

# HALL Newsletter

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## HALLiday Party

Tuesday  
December 9th  
5:30 –7:30 p.m.  
at  
Cook & Collins  
2416 Brazos St.

Volume 31 Number 5

Fall 2014

## Sure, I Can Help With That

### Assisting Attorneys and Law Students With Finding Legal Technology Information

By *Emily Lawson*

The [2014 ABA Legal Technology Survey Report](#) indicates that the majority of attorneys use smartphones (91%) for law-related tasks and many have law office software for tasks such as PDF creation (95%), records management (61%), time/billing (85.1%), and conflict checking (60.2%) in their offices. More than a quarter (26.2%) of law firm websites are primarily managed by one lawyer in a particular law office and now 7% of all attorneys describe their practice as a virtual law practice.



Even though attorneys are using new technologies, many (30%) report that no technology training is available to them - not even through web-based classes and tutorials offered by vendors and manufacturers. However, survey results show that attorneys need training on technology. A majority of respondents indicated that receiving training on technology is either very important (39%) or somewhat important (40%) to them.

*[Continued on page 7...](#)*

## Vote for 3 Geeks and a Law Blog for the 2014 ABA Journal Blawg 100

HALL member, Greg Lambert, director of library and research services at Jackson Walker, LLP, is again among the nominees in the ABA Journal Blawg 100 for his blog, [3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#). Vote for Greg by December 19th by visiting the [2014 Blawg 100 webpage](#), completing the free registration process, and clicking “Vote Now!” next to Greg’s blog in the “Law Practice Management” section.

## Continuing Education

It's a cocktail party! This year's HALLiday party will be held on December 9th at Cook & Collins. We will have a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres and our own bartender to mix up the drinks. And if that's not enough of an incentive, the party will be held in the restaurant's upstairs terrace, which has a beautiful view of the Houston skyline. If you're planning to attend, please RSVP to me by December 5th. I hope to see you all there!

We have lots of great events coming up in 2015. January is our annual Community Service Project, which this year will be benefitting the Ronald McDonald House. Be sure to attend the January meeting to learn more about this great program and how you can participate. In February, AALL Board Member Keith Ann Stiverson will be here to talk about what's happening at AALL, and to answer your questions about the organization.

- Margaret Bartlett

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## Editor's Notes

Looking at the first page of this issue, we see a common theme from recent years - technology is important to today's lawyer. Emily Lawson reports that attorney technology use is on the rise. She also points to survey results that show lawyers are looking for training opportunities as they continue to integrate new tools into their practices. As law librarians continue to look for ways to establish their expertise in the new legal economy, perhaps listening to our patron base is a good place to start.

Another theme of this issue seems to be all the different types of support associated with our

fine organization. First, there is the support we can provide to each other. In this vein, we all have the opportunity to vote for Greg Lambert's blog, [3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#), in the [2014 ABA Journal Blawg 100](#). Next, there is the support we can provide to the community. Katy Badeaux [reports](#) on our upcoming community service project. In 2015, we will serve dinner to families at the Ronald McDonald House Houston - an excellent service project indeed! Finally, there is the support HALL provides its members. This year, that support takes the form of a [cocktail HALLiday party](#) to help with the stress of the holidays. Hope everyone has a great time!

- Joseph Lawson

The *HALL Newsletter* is the official publication of Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments and news items to Joseph Lawson, Editor, at [newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com](mailto:newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com)

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Membership dues are \$40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

## Public Service Project

### **HALL 2015 Service Project: Ronald McDonald House of Houston**

*By Katy Badeaux*

Ronald McDonald House Houston offers a home away from home, providing care, compassion and hope to families with seriously ill children being treated in Texas Medical Center member institutions. They offer a safe and loving environment to all families of children facing a life threatening condition, including those in need of an organ transplant or fighting cancer, at no cost to the families.

