

NEXT

MEETING

- December
8, 2010

**HALL-iday Happy
Hour!**

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From the President



*HALL President
Natalie Lira*

A brand new year is fast approaching. Where did 2010 go? It's been a busy year for sure. I have really enjoyed our meetings over the last year and I have learned so much. Our meetings have been both informative and fun. Saskia and her committee did a wonderful job planning our Fall Seminar. The speakers were very knowledgeable and shared different aspects of the immigration process. Going into the seminar, I knew nothing about immigration law. By the end of the seminar, I came out feeling like I at least had the tools I needed to address an immigration law question. The immigration process is intriguing and I felt that the topic was very timely given recent issues and legislation.

I look forward to the new programs and challenges that await in 2011. There are a lot of exciting things coming up in 2011 and we look forward to joining forces with SWALL for our Spring seminar!

I hope you all will be able to join us at Sambuca to celebrate the upcoming holidays. If you are unable to make it, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you a very safe and blessed holiday season!

- Natalie

Continuing Education

The theme of our November workshop was business immigration law and all speakers gave wonderful and enlightening presentations. Anne Chandler from the Tahirih Justice Center provided an overview on Immigration Law especially as these regulations relate to abused women and children. Her presentation was followed by Sandy Heathman and Pauline Appelbaum from the United States Citizen and Immigration Services who talked about the services the USCIS offers and presented the latest immigration statistics. The workshop was concluded with Mon Yin Lung and Emily Woolard Lawson who provided the audience with helpful tips on researching business immigration law. HALL would like to thank Blythe McCoy and Thomson West for their generous sponsorship of the Workshop's breakfast.



*HALL Vice-President
Saskia Mehlhorn*

What's next?

In December we will get together for our annual HALLiday celebration which will take place on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 from 4:30-6:30 PM at Sambuca on 909 Texas Avenue. Among other culinary items, Kahula marinated tuna, beef and chicken satay and fried tomatoes will be served and one drink ticket is included in the price of \$30.00 per person. A separate invitation will go out this week.

- Saskia



The special guest at HALL's October meeting was Roberta Shaffer, Law Librarian of Congress. In this photo: (l-r) HALL President Natalie Lira, Roberta Shaffer, Paula Howe, HALL Vice-President Saska Mehlhorn, and Muffie Moroney

**Join us for the
HALL-iday Happy Hour
at Sambuca!**

**Wednesday December 8
4:30—6:30 p.m.
909 Texas Avenue
Price: \$30 per person**

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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**Harris County Law Library Holiday
Hours**

Days Open: Harris County Law Library will maintain its normal hours Monday December 27 thru Thursday December 30, 2010 (open 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.) Computers and copiers are shut down 15 minutes before closing. If you need to come to the Law Library, please consider using the rail which provides convenient access. The rail stop lands you within a half block of the Library.

Days Closed: The Law Library will be closed Thursday Dec. 23, Friday Dec. 24, Saturday Dec. 25, Friday Dec. 31, and Saturday Jan 1. December 23, 24, and 31 are Harris County Holidays on which all Harris County Offices will be closed including the Courts.

Online Catalog: If you haven't been to the Law Library website lately to use the online catalog, the website now has a shorter alternative address: www.hctx.net/law. If you have any questions about the collection, the number for the Front Desk is 713-755-5183.

-John Eichstadt

HALL Member Spotlight: Paula Howe

Paula Howe has always had a heart for animals. She has devoted 25 years volunteering at Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP). She works with the organization on its outreach activities (such as booths at various shows and gatherings), fundraising, and CAP's pet supply store. She is also a supporter of spaying and neutering for animals, and takes the many cats that wander to her door to SNAP (the Spay/Neutering Assistance Program).

Paula was born in Philadelphia and grew up in Glen Cove, Long Island, about 30 miles from New York City. Paula's mother died when Paula was only two years old. Paula was sent to live with her uncle (her father's brother) and his wife and they later adopted her, which turned out to be a very good thing. While she has no siblings, she has always had cats and dogs and even a horse, Prince, while she was in high school. Prince had a former life as a New York City police horse! Paula attended Friends Academy, a Quaker school, from kindergarten through high school.



