

HALL Newsletter

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Volume 30 Number 6

November/December 2013

From the President

Like most Houstonians at this time of year, I haven't seen many fuzzy caterpillars, fat squirrels or halos around the moon, but other signs of nature assure me that winter has indeed arrived. For one thing, flocks of ducks and geese have returned to my neighborhood, the "snow" cone truck is making regular appearances, and many students are wearing fur-lined UGGs in 60-degree weather. But my favorite signs of winter – the ones that I look forward to every year – are the "Best of" lists published by every self-respecting website, magazine, book store, film critic, and music blog. So, in the tradition of those who publish year-end inventories of their favorite books/albums/restaurants/movies, I offer (in no particular order) my very own "Best of" list, *My Favorite HALL Memories of 2013*.



Heather Waltman
HALL President

1. In September, attending the AALL webinar co-presented by our very own Natalie Lira on *The Role of Librarians as Strategic Partners in the Business/Practice of Law*. Excellent!
2. The HALL Newsletter! Joe Lawson's new feature, "Law Librarianship History by the Day," is my favorite. It's my new "read this first" section of the newsletter. I'm a sucker for trivia! Thanks, Joe!
3. Honoring HALL's first two Lifetime Members, Paula Howe and Lynn Corbett, a much-deserved recognition. Congratulations to you both, and thank you for your service!
4. In January, learning about and volunteering at [The Beacon](#), a day shelter for Houston's homeless population. Thanks, Catherine Whitney for all your work!
5. In February, meeting AALL Executive Board member, Katie Brown, and

continued on page 5...

The annual
HALL-iday
Party
will take place
December 18
at 11:45 a.m.
in the
Emilie Slohm
Room, STCL

Continuing Education

In November, HALL hosted Sammy Ford IV, a Houston attorney and chair of the Houston Bar



Sammy Ford IV speaking at the October HALL Meeting

Association's Technology Committee. Ford's topic was "Technology Skills for the Next Generation of Lawyers." He discussed cloud computing and the growing trend towards the commoditization of legal services.

Our next meeting is our annual HALL-iday party which will be held on December 18th in the Emile Slohm Room at South Texas College of Law. We will have games and prizes again this year. Thank you, STCL for hosting, Thomson Reuters for the subsidizing the event, and the fabulous HALL-iday party committee, Dan Donahue, Blythe McCoy, and Monika Miura, for everything else. Hope to see you there!

- Shelby Shanks

Editor's Notes

The end of the year is a time for reflection on the accomplishments and stumbles of the past 12 months. In her "From the President" column, Heather has done a great job of listing some of the many achievements of HALL and its members in 2013. Over the next year, I would like to continue shining a light on all of the many things our members do to better the field of law

librarianship and the world at large in the "[Member News](#)" segment. If you know of any awards or achievements of note from our members, please send an email to let me know.

Additionally, if you have article ideas from your activities in 2013, the *HALL Newsletter* is a great place to publish them. We all benefit when we share our professional experience.

- Joseph Lawson

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 and news items to Joseph Lawson, Editor, at newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com

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Membership dues are \$25/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

New & Noteworthy Legal Media

Picturing the Law

By Heather Waltman

The annual [SXSW Interactive Festival](#), held in Austin every March, brings together thousands of the most innovative, forward-thinking minds in technology. No-name, tech star wannabes bump elbows with high-profile media personalities and well-heeled venture capitalists. I haven't attended the conference myself, but, by all accounts, it's quite a spectacle. For even the most seasoned conference goers, the experience can be overwhelming. By day three, information intoxication is sure to set in, leaving many afflicted souls in a state of confusion.

Fortunately, after 20 years of witnessing the ill effects of information overload, the creative minds at SXSW have developed a hangover cure - more information! [Ogilvy Notes](#) (aka, the hair of the dog that bit you) are an amazing resource, a little slice of heaven served up by a host of information angels. These [supremely-talented, visual note takers](#) are dispatched each day to document in real time the best keynotes, presentations, and panel discussions at SXSWi. Using images, typography, and color, these

celestial scribes express complex ideas in a uniquely representational way.

