

*From
the President...*

Riva Laughlin, Haynes & Boone, L.L.P.

Plans for the March seminar are almost completed, and Dina has prepared a wonderful program. She has complete details in this issue of the newsletter, but I just want to say that if you haven't heard Pat Wagner, you're in for a treat. If you have heard her, I need say no more; you *will* be at the program if at all possible.

Pat is a very dynamic speaker, and she addresses issues that affect every information professional. We want the entire library community to have the chance to hear her. So we need you to help spread the word. Invitations will be mailed to all the local library associations, but if you know someone who would benefit from this program and might not get a flyer, share yours. We want to have a good turnout for Pat.

The preliminary program for AALL has arrived, and that should spur thoughts of Minnesota in the summer. A quick glance shows a multitude of programs that should inform and educate us, and maybe entertain us as well. Don't forget that HALL has grants available for the AALL Annual Convention. If you need assistance getting to the national program, or just want to save your firm a little money, apply for a grant. We can't award them if no one applies.

It's time to start thinking about officers for the next year. Elizabeth Black Berry has graciously consented to chair the Nominations Committee. She will be approaching you about helping her on the committee, or about running for office.

continued on next page

Continuing Education

Dina Dreifuerst, Clements, O'Neill, Pierce, Nickens & Wilson, LLP

Now that I'm on the home stretch of my term as HALL's Vice President, I feel like I'm finally getting the hang of this job. Just in time to welcome my successor in a few months! Seriously, this is a very enjoyable position, and I encourage all of our members to become or remain active in HALL. If Elizabeth Berry calls on you to serve on the Board, please give serious consideration to accepting the offer. We need your help and your ideas!

I hope that everyone who attended our HALL-iday cocktail party at Mingalone's had a wonderful time! The weather outside was just awful, but we enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, wine and excellent conversation. Many thanks to my Party Planning Committee of One, Monika Miura, for her invaluable assistance and fine organizational skills.

I know that evening functions are hard or even impossible for many of our members; I just wish there were some way to recreate the cocktail party atmosphere at a midday event.

continued on next page

Inside This Issue

Scholarships/Grants	2
Vendor Brown Bag Forums	2
Directory Updates	2
UCITA in Texas Legislature	3
Member News	4
Legal Ethics CLE Opportunities	4
AALL Scholarships and Grants	9
HALL Scholarship and Grant Forms	Inserts

President's Message . . .

continued from previous page

Please help in any way you can. If you know someone (yourself included) who might be good for a position, pass the name onto the Nominations Committee. Serving as an officer with HALL is a great way to put something back into the library community.

Riva

***Deadline for the next issue
(March/April 2001):
Thursday, March 15, 2001.***

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Vendor Brown Bag Forums

Susan Spillman, South Texas College of Law

The next Vendor Brown Bag forum will be on Wednesday, February 28. Seena Lewing from Court Link and Case Stream will be presenting those products. See the flyer in this newsletter for details.

Future tentative programs for the remainder of the spring include LEXIS, WESTLAW and State Bar website. Watch the newsletter, HALL-L and your announcement flyers for exact dates and more information.

Directory Updates

There were no new directory updates, so the update section does not appear in this issue.

Scholarship/Grants Committee

Caren Luckie, Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Please consider applying for a grant or scholarship this year if you are considering attending the AALL Annual Meeting or are/will be attending library school or law school. The Scholarship/Grants Committee has been flooded with absolutely no (i.e. zero, none, nil) applications to date. Therefore, logic says that is you apply, you stand a really good chance of receiving a grant and/or scholarship.

I know some of you are planning to go to AALL, here's your chance to look good to your administration with lower costs. For those of you going to library school, couldn't you use some help with tuition or the cost of books? (Forgive me for not including anyone going to law school, we've never had an application for a law school scholarship.) The deadline for applications is March 15, 2001. If you have any questions, contact Caren Luckie at (713) 752-4479 or cluckie@jw.com.

The *HALL Newsletter*, published 6 times a year by the HALL Publications Committee, is the official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, news items or advertising queries to Barbara Szalkowski, Editor, South Texas College of Law Library, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77002-7000; fax: (713) 659-2217; email: szalkow@stcl.edu ; or call (713) 646-1724.

