

**NEXT  
MEETING**

**February 9, 2011**

**Alternatives to Westlaw  
and Lexis Panel Discussion**

**moderated by**

**Greg Lambert**

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# HALL Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

JANUARY — FEBRUARY 2011

Happy New Year ! I hope the year is off to a good start for you! I would like to thank everyone who attended the HALL-iday gathering at Sambuca. We had a fantastic time and I would like to thank Saskia for her hard work organizing the event. The food was delicious and it was nice to spend time with everyone.

I would also like to thank Monika Miura for arranging an interesting presentation by Sharon Heldt, Director Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity. We learned a lot about the organization and the community work it performs. Please note that we will be accepting donations benefiting this organization at the upcoming meetings. If you did not attend the January meeting, but would like to donate to Habitat, you will have the opportunity to do so at upcoming meetings.

Over the holidays we learned of the passing of Susan Scoble, after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. Susan was definitely an inspiration to many of us and she will be greatly missed. The HALL Board has made a donation to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network in honor of Susan and I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to our South Texas family for the loss of such a dear friend.

## Continuing Education

I hope everyone had a great start to 2011 and you are as ready as I am for the upcoming programs. Before talking about future events, let's take a brief look back. For the January meeting, Monika Miura, the HALL Community Service Chair, asked Sharon Held from Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity to join us and we learned about the wonderful services this organization is doing for those who are less fortunate. Please look out for more information about ways to get involved.

And now let's take a brief look at upcoming programs:

- The topic for our February 9th meeting is "Alternatives to Westlaw and Lexis". Under the direction of Greg Lambert, a panel with vendors from Bloomberg, Casemaker, Fastcase and Loislaw will each give a short presentation and be available for questions from the audience.
- In March, HALL takes a hiatus from our usual monthly meeting to co-host the SWALL/HALL seminar to be held at the University of Houston Law Center. Registration materials including a detailed listing of the programs should go out later this month.
- In April, Ron Wheeler, AALL Board Member, will be attending our monthly meeting.
- On May 11, 2011, we will hold our annual business meeting where awards will be presented and elections of new officers will be conducted.

## From the President

*HALL President  
Natalie Lira*



*HALL Vice-President  
Saskia Mehlhorn*

# HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) January 12, 2011

<b>Balance forward 10/13/10</b>			<b>\$14,464.30</b>
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Dues</b>			
2010-2011	\$262.50		
<b>Newsletter</b>	\$50.00		
<b>Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars</b>			
Sep-10	\$14.00		
Oct-10	\$735.00	\$771.28	
Nov-10	\$940.00	\$480.88	
Dec-10	\$630.00	\$597.27	
Jan-11	\$20.00		
<b>Scholarships/Grants</b>			
<b>Administrative</b>			
Chapter Insurance		\$124.00	
Charitable Donation		\$50.00	
Supplies		\$33.50	
Website Renewal		\$9.95	
Gifts		\$143.39	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,651.50</b>	<b>\$2,210.27</b>	
<b>Balance 01/12/11</b>			<b>\$14,905.53</b>

Mariann Sears, Treasurer  
January 12, 2011

**The Executive Librarian**  
Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service  
[www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com](http://www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com)

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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 Mary Ann Wacker, Editor, [maryann.wacker@bgllp.com](mailto:maryann.wacker@bgllp.com).

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Jeannie Mazzone at [jmazzone@stcl.edu](mailto:jmazzone@stcl.edu) or 713-646-2908.

Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

# HALL Meeting Minutes—January

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
January 12, 2011  
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: 12:00 p.m.  
Guests and new members introduced and welcomed.

Minutes approved: as printed in the newsletter.  
Treasurer's Report: approved

OLD BUSINESS: HALL/SWALL joint meeting being planned for March.

NEW BUSINESS: none

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Archives:** requests pictures of HALL-iday party

**Bylaws:** no report

**Continuing Education:** February panel discussion with vendors providing alternatives to Lexis and Westlaw, moderated by Greg Lambert. The joint HALL/SWALL meeting March 11 - 12 at UH. Programming on Friday planned by HALL, programming on Sat. by planned by SWALL

**Community Service:** project this year is with Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity. We will have the chance to work on a Habitat house later this spring. If you can't swing a hammer, you can bring food or water. More information on that project to come. In conjunction with this project, we will be taking donations for Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity as well. HALL will match donations raised up to \$1000. There will be a donation box available at meetings through March.