Linear text often lacks resonance, especially when trying to convey or comprehend complex ideas. However, visual notes are vibrant and dynamic. They develop organically, weaving ideas together in a fabric of expression that illustrates their relational aspects. They bring elegance and simplicity to otherwise dense content - and the completed notes [look beautiful!](#) Note taking itself becomes a creative experience. What used to be a mechanical chore is now a productive act that engages the whole mind.

So how can visual notes help you? To answer that question, check out [The Sketchnote Handbook by Mike Rhode](#). This bible of visual note taking is supplemented by a fantastic video series hosted by the author himself, both of which I highly recommend!

But don't take my word for it. Put your faith in [Margaret Hagan](#), pioneer of the amazing [Open Law Lab](#) and a big fan of Mike Rhode's book. Open Law Lab is a brilliant constellation of projects that focus on legal design as the key to

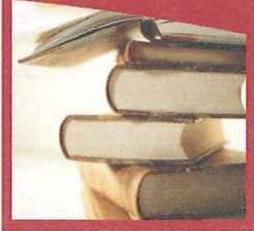
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On Publishing in *Texas Lawyer*

By Mary Ann Wacker

I had been pondering writing an article on searching dockets, mainly as a guide for myself! Bloomberg, Lexis and Westlaw all have different county courts and I never could keep up with who has what. I was having lunch with my friend Mary Flood and she encouraged me to e-mail the Managing Editor for *Texas Lawyer*, Anne McMillan, with my idea and a rough draft or at least a beginning of the article.

I emailed Anne a few days later with a rough draft and proposal. She responded within ten minutes with an enthusiastic “yes!” She said I need to send her my full draft, a 300 dpi photo, and sign a three-page agreement (that said I would not publish the article elsewhere, they could use my likeness, and giving them rights to the article).

I emailed our communications manager here at [Bracewell & Giuliani](#) asking “what is a 300 dpi

photo?!” Michelle laughed and made an appointment for me at [Gittings](#) for a professional photo, which turned out really well.

Anne and I went back and forth a few times with edits. I also called Bloomberg, Westlaw and CourtLink customer service to verify what I was writing in the article. It’s very fact-specific and detailed, so I wanted to make sure I had everything right.

Original email to published article took less than two weeks. Anne was a pleasure to work with, and I encourage members of HALL to write for *Texas Lawyer*!

Mary Ann Wacker is a reference librarian at Bracewell & Giuliani.

Mary Ann’s article, “How to Search Texas State and Federal Court Dockets,” appeared in the November 11, 2013 issue of *Texas Lawyer*. It is also [available online for subscribers](#).

Member News

- ◇ **Paula Howe** and **Lynn Corbett** became HALL’s first Lifetime Members after a vote at the November meeting.
- ◇ **Natalie Lira** served as a co-presenter for the September AALL webinar.
- ◇ *3 Geeks and Law Blog*, co-founded by **Greg Lambert**, was selected for the [ABA Journal’s 7th Annual Blawg 100](#) list.

Congrats on these outstanding achievements!

Law Librarianship History

By the Day

December 4, 1779: First “chair of law” established at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, giving rise to the College’s claim to having the first American law school. George Wythe was the first to fill the position, making him America’s first law professor.

December 15, 1836: The Texas Supreme Court was established by Act of the First Congress of the Republic of Texas.

Save the Date!