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Annual subscription (Jan.-Dec.) are \$15.00. Subscriptions are also included in membership dues of \$20.00 a year. For membership information, contact Susan Spillman, Computer Instructional Services Librarian, South Texas College of Law Library, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002-7000.
HALL home page: <http://www.law.uh.edu/hall/>

Continuing Education . . .

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And I am very excited about our Spring Full-Day Seminar. Our speaker will be Pat Wagner of Pattern Research. Pat is a very dynamic and entertaining speaker; just ask anyone who has attended one of her presentations. This is going to be a wonderful educational opportunity for HALL! I want to thank everyone who shared their thoughts and helped me decide which of Pat's many excellent presentations to select for our seminar. Two programs were by far the most popular, so Pat offered to present both of them for us, one in the morning and one in the afternoon:

- Herding Kittens: How to Have Influence When You Don't Have Power or Authority
- How To Manage Information Overload

The full-day seminar will cost \$75. The two-part format allows us to also offer a half-day option for \$45. A continental breakfast and catered lunch is included. To work with Pat's schedule and South Texas College of Law's Spring Break, we moved the program to Tuesday, March 13th. Mark your calendars. South Texas College of Law is once again generously providing us with meeting space at no charge. Watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for the official flyer and registration form. We will also post the information on HALL's web site soon.

Speaking of generosity, I want to thank our LEXIS-NEXIS Regional Information Manager, Susan Skyzinski, for her kind offer to underwrite some of the costs of bringing Pat Wagner in for our Spring Seminar. As you all know, the profits from our seminars support HALL's scholarships and grants program, so every dollar benefits our members.

By the way, have you applied for a scholarship or grant recently? Why don't you submit an application today?

I am also excited about our plans to invite two or three librarians from Houston Public Library to attend our Spring Seminar at no cost. It's a great way for our organization to reach out to the public sector and give our peers a quality professional education opportunity.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that our April meeting topic will be "Preparing for Summer Associates," presented by our very own Elizabeth Berry and Catherine Whitney. And I hope to collect a sizable stash of vendor goodies to give away as door prizes at the May Business Meeting.

UCITA legislation to be proposed in Texas

as forwarded to HALL-L by Lynn Corbett, Baker Botts L.L.P.

Dell Johnson, President, Texas Chapter of Special Libraries Association wrote:

Today I received the following item, which is an update on the status of proposed UCITA legislation in Texas. In order to have an effect on the outcome, concerned citizens should contact their state representatives and senators right away.

For further information on the effects of UCITA, should it pass, see Ross Burns' article in the Fall *Lone Star Librarian* at <http://www.txsla.org/lsl/lslv53n1.pdf>

Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications, Texas Library Association wrote:

The Texas Business Law Foundation will introduce UCITA in the upcoming legislative session. The Foundation will determine its official level of support for UCITA in January. Opponents to UCITA have the intervening weeks to voice their concerns to legislators and members of the Texas Business Law Foundation. Regardless of the stand ultimately taken by the Foundation, however, once UCITA is introduced, it will be under the control of the Legislature, which may or may not respond to our concerns.

Given this situation as well as the current political climate in Texas, the Texas Library Association (TLA) believes that attempts to redraft UCITA cannot be adequately entertained in this legislative session. TLA is now solidifying partnerships with other groups to block the passage of UCITA. TLA has retained the law firm of Bickerstaff, Heath, et al. to represent TLA's interests in this matter. TLA has informed the Texas Business Law Foundation of "the grave misgivings of the TLA to the enactment of UCITA in its current form. While the TLA is not opposed to the goal of enactment of modern legislation to facilitate transactions of information, it believes that in its current form UCITA would materially and adversely affect libraries." TLA has also informed the Texas Business Law Foundation that we will work actively to oppose UCITA at the State Legislature. TLA has offered to meet with members of the Texas Business Law Foundation to clarify any of our concerns.

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UCITA . . .