Paula graduated from college (Elmira College, New York) with a degree in French and International Studies. She intended to work at the U.N (she had an aunt who worked there) or get a glamorous job overseas. She participated in the U.N. Semester (at Drew University, New Jersey) the first half of her senior year. During this time she and another student wrote a paper together on Apartheid in South Africa...and Paula fell in love with her co-author. After graduation, Paula ended up in California with this man, and she worked at the Library at Stanford University. She got her Library degree from Berkeley, then returned to the Stanford Library to work as International Document Librarian in the Government Documents Department.

Again, Paula fell in love and made another move! After meeting a handsome man on the Stanford tennis courts, she eventually married him and they moved to Tucson. The tennis ace had just finished business school and Tucson was his home town. Paula got a job at a law firm in Tucson—her first time to work in a law library.

In 1980, Paula came to Houston to a SWALL gathering, where she first met long-time friends Susan Yancey, Linda Will and Jane Holland, and also Jon Shultz, then Director of the UH Law Library. Paula and her husband had recently divorced, and she decided she needed a new start. In 1981 she moved to Houston when Jon offered her a job at the University of Houston Law Library, where she met Roberta Shaffer. Paula left there in 1982 and went to work at the Shell Tax Library. In 1991, Paula started her job as Law Librarian for Exxon, now ExxonMobil.

The Executive Librarian
Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service
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In November 2009, the Law Department began a thorough analysis of the Law Library, the result of which was the decision to close the physical Law Library at

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HALL Fall Seminar Recap—Immigration Law

The HALL Seminar held November 10 on Immigration Law was extremely interesting and helpful! Kudos to Saskia Mehlhorn for planning this program.

The first speaker was Anne Chandler, Director of the Houston office of the Tahirih Justice Center. Anne was a dynamic and knowledgeable speaker and gave the audience the basics of immigration law. Anne described how people are citizens automatically when born in the United States (the 14th Amendment), but also how other people become citizens – children adopted abroad or children born abroad of American citizens. However, there are many other scenarios – what about children of naturalized parents for example?

She then explained the Legal Permanent Resident status. A Legal Permanent Resident has the same rights as a citizen basically but they cannot vote. To become a Legal Permanent Resident, one must obtain a family or employment-based immigrant visa. They can apply as a relative of a citizen or on the basis of employment, as a refugee, or for special status as a Cuban or Haitian. There is also a Diversity visa which allows immigration from certain countries that do not have a large population in the U.S. It works like a lottery for 50,000 fortunate people each year. There are many requirements for LPR status and people who have criminal records, immigration violations, terrorist ties, problems with smuggling, or certain health problems are prohibited from permanent residency.

To become a U.S. citizen, people must meet a set of requirements including being a Legal Permanent Resident for 3-5 years; being at least 18 years of age; good moral character (no aggravated felonies); and there are civics, language, and oath requirements. There are also special allowances made for abused women, widows, victims of serious crimes, and neglected children.

Anne also said that immigration attorneys generally do not refer to laws by their Title 8 cites, but typically use the INA (Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952) section numbers.

The second session was presented by Sandy Heathman and Pauline Applebaum, who work at the Houston office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Sandy is the Director and Pauline is the Chief Counsel. They discussed the mission of their office and how they assist people on their journey to becoming U.S. citizens. Sandy described the atmosphere of their office and how they strive to make it friendly and welcoming and to be as helpful as possible to people, while balancing their mandate to protect national security. Pauline discussed at length the categories of employment-based visas. In order to bring in people with advanced degrees and special skills to fill particular jobs, but not to take away jobs from American workers, there are many rules in place for hiring foreign workers. For example, employers must pay the same wage to a foreign worker as they would to an American worker, and they must prove that there are no qualified American workers available to take the job. Other agencies, such as the Labor Department (to obtain certifications), State Department (issues visas), and Justice Department (Unfair Employment Practices) are all involved in the process as well.

