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Cara Decusatis (from left), Khrisma McMurray, Mateo Robert Gonzalez and A.B. Bejar are among the fellows who started this week.

Internship and Fellowship Programs Section

## Library Welcomes 2022 Junior Fellows Class

Once again this year, fellows will collaborate virtually with Library mentors and one another.

**BY DEANNA MCCRAY-JAMES**

On Monday, 46 students helped the Library renew what is now a decadeslong tradition: They began junior fellows summer internships. Over the next 10 weeks, the mix of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students will work with Library specialists on projects supporting the agency's mission.

The program is being offered virtually for the third year in a row, following a pivot in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The format has allowed fellows to participate from far-flung locations – this year, they will sign on from across four U.S. time zones.

Their projects – there are 27 – consist of cultural, scientific and

digital initiatives that enhance access to and engagement with collections. Examples include “Mapping the Stories: The Legacy of Daniel A.P. Murray”; “Allillan-chu! Andean Stories”; “Mapping Historical Demographics: Race and Inequity”; “Online Exhibit Curation: American Archive of Public Broadcasting”; and “Content Development: Library of Congress Youth Center.”

The projects are based in 23 divisions across the Librarian's Office, the Congressional Research Service, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Library Collections and Services Group and the Copyright Office.

“This program pushes the bound-

**JUNIOR FELLOWS, CONTINUED ON 6**

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## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Christopher Arellano  
Lynette Brown

Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

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## VISIT THE LIBRARY'S ALA EXHIBIT

**June 25-27**

**Walter E. Washington Convention Center**

The American Library Association (ALA) is hosting its annual conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., in June. The Library is an exhibitor at the conference, and staff and interns are invited to register for exhibit-only passes to the conference.

A pass will allow its holder to visit with exhibitors in person on June 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on June 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The pass is limited to the exhibit area; it is not a conference registration. Those who already have a one-day or full-conference registration are ineligible for the exhibit pass.

To register for a pass, Library staff members must use their Library email addresses and [complete this form](#).

The deadline to register is June 15. The ALA will confirm registrations by email.

Questions? Send an email to [signatureprograms@loc.gov](mailto:signatureprograms@loc.gov).

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## VACCINATION STATUS APPLICATION UPDATED

The Human Capital Directorate (HCD) notes that the Library's application to certify vaccinations has been updated to display any previously entered booster data. Staff whose vaccination status has changed (as a result of receiving a second booster dose, for example) should visit the [HCD portal](#) and enter the new details using the COVID-19 certification of vaccination link.

The Library encourages all fully vaccinated employees to receive a vaccination booster as soon as they are eligible.

Questions? Submit them to [AskHCD](#).



**IT and Technology Questions?**

**Contact the**  
**OCIO SERVICE DESK**

[OCIOServiceDesk@loc.gov](mailto:OCIOServiceDesk@loc.gov)      **202-707-7727**

# GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.-Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the June 10 Gazette is Wednesday, June 1.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

## Live at the Library to Host Leibovitz, Doolittle in June

The acclaimed photographer and the star pitcher will discuss their latest projects.

The Library continues its new Thursday evening series, Live at the Library, in June. Photographer Annie Leibovitz and Washington Nationals pitcher and booklover Sean Doolittle will speak in the Coolidge Auditorium; other events will highlight Pride Month and Juneteenth.

As announced earlier this spring, the Jefferson Building and exhibitions housed there are now open on Thursday evenings for extended hours from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Visitors can enjoy happy hour drinks and food available for purchase in the Great Hall while immersing themselves in special conversations, music, performances, films and other offerings. Here are the headliners coming in June.

### **June 2** **Mivos Quartet, 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium**

The Mivos Quartet will perform Jeffrey Mumford's "amid the floating depths" on the Library's Stradivari instruments, preceded by a preconcert conversation with Mumford in the Whittall Pavilion. In advance of the concert, a display showcasing collections related to Asian mythology will be on view as well as items on the history of entertainment and pop culture from the Library's comic book collections. Free concert tickets are available [here](#).

