



January 5, 2010

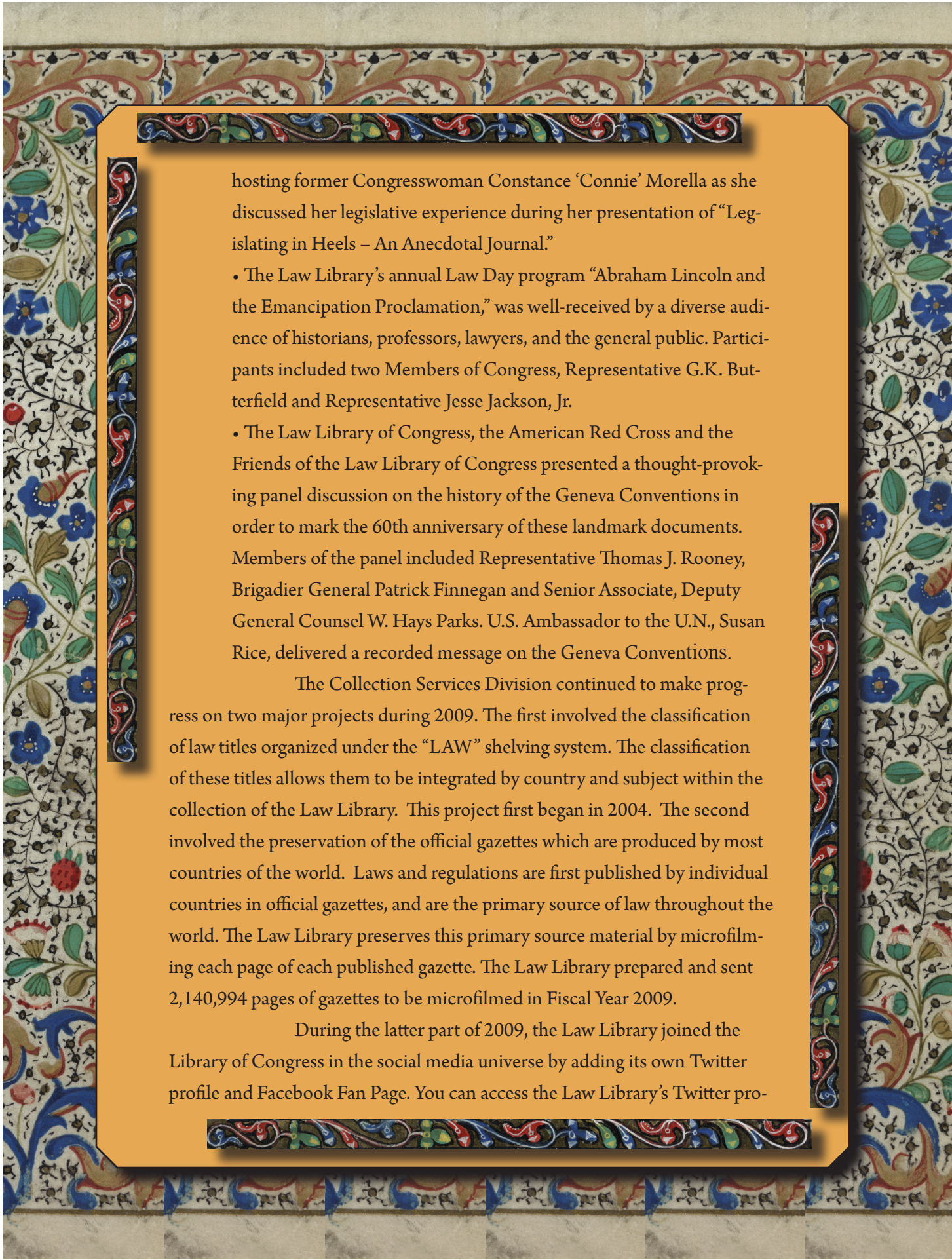
Dear Law Library of Congress Colleagues and Friends:

I wanted to end this year of change, and new beginnings, by sending you my best for the holiday season and to provide you with important Law Library of Congress updates as we head into 2010.

