

HALL Newsletter

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2014-2015 Meetings

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September 10, 2014
October 8, 2014
November 12, 2014
December 10, 2014
January 14, 2015
February 11, 2015
March 11, 2015
April 8, 2015
May 13, 2015

Volume 31 Number 3

May/June 2014

Grant Report: AALL Leadership Academy, April 4-5, 2014

By Margaret Bartlett

In April, I attended the AALL Leadership Academy in Chicago, thanks in part to a generous contribution from HALL. The Academy was held on April 4-5th at the Hyatt Lodge at the McDonald's Campus in Chicago. And, in case you're wondering, yes, there were many pictures of Ronald McDonald as well as the "M" logo on some door handles. Surprisingly, though, there wasn't a McDonald's restaurant nearby. The sessions at the Academy were taught by Gail Johnson and Pam Parr, who own a consulting company that teaches leadership and communication skills to businesses. They covered numerous topics, but perhaps the most interesting and useful were those on different personality types and how to communicate with them most effectively. While no one fits perfectly into one category, it did help me identify characteristics in my colleagues that I hadn't noticed before, which will help me tailor future communications to a style that works best for them.



Margaret Bartlett at MacDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago, Illinois.

The best part of the Academy is that it continues to be a learning experience for me. After the initial weekend, each participant was assigned a mentor who is part of AALL and in a similar field. For instance, my mentor is a manager at a large law firm. Periodically, attendees are assigned articles to read and discuss about different types of leadership and management styles. In addition to the main readings, my mentor has assigned books and articles tailored to my own career development. I am very glad I attended this year's Academy, and would strongly encourage others who are interested to attend in the future.

Editor's Notes

Change is the only constant in life.

- Heraclitus, c. 500 BCE

In August, we will begin publishing the *HALL Newsletter* on a quarterly schedule, joining many of our fellow AALL chapters that have abbreviated their publishing cycles in recent years. Due to the talent and dedication of our members, we can do so to expand publishing opportunities rather than compensate for a lack of content and to work collaboratively with our blog, [*The HALL Monitor*](#), rather than simply reacting to trends in technology without improving the reader's experience. I offer the following suggestions for coordinating our efforts going forward.

Blogs have proven useful tools for communicating brief, up-to-the-minute information. As such, they are the perfect place to announce chapter events, such as upcoming meetings, and member news, such as retirements, job openings, and new grandkids. Additionally, short articles about current happenings fit perfectly into a blog, which can easily link the reader to more information. Although a newsletter is a great place for these

items as well, a blog can deliver the news faster and in smaller portions than a newsletter making the reading more palatable. Additionally, items will be delivered directly to those readers who subscribe to the RSS feed. Here are a few exemplary blogs from our members:

- [3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#)
- [Nota Bene](#)
- [The Fred Parks Law Library Blog](#)

In contrast, the *HALL Newsletter* is the perfect place for content meant to be digested at a slower pace and memorialized. Long-form articles with or without footnotes, grant reports, and member spotlights are better suited to a regular publishing cycle than the constant pace of a blog. Additionally, meeting minutes, board resolutions, and other official communications are best kept in a more formal and easily-cited publication. Finally, a digest of content shared on the blog is planned for the newsletter to ensure all readers have a chance to view important information. Working hand in hand, our new quarterly newsletter and blog give our talented members the best combination of publishing opportunities possible.

- Joseph Lawson

The *HALL Newsletter* is the official publication of Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments and news items to Joseph Lawson, Editor, at newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com

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Membership dues are \$40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

Harris County Law Library News

By Mariann Sears

I am very pleased to announce two new additions to my team here at the Harris County Law Library. On May 30, Joseph Lawson came onboard as our new Deputy Director, and on June 10, Lori-Ann Craig started as our new Assistant Law Librarian. Please join me in welcoming them both.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate Joe on his AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award. His paper, titled "What About the Majority: Considering the Research Practices of Solo and Small Firm Attorneys," was selected as a new member division winner this year. Joe will be presenting his paper at the AALL Conference in San Antonio during the "Librarian as Author" program. If you would like to attend, I'll save you a seat.

Mariann Sears is the Director of the Harris County Law Library.

Member News

Happy Retirement, Susan Yancey!



Susan Yancey, Director of Firm Libraries at Vinson & Elkins and 2013 HALL Volunteer of the Year, will retire in August. Let's wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

Mariann Sears Named 2014 Volunteer of the Year



After many years of service in a variety of roles, Mariann Sears was named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations, Mariann, and thank you for all you've done for HALL.

