

November 9, 2011

Update on the Harris
County Law Library

11:45 am

South Texas College of
Law Library

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Continuing Education 2

September Minutes 3

HALL Member Spotlight: Dee
Dee Mulligan 4

Pictures from HALL Fall
Seminar 6

AALL Announcements 7

HALL Letter to Senator
Hutchison 8

HALL Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 5

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2011

From the President

She did it again! After inspiring and insightful speakers at the August and September meetings, Patti and her committee again managed to wow us all with the line-up for the Fall Half-Day Seminar. If you didn't have a chance to join us you missed a great program.

After a breathtaking review of the restoration process of the Julia Ideson Building and the collections it will house by Liz Sargent and Laney McAdow, the following two presentations did not disappoint. South Texas College of Law Professor James Paulsen gave a humorous but nevertheless thoughtful account of Sam Houston's divorce, and Melanie Harshman from the Legislative Reference Library in Austin concluded the seminar reviewing the new search syntax for the library's legislative archive system. I am looking forward to the upcoming programs and I'm sure Patti's gonna do it again.

In other news, I would like to inform you that Genel Moran has stepped down from her position as treasurer for HALL. Thank you, Genel, for your work! As it is mandated in the by-laws, the board named Sarah Gutierrez as treasurer for the remainder of the year. I would like to thank her for stepping up and volunteering.

Hope to see you soon,

-Saskia



*HALL President
Saskia Mehlhorn*

Continuing Education

Finally some Fall weather in Houston! It's a shame the leaves turned brown in July.

We had a great turnout for the September meeting with Dustin Sachs. His presentation was very informative and as predicted a little scary. Anyone else going to be buried with their old computers and smartphones?

The Fall Seminar wouldn't have happened without a lot of help. Thanks to Caren Luckie for bringing in Liz Sargent and Laney McAdow from HMRC. The restored Ideson Building looks amazing and I can't wait to visit. Thanks to Monica Ortale for helping me nab Professor James "Jim" Paulsen for a very entertaining story of Sam Houston's divorce. Nothing like a good historical soap opera. Thanks to Melanie Harshman from the Legislative Reference Library for volunteering to present and giving us a theme. Also, thanks to Barbara Szalkowski for still talking to me after all of the changes to the announcement!

Last, but not least, thanks to Lauren Schoeder and Chris Dykes for being the Continuing Education Committee. I am bummed that Lauren has moved back to Buffalo, but wish her luck in her new position with the FBI. We are going to miss you, but Emily Lawson is stepping in to fill Lauren's spot.



*HALL Vice-President
Patti Curtis*

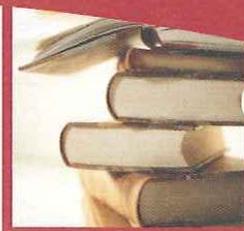
-Patti

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A small image showing a stack of several books, with the spines visible. The books are of various colors and thicknesses, stacked neatly.

HALL Meeting Minutes for September

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2011
South Texas College of Law

Meeting called to order: 12:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: as published in the newsletter

Treasurer's Report: on the tables

New member introduced and welcomed

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Archives: no report

Bylaws: no report

Continuing Education: upcoming meetings

Oct. - half day seminar will deal with Texas law

Nov. - HALL turns 30 or diversity

Dec. - party

Jan. - community service

Feb. - AALL visit

Mar - full day - to GWB library in College Station

Apr. - HALL turns 30 or diversity

May - business meeting

SLA Texas chapter fall meeting Oct. 28 in Dallas

Community Service: no report

Government Relations: new chair - Heather Waltman. Funding cut to GPO, Heather drafted a letter, will post to HALL-L

Library School Liaison: no report

Membership: dues are due

Nominations: no report

Placement: no report

Newsletter: no report

Publications: no report

Scholarships and Grants: no report

Vendor Relations: Oct 20 Knowledge Management - details to follow

Website: historical list of officers now on the website

Announcement - The annual HALL-iday party will include a holiday market. If interested, contact Patti for a table.

Meeting was adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

-Submitted by Riva Laughlin, HALL Secretary

KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



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HALL Member Spotlight: Dee Dee Mulligan

Dee Dee Golden Mulligan is from a small town in Louisiana called Bastrop. I asked her how big it was and she replied, "Well, there are five stop lights from one end to the other." How in the world did this small town girl end up in Houston?

