

“Communities in
Schools”

Wednesday, February
10, 2010

South Texas College
of Law Library

11:45 a.m.

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VOLUME 27, NUMBER 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

From the President...

Happy 2010! How are the new year resolutions going so far? If one of your resolutions is to make yourself more valuable and marketable in your career, I have a few suggestions for you. As a member of AALL, you have access to the new AALL2go Learning Center available 24/7. AALL has placed its annual meeting program recordings and archived webinars on the site as a source for professional education. The AALL website also has a Career Center for job seekers, as well as for employers. You can even post your resume there and you might try utilizing the Tools for Success section. Don't forget that as a member you can access the Biennial AALL Salary Survey...and let me know how accurate you think it is. As always, you can utilize HALL's website

(www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com) to get your own email address with a professional URL for correspondence and communication.

Be sure to attend our Spring Seminar! We are planning a superb continuing education program on researching International Law. See you at the meetings!



HALL President
Ann Patterson

Continuing Education...

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and is ready to head into the new year! The HALL-iday luncheon was a huge success. I received numerous compliments on the food, provided by Alonti's, and the beautiful music provided by the North Harris County Dulcimer Society. The eight members of the dulcimer group provided very festive music perfect for the holiday season!

At the January meeting, we welcomed Tre' Lundquist. Mr. Lundquist is considered to be among the top authorities in the fields of criminal and gang activity and has been successfully conducting crime prevention seminars for the military,

schools, businesses and various organizations nationwide. Mr. Lundquist provided an informative presentation with valuable safety tips to help avoid becoming a victim of crime.

Our February meeting is our community service meeting and we will welcome Communities in Schools. Communities in Schools is a program aimed at helping at-risk children learn and stay in school. Last year, Communities in Schools provided services to more than 37,000 Houston area students.

Our Spring seminar is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th. The topic of the seminar is focused on international law. We have a fantastic line-up of speakers that will discuss laws and legal research in various countries. Please save the date and further details will be out shortly.



HALL Vice-President
Natalie Lira

HALL Grants - No More April Fool's Day Deadline

Need financial assistance to travel to AALL's 103rd Annual Meeting & Conference in Denver?



The postmark deadline for travel grants to the Denver meeting this July and scholarships to library school/law school is April 2nd.

Applications are available at the HALL website and should be addressed to:

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

Get Three AALL Conference Recording Sets for the Price of One!

For a limited time, when you purchase the full AALL 2009 Annual Meeting program recordings set, you'll also receive the full 2008 and 2007 recording sets for free. With this purchase you'll have access to nearly 200 educational programs developed and presented specifically for law librarians. You can purchase the sets in three ways: MP3 downloads available on AALL2go, MP3 CDs, or audio CDs.

This offer is only good until March 1, 2010. Additional shipping and handling charges apply for CD purchases.

<http://www.softconference.com/aall/slist.asp?C=2794>

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



Monika Miura
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HALL Vendor Forum January 28th

Hart Publications, publisher of *Oil & Gas Investor* and other energy-related publications, will be our next guest at HALL Vendor Forum.

Thursday, January 28, 2010

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Thompson & Knight LLP
333 Clay Street, Ste. 3300

Hart will demo their three web sites:

Oilandgasinvestor.com

Ugcenter.com

A-dcenter.com

Lunch will be served

RSVP by 3:00 P.M. – Monday January 25th

To Colleen Pincumbe 713-653-8765

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HALL Member Spotlight: Margo Davis

Do you know any poets? You do if you know Andrews Kurth's Margo Davis!

Our own Margo is an accomplished poet who has been published in literary journals and won awards. She has been taking classes, meeting in poetry groups, and writing poems for years. Margo says her poems come from two voices. One type of poem is a "persona" poem – where the writer creates a character and voice. Margo's voice is a sassy New Orleans woman. Margo's other poems are more delicate and tender and use natural settings and metaphors. (I know almost nothing about poetry and was fascinated.)

If you spend any time with Margo, you will know immediately her other passions involve travel and movies. Margo is a regular at the nearby Angelika Theater and sees just about everything showing there. She loves foreign films especially for their complex character development and compelling stories. Sometimes she combines her two hobbies – in a week she is jetting off to the Palm Springs International Film Festival. Another recent journey took her to Buenos Aires and she is off to Amsterdam in April to see the tulips. She also travels in connection with her poetry, and regularly attends conferences in Round Top, Waco, and attended one in San Miguel de Allende in Mexico.

Margo comes by her nomadic nature naturally – her father worked for Conoco when Margo was little, and she attended 10 schools (by way of Chicago, New Orleans, Florida, Oklahoma, then Baton Rouge,) by the time she finished high school. After high school, Margo stayed put in Baton Rouge for many years, completing her undergrad degree in English at L.S.U., followed by a Masters in Library and Information Sciences at L.S.U. After her first professional position, she returned to Baton Rouge for a second library post, with the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Margo's first job right out of library school was a bit, well, unusual. She got a job creating a law library and general reading library for a brand new prison in Homer, Louisiana. The library also collected materials for the inmates preparing to take the GED. Inmates regularly visited the library. Margo's assistant was an inmate who worked for the infamous Mafia kingpin Carlos Marcella. One of the maximum security prisoners transferred in from Angola was serving time for attempting to assassinate Marcella. The prison guards would escort her assistant from the Library whenever this man visited for fear that one might knock off the other! Margo lasted six months at the job.