### **June 9** **James Kirchick, 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium**

In a conversation marking Pride Month, journalist James Kirchick will speak about his new book, "Secret City: The Hidden History of Gay Washington," with Washington Post writer Jonathan Capehart. Library collection items that Kir-



Annie Leibovitz/Washington Nationals Baseball Club

**Annie Leibovitz (left) will speak in the Coolidge Auditorium on June 23. Sean Doolittle will appear on June 30.**

chick consulted in researching his book will be on display.

### **June 16** **Ranky Tanky, 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium**

In honor of Juneteenth, Grammy Award-winning ensemble Ranky Tanky will perform an exuberant fusion of jazz, blues, gospel and R&B arrangements of traditional Gullah music from America's Southeast. In advance of the concert, explore a display of Library collections focusing on the legacy of enslaved peoples and celebrating emancipation and Black culture in America. Free concert tickets are available [here](#).

### **June 23** **Annie Leibovitz, 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium**

Join one of the most influential photographers of our time to mark

the publication of "Wonderland," a collection of images from Leibovitz's encounters with fashion over five decades. To accompany the conversation, visitors can explore the Library's exhibit "Not an Ostrich: And Other Images from America's Library."

### **June 30** **Sean Doolittle, 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium**

Washington Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle will speak with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden about his love for books, his passion for reading and his role as his team's summer reading ambassador. A display featuring historical baseball images will be on view, and the Air Force Marine Band will perform in the Great Hall.

Free timed-entry passes for Live at the Library are available [here](#). ■

## **SIGN UP FOR JEMNS ALERTS**

Staff are encouraged to download the Joint Emergency Mass Notification System (JEMNS) mobile app on their personal devices and register to receive text alerts. For instructions and more information, go to the [JEMNS frequently asked questions document](#).

Questions? Call (202) 707-8708 or send an email message to [epp@loc.gov](mailto:epp@loc.gov).



# NLS Cooperating Libraries Honored for Their Service

Two libraries cited for their support of readers with disabilities.

BY MARK LAYMAN

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) presented Network Library Awards to two of its cooperating libraries during its biennial conference last week.

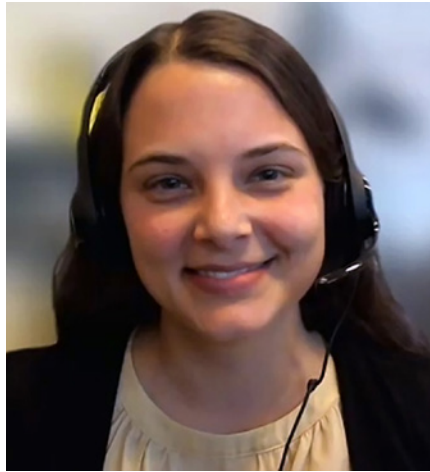
The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library in Seattle received the 2022 Regional Library of the Year Award, and the Pinellas Talking Book Library in Clearwater, Florida, received the Subregional Library/Advisory and Outreach Center of the Year Award.

The two libraries are among 94 affiliates in the national NLS network. They were honored on May 18 during NLS' 2022 National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Print Disabled Individuals, which took place virtually. The libraries each received \$1,000 and will be feted at a luncheon in the Jefferson Building when pandemic conditions permit.

"The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library and the Pinellas Talking Book Library couldn't be farther apart geographically, but they share the spotlight today for the many innovative ways they identify and meet the needs of their patrons and contribute to their communities," Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden said in a recorded message to the conference.

The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library serves more than 7,200 patrons, including 1,118 new patrons enrolled in 2021. The library streamlined its service by transitioning to a duplication-on-demand service model, creating customized digital cartridges of books upon request.

In addition, it drew on donor funds to hire a librarian to give public presentations about its services



Photos from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled

**Meagan Magee (top) and Danielle Miller participate in a virtual NLS ceremony celebrating their libraries' accomplishments.**

and produced four promotional videos highlighting its operations.

The library collaborated with the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind to deliver closed-circuit television video magnifiers to patrons with low vision. It was also one of the first network affiliates to participate in NLS' pilot test of a refreshable braille display, or eReader.

"We are very committed to spreading the word about Washington Talking Book & Braille Library and NLS services, improving access to reading materials and connecting as many people as possible with the service," Danielle Miller, the library's director, said.

