

*From  
the President...*

*Mary Ann Wacker, Bracewell & Giuliani LLP*

Hello everyone,

We had our first Board meeting a couple of weeks ago and we worked on planning out the events for the rest of the HALL year. Catherine has wonderful ideas for meetings, and the upcoming Fall Seminar on Competitive Intelligence sounds great.

Maxine Asmah, who was serving on the HALL Board as Member-At-Large, accepted a new job at the Texas Tech Law Library and resigned her Board position. Rosie Wilson from Texas Southern University has graciously agreed to take Maxine's place. We are thrilled to have her on the Board. Welcome, Rosie!

A few weeks back I went to the Arts District Open House downtown and looked at the Alley Theater's schedule. One of the plays is a mystery story called "Underneath the Lintel" and the main character is a librarian! He "finds a late book in the overnight slot and becomes determined to track down the offender...especially since the book is 113 years overdue." I thought it would be fun if we got group tickets and attended a performance. It's not until March of 2008 – so details to follow!

I want to thank Blythe and Thomson/West for sponsoring our September program on Time Management.

Please make plans to attend the HALL Half-Day Seminar October 18<sup>th</sup>!

**Continuing Education**

*Catherine Whitney, Thompson & Knight L.L.P.*

Many thanks to Blythe McCoy, Librarian Relations Manager with Thomson West, for her excellent presentation on time management at the meeting on September 12th. Blythe's reputation as a dynamic speaker drew a huge crowd of sixty people, so many that we had to bring in chairs! I think that we all took Blythe's points to heart. Rumor has it that several librarians reorganized their offices that very afternoon. On behalf of HALL, I'd also like to thank Blythe and Thomson West for generously providing the delicious Treebeards lunch. Always a treat.

Our October meeting is the Half-Day Seminar. This year the topic is "Competitive Intelligence Research for Law Librarians." We are delighted to be able to host a guest speaker, Mark Gediman, Director of Information Services at Best Best & Krieger LLP in Riverside, CA. Mark is the current chair of the PLL-Competitive Intelligence Caucus. He presented a successful CI workshop and programming at the AALL annual meeting this summer. For our half-day seminar, Mark will be joined by our own Greg Lambert and Laura Walters, Marketing and Client Relations Specialist at Bracewell & Giuliani.

The three sessions of the seminar are:

1. An Overview of Competitive Intelligence as it applies to all types of law libraries
2. Tools and Resources for CI Research
3. Deliverables: What Are They and What Do They Look Like? (Hard examples will be included)

The October seminar promises to be a practical, informative, and fun experience and, given the speakers, most amusing! Watch for details in the forthcoming flyer. We look forward to having you with us. And please note again the date change from our usual 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday: Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

See you then!

**Inside This Issue**

Vendor Relations Forum. . . . .	2	Treasurer's Report. . . . .	4
Member News. . . . .	2	AALL Report by Michele Lucero. . . . .	6
HALL-L, HALL website info / Recommended Reading. . . . .	2	Reel Law Part 2 by Heather Waltman. . . . .	7
August General Meeting Minutes. . . . .	3	Vendor Relations Forum flyer. . . . .	9

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## Member News...

**Maxine Asmah** is now the Associate Librarian-Head of Public Services at the Texas Tech University Law Library in Lubbock.

**Dina Dreifuert**, formerly Librarian Relations Manager with Jones McClure Publishing, Inc., is now Budget and Acquisitions Librarian at Bracewell & Giuliani LLP.

**Laura Tieken** is now Legal Information Manager at Mayer Brown LLP.

**Rosie Wilson**, Loose-leaf and Upkeep Services Supervisor, Texas Southern University, has been appointed as Member-at-Large on the HALL Executive Board, to fill the remaining term of Maxine Asmah.

**Make Plans Now to Attend the HALL  
Fall Half-Day Seminar  
“Competitive Intelligence Research  
for Law Librarians  
Thursday, October 18, 2007**

## HALL-L and HALL Website

When you join HALL, you are not automatically subscribed to the HALL-L discussion list, you must actually subscribe to it yourself. Instructions are available on the HALL website <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/listserv.htm>, just click on the link and fill out the online form to subscribe.

Certain sections of the HALL website are designated "Members Only" and require a login and password to access. If you don't have or don't recall the login and password, you can contact HALL Membership Chair, Laura Edstrom at [ledstrom@stcl.edu](mailto:ledstrom@stcl.edu) and she will send them to you.

## Vendor Relations

*Colleen Pincumbe, Thompson & Knight L.L.P.*

Mark your calendars for the upcoming “State Bar of Texas Vendor Forum” next month on Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup> presenting the State Bar's “newest service to help with firm's CLE and legal research needs.”

