

NEXT

MEETING

- Fall Half-Day Seminar
- October 14, 2009
- "Surviving the Economic Times: Law Librarians and Libraries"
- 8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

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From the President...

Fall has arrived, which means that our Fall Workshop is right around the corner. Please make plans to attend our 2009 half-day workshop on October 14. You will be getting information soon about the speakers who will share information on surviving these difficult economic times.

HALL has recognized this issue as well, and has implemented programs we think can help our members if they find they have been affected by the downturn in the economy. If a HALL member has lost his or her position and



HALL President
Ann Patterson

wishes to stay networked with the library community, the member can request a scholarship for membership dues. Also, the Board recently offered a special membership to library school students who do not work full-time in a library position. Library students not working full-time in a library position can join at half the HALL membership fee. If anyone

has any questions, please contact Jeannie Mazzone at jmazzone@stlc.edu.

We also plan to unveil our new HALL website at the Fall Seminar. Members will be able to have their own email address for professional use, if they so desire, and the site will offer tons of information and interactive communication... Web 2.0 style.

Make plans to attend the October Seminar!!!

Continuing Education...

We had a wonderful meeting in September with Loren Jackson, Mike Lykes, Evan Peterson and Tracey Hopper providing us with an excellent overview of the new Harris County District Court website. The meeting drew a large crowd of 81 attendees! The new website is fantastic and while premium access was initially intended only for attorneys, we are proud to report that Loren Jackson's office has agreed to extend the premium access to the website (including free copies uncertified documents) to HALL members! If you have any questions about the site or the meeting, please feel free to

contact me at nlira@kslaw.com.

Please plan on attending our Fall half day seminar scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast will be provided. The topic of the Fall seminar is "Surviving the Economic Times: Law Libraries and Librarians." The program will include sessions on how the economy has changed our profession, how it has changed our libraries and provide tips for job searching. Please watch for further details in the forthcoming flyer.



HALL Vice-President
Natalie Lira

AALL Government Relations Webinar

October Webinar: Join AALL's Advocacy Team

Help improve access to legal information and strengthen AALL's voice in government decisions – join our advocacy team. If you're interested in learning the tools you need to make your legislators listen when you have something to say, we invite you to sign up for AALL's free online advocacy training session, Join "AALL's Advocacy Team: How to Deliver Our Message", on **Wednesday, October 14, from 1-2 p.m. EDT**. Speakers are Government Relations Office staff members Mary Alice Baish and Emily Feldman and "advocacy guru" Stephanie Vance, guest speaker at AALL's 2009 Day on the Hill. Vance will explain how to develop and deliver a message to your representatives about the importance of free online access to Congressional Research Service reports and the digital authentication of online legal resources.

Register here: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/389352803>

2009 AALL Salary Survey Available this Fall

The AALL 2009 Biennial Salary Survey and Organizational Characteristics will be available to AALL members in October.

This new edition is the only source for up-to-date information about salaries for law librarians and other law library employees who work in academic libraries; private firms and corporate libraries; and state, court, and county law libraries. The survey was carried out this summer in complete confidentiality by Association Research, Inc., a professional research firm in Rockville, Maryland, that works exclusively with nonprofit organizations.

Printed copies of the survey will be available for purchase and shipment in October; \$110 for AALL members and \$175 for nonmembers (contact orders@aall.org). An online version of the survey results will be available to AALL members for free on the Members Only Section of AALLNET. http://www.aallnet.org/products/pub_salary_survey.asp

Mark your calendars for the next HALL Vendor Forum on October 21st. Lexis-Nexis will be our guest to discuss their Securities, Corporate, Compliance and M&A Practice Centers. Details forthcoming!

-Colleen Pincumbe,
HALL Vendor Forum Committee Chair

The Executive Librarian

(Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service)



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Special guest Harris County District Clerk Loren Jackson, center, with HALL President Ann Patterson (left) and HALL Vice-President Natalie Lira (right) at the September HALL meeting

HALL Wowed by New and Improved Harris County District Clerk Web Site

Special guests Loren Jackson, Evan Peterson, Tracey Hopper, and Mike Lykes wowed HALL members with details about the new Harris County District Clerk site. It was many new and exciting features that will make our lives much easier. Their new slogan is "Get Online, Not In Line." The layout is clean and easy to use. Most complaints are available the day they are filed for free! Certified copies are still \$1 per page.

Also available:

- Criminal Background Checks
- Docket Searching
- Automatic e-mails for attorneys with their court schedules and docket settings
- Historical documents
- Coming soon: automatic notification when a client/person is sued

<http://www.hcdistrictclerk.com/Common/Default.aspx>

AALL2go Open for Business

AALL is proud to announce that AALL2go, AALL's new online learning center, is open for business! The new site offers you specialized continuing education programs designed specifically for law librarians. The convenient online format allows you to expand your knowledge base and gain new skills right from your desktop—no travel is required, and it's open 24/7. Also, AALL2go is fully searchable, so you can quickly find material targeted to your areas of interest.



