

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

HALL Member Spotlight— Trisha Petitt	3
Montgomery County Law Library	5
Heather Waltman	6
HALL Meeting Minutes	7
May Meeting Photos	8

# HALL Newsletter

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3

MAY JUNE 2012

## From the President

This May not only marks the end of another successful and event-filled year, but brings HALL into its 31st year of existence. I continue to be amazed by the knowledge and willingness to step up by everyone in this organization, and I am convinced that we will make it to our 50th anniversary and beyond.

My term as President has come to an end and I would like to thank the HALL Board and the HALL Committee Chairs for their work and support throughout the year. This organization could not function without the time and effort that these individuals commit. Thank you!

Patti Curtis has been an excellent Vice-President and I enjoyed each and every one of the programs and events she organized this past year. I have no doubt that she will be an excellent President and take HALL to new heights! I look forward to seeing what she has in store for the coming year. Congratulations to the new Board for 2012-2013. I know you all will work well together and enjoy the new year.

*Continues on page 2...*



*HALL President  
Saskia Mehlhorn*

## Continuing Education

Yea! We all survived the year!!!

Thank you for letting me serve as your Vice-President. It has definitely been a learning experience and I had a blast. None of this would have happened without Madam President Saskia Mehlhorn, the entire HALL Board, Chris Dykes, Lauren Schoeder, and Emily Lawson. I can't thank everyone at South Texas enough. Also thanks to my Andrews Kurth co-workers for putting up with me.

I'm looking forward to next year. Our new Vice-President Heather Waltman has starting planning. Please let her know if you have any ideas or can recommend a good speaker.

I hope to see many of you at AALL. Have a great summer!

*-Patti*



*HALL Vice-President  
Patti Curtis*

*Saskia, continued...*

A special thank you to Mary Ann Wacker for the fantastic job with our newsletter which is always a great source for ideas and direction. While Mary Ann will give up this position, she will join the HALL Board as Secretary and we can continue to count on her expertise, ideas and helpfulness.

I would also like to thank South Texas College of Law for always being helpful and for hosting our meetings.

Also, a special thank you to Andrews Kurth LLP and its Partner and Chief Diversity Officer Elizabeth A. Campbell for not only hosting the April meeting but providing an inspirational and knowledgeable speaker.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my boss, Jane Holland, for encouraging me to be active in HALL and other library organizations. It has truly been a great experience and I could not have done it without her support.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as President of this fantastic organization. Thank you!

*-Saskia*

*A note from the Newsletter Editor:*

This is my final issue as Editor. I have enjoyed the experience, especially my "Member Spotlight" interviews and getting to know so many of you a little better! I have also had fun learning Microsoft Publisher and exploring more of my creative side.

I owe a special thank you to Barbara Szalkowski, who, with endless patience, helped me so much!

I wish the courageous Matthew Mantel, the new Newsletter editor, much success!

*-Mary Ann Wacker*

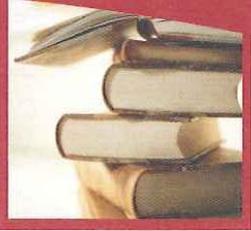


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## HALL Member Spotlight: Trisha Fabugais Petitt

Trisha Petitt's work motto is "Keep Calm and Carry On." This attitude has helped her through many transitions in her life!

Trisha moved to the United States from the Philippines when she was only two years old. Her father, Berzelius Fabugais, taught engineering at the Cebu Institute of Technology, but occasionally helped out at his uncle's store on the weekends. While wrapping some goods using U.S. newspapers over a year old, he noticed an advertisement from Boeing that said they were hiring engineers. He contacted Boeing and they petitioned for him to come to the U.S. on a green card. Boeing paid for all travel and the paperwork to start the residency procedure. The family arrived in Seattle in 1969.

After a couple of years they moved to Chicago, then came to Houston in 1977. Trisha, her parents, and brother became U.S. citizens when Trisha was nine years old (her younger sister was born in Seattle and automatically a citizen). Her father worked at various energy-related companies here in Houston while her mother Violanda got a job in the Library at Fulbright and Jaworski, where she worked for 28 years. The summer after high school and during college, Trisha worked in the Library at Woodard, Hall and Primm. After Trisha got her degree at Houston Baptist University in French and English, she started working at Baker Botts. She decided to go to Library School at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, after being offered a scholarship. She wanted to try some place far away and new!