See the flyer on page 9 in this issue, and also on the HALL website when it is posted.

## Recommended Reading

*Monika Miura, Executive Librarian*

In the July/August 2007 issue of *Law Firm Inc.*, there is an interesting article on page 27 by Alan Cohen about the challenges of managing law firm libraries entitled “Degree of Difficulty: 10” <http://www.lawfirminc.com> – access is free when you register.

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 Barbara Szalkowski, Editor, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77002-7000; fax: (713) 659-2217; email: [szalkow@stcl.edu](mailto:szalkow@stcl.edu); or call (713) 646-1724.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25.00 a year. For membership information, contact Laura Edstrom, Accounting Assistant, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto, Houston, TX 77002-7000.

HALL home page: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall>



A full house of HALL members enjoyed visiting before the September meeting – photo by Catherine Whitney

## General Meeting Minutes Houston Area Law Librarians August 8, 2007 South Texas College of Law Library

### Minutes Subject to Correction and Approval

Mary Ann Wacker called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

The May 2007 minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mariann Sears was on vacation. Caren Luckie distributed the final year end Treasurer's Report with current balance.

### Old Business

No old business.

### New Business:

Mary Ann Wacker expressed appreciation to David and staff at South Texas for the use of the library facilities to hold HALL meetings and functions. Caren Luckie was also thanked for her years of service as Treasurer.

There is now an actual Secretary of State record for HALL.

Mary Ann Wacker asked if members had any "war stories" regarding EPA library closures; they will be forwarded to Camilla Tubbs, Yale Government Relations Committee member who attended AALL.

### Committee Reports

*Archives:* No report.

*Bylaws:* No report.

*Continuing Education:* Catherine Whitney thanked David and others at STCL for the room and setting up for the meeting. Index cards were provided for each member to share their ideas for programs they would be interested in attending and also programs enjoyed at AALL.

### Continuing Education Programs Agenda:

September 12 – Blythe McCoy "Time Management"

October 18 – Half-Day Seminar  
"Competitive Intelligence in Law Libraries"

November 14 – Mary Flood, JD, Journalist, "Blogging"

December 12 – HALLiday Luncheon at the Vine Restaurant

*Library School Liaison:* No report

*Membership:* Laura Edstrom said she is taking registration/renewal forms for the 2007-2008 HALL year.

*Nominations:* No report.

*Placement:* No report.

*Publications:* Barbara Szalkowski reported that the next newsletter deadline is September 16 and it will contain AALL content/overview. For those who attended please consider submitting a piece for the newsletter.

*Scholarship and Grants:* No report

*Vendor Relations:* Colleen Pincumbe reported that the next Vendor Forum on TX Pattern Jury Charges would take place at the end September.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

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**HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited)  
June, July, and August 2007**

**Balance forward 05/31/07**

**\$18,733.88**

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>
Dues 2007-2008	1,425.00		
Newsletter/meeting announcements			
Newsletter ads	35.00		
Luncheons/Meetings/Receptions			
HALL/DALL/SWALL			
2007 Reception at AALL	1,449.25		
JonesMcClure sponsorship	500.00		
SWALL reimbursement	316.42		
August 2007	285.00	466.87	
Administrative			
Office supplies		4.00	
Texas Secretary of State filing fee			5.00
AALL booth		235.22	
<b>Balance 08/31/2007</b>			<b>\$19,134.96</b>

Mariann Sears, Treasurer  
August 31, 2007

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## AALL New Orleans Report

*Michele Lucero, Thomson West Librarian Relations Manager*

AALL in New Orleans this past July brought back memories of my first AALL in San Antonio, TX in 2005 and my time spent in Houston, TX with the rain! It was great to see all my Texas colleagues that I miss and to see AALL from a different point of view. Overall, the conference was very well attended. I was quite pleased with the variety programs offered and the ability to squeeze in a Hurricane Katrina tour during my visit.

The first program I found of great interest was Annual Reports: "From Ho-Hum to Hurrah in Five Easy Steps." Robert Oaks and Carol Rogers of Latham & Watkins presented five easy steps to create an annual report and discussed their development of an annual report. I cannot tell you how many times at my former firm I thought of how beneficial an annual report would be. I know in the firm environment, librarians how often pondered why do annual report. There are many reasons why including responding to a management request, to reveal department trends, projects and goal setting, to show management what you do, to shown your own staff what you do, to develop presentation skills, to brand your department and to help build a team with the entire department involved. Robert and Carol explained the five easy steps to creating an annual report and provided tips for each:

### 1. Discuss with management and others:

It is important to determine who to talk to about creating a report, i.e., library partner, administrator, accounting.