**Government Relations:** reported on AALL statement at confirmation hearing for new GPO Public Printer.

**Library School Liaison:** no report

**Membership:** no report

**Nominations:** no report

**Placement:** no report

**Publications:** Newsletter deadline Jan. 19

**Scholarships and Grants:** no report

**Vendor Relations:** planning a program with Westlaw Business

**Web Site:** no report

Meeting was adjourned 12:20 p.m.

*Submitted by Riva Laughlin, HALL Secretary*

## KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



**JEANNE HARRIS**

MSLS

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**3112 Windsor Rd • Suite A-363  
Austin, TX 78703**

## HALL Member Spotlight: Questions with Patti Curtis and Mary Ann Wacker

### Questions with Patti:

**First Concert:** Elvis Presley (still have the photo booklet) ; First bought a ticket for: The Commodores (8th grade)

**First Album:** "Frampton Comes Alive" Peter Frampton

**Favorite Drink:** Belvedere and cranberry juice

**First Boyfriend:** Patrick Swain (6th grade)

**Coke/Pepsi:** Coke

**Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream:** Vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup

**Kit Kat or Twix:** Twix

**Last Song Downloaded:** Don't usually download singles, "Fruitcake Song" by the Superions; fave albums of 2010: "The Suburbs" by Arcade Fire and "Sigh No More" by Mumford and Sons

**Go-to Starbucks Drink:** Black tea (iced)

**Favorite Restaurant:** Jasper's (Woodlands)

**Name of First Pet:** Lucky

**First Car:** 1967 Mustang

**Book Reading Now:** *Once a Spy* by Keith Thomson

**Guilty Pleasure:** Dumb games on Facebook

**Favorite TV Show:** "Modern Family"

**Favorite Mexican Food Place:** Tony's

**Favorite Color:** Orange

**Movie Last Seen:** "The Kids Are All Right"

**Thin or Thick Crust:** Thin

**French Toast or Pancakes:** Pancakes

**How Long in Current Job:** 25 years

**Foods Most Disliked:** Watermelon; liver

**Would you bungee jump?** Maybe

**Favorite Smells?** Mom's fried chicken, the beach in the morning

**What's on your mouse pad?** It's just gray

**Something random from your bucket list?** Ride up Alpe d'Huez

**Rolling Stones or Beatles?** Beatles

**What is the farthest you have even been from home?** New York...I think

**Pets?** Yes, Mabel (dog)

**True or False:**

1. Patti is a direct descendant of Betsy Ross
2. Patti crossed the finish line of a ride once with Lance Armstrong
3. Patti was kicked out of a U2 concert for jumping on stage and hugging Bono



**Questions with Mary Ann:**

- First Concert:** Heart. 1979. The Summit.  
**First Album:** "Greatest Hits" Linda Ronstadt  
**Favorite Drink:** Shiner Bock  
**First Boyfriend:** Scott Lester (3rd grade)  
**Coke/Pepsi:** Root beer  
**Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream:** Chocolate! (duh)  
**Kit Kat or Twix:** Kit Kat  
**Last Song Downloaded:** "Crazy in Love" by Beyonce  
**Go-to Starbucks Drink:** Hot Chocolate  
**Favorite Restaurant:** Cafe Rabelais  
**Name of First Pet:** Snoopy  
**First Car:** 1980 Cutlass Supreme  
**Book Reading Now:** *One Amazing Thing* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni  
**Guilty Pleasures:** "Dancing with the Stars," Van Halen, Fritos  
**Favorite TV Show:** "Chuck"  
**Favorite Mexican Food Place:** Chuy's  
**Favorite Color:** Pink  
**Movie Last Seen:** "The Fighter"  
**Thin or Thick Crust:** Thin  
**French Toast or Pancakes:** Pancakes  
**How Long in Current Job:** 7 years  
**Foods Most Disliked:** Watermelon; green peppers  
**Would you bungee jump?** Um, no  
**Favorite smells?** Air just after a rain, roses, gingerbread  
**What is on your mouse pad?** Texas A&M logo  
**Random item from your bucket list?** Go to Ireland  
**Rolling Stones or Beatles?** Beatles  
**What is the farthest you have even been from home?** Tokyo, Japan  
**Pets?** Yes, Toby (cat)  
**True or False:**
1. Mary Ann worked briefly as a hand model
  2. Gary Kubiak sat behind Mary Ann in an algebra class at Texas A&M
  3. Mary Ann once spoke with would-be Presidential assassin John Hinckley Jr. on the telephone



