

ANN T. FESSENDEN

CIRCUIT LIBRARIAN FOR THE
U.S. COURTS LIBRARY 8TH CIRCUIT

1984-2015



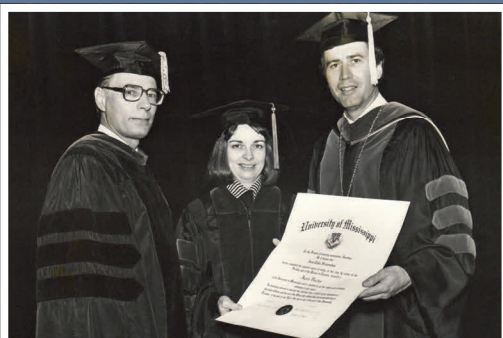
BACKGROUND

Ann Fessenden was born on October 4, 1951, and grew up in Norman, Oklahoma. She attended the University of Oklahoma, where she completed her B.A. in Journalism in 1974. After a summer as a paralegal trainee, Ann got a job as a library assistant at the University of Oklahoma Law School Library and found her niche in law libraries. She graduated with her Master's in Library Science from the University of Oklahoma in 1977 and became Technical Services Librarian at the University of Mississippi Law School Library in 1978. While at Ole Miss, she completed her J.D. magna cum

laude in 1984, graduating first in her class, and immediately moved to St. Louis to become Circuit Librarian for the Eighth Circuit. After 30 years of exemplary service, Ann is retiring in April of 2015.

Ann has been married for 22 years to St. Louis native Ronald Bock, and they have a combined three children and five grandchildren. In her spare time, she is a musician, playing bassoon in the Town and Country Symphony and the No Strings Attached Woodwind Quintet.

University of Mississippi Law School Dean Parham Williams (left) and University Chancellor congratulate Ann for having highest grade point average in December graduating class, Dec. 17, 1984. She started work at the Courts Library the next day!



Baby shower for Ann (second from left) at Ole Miss, Nov. 1, 1982.



Ann and Ron on their wedding day, June 6, 1992, with their three children. L-R: Michael Bunnell, Ann, Ron Bock, Michael Bock, Ron Bock Jr.



Below, right: Ann featured in Town & Country Symphony program after returning to the orchestra after a two year absence due to AALL travels, fall 2008.



Above, top: Just after graduating with B.A., 1974. Above, bottom: While a library school student, 1976/77.



Above right, middle: Oklahoma University going away party, 1977. Above right, bottom: Ann and son Michael in front of Ole Miss Law School during a visit back to Oxford, 1985.

CIRCUIT LIBRARIAN

When Ann started at the U.S. Courts Library Eighth Circuit, it had no computer or fax machine, print reigned, and CALR did not exist in chambers. She has led the Library with expertise and dedication for 30 years, evolving it into the multi-library, multi-faceted system it is today. Some highlights of her tenure:

- ★ Planned new and renovated library space to meet the needs of the growing Eighth Circuit Judiciary

- ◆ New courthouses built in St. Louis and 6 branch library cities
 - ◆ Space expansion or major renovation projects in 8 library locations

- ★ Reached distant chambers through branch libraries, technology, and expanded services

- ★ Handled increased administrative responsibilities as personnel, operations, and book budgets, as well as procurement duties, were decentralized

- ★ Served on national court committees

- ★ Led the nation as the first federal appellate unit to use the FJC's "visioning conference" technique to devise a strategic plan

Ann at her U.S. Courts Library desk, 1985.



Right: U.S. Courts Library, St. Louis headquarters' 5th floor main stack area, microform cabinets to right, 1994. Yellow strips create road leading to demonstration on the internet "information superhighway."



U.S. Courts Library staff, 2014.



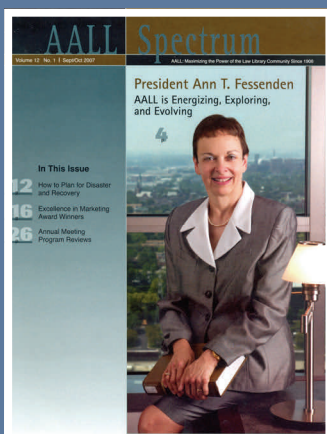
A significant amount of Ann's time in the 1990s was spent planning new libraries and renovations. Above left: Ann and Des Moines Librarian Cheryl Gritton touring Des Moines library under construction, 1994. Two above right: New St. Louis library, 2000.



