

HALL-iday Luncheon

Wednesday

December 9, 2009

South Texas College
of Law Library

11:30 a.m.

\$25/ per person

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

HALL Vendor 2
Forum

Elise 3
McCutchen at
the BIC

HALL 4
Member
Spotlight—
Sue Lollis

Treasurer's 5
Report

Recap: HALL 6
Fall Seminar

November 9
Meeting
Minutes

New HALL 10
Web Site

November 11
Board
Meeting
Minutes

HALL Newsletter

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From the President...



HALL President
Ann Patterson

Fall is well under way and we are now anticipating the holidays. The Fall Workshop was a great success thanks to Natalie Lira and her wonderful continuing education committee.

I was very proud to unveil HALL's brand new website, www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com. Saskia Mehlhorn did a spectacular job creating and designing it. Due to the Web2.0 explosion, the HALL Board wanted to provide a venue for member participation. Although it is still in beta format, we look forward to having a full-service website for each and every HALL member to actively use and enjoy the Web2.0 experience in 2010.

Each HALL member can now get his or her own email address through houstonarealawlibrarians.com. This will allow librarians to have a professional email address for correspondence, if for some reason they do not want to be using their employers' email. This way, members can support legislation, blog, network, and even contact other professionals without having to be identified with their firm, university, or government entity. Each of you can maintain your professional identity even if you do not have a current workplace.

We look forward to incorporating our website into our daily HALL workflow. We will start having members RSVP to events through the website and hopefully, even allow for electronic voting for elections. The possibilities are endless!!

So please experiment with our website, request your email address, and offer to write a blog. HALL is so Web2.0!!

Continuing Education...

The topic of our November meeting was *Disaster Preparedness for Libraries* and our speaker was Catherine Essinger, Architecture & Art Library Coordinator, at the William R. Jenkins Library at the University of Houston. Catherine gave a wonderful presentation on disaster preparedness and provided helpful tips for preparing for and recovering from a disaster. She also shared pictures of the damages that the library sustained during Ike.

Please make note of our annual HALL-iday gathering:

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: Emilie Slohm Room, 6th Floor, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto

Menu: Alonti's - Turkey, Honey-Pineapple Glazed Ham, Eggplant, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Gravy and Desserts

Cost: \$25.00/person

RSVP: By Noon, Monday, December 7th to Mariann Sears:

mariann.sears@tklaw.com

Drawing for gift certificates will be available!



HALL Vice-President
Natalie Lira

HALL Vendor Forum—December 8

Please join Catherine Whitney, Westlaw Business Account Manager, on December 8th for a festive Vendor Forum on business current awareness tools and the launch of the new Business Cimator.

The Vendor Forum will be held at Thompson & Knight from noon - 1:00 p.m.. Lunch will be provided by Westlaw Business. Stay tuned for more details and a formal invitation via e-mail.



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Volunteer for an AALL Committee Today

AALL is now accepting applications for 2010-2011 committee volunteers. Through working on committees you not only help to strengthen the profession, you also meet other colleagues who are in various stages of their careers and are willing to share their experiences. Your work as a committee member helps you gain and practice useful skills that you might not find in your everyday work. Visit AALLNET to explore the variety of committees available (<http://www.aallnet.org/committee/committees.asp>), as well as to get an idea of the work of each group before you fill out the volunteer form. (http://www.aallnet.org/committee/volunteer_login.asp)

Please submit your application by December 1. Your efforts will ensure the vitality and future of AALL. Don't hesitate – volunteer today.



**Happy Thanksgiving
Everyone!**

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Working in the Business Information Center: It's a Hoot!

I experienced a true homecoming this year. In July, I became employed once again by Rice University in the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business. Five years ago, prior to my law firm positions, I worked at Jones School as a research analyst. I graduated from Rice so it has always been special to me.

I enjoy my new position as a business librarian every day. How can you not like working with smart people in an attractive academic setting? And, how many libraries have patrons who visit with their pet rabbit in tow? We actually have such a person who occasionally brings her pet in a carrier.

Thought I'd give you a quick look at life in the Business Information Center, otherwise known as the BIC. Our library is a branch of Fondren Library, the main library at Rice. Fondren is celebrating sixty years of service during November.