The Pinellas Talking Book Library, which serves Florida's Pinellas and Sarasota counties, signed up 347 new patrons last year, bringing its total to over 4,800. Moreover, when other NLS-affiliated libraries in Florida had to close or reduce services because of the pandemic, the Pinellas Talking Book Library picked up much of the slack – meeting the needs not only of its own patrons, but also of blind and print-disabled readers across Florida.

The library partnered with Preserve Vision Florida to promote the nonprofit group's vision screenings; in return, Preserve Vision gives NLS applications to patients who qualify.

"Everyone has a right to accessible library services," Meagan Magee, the library's manager, said. "The staff of the Pinellas Talking Book Library will continue to find innovative and resourceful ways to provide those services and have a positive impact on our community."

A committee of librarians and consumer-organization representatives reviews Network Library Awards nominees and recommends finalists to the NLS director.

More than 400 people, mostly staff members from NLS-affiliated libraries, registered for the three-day national conference.

"There are pluses and minuses to holding the conference virtually, which we did for the first time in 2020," NLS Director Jason Broughton said. "One big plus is that it allows many more network library staff members to attend, and we were delighted that so many were able to participate this year."

Featured presenters included social media star Molly Burke and disability rights activist Judith Heumann. Vermont Sen. Patrick Leahy and Missouri Sen. Roy Blunt delivered recorded messages to the conference. ■

## QUESTION & ANSWER



Courtesy of Rachael Bradley Montgomery

### Rachael Bradley Montgomery

*Rachael Bradley Montgomery is a digital accessibility specialist in the Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

#### Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Carroll County, Maryland. I started volunteering in libraries in fifth grade and continued working and volunteering in libraries or studying library science for much of my life. I've been involved in disability education and accessibility for a similar amount of time.

I received a bachelor's degree in art history and historic preservation from Goucher College. My master's degree is from the iSchool at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. And, my Ph.D. is from the iSchool at the University of Maryland, College Park.

The focus of my studies and work after my bachelor's degree has been in usability and accessibility. I worked at the MITRE corporation supporting government sponsors in these areas from 2004 to 2019. I left for a year, which became two because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to set up a charity to help communities become more disability friendly.

#### What brought you to the Library, and what do you?

Working at the Library had been a dream job for me. Serendipitously,

the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) was looking to expand its relatively new web accessibility team last July at the same time I was looking to rejoin the workforce after the pandemic.

The web accessibility team came together in 2019, building on earlier work done by the IT Accessibility Working Group and the user experience staff within OCIO's IT Design and Development Directorate.

Our team's goal is to support the Library's mission to serve all Americans by expanding access and enhancing services. We work across the Library to make digital products and services usable for all people, including those with disabilities. Day-to-day, we help improve the accessibility of websites and applications, documents, presentations, social media, interactives and other digital experiences for Library users, Congress and the public.

#### What are your standout projects so far?

I had a chance to work on the National Book Festival, newsroom and Gershwin Prize websites as some of my first projects. There are passionate and talented teams on all these initiatives, and working with them was a great introduction to the Library.

On efforts like these, I conduct an accessibility assessment at each step in the work's process. I also evaluate contract language to make sure it includes appropriate accessibility requirements. Looking at designs, I evaluate color

contrast and structure and note potential accessibility challenges or needs. During development, I run tests to make sure the code and content will support people who use screen readers, rely only on the keyboard focus to interact, are colorblind or deaf, have cognitive disabilities or experience seizures.

I also had an opportunity to work for a time on design of the Enterprise Copyright System (ECS) for the Copyright Office while my co-worker was on parental leave. The ECS includes applications for copyright registration, recordation, public records access and licensing all in one integrated IT platform.

ECS has been designed to incorporate accessibility and usability from the beginning. It is exciting to see a proactive approach that places everyone's user experience front and center. The earlier someone requests accessibility help, the easier it is to do (requests can be sent to [accessibility-request@loc.gov](mailto:accessibility-request@loc.gov)).

#### What do you enjoy doing outside work?

My family has a small "farmette" with horses, goats and chickens. I enjoy horseback riding, gardening, hiking and textile arts.