Few of Dee Dee's family members have ventured far from Bastrop. The family business was construction—building gas stations in particular. Dee Dee's father traveled a lot when she was little—but he was always home for Saints games on Sundays! Her mom was an LPN and worked at a medical clinic in a nearby town.

Dee Dee is the first on her Mom's side to graduate from college. She has a degree in social work from University of Louisiana at Monroe (formerly known as Northeast Louisiana University). Dee Dee was very involved with her sorority (Sigma Kappa). Her first "real" job was at a retirement center outside Monroe, and she worked evenings at Chili's. Some of Dee Dee's friends from college were moving to Houston (her best friend got a job as a flight attendant for Continental) and she decided to join them in 2001. Dee Dee found a position at Harris County Child Protective Services as a case manager. Working at CPS was a real eye-opener for Dee Dee and she encountered all kinds of people. She liked working with the kids and tried hard to help them through very difficult situations. After two years she decided she wanted to try another path. She had worked with attorneys when it was necessary to remove a child from a home, and an administrator who worked with these attorneys suggested to Dee Dee that a career as a paralegal or another position in a law firm might be something to think about.



Dee Dee got a contract position at Andrews Kurth in the Library as her first law-related job. She settled in there and enjoyed it very much. She worked there for two years when she decided to pursue her MLS at the University of North Texas. She took several trips to Denton but did most of the work online.

Dee Dee had an exciting year in 2006—she got married, took a new job at Weil Gotshal, and moved to a new house in The Woodlands! She met her husband Troy in 2003, who was a friend of her upstairs neighbor. Their small intimate wedding was held in beautiful Cabo on the beach at sunset, followed by a big reception upon their return. Dee Dee completed her studies and got her MLS degree in 2008.

Miss Olivia Diane Mulligan came along in July 2009! Dee Dee reports Olivia is an exuberant, amazing bundle of energy, and she feels very blessed. Troy travels frequently with his job and spends much time in foreign countries such as Equatorial Guinea and Ghana. Dee Dee holds the fort with Olivia, their three dogs (Mattie, Tucker, and Cabo) and the friendly fish in the 125-gallon saltwater tank.

Dee Dee attends church at The Woodlands Church, and amuses herself with "mindless reality TV" such as *Keeping Up with The Kardashians* and the various *Housewives* shows. She also loves to shop, read on her Kindle, and experience life from the eyes of her 2 year old. She sees her family as much as possible, although her mom is still not a fan of the "big city."

Dee Dee is very much enjoying life as a wife, mother, and professional and is looking forward to an exciting future with her little family.



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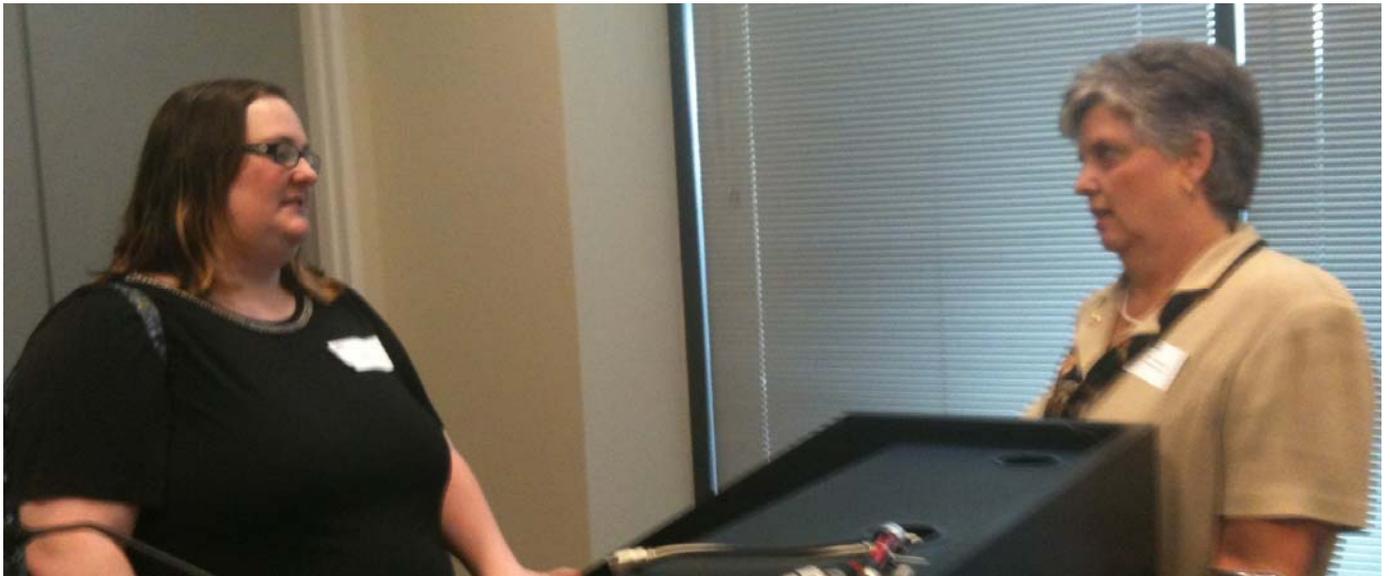
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HALL Fall Seminar October 12, 2011



