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Letter to William Younger regarding Csaky's position as chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, November 14, 1974

Susan Csaky

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November 14, 1974.

Mr. William C. Younger, President  
Southeastern Chapter of A.A.L.L.  
Judicial Building - Capitol  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your communication of November 5, 1974. I am honored and pleased to accept the chairmanship of the Scholarship Committee - if you will have me in the light of the events described below.

A few days ago Paul Willis called and asked me to take over as head of the University Library's Government Publications Department. The promotion "struck" me as a thunderbolt out of the blue: I have been aware of a mess and difficult situation in GPD, but conditions have not been so rosy here in the Law Library either and I have considered myself sufficiently committed to law librarianship to try to do my best and not give up the ship. Unfortunately I have no choice. This past summer I was promoted to associate law librarian with the specific task of providing reference service for students, faculty and patrons. While our reference blossomed, our cataloging fell apart, so Bill James ordered me to resume cataloging. This I consider a demotion and am not willing to do, so I have to accept Paul's offer.

There are lots of ramification to this problem which I need not go into at this time. I have applied to Louisville (thanks for your kind words on my behalf to the acting dean there) but was told that without a law degree I am not even considered. (Gene Teitelbaum from Duke got the job.) I tried a few other places with the same result. So unless I quit altogether I have no choice.

Although the issue of my move is settled there is no announcement forthcoming for a few weeks because of some personnel problems over at GPD. Yet I am expected to move between December 1 and 15.

My question is, where will my assumption of this new job put me in the Association. I am allowed to continue my legal education and have been asked to continue teaching legal bib. and retain my title as adjunct instructor of law. I should like to consider myself as a law librarian at large and keep my membership both in AALL and in the Southeastern Chapter even if I have to give up my institutional membership and pay the dues out of my pocket. Whether I shall be given money to travel to any of the meetings is something else. I was not given a chance to talk to Paul about rank, salary, fringe benefits, etc. but I intend to clarify these matters shortly.

In view of all this you may prefer the chairman of the Scholarship Committee to be a real law librarian. If so, please do not hesitate to make whatever changes you think are necessary. As for myself I should like to consider the next few years - until I get the JD - as an opportunity to develop some kind of expertise in documents (my responsibility will include state and federal documents, Great Britain, UN, EEC, etc. just to mention a few). I have a few ideas of service to the Bar along these lines, but I'll work on them after I have learned the ropes of my new job.
We were all chagrined by Pearl's death. I have known for some time that there is no hope for recovery, but I have a keen sense of loss and I miss her very much. The person who called me from Louisville told me that she has already notified you and Mary Green, this is why I did not call you. Later in the day I got in touch with Kate Wallach and she too confirmed that you were notified. I do not know any of Pearl's family and could not find out any details of her funeral or other arrangements. Perhaps some money could be added to the scholarship fund in her memory or it is possible that the University of Louisville may set up a fund in her memory. Let me know if you hear something before I do.

Sorry this is such a long letter but I wanted to inform you of all the events. Please let me know your decision.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Susan D. Csaky
Associate Law Librarian