The third session was presented by University of Houston librarians Mon Yin Lung and Emily Woolard on researching immigration law. A very helpful handout was discussed which included a list of major immigration legislation, a conversion table from 8 U.S.C. to the INA, a listing of employment immigration preferences, an organizational chart of the federal agencies involved with immigration, a flowchart detailing the journey of anyone seeking to obtain Labor Certification, and a list of helpful reference materials and web sites when researching immigration law.

-Mary Ann Wacker



Seminar speaker (r) Anne Chandler with Elizabeth Berry



Speakers (l) Pauline Applebaum and (r) Sandy Heathman from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office



Speakers (l) Emily Woolard and Mon Yin Lung from the University of Houston Law Library



Seminar organizer and HALL Vice-President Saskia Mehlhorn

Paula Howe, continued...

Continued from page 3...

the end of October, 2010. The decision was also made to transfer Paula to the Litigation section as Senior Paralegal as of November 1. The contents of the library were re-located to a particular section of the Law Department, donated (714 boxes), sold in the Law Department United Way auction, taken by the lawyers at the end, or sent to the dumpster as a last step. Most of the functions formerly handled by the Law Library have been shifted back to the individual parts of the Law Department. There is pretty much no library service left. But, change is good so after 19 years at ExxonMobil and many more years as a librarian, Paula has left the library world behind for now and moved on. We at HALL wish Paula all the best!

-Mary Ann Wacker

Note From Paula:

I was so overwhelmed and delighted to be honored at the October HALL meeting. The slide show was wonderful and the flowers, donation to CAP and the gift certificate for brunch at Brennan's were so thoughtful. I thank you all for your help and friendship over the years. I will miss you, but will never be far away.

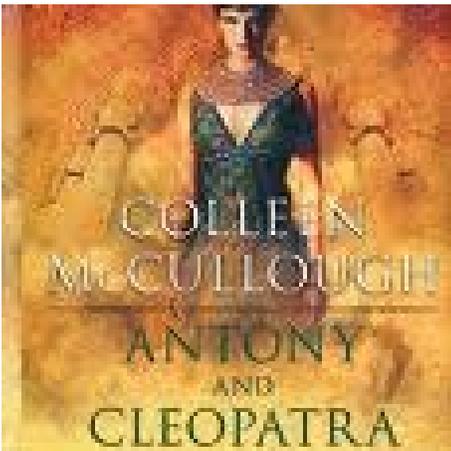
You Must Read This: *Antony and Cleopatra*

Colleen McCullough (author of *The Thorn Birds*) re-imagines the “love story of the ages” between Antony and Cleopatra in her cleverly titled 2007 novel, *Antony and Cleopatra*, the final book in her *Masters of Rome* series. This is not, however, your Elizabeth Taylor – Richard Burton Cleopatra; think more like *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (For our younger readers, Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton were the “Brangelina” of their day – only better actors and better looking). The story is familiar: Antony goes to Egypt, falls in love with Queen Cleopatra, loses the battle Actium of Octavian (later Emperor Augustus) and kills himself, and then Cleopatra kills herself (in a nutshell it’s the classic boy meets girl, boy loses battle, boy and girl kill themselves). The devil and the interesting parts are in the details.

McCullough switches back and forth between the Antony & Cleopatra narrative and that of young Octavian (played by Roddy McDowell in the movie). Octavian is Julius Caesar’s heir and is de facto co-ruler of Rome with Antony. While Antony flits about the East with a woman in every province, Octavian is doing the hard work of governing the empire; trying to balance the budget, feeding the poor, and finding true love, all of which he succeeds in doing, eventually. On a blind date (well, almost, they meet by chance in a town that has been leveled) Octavian meets Livia. They instantly fall in love and Octavian promises to marry her; which he does (it helps be the co-ruler of a good chunk of the known world). Livia completes Octavian and helps solve all of his problems; including a problem named Antony. If this part of the story sounds familiar it should since this is the prequel to Robert Graves’ novel *I, Claudius* which was made into the PBS smash hit mini-series (yes, I did use the words “PBS” and “smash hit” together). If you recall Livia from that program (as played by the terrific Sian Philips) she was a dragon lady who would do anything to secure the empire for her husband, and then for her son. You can see that character in its early stages developing here.