**From Judith Jackson, Chair of HALL Scholarships and Grants Committee**

Every year, momentous events happen on April 1st.

On April 1, 2009, CBS announced the cancellation of the daytime drama "Guiding Light" after 72 years.  
 On April 1, 2010, Charlie Sheen announced he was considering leaving "Two and a Half Men."

Joining this stellar listing is the event of 2011:

**April 1, 2011, is the application deadline for all 2011 HALL scholarships and travel grants.**

Please check the HALL web site for the application and the qualifying rules for the scholarship and the grant.

<http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com/6415/41212.html> (have password handy)



REUTERS/Kim Kyung Hoon

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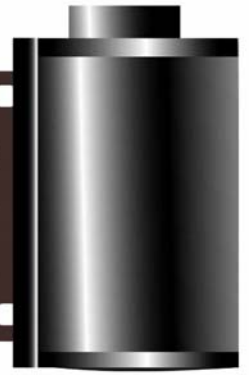


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# A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community

AALL Photo Contest • February 2011



Get ready for your close up. AALL's A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community Photo Contest starts on February 1.

During the month of February, AALL members are invited to take a wide range of photographs of law librarians working, meeting, teaching, and doing all that law librarians do in a given day. Entries are due by the end of the month, and they will be judged online through AALL membership voting in April. Winners will be recognized on AALLNET, in the July 2011 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, and during the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia.

Visit the Day in the Life site for complete contest rules, photography tips, and to view the winning photos from 2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

<http://www.aallnet.org/dayinlife/>

## Learn How to Support Your Law Firm with Strategic Knowledge Management

The current economic downturn is challenging law firms in unprecedented ways, and knowledge management (KM) is being implemented at firms to provide a competitive advantage. Join KM experts Julie Bozzell and Toby Brown for the **February 17 webinar**, Moving Beyond the Library Walls to Support Strategic Knowledge Management, **from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Central Time**, and hear how KM is being applied to support the practice and business of law. Learn about the role law librarians can play to support strategic KM and contribute to a leaner and more strategic model of law firm practice.

Webinar objectives:

- define knowledge management
- describe how KM solves law firm challenges
- examine ideas to leverage expertise to support strategic KM to solve challenges
- discuss specific law librarian-led KM projects

Register by February 10.

<http://www.aallnet.org/calendar/eventdisplay.asp?eid=336&arc=no>



## HALL Community Outreach: Habitat for Humanity

The Houston Area Law Librarians have always reached out to each other to help and have also reached out to their community in an effort to assist those less fortunate.

At the January meeting, Ms. Sharon Heldt, Executive Director of Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity, informed those in attendance about the organization – its mission and methods used to accomplish that mission. There is a place for everyone to help. They try to “Give a Hand Up, Not a Hand Out.”

Did you know?

- All potential homeowners have to have a job
- All potential homeowners must first work 60 hours on a neighbor’s house in order to be considered for a home of their own
- All potential homeowners must work 300 hours on their own new home in order to qualify for a home
- There are many opportunities for the community to help people achieve the American dream – owning a home of their own

This spring, there will be a new community built in southwest Houston near Fresno. HALL has the opportunity to help with this project. First, financial assistance is needed. Monika Miura, HALL Community Service Chair, has created a little house/bank to deposit donations to the cause. The HALL Board had determined that it will match the first \$1,000 in donations made to Habitat. For those who want to write a check it should be made out to Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity and it can be sent to HALL (P. O. Box 61643 Houston, TX 77208-1643). These checks will go to our treasurer, Mariann Sears, and then forwarded to Habitat. The Habitat organization will send a tax receipt all those who donate by check. The Habitat “bank” will also be at the next few meetings for those who would like to make a donation at a meeting.

