

NEXT

MEETING

- **HALL-iday Party!**

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From the President...

Greetings all,

I want to thank Catherine Whitney and Dina Dreifuert for presenting "Tales from the Dark Side" in October. They shared their experiences working both as vendor representatives and as librarians, and provided insights into the vendor-librarian relationship. I was unable to attend due to knee surgery but understand that I missed a great meeting.

I would like to commend Ann, Chris and Natalie for providing an outstanding workshop on identity theft in November.



HALL President Elise McCutchen

We enjoyed hosting Dean Richard Alderman as well as listening to Greg Lambert and Toby Brown discuss personal security. To finish out the workshop, we listened to some of our vendors explain their policies regarding providing public records information. Everyone who attended received a copy of Dean Alderman's book, *Know Your Rights*, which he provided to HALL at a substantial discount.

December is almost here and we're ready to celebrate the holidays. Please join us at the Four Seasons Hotel on Wednesday, December 10th, for our HALL-DAY luncheon. Hope to see you there!

Happy holidays!
Elise

Continuing Education...

On Monday, November 10, HALL presented its fall workshop on Identity Theft at South Texas College of Law. Dean Richard Alderman Houston's own "People's Lawyer" and Professor of Law at the University of Houston, opened the session with an exceptional discussion on identity theft and its impact on consumer law. Toby Brown, Client Relations Manager, Knowledge Management of Fulbright & Jaworski, and HALL's own Greg Lambert followed with a most fascinating presentation, "Is 'Privacy' Still in the Dictionary?" A vendor panel discussion on the ethics, use, credibility, and confidentiality of personal information databases wrapped up the work-



HALL Vice-President Ann Patterson

shop. HALL would like to thank the panel members who graciously took time to attend and participate in the workshop either in person or by teleconference call, Laura Hernandez from Thomson, Karen Ditsch of Lois Law, and Rhonda Keaton of Lexis Nexis who had three of her colleagues participate by phone, Mike Higgins, Jean Halferty, and Robin Sundaram. Thanks to Holly Watson for moderating the discussion.

HALL would also like to thank Blythe McCoy and Thomson West for their very generous sponsorship of the Workshop's breakfast.

Be sure to mark your calendars and join fellow members at the Four Seasons for our HALLiday luncheon on Wednesday, December 10 from 11:45 to 1:00.

-Ann

SLA News

The SLA Texas Chapter Annual Fall Meeting was held on the SMU campus in Dallas on October 24th. The all day event covered topics ranging from the latest technology and online social networking to how to stay employed in the changing economy. Greg Lambert (King & Spalding) moderated the morning panel and discussed Online Social Networking and Web 2.0 integration into the workplace. The panel then discussed using a recruiter to expand your employment opportunities and how to negotiate your salary during the hiring process.

Barbara Fullerton (10K Wizard) and Dina Dreifuerst (Bracewell Giuliani) did a fabulous job with their "60 Gadgets in 60 Minutes" After a lunch and networking session, Pat Wagner (Pattern Research, Inc.) spent the rest of the afternoon discussing "How to Stay Employable in the 21st Century." There were over 80 participants attending the meeting, including a good number of Houston members made the trip up to Dallas.



HALL Members Dina Dreifuerst and Barbara Fullerton spoke at the SLA Texas Chapter Fall Meeting.

Coming in February: Special Guest AALL President James Duggan on February 11, 2009. He will give us ideas on how AALL can help members during difficult economic times.

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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HALLiday Party!

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Four Seasons Houston

1300 Lamar Street, The Fairfield Room

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Cost: Members \$25 Non-members \$45

*Spinach Salad with pine nuts, eggs,
mushrooms, bacon dressing*

*Roasted Breast of Chicken stuffed with goat
cheese and spinach on pecan and sage
polenta, glazed carrots and red pepper jus
or*

Four Seasons Vegetarian Selection of the Day

Warm Chocolate Pecan Tart

*RSVP by NOON, Friday, December 5, 2008 to
Mariann Sears mariann.sears@tklaw.com*

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HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) September 10, 2008-October 8, 2008

Balance forward 09/10/08			\$ 17,614.48
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2008-2009	\$ 425.00		
Newsletter	\$ 100.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars			
HALL/DALL/SWALL Reception at AALL	\$ 401.90		
August 2008 Meeting	\$ 144.00	\$ 416.89	
September 2008 Meeting	\$ 358.00	\$ 550.49	
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative			
Refund for Bank Fee for New Checks	\$ 105.75		
Total	\$ 1,534.65	\$ 967.38	
Balance 10/08/08			\$ 18,181.75

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
October 8, 2008

HALL Meeting Minutes - October

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 2008
South Texas College of Law