The real change in character though lies with Antony and Cleopatra. Because these characters and their stories are so familiar their re-characterization is much more startling. When we think of these two we think of a great love sealed in death. Not in Colleen McCullough’s world. Cleopatra is more devoted to her son by Julius Caesar, Caesarion, than she is to Mark Antony who is a tool of her maternal ambitions (which makes her a bad girlfriend, but a great mother). And what of Antony? Famous as a great reveler, a lover of women and wine, and a talented general when he set his mind to it, he loses all of this, as well as his “luck” when he falls for the beguiling Cleopatra. They fight, they argue, they make love, they make war. On second thought; perhaps I am reviewing *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (or the new Liz and Dick biography *Furious Love: Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, and the Marriage of the Century*).

The characters are written like real people, with real flaws--Livia hates children (even her own!), Octavian is a “cold fish,” Antony is an alcoholic trying to stay on the wagon, Cleopatra is a nag. By the end of the book the characters have been fleshed out and recognize their own flaws. We are given descriptions of and conversations between great historic personages that feel like real human conversations. The plot itself is classic, but McCullough lets us look behind the history and gives us her take on why events turned out as they did, painting portraits of the characters that explains their actions and how these actions affected others. Throughout the series McCullough has both mastered the historic details and character development, and this book is no exception. For example, she throws in a variety of Latin swear words (with a useful glossary in the back of the book). She also often skips a descriptive narrative on an important event and instead has a character relate what happens, such as in a letter between characters (although she relies on this technique a little too much for my liking).



Antony and Cleopatra is, regrettably, the final volume in Colleen McCullough’s *Masters of Rome* series, since I recently read that she is suffering from macular degeneration. I have read the entire series which charts the downfall of the Roman Republic from the days of Gaius Marius, through the career of Julius Caesar, and ends with the ascension of Octavian/ Augustus. If you love historical novels, and especially if you enjoy Roman history, this series is almost literally the beginning and the end.

- Matthew Mantel



REUTERS/Kim Kyung Hoon

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October HALL Meeting Minutes

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2010
South Texas College of Law Library

Natalie Lira called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

The August 2010 minutes and September 2010 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS: There will be a HALL/SWALL Spring Seminar. More details will follow at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS: No New Business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Saskia Mehlhorn announced the Fall Half-day Seminar will be held on November 10, 2010 and December details are forthcoming regarding the HALL-iday Luncheon.

Community Service: Monika Miura announced that January's program will be a speaker from Habitat for Humanity. Plans are in the works for our philanthropic event with Habitat for Humanity. She informed that a beam will be available at the December meeting for members to sign and will be used in part of the home building process.

Government Relations: No report.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Jeannie Mazzone informed members that passwords will be changing to the HALL Directory and details will be provided.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: No report.

Publications: Mary Ann Wacker reported that the HALL newsletter will be going out at the end of November and reminded members to get any news to her and any ideas for the "You Must Read This" column.

Scholarship and Grants: No report

Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe reported that the next Vendor Forum with Morningstar will be November 3, 2010 and it will be Brown Bag. More details to follow.

Website Design and Maintenance: No report.

Paula Howe was recognized with flowers and gifts for her contributions to HALL and the library community. The ExxonMobil library will be closing and Paula will be pursuing other endeavors within the company.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

-Dee Dee Mulligan (for Riva Laughlin, HALL 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.

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Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Jeannie Mazzone at jmazzone@stcl.edu or 713-646-2908.

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 and Library School students.

<http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.com/>

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