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Letter to Wes Daniels regarding award of a SEAALL scholarship, March 27, 1991

Jack Kotvas

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March 27, 1991

Mr. Wes Daniels
Chair, SEAALL Scholarship Committee
University of Miami
Law Library
P. O. Box 248087
Coral Gables, FL 33124

Dear Mr. Daniels:

First of all, I would like to thank you again, as well as the Scholarship Committee for granting me the scholarship for the 1991 SEAALL Annual Meeting.

The money I was awarded was used to help pay for air fare from Norfolk, Virginia to Tuscaloosa. In addition, it aided in covering the meals that were not provided during the conference, as well as lodging expenses and incidentals. Also, the grant helped cover meals that were procured while traveling, and ground transportation, other than that which was provided by the conference hotel.

Because of the scholarship I was able to attend a meeting that was superb from the opening reception on Thursday evening to the final forum on Saturday. Dean Nathaniel Hansford of the University of Alabama School of Law began the Friday secession with a cordial welcome and bestowal of hospitality in his opening remarks.

The Keynote address was delivered with style and panache, yet not cluttered with verbiage and cliche. Many of the points made were not expected to be heard at a meeting of law librarians, yet certainly were not lost on the group, judging by the number and type of stimulating questions that were asked during the Q & A period.

Some of the points examined were views on the proper punishment for the mothers of cocaine babies: how these mothers could be punished for harming a fetus, yet mothers who chose to eradicate a fetus through abortion are protected by a "right," and how this contradiction cannot be reconciled. Lawyer Vanzetta McPherson of Montgomery did yeoman work in bringing these provocative reflections to us.

William Walker of Vanderbilt University Law Library gave an praiseworthy address on treaty research, and provided a fine guide into the maze of this sometime confusing area of international law.
The Deputy Chief Counsel from NASA's Marshall Flight Center provided an astronaut's eye view into "Space Law." William Hicks aptly informed the group about the emerging concepts of this pristine area of the law. He related, "the focus of this body of law is on the activities leading up to and the placement of an object into space and its return." However, the parameters do not stop there; they include domestic issues, international concerns and also questions pertaining to objects in orbit or space, as well as on the lunar or other planetary surfaces. Space law covers the subject areas from contracts, torts, environmental, as well as intellectual property. Mr. Hicks informed us that although this field is in its embryonic stage, in the long term it will become a major field of law.

Laura Gassaway of UNC at Chapel Hill, Carol Billings of the Law Library of Louisiana, and Carolyn Ahern, Librarian at the firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Throwbridge gave insight into marketing a law library and how, depending on what type of law library is involved, exactly what type of strategy may be used, and who the "market" is; again, depending on the type of law library.

On Saturday, after an insightful business meeting, David Faulk a sports agent, gave us a panorama into the glamorous world of million dollar sports contracts, how they are negotiated with the team owners, and handled with the players.

The morning, as well as the conference concluded with a penetrating look into the confines of a library school guided by a panel consisting of Donna Bausch of Regent University, Tim Lewis of the Alabama Supreme Court, and Mary Smith Forman of Akerman, Senterfitt, & Edison in Orlando examining percieves with Dean Philip Turner and Dr. Gordon Coleman of the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies.

The conference was packed full of opportunities for this neophyte to gain insight and information from the presentations, the exhibits, as well as the interaction between professional colleagues. Again, I greatly appreciate the opportunity the scholarship afforded, in allowing me to attend the 1991 SEAALL Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Kotvas
Law Reference Librarian