### 2. Gather information:

Information building can be developed from GL reports, bill monitoring, other accounting reports, external resources such as ALM or surveys, and by contacting vendors.

### 3. Analyze and review information:

After one has gathered this information, it is time to build and analyze it. A great resource and our friend is Excel which can present data in chart format, therefore telling a story.

### 4. Prepare report:

In preparation of the annual report, a librarian may want to use PowerPoint, colorful charts, photos and color. One will want to be brief. Also, know the audience that is being addressed. Be aware of useful measurements to present such as staff/attorney ratio, database recovery, or library billable hours depending on the audience. Include a statement which discusses your accomplishments and goals and objectives to help for planning and budgeting.

### 5. Present and engage audience:

The annual report can be presented in paper, electronic or verbal presentation. There are advantages of doing it both ways including receiving immediate feedback and engaging management.

Another program I attended was "Rise to the Challenge of Publishing" presented by Michael Chiorazzi of the University of Arizona, Penny Hazelton of the University of Washington and Frank Houdek of Southern Illinois University. I thought this was a very beneficial program because librarians are often seeking opportunities to get published and the panel provided great suggestions on just how to get started.

In a panel discussion format, all three law librarians addressed the following questions:

### 1. Topic selection – How do you decide what to write on?:

Discussion included choosing a topic you are passionate about. Don't just choose a hot topic because you may lose interest in writing the article. Read back issues to see if anything needs updating or if you can build on what someone else has written. For data collection, turn to surveys from listservs and analyze trends.

### 2. Article formation – How do you develop the article?

Think about whom is the audience. Include an introduction, conclusion and consult professional literature. Be self-critical when writing. Ask multiple individuals to read your piece.

### 3. Submission – Who do you submit the article to?

There are many opportunities to get published. You can self publish, check with *LRSQ*, *Spectrum* or *LLJ*. Check the timeliness of the article. Determine if journals allow for multiple submissions. Aim for journals where the article may be appropriate.

I want to conclude my article with a summary of my thoughts on the Hurricane Katrina tour. Since I had never been to NOLA before the hurricane hit, it was important to me to experience New Orleans. I spent some time on Bourbon Street where several librarians provided me with their thoughts of the change in atmosphere.

I also thought it would be valuable to take a Katrina tour to help me better understand and appreciate New Orleans. The Hurricane Katrina tour lasted 3 hours and was given by a woman from the Ninth Ward. She included a history of the original city with photos, a view of the actual levee that breached, a drive through the wetlands, and a tour of neighborhoods destroyed including Lakeview, Gentilly, New Orleans East, St. Bernard and the Ninth Ward. We drove past many, many homes that literally had X on the front showing the date, number of survivors or those missing. We saw the water and oil lines along buildings which I couldn't even imagine. It was phenomenal to see and made my visit to New Orleans well worth it.

I am grateful AALL was held in New Orleans because it offered me the opportunity to have a better understanding of events pre and post Katrina, a forum to see and network with colleagues, and the ability to attend great informational programs.

### *Just a reminder!*

Publication deadlines for the  
HALL Newsletter are:

November/December	11/15/2007
January/February	1/15/2008
March/April	3/15/2008
May/June	5/15/2008
July/August	8/1/2008
September/October	9/15/2008

## Reel Law: Part Two

Heather Waltman, South Texas College of Law

[Editor's Note: A version of this article was originally published in the South Texas College of Law, The Fred Parks Law Library newsletter, 19 Footnotes 1 (Apr.-June 2007). Part I appeared in the March/April 2007 issue of the HALL Newsletter.]

In recent years law-genre documentaries have enjoyed wide appeal among popular audiences while also becoming more commonplace as tools for legal scholarship and practice. In academia, legal documentaries are being used to supplement curriculum and, when created by students themselves, the films are being used as mechanisms to help them capture and portray their understanding of legal concepts. The University at Buffalo Law School, for example, offers a course called "Documenting Law in Action" in which students are encouraged to use "documentary film making as a tool for exploring the role of law, legal institutions and legal reform in the lives of individuals and communities."

Coinciding with the increasing interest in documentary films as educational devices is the more frequent use of documentary videos in the courtroom. Lawyers recognize and want to utilize the power of visual media to increase the persuasive impact of their arguments. Employing the same styles and narrative structures of feature documentaries, many lawyers, for example, now construct videos to use in their closing statements. A documentary video might be used to depict a day in the life of a defendant or to illustrate a plaintiff's damages by comparing and contrasting incidents before and after their occurrence.

