

*From
the President...*

Mary Ann Wacker, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

Thanks to all who attended the December HALL-iday lunch at VIN restaurant. The food was delicious – despite quite a wait to get it. We did have a chance to visit an extra long time! VIN's tiny desserts weredazzling!

I am looking forward to our AALL visitor in February, Jean Wenger. Jean is the Government Documents/Foreign and International Law Librarian at the Cook County Law Library in Chicago. I attended a wonderful talk presented by Jean at the AALL meeting in New Orleans, "Globalization Moved My Cheese; Or How Do I Find International Law?" I am excited about her visit and showing her some HALL-Texas hospitality. Elise and I were talking about taking Jean out to dinner February 12th, maybe for Tex-Mex, barbecue, or if the weather is nice, a visit to the Backstreet Café to eat outside on their beautiful patio.

Thanks again to Elise McCutchen for stepping in and taking over the Vice-Presidential duties. She is doing great!

AALL Board Member Visit



Jean Wenger, Government Documents/ Foreign & International Law Librarian, Cook County Law Library, Chicago, will be the AALL Board Member for our annual Board Member visit in February. Jean is a new member of the Board, taking office at the annual meeting in New Orleans last summer.

Jean received her BA from St. Mary's College in Minnesota, her JD from the University of Illinois College of Law, and her MLIS from Rosary College (Dominican University). Prior to her current position, she served as Reference Librarian at the Cornell University Law Library, and as Foreign & International Law Librarian/Reference Librarian also at Cook County Law Library.

Jean has served as President of the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL) and is a member of the American Library Association (ALA). She is also a member of the Chicago and Illinois Bar Associations. Jean has authored a number of web-based foreign and international law research guides, spoken at professional conferences on Internet training issues and foreign and international law research, and taught CLE programs focusing on electronic research.

Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting presentation. Details will be forthcoming on the HALL website, via email and on HALL-L.

Inside This Issue

Scholarships & Grants / Member News.	2	Placement.	6
Continuing Education / January Program Recap	3	Treasurer's Report.	7
October Executive Board Meeting Minutes.	3	Government Web Sites Principles Established.	8
November Executive Board and General Meetings Minutes 4		AALL-Portland Preview / Editor's Column	9

The Executive Librarian
(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)



Monika Miura
3510 Kiamesha Drive
Missouri City, Texas
77459-4413

Office: 281.437.2135 Cell: 713.859.5100 mmiura1@comcast.net

Scholarships/Grants

Judith Jackson, Harris County Law Library

Need assistance to travel to AALL's Annual Meeting in Portland? The postmark deadline for travel grants to the Portland meeting and all scholarships to library school/law school is April 1st.

Applications are available at the HALL website in the Members Only section <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/members.htm> (please contact Laura Edstrom if you need the login and password) and should be addressed to:

Judith Jackson
Harris County Law Library
1019 Congress, 17th Floor
Houston, 77002

Before applying, please review the qualifications at the website <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/grants.htm> and note that applicants must be a member of HALL for at least two years at the time the application is made.



Member News...

Emily Clement is now Librarian at the U.S. Courts Library. She previously was Reference Librarian at Baker Botts L.L.P.

Elise McCutcheon is now Research Librarian at Thompson & Knight L.L.P. She previous served in that position at Winstead PC.

HALLiday Luncheon Venue Garners Rave

The January 3, 2008 *Houston Chronicle* "Preview" section included a list of the Top 10 new restaurants in 2007 by the *Chronicle*'s restaurant critic, Alison Cook, and the list included our HALLiday luncheon venue, Vin. Susan Yancey, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., noted that HALL is "so trendy!"



HALL members enjoy the HALLiday luncheon at the very trendy Vin.
— photo by Mary Ann Wacker

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, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77002-7000; fax: (713) 659-2217; email: szalkow@stcl.edu; or call (713) 646-1724.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25.00 a year. For membership information, contact Laura Edstrom, Accounting Assistant, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002-7000.

HALL home page: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall>

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Executive Board Meeting

Houston Area Law Librarians

October 3, 2007

Bracewell Giuliani LLP

Minutes Subject to Correction and Approval

Mary Ann Wacker called the meeting to order at 12:15pm. Those in attendance were Susan Spillman, Caralinn Cole, Rosie Wilson, Catherine Whitney, Dee Dee Mulligan, Mariann Sears, Laura Edstrom and Monica Ortale.