The site now includes:

- Audio recordings from the 2009, 2008 and 2007 AALL Annual Meeting and Conferences
- 14 free videos from the 2008 and 2009 AALL Annual Meeting and Conferences for AALL members only
- Coming soon: archived webinars and more recorded continuing education programs from 2006 to present, including more than 50 free programs for AALL members

<http://www.aallnet.org/aall2go.asp>

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HALL Member Spotlight: Elizabeth Black Berry



HALL Member
Elizabeth Black
Berry (at Barnaby's)

Elizabeth Black Berry graduated law school with one thought: "I have no intention of being a practicing attorney!" Thank goodness the librarians at the University of Texas Tarlton Law Library steered Elizabeth towards law librarianship. Elizabeth's favorite part of law school was the advanced legal research class, and the librarians suggested she find work at a law firm library after graduation. Fortunately, at that time Weil Gotshal was opening a Houston outpost and Elizabeth was hired in August, 1985. She has been there ever since.

Her job title has morphed somewhat over the years, so now it reads:

Attorney at Law

Manager of Information Resources, Professional Development, and Pro Bono

Elizabeth has responsibility over the Library, but also coordinates the firm's in-house CLE programs and matches attorneys up with pro bono work that follows their skill set and interest. And as a practicing attorney, Elizabeth also has taken on some pro bono work herself which she has found extremely gratifying. In 2008, she assisted a young woman who had health issues probate her aunt's will. In 2009, she took on her first family law case.

Elizabeth has been involved in HALL for many years and served as President in 1995-1996. We have Elizabeth to thank for the brilliant idea of starting the annual tradition of the HALL/SWALL/DALL Reception at AALL!

Elizabeth has also been involved with the State Bar of Texas as Chair and Vice-Chair of the MCLE Committee. In the late 80's to mid-90's Elizabeth was a Committee member and Chair of various HBA Committees such as Law Library Committee, the Pictorial Roster Committee, the *Houston Lawyer*, and Lawyers for Literacy. Her most amazing achievement was collecting over 8,000 books and magazines for the HBA Lawyers for Literacy Drive in 1995. She was awarded the HBA President's Award for her efforts. Amazingly, she served as Editor in Chief for the *Houston Lawyer* the year she was HALL President. (She says "I was a lot younger then.")

Elizabeth's family has accomplished much in the Texas legal realm. Her father, Norman W. Black, was the Chief Judge of the Southern District of Texas, and served the federal judiciary in Houston as a Magistrate Judge and District Judge for almost 20 years. Judge Black passed away in 1997. Elizabeth's sister, Diane Black Smith, lives in Austin and is the Deputy for Administration at the Texas Attorney General's office.

At the end of 2005 Elizabeth received terrible news: she had breast cancer. Not just one kind, but two kinds of estrogen-positive cancer. She interviewed several doctors before the treatment to make sure she and the doctor were on the

Member Spotlight, continued

same page for aggressive treatment. She chose Baylor, and has been very pleased with the care they have provided. Elizabeth aggressively went after her cancer by immediately having a double mastectomy followed by 16 weeks of grueling chemotherapy. She lost her hair, eyelashes, and eyebrows, but never her determined spirit to overcome the cancer. Elizabeth told me she recently finally packed up her extensive collection of caps, scarves, and wigs – but that she is always willing to speak with anyone about her experience and lend a hand to anyone who must endure cancer treatment.

Elizabeth has been happily married to Dolph Simon since 2002. Dolph is an “honorary HALL member” in that he attends many HALL member functions, always with a smiling face, and looks forward to visiting with everyone. He also has accompanied Elizabeth on several occasions to sort books for the Friends of Houston Public Library. Dolph has two grown sons – one, Joel Simon, is an attorney with Fulbright Jaworski in here in Houston, and the other, Aaron Simon, is a soon-to-be British English Master’s student. Elizabeth has two daughters: Claire who is 15 and just started school at Elizabeth's alma mater, Bellaire High School, and Nora who is 11 and attends Trafton Academy.

Since Elizabeth's cancer, she is focused more than ever on her family and friends and enjoying each day. She finds personal growth and satisfies her desire to help people in her part-time businesses outside of her full-time job: she is an Independent Consultant for Arbonne International, a skincare company, and she recently obtained a real estate license and works alongside Dolph at Prudential Gary Greene’s Inner Loop Office.

Elizabeth is always willing to speak with anyone about her experience and lend a hand to anyone who must endure cancer treatment.