Clockwise from top left: Speaker Jim Paulsen from South Texas College of Law; Speaker Melanie Harshman from the Legislative Reference Library with HALL President Saskia Mehlhorn; Speaker Laney McA Dow from Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC); HALL Member Nano Scherrieb (right) with speaker Liz Sargent from HMRC



AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: *Overcoming the Challenge of Change*.

This one-hour, 43-minute audio file (mp3) was recorded at the 2011 Northern California Association of Law Libraries Spring Institute and features **Sandra Yancey**, founder and CEO of eWomenNetwork. Through frank discussion of real-life issues, this program will help librarians understand how to personally become an effective "change agent" and overcome obstacles associated with change.

Yancey begins by discussing her own personal journey into business ownership. She then walks audience members through a series of exercises and then discusses the results. She also discusses why little changes went unnoticed and why certain changes happened. Many of these tools and concepts that were incorporated into the session were created by Joel Barker, William Bridges, and Stephen Covey. Through this series of exercises followed by discussion, Yancey provides the audience with a framework whereby they can work with their own staffs to understand the challenges of change in any organization.

Link: <http://www.softconference.com/AALL/sessionDetail.asp?SID=261002>

2011 AALL Salary Survey Available this Fall

The AALL 2011 *Biennial Salary Survey and Organizational Characteristics* will be available to AALL members in mid-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 mid-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.

Link: <http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Publications/salary-survey>

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@bglp.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 Jeannie Mazzone at jmazzone@stcl.edu or 713-646-2908.

Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

HALL Letter to Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Houston Area Law Librarians
P.O. Box 61643
Houston, TX 77208-1643

September 16, 2011

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Legislative Branch Appropriations bill
Funding for the Government Printing Office, including FDsys and FDLP

Dear Senator Hutchison,

As president and vice president of Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL), an organization of almost 200 members, we urge you to support full funding for the Government Printing Office (GPO) at the level requested by the Obama Administration (\$148,474,000) in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2012. The House of Representatives recently passed its version of this bill (H.R. 2551), which drastically reduces funding for the Government Printing Office (GPO) and its programs. We ask for your support in preventing the loss of these great national resources.

Two programs, in particular, will be seriously impacted – the Federal Digital System (FDsys) and the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP). FDsys is the long-awaited and vastly-improved successor to GPOAccess. For many, FDsys has become the go-to source for accurate, authentic government information from all three branches of government. The FDLP has been a vehicle for government documents dissemination for nearly 200 years, and has continued to thrive in the digital era. In order to sustain these programs, and ensure GPO's continued technological progress, we ask that you carefully consider the consequences of cutting GPO's funding. Such an action would be very shortsighted in the midst of so many developments.

An informed citizenry is central to our national identity and essential for the successful functioning of our country. Continued support for FDsys and the FDLP will ensure that all Americans can access the information necessary for effective self government, a right guaranteed by the Constitution. If we wish to sustain the legitimacy and transparency of our government, free and open access to this information, which some have described as the "operating system" of our nation, must not be denied.

While we are keenly aware of the need to reevaluate the Congressional budget, a drastic reduction in funding for FDsys and the FDLP can only harm the American people. We urge you to protect the GPO, FDsys, and the FDLP by rejecting the funding cuts outlined in H.R. 2551. Any supportive action taken in committee, on the floor, in conference, or through any other legislative channels would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Saskia Mehlhorn
President


Patti Curtis
Vice President/President Elect

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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