Second, we will hold a work day in the spring. Volunteers can work on the home or help by bringing breakfast, lunch, or water & coffee. Even though the organization will have at least one day of work, everyone is welcome to come to the “build.”



*Habitat “Bank”  
made by Monika*

Monika will be sending out more e-mails to HALL-L for people to show their interest in this project then she will coordinate workers with times and days. It is the organization’s hope that many people will want to help. At the January meeting 17 people signed up. What a wonderful way to show that we care!

For more information contact Monika Miura – [mmiura1@comcast.net](mailto:mmiura1@comcast.net) or 713.859.5100.

<http://www.fortbendhfh.org/>







### King & Spalding Librarian's Law Blog Named to ABA Journal's 'Top 100' List For Second Year in a Row

For the second year in a row, a blog created by King & Spalding library and records manager Greg Lambert, of the firm's Houston, Texas, office, has been selected as one of the 100 best legal blogs in the nation by the editors of the ABA Journal. <http://www.geeklawblog.com/>

"3 Geeks and Law Blog," which Greg produces with two staff members of another Houston law firm, was chosen in the legal technology category of the ABA Journal's fourth annual Blawg 100 survey.

The ABA Journal says of the blog, "What's not to love? Research nerdery and industry criticism... written by some of the best and brightest in law firm business development, knowledge management, research, libraries, records."

**UPDATE: In an online poll for reader favorites, for 3 Geeks smashed the competition and won their division! Congratulations Geeks!**

## HALL Board Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
 HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
 Dec. 22, 2010  
 King & Spalding

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

In attendance: Mariann Sears, Riva Laughlin, Natalie Lira, Ann Patterson, Lydia Ramirez, Saskia Mehlhorn (by phone), Monika Miura (guest - Community Service committee)

Minutes: Will bring to next meeting

Treasurer's Report: approved

Old Business: Natalie, Saskia, Mon Yin Lung will meet to finalize SWALL.

New Business: Community Service: project this year is with Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity. We will have the chance to work on a Habitat house later this spring. If you can't swing a hammer, you can bring food or water. More information on that project to come. Work on the builds usually starts at 8:00 am. Participants must sign release. In conjunction with this project, we will be taking donations for Fort Bend Habitat for Humanity as well. There will be a donation box available at meetings through March.

Bylaws committee - Charles is chair but not active (or dues paid). Natalie will ask him to either become active or resign as chair. She will probably name new chair.

HALL/SWALL - Dates for meeting March 11 & 12. (Noon Friday/Sat.) Location - UH. Fri (HALL day) "Pimp my Library" - bringing libraries into 21st Century. (apps, social media, etc.).

February HALL Meeting - alternatives to Lexis/Westlaw such as Fastcase, Casemaker, Loislaw, Bloomberg panel. Greg Lambert to moderate.

Motion - funds raised by HALL membership for Fort Bend Habitat be matched by the HALL Board up to \$1000. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 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 and Library School students.



## HALL Officers and Committees

**President:** Natalie Lira  
nlira@kslaw.com

**Vice-President/President-Elect:**  
Saskia Mehlhorn  
simehlho@Central.uh.edu

**Secretary:** Riva Laughlin  
riva.laughlin@haynesboone.com

**Treasurer:** Mariann Sears  
mariann.sears@tklaw.com

**Members-at-Large:**  
Lydia Ramirez  
lydia.ramirez@chamberlainlaw.com

Dee Dee Mulligan  
deidra.mulligan@weil.com

**Past President:** Ann Patterson  
eapatterson@fulbright.com

**Committees:**

*By-Laws:*

Charles Gibson

*Continuing Education:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

*Membership:*

Jeannie Mazzone

*Nominations:*

Caren Luckie

*Placement:*

Caralinn Cole

*Publications:*

Barbara Szalkowski

*Scholarships/Grants:*

Judith Jackson

*Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

*Government Relations:*

Ann Patterson

*Library School Liaison:*

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Monika Miura

*Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

*HALL Website:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

*Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Ann Wacker