#### What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

I often juggle to relax and think. I taught myself to juggle when I was a teenager and have kept a set of beanbags in my office throughout my career. ■

**ARE YOU IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FORMER INTERNS?**

Questions or ideas? Contact [alumni@loc.gov](mailto:alumni@loc.gov)

**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ALUMNI NETWORK**

Invite them to join the Library of Congress Alumni Network to stay connected

[www.loc.gov/alumni](http://www.loc.gov/alumni)

## 30 MONDAY

**Memorial Day:** Jefferson Building open to visitors, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [Timed-entry passes required.](#) 7-8000.

## 01 WEDNESDAY

**Concert:** Homegrown features Pamyua, an ensemble from Alaska that mixes Inuit drum songs with R&B. Noon, [stream](#). Contact: [folklife@loc.gov](mailto:folklife@loc.gov).

## 02 THURSDAY

**Lecture:** Beth Simone Noveck speaks with the Kluge Center about her book “Solving Public Problems: How to Fix Our Government and Change Our World.” 4 p.m., LJ 119. [Register](#). Contact: [abreiner@loc.gov](mailto:abreiner@loc.gov).

**Concert:** Mivos Quartet performs on the Library’s Stradivari instruments. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Preconcert conversation, 6:30 p.m., Whittall Pavilion. Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

**Live at the Library:** Explore a Library of Awesome collections display in advance of the Mivos Quartet concert. 5 to 8:30 p.m., Great Hall. [Tickets required](#). Contact: 7-8000.

## 04 SATURDAY

**Concert:** The Ritz Chamber Players includes preeminent musicians from the African diaspora. 8 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Preconcert conversation, 6:30 p.m., Whittall Pavilion. [Tickets required](#). Contact: [clmo@loc.gov](mailto:clmo@loc.gov).

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov).

See [www.loc.gov/events](http://www.loc.gov/events)

## Hub for Digital Accessibility Adds Content

Available on the Library intranet, the [Digital Accessibility Hub](#) offers an array of trainings and step-by-step guides to help staff members better understand how to build accessible web materials and digital content. Explore the latest information on:

- [Accessible writing](#): Learn how to write content that is easier to read. This guide includes instructions for communicating clearly to everyone, including those with cognitive and learning disabilities; those who learned English as a second language; and anyone who is tired, distracted or in a hurry.
- [Headings](#): Headings help users find information, understand a message and navigate through documents and webpages. Use this guide to write accessible headings.
- [WordPress accessibility](#): This guide is for staff members who use WordPress to write for the intranet or Library blogs to help them ensure pages and posts are accessible. For those who create templates, there is a link to accessible templating.
- [Gallery of alt text examples](#): This guide includes examples of alt text for images used in carousels and cards.

Questions? Contact the digital accessibility team at [accessibility-request@loc.gov](mailto:accessibility-request@loc.gov).

### JUNIOR FELLOWS, CONTINUED FROM 1

aries of what a traditional internship might be,” Kimberly Powell, chief of talent recruitment and outreach at the Library, said. “With every project that fellows complete during their internship, they are creating new opportunities for people to engage with the Library. The interns’ time at the Library has a triple impact: on themselves as emerging professionals; on the Library staff who mentor them; and on the users and patrons who will benefit from the increased access to collections.”

As it does every year, the Internship and Fellowship Programs Section of the Human Capital Directorate will offer professional development opportunities to fellows to enhance their skill sets beyond their assigned projects. Fellows will interact with program alumni and Library leaders in twice weekly sessions to increase their engagement with Library collections and develop skills for securing employment. In a special session, fellows will hear from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden; Mark Sweeney, principal deputy Librarian of Congress; and Ryan Ramsey, the Library’s chief of staff.

On July 20, the program will culminate in a publicly accessible virtual display day in which fellows will present their most significant findings and accomplishments. The internship concludes on July 29.

The Junior Fellows Summer Internship Program is made possible by a gift from the late James Madison Council member Nancy Glanville Jewell through the Glanville Family Foundation and the Knowledge Navigators Trust Fund. Since 1991, when the program launched, nearly 1,000 students, including this year’s fellows, have benefited.

For a second year, the program is also supported by an investment from the Mellon Foundation through the Library’s Of the People: Widening the Path initiative to provide new opportunities for more Americans to engage with the Library and add their perspectives to the Library’s collections.



The members of the 2022 class of junior fellows (with hometown, school and assignment) are:

**Mari Allison;** San Diego; University of British Columbia; Digital Collections Management and Services Division (DCMS).

