of the greatest collections of historical French law outside of France, to McGill University. Professor Wainwright expressed his hope "that the collection would encourage graduate and undergraduate research into the Quebec Civil Code." The bequeathal of the residue of Wainwright's estate to McGill continued to fund programs promoting the scholarly study of civil law, and the Wainwright Foundation continues this story with its ongoing support of the Wainwright Lectures Series, Wainwright

Fellowships, Wainwright Professorship of Civil Law, Wainwright Legal Essay Competition, Wainwright Scholarships for law students, and the Wainwright Library Fund. [Wainwright Librarians \(https://www.mcgill.ca/wainwright/library\)](https://www.mcgill.ca/wainwright/library) continue to acquire books on private and comparative law, and the Wainwright Collection today consists of over 3000 volumes, (approximately 1700 titles) and reflects the global influence of civil law across continents, its historic evolution, as well as its linguistic diversity. [Slides \(https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/and\\_the\\_seed\\_of\\_a\\_bequest\\_sprouted-\\_smaller\\_size.pdf\)](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/and_the_seed_of_a_bequest_sprouted-_smaller_size.pdf)

3) AALL member Beth Williams, Stanford Law School, Robert Crown Law Library, talked about [Understanding #MeToo by Listening to the Past: Preserving, Mining, and Promoting the American Bar Association's Women Trailblazers in the Law Oral History Collection @ Stanford Law School. \(http://library.ifla.org/2591/\)](http://library.ifla.org/2591/) This collection, officially launched in March 2019, provides access to the oral histories of 100 pioneering women who entered the legal profession in the 1970's. Newly digitized by the Robert Crown Law Library at Stanford Law School, these are the stories of women who succeeded in spite of dismissive environments, sexual harassment and violence. The inclusion of audio files in addition to transcripts is important because the transcripts were edited. The collection also includes biographies and photo galleries. [Slides \(https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/metoo\\_wtp\\_compressed\\_images\\_002.pdf\)](https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/law-libraries/presentations/metoo_wtp_compressed_images_002.pdf)

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