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Representatives of the association and other parties have already met with key members of the legislature to express our objections to UCITA. In all cases, the legislative offices voiced an understanding of the controversy regarding UCITA once we expressed the problems (from our perspective) with UCITA. Furthermore, in all cases, the legislative offices stated a need to review UCITA (should it be introduced) with questions regarding its purported intent, scope, and impact on consumers, business, and libraries. In other words, we are making strides. The difficulty is in finding the opportunity to explain an extremely complicated law to many different legislators.

“Simply put, librarians in every legislative district must contact their state representatives and senators to let them know that UCITA is controversial and can negatively affect libraries of all types in their districts”

At this point, we are at the beginning of what will surely be an extremely difficult struggle. While TLA is working with other groups and has the excellent service of Bickerstaff and Heath, the groups opposing UCITA are at a disadvantage. Simply put, librarians in every legislative district must contact their state representatives and senators to let them know that UCITA is controversial and can negatively affect libraries of all types in their districts. In early January, TLA will begin a campaign to get librarians to talk with or write to legislators regarding UCITA. In addition to this grass-roots effort, we will also work with other groups to create a forum to present our concerns to members of the legislature. If you have any questions for me directly, please contact me by email at gloriam@TXLA.ORG.

Just a reminder!

Publication deadlines for the
HALL Newsletter are:

March/April	3/15/2001
May/June	5/15/2001
July/August	7/15/2001
September/October	9/15/2001
November/December	11/15/2001
January/February	1/15/2002



Member News...

Cathryn Bowie has been promoted to Head of Library Services for Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C. She will stay in Houston and manage all Winstead Sechrest libraries.

Karl Gruben, Director of Firm Libraries, appeared in an interview profile (complete with picture!) in the Legal Pro Section of the Jan. 1, 2001 issue of the *Texas Lawyer*.

Carolyn Korkmas, Tax Librarian, Shell Oil Company is retiring as of January 31st. She says, “I am going to be having fun, and helping my husband with his business when he can tie me down long enough.” An informal reception for HALL members to bid Carolyn goodspeed was held at Haynes and Boone on January 24th.

South Texas College of Law Library staff successfully completed Phase I of the move into their new library addition in early January 2001. The library entrance remains in its usual place, and maps of the new layout are already available. Phase II and III are slated for later this spring and early summer respectively.

Houston Legal Ethics CLE

Eric Roberson, Trinity Legal Foundation

Fourth Monday of Every Month at the Houston Center Club,
2:00-5:15pm

February 26 — “The Top Ten Conflicts of Interest”¹

March 26 -- “E-mails, the Internet and Everyday Legal Ethics”²

April 23 — “The Malpractice Short Course”¹

¹ This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 3.0 credit hours, of which 3.0 hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit.

² This course has been submitted to the State Bar of Texas and is pending.

For Reservations call (877) 427-2027, e-mail trinitycle@email.com, or log on to www.trinitycle.com



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LEXIS-NEXIS®

Executive Board Meeting

Houston Area Law Librarians

Haynes & Boone

Oct. 4, 2000

Riva Laughlin called the meeting to order at 12:17pm. A quorum of voting members was present.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved as read.

Old Business

The Board discussed problems finding a permanent meeting room location for the monthly general business meetings. The November 2000 meeting will be in the auditorium of the Bank of America Center. However, Bank of America is now charging \$170-\$180 per month for use of the room. Dina is checking alternative locations. Locke Liddell has a good space but cannot guarantee availability. Dina will check into Houston Public Library, HL&P, and 1010 Lamar public meeting rooms. Bank of America will continue as the back up location.

Joan Englander confirmed that HALL has an interest-bearing checking account. The Board discussed putting \$5,000 in a 6-month CD or a money-manager account. Joan will investigate rates for both products at different banks and report to the Board.

New Business

Marek Waterstone is currently managing the HALL web page. She is willing to assume the position of webmaster for HALL. The Board ratified the decision.

The Board discussed locating the computer disks containing HALL's Chapter Handbook. Riva will contact Lynn Corbett about finding them and putting the handbook on the web site.

Riva reported that Barbara Szalkowski asked her whether HALL could make its mailing labels available free to ALA in connection with educational opportunities at the upcoming ALA conference in Houston. Dina will bring in a copy of TLA's policy re: distribution of labels for Board review.