#### **What we will do:**

Prepare and serve dinner for guests of the Holcombe House, a freestanding 50-bedroom home for longer-term stays. We can bring in pre-prepared food or make food on site and we will serve an entrée, vegetable, side, dessert and drinks. For those who cannot participate in the dinner service, you may make a donation toward food costs.

### Project Details

**Date:** Sunday,  
February 22, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 P.M.

**Location:** RMH Holcombe House,  
1907 Holcombe Blvd.,  
Houston, TX 77030

**Website:** [rmhhouston.org](http://rmhhouston.org)

Be sure to attend the January meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, when Family Activities Coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House, Colleen Dillahunty, will tell us more about the organization, its mission, and our project.

*Katy Badeaux is chair of the Community Services Committee and a reference/research librarian at the University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library.*

### **KEEP IT CURRENT**

Library Update Service



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## Member Spotlight

### A Conversation with Susan Yancey and Jane Holland, Longtime Houston Area Law Librarians

By Mary Ann Wacker

This article originally appeared in the [September 2014 issue of PLL E-News](#).

Susan retired in October 2014 and Jane is retiring in December 2014.

• *What was your path to becoming a law librarian?*



Susan Yancey

*Susan:* I had an internship with Roy Mersky at the Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas while in library school. This led to a job at a law firm (Hutcheson & Grundy). I went on to work in other firms and also spent time at

Infoscope Partners and consulting firm McKinsey & Co. before coming to Vinson & Elkins.

*Jane:* After library school, I got a job at the University of Oklahoma Library as the interlibrary loan librarian. My very first day on the job, I met a



Jane Holland

student looking to borrow some microfilm. He was pursuing his Master's Degree in Soviet Area studies. That student ended up being my now-husband, Clarence! We got married and moved to Houston so Clarence could work at NASA translating for the Apollo-Soyuz mission. Through some connections made from early members of HALL, I got a job at Fulbright & Jaworski in 1974 and have been there ever since.

• *What are the major ways in which your job is different than it was when you started?*

*Susan:* I have many fond memories: book trucks loaded with cases to make copies; spending all day filing loose-leaf reporters; re-shelving books each morning after attorneys' marathon research sessions all night; keeping the microfilm/fiche machine working; trips to the local courthouse for copies of filings; trips to the public library to make copies of articles; training people to use the Shepard's print volumes...

*Jane:* Everything! We used to keep the Lexis terminal in a locked room to make sure the attorneys charged everything back. We signed our first Lexis contract in 1975.

• *What is your most fun memory?*

*Susan:* Working the "reference desk" at the G-7 Economic Summit in Houston in the 90s (before the Internet); also "chair races"

[Continued on page 8...](#)

## AALL News

### AALL Management Institute: March 26-28

The AALL Management Institute will provide managers (including aspiring managers) the opportunity to build management skills, collaborate with colleagues from different types of libraries, learn in a small group setting, and develop techniques to manage with confidence.

Visit [the AALL 2015 Management Institute webpage](#) for program details, registration information, and more. Grants are available from the following special interest sections: [ALL-SIS](#), [PLL-SIS](#), [RIPS-SIS](#), and [SCCLL-SIS](#).

### AALL 2015

#### Election Results

Vice President/President-Elect

**Ronald E. Wheeler, Jr.**

Executive Board (2015-2018)

**Emily R. Florio**

**Mary Eileen Matuszak**

### AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Has Begun!

The "Call for Papers" has begun! Turn your great idea into an award winning paper for this prestigious competition. The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee is soliciting unpublished papers in the following four divisions:

**Open:** AALL members with 5 or more years of experience

**New Member:** AALL members with less than 5 years of experience

**Short Form:** All AALL members; Shorter-length articles

**Student:** 2014-15 Law School or Library School students

Deadlines are **March 2, 2015** for Open, New Member, and Short Form Divisions; **May 15, 2015** for the Student Division

Winners in the Open, New Member, and Student Divisions will each receive \$650, and the Short Form Division winner will receive \$300, all generously donated by LexisNexis. Winners will also be invited to present their paper at the "Librarian as Author" program during the 2015 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

More details and requirements are on the [AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Awards website](#).

