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Letter to Sabrina Pacifici regarding PLL Perspectives, September 10, 1991

Alva Stone

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Southeastern Chapter  
of the American Association  
of Law Libraries, Inc.  

September 10, 1991

Sabrina I. Pacifici  
Director of Library and Information Services  
Sidley & Austin  
1722 Eye St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Pacifici,

Since you are the Editor of PLL Perspectives, the official newsletter of the AALL Private Law Libraries SIS, I wish to inform you of a printing error which I noticed in a recent issue, vol. 2, issue 5 (June/July 1991).

On page 9 of that issue there is a brief article by Linda Will, "Letterhead Focus of Recycling Program." A footnote indicates that the article is reprinted with permission from the Southeastern Librarian, Spring 1991, vol. 16, no. 3.

That information is incorrect. There is a periodical named The Southeastern Librarian, and it is the official journal of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA), a regional association with members from public, academic, school and other libraries. However, the periodical which originally contained the article you reprinted is Southeastern Law Librarian. The latter title is the official newsletter of the Southeast Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL).

You could easily 'set the record straight' in a future issue, if you are accustomed to printing such corrections in your newsletter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alva T. Stone  
Secretary, SEAALL

xc: Linda Will  
Mary Cross, President, SEAALL  
Kathy Heberer, Co-Editor, Southeastern Law Librarian
Most of us are aware of the incredible amount of paper products consumed in the name of keeping our law libraries timely and updated. After all, paper is a product of the legal profession. It is a lawyer's finest creation. We consume this product in massive quantities, labeling it, filing it, xeroxing it, stapling it and even boxing it for the future lawyers of tomorrow. But we don't just sequester it, we toss it; abandoning it to janitorial armies that come in the night to steal it away. Due to the environment we work in, i.e., the corporate law firm, we often become jaded to "pulp abuse," forgetting that the waste could be deterred, even turned around.

In these days of overflowing landfills, polluted waterways and once pristine, now trashed, beaches, we are all severely aware of the garbage that is ambushing us. Not wanting to become captives to our throwaway, "convenience store" mentality, many of us are becoming concerned, activated, even dedicated to the concept that recycling is not just a trend, but a necessity if we want to keep from fouling our own nests. Many of us recycle in our homes. Now we are beginning to recycle in our workplace; yes even in the sacred halls of the corporate law firm.

Holland & Knight is a large 284 lawyer firm of 9 offices, 8 of which are in Florida. In July 1990, the management committee made the commitment to begin a firm-wide paper recycling program. Informal recycling programs had already been ongoing, but with no set standards. Some of the offices made it a policy to save newspapers from the reception area, donating them to Boy Scout paper drives. Some offices replaced styrofoam cups with paper or recyclable styrofoam, and some did away with disposable cups altogether, using ceramic mugs or glasses instead. Most of the coffee bars sported special bins for aluminum cans, but no formal policy was set, that is until management took the initiative to make the firm the recycling pioneer in South Florida.

It took about six weeks for all of the offices to switch over to 100 percent recycled letterhead and envelopes. This was rather a dramatic move considering how much paper was consumed by the firm. In an average month, between 33,000 - 50,000 sheets of letterhead and 26,000 - 31,000 envelopes. The recycled stationery now used by Holland & Knight is produced by Kimberly Clark Corporation and is 25 percent cotton (clippings from cotton industry waste), 25 percent convened waste, and 50 percent post consumer waste to include 10 percent mall and office waste. This stationery is set apart by its customized watermark of "Holland & Knight 100% Recycled."

Presently the cost is slightly more than that of regular stationery, but the quality differential is marginal and difficult to distinguish from virgin papers. Hopefully, by paying today, a market will be created that will eventually bring the price below that of virgin paper, making it more economical and palatable to budget minded administrators.

The firm's next stop...recycled internal memo pads and switching from yellow to white legal pads. White paper is more easily recycled.

**JUST THE FACTS**

- The average attorney generates one ton of paper per year.
- Recycling a 4-foot stack of paper saves a 40-foot pine tree.
- Recycling a daily newspaper subscription produces enough pulp to save an acre of forest.
- Using a 25 pound carton of recycled paper saves the equivalent in energy of 5 gallons of energy.
- Only 11% of all waste is recycled.
- Recycling 10,000 tons of material creates 36 jobs vs. 6 jobs that would have been created for a landfill.
- Enough office and writing paper is thrown out each year to build a 12 foot wall from New York to Los Angeles.

This information came from a brochure, *Recycling in Your Law Office: How to Set Up a Recycling Program*, and is published by the Texas Young Lawyers Association. You can obtain a copy by calling them at: (512) 463-1446.

[*Reprinted with permission from the Southeastern Librarian, Spring 1991, vol. 16, Number 3*]