Top, left: Court of Appeals unit heads, 2011. L-R: Court of Appeals Clerk Michael Gans, Circuit Executive Millie Adams, Senior Staff Attorney Kim Jones, Circuit Librarian Ann Fessenden. **Top, right:** September court week dinner, Sept. 20, 2011. L-R: Kim Jones, Millie Adams, Chief Judge William Jay Riley, Ann. **Bottom, left:** Ann being filmed for the Federal Judicial Television Network's *Court to Court* segment on the 8th Circuit Library's court archives collection and history services. **Bottom, right:** Dedication of the Harry A. Blackmun Rotunda, which Ann helped develop, July 11, 2001. L-R: Judge Roger Wollman, Ann, daughter Sally Blackmun, Judge Richard Arnold.

- ★ Embraced new technologies to transition from print to electronic resources and services
 - ◆ CALR access to chambers
 - ◆ Card catalog to online catalog
 - ◆ Print volumes to eBooks, online subscriptions, and iPad services
 - ◆ Print Newsletter and news clipping service to electronic Newsletter and Newswatch; websites, email alerts, blogs, webinars
- ★ Expanded beyond traditional services
 - ◆ Training in software programs
 - ◆ Developing traveling and permanent displays, READ posters, and directories
 - ◆ Establishing the Court Archives and serving as Historical Society Secretary

AALL AND OTHER ADVENTURES



Ann featured on cover of AALL Spectrum as President, 2007.

★ President, American Association of Law Libraries

In 2007 Ann became the first and so far only federal circuit librarian to serve as President of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). Prior to this prestigious position, she served as AALL Vice President from 2006-2007 and Executive Board member from 2002-2005, and co-chaired Local Arrangements for the 2006 meeting in St. Louis.

In recognition of her significant contributions to law librarianship, Ann will be inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame and receive the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession from AALL's State, Court and County Law Libraries Special Interest Section in July 2015.



Ann announced as AALL Vice President/President elect at AALL's 2006 annual meeting in St. Louis.



AALL President Ann Fessenden opening the exhibit hall for the 2008 meeting in Portland, Oregon.

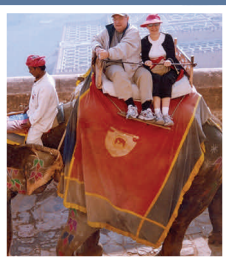
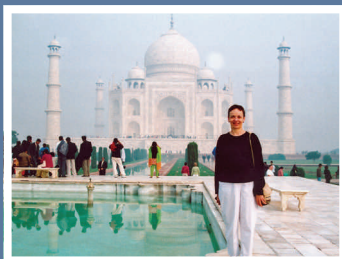


AALL President James Duggan presents Ann with the AALL Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for her leadership and dedicated service, July 2009.

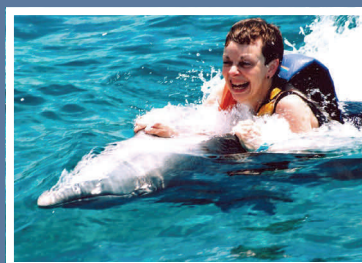
★ Quests

Ann has traveled far and wide as circuit librarian and AALL President. She and husband Ron have added personal travel to carry out several quests: see every Shakespearean play performed live, drive the Lewis and Clark trail, walk the 240 mile Katy Trail in Missouri, and visit each of the 50 states.

Below, left: Ann in front of the Taj Mahal while in India representing AALL as President at the International Association of Law Libraries meeting, December 2007. Below, right: Ron and Ann riding an elephant in India, 2007.



Ann and Ron in Alaska, the last state in their all 50-state quest, 2011.



Above: Ann swimming with a dolphin in Cozumel while representing AALL on a chapter visit to the Southwestern Association of Law Libraries 2008 meeting, an anniversary cruise.

Below: Ann on the Katy Trail in Missouri, 2012.



★ The Road Ahead

Ann has been driven in both her professional and personal life to reach the top in all things. She graduated number one in her law school class, ably led the seven-state Eighth Circuit Library system for 30 years, and served as President of AALL.

What lies ahead for Ann in retirement? A magnificent quest: Inspired by the movie *The Way*, she and Ron will follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims walking 500 miles across Spain on El Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James! After conquering Spain, Ann will continue to travel, spend time with family, play the bassoon, and do volunteer work.