Law Practice Technology @ STCL

The practice of law is evolving rapidly, and predictions about its future signal big changes in the delivery of services. Technology will play an increasingly vital role as demands for greater efficiency, affordability and access transform the legal marketplace, and the impact on practicing attorneys will be substantial. Proficiency in legal technology will be an essential qualification for competency in the practice of law, as will an understanding of the benefits and risks presented by its use. In response, The Fred Parks Law Library at South Texas College of Law will host a day-long seminar called *Digital Lawyering and Law Practice Technology -- Tools, Trends, and Ethics*. Topics covered will include:

- E-discovery
- Knowledge Management
- Legal Process Improvement
- Technical Proficiency for the Small Firm Lawyer
- Ethics Issues in the Modern Age
- What the Future Holds for 21st Century Legal Practitioners

Approval to offer 4.5 hours of CLE credit and 1.5 hours of ethics credit is currently under review.

Additional details and a complete schedule are forthcoming. In the meantime, save the date: February 7, 2014, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

From the President (*continued from page 1...*)

enjoying a terrific dinner at The Backstreet Cafe. The food was great and the company was even better. Ask Patti Curtis about her Cauliflower Steak!

6. HALL Book Club! *11/22/63* by Stephen King is a hefty tome and a very long audio book. I listened to only 16 of the 30 CDs, over 2 months of commuting, but I thoroughly enjoyed discussing it with Saskia Mehlhorn, Caren Luckie, Riva Laughlin, and Mary Lippold.

7. In October, our 2013-14 VP, Shelby Shanks, planned an incredible session on *Yoga at Your Desk* with Lucy Forbes. It was a HALL meeting like no other. I will now be able to tie my shoes when I'm 80!

8. In March, touring the newly-renovated Harris County Law Library, Historic 1910 Courthouse, and the Historical Archives was fascinating and fun. Thanks, Mary Ann Sears, for your hospitality and for your help in planning the day's activities!

9. The HALL/DALL/SWALL/UNT Reception at Dragonfish in Seattle was a blast, and the food was delish. Visiting with members of the other chapters is always a great opportunity!

10. Tech Talks! [Jimmy Newland's presentation on Web Architecture](#) was informative, fun, and well-attended. It was terrific to see so many of you over the summer!

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Member Spotlight

A Conversation with Greg Lambert

By Patti Curtis

Intro to Greg

Greg earned his JD and MILS from the University of Oklahoma and a BA from Cameron University. Prior to joining Jackson Walker, he was the Library and Records Manager for King & Spalding. He has worked for AMIGOS Library Services, the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Oklahoma City University School of Law, Oklahoma University, and as an Artilleryman for U.S. Army. Thank you for your service!



In case you have been hiding under a rock, or have never used the Internet, Greg is one of the geeks behind [3 Geeks and a Law Blog](#). He is also serving on the AALL Board.

Greg and his lovely wife, Jan, have 3 girls. They have a family band, the Bendy Straws, and Jan plays the drums! I can't imagine rocking out with my parents.

A Conversation with Greg

Patti: Since we both love music, let's start with that. What has been the most played album for you in the last few days?

Greg: At this very moment, I'm listening to [AC/DC's Down Payment Blues](#) from their

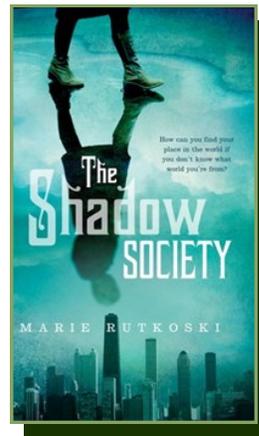
wonderful 1978 album Powerage. However, as many of you know I have a passion for female-fronted punk rock bands, so I'm usually listening to The Dollyrots, Go Betty Go, Ingenue, Cherri Bomb, or Girl in a Coma.

P: Do you have an all-time favorite band? I know, it's like picking your favorite child.

G: Tough to pick just one. Classic Bands would be AC/DC, Nirvana, Heart, or The Beatles. Current bands would be The Dollyrots, Girl in a Coma and Foo Fighters. Since I'm friends with Luis and Kelly of The Dollyrots, I'll pick them as my favorite. www.dollyrots.com (in case you want to check out The Dollyrots)

P: Since we are in the library business, what are you reading?