After Library School, Trisha returned to Houston and got a job at Sewell and Riggs before it became Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP and has been there ever since. She served on the Board for HALL for years and was President in 2004-2005. She was also the first to design a web site for HALL – written in HTML code – very basic, but functional. Trisha says "It greatly improved once Richard Guajardo volunteered his impressive skills. "

Trisha got married in April of 2009. She met her husband Desmond at church. She admired his kindness, his going out of his way to help others, and his easy-going and patient nature – plus his killer sense of humor (she was able to live with the fact that he loves the Ramones). Desmond is a Special Education teacher at Lee High School.

Trisha and Desmond live with their two dogs, Dimi and Petrov. One of Trisha's hobbies is reading books and blogs on personal finance, and she also is interested in decorating, especially in mid-century modern. Tentative preparations are underway for a family trip to the Philippines next year. Trisha's dad has never been back there in all these years. Sadly, a special family member will not be there – Trisha's mom Violanda, who passed away January 29, 2012. She was truly loved and is greatly missed!



*Trisha with  
her husband,  
Desmond*

### KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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# News from Montgomery County Law Library

Hello HALL Members:

Since you may have attorneys who litigate in Montgomery County, I thought I would bring you up to date about some changes to the law library that have occurred in the past year.



- The MCLL is located in a new facility at 301 North Thompson Street, Suite 105, in Conroe. This building is across the street from the county courthouse. It is in the same building as the A.G.'s Court, CPS Court, Ninth Court of Appeals Conroe Office, and the Second Administrative Judicial Region office.
- Our free online/electronic resources include WestlawNext Patron Access, Matthew Bender Texas treatises, ProDocs, Shepard's, Heinonline (including the Session Law module), and more.
- We have free wireless access throughout the law library.
- We have conference rooms available for the use of your attorneys (call or e-mail for the fee schedule, 936-539-7960, lawlib@mctx.org).
- We are here to assist your attorneys whenever they need to be in Montgomery County (or know information about Montgomery County).

A widely-used public service we provide to the residents of Montgomery County that may be of interest to you as well:

- Pro Se Services staffed by a Reference Attorney, and assisted by our Library Assistant (who also is a paralegal). The service is available to self-represented litigants in Montgomery County courts who are involved in uncontested family law matters.
- New collection of legal self-help books (NOLO, Sphinx Legal, and other publishers).

Priscilla M. Streightoff JD, MLIS  
Manager, Montgomery County Law Library

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>

## From our New Vice-President, Heather Waltman...

Now that we've completed another great year in the life of HALL – thanks to Saskia's outstanding leadership and Patti's fantastic line-up of continuing education programs, not to mention the many selfless and enthusiastic contributions of the Board and committee members – I'm looking ahead to what I know will be another terrific year. I'm very grateful to the Board and the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as Vice President/President Elect. I'm also very proud that you all have the confidence in me to help lead this wonderful organization.

In the true spirit of HALL, many people have already offered their help in the coming year, and many others have shared some very creative program ideas. I truly appreciate the input, and welcome any additional suggestions.

I'm excited about what lies ahead, and eagerly look forward to another year of all the things that make HALL such a wonderful organization – interesting educational opportunities, vendor forums, community service projects, book club meetings, HALLiday festivities, and of course, the wonderful community of colleagues and friends without whom HALL could not exist. I'm also very happy to be working closely with Patti who has already been a tremendously helpful and reassuring mentor (and, as always, a terrific source of comic relief).

I promise to approach this opportunity with optimism, enthusiasm, creativity, and a good dose of brio, and to ensure that the coming year is filled with what my husband calls the four F's: Food, Friends, Fellowship, and Fun! And from you, I ask for your help with the fifth F – Feedback. I will be grateful for any suggestions, comments, ideas, or advice, now and throughout the next year.

Thank you again for this exciting opportunity. Have a great summer!



Have a  
Great  
Summer!