Contact Shawn Nevers, Chair, ([neverss@law.byu.edu](mailto:neverss@law.byu.edu)) with questions.

# HALLiday Party!

Tuesday, December 9th - 5:30-7:30

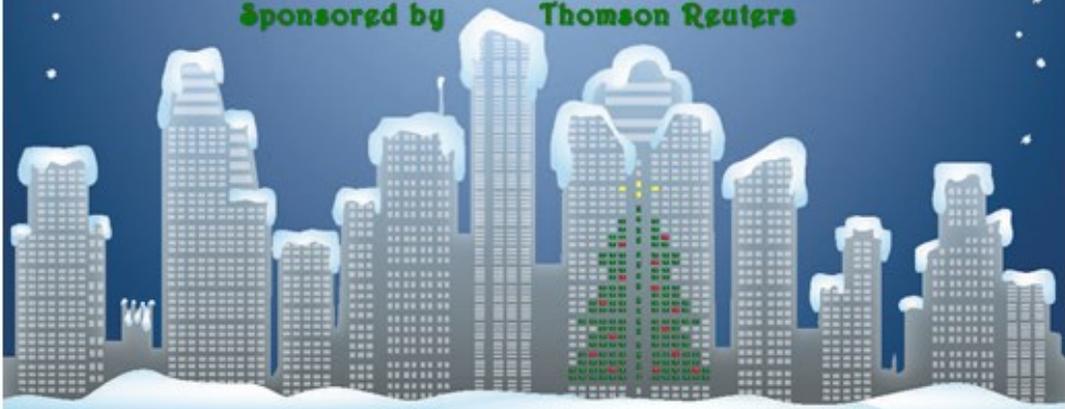
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and cocktails  
at Cook & Collins

2416 Brazos St., Houston, 77006

Please RSVP by noon on December 5th  
to Margaret at [mbartlett@lockelord.com](mailto:mbartlett@lockelord.com)

Cost is \$14/person

Sponsored by Thomson Reuters

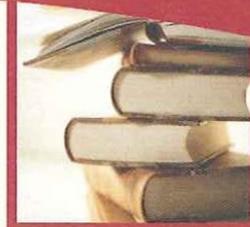


The Executive Librarian  
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[www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com](http://www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com)

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## Law Technology Training Resources

(*continued from page 1...*)

As more and more attorneys incorporate technology into their practices, librarians may be called on to help in this transition. For librarians looking to assist attorneys and law students with legal technology issues, or for librarians who would like to learn themselves, there are plenty of resources available.

A great place to start is the [ABA Legal Technology Resource Center](#). It provides [tech overviews and charts](#) on hardware, law office software, including conflicts of interest and billing software, litigation technology, and web technology topics, such as blogs and website creation tools. There is also a [Training Library](#) where ABA members can watch short training videos on various technologies like email, social media, and PDF editing.

Other websites providing information about legal technologies include [LLRX](#), [FindLaw Legal Technology](#), and the [International Legal Technology Association](#) websites. To stay up to date on new developments in this area, try the [TechnoLawyer Blog](#), [The Mac Lawyer](#), or [FutureLawyer](#).

Books abound on legal technology topics as well. If you need in-depth discussions about particular types of technology, such as iPads, Adobe Acrobat, LinkedIn, or Facebook, you can look to the ABA's "\_\_\_\_ in One Hour for Lawyers" series.