-Mary Ann Wacker

HALL Treasurer's Report (unaudited) September 9, 2009

Balance forward 08/19/09			\$ 16,179.42
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2009-2010	\$ 50.00		
Newsletter			
Ads	\$ -		
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars			
August-09	\$ 194.75	\$ 285.24	
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative			
Supplies/Stationery/ Miscellaneous		\$ -	
Total	\$ 244.75	\$ 285.24	
Balance 09/9/09			\$ 16,138.93

Mariann Sears, Treasurer
September 9, 2009

PLMW Free Webinar on Intergenerational Issues in the Legal Workplace



The landscape of the workplace is changing, and the legal profession is no exception. Indeed, relationships between employees of different generations are sometimes more pronounced in the often tradition-bound legal workplace. Learn how to address the various challenges firms face in dealing with the differing priorities, attitudes, and skills of their employees. Attend "From Boomers to Millennials: Intergenerational Issues in the Legal Workplace" on Tuesday, October 6, from 2-3:30 p.m. EDT. The panel of experts includes

AALL's Sarah Mauldin, law librarian at Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Martin, as well as representatives from five of the other co-sponsoring legal associations. This 90-minute free program also includes a Q&A segment, which allows for the exchange of ideas from webinar participants. <http://www.plmw.org/webinars.html>

Professional Legal Management Week provides a forum for recognizing those in legal management for what they do and the roles they play in the success of their organizations. AALL is one of 11 associations co-sponsoring the event with the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA).



Roberta Shaffer Appointed New Law Librarian of Congress

On August 20, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the appointment of Roberta I. Shaffer as the new law librarian of Congress, effective August 31, 2009. In making this important appointment, he notes, "Roberta Shaffer brings to this critical management position both extraordinary vision and demonstrated leadership skills that will continue the Law Library's historically exemplary service to Congress and to the public while addressing the challenges of providing legal research and reference services in our rapidly changing and technologically driven world." According to a recent article in the Library of Congress Gazette, Shaffer envisions a 21st century national law library that will be a global leader in using new technologies to acquire, provide access to, and preserve current legal information.



AALL congratulates long-time member Shaffer on her appointment and looks forward to a collaborative future as she brings her remarkable energy and vision to the Law Library of Congress.

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AALL Government Relations News

Here are some of the things that we the Government Relations Committee and GRO are monitoring on the National Level:

Transparency: Last year, AALL worked closely with a bipartisan group of open government advocates to craft the report, "Moving Towards a 21st Century Right to Know Agenda: Recommendations to President-Elect Obama and Congress," which included an action list for the new Obama Administration. Many chapters and AALL members signed on to the report. On Tuesday, September 8, OpenTheGovernment.org released the latest edition of their annual Secrecy Report Card to evaluate levels of secrecy in the federal government. In general, the Report found a slight decrease in secrecy over the past year. The report also included an analysis of the Obama Administration's mixed record on transparency. The Government Relations Office will continue to work with OpenTheGovernment.org and its coalition of more than 70 open government advocates to push for more government transparency.

Authentication: The Government Printing Office (GPO) recently released 8 new collections into the Federal Digital System (FDsys). Within this new collection, the Congressional Directory, Congressional Record (Bound), United States Government Manual, and United States Statutes at Large will be available with authenticated digital signatures! Many thanks to all of you who have pushed for authenticated government information!

Permanent Public Access: As many of you may have heard, on Monday, August 24th, GPO's PURL server suffered a significant hardware failure. Since then, GPO's staff has worked hard to re-establish server access. At present, GPO's resolution database is almost back to full strength with more than 114,000 PURLs restored. It has been suggested that a backup mirror site or operational enhancements to the existing database could have prevented such a disastrous crash. The Government Relations Office will continue to press GPO to create viable backup options to prevent a crash like this from happening again.

Law Library of Congress: Shortly after the Annual AALL meeting in Washington D.C., the House of Representatives passed a funding bill for the Law Library of Congress (H.R. 2728). You can read more about this legislation at: <http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/ebulletin0609.pdf>. The next hurdle for this bill is its passage in the Senate. Stay tuned for an update from the Government Relations Office.

AALL Opens New Online Career Center

AALL recently launched a new and improved interactive job board, the AALL Career Center. Designed specifically for law libraries and legal information professionals, the AALL Career Center offers members and the profession at large a highly-targeted resource for online recruitment.

For Job Seekers:

- Post your resume for free—post confidentially or search anonymously by creating a Job Agent
- Browse jobs based on criteria that best match your career goals
- Set up a Job Agent to notify you via e-mail when jobs matching your criteria are posted

For Employers:

- Post your jobs online; reporting provides job activity statistics to track each posting's return on investment
- Search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria
- Create an online resume agent, which e-mails qualified candidates daily

<http://www.aallnet.org/careers/>

HALL Meeting Minutes—September

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2009
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: at 11:51 a.m. No new members, lots of guests.

Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: accepted.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: no report

Bylaws: no report

Continuing Education: half day seminar in Oct. is on how to manage in current economy. Our holiday lunch will be on 12/9.

Community Service: no report

Library School Liaison: HALL provides a student rate on dues (50% of regular dues) for library school students and law school students who are not full-time library employees.

Membership: one more week to get in dues.

Nominations: no report

Placement: no report

Publications: newsletter deadline 9/21

Scholarships and Grants: no report

Vendor Relations: no report

Website design: no report

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m..

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin, Secretary

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.

All contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. HALL does not assume responsibility for the statements of contributors. Views or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of Houston Area Law Librarians. The HALL Newsletter is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

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>

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/>

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