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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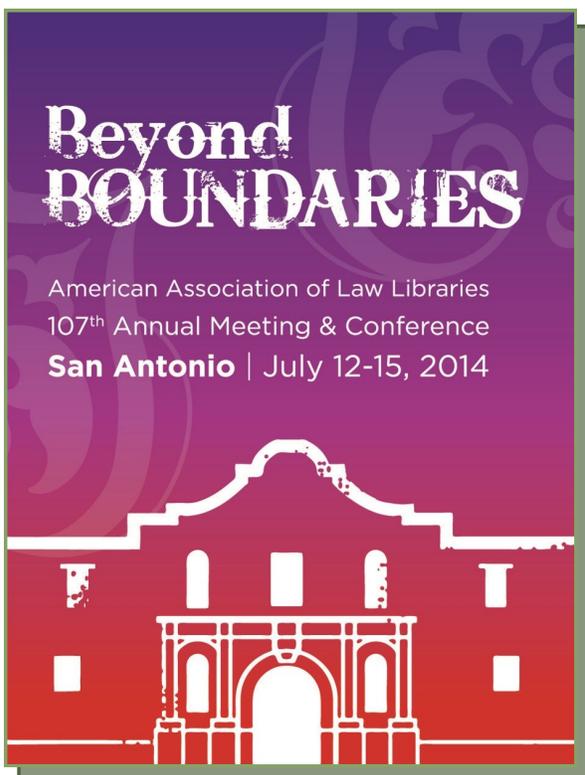
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AALL News

HALL/SWALL/DALL/UNT Reception at AALL 2014

If you are attending the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in San Antonio, be sure to enjoy the food, drinks and good company of your local and regional colleagues at the HALL/SWALL/DALL/UNT Reception. All current members of each of the sponsoring chapters are welcome to

attend, so we expect a packed house. The reception is scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the [Acenar Restaurant, 146 E. Houston Street, San Antonio, Texas](#). Your RSVP can be sent to Dr. Yvonne Chandler, yvonne.chandler@unt.edu, and is due by July 9. Also, don't forget to add this event to your [AALL Conference Planner](#) today!



Live, from San Antonio...

Even if you can't be at the Annual Meeting in person, you can sample some of each day's offerings with live webcast programs:

- [Opening General Session/Keynote Speaker](#) - Sunday, July 13, 9-10:30 a.m. CDT/10-11:30 a.m. EDT
- [CI Essentials: Pushing Research Boundaries](#) - Monday, July 14, 1 -2 p.m. CDT/2-3 p.m. EDT
- [Emerging Issues in Copyright: What You Need to Know](#) - Tuesday, July 15, 2:30-3:15 p.m. CDT/3:30-4:15 p.m. EDT

If you can't watch the programs live, archived webcasts of the programs will be available after the conference on [AALL2go](#), your online center for professional development. Whether you're attending our conference in San Antonio or tending to your job back at the office, you can be part of the audience!

Member Spotlight

A Conversation with Margaret Bartlett

By Patti Curtis

Patti: I think we all know how this starts off - tell me about yourself.

Margaret: I grew up in Texas and New Mexico, though most of my extended family lives in the Houston area, so I came back here often to visit. I received a BA in English from Baylor and an MLIS from Rutgers. The first 9 years of my career were spent in Washington, D.C. working for a law firm, Pepper Hamilton, and then the Government Accountability Office. I moved back to Houston last January to work at Locke Lord LLP, and am currently enjoying all of the available BBQ and Tex-Mex that I can.



P: No Tex-Mex, you should have moved back sooner!

P: When did you decide to become a librarian?

M: After college – my brother, who is a journalist, would rave about the librarian where he worked and how she could find anything. I thought that sounded like fun and it has been!

P: What did you want to be when you were growing up?

M: I briefly wanted to be a lawyer and then a detective, which can be attributed to far too much time watching *Matlock* and *Magnum PI*, respectively. And, I really wanted to be like

Penny in *Inspector Gadget*. In middle school, I was in charge of my class's small library – I organized the books, made a check-out system, etc., which I enjoyed. Those interests have turned out to be precursors to my current profession, though I didn't realize it at the time.

P: You created the check-out system in middle school! All you needed was the bun, glasses and a cardigan. By the way, I can see a resemblance to Penny.



P: Do you have a favorite food or dessert?

M: Really, anything chocolate. Dark chocolate. Too much more specific than that is hard to narrow down, though I do make a stellar chocolate mousse. And, I have a stockpile of Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs that should last me through June.