Reports

Treasurer: Joan Englander reported expenses in the current report exceed total income because income from the fall seminar has not yet been posted. To date, 16 people have signed up for the seminar this month.

Continuing Education: Dina reported that the plans are in place for the October half-day seminar. She is working on getting a speaker from the Houston Public Library to discuss the library system's online databases. The Board discussed possible locations for the holiday party in December. Monika Miura suggested City Hall; however, the only available date is Dec. 21. Bob Grundy suggested the Alley Theatre lobby or Sam Houston Historical Society Park. Dina agreed to investigate these locations.

Library School Liaison: Catherine Whitney reported that the rescheduled date of the UNT homecoming is unknown. She will post details on HALL-L when known.

Scholarships: Catherine Whitney reported for Caren Luckie that the Scholarship Committee hopes to put the scholarship applications in the November/December newsletter.

Solo Librarians: Bob Grundy reported that the past 2 meetings have had light attendance. He is concerned about finding an optimal date and time. He will set the next meeting for the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:00am.

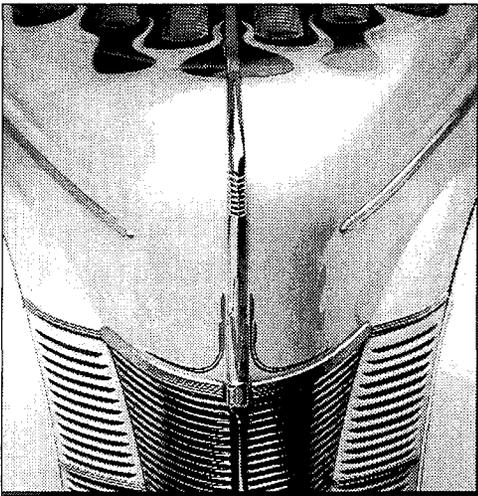
Announcements

- The next Board meeting will be the first Wednesday in December.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.



Caren Luckie and ? enjoy the view at the LEXIS holiday lunch at Enron Field.
—photo courtesy of Catherine Whitney



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WESTLAW

General Meeting Minutes

Houston Area Law Librarians

Bank of America Center

Nov. 8, 2000

Riva Laughlin called the meeting to order at 12:15pm. She welcomed visitors and new members.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes from the October General meeting be approved as read.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Riva reported that preliminary reservations have been made for the SWALL/DALL/HALL reception at AALL next summer. It is tentatively scheduled for the convention hotel. Plans will be finalized in April.

Committee Reports

Continuing Education: Dina Dreifuert reported that the holiday cocktail party is tentatively set for December 12, 2000 at Mingalone's. She hopes to have a block of tickets available to the Alley Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* for HALL members and families to purchase.

Bylaws: No report.

Newsletter: Riva reported for Barbara Szalkowski that the newsletter deadline is November 15, 2000. Barbara sent a request for articles and pictures from members.

Brown Bag: Riva reported for Susan Spillman that no meeting is scheduled for November.

Membership: No report.

Placement: Catherine Whitney reported that the MDCK Reference Assistant position is technically still open.

Scholarships and Grants: Caren Luckie reported that applications will be in the next newsletter.

Archives: No report.

Solos: Bob Grundy reported he would post an email with details of the next Solo Librarians Group.



Festively-attired HALL members enjoy the LEXIS holiday lunch at Enron Field. From left: Caren Luckie, Catherine Whitney, Mary Lippold, Monica Ortale, Susan Spillman, Trisha Fabugais, and Margo Davis.

—photo courtesy of Catherine Whitney

Spectrum Liaison: Lynn Corbett asked HALL members to send her member news to submit for publication in the *Spectrum*.

Announcements

- Cathryn Bowie announced that Anna Stavinoha is feeling better and is expected to begin her new job with LivEdgar in January.
- Riva asked members to support the HBA Clothing Drive during the week of November 13.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 6. Riva reminded members that Board meetings are open to everyone. Any member wishing to add an item to the agenda should contact a member at large.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

The Executive Librarian

(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)

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Apply Now for AALL Scholarships

AALL Press Release

Applications for the American Association of Law Libraries scholarships, which provide financial support for graduate study in law and law librarianship, are now available on AALLNET. The LEXIS-NEXIS-sponsored James F. Connolly Congressional Information Scholarship is awarded to a law librarian who is interested in pursuing a law degree with preference given to those individuals demonstrating an interest in government publications.