The August minutes were approved.

New Business

Catherine announced Drew Wilson with GSI will be donating \$500 towards the Fall ½ day Seminar which will be October 18, 2007 from 8:30–1:30. Catherine will be encouraging members to push the program out to their marketing departments. HALL will pay for Mark Gediman's traveling expenses as well as dinner for Catherine and the presenters on the evening of October 17, 2007.

Mary Flood from the *Houston Chronicle* has confirmed for the November 14 HALL meeting.

Vin confirmed by e-mail for the HALL-iday luncheon.

Monica Ortale proposed to make the SWALL meeting a HALL/SWALL joint meeting to celebrate their anniversaries. This would take the place of HALL's full day seminar in the Spring. Board members did not agree on the joint meeting and HALL will proceed with its annual Spring seminar.

It was suggested that for the Spring full day seminar that a road trip to Austin and visit maybe the Texas Supreme Court Library or maybe the LBJ Library. A scavenger hunt organized for the trip was also suggested.

AALL will be visiting in the Spring of 2008. This is HALL's year for a Regional Board Member to visit. SWALL has requested that HALL switch representatives with them. Board members did not have a problem with switching the rotation. Switching would allow for a President to visit HALL in Spring of 2008.

Mary Ann asked board members if there are any areas of interest for the AALL representative to discuss. A few ideas were presented such as the Future of Law Librarians, Ideas for Strategic Planning.

Joan Strickler of Thomson Scientific/Dialog will be contributing \$1000 toward the HALL-iday party. She has requested to have available their brochure. Board members agreed that the brochures could be placed. It was discussed that if a vendor sponsors a HALL meeting, it is open to anyone despite the sponsorship. If the vendor makes specific attendance requests then it should then become a Vendor Forum.

continued on page 6

Continuing Education

Elise McCutchen, Thompson & Knight LLP

You'll notice I have joined Thompson & Knight after 3½ years at Winstead. I appreciate everyone's support as I transition into my new job and the vice president's role.

Thanks to Paula Howe for getting us in touch with Marilyn Denk Drane of CareTemps, our January speaker on "Boomers and Their Parents." Marilyn gave a wonderful presentation and also provided us with a second speaker, attorney Colleen Campbell Root. The two of them shared a lot of good information on elder care issues. It was an enjoyable hour.

February brings our AALL visitor from the north, Jean Wenger, Government Documents/Foreign & International Law Librarian with Cook County Law Library. We plan to have dinner on the 12th with Jean and she will address our group on the 13th. More information to follow soon.

We are scheduling a trip to the Texas Legislative Reference Library and possibly another site for our March seminar, and are working on the details.

Lots to do, back to work!

January Program Recap

Mary Ann Wacker, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP

Our guest speakers for the January HALL meeting were Marilyn Drane and Colleen Campbell Root, both members of the non-profit group Senior Care Advisors of Texas. Marilyn is the owner of an in-home care agency, CareTemps, and Colleen is an elder care attorney. They speak frequently to groups on elder care issues.

Marilyn and Colleen discussed issues such as dementia, proper financial planning, wills, the difference between Medicare and Medicaid (and what each service covers), and options for care available for the frail elderly. Statistics show we are all living longer then ever before, and our speakers presented some interesting issues that will effect all of us at some point in our lives. I am hoping to post their helpful PowerPoint presentation on the HALL website shortly.

Executive Board Meeting Houston Area Law Librarians November 8, 2007 Treebeard's

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Mary Ann Wacker called the meeting to order at 11:55am. Those in attendance were Susan Spillman, Mariann Sears, Catherine Whitney, Caroline Cole and Dee Dee Mulligan.

New Business

Catherine has accepted a position with Thomson/GSI and will not be able to serve on the HALL board as Vice-President. Elise McCutchen has agreed to resume the role of Vice President. It was suggested that a formal election be held at the November HALL meeting for the position and to send an e-mail to members announcing Catherine's departure, Elise's willingness to accept the open Vice President position and asking members if they have suggestions for any other candidates.

Catherine indicated that she is having issues with securing the contract with Vin. Additionally, Susan announced that the HALL-iday party is scheduled for the same day as South Texas College of Law's holiday party. Mary Ann and Catherine will see if changing the HALL-iday party is an option. Thomson Scientific is contributing money to HALL for the party and will be attending so Mary Ann will see if they are flexible on the date.