I began my tenure as the 22nd Law Librarian of Congress on August 30th, 2009. During much of 2009, two Acting Law Librarians – Charles Doyle and Donna W. Scheeder led the Law Library. Without their able leadership and steadfast dedication to the mission of the Law Library, it would not have been as easy to assume the helm when I was appointed Law Librarian. I thank them both for their exemplary service.

We hosted a number of special events and programs during the year. Four that I want to highlight are: the inauguration of the Kellogg Lecture; a program in honor of National Women's History Month; our annual Law Day celebration; and a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

- The Law Library hosted the inaugural Frederic R. and Molly S. Kellogg Biennial Lecture on Jurisprudence. This biennial lecture series will present the most distinguished contributors to international jurisprudence, judged through writings, reputation, and broad and continuing influence on contemporary legal scholarship. This year's speaker was Ronald Dworkin, Professor of Jurisprudence at University College London and the New York University School of Law. His lecture, "Is there Truth in Interpretation? Law Literature and History," focused on the philosophical aspects of the law.
- The Law Library honored National Women's History Month by

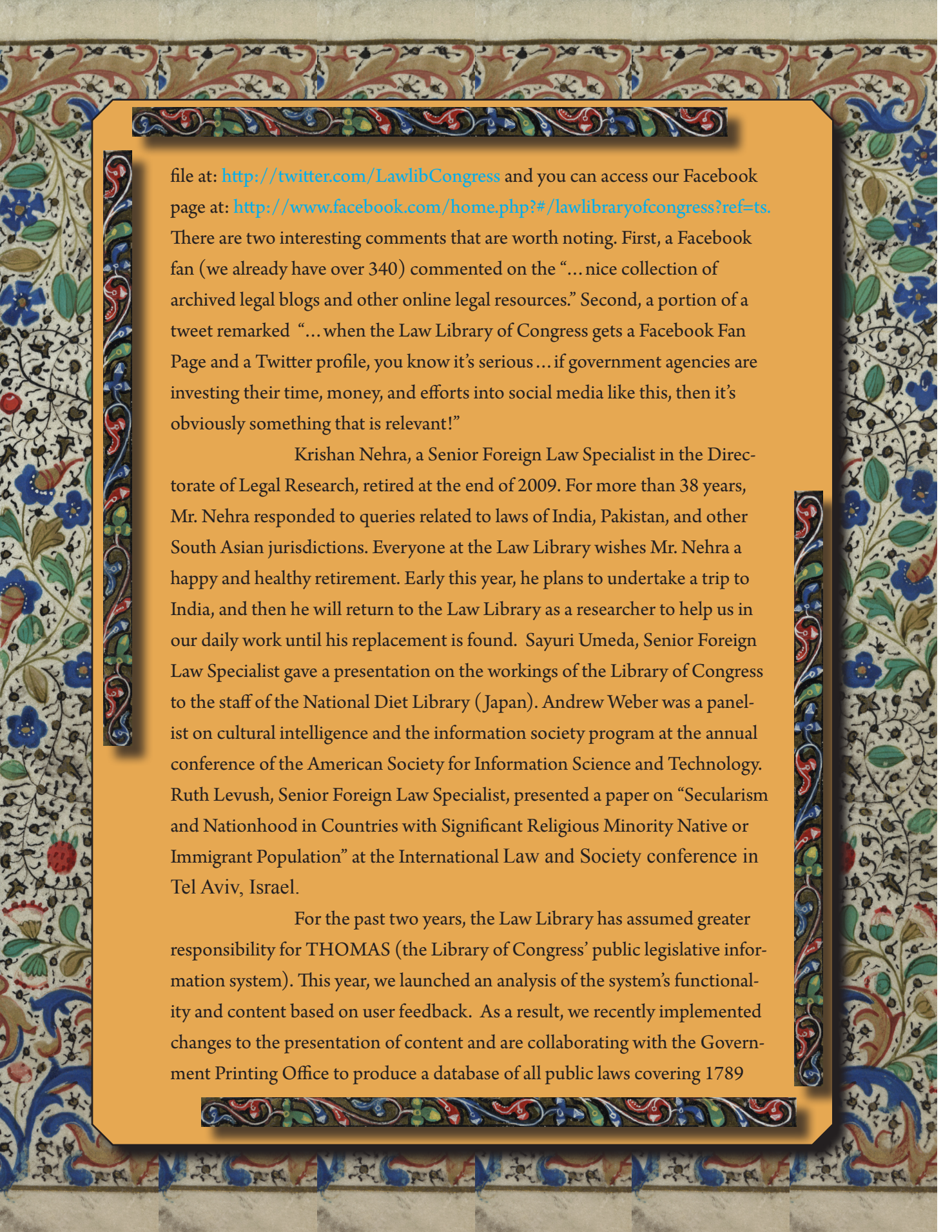


hosting former Congresswoman Constance ‘Connie’ Morella as she discussed her legislative experience during her presentation of “Legislating in Heels – An Anecdotal Journal.”

- The Law Library’s annual Law Day program “Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation,” was well-received by a diverse audience of historians, professors, lawyers, and the general public. Participants included two Members of Congress, Representative G.K. Butterfield and Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr.
- The Law Library of Congress, the American Red Cross and the Friends of the Law Library of Congress presented a thought-provoking panel discussion on the history of the Geneva Conventions in order to mark the 60th anniversary of these landmark documents. Members of the panel included Representative Thomas J. Rooney, Brigadier General Patrick Finnegan and Senior Associate, Deputy General Counsel W. Hays Parks. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Susan Rice, delivered a recorded message on the Geneva Conventions.

The Collection Services Division continued to make progress on two major projects during 2009. The first involved the classification of law titles organized under the “LAW” shelving system. The classification of these titles allows them to be integrated by country and subject within the collection of the Law Library. This project first began in 2004. The second involved the preservation of the official gazettes which are produced by most countries of the world. Laws and regulations are first published by individual countries in official gazettes, and are the primary source of law throughout the world. The Law Library preserves this primary source material by microfilming each page of each published gazette. The Law Library prepared and sent 2,140,994 pages of gazettes to be microfilmed in Fiscal Year 2009.

