What has been your proudest accomplishment as Director of ACLL?

My instrumental role in the purchase, design and completion of the new Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library. I had previously assisted in planning a new law library at St. Louis University, helping my mentor, librarian Eileen Searls, realize her vision of developing a modern law library that reflected the needs of faculty, staff, and students. When the Board of Trustees at ACLL expressed an interest in finding a new space for the county law library, I was able to draw on my past experience. I created a “new building fund” for the project and built up the fund gradually out of current income. It was invested carefully, and in 1989, the law library purchased the 1924 gothic revival building at 125 12th Street jointly with Alameda County. With input from the Board, the County, architects, library staff, and a library consultant, the first two floors of the building were transformed. Through these efforts the Board and I succeeded in achieving our shared objective of creating an attractive, inviting, and state-of-the-art law library.

Of the many special moments that I remember during my career, the re-dedication of the new library as the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County stands out as a highlight. We were honored to host Mrs. Witkin and other members of his family at a reception where we celebrated the new name and dedicated a new name sign.

Other very special moments include the law library centennial celebration at the Oakland Museum, the grand opening of the new library, and the unveiling of the murals by local artist Anthony Holdsworth. And of course, none of us will ever forget the Loma Prieta earthquake!

What is the greatest challenge you have faced as Director?

Operating a world-class law library on a limited budget.

What is the greatest challenge county law libraries will face in the next decade?

I believe that funding will remain the greatest challenge that county law libraries face in the next decade. Revenue from filing fees is likely to decrease as more self-represented litigants seek fee waivers in this weak economy.

Continued on page 5....
Research Guides Added to Library Website

This summer the law library added a "Research Guide" section to our website. The library currently maintains 26 legal research guides that are designed to direct self-represented litigants and attorneys to relevant library resources and to authoritative sources of legal information available on the Internet. The guides feature links to self-help websites and forms prepared by the Alameda County Superior Court and the Judicial Council of California, as well as Alameda County, state, and federal agencies.

You can access all 26 guides here: http://www.acgov.org/law/researchguide.htm

Where is it Now?: Bankruptcy Forms Manual

Previously published in hard copy by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Bankruptcy Forms Manual is now available exclusively in electronic format on the U.S. Court’s website. A compendium of official, numbered bankruptcy forms and attendant instructions, the Bankruptcy Forms Manual can be accessed at the following website: http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html. Many of the forms in the Manual are fillable PDF documents that can be completed on your computer, printed out, and filed with the appropriate bankruptcy court.

U.S. Courts has also developed a checklist of the required lists, schedules, statements, and fees for voluntary bankruptcy cases, organized by Chapter: http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/BK_Forms_08_Director/B_200_0108.pdf
On September 23, 2008, attorney J. Gary Gwilliam spoke to a packed conference room in the Alameda County Law Library on *Getting a Winning Verdict in Your Life, a Preventive Ethics Seminar*. A partner in the firm of Gwilliam, Ivary, Cavalli & Brewer, he is a past president of the Consumer Attorneys of California and of the Public Justice Foundation. In his presentation, Gwilliam talked about the connection between legal ethics, a balanced life, a healthy life style, and stress reduction. He believes that losses in the courtroom should be treated as challenges and opportunities for growth, rather than events that provoke self-doubt and self-blame. Drawing on personal experience, he spoke about overcoming and avoiding alcoholism, and leading a happy and holistic life while vigorously practicing law. One hour of CLE credit for ethics was given to attorneys in attendance.

Throughout his presentation, Gwilliam referred to his book, *Getting a Winning Verdict in My Personal Life: A Trial Lawyer Finds His Soul*. His book was a Best Books Award Finalist, USA Book News. One hour of CLE substance abuse credit has been approved for attorneys who read his book and pass an authorized test. For more information, email mgeecar@giccb.com. Prior to its publication, his book was the basis for an award-winning California CEB audio presentation with a workbook.