Catherine announced that Marilyn Drane, friend of Paula Howe, will be presenting "Boomers and their Parents" at the January HALL meeting

It was confirmed that HALL will not be switching representatives with SWALL. The rotation will remain the same.

Catherine has planned all of the continuing education programs except for April; the newly elected Vice President will have the responsibility of coordinating that program. The March Full Day Seminar will be a bus trip to Austin visiting one or two law libraries in that area.

Dee Dee was asked to purchase a "Happy Retirement Card" for Sherry Adams and have it available at the November meeting for members to sign.

Heather Waltman has agreed to accept the new Philanthropic chair. It was suggested that April would be a good month to hold an event for members and their families.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

Don't Forget!
AALL Board Member Visit
Wednesday February 13, 2007

General Meeting Minutes Houston Area Law Librarians November 14, 2007 South Texas College of Law Library

Mary Ann Wacker called the meeting to order at 11:55 P.M.

The September minutes were approved.

Mary Ann introduced Tri Nguyen and Tracey Everett with the Houston Lawyer Referral Service. They spoke to the group and provided handouts regarding the organization and the services they provide.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears distributed the Treasurer's Report and reported that there is money in our bank account.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

A card is available at the front for all members to sign wishing Sherry Adams a Happy Retirement.

Heather Waltman has gladly accepted the new chairmanship for the Philanthropy Committee.

Thomson Scientific made a generous donation toward the Hall-iday party. The luncheon will be at Vin on December 12th pending resolution with contract issues. Details to follow via HALL newsletter and/or list.

Mary Ann announced Catherine's resignation as the current HALL Vice President and her newly accepted position with Westlaw Business/GSI. Elise McCutchen was nominated and voted as the new Vice President.

Committee Reports

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report

Continuing Education: Catherine provided an updated agenda:

January – "Boomers and Their Parents"

February – AALL visit

March HALL Full Day Seminar – Field Trip to Austin

April – Open

May – Business Meeting

continued on page 6

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October Executive Board . . .

continued from page 3

Board members did not agree to making permanent name tags for meetings and presentations.

Board members agreed to fund 2 \$750 grants for AALL and 1 scholarship to the Spring Full Day Seminar. It will be presented to library schools at UT, UNT and TW.

Paperwork is due for the HALL/SWALL/DALL joint reception at AALL. Mary Ann Wacker is organizing. Jones McClure is giving \$500 towards the reception which will be held July 13 at 6:30pm.

Heather Waltman has expressed an interest in organizing a HALL philanthropic event.

Chapter Insurance is due October 15, 2007.

It was agreed that this Board will pay for parking for any board member driving from outside of downtown to attend HALL board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

November General Meeting ...

continued from page 4

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom announced the new HALL directory will be updated and available soon.

Nominations: No report

Placement: It was stated that there are several positions that have been announced via the Hall list.

Publications: Barbara Szalkowski reported that the next newsletter deadline is November 12, 2007.

Scholarship and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe said details on the next forum will soon be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

***Deadline for AALL Grant Applications is
Tuesday, April 1, 2008
Application forms are available on the
HALL website, "Members Only" Section***



Placement News...

Pamela Jenkins, Conoco Phillips

Foreign and International Law Librarian. O'Quinn Law Library, University of Houston Law Center.

Requirements: Master's degree in library or information science from an ALA accredited program and a law degree from an ABA accredited law school. A degree from an equivalent non-U.S. law school may also satisfy the law degree requirement. Also required: a demonstrated ability to work flexibly with law faculty, students, staff, and a diverse research community; a thorough grounding in United States legal resources and research; substantial knowledge of foreign, international, and comparative law resources and research; and excellent oral and written communications skills. The position requires a service orientation and the ability to work both independently and as a team member. *Preferred:* Experience in academic law libraries, including experience in collection development, and a history of increasing responsibilities. Working knowledge of major European languages, with Spanish a strong plus. Experience in teaching or public presentation.