The following scholarships are made possible in part by funding from AALL members and from the John Johnson LEXIS-NEXIS Memorial Scholarship: Type I: Library Degree for Law School Graduates; Type II: Library School Graduates Attending Law School; Type III: Library Degree for Non-Law School Graduates; Type IV: Library School Graduates Seeking a Non-Law Degree; and Type V: Law Librarians in Continuing Education Courses. Last year, \$31,000 was awarded in scholarship funds.

Applications forms are available at the American Association of Law Librarians web site, AALLNET

<http://www.aallnet.org/services/scholarships.asp> or from AALL Headquarters, (312) 939-4764 x10. The deadline for all applications is April 1, 2001.

Apply Now for AALL Grants

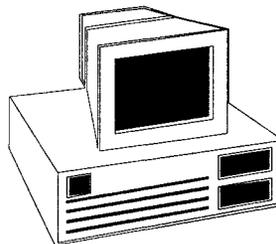
AALL Press Release

The AALL Grants Program provides financial assistance to law librarians or library school students who hold promise of future involvement in AALL and the law library profession. Funds are provided by vendors, AALL, and individual AALL members. Grants cover registration costs at either the Annual Meeting or Workshops. Preference is given to newer, active members of AALL or of its chapters.

Grant application forms are available at the American Association of Law Libraries web site

<http://www.aallnet.org/services/grants.asp> or from AALL Headquarters, (312) 939-4764. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2001.

The AALL Grants Program began in 1952 and is one of the oldest and most successful AALL programs. More than 1,000 librarians have received funding to assist them in attending AALL educational activities.



Editor's Comments...

As you can see, spring is the time when our thoughts turn to meetings, seminars and conventions, and with that comes many opportunities to apply for subsidies to fund those various trips. As this issue goes to press, our Scholarship and Grants Committee has yet to receive a single application for a HALL-sponsored scholarship to attend library or law school or a HALL grant to defray some if not all of the expenses of attending AALL in Minneapolis this summer.

The application process is not daunting — application forms for all of HALL's scholarships and grants are included in this issue of the newsletter. You must provide answers to a few simple questions and then get the application to Caren Luckie (address and fax are included at the bottom of the applications). It only takes a few minutes, but it can make a substantial difference in your ability to attend AALL or classes towards your degree of choice.

HALL is able to provide these scholarships and grants through our popular seminar series — both fall and spring — with the majority of those fees going straight into the amounts awarded to HALL members. If you have never applied, you should apply if you are going to school or to AALL this summer. If you have applied in the past, but some years have passed, you can apply again. What institution would turn down the opportunity to let you attend your national organization conference for less money? Apply today.

As you attend these various seminars and conferences and meetings, please remember to convey your thoughts and impressions to your colleagues who may not be so fortunate in a future issue of the *HALL Newsletter*. I do thank Catherine Whitney for the great photos from the LEXIS holiday lunch, and for the various meeting minutes; Carolyn Korkmas and Cathryn Bowie for their member news items; our esteemed HALL President, Riva Laughlin, and Vice President, Dina Dreifuerst, for their columns; and, Committee Chairs, Susan Spillman and Caren Luckie, for their committee news as well. Keep those columns and items coming!

—Barbara Szalkowski



Hall Newsletter
 Publication Schedule:

Jan/Feb	January 15
Mar/Apr	March 15
May/June	May 15
Jul/Aug	July 15
Sep/Oct	September 15
Nov/Dec	November 15

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Send us your news, please!

This is a reminder to all members, the HALL Newsletter needs your news. When you or your staff members have attended a seminar, published an article, received an award, been elected to an office, or done anything interesting, personally or professionally, please let us know! We also need to know any innovative programs you may have developed, special events you are working on or achievements you are proud of. Give Barbara a call at (713) 646-1724, fax her at (713) 659-2217, or email her at szalkow@stcl.edu , or just take a minute to complete this fact sheet.

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