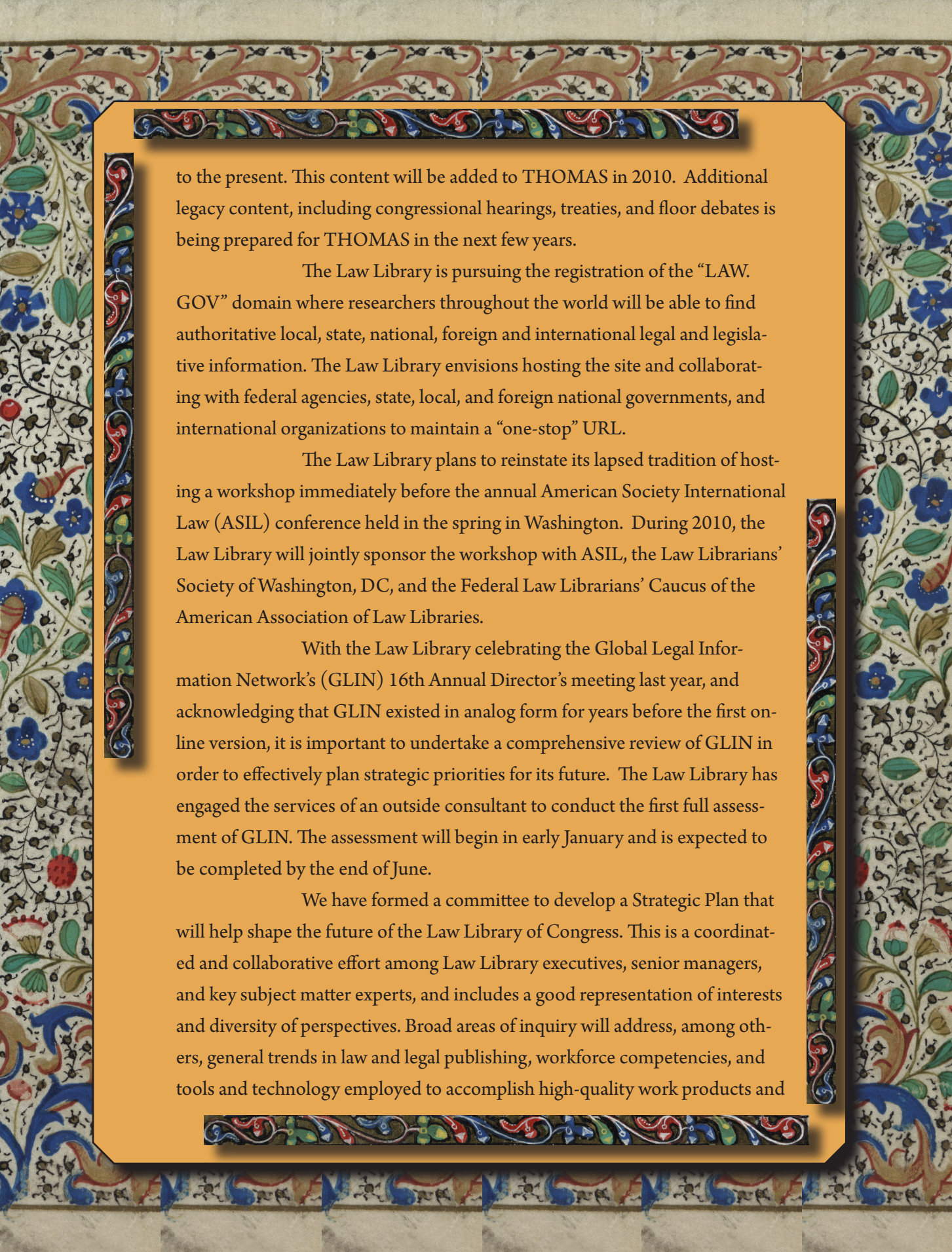
During the latter part of 2009, the Law Library joined the Library of Congress in the social media universe by adding its own Twitter profile and Facebook Fan Page. You can access the Law Library’s Twitter pro-



file at: <http://twitter.com/LawlibCongress> and you can access our Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/lawlibraryofcongress?ref=ts>. There are two interesting comments that are worth noting. First, a Facebook fan (we already have over 340) commented on the "... nice collection of archived legal blogs and other online legal resources." Second, a portion of a tweet remarked "... when the Law Library of Congress gets a Facebook Fan Page and a Twitter profile, you know it's serious ... if government agencies are investing their time, money, and efforts into social media like this, then it's obviously something that is relevant!"

Krishan Nehra, a Senior Foreign Law Specialist in the Directorate of Legal Research, retired at the end of 2009. For more than 38 years, Mr. Nehra responded to queries related to laws of India, Pakistan, and other South Asian jurisdictions. Everyone at the Law Library wishes Mr. Nehra a happy and healthy retirement. Early this year, he plans to undertake a trip to India, and then he will return to the Law Library as a researcher to help us in our daily work until his replacement is found. Sayuri Umeda, Senior Foreign Law Specialist gave a presentation on the workings of the Library of Congress to the staff of the National Diet Library (Japan). Andrew Weber was a panelist on cultural intelligence and the information society program at the annual conference of the American Society for Information Science and Technology. Ruth Levush, Senior Foreign Law Specialist, presented a paper on "Secularism and Nationhood in Countries with Significant Religious Minority Native or Immigrant Population" at the International Law and Society conference in Tel Aviv, Israel.

For the past two years, the Law Library has assumed greater responsibility for THOMAS (the Library of Congress' public legislative information system). This year, we launched an analysis of the system's functionality and content based on user feedback. As a result, we recently implemented changes to the presentation of content and are collaborating with the Government Printing Office to produce a database of all public laws covering 1789



to the present. This content will be added to THOMAS in 2010. Additional legacy content, including congressional hearings, treaties, and floor debates is being prepared for THOMAS in the next few years.