Responsibilities: Providing reference service to all patrons of the Law Library; serving as library liaison to faculty members; preparing research guides, bibliographies, instructional materials, and other library publications concerning foreign, international, and comparative law; presenting talks on legal research to classes; alerting patrons to current developments in foreign, international, and foreign law; assisting in the maintenance of the Law Library's web site; participating in regular reference desk rotations, including some weekend and evening hours; and other duties as assigned. The foreign and international law collections have a particularly strong emphasis in Mexican and Latin American law.

Salary and Benefits: Competitive salary and benefits.

To Apply: Official review of applications begins immediately and continues until the position is filled. Applicants should send a cover letter, a resume, and the names of three references to:

Mon Yin Lung
Associate Director
O'Quinn Law Library
University of Houston
12 Law Library
Houston, TX, 77204-6054
or mlung@central.uh.edu

The University of Houston is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

**HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited)
November and December 2007**

Balance forward 10/31/07			\$20,581.45
	Income	Expenses	
Newsletter			
Ads	200.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/Seminars			
October Seminar	70.00	466.26	
November Meeting	645.00	605.72	
HALL-iday Luncheon	45.00	1,878.86	
Administrative			
Cash withdrawal for change		100.00	
Balance 10/31/07			\$18,490.61

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
December 31, 2007

Government Web Sites Principles Established

Karen W. Silber, 2007-2008 AELIC Member

At its March 24, 2007 Executive Board meeting, the American Association of Law Libraries adopted the Principles and Core Values concerning public information on government Web sites developed by AELIC (Access to Electronic Legal Information Committee). AELIC and AALL believe these Principles and Core Values are essential guidelines that all government agencies should follow when developing websites that provide information to their citizens, the legal community and other users. The Principles as adopted by the AALL Executive Board are available at http://www.aallnet.org/committee/aelic/AELIC_Core_Values.pdf.

Why is this important to law librarians? Because equitable and permanent public access to legal information is the heart of law librarianship. However, changes in technology and the way legal information is recorded, distributed and authenticated are affecting permanent public access to official government pronouncements of current and past statutes, court decisions, administrative actions, etc. The Principles and Core Values address these issues.

Accessibility

Information on government Web sites must be accessible to all people without charge. Government Web sites should provide guidance documents issued by the agency. Web site navigation should be intuitive and easy to follow and the information should be easily searchable.

Reliability

Information on government Web sites must be reliable and trustworthy. Safeguards should be established to protect the integrity and authenticity of materials published in all formats. Government Web sites must provide users with sufficient information to make assessments about the accuracy and currency of legal information published on the Web site. Persistent URLs (PURLs) should be developed for essential information.

Official status

If an electronic version of legal information is official, it should be designated as such by statute or rule. A certifying mark on each item must be used to designate official information. If the electronic version of legal information is not official, the government Web site should name the official version and direct the user to the official version.

Comprehensiveness

Information should be in full text, or instructions should be provided on how to obtain full text.

Preservation

Government entities must ensure continued access to all their legal information including superseded laws, regulations, and other official rulings. The archives storing or housing the information must be comprehensive, including all supplements. Snapshots of the complete database content should be taken regularly and archived in order to have a permanent record of additions, changes and deletions to the data. Lastly, governments must plan effective methods and procedures to migrate information to new technologies.

Three of the core values AALL identified in its 2005-2010 Strategic Directions – the role of the law librarian in a democratic society, equitable and permanent access to legal information, and continuous improvement in the quality of justice – are reflected in the “Principles and Core Values Concerning Public Information on Government Web Sites.” AELIC is committed to these principles and is working hard to establish these core values.

You can help too – read and share information included in AELIC's Authentication Survey; help AALL monitor government Web sites that provide legal information; communicate your discoveries of exemplary Web sites to AELIC; and attend program C-4 “Official But Not Authentic: The Future of Electronic Legal Information” to be held on Sunday, July 13, 2008 during our annual meeting in Portland.

We invite you to comment on our draft guidelines for evaluating a legal Web site at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dyUaYL8sHNbDz5mCOW_2fyjQ_3d_3d. You can also request from AALL headquarters brochures containing the guidelines which can be distributed at meetings, events, and exhibits.

Just a reminder!