Ann Patterson called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

New members and guests were welcomed. We had one guest and two new members. The September minutes were approved after two amendments.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears distributed the Treasurer's Report and reported that there is money in our bank account. She also noted that in the past month, she renewed the group's insurance policy through AALL.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Service: In Heather Waltman's absence, Ann mentioned two possible upcoming service projects. The Houston Food Bank is in desperate need of volunteers for the week of October 12—18. While there is not time to organize a formal group project, individuals are free to volunteer there as representatives of HALL. The next group project will be to volunteer at the 2nd Annual Houston Public Library Children's Book Sale. This will take place on November 7, 8, and 9 at the Doris Miller Center. More information will follow on HALL-L.

Continuing Education: Ann Patterson announced that there is currently a call for papers from AALL. She also announced that the HALL Fall Workshop will take place on Monday, November 10, 2008. It will be a presentation about identity theft featuring Dean Alderman.

Government Relations: No report.

Library School Liaison: Blythe McCoy reported that the UNT alumni event that was scheduled for September was cancelled due to Hurricane Ike, and it has yet to be rescheduled. Blythe had also been in contact with Susan Yancey and mentioned that Vinson & Elkins has a internship currently available for a library school student.

Membership: Everyone must turn in their dues to get into the new directory.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: No report.

Publications: In Mary Ann Wacker's absence, Ann Patterson reminded everyone to send submissions to Mary Ann for the next HALL newsletter.

Scholarship and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe reported that she is working on upcoming Vendor Forum programs for the new year.

Announcements: none

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

-Submitted by Gwendolyn Johnson, HALL Secretary

Twitter for Law Librarians

A couple of months ago a friend convinced me to sign up for Twitter, and I was instantly smitten. Twitter allows me to tweet (post) to a group of people when I am looking for a certain resource. Usually I get an immediate (and positive) response, or I can ask a general question regarding emerging technologies and they will point me to web sites I wasn't aware of. So, what has Twitter that instant messaging, emails or blogging doesn't offer?

Twitter was described as a "hybrid between instant messaging and blogging" or, in short, micro-blogging. Once you sign up on twitter.com, you are free to post messages. But beware, the default setting is public, so unless you want 'the world' to read what you are tweeting you might want to change your setting to private. Twitter reaches its true beauty once you have chosen the group of people you decide to follow. One can always go the "private route" and follow friends, but I find it more interesting to use twitter as a resource tool. If you decide to go in this direction, there are a few notable professionals and institutions; Jim Miles, Connie Crosby, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Richard Leiter, Sarah Glassmeyer, Hein Online, Westlaw, ABA Journal and, not to forget, our own Greg Lambert. (The list could go on and on). If you want to depress yourself, you might like to follow one of the many news Twitter. If sports is your cup of tea ... you get the picture.

With the variety, how can one not get overwhelmed? Twitter can be managed with tools like Twhirl (<http://www.twhirl.org/>), which can be kept in a corner of your screen, and TweetDeck (<http://www.tweetdeck.com/beta/>) allows you to group people and institutions you follow.

But before you get all excited, check with the firm you are working for; not all of them will allow the use of Twitter as a research tool. Other than that, enjoy, and maybe we can soon tweet each other.

-Saskia Mehlhorn



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HALL Member Spotlight:

Patricia Huntsman



When one of her college professors suggested that Patricia Huntsman choose librarianship for a career, her initial response was "yuck!" But the more she thought about it, she decided it was an appealing career choice. Attending Library School at the University of Texas turned out well for Patricia – she began a career she loves, and met her husband Tom Calkins, also a library school student.

Patricia, the long-time (21 years) cataloger at Vinson & Elkins, began her career at the Legislative Reference Library in Austin. She worked there during school, then a full-time job opened up just as she was graduating. This charmed life continued when, after she and her husband moved to Houston, she called

Vinson & Elkins to talk to the HALL Placement person, who was the cataloger there. As luck would have it, Karl Gruben took that call. When Patricia asked about any jobs available, Karl informed her that his cataloger was about to leave...and the rest is history!

Patricia was born in Michigan, and her family moved to Dallas, then settled in Arkansas. Patricia attended Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas – then made the moves to Austin and Houston. Since she and Tom are both in library-related fields they decided living in a large city would be best for both their careers. Tom is the head of the records management department at Waste Management.

Patricia is a happy Houstonian and loves the city for its diversity and openness. However, in 2005 the travel bug took her and Tom on a fabulous trip to London and Paris! Thanks to frequent flyer miles and Hilton points, they traveled in high style. They enjoyed the cuisine and all the sights, and even travelled in the Chunnel to get from one city to the other.