Our director, Peggy Shaw, has managed the business school library for over twenty years. My associate, Bill Coxsey, has been with the BIC for six years, and our weekend employee, Bobbie Foval, for ten years. We are also supported by a cast of undergraduate and graduate students who work shifts between classes, at night and on weekends. We're open until 9:30 p.m. during the week and until 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

On a typical weekday, I maintain the reserve collection, check out books and handle returns, and assist the students with reference and research questions. I currently have a long term research project for one of the professors. This involves reviewing her previous papers, running literature searches, designing a survey for corporate management and analyzing the results. The final product will be a paper published in one of the accounting or management journals.

Jones Graduate School has three MBA programs--the full time MBA, Executive MBA, and MBA for Professionals. There are over 600 students enrolled in the 2009-2010 programs. Rice has recently added a business minor course of study for undergraduates.

Our online business resources are extensive. You can see a sample at Fondren's website, <http://library.rice.edu>. We also have additional subscriptions such as Investext and MarketLine which are available onsite for anyone with a Rice ID. Our business print collection has 23,822 volumes including journals and international annual reports.

Aside from the people at Rice, one of the most enjoyable things about my job is the place itself. McNair Hall has plenty of windows and you can see the Texas Medical Center from the south side of the building. The abundance of natural light makes it a comfortable and inviting place to work and study. The building is only seven years old, so it still looks fresh and new. A lovely patio with trees and benches is outside the windows by my desk.

We're located on the second floor of McNair Hall at Rice. I hope you'll pay us a visit soon.

-Elise McCutchen



Interior view of the Business Information Center at Rice University. (Photo courtesy of Elise McCutchen)

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



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HALL Member Spotlight: Sue Lollis

I seem to see Sue Lollis everywhere. She rides my bus every day. She goes to my gym. I run into her at Target. She lives in my neighborhood. "I need to get to know this woman a little better!" I thought to myself!

Sue is the Research Coordinator in Greenberg Traurig's Houston office. Greenberg has 1750 lawyers in 30 locations – the firm has librarians in 10 of these locations, covering all the U.S. time zones. The members of the Research Group work closely together, with researchers taking turns monitoring the "board" with incoming email requests and answering the "hotline" phone. Research is assigned according to specialty, availability, and office location. The researchers are a close knit group, although geographically far flung, and have meetings every other week and in-house CLEs, with researchers sharing their expertise with each other. Sue taught a class on IP Research and is preparing one on advanced Google searching. The Research Group also has its own IT Department, Research Systems, which is a huge help. They take care of all passwords, contracts, and any technology issues that arise. The Research Group boasts a comprehensive research wiki and a robust and useful intranet page.



Sue grew up in Lexington, Kentucky in horse country, and showed horses growing up. Both sides of her family breed dogs – Scotties, Harlequin Great Danes, Jack Russell terriers, and even fox hounds! Her love of animals is genuinely in her blood! Sue has three cats, Dex, Mimi, and Stella at home, and she also owns and runs a pet-sitting business called *Purrs and Paws*. Sue started the business this past summer and she offers pet sitting services in the Bellaire and Meyerland area. If you live near there, let Sue know and she will be glad to give your dog or cat lots of love and care in your absence!

Sue graduated from Mary Baldwin College then went on the University of Kentucky for Library School. She knew she had to head off to the big city for a job so she headed for Houston. She worked in the Business, Science, and Technology (BST) section at the Houston Public Library. Sue got great training there and answered a wide variety of reference questions. She was also able to meet and befriend many co-workers during that time, including Peggy Shaw, now at Rice. She also got some interesting questions working there – she laughs, "It took in everything from cookbooks to Masters & Johnson. I did have one young guy call in one night and ask what day of the month it was a girl couldn't get pregnant. Like I was going to say on the third Thursday you're safe."

Sue's next job was working for Gilpin, Maynard, Parsons, Pohl & Bennett, which is now Beirne Maynard. Sue wore many hats there – librarian, paralegal, and recruiter! After that, she went to Arnold White & Durkee, which merged with Howrey. She then moved to Greenberg, and has been there almost three years.