Publication deadlines for the
HALL Newsletter are:

March/April	3/15/2008
May/June	5/15/2008
July/August	8/1/2008
September/October	9/15/2008
November/December	11/15/2008
January/February	1/15/2009

AALL Annual Meeting – Portland

July may seem far away now, AALL is already compiling a stellar list of education programs to satisfy all members! Program descriptions are available in the program announcement on the AALL website at http://aall.org/events/08_Program_announcement.pdf. Here are some tantalizing topics!:

The Library's Role in "Educating Lawyers": Considering the Carnegie Report

From Books to FaceBook: Can We Energize Privacy as Library 2.0 Services Evolve?

Evolving Fair Use Policies in the Private Law Firm

Beer and the Law: A Legal History of Beer, Brewing and Government Regulation from the German Purity Law to the Microbrew Movement

Conflict Resolution – In Search of the Holy Grail: "Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries!"

Strategic Plans that Work: Creating a Strategic Plan for a Law Library

Official But Not Authentic: The Future of Electronic Legal Information

An Exploration of the Role of Presidential Signing Statements in Legislative Histories: Analytical and Practical Considerations

Harry Potter and the Law

The Evolving Role of the Solo Librarian: How to Do It All without Losing Your Mind

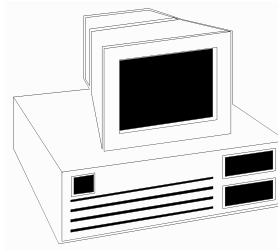
Flashlights, FOIA and Advocacy: Tools for the Explorer in Search of Disappearing and Restricted Federal Documents

The Nuts and Bolts of Competitive Intelligence – Information Gathering; and – Deliverables

Battling Employee Burnout? Explore Tools and Techniques to Assess and Address Employee Burnout

These are but a handful of the stellar list of programs at the AALL annual meeting in Portland, July 12-15, 2008. And, don't forget that the HALL/DALL/SWALL reception on Sunday, July 13, 6:30-7:30pm, again sponsored by Jones McClure Publishing. Be sure to bring your cameras and your notepads so that you can capture every moment of what should be an educational and enjoyable conference.

The *HALL Newsletter* looks forward to sharing all the best and brightest moments in the July/August 2008 conference issue.



Editor's Comments...

Another year, another volume. This issue marks the beginning of the 25th volume of the *HALL Newsletter*. I have served as Editor for a little over the last 15 years. Hard to believe.

I want to thank my contributors, without whom this newsletter would be ... not at all!

President Mary Ann Wacker – not only for her regular President's message, but also for the HALLiday photo and the recap of the January meeting. And for forwarding me the item on Government Web Sites.

Vice President Elise McCutcheon – for the Continuing Education column.

Secretary Dee Dee Mulligan – for all of those meeting minutes and the patience to deal with my questions about them!

Treasurer Mariann Sears – for the Treasurer's report.

Judith Jackson – for the announcement for Scholarships and Grants.

Pamela Jenkins – for the Placement announcement.

I also appreciate Susan Yancey's note regarding the review of Vin, our HALLiday venue, in the *Houston Chronicle*. Every little tidbit helps! All HALL members should feel free to send any little thing that you think other HALL members would find beneficial or interesting.

HALL has a busy spring planned. In February, we welcome our AALL Executive Board visitor, Jean Wenger. I hope that all HALL members make an effort to attend this meeting and take advantage of the opportunity to speak with a member of the AALL Executive Board. In March, HALL will take to the road for our annual spring seminar, and travel to Austin to tour one or more libraries.

Don't forget to apply for a grant to attend the AALL annual meeting in Portland. The preliminary program information looks outstanding, Portland is a fabulous venue (especially in July!), and HALL is ready to provide funds to assist members to go to the conference. The criteria and applications are available on the HALL website at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/grants.htm>.

—Barbara Szalkowski

Houston Area Law Librarians

2007-2008 Executive Board

President	Mary Ann Wacker	(713) 221-1249
Vice-President/President-Elect	Elise McCutchen	(713) 650-2400
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Treasurer	Mariann Sears	(713) 951-5845
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.....	Rosie Wilson	(713) 313-4470
Past President	Susan Spillman	(713) 646-1718

Standing Committees

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Placement	Pamela Jenkins	(281) 293-3056
Publications	Barbara Szalkowski	(713) 646-1724
Scholarships/Grants	Judith Jackson	(713) 755-5649

Special Committees

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Library School Liaison	Blythe McCoy	(713) 332-7103
Vendor Relations	Colleen Pincumbe	(713) 653-8765