Tom and Patricia live in the Ella Lee Forest neighborhood with their three cats J.B., Josephine, and Cleburne. Besides traveling, Patricia's pleasures include music and concerts, keeping up with the news, and the Astros.

21st Century Right to Know Project

From Camilla Tubbs, AALL Government Relations Committee

The 21st Century Right to Know project, a collaborative effort of OMB Watch, AALL and more than 100 groups and individuals, is calling for group and individual endorsements of its draft recommendations to improve federal government transparency. AALL has signed on, and I encourage you to sign on as an individual.

The report covers such topics as National Security and Secrecy, Usability of Government Information, and Creating a Government Environment for Transparency. I invite you to read the draft report and sign on to endorse the report if you agree. Be sure to include "law librarian" in the Profession field so that the organizers can see the strong support from our community!

Here's some background information about this important project, which AALL has been involved in since in inception in 2007 [see <http://www.ombwatch.org/article/articleview/4393>]:

The project began in July 2007 with a two-day event involving conservatives, libertarians, and progressives representing journalism, good government groups, professional associations, academia, and others. From its beginning, the project proceeded on a "transpartisan" basis. OMB Watch interviewed more than 100 people to identify past and new ideas for reform. There was also a string of listening sessions around the country, including meetings in Jacksonville, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Seattle, WA; and Minneapolis, MN. Data from these efforts were provided to three panels of experts, which were tasked with drafting initial recommendations in three main areas: security and secrecy, usability of information, and policies and mechanisms to support government transparency. In addition to the three expert panels, recommendations were developed for the first 100 days of the new president and for a long-term vision to strengthen government openness. The draft recommendations were the basis for a weekend retreat in September, involving nearly 70 people from across the country. During the retreat, each of the more than 60 recommendations was reviewed; some were revised, some added. Based on that weekend, a new report was developed and participants called for an open process to review the recommendations.



The HALL Board hard at work at the Board Meeting November 7, 2008 (with Lauren Scrboeder participating by phone!)

HALL Board Meeting Minutes—November

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2008
Thompson & Knight LLP

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:05. Those in attendance were: Elise McCutchen, Ann Patterson, Mariann Sears, Gwendolyn Johnson, Patti Curtis, Lauren Schroeder, and Mary Ann Wacker.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann moved that HALL should waive any lunch and registration fees for future speakers at HALL meetings and seminars. The Board agreed. She also followed up on discussion the board had at its last meeting about investing some of HALL's money in a CD or money market. She reported that the going rate for these things was only about 1% and recommended that we hold off on this action for the time being. Mariann also brought up the matter of signatories on the HALL bank account. Ann Patterson, Vice President/President-Elect, and Elise McCutchen, current President, need to be added as signatories to the account, and Mary Ann Wacker, past President needs to be removed. Mariann outlined the steps to do this, and the group agreed that action will be taken soon.

Meeting and Holiday Party Report: Ann reported on the progress of the HALL Fall Seminar which will take place on November 11, 2008. She and her committee have all the speakers lined up, and Holly Watson will serve as moderator. Because of legal issues that could arise due to the sensitive nature of the topics being discussed, no questions from the audience will be allowed for the panel portion of the seminar. Thomson-Reuters will be sponsoring the breakfast. Ann also mentioned that Dean Alderman made his book available to the group for \$3 apiece. Because of this, every attendee will receive a copy included in their registration fee. Ann reported that she is still researching venues for the holiday party. The board discussed ways to keep costs down for the party. Ideas for the Spring Seminar were also discussed. The board decided that the cost to have Mary Ellen Bates as the speaker at this event (\$5000 plus travel) was prohibitive, and other suggestions were discussed. Ann mentioned that the AALL president, James Duggan, will likely be at either our January or February meeting.

Newsletter Report: Mary Ann reported that the next newsletter is in the works and will be out in a few weeks.

Old Business: Elise stated that she is still looking into revamping the HALL website and logo. Elise also mentioned her desire to have a more active role for the two committee liaisons, Patti Curtis and Lauren Schroeder. She would like to promote these positions and have better communications with the committees. Elise also mentioned that there will be new Vendor Forum guidelines finalized soon for the board's approval.

New Business: Elise mentioned that we should have Heather Waltman organize another service project for February or March. Gwendolyn mentioned that we need to be thinking about getting a stand-in secretary to serve while she is out on leave.

-Submitted by Gwendolyn Johnson, 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.



HALL Officers and Committees

President: Elise McCutchen
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Vice-President/President-Elect:

Ann Patterson
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Secretary: Gwendolyn Johnson
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Treasurer: Mariann Sears
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Past President: Mary Ann Wacker
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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