# HALL Meeting Minutes - May

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2012  
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: at 12:15 p.m.  
Welcomed everyone to General Business meeting  
Minutes approved: as printed in the newsletter.  
Treasurer's Report: accepted as presented

OLD BUSINESS: Board minutes on website and in newsletter. Still looking for newsletter editor.

Book club meeting May 17 at Fulbright. Will discuss *The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane*.

NEW BUSINESS: new members and guests introduced and welcomed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: no report  
Bylaws: no report  
Continuing Education: no report  
Community Service: no report  
Government Relations: AALL action alert, budget talks going on, ask Congress to fund GPO, etc.  
Library School Liaison: no report  
Membership: dues due  
Nominations: slate presented and elected by acclimation  
Placement: no report  
Newsletter: need new editor - Matthew Mantel agreed to serve as editor  
Publications: no report  
Scholarships and Grants: Grant awarded to Mary Ann Wacker  
Vendor Relations: May 23, Lexis e-books  
Website: no report

Gift cards presented to Laura Edstrom and Monika Miura for auditing books  
Volunteer of the Year – celebrating the 30th anniversary of HALL. Award presented to Jane Holland and Paula Howe for everything they've done for HALL over the years.

Thanks to South Texas for all the behind the scenes help.  
Plant given to Riva Laughlin - retiring as secretary.  
Plant, gavel given to Saskia as outgoing president.  
Meeting was adjourned 12:40 p.m.

Gift cards awarded as door prizes:  
\$25 Lowes to Susan Yancey; \$10 Starbucks to Dee Dee Mulligan; \$25 Pottery Barn to Catherine Whitney; \$15 Amazon to Caren Luckie; \$25 Macys to Barbara Szalkowski; \$15 iTunes to Rachel Little; \$10 Starbucks to Heather Waltman; \$25 Barnes & Noble to Sarah Gutierrez

- Riva Laughlin

## HALL's May Business Meeting



Right, (l-r) Monika Miura, Laura Edstrom, Saskia Mehlhorn and Patti Curtis. Thanks to Monika and Laura



Left, HALL Travel Grant Recipient Mary Ann Wacker (r) with Grants Committee Chair Judith Jackson



Right, Jane Holland (center) , accepting Volunteer of the Year honors; with Saskia Mehlhorn (l) and Patti Curtis (not pictured: Paula Howe)



Left, Saskia Mehlhorn (l) with Patti Curtis, accepts the gavel completing her year as President

*Photos courtesy of Monica Ortale and Mary Ann Wacker*



Outgoing 2011-2012 HALL Board: (l-r) Sarah Gutierrez, Treasurer; Dee Dee Mulligan, Member-at-Large; Saskia Mehlhorn, President; Riva Laughlin, Secretary; Patti Curtis, Vice-President; Natalie Lira, Past President (Not pictured Nanette Collins, Member-at-Large)



Incoming 2012-2013 HALL Board: (l-r) Sarah Gutierrez, Treasurer; Catherine Whitney, Member-at-Large; Mary Ann Wacker, Secretary; Saskia Mehlhorn, Past President; Patti Curtis, President; Heather Waltman, Vice-President (Not pictured Nanette Collins, Member-at-Large)

## 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.

<http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com/>

## HALL Officers and Committees

**President:** Saskia Mehlhorn

smehlhorn@fulbright.com

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

Patti Curtis

pcurtis@andrewskurth.com

**Secretary:** Riva Laughlin

riva.laughlin@haynesboone.com

**Treasurer:** Sarah Gutierrez

sgutierrez@jw.com

**Members-at-Large:**

Nanette Collins

nacollins@tmslaw.tsu.edu

Dee Dee Mulligan

deidra.mulligan@weil.com

**Past President:** Natalie Lira

nlira@kslaw.com

**Committees:**

*By-Laws:*

Tracy Timmons

*Continuing Education:*

Patti Curtis

*Membership:*

Jeannie Mazzone

*Nominations:*

Kristina Lambright

*Placement:*

Caralinn Cole

*Publications:*

Barbara Szalkowski

*Scholarships/Grants:*

Judith Jackson

*Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

*Government Relations:*

Heather Waltman

*Library School Liaison:*

Blythe McCoy

*Community Service:*

Catherine Whitney

*Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

*HALL Website:*

Richard Guajardo

*Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Ann Wacker