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## From the President...

All good things must come to an end. So it is with my term as HALL president. I have enjoyed working with the Board and with all of you, and have appreciated your willingness to help at any time. I'm so pleased that I've been able to get to know more of you better over the past several months.

I'd like to extend my special thanks to: Gwendolyn Johnson and Natalie Lira for serving as secretary, Lauren Schroeder and Patti Curtis for serving as members-at-large, Mariann Sears for continuing as treasurer, Ann Patterson for serving as a caring and concerned vice president, and Mary Ann Wacker for being a great resource and keeping us on track as past president.

We've been fortunate to have the leadership and counsel of these individuals. They have been patient and kept their sense of humor through it all. Thanks also to our committee chairs and new board members.

Be sure to send program ideas to Natalie, and volunteer your time and talents to our group. Let Ann know that she has your support through your continued participation in our meetings and workshops. I've been told that the past president has an easy job, so I'll be relaxing as Ann and Natalie take care of business.

HALL is such a wonderful network of talented people. I hope you'll keep in touch with me at my home email address at [emccutchen@isdhouston.com](mailto:emccutchen@isdhouston.com). Have a great summer!



*HALL President  
Elise McCutchen*



*HALL Vice-President-  
President-Elect Ann  
Patterson*

## Continuing Education...

First I want to thank Lauren Schroeder for all of her hard work and dedication this past year and recognize Elise McCutchen for her term as President. However, we still get to have Elise on our board this year as past president, so we can look forward to having her expertise and guidance.

My goals for 2009-2010 are to implement Elise's vision for HALL's new website and for us to continue our community support for the Houston Food Bank and Dress for Success. I also want our members to offer suggestions and ideas for our Continuing Education Committee chaired by Natalie Lira, our incoming Vice-President. She has a terrific committee to help her with this year's programs and workshops and your input is always welcome.

Our immediate concern is getting our HALL web project off and running this summer so our members can have access to a website that will provide them AALL, HALL, and library information and resources. If you are interested in test driving our prototype, please let me know and I will send you the link. We should be able to begin testing at the end of July. We hope to be live for our first meeting.

I welcome our new Vice-President - Natalie Lira, Secretary - Riva Laughlin, and Member-at-Large - Lydia Ramirez and our returning board members, Treasurer - Mariann Sears, Member-at-Large - Patti Curtis, and Past President - Elise McCutchen. We all look forward to representing your ideas and addressing your concerns during our term in 2009-2010.

## AALL Annual Meeting Coming Up!

The Annual Meeting will take place July 25-28, 2009 in Washington D.C.

Location: Washington Convention Center  
Theme: Innovate 2009

For more information: <http://www.aallnet.org/events/>

### Happy Anniversary, Nano!

Nano Scherrieb writes:

“A bit of a milestone for me: In March, I had my 25th anniversary here at Andrews Kurth. Unfortunately, I have to admit I was over 21 when I came . . . It's been a fun and challenging time but most of all a pleasure to work with such great people.”

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



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*Thanks and appreciation to 2008-2009 President Elise McCutchen, with her Presidential gavel! (pictured with Past President Mary Ann Wacker)*

**KEEP IT CURRENT**

Library Update Service



**JEANNE HARRIS**

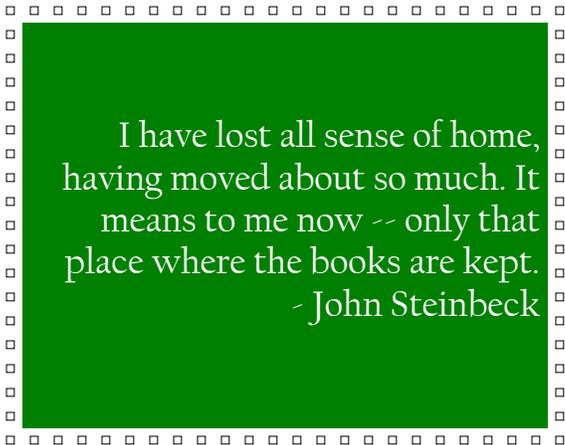
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SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 8, 2009  
South Texas College of Law Library

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M. No new members or visitors were present. The February minutes were approved.

*Treasurer's Report:* Mariann Sears was not present at the meeting but the treasury report was passed out and Elise reported that there is money in our bank account. The treasury report was approved. Elise indicated that the application deadline for grants was extended to April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS: The further website information is still pending.

NEW BUSINESS: Jessica Alexander requested that HALL assist in creating a database with information useful to the City containing items such as city government records. She suggested that a committee be formed - a special internet project committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Archives:* No report.

*Bylaws:* No report.

*Continuing Education:* Ann Patterson announced that this was the last meeting for the year and wanted to thank Chris Dykes, South Texas College of Law and the University of Houston for their help. She also announced that the next meeting will be our annual meeting and lunch would be paid for by HALL.

*Library School Liaison:* No report.

*Membership:* No report

*Nominations:* Caralinn indicated that they had all the nominations for the open slots and they will be announced at the business meeting next month and also in an email announcing the nominations.

