

LAURA J. AX-FULTZ RECEIVES AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES LAW LIBRARY JOURNAL ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD

June 2, 2016 — The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) named Laura J. Ax-Fultz, assistant law librarian, [The H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library](#) at Penn State's Dickinson Law, recipient of the *Law Library Journal* Article of the Year Award. This award honors outstanding achievement in researching and writing an article published in *Law Library Journal* for the preceding volume year.



Ax-Fultz wrote “Igniting the Conversation: Embracing Legal Literacy as the Heart of the Profession,” *107 Law Library Journal* 421 (2015) to inspire law librarians to form a cohesive professional identity. She spent several months perfecting the angle of the article followed by two months of writing.

“Some people believe, incorrectly, that librarians only exist to be caretakers of books,” noted Ax-Fultz. “In an increasingly digital environment, librarians are assumed to be irrelevant. This argument is, of course, wrong. Just as law faculty do more than teach, law librarians do more than manage collections. No matter what daily tasks law librarians undertake, the end result is an improvement in the legal literacy of the constituent community.”

Ax-Fultz believes that relying on legal literacy as the common thread for all librarians creates a unified professional identity that is not tied to the law library collection. Having a strong professional identity also allows law librarians to adapt and evolve in creative and strategic ways in their professional environments.

“I hope that law librarians are inspired to talk about their professional identity, that non-librarians gain insight about what law librarians actually do, and that other professionals consider the meaning and impact of their own professional identity,” said Ax-Fultz.

Ax-Fultz has been a law librarian with Dickinson Law since December 2014. Prior to joining the Law Library, she held law librarian positions at Penn State Law, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Wilmington, DE, and began her law librarian career at Dickinson Law in 2005.

“The most rewarding aspect of my work is in teaching students how to conduct legal research and develop skills that will become a vital part of their professional success,” shared Ax-Fultz.

The AALL Awards Program recognizes the achievements of law librarians for their service to the profession and contribution to legal literature and materials. View [previous winners](#) of the Article of the Year Award, and learn more about the [AALL](#).

The Law Library is a three-floor, state-of-the-art research facility that provides a range of services designed to support Dickinson Law curriculum, promote the advancement of legal scholarship, and fulfill the informational needs of its users. Take a [virtual tour](#) of the Law Library.