Marci Merola has been the Director of ALA’s Office for Library Advocacy since its formation in 2007, providing advocacy resources, tools and support to librarians, staff and advocates at the state and local levels, speaking nationally and internationally on library advocacy, as well as working to integrate advocacy efforts throughout the association.

She came to ALA in 2001 as the Advocacy Specialist within the ALA Public Information Office. Marci vaguely recalls having other careers and interests prior to her work with libraries, including a career in the publishing industry, working as a freelance writer in the not-for-profit sector, and a passion for poetry, other creative writing and all things language. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and journalism from Northern Illinois University and a Masters in Library Science from Dominican University. She lives in Chicago, where she was born and raised.