G: I've been reading [The Shadow Society](#) by Marie Rutkoski. However, for a librarian, I'm not very good at reading things for pleasure. I think I started reading this in the Summer and am about ¾ of the way through it.



P: I never do that. (I have a few books I started and haven't finished yet.)

P: What is your favorite TV show?

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HALL Meeting Minutes - November

SUBJECT to APPROVAL

HALL MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2013

South Texas College of Law Library

The November HALL Meeting was called to order by President Heather Waltman at 12:06 p.m. Heather welcomed guest Kathleen Keenan, introduced by Monika Miura.

The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business: none

New Business:

1. Heather announced the HALL-iday party is coming up – would anyone like to assist Shelby in planning the event?

2. Patti Curtis recommended that we make Paula Howe (who was in attendance) a lifetime member of HALL. This was universally approved by the membership. We also voted Lynn Corbett as a lifetime member as well.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Heather Kushnerick reported the Archives are doing well.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Shelby Shanks said the HALL-iday party is coming up next month.

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: No report.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom reported she is almost finished with the new HALL Directory. There will be a new password and we will be notified by e-mail.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: Heather reported the Candice Kennington knew of an open position at Alexander Group. For more information, we should contact Candice.

Publications/Newsletter: Barbara Szalkowski gave a shout-out to Joe Lawson for his wonderful work on the *HALL Newsletter*. Joe reported that the deadline for the next issue is November 30.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe reported there will be no new Vendor Forums until 2014.

Web Site: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Mapping the New Normal

Southwestern Association of Law Libraries
2014 Annual Meeting ♦ March 20-22, 2014 ♦ Austin, Texas

March 20-22, 2014



From the President (*continued from page 5...*)

11. In August, hearing from Heather Kushnerick and Trisha Petitt about their experiences at AALL in Seattle, especially Trisha's visit to beautiful Bainbridge Island and Heather's lively discussion of Irish political history at an early-morning round table session.

12. Getting to know so many of you so much better is my best memory of all. I'm proud and happy to be a member of HALL!

I'm looking forward to another amazing year in 2014. Shelby already planned a series of terrific programs for us this fall, and another line-up of stimulating educational opportunities awaits us in the coming months. January will kick off with a community service activity, followed by a visit in February from AALL Executive Board member Ken Hirsh, and that's just the beginning! I encourage you all to take part in as many programs as your schedules will allow. By this time next year, you'll be compiling your own list of favorite HALL memories!

Finally, I must add a few additional notes (in the key of G). As this is the season for *Gratitude*, *Goodwill*, and *Gift-Giving*, it seems appropriate to express my sincere appreciation for the gift that I've been given -- the opportunity to serve HALL in a meaningful way. My involvement has been, and continues to be, a rewarding experience to an extent that I never could have

predicted 18 months ago. I can't overstate how personally and professionally enriching this last year has been. I am indebted to Kristina, Patti and Saskia for encouraging me to take a leadership role in the organization, so to each of you and to all the members of HALL, thank you.

This is also the season for *Goal-setting*, so sharing my thoughts about the direction of HALL in 2014 also seems appropriate. For starters, I plan to invite a second guest for our fledgling Tech Talk series, and I look forward to developing this as a regular HALL offering. The Board is evaluating possible membership management programs, which will automate many of our administrative tasks, and the Social Media Committee is gearing up for an active and lively online community. Check out the [HALL Facebook page](#) and the [HALL blog](#).

I couldn't be more excited about what's in store for HALL in 2014 and beyond. Please share any ideas you have about future programs, projects, or initiatives with me, Shelby, or any member of the HALL Board. As for personal goals, I will adapt an idea that I recently encountered on [the blog of creativity guru, Austin Kleon](#). In all things, we should endeavor to be "Good, Giving, and Game" -- good to one another, giving of ourselves, and game for any new experiences. This is my new mantra, and, I think, an appropriate approach for HALL in the coming year. Wishing you all the best in 2014! I hope it's *Grand!*

- Heather Waltman

Picturing the Law (*continued from page 3...*)

making law more meaningful. It's a goal that is perfectly in tune with the mentality of sketchnoting and its emphasis on visual expression.