In civil matters, video settlement documentaries, or short films about personal injury cases, have become especially popular. As these video segments become increasingly sophisticated, their producers utilize more of the staples of feature documentary films: reenactments, clips from video depositions, news segments, home movies, interviews, advertisements, animation, and expert testimonies. Narration is often provided in the form of an authoritative voice-over, and compelling background music heightens the emotional appeal. Visual legal advocacy has become an essential component in the presentation of many legal arguments, and it is clear that law-genre feature documentaries have greatly influenced their production.

"Reel Law : Part One" included seven recommendations for must-see documentary films. Part Two suggests nine additional films. All of the films present stories or deal with issues that address legal concerns. For an outstanding collection of articles on this topic, see the *Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal* symposium issue on "Documentaries & the Law" (vol. 16, no. 3, spring 2006).

### ***Brother's Keeper* (1992) Directors: Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky**

In the rural town of Munnsville in upstate New York, four brothers – Roscoe, Lyman, Bill and Delbert Ward – live very simply as scruffy, isolated recluses in a decrepit home with no central heating or indoor plumbing. In their only bedroom, the men sleep together for warmth on two dilapidated beds. One morning, the brothers awake to find that Bill has died, and the medical examiner finds what he considers to be evidence of murder and perhaps incest. The Ward brothers are interrogated,

and Delbert, clearly unaware of what he is signing, confesses to smothering his brother. Suddenly, the brothers are embroiled in a murder trial and become the objects of a media frenzy. It is unclear whether Bill's death occurred as a result of natural causes, as an act of passion, an act of jealousy, or an act of mercy; the film raises all of these questions as it juxtaposes the modern legal system with its notions of law and justice against a less sophisticated social order.

### ***Capturing the Friedmans* (2003) Director: Andrew Jarecki**

Arnold Friedman, a father and well-respected high school teacher in Great Neck, New York, is caught in a child pornography sting when a magazine depicting young boys is intercepted in the mail. An investigation uncovers Mr. Friedman's stash of child pornography and leads to accusations that he and his son, Jesse, sexually molested boys who attended computer classes held in their basement. Both men ultimately plead guilty to the charges after many of the former computer students recount tales of bizarre sex games and rituals in which they claim they were forced to participate. Throughout the film, it seems undeniable that Arnold Friedman, who admits to molesting two boys near the family's summer cottage, is in fact a pedophile. What is less certain, however, is whether any molestation of boys in the Friedman's Great Neck home ever actually occurred. Many of the young men who claim to have been victims of childhood sexual assault were pressured by prosecutors and their attendant therapists to uncover repressed memories, often under the influence of hypnosis and suggestion, tactics that are now widely discredited. The DVD includes unreleased footage and archival material that some think may lead to Jesse's exoneration.

### ***Cruel and Unusual* (2005) Directors: Janet Baus, Dan Hunt & Reid Williams**

Pre-op transgender women find themselves in a very difficult position when they are placed in men's correctional facilities. As targets of not only ridicule, but of rape and other violence, these women struggle daily for their safety and psychological well-being. Denied the counseling and estrogen therapy that many received before their incarceration, these marginalized individuals often regress; masculine physical traits return along with psychological anguish. The American Psychological Association recognizes Gender Identity Disorder as a legitimate psychological and medical condition, but prisons have no legal obligation to provide gender reassignment therapy. Even those who endorse treatment for transgender inmates question just how far prisons should go to meet their needs. Counseling and hormone therapy are less controversial than sexual reassignment surgery, but even these less extreme measures have little support among authorities. This film addresses all of these issues as it seeks to answer a provocative question: Does the lack of treatment for transgender inmates constitute a violation of their Eight Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment?

*continued on next page*



## Reel Law . . .

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### ***Doing Time: Life Inside the Big House (1991) Director: Alan & Susan Raymond***

This Academy Award-nominated film provides an inside look at incarceration in America. With permission granted by the Justice Department, the director spends five weeks inside Lewisburg, a maximum security federal penitentiary in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The film introduces viewers to several inmates (including violent criminal offenders serving multiple life sentences) as well as the corrections officers who patrol the prison in riot gear as they try to maintain order. This shocking look at a vicious subculture compels viewers to question the effectiveness of a system that favors retribution over rehabilitation and parole.

