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Doris Hinson

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Duke Law Library
Box 90361
October 20, 1992

Mary S. Forman
Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A.
P. O. Box 231
Orlando, Florida 32802-0231

Dear Ms. Forman:

I'm looking forward to working with the Scholarship Committee and perhaps meeting you at the next SEALL meeting if I'm able to go next time.

In response to your memo of October 8 in which you asked for our opinions on creating a student award for a currently enrolled library school student and the possibility of a separate award for a minority scholarship, I would have to say that I do not favor either suggestion.

First, I don't think it would be right to take away money that could be available for our own members for financial assistance. Perhaps we could offer a very reduced registration fee for students as an alternative (if we don't already do so).

Also, presumably the point of offering a student scholarship is to attract people to law librarianship as a profession. However, as a library science student, I was active with the North Carolina branch of Special Libraries Association. I had a part time job at a newspaper library and was a member of the Newspaper Division of SLA. I won an essay competition which the Newspaper Division sponsored and was able to attend the national convention of SLA, especially since student registration was so low. Once I graduated, however, I did not end up in a newspaper library. I guess my point is that student scholarships can be nice, but if it is to attract people to law librarianship, it may not achieve the desired result. Also consider that the majority of jobs in law librarianship require a law degree as well as library degree. I know that is not the case for technical services or in private firms, but consider the average library science student. Unless he already has a law degree and didn't want to practice, attending SEALL isn't likely to inspire a student to want to go to law school so that they can get into the profession.

Sincerely yours,

Doris M. Hinson

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