Sue is an avid reader and is in a book club which reads a wide variety of books from classics to modern novels. She lives in the Meyerland area in her own home, and attends church at St. Mark's Episcopal on Bellaire Blvd. She also enjoys needle pointing and gardening. Her love of horses is still there – Sue hosts a big Kentucky Derby party every year where the women are required to wear a hat. Attendees vote on the best one. She authentically serves mint juleps out of chilled silver julep cups!

-Mary Ann Wacker



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HALL's heartfelt sympathies go out to HALL member Blythe McCoy on the sudden loss of her husband Rich. We will keep Blythe and her sons Winn and Austin in our thoughts and prayers during this sorrowful time.



HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) November 11, 2009

Balance forward 09/09/09			\$ 16,138.93
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2009-2010	\$ 662.50		
Newsletter			
Ads	\$ 145.00		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars			
August-09	\$ 102.50		
September-09	\$ 990.00	\$ 910.38	
October Half-Day Seminar-09 (Includes SWALL sponsorship of \$150 and Thomson Reuters Sponsorship of \$400)	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 744.97	
November-09	\$ 36.00		
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative			
Supplies/Stationery/ Miscellaneous		\$ 375.37	
Chapter Liability Insurance		\$ 118.00	
Website Development		\$ 358.80	
Total	\$ 3,126.00	\$ 2,507.52	
Balance 11/11/09			\$ 16,757.41

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
November 11, 2009

Recap: HALL Fall Seminar

This year's Fall seminar was focused on "Surviving the Economic Times: Law Libraries and Librarians." We had a number of speakers that provided insightful information about the impact the economy has made on our profession and provided useful tips for surviving the current times. The seminar was divided into three segments: a general overview of how the economy has affected the profession in general, how the economy has affected law libraries, job searching in the current economy and dealing with the changes.

Blythe McCoy with Thomson West kicked off the seminar with a great presentation on "Impact of Economic Downturn on the Legal Industry". She walked us through various aspects of how the economy made a financial impact on the legal industry. Some of the impacts included a decline in firm revenues which in turn caused changes in firm structure, layoffs, salary freezes, stricter control over spending and legal process outsourcing. She also discussed long term implications which included associate salary reductions, alternative compensation and alternative fee arrangements. Overall, firms and libraries are having to do more with less and many firms are adopting new business practices on account of the changed economy. The good news? Most anticipate that the industry will recover by mid 2010.

The second part of the seminar moved to a different segment which addressed how the economy has affected libraries. In this segment we heard from Decarlous Spearman, Library Director, Texas Southern University, Greg Lambert, Library & Records Manager, King & Spalding L.L.P. and Toby Brown, Knowledge Management, Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. DeCarlos presented on the changes that the TSU library faced on account of the economy. Some of the noted impacts included a strict review of the collection, the possibility of not renewing certain subscriptions, and the sharing of some of the library space with other departments.

Greg and Toby provided an insightful presentation of how the position of the law librarian has, and will continue to change. Clients are changing the way they outsource work and in turn, firms are changing business models and libraries are changing along side all of this. One of the *Seminar recap continues on page 8...*



Greg Lambert (left) and Toby Brown (photo courtesy of Ann Patterson)



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Seminar recap continued...

changes is the combining of the library under the umbrella of the IT department. Librarians are now needing to integrate themselves more into the client matters and the knowledge management functions than before. They also discussed ways in which law firms might try to recoup expenses for electronic databases using products such as Research Monitor to track usage and recoup this cost.

The seminar also featured a segment on searching for jobs in the current economy. We heard from Stacey Johnson, a student from the University of North Texas who gave a student's perspective of navigating the current job market. One of the main suggestions she gave was to join professional organization to make connections. You never know when that connection might turn into a job! Mon Yin Lung, Associate Director, University of Houston, O'Quinn Law Library, discussed what an academic law library looks for in potential candidates. She did a fantastic job of taking us through the process that candidates undergo in applying for a position within their library. She provided great suggestions for those seeking to apply for academic positions.

In the third segment of the seminar, Dr. Diana Dale, AEP Consultant, discussed ways of adapting to change and thriving in a changing environment. She discussed tips for coping with the stress often brought by the changes in the workplace.