### ***The First Amendment Project (2004) Directors: Chris Hegedus & Nick Doob, Mario Van Peebles, John Walter***

This anthology of three short films is a joint production of The Sundance Channel and CourtTV. Each film explores a particular challenge to our First Amendments rights. The first and most entertaining is "Fox vs. Franken," a humorous look at the unsuccessful law suit filed by Fox News against Al Franken for using Bill O'Reilly's image on the cover of his book (*Liars and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right*) and the Fox News tagline, "Fair and Balanced", in its title. "Poetic License," the second film, explores the firestorm that erupted when Amiri Baraka, the Poet Laureate of New Jersey, publicly read his poem, "Who Blew Up America," shortly after the September 11th tragedy and offended many people who felt that he had made Anti-Semitic remarks. The anthology ends with "Some Assembly Required," a film that investigates the public's right to protest by asking questions about the eighteen hundred citizens who were arrested or detained at the 2004 Republican National Convention.

### ***Paradise Lost (Part 1): The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills (1996)***

### ***Paradise Lost (Part 2): Revelations (2000) Directors: Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky***

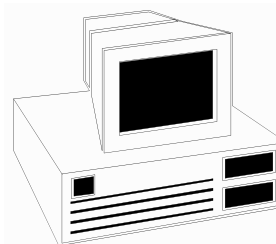
In the spring of 1993, the mutilated bodies of three young boys were found in a ravine along Interstate 40 in West Memphis, Arkansas. The community and the media very quickly accused three teens who were eventually convicted for the murders, even though no strong evidence linked them to the victims. In this poverty-stricken Bible Belt town, the accused teens became scapegoats; they were pegged as devil worshipers who wore black clothing and listened to heavy metal music and were thought to have sacrificed the boys in a satanic ritual. The accused claim they were forced to confess during long periods of interrogation with no attorneys present. Authorities failed to investigate suspects whose guilt was clearly more conceivable, and the media, swayed by public opinion, seemed bent on convicting the teens before they were even tried. The first film relates the story, an extreme miscarriage of justice, and the sequel revisits the case, reporting on the current state of the young men. Both offer an appalling look at American justice gone wrong.

### ***Sentencing the Victim (2003) Director: Liz Oakley***

In 1988, when Joanna Katz was just 19 years old, she and a friend were abducted to an abandoned house where they were raped and tortured by five men. After five excruciating hours, Joanna managed to escape and made sure that her friend was later rescued. The five men were ultimately convicted and each was sentenced to 30 years in prison. However, in South Carolina, where these men are incarcerated, felons become eligible for parole every two years after serving just a portion of their sentence. Therefore, in order to keep the men in prison, Joanna and her parents drove to Charleston every two years to contest the parole of each man. Hearings were always held separately, on different dates, so Joanna had to recount and, thus, relive the details of her attack many times. In just six years, she attended 14 parole hearings. As advocates for victims' rights, Joanna and the director, Liz Oakley, created this film as a challenge for the criminal justice system to change the way that victims are treated.

### ***Well-Founded Fear (2000) Directors: Shari Robertson and Michael Camerini***

According to international law, those who possess an immediate and "well founded fear" of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion may apply for asylum in the United States, but, as this film reveals, the decision to grant asylum is often arbitrary and highly subjective. Viewers are introduced to several asylum seekers who recount tales of torture and persecution, often through translators who tend to distort their stories. The Immigration and Naturalization Service officers who are responsible for deciding the fate of these dispossessed people are sometimes compassionate and sympathetic, but many have grown suspicious and weary. For asylum seekers, the outcome of their efforts is far from certain. In what seems to sum up the main theme of the film, one of the INS officers refers to the process as "asylum-officer roulette."



## ***Editor's Comments...***

Although it doesn't feel like it quite yet, fall is just around the corner! (Officially arriving on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.) HALL members have already met twice and have had two excellent programs to start off our 2007-08 year. I hope that everyone makes an effort to attend a HALL meeting this year, especially our fall and spring seminars which are used to raise money for grants to attend AALL and scholarships for library and law school.

Thanks to special correspondent and former HALL member, Michelle Lucero, for her report on AALL, and to Heather Waltman for allowing the reprint of the second part of her article which originally appeared in South Texas's library newsletter. Also thanks to Catherine Whitney for the photo of our September meeting. They made this issue shine!

—*Barbara Szalkowski*





**HALL Vendor Forum**  
Hosted by the State Bar of Texas

**Featuring:**  
'Firm Solutions'  
The State Bar's Newest Service to Help  
with Your Firm's CLE  
and Legal Research Needs

Thursday, October 4, 2007  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
at  
Jackson Walker  
1401 McKinney, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor

The State Bar of Texas will provide lunch!

Please RSVP to Colleen Pincumbe at  
**713-653-8765 (direct) or [colleen.pincumbe@tklaw.com](mailto:colleen.pincumbe@tklaw.com)**  
**By Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

## Houston Area Law Librarians

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