Other books provide an overview of a number of technologies for various audiences. For

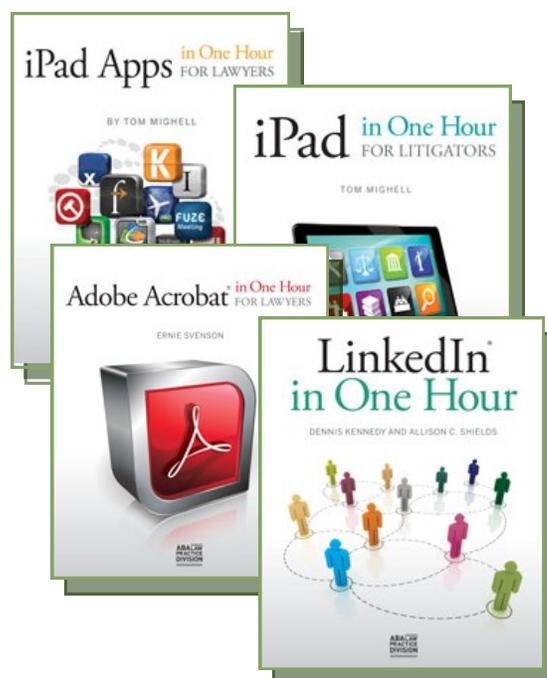
instance, the *2014 Solo and Small Firm Legal Technology Guide* provides information and recommendations about hardware and software, social media, cloud computing, and mobile apps for this budget-



conscious group. Another, *Virtual Law Practice: How to Deliver Legal Services Online*, provides information about the technology necessary to set up a virtual law office as well as the information security and ethical issues involved.

For more book ideas, try the [ABA Law Practice Division website for Technology Books](#).

*Emily Lawson is a reference/research librarian at the University of Houston O'Quinn Law Library.*



## Member Spotlight *(continued from page 4...)*

around the library when attorneys used to actually hang out there.

*Jane:* Meeting and working with the librarians in other countries following the Fulbright/Norton Rose combination; librarians are wonderful all over the world – attorneys are attorneys all over the world! Also, fun with other librarians at AALL meetings all over the country.

- *What is your biggest accomplishment?*

*Susan:* Finding a career I thoroughly enjoyed.

*Jane:* Transitioning the firm and my attorneys into the digital age (kicking and screaming).

- *What would you have done differently if you could?*

*Susan:* I would have used every day of my vacation time.

*Jane:* Audit some web development and/or management courses ten/fifteen years ago. I used all my vacation time—I don't regret that!

- *Any other thoughts/advice?*

*Susan:* My experience working outside of law libraries (corporation, startup, and global consulting firm) gave me much-needed perspective. Also, I enjoyed being involved in HALL – we have a wonderful, friendly group.

*Jane:* I have enjoyed the relationships developed

with our attorneys – they are our “customers.” Librarians have a unique position at the firm (despite the attorney/non-attorney divide) in that we know and understand the attorneys’ cases and workload. They call us with their projects and concerns. Most of the other administrative departments do not enjoy this type of relationship. Unlike my colleagues in the Directors group, I always enjoyed socializing with attorneys at firm events. I recommend joining a librarian group outside of law, such as SLA, TLA, or ALA, for a look at how the rest of the library world works.

- *What do you like to read to keep up?*

*Susan:* I like the Law Library of Congress In Custodia Legis blog, the 3 Geeks, AALL's Spectrum, and the Dewey B Strategic blogs.

*Jane:* I like to read PinHawk, beSpecific blog, and the Library of Congress magazine

- *What's next for you both?*

*Susan:* I am going to spend more time at our ranch near Brenham, Texas.

*Jane:* More travel – our next trip is to Belgium.

*Mary Ann Wacker is a reference librarian at Bracewell & Giuliani.*

## HALL Meeting Minutes - October

### HALL MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2014

South Texas College of Law Library

The October HALL Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Margaret Bartlett at 12:03 p.m.

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Susan Yancey introduced a new member, Michael McHenry, who is the new Library Director at Vinson & Elkins.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Shelby (who came in a little late) asked that we make plans to attend the upcoming SLA meeting in November.

#### **Committee Reports:**

*Archives:* Heather Kushnerick reported the archives are delightful and encouraged members to send her any HALL-related photographs.

*Bylaws:* No report.

*Continuing Education:* No report.

*Government Relations:* No report.