The Law Library is pursuing the registration of the “LAW.GOV” domain where researchers throughout the world will be able to find authoritative local, state, national, foreign and international legal and legislative information. The Law Library envisions hosting the site and collaborating with federal agencies, state, local, and foreign national governments, and international organizations to maintain a “one-stop” URL.

The Law Library plans to reinstate its lapsed tradition of hosting a workshop immediately before the annual American Society International Law (ASIL) conference held in the spring in Washington. During 2010, the Law Library will jointly sponsor the workshop with ASIL, the Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, DC, and the Federal Law Librarians’ Caucus of the American Association of Law Libraries.

With the Law Library celebrating the Global Legal Information Network’s (GLIN) 16th Annual Director’s meeting last year, and acknowledging that GLIN existed in analog form for years before the first on-line version, it is important to undertake a comprehensive review of GLIN in order to effectively plan strategic priorities for its future. The Law Library has engaged the services of an outside consultant to conduct the first full assessment of GLIN. The assessment will begin in early January and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

We have formed a committee to develop a Strategic Plan that will help shape the future of the Law Library of Congress. This is a coordinated and collaborative effort among Law Library executives, senior managers, and key subject matter experts, and includes a good representation of interests and diversity of perspectives. Broad areas of inquiry will address, among others, general trends in law and legal publishing, workforce competencies, and tools and technology employed to accomplish high-quality work products and

