

NEXT MEETING

- **October 8, 2008; 11:45 am; "Tales From the Dark Side" with Dina Dreifuerst and Catherine Whitney**

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From the President...

We're off to a great start this year! We have enjoyed presentations by our members regarding workshops and conferences, as well as a tour of the newly renovated public library. Thanks to Ann and her committee and everyone else who helped with these meetings.

I've heard about the October and November meetings and they promise to be



HALL President Elise McCutchen

equally interesting and informative. December is an easy month, as we celebrate the holidays together after work. Details to follow!

I encourage you to volunteer to help with HALL activities and to volunteer in your community. It is always appreciated. Lastly, I hope this letter finds you safe and recovering from the recent storm. Let me know if you need any help from your fellow members.

Regards,
Elise

Continuing Education..

October HALL Meeting: "Tales from the Dark Side"

Many librarians hold misconceptions about how best to work with vendors and their vendor representatives. There are effective ways to collaborate and advance your organization's goals.

In this one-hour presentation, Catherine Whitney and Dina Dreifuerst will share what they have learned from working on both sides of "The Great Divide," and give you fresh insights into the librarian-vendor relationship. Catherine Whit-

ney is an Applications Consultant with Thomson Business/GSI, and has worked as a reference librarian for local law firms. Dina Dreifuerst is the Budget & Acquisitions Librarian for Bracewell & Giuliani, and previously served as the Librarian Relations Manager for Jones McClure Publishing.

October 8, 2008 at 11:45 am; South Texas School of Law Library

November HALL Fall Seminar : November 12—Topic to be announced soon!

SLA News

SLA Texas Fall Meeting will be held Friday October 24, 2008 at SMU in Dallas, from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The main topic of the day will be “How to Stay Employable in the 21st Century” with guest speaker Pat Wagner. To round out the day, Barbara Fullerton and Dina Dreifuerst will present “60 Gadgets in 60 Minutes,” and there will be a panel discussion featuring Greg Lambert, former HALL member Emily Cunningham-Rushing, Ben Toon, David Brackus, and April Kessler. HALL is well-represented!

SLA Members: \$40; Non-Members: \$60

Please contact Greg Lambert at 713-495-8800 for additional information.

Please
remember to
cast your vote
for the AALL
Executive
Board! Online
ballots go out
October 27th.



2008 HALL Dues

Be sure and send in your membership form and dues if you have not done so! The HALL year runs from June-July. Membership forms may be found here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

Members who do not renew will not be listed in the HALL Directory—
Thanks!

-Laurie Gaas

Book Review - Is There a Right to Remain Silent?

Is There a Right to Remain Silent? Coercive Interrogation and the Fifth Amendment After 9/11; by Alan Dershowitz; 232 pages; Oxford University Press; 2008

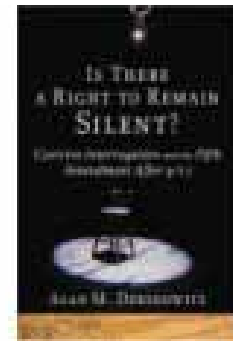
The title of a new book by Alan Dershowitz revolves around one of the best known amendments of the American Constitution, and if you've seen CSI, Law & Order, or Columbo (which as well tells one's age :-)) you know it as well as any police officer. Since "Miranda", any person had to be informed of one's right to remain silent and the right to a counsel. If the Fifth

Amendment information was not provided, any self incrimination provided in the course of the investigation was likely to lead to an acquittal at trial.

Chavez v. Martinez, decided on May 27, 2003 by the Supreme Court, changed this in parts, and that is where Dershowitz' analysis begins. First, he gives an overview of this recent ruling and an in-depth interpretation under historical, and textual aspects. As the ruling doesn't seem to be based on any of these common interpretive tools, Dershowitz finally approaches the one area of interpretation that, in his

opinion, led to the decision. He precisely demonstrates how the ruling is based on judicial activism. I find this especially interesting, as Thomas, who wrote the opinion, and Scalia, who voted with the majority, usually vehemently object any form of judicial activism. But read for yourself...

- Saskia Melhorn



Book Review - The Watercooler Effect

The Watercooler Effect: A Psychologist Explores the Extraordinary Powers of Rumor; Nicholas DiFonzo; 303 pages; Avery Publishing; 2008 (review of an uncorrected proof)

This is an extremely timely book in light of the fact that the SEC is investigating whether any Wall Street bank was spreading rumors about Bear Stearns in an effort to drive its share price down. Author Nicholas DiFonzo (professor of

psychology, Rochester Institute of Technology) has written a very readable study of rumors; easily accessible to the layperson.

DiFonzo starts by identifying three types of rumors: wish rumors, those concerning hoped-for outcomes (school will be canceled tomorrow because of snow); dread rumors, those concerning feared outcomes (such as the rumors surrounding the SARS virus in 2003); and wedge driving rumors, those that feed on hate and try to divide people (just about any rumors about political figures or ethnic groups fall into this category). He then shows examples of these rumor types and discusses how and why they are spread as well as how they die. His final chapter examines ways to manage rumor and slow the spread of false rumors.

The book includes extensive notes. The sources are well identified and would be easy for other researchers to follow. All-in-all, this is a very interesting book on a fascinating subject.

