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INSIDE:

From the Officers

OBS-SIS..... 3
TS-SIS..... 4

Articles

New and Old Ideas on Series
Control at Yale Law Library 7
What is This Thing Called “Library
School”? 6

Columns

Acquisitions 10
Classification..... 10
The Internet..... 12
MARC Remarks..... 14
OCLC..... 16
Preservation..... 17
Private Law Libraries..... 1
Research & Publications 19
Serial Issues 20
Serials Titles..... 21
Subject Headings 23
TechScans 24

News & Announcements

New Online Journal 5
Renee D. Chapman Award 13
TS SIS Educational Grants 18

PRIVATE LAW LIBRARIES

Changes and Challenges

Elizabeth Geesey Holmes
Partridge Snow & Hahn LLP

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Private Law Libraries columnist. I am not new to law library technical services, or to *TSLL*, but I am new to the private law library world. For fourteen years, I was a law cataloger in academic law libraries, and I was the Classification Column coeditor from 2003-2007. However, for almost two years I have been the solo librarian at a law firm. I reluctantly left the world of academic law libraries when my husband accepted his dream job. We moved 1000 miles, and I took the job that was available in an area with few law libraries. After fourteen years as a law cataloger in academic libraries, I never thought I would find myself in a firm library, and I have had to make a lot of changes and rise to different challenges. I am learning a tremendous amount and am developing a greater admiration for my colleagues in acquisitions, serials management, and collection development. I am also learning how to scale back cataloging to suit a much smaller collection without sacrificing quality. The variety of tasks is enjoyable, as is being in charge of my own library. Many aspects of this job and my work in academic libraries are actually more similar than one would imagine. So, while I have lots of experience in law cataloging, I don't have a lot of experience in private law library technical services. So, I need your help. My hope is that you, my private law library colleagues, will consider writing guest columns, and suggest ideas for topics to discuss. If you are interested in writing a guest column, or have any questions or comments please contact me at egh@psh.com! I look forward to sharing ideas with you all in this column.

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