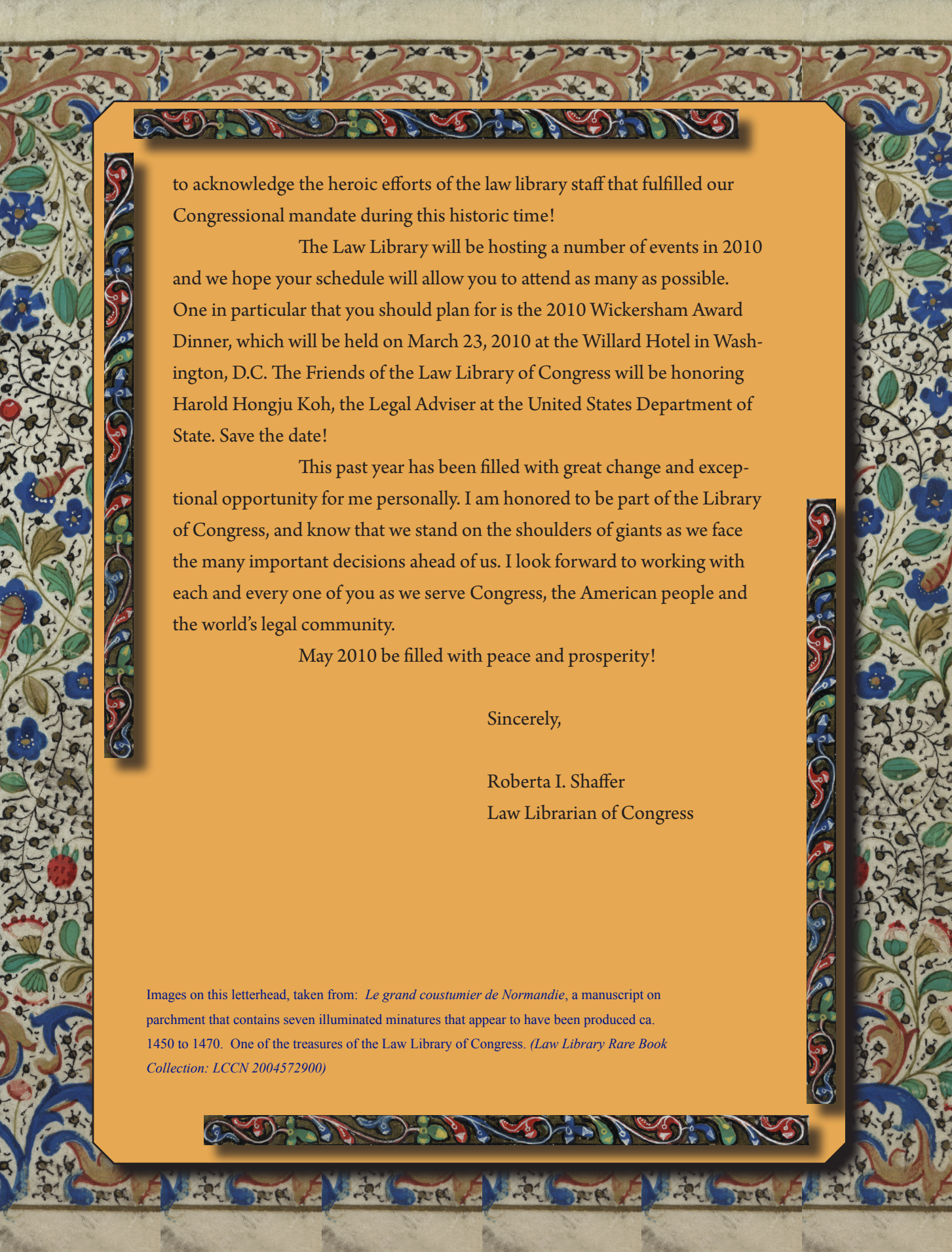


deliver responsive services to Law Library of Congress constituencies.

This year, after many years as an active member and chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, Tedson Meyers, passed the leadership gavel to Elizabeth (Liz) Medaglia. I take this opportunity to thank Tedson for his unwavering dedication to the Law Library. I have already had the chance to meet with members of the committee, the ABA staff, and with Liz. It is terrific to have the strength of this highly-respected professional organization behind us.

As we all reflect on the world events that transpired in 2009, it is important to note that the Law Library staff has often been involved in providing critical legal research to inform decision makers and inspire public debate on the legal aspects of several of these events. This year, our foreign legal specialists provided in-depth legal research and analysis on comparative health care entitlements, regulation of financial markets and taxations, and an authoritative review of Executive powers in Central America. The Law Library's unique combination of comprehensive legal materials and staff expertise enabled us to shed light on world events through the lens of the law.

At the very end of 2009, we experienced two unprecedented events in Washington. The first event was a record snowfall that covered metropolitan Washington in almost two feet of snow right before the Christmas holidays. Although many Federal offices were closed the Law Library Reading Room had to remain open as the Senate continued its debate of the national health care reform legislation. The Law Library's reference librarians staffed the Law Library Reading Room during all of the Senate's debates consistent with the statutory mandate