P: You realize that tens of people now know you have a stash of Reese's Peanut Butter Eggs! She makes a stellar chocolate cake too.

P: What about TV shows/movies?

M: Current favorites: *Louie*, which is always terrific and surprising, and *Mad Men*, which is making me wait another year for more episodes!

P: Books? What are you reading? Do you have a favorite author?

M: That's a tough one – I'd say a tie between *Edith Wharton* and *J.K. Rowling* for fiction. For non-fiction: *Anne Fadiman* and *Michael Lewis*,

Continued on page 6...

Member Spotlight *(continued from page 5...)*

both of whom have a way of making their subjects completely fascinating and accessible.

P: I'm more familiar with the first two, but I will check out the other two.

P: What's new at the Locke Lord Library?

M: Summer Associates!

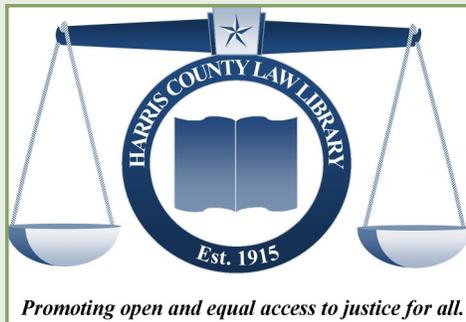
P: With that . . .

This concludes a Conversation with Margaret.

Patti Curtis is a librarian associate at Andrews Kurth.

Further Reading Made Easy

Links to the [Harris County Public Library's catalog](#) are provided for books, CDs, and DVDs in this month's Member Spotlight. If you would like to check out any of the media recommended above, you can reserve items and [have them delivered to the Harris County Law Library for convenient downtown pickup](#).



The Harris County Law Library is on LinkedIn! [Follow us](#) for information on upcoming events, new and updated resources and research tips.

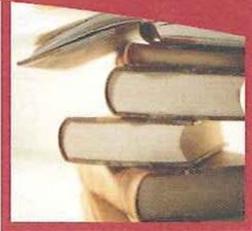


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HALL Meeting Minutes - May

SUBJECT to APPROVAL

HALL MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2014

South Texas College of Law Library

The April HALL Meeting was called to order by President Heather Waltman at 12:02 p.m.

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business: None

New Business: A vote was taken and the membership unanimously approved the dues increase from \$25 to \$40.

Patricia Huntsman announced that Susan Yancey will be retiring in August.

Mariann Sears announced two new hires at the Harris County Law Library: Joe Lawson, Deputy Director, and Lori-Ann Craig, Assistant Law Library.

Mariann Sears was named HALL Volunteer of the Year.

Our new 2014-2015 Board:

President – Shelby Shanks

Vice-President/President-Elect – Margaret Bartlett

Secretary – Mary Ann Wacker

Treasurer – Sarah Lopez

Members At-Large – Joe Lawson (through 2015), Kelley Bocell (through 2016)

Past President – Heather Waltman

Committee Reports:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Shelby Shanks said this is the last meeting of the year. Also, she is asking any members who wish to assist new Vice-President Margaret Bartlett to let her know so a Continuing Education committee could be formed.

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: No report.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership / Web site: No report.

Nominations: The slate of officers for 2014-2015 was approved by the membership.

Placement: No report.

Publications / Newsletter: Barbara announced Joe Lawson is doing a great job as Newsletter Editor.

Scholarships and Grants: Natalie Lira presented the AALL Grant to Kelley Bocell.

Vendor Relations: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

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For the promotion of:

- 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. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](#) for more information.

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

President

Shelby Shanks
sshanks@porterhedges.com

Vice President/President Elect

Margaret Bartlett
mbarlett@lockelord.com

Secretary

Mary Ann Wacker
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

Treasurer

Sarah Lopez
slopez@jw.com

Members at Large

Kelley Bocell
kelleybocell@andrewskurth.com

Past President

Heather Waltman

Joseph Lawson
Joseph.Lawson@cao.hctx.net

HALL Committees

By-Laws:

Tracy Timmons

Continuing Education:

Margaret Bartlett

Membership:

Laura Edstrom

Nominations:

Saskia Mehlhorn

Placement:

Candice Kennington

Publications:

Barbara Szalkowski

Scholarships/Grants:

Natalie Lira

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Government Relations:

Margaret Bartlett

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Community Service:

Katy Stein Badeaux

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

HALL Website:

Richard Guajardo

Social Media:

Patti Curtis

Visit us online at:

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