- Riva Laughlin



HALL Meeting Minutes - August

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

HALL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

August 20, 2008

South Texas College of Law Library

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. The May minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears distributed the Treasurer's Report and reported that there is money in our bank account. She also reminded everyone to pay their dues.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

All visitors and new members were welcomed.

It was announced that Patti Curtis and Lauren Schroeder had been appointed as Members-at-Large to foster more communication with committees.

Barbara Szalkowski was recognized and given special thanks for her many years of service to HALL as the newsletter editor. Elise presented her with flowers and a framed certificate. Mary Ann Wacker is the new newsletter editor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Service: The committee would like to plan an October project. Monika Miura suggested a Habitat for Humanity project.

Continuing Education: Progress is being made on the Fall Workshop. It was also mentioned that the September HALL meeting will include a tour of the Houston Public Library.

Library School Liaison: No report.

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

Nominations: No report.

Placement: No report.

Publications: The deadline for the next newsletter is mid-October. Please send all information to be included to Mary Ann Wacker.

Scholarship and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Alacra Products is in the planning stages for last week in September.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

-Submitted by Gwendolyn Johnson, HALL Secretary

***New York Times* Article Highlights the Loss of Federal Electronic Government Information**

In his front-page article, "In Digital Age, Federal Files Blip Into Oblivion," published September 13, Robert Pear of the *New York Times* succinctly describes the challenges of preserving online federal government information. The article captured a key concern raised by AALL in a letter to Congress last April about the National Archives and Records Administration's decision to not harvest agency Web sites at the end of the Bush administration. Pear also quoted AALL Acting Washington Affairs Representative Mary Alice Baish and her worry that huge amounts of information from the past eight years will disappear when a new administration is sworn in next January.

Here is a link to the story: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/13/us/13records.html?>



Personal Notes...

Congratulations **Dee Dee!** HALL member Dee Dee Golden Mulligan finished her Master's Degree in Library Science from the University of North Texas on August 5, 2008. We are so proud of you, Dee Dee!

HALL notes with sadness the passing of **Laura Edstrom's** father, Adolf Naschke, on August 3, 2008. Our condolences go out to Laura.

Patti Curtis and her sister Cay are organizing a Livestrong Fundraiser benefiting the Lance Armstrong Foundation on October 4th. Please contact Patti at 713-220-4406 for more information!

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited)

June 1, 2008-August 20, 2008

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Balance forward 06/01/08 | | | \$ 16,424.04 |
| | Income | Expenses | |
| Dues | | | |
| 2008-2009 | \$ 900.00 | | |
| Newsletter | | | |
| Ads | \$ 220.00 | | |
| Postage | | \$ 13.24 | |
| Luncheons/Receptions/Seminars | | | |
| HALL/DALL/SWALL Reception at AALL | | | |
| Jones McClure Sponsorship | \$ 500.00 | | |
| March 2008 Seminar | \$ 50.00 | | |
| Scholarships/Grants | | | |
| Administrative | | | |
| Supplies/Stationery/Miscellaneous | | \$ 71.73 | |
| Total | \$ 1,670.00 | \$ 84.97 | |
| Balance 08/20/08 | | | \$ 18,009.07 |

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
August 20, 2008

HALL Vendor Forum October 1st

Join HALL for a presentation from Alacra Inc. on October 1st. Come and learn how Alacra can help in your research efforts.

Time: 12 noon—1:00 pm

Place: Jackson Walker LLP, 1401 McKinney, Suite 1900

Please RSVP by September 26, 2008 to Colleen Pincumbe at 713-653-8765

Lunch will be provided by Yapa Kitchen

Door Prize: You could win a *free wine class* for two with Yapa Kitchen's Mark Lewis!

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HALL Meeting Minutes - September

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

HALL GENERAL MEETING

September 10, 2008

Houston Public Library

Elise McCutchen called the meeting to order at 11:55 pm.

The August minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mariann Sears distributed the Treasurer's Report and reported that there is money in our bank account.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: No new business

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Service: Heather Waltman mentioned two possible upcoming fall service projects. The Search Center for the Homeless needs help with lunches and the Woman's Shelter needs help with gardening. By a show of hands, Heather counted that about 10 people were interested in these projects.

Continuing Education: Progress is being made on the Fall Workshop. It was also mentioned that the October HALL meeting will include a discussion with Catherine Whitney and Dina Dreifuerst about a presentation at AALL.

Government Relations: It was mentioned that the Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act (H.R. 6589)

needs everyone's support in order to go forward.

Library School Liaison: No report.

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, Barbara Szalkowski reminded everyone that the deadline to submit information to the newsletter is 09/16/2008. All submissions should be sent to Mary Ann Wacker.

Scholarship and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe reported that the upcoming Vendor Forum on Oct. 1 will feature Alacra Products. Details for this presentation will follow in the HALL newsletter.

Announcements:

Caren Luckie announced that the Friends of the Houston Public Library are having a fundraiser and that calendars and coupons were available for purchase after the sale.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

-Submitted by Gwendolyn Johnson, HALL Secretary

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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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HALL Members-at-Large:

Lauren Schroeder
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Patti Curtis
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Past President: Mary Ann Wacker
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

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