*Community Service:* No report.

*Library School Liaison:* No report.

*Membership / Web site:* Laura Edstrom reported that we will be changing the password when we post the new directory (soon).

*Nominations:* No report.

*Placement:* No report.

*Publications / Newsletter:* Joe Lawson

announced the next HALL newsletter will be out soon, and the deadline for the next one will be October 31.

*Scholarships and Grants:* No report.

*Vendor Relations:* Sarah Lopez reported on behalf of Colleen Pincumbe that the plans for an October Vendor Forum fell through, so Colleen will plan something for the beginning of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

*Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary*

### Law Librarianship History

#### *By the Day*

**September 1, 1845:** Dallah's Digest, which contained the first opinions issued by the Republic of Texas Supreme Court between 1840 and 1844, was published by James Wilmer Dallah. The Digest became the preferred publication for Texas courts when citing to these early decisions after it was cited by the Texas Supreme Court in 1845, 3 months after being published.

**October 17, 1860:** Henry Campbell Black, author of Black's Law Dictionary, was born in Ossining, New York.

**October 21, 1876:** John B. West published the first issue of *The Syllabi*, a weekly news sheet that reported case opinions issued by Minnesota courts. This publication would later evolve into the National Reporter System.

## HALL Meeting Minutes - November

SUBJECT to APPROVAL

HALL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2014

South Texas College of Law Library

The November HALL Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Margaret Bartlett at 12:03 p.m. President Shelby Shanks was out of town.

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Members discussed interest in offering to help host a 2018 SWALL meeting in Houston. We decided to make a decision later.

Our annual HALL-iday party will be December 9<sup>th</sup> at Cook & Collins from 5:30 to 7:30. Cocktails will be served!

Heather Kushnerick reported the new Library Director at South Texas College of Law is Colleen Manning, who will start in January.

**Committee Reports:**

*Archives:* Heather Kushnerick had no report.

*Bylaws:* No report.

*Continuing Education:* No report.

*Government Relations:* No report.

*Community Service:* Katy Badeaux reported our HALL Community Service project will be February 22 at 5 p.m. at Ronald McDonald House. We will be serving dinner to the families and sticking around to clean up. Someone from Ronald McDonald House will be the speaker at our January meeting.

*Library School Liaison:* No report.

*Membership / Web site:* No report.

*Nominations:* No report.

*Placement:* No report.

*Publications / Newsletter:* No report.

*Scholarships and Grants:* No report.

*Vendor Relations:* Colleen Pincumbe reported a couple of Vendor Forums planned for fall had fallen through so she is currently working on some for 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

*Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker, HALL Secretary*



2015 Annual Meeting

Boulder, Colorado

April 9-11, 2015

P.O. Box 61648  
Houston, Texas 77208

For the promotion of:

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law. We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](#) for more information.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors and Library School students.

## HALL Officers

**President**  
Shelby Shanks  
sshanks@porterhedges.com

**Vice President/President Elect**  
Margaret Bartlett  
mbartlett@lockelord.com

**Secretary**  
Mary Ann Wacker  
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

**Treasurer**  
Sarah Lopez  
slopez@jw.com

**Members at Large**  
Kelley Bocell  
kelleybocell@andrewskurth.com

**Past President**  
Heather Waltman

Joseph Lawson  
Joseph.Lawson@cao.hctx.net

## HALL Committees

*By-Laws:*

Tracy Timmons

*Continuing Education:*

Margaret Bartlett

*Membership:*

Laura Edstrom

*Nominations:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

*Placement:*

Candice Kennington

*Publications:*

Barbara Szalkowski

*Scholarships/Grants:*

Natalie Lira

*Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

*Government Relations:*

Margaret Bartlett

*Library School Liaison:*

Blythe McCoy

*Community Service:*

Katy Stein Badeaux

*Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

*HALL Website:*

Richard Guajardo

*Social Media:*

Patti Curtis

*Visit us online at:*

<http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com>