At the end of the seminar, Ann Patterson and Saskia Mehlhorn briefly previewed the new HALL website. It looks fantastic! Thanks for all your work! Overall, the seminar was informative and timely. It is important to know how libraries are changing and the new things that may be expected of us and of our profession in general. I want to thank our speakers for their wonderful presentations and thank Thomson West and SWALL for their sponsorship.

-Natalie Lira



DeCarlous Spearman (photo courtesy of Ann Patterson)



Mon Yin Lung (photo courtesy of Ann Patterson)

HALL Meeting Minutes—November

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2009
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: 12:00 noon. Visitors introduced.

Minutes approved: as presented

Treasurer's Report: accepted

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: no report

Bylaws: no report

Community service: In conjunction with HALLiday lunch, members are asked to bring non perishable food items or cash for our community food drive.

Continuing Education: Holiday lunch in Dec. will be held at South Texas

Government relations: no report

Library School Liaison: no report

Membership: new passwords to access the online directory were sent out, call if you didn't get one

Nominations: Caren Luckie is new chair

Placement: Caralinn Cole is chair

Publications: no report, newsletter deadline - Nov. 13

Scholarships and Grants: no report

Vendor Relations: no report

Web design: adding interesting links, email addresses available, hope to have something to show by December meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin

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.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Laurie Gaas at lgaas@stcl.edu or 713-646-1714. Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

HALL's New Web Site Coming to a Screen Near You!

With the New Year right around the corner, we're gearing up to launch the new HALL web site.

So what can you expect? When first connecting, you will see this welcoming screen



which you can either watch through or skip, and from there you're led onto the main page. The main page has a menu on the left hand side and is divided into section for news, members, meeting RSVP, continuing education, bylaws, ILL and info.

Within the "news" section you find links to law related blogs, our own HALL blog, and, most importantly, the most recent edition of the *HALL Newsletter* and an archive of older issues. The section below that is called "members" and offers general information about membership, available grants and scholarships, the password protected directory, and a listing of the officers and committees. Additionally within this section you can find out how to get an email account through the HALL website. The next item on the menu allows members and guests to sign up for upcoming HALL events, and pre-order the lunch. Next comes information about continuing education, bylaws, ILL and a form to request further information.

Why don't you take a look at www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com and see for yourself!

-Saskia Mehlhorn

Minutes: HALL Board Meeting—November

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
 HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
 November 6, 2009
 Fulbright & Jaworski

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

In attendance: Mariann Sears, Riva Laughlin, Ann Patterson, Lydia Ramirez, Natalie Lira, Elise McCutchen

Minutes: accepted (both Board meeting and email meeting)

Treasurer's Report: none

Old Business: read the bylaws on the AALL site; make sure we're OK. Have we made change to allow electronic meetings and electronic elections? Also, have we had AALL approve the bylaws? Change version of "rules of order". Elise will call Charles to see what's going on with bylaws.

Website: up and running. Need to work on driving traffic there. Elise will be working on that.

New Business: AALL rep visit will be requested for April.

Considering posting Podcasts on HALL website of meetings and seminars.

Spring seminar - half and whole day offerings. Trying for professor from UT for program on Latin American law. Catherine Whitney or other vendors on specific law subjects - Chinese law, Islamic finance, European law. International law focus for spring seminar. Will try to get CLE credit for the seminar.

"Speaker's fee" - \$250 in state, \$500 out of state for the spring seminar. Moved, seconded, and approved.

HALL-iday Party Dec. 9

South Texas College of Law Library

Turkey, ham, trimmings

Slide show with HALL members

Safety Meeting - January

Community Service - February

All-Day Seminar - March

AALL Visit - April

General Membership Meeting - May

Meeting adjourned 1:25 p.m.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin



Best wishes to Virginia Richards Pape, who is retiring this month from the Fort Bend County Law Library.

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.

<http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/>

HALL Officers and Committees

Officers:

President: Ann Patterson
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By-Laws:

Charles Gibson

Continuing Education:

Natalie Lira

Membership:

Jeannie Mazzone

Nominations:

Caren Luckie

Placement:

Caralinn Cole

Publications:

Barbara Szalkowski

Scholarships/Grants:

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Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Government Relations:

Mary Ann Wacker

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Community Service:

Heather Waltman

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

HALL Website:

Elise McCutchen and
Saskia Mehlhorn

Newsletter Editor:

Mary Ann Wacker