*Placement:* No report. Elise indicated that they are looking for someone to fill this position.

*Publications:* No report.

*Scholarships and Grants:* No report.

*Vendor Relations:* Colleen is working on a vendor forum for June 4th.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:11 P.M.

-Submitted by Natalie Lira

## AALL Leadership Academy

October 16-17, 2009  
Hyatt Lodge  
2815 Jorie Blvd  
Oak Brook, Illinois 60523

Application Deadline: June 30, 2009

Law librarians in the early stages of their careers can get ahead in the profession by attending the AALL Leadership Academy, October 16-17, 2009.

Train for leadership roles by acquiring both the self-awareness and strategies you need to emerge as a leader within your organization and the profession.

Academy participants will use self assessment tools, group exercises, case studies, and skill practice to develop key signatures of leadership.

[http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/event\\_leadershipacademy.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/prodev/event_leadershipacademy.asp)

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### Resources for Job Hunting:

TLA JobList

<https://secure.txla.org/secure/jobs/joblist.asp>

SLA Texas Job Board

<http://units.sla.org/chapter/ctx/ctxJobs.htm>

Law Librarians of Leisure

<http://lawlibrariansofleisure.com/>

AALL Job Hotline

<http://www.aallnet.org/hotline/hotline.asp>

LISJobs

<http://www.lisjobs.com/jobseekers/job-ads.asp>

Library Job Postings

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

## HALL Volunteer of the Year!

HALL's Volunteer of the Year is Pam Jenkins! Pam has served for almost 14 years as the Chair of HALL's Placement Committee. We honor Pam for her cheerful spirit and years of commitment to HALL. On a sad note, Conoco Phillips is closing their Law Library, so Pam has moved to another department, the Legal Matter Management group. She still intends to be a HALL member though, thank goodness! Thank you, Pam, for all you have done for HALL!



*Pam receiving a plaque  
from HALL President Elise  
McCutchen.*

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@bglp.com](mailto:maryann.wacker@bglp.com).

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Laurie Gaas at [lgaas@stcl.edu](mailto:lgaas@stcl.edu) or 713-646-1714.

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

## HALL's 2009-2010 Board



*L-R, Past President Elise McCutchen; Treasurer Mariann Sears; At-Large member Lydia Ramirez; At-Large member Patti Curtis; Vice President/President-Elect Natalie Lira; Secretary Riva Laughlin; not pictured – President Ann Patterson*



*Many thanks to the 2008-2009 HALL Officers (L-R) : Past President Mary Ann Wacker; President Elise McCutchen; Treasurer Mariann Sears; At-Large Member Patti Curtis; At-Large Member Lauren Schroeder; Secretary Natalie Lira; not pictured – Vice-President/President-Elect Ann Patterson*

## HALL Member Spotlight—Laura Tieken

Laura Tieken is quite the adventurer – some of the favorite places she has visited are Thailand, Egypt, Katmandu, Belize, and the Serengeti! She has also been all over the United States - Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Washington state, and many National Parks, including Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon. And these are just a few of her adventures! Her next destination? She and her husband Tommy (her high school sweetheart) are headed to London the last week of May.



Laura started her library career after she finished college at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Laura's first stop was the public library, then she moved to a university library, then she found herself in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia for two years. Tommy had to go for work – he is an engineer at PB Energy Services. Laura worked in the library at an international middle school there for children of energy executives. Laura found Riyadh to be an exciting adventure – she and Tommy were there during the first Gulf War. She also learned you can't laugh when you are wearing a gas mask (ask her about this).

Laura did not need a gas mask when she returned to the United States and moved to Houston. She started her law library career at this point with a job at Keck, Mahin and Cate. Laura then went to King and Spalding when they opened an office here. She returned for a bit to her native Louisiana, where she worked in a business school library and she and Tommy learned to dance to zydeco music. (You can catch her at Jax Grill on Shepard dancing some nights!) When she came back to Houston, Laura returned to law libraries and has worked at Baker and McKenzie, Mayor Day Caldwell and Keeton, Andrews Kurth, Dewey Ballantine, Connelly Baker, and finally her current home, Mayor Brown.

Laura loves her garden and always has flowers growing – impatiens, daylilies, and roses. She also has a pond in the garden with goldfish. Her Siamese cat Lucy likes that, and Lucy usually also has her eyes on Laura's bird feeder. Laura has started a vegetable garden and laughs "I am growing my own salad" with lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, onions, and peppers.

Laura is also an avid reader – she always has a book on the bus and also reads in the evenings when she is not watching the Dog Whisperer, Antiques Roadshow, or Turner Classic Movies!

## HALL Grant Recipients Going to Washington DC for AALL Meeting!



*HALL Grant recipient  
Dina Dreifuerst with  
Committee Chair Judith  
Jackson*

*HALL Grant recipient Riva  
Laughlin with Committee  
Chair Judith Jackson*



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# HALL Board Meeting Minutes

## SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

### HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2009

Thompson & Knight L.L.P.

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Those in attendance were: Elise McCutchen, Ann Patterson (by phone), Mariann Sears, Natalie Lira, Patti Curtis, Lauren Schroeder (by phone), and Mary Ann Wacker.

