

Robert R. Newlen, Interim Director, Congressional Research Service



Interim Director Robert R. Newlen, appointed in 2023, has a 42-year career at the Library of Congress, holding leadership positions in CRS, the Law Library and as deputy Librarian of Congress. He most recently served as executive director and director of strategic initiatives of the Dwight D. Opperman Foundation in Phoenix. He oversaw all operations of the foundation and implemented the annual Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Woman of Leadership Award.

Newlen held his first position at the Library of Congress in 1975 as a temporary clerk in the Inquiry Unit of CRS and retired in 2017 as the deputy Librarian of Congress. He served in a number of leadership positions in CRS from 1975 until 2010. They included: assistant director of Knowledge Services Group (KSG); deputy assistant director, KSG; head, CRS Legislative Relations Office; supervisory team leader of the Senate Reference Center; and head, Inquiry Unit. Subsequent positions in the Library included assistant law librarian for Collections, Outreach & Services; Library of Congress chief of staff; and deputy Librarian of Congress. He was the coordinator and principal fundraiser for the Library's exhibit "Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor" in 2014.

Newlen has held a variety of positions in the American Library Association (ALA), which includes serving as a member of the Executive Board and senior trustee of the ALA Endowment. He was the recipient of the ALA Medal of Excellence in 2016 for "creative leadership of high order, particularly in library management."

He has also been active in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and the Joint Council of Librarians of Color. For the State Department, he conducted seminars and training in library and information science in Belarus, Moldova and Russia.

Newlen holds a bachelor's degree in political science and French from Bridgewater College; a master's degree from American University; and a master of science in library science degree from Catholic University.