that requires "[T]he law library shall be kept open every day so long as either House of Congress is in session." (Codified in the US Code at 2 U.S.C. 138). The second unprecedented event involved the Law Library's reference librarians reporting to work at 6:30 AM on Christmas Eve for an early morning vote by the Senate - the first time since 1895 that the Senate has been in session on Christmas Eve. I want to take this opportunity



to acknowledge the heroic efforts of the law library staff that fulfilled our Congressional mandate during this historic time!

The Law Library will be hosting a number of events in 2010 and we hope your schedule will allow you to attend as many as possible. One in particular that you should plan for is the 2010 Wickersham Award Dinner, which will be held on March 23, 2010 at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Friends of the Law Library of Congress will be honoring Harold Hongju Koh, the Legal Adviser at the United States Department of State. Save the date!

This past year has been filled with great change and exceptional opportunity for me personally. I am honored to be part of the Library of Congress, and know that we stand on the shoulders of giants as we face the many important decisions ahead of us. I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we serve Congress, the American people and the world's legal community.

May 2010 be filled with peace and prosperity!

Sincerely,

Roberta I. Shaffer
Law Librarian of Congress

Images on this letterhead, taken from: *Le grand costumier de Normandie*, a manuscript on parchment that contains seven illuminated minatures that appear to have been produced ca. 1450 to 1470. One of the treasures of the Law Library of Congress. (*Law Library Rare Book Collection: LCCN 2004572900*)