Like sketchnoting, legal design brings clarity to complex ideas and abstract thoughts. It can pave the way to understanding for consumers of the law and inspire creativity in those who counsel them. One of the defining aspects of design is its focus on the user experience, which Open Law Lab values highly. Sensitivity to the needs of those who use legal services is an important part of the Lab's [approach](#). It is also the key inspiration for its four primary goals:

1. To promote legal design as a process that encourages creativity in law;
2. To simplify legal concepts through visual expression;
3. To increase access to justice; and
4. To facilitate learning in law schools using

legal design and [games](#).

Underlying these goals are a number of [action themes](#), one of which, in the context of this article, is highly relevant: Illustrated Law. Just as it sounds, illustrated law is the law made visible. Mind maps, storyboards, diagrams, flowcharts, and sketchnotes give life to the law, bringing clarity, coherence, and [consumability](#) - a pretty powerful outcome. Even so, the tools of visual interpretation alone cannot produce this kind of result. The unique needs of those who interact with the law must be considered.

Channeling the ethos of design as a force for change, Open Law Lab asks:

"How can we make text-heavy legal resources more visual, and more comprehensible? Can we re-humanize cases, statutes, opinions, and legal commentary — bring back in the human element, and ground the abstract in practical visualizations?"

As Open Law Lab has demonstrated brilliantly,

[Continued on page 10...](#)



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Member Spotlight *(continued from page 6...)*

G: Favorite has to be [Buffy the Vampire Slayer](#) (I've seen every episode and can sing all of the songs from "Once More, With Feeling" on demand!) My favorite current show is [Psych](#) (USA Network).

P: Is there a new show you are watching?

G: There's a show called [Continuum](#) (Canadian show that is now on SyFy) that is actually really good. I'm hooked on [Nashville](#), [The Voice](#) (don't judge me!!)



P: Can't judge you, I watch The Voice and Nashville.

P: What's the last movie you watched?

G: I was tricked into taking my three teenage daughters to go see [This Is The End](#). Very funny...totally inappropriate for teenage girls. After doing this, I voted myself as "World's Most Okayest Dad" for letting them see it. I'm so ashamed...

P: Did you see the cast of [This is The End](#)??!?!?

P: Is there a new and interesting website you like?

G: <http://iwastesomuchtime.com/> If you're a big fan of Memes, this site is for you... and appropriately named.

P: How about a favorite App?

G: [Bands In Town App](#) – lets you know what bands are playing locally. I've used it all over the country when traveling to catch local and traveling acts.



P: I'm sticking with technology, is there a new gadget you like?

G: The [Google App](#) on my iPhone (there's something wrong with that phrase, isn't there?) it has a Voice function that is much better than Siri, plus it links to the [Google Maps](#) app that actually gets me to the right place!!

P: Okay, I downloaded the Google App.

This concludes a Conversation with Greg.

Patti Curtis is a librarian associate at Andrews Kurth.

Picturing the Law *(continued from page 9...)*

the answers to these questions will vary greatly. Taking time to explore the innovative ideas that Open Law Lab has inspired is well worth the investment. The creativity and imagination that's driving these projects is astounding. If you find the ideas exciting and wish to play a part in the visual law movement, take a look at this recent post, [Building a Culture of Law by](#)

[Design](#). Outlined here is a three-stage process for compiling a Library of Visual Design, and the first step, Curation, is the perfect task for librarians. If anyone is interested in contributing to this effort, potentially as a HALL-sponsored project, let's talk!

Heather Waltman is President of HALL and the Interlibrary Loan & Government Documents Librarian at South Texas College of Law.

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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](http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com) 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.

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