Natalie Lira indicated that she would be sending the minutes from the last executive board meeting via email.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Mariann let us know that we currently have a very healthy account. The amount in the account would be changing soon because of the money being spent on the lunch at the annual meeting. The board discussed possibly making a contribution to an organization at the end of the year. The board also discussed whether dues should be reduced or subsidized for members that have lost their jobs. There was a motion to add a line to the current dues invoice that would allow people to indicate that they are currently unemployed and request HALL dues assistance. The motion was voted upon and approved.

#### **Annual Meeting:**

Elise indicated that elections would be held at the next meeting and a motion was made to accept the slate of candidates. The motion was approved. The Board discussed the possibility of nominations from the floor and Mariann offered to bring extra ballots and pencils if needed. The Board discussed the candidate for the Volunteer of the Year award and a motion was made to approve the candidate for the award. The motion was approved.

The Board also discussed the recipients of the grant awards to be handed out at the annual meeting. There was some discussion about the amount that should be granted. A motion was made to approve \$1800.00 for each candidate and the motion was approved.

The Board discussed the gift cards that would be purchased for the meeting and the amounts. A motion was made to approve the amounts for the gift cards. The motion was approved.

#### **Old Business:**

The Board discussed the website and indicated that it was going to be worked on over the Summer. Mariann proposed that Natalie, Anne and herself be on the account and would need to meet at Washington Mutual to change the names on the account. Mary Ann Wacker indicated that she has the information and forms needed to change the officers on file for HALL through the Secretary of State.

#### **New Business:**

Elise questioned whether the Bylaws needed to be reviewed and changed. The Board decided that since there was a revision in 2004, they should be reviewed at the next Board meeting. The Board then discussed the AALL Program Grant that is available and could possibly help with programs for next year. The Board also discussed the possibility of using podcasts as presentations at some of the meetings next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 pm.

- Submitted by Natalie Lira

# HALL May Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 13, 2009  
South Texas College of Law Library

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:10 P.M. All visitors and new members were welcomed.

The April minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears distributed the treasury report and reported that there is money in our bank account. The treasurer's report was approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Elise announced that the Board met and that the meeting minutes would be posted to the newsletter. She announced that the Board approved the AALL grant for Ann Patterson. The website renovation is ongoing and will be worked on over the Summer.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Elise thanked all of the committee chairs for their work and recognized everyone at South Texas College of Law and the University of Houston for their help this year.

**Volunteer of the Year:** Elise McCutchen presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Pam Jenkins. Pam was presented with a framed certificate, flowers and a gift card.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Service: No report.

Continuing Education: No report.

Government Relations: No Report.

Library School Liaison: Blythe indicated that free interns are available for the Summer and Fall. If you are interested in having an intern in your library, contact Yvonne Chandler.

Membership: Membership renewals are due before June 1st. HALL will subsidize the dues for unemployed members.

Nominations: The slate of new officers:

President: Ann Patterson

Vice-President/President-Elect: Natalie Lira

Secretary: Riva Laughlin

Treasurer: Mariann Sears

Members at Large: Patti Curtis and Lydia Ramirez

Past President: Elise McCutchen

The nominations were accepted and approved by vote.

Placement: No report.

Publications: Mary Ann Wacker reported that she will be working on the next newsletter and ask that any submissions be sent to her.

Scholarships and Grants: Scholarships were awarded to Riva Laughlin and Dina Dreifuerst to attend AALL in Washington, D.C.

Vendor Relations: The next vendor forum is scheduled for the first week of June. Details to follow.

Elise McCutchen was presented with a gavel, flowers and a gift card to thank her for her service as HALL President.

Door prizes were awarded - HALL T-shirts were won by Mariann Sears, Rosie Taylor and Barbara Szalkowski. Gift cards were won by Pam Jenkins (Starbucks), Adrienne Cobb (Barnes & Noble), Caren Luckie (Spa Finder), Candice Kennington (Subway) and Heather Waltman (Target).

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

*Lucky HALL door prize recipient Heather Waltman shows off her treasure at the May meeting*

*Submitted by Natalie Lira, HALL Secretary*



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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.



## HALL Officers and Committees

**President:** Elise McCutchen  
emccutchen@isdhouston.com

**Vice-President/President-Elect:**

Ann Patterson  
eapatterson@fulbright.com

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

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

**HALL Members-at-Large:**

Lauren Schroeder  
leschroe@central.uh.edu

Patti Curtis  
pcurtis@andrewskurth.com

**Past President:** Mary Ann Wacker  
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

**Committees:**

*By-Laws:*

Charles Gibson

*Continuing Education:*

Ann Patterson

*Membership:*

Laurie Gaas

*Nominations:*

Caralinn Cole

*Placement:*

Pam Jenkins

*Publications:*

Barbara Szalkowski

*Scholarships/ Grants:*

Judith Jackson

*Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

*Government Relations:*

Tracy Timmons

*Library School Liaison:*

Blythe McCoy

*Community Service:*

Heather Waltman

*Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

*Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Ann Wacker