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NEW VOLUME IN SERIES

Organizational Structures of Academic Law Libraries: Past, Present, and Future (Volume 2)

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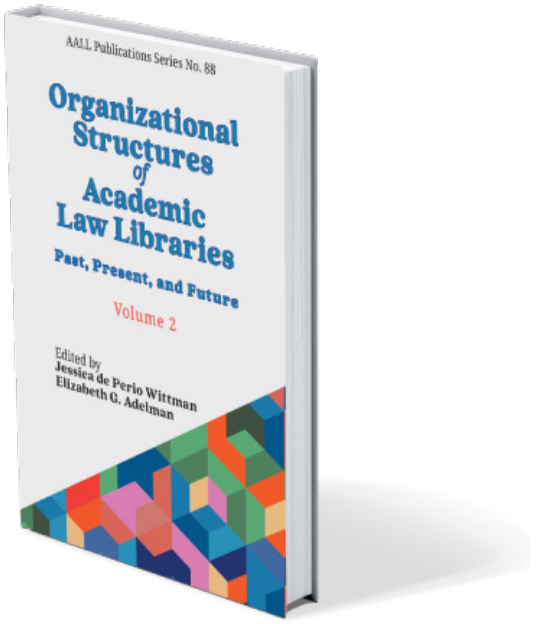
Edited by Elizabeth Adelman
University at Buffalo School of Law
and Jessica de Perio Wittman
University of Connecticut School of Law

The second volume in an exciting series compiled by directors of law libraries on either end of the organizational structure continuum.

- **Contains 12 brand-new, comprehensive case studies** of different academic law library structures
- Explores the **spectrum of library models from autonomous to semiautonomous**
- **The only comprehensive resource available** on this essential subject
- A **vital resource** for law school deans, provosts, law librarians, and university librarians



About This Title

There's no denying that academic law libraries are a vital part of the legal profession. Since 1928, law schools have been required to have a library located in a building occupied by the law school. Traditionally, these libraries were characterized by direct reporting to the law school dean, budget allocation from the law school dean or the university's central administration, and a law library mission with a law school-centered approach.

However, in today's economic climate, financial and operational efficiency is more critical than ever before—which makes organizational structure vital for law libraries to consider, as demonstrated by the growing interest in the semiautonomous library structure. **The second volume in a series, this book provides 12 case studies of academic law libraries across the country, across the entire spectrum of structures,** from autonomous to semiautonomous and a blend of the two. With its unique insight into the culture of each campus, law school, and law library, this book is a must-read for anyone seeking to **streamline their law library's operations and boost their bottom line while still serving the diverse needs of students and faculty.**

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The Four Organizational Structures

Autonomous

Reports to:
Dean of the law school

Budget derived from:
The law school

Collaboration with central library:
May share an ILS with the central library.

Examples:

- University of Florida Levin College of Law, the Lawton Chiles Legal Information Center
- University of Houston Law Center

Autonomous + Collaborative Services

Reports to:
Dean of the law school

Budget derived from:
The law school

Collaboration with central library:
May share ILS, discovery layer, IR, and engage in cost-sharing for databases that have shared subject matter. May partner on certain services.

Examples:

- University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, Louis L. Biro Law Library
- Washington and Lee School of Law Library

Autonomous + Shared Services

Reports to:
Dean of the law school

Budget derived from:
The law school

Collaboration with central library:
Shared services with central library usually governed by an MOU. May share access, technical, and IT services.

Examples:

- University of San Diego School of Law, Pardee Legal Research Center
- Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University School of Law

Semiautonomous

Reports to:
Dean of the law school and university librarian

Budget derived from:
University libraries budget

Collaboration with central library:
Reporting and funding are governed by an MOU.

Examples:

- The Syracuse University College of Law Library
- James E. Faust Law Library, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah

About the Editors

Elizabeth G. Adelman is the Director of the Law Library, Associate Professor of Law, and Cornelius J. Scanlon Scholar at the University of Connecticut School of Law, where she leads law library operations and oversees the law school's information technology systems. She teaches Special Education Law, Technology and Law Practice, and Advanced Legal Research. Beyond her teaching duties, she actively participates in professional associations such as the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Southern New England Law Libraries Association (SNELLA), and the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). Her scholarly contributions span various topics, including teaching legal technology competencies, artificial intelligence, and equity, diversity, and inclusion in legal education and law librarianship. In 2024, she was honored with the inaugural Technology and Ethics Award from the American Association of Law School's Section on Technology, Law, and Legal Education. De Perio Wittman earned her Juris Doctor from Seattle University School of Law and a Master of Library Science from the University at Buffalo.

Jessica de Perio Wittman is Director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and Vice Dean for Legal Information Services at the University at Buffalo School of Law. She holds a Juris Doctor from Albany Law School and a Master of Library Science from the University at Buffalo. Adelman is the lead author of *New York Legal Research*, now in its fourth edition, published by Carolina Academic Press. Adelman has published articles, book chapters, and tutorials on topics related to teaching legal research and academic law libraries. She is active in the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) and is currently AALL's Immediate Past President.

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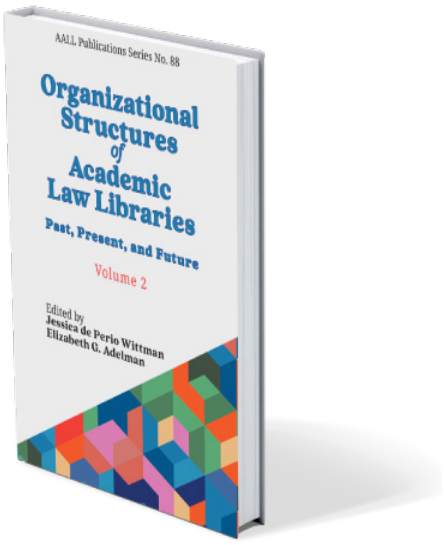

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