**Shir Bach;** El Paso, Texas; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Researcher and Reference Services (RRS).

**Megan Bauerle;** Rochester, Minnesota; Wesleyan University; Digital Strategy Directorate (DS).

**Sarah Baluta;** Lewisville, Texas; University of North Texas; African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED).

**A.B. Bejar;** Carteret, New Jersey; University of San Francisco; Latin American, Caribbean and European Division (LAC&E).

**Cailee Beltran;** El Paso, Texas; University of Texas at El Paso; DS.

**Vela Burke;** Brooklyn, New York; Queens College, City University of New York; U.S. Copyright Office (COP).

**Analisa Caso;** Hawthorne, New York; Simmons University; National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS).

**Alondra Ceballos;** Brownsville, Texas; Texas A&M University; DS.

**Aimee Briel Clesi;** Branford, Florida; University of Florida; Congressional Research Service (CRS).

**Kathryn Colson;** Urbana, Illinois; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Law Library.

**Natalie Grace Coté;** Lawrence, Kansas; George Washington University; DCMS.

**Margaret Cuddihy;** Ballston Lake, New York; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; NLS.

**Camille Dantzer;** Jersey City, New Jersey; Howard University; DS.

**Roger Davis Jr.;** Anguilla, Mississippi; University of Mississippi; DS.

**Andrea Decker;** Fullerton, California; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Asian Division.

**Cara Decusatis;** Strafford, Pennsylvania; University of Mary-

land; IT Design and Development Directorate.

**Elizabeth Dinneny;** Sterling, Virginia; University of Maryland; National Audio-Visual Conservation Center (NAVCC).

**Catherine Discenza;** Tampa, Florida; University of Florida; Geography and Map Division (G&M).

**Ghazal Ghazi;** Tehran, Iran; University of Oklahoma; DS.

**Anika Fenn Gilman;** Silver Spring, Maryland; Tulane University; G&M.

**Mateo Robert Gonzalez;** Buffalo, New York; Baldwin Wallace University; Science, Technology and Business Division.

**Kimberly Grossett;** San Antonio; Catholic University of America; Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE).

**Kendall Henry;** San Diego; Georgetown University; DCMS.

**Daniel Hockstein;** Springfield, New Jersey; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; DCMS.

**Rose Hollander;** Grafton, Massachusetts; Tufts University; COP.

**Melanie R. Holmes;** Syracuse, New York; Howard University; CLLE.

**Ava Kaplan;** New York; Pratt Institute; CLLE.

**Ellie Kaplan;** Syracuse, New York; University of California, Davis; CLLE.

**Tatiana Lyn Lewis;** Silver Spring, Maryland; Mount Holyoke College; Office of Communications (OC).

**Cassidy Loft;** Genoa, Illinois; St. Lawrence University; AMED.

**Khrisma McMurray;** Indianapolis; Indiana University-Purdue University; CLLE.

**Mariah Marsden;** Carthage, Missouri; Ohio State University; NAVCC.

**Olivia Meehan;** Blacksburg, Virginia; Pratt Institute School of Information; DCMS.

**José Molinelli;** San Juan, Puerto Rico; Inter American University of Puerto Rico; CRS.

**Anna Katherine Overstreet;** Wiggins, Mississippi; Mississippi State University; Preservation Directorate (PD).

**Eugene Parrish;** Stockton, California; Virginia State University; OC.

**Alexandra Ptacek;** Oakes, North Dakota; Arizona State University; PD.

**Chandler Quaille;** Powder Springs, Georgia; Vanderbilt University; CRS.

**Cesar Reyes;** Sacramento, California; San Jose State University; Signature Programs Office (SPO).

**Drew Robertson;** Statesboro, Georgia; Mercer University; SPO.

**Emily Rocha;** Montross, Virginia; University of Arizona; RRS.

**Joseph Rodriguez;** Salinas, California; Duke University; CRS.

**Matthew Savage;** Amherst, New York; University of North Carolina at Greensboro; IT Project Management Office.

**Monica Soto;** Bristow, Virginia; University of Denver; LAC&E.

**Amy Snyder;** Richmond, Virginia; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; DCMS. ■

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## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form [here](#) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at  
[www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)