Before she ended up at Andrews Kurth, Margo worked in New Orleans for 15 years for two law firms, Adams and Reece, then McGlinchey, Stafford. During that time, Margo earned another Masters Degree, in Creative Writing, from the University of New Orleans. In 1999, Margo came to Houston and worked at Mayor Day until it was absorbed into Andrews Kurth, and has been the Director there for eight years.

Some of you know Margo's daughter Frieda, who is an excellent massage therapist (I can attest to this)! Frieda recently got engaged to her college sweetheart August, and they hope to be married by the fall. Margo's sister Sally, a therapist, also lives in Houston and the sisters are very close. Margo also has a brother Mike, who is a recently-retired college professor of Native American Studies at Truman University in Missouri.

I asked Margo if she felt inspired to write a poem about HALL or law librarians – maybe I'll get one for the *HALL Newsletter*!!

-Mary Ann Wacker

PLL-SIS Webinar - February 17th

Learn Successful New Law Firm Library Staffing Models to Meet the Needs of Your Management, Users, and Clients

Models for delivering services and products have changed dramatically over the years. Today, our users can answer many of their own questions using the Internet; they look to the librarians for complex research that requires in-depth understanding of the client's industry and the legal issues involved. Meanwhile, management wants librarians to work closely with other departments, like marketing, to support non traditional library activities, such as business development.

Even though service models have changed, in many instances our staffing models have not. Attend the webinar *Change as Opportunity: Staffing the Library for Success* on February 17, from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. (CST) to learn about eight successful staffing models and methods being used in business libraries today and how each one makes it easier to meet the service expectations of our management, users, and clients.

These models include integrating library staff with other administrative departments, embedding research librarians in practice groups, developing specializations among the staff, establishing self-serve options, outsourcing selected activities, hiring non-MLS professionals, and more. Two law librarians who have implemented new staffing models will discuss what they did, why, and the challenges they overcame along the way.

Register by February 10. <http://www.aallnet.org/calendar/eventdisplay.asp?eid=306>

Get a Free Year of AALL Membership with Nonmember Annual Meeting Registration

New this year! AALL is offering nonmembers a complimentary one-year membership when they register for the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference, held July 10-13 in Denver. The membership includes:

- Career resources, such as the online AALL Career Center and continuing education to help you learn new skills to advance in your career
- Access to specialized information created just for law librarians, such as the *AALL Biennial Salary Survey* and the *AALL Price Index for Legal Publications*
- Subscriptions to the monthly magazine, *AALL Spectrum*, and quarterly journal, *Law Library Journal*, to help you keep up on the latest trends in law librarianship
- The opportunity to network and connect with other law librarians from across the country who share similar interests and are facing the same challenges
- Discounted rates on all AALL products and services, such as publications, webinars, and online job postings

Annual Meeting registration opens February 17. Be sure to take advantage of this special offer for nonmembers.



HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) January 13, 2010

Balance forward 11/11/09			\$ 16,757.41
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2009-2010			
Newsletter			
Ads	\$ 100.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars			
November-09	\$ 252.00	\$ 289.24	
December-10	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,060.45	
October Half-Day Seminar-09 (Includes SWALL sponsorship of \$150 and Thomson Reuters Sponsorship of \$400)	\$ 425.00		
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative			
Supplies/Stationery/ Miscellaneous		\$ 333.56	
Postage		\$ 9.25	
Total	\$ 1,627.00	\$ 1,692.50	
Balance 01/13/10			\$ 16,691.91

*Mariann Sears, Treasurer
January 13, 2010*

HALL Meeting Minutes: January

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2010
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: 12:05 p.m.

Minutes approved: As printed in the newsletter

Treasurer's Report: On the table - approved

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: We will have a Board meeting in February. Members are invited to email Ann with concerns/suggestions for the board to consider.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: Nothing to report

Bylaws: Nothing to report

Continuing Education: March 10 - Spring Seminar

Community Service: Communities in Schools for February meeting

Government Relations: Meeting next week

Library School Liaison: Nothing to report

Membership: Nothing to report

Nominations: Nothing to report

Placement: Nothing to report

Publications: Nothing to report

Newsletter: Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 15, 2010

Scholarships and Grants: Deadline Apr. 2, 2010

Vendor Relations: Jan. 28 Hart Publications; Feb. 24 Westlaw Business

Website Design: Nothing to report

Announcements: SWALL is in Waco this year. Schedule and registration information is on the SWALL website.

Meeting was adjourned 12:13 p.m.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin, HALL Secretary

Houston Area Law Librarians

P.O. Box 61648
Houston TX 77208

- 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.

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

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/>

HALL Officers and Committees

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Blythe McCoy

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Heather Waltman

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

HALL Website:

Elise McCutchen and
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Mary Ann Wacker