Mr. Gwilliam has generously donated two CEB DVD videos to the law library. One entitled *Getting a Winning Verdict in your Personal Life: a Discussion of Preventative Ethics* and another entitled *Am I Drinking Too Much: a Rhetorical Question*. The first DVD carries one hour of CLE credit for ethics and the second DVD carries one hour of CLE credit for substance abuse. Both are available for checkout from the library at the Circulation Desk.

With the success of the Gwilliam lecture, the law library plans to host CLE events with greater regularity in the future!

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In 2008, Thomson West added a new title to its popular Rutter Group series of California practice guides: *Federal Employment Litigation*. Written by judges and experienced practitioners in the area of employment law, this comprehensive two-volume set guides attorneys through the process of trying employment cases in federal court.

Coverage is given to establishing and proving claims that arise under federal law, including race discrimina-
Fall of 2008 marks the publication of an important new series from the American Law Institute, Principles of the Law. This series marks a departure from the Restatements which ALI describes as reflecting “[T]he law as it presently stands or might plausibly be stated by a court.” As the ALI website information about the new series indicates, “Principles may be addressed to courts, legislatures, or governmental agencies. They assume the stance of expressing the law as it should be, which may or may not reflect the law as it is.”

The American Law Institute has a long history of publishing important works including the Restatements of the Law and the Model Codes. The Principles of the Law reflect the same meticulous care which characterizes the Restatements and Model Codes. In a letter to subscribers dated May 2008, the American Law Institute described the new series further:

“Principles projects involve intensive examination and analysis of legal areas thought to be in need of reform. These projects aim to express the law as it should be. Principles of the Law are developed in the same careful deliberative process used for Restatements: they are vetted through a series of drafts, at each stage subject to review and commentary from practicing lawyers, legal scholars, and judges. Like Restatements, Principles publications use the familiar black-letter statements of recommended legal rules, supported by Comments, Illustrations, and Reporter’s Notes. In critical areas where the law is developing, such as in corporate governance, family law, intellectual property, software contracts, class actions (aggregate litigation), and nonprofit organizations, courts and lawyers also will be seeking and relying increasingly on ALI’s formulations and Comments and the research reflected in the Reporter’s Notes.” (Underlining added.)

Even before the completed volumes appeared, ALI’s Principles of the Law was already making its mark. U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy cited to a draft of the Principles of the Law in his dissenting opinion in the grandparent visitation case, Troxel v. Granville (530 U.S. 57 at 101, 120 S.Ct 2054 at 2079, 47 L.Ed. 49, June 5, 2000).

Federal courts in Illinois, Maine, New Hampshire and New York have also cited either to the completed publication or to drafts, as have state courts in a number of jurisdictions including California (In re Marriage of Bonds, 524 C. 4th 1, 5 P.3d 815, 99 Ca.Rptr.2d 252; and the unreported case of In re Marriage of DeLuca and Broquedis, Cal. App. 1st Dist, May 17, 2006 [A1 10788]), Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Clearly this new series, Principles of the Law, is taking its place beside the Restatements and the Model Codes as a definitive work.

The Alameda County Law Library is proud to make this new series available for reference use at the Main Library in Oakland. The library has already received Intellectual Property: Principles Governing Jurisdiction, Choice of Law, and Judgments in Transnational Disputes, Principles of Corporate Governance and Principles of the Law of Family Dissolution and has a standing order for the new titles as they are published.

They are shelved on Stack 125, across from the Restatements.
Association of Law Libraries recognized my work for the profession, naming me a recipient of the 2007 Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest honor that the American law library profession can bestow upon a law librarian.

During your tenure at ACLL, what changes have you observed in the demographics of library users?

When I began my career at Alameda County Law Library, the majority of library users were judges and attorneys, with very few members of the public patronizing the library. Over the years I have witnessed a demographic shift, as self-represented litigants now constitute the majority of our patronage.

What are you most looking forward to about retirement?

I am looking forward to an active retirement that includes spending time with my grandchildren, serving as a member of the Board of Women Lawyers of Alameda County, and hobbies like gardening and cooking. I may also consider becoming an interpreter for the Alameda County Superior Court system.

And in closing, do you have any last piece of advice for the new Director?

Be nice to my staff!