

Southeastern Law Librarian

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Presidential Ponderings

SEAALL President

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I sat down to draft my first presidential missive pondering how lucky and honored I am to be here. Looking at the list of past presidents leaves me a little awe-struck. I know so many of them as friends, colleagues, and mentors. And the ones I don't know personally, I know by reputation. That got me thinking about how many great people I have come to know through SEAALL over the years. Participation in the organization gives us many opportunities to learn from each other and to encounter each other – attending and presenting programs at the SEAALL annual meeting, chatting at the reception and business meeting at AALL, serving on committees or as officers. We exchange ideas as colleagues and mentors. We reach out to the communities where we host our meetings. We wear seersucker (well, lots of us do) when socializing to create a strong sense of identity. Often, along the way, we become friends. I appreciate all of the opportunities available to me by virtue of membership in SEAALL. Thank you for giving me this additional special opportunity, to serve you as President.

We have concluded a very successful and interesting meeting in Decatur. Thank you to the Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, Sarah Mauldin, and her dedicated crew: Terrance Manion (webmaster), Richelle Reid, Thomas Sneed, Kimberly Snoddy-George, Rebecca Velez, Betty Wright, and Pam Deemer (who, despite being retired, continues to do yeoman service for SEAALL). Their hard work paid off for the attendees, who enjoyed learning and networking and visiting Decatur. Thank you also to the diligent and thoughtful members of the program committee: Jack Bissett, Toral Doshi, Elizabeth Farrell, Emily Marcum, Fran Norton, Sara Sampson, Jenny Wondracek, and Pam Deemer (is there nothing she can't do?).

Not everyone can go to multiple professional meetings in a year. This year the SEAALL meeting in Decatur turns out to have been a preview for AALL in Seattle. Several of the programs on the schedule at SEAALL will be reprised at AALL. In all, I counted nineteen AALL programs and one Hot Topic that were either presented at SEAALL or had speakers from SEAALL. All of the programs look amazing.

I have just finished reading Richard Susskind's new book about the future of the legal profession, *Tomorrow's Lawyers*. Susskind was a keynote speaker at AALL several years ago and is a provocative writer and thinker. He challenges all of us to think about how the profession will change and to prepare ourselves, if not to shape that change then at least to thrive in that changed world. We will have a chance to engage that subject at AALL in a number of sessions, but particularly in the Sunday Hot Topic, which will feature a frank and free-ranging discussion with our SEAALL VIP, Jim Lehmann, managing partner at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLC. Nelson Mullins is one of the largest law firms in the southeast. Mr. Lehmann and Christine Sellers, a research specialist with Nelson Mullins, will talk with us about the economic challenges of the past several years and the foreseeable future and what his firm looks for in the newly graduated lawyers they hire. I will be soliciting questions soon, so please be thinking about what you would ask a managing partner if you had

the chance.

Finally, AALL recently circulated the slate of candidates for the Executive Board positions in the next election. Half of the candidates for national office are members of SEAALL! How great is that?

I hope to see many of you at AALL. Reconnect with colleagues, by stopping at the SEAALL table (if you have time, volunteer to sit there a while) and attending the cocktail hour business meeting. Recharge your batteries with great ideas for the year ahead, by attending workshops, roundtables, and programs. Rethink our value, to prepare for what lies ahead.

PRM

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Reader Feedback

If you have suggestions of articles or features you would like to see in the Southeastern Law Librarian please contact Brian Barnes, bcbarnes@loyno.edu.

LiiLP Workshop Report

D.R. Jones

Associate Dean, Law Library Director and Assistant Professor of Law

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, The University of Memphis

In April 2013, the Kathrine R. Everett Law Library of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and the J. Michael Goodson Law Library of Duke University sponsored the Legal Information and Information Law and Policy (LiiLP) Workshop. Dick Danner from Duke and Anne Klinefelter from UNC organized and coordinated the Workshop, which was held at UNC-Chapel Hill. SEAALL covered the registration fee for Chapter members who were accepted to present at the Workshop. I was one of the members accepted to present at the Workshop.

This excellent Workshop provided a great opportunity for authors to obtain feedback and support during a critical stage in scholarly writing: the review of a draft of an article. Presenting authors were selected in Fall 2012 and submitted their drafts for review by March 1, 2013. Each author's article was assigned to a Workshop faculty member who was an experienced scholar. At the Workshop, there was a 40 minute session devoted to each article (there were concurrent sessions). At each session, the author provided a brief summary of the article. The assigned faculty member then critiqued the draft. Other faculty members and authors also attended these sessions and offered comments and discussion. There were as many as 10 people in a session. This arrangement provided a unique opportunity to discuss a draft and receive feedback from people who not only had read the draft, but had some expertise in the subject discussed. A reception, dinner and lunch provided great opportunities to meet and talk with other scholars who were on the faculty or presenting papers.

There are plans to offer the Workshop again in 2014. Watch for future announcements about the date of the Workshop and application deadlines.

This is a new feature to the Southeastern Law Librarian.

5 Questions ... with Thomas Walter

featuring Thomas Walter,

Reference / Computer Services Librarian @ Mississippi College School of Law

What is your favorite legal book and why?

The obvious answer is mine, because I get paid for it... but that's cheating. I don't spend a lot of time reading novels, and when I do they tend to not be legal related. The last one I can recall reading was *The Pelican Brief* by John Grisham and that was a number of years ago. I would rather have an historical mystery novel or a non-fiction book.

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Who has had the biggest impact on your law librarian career?

No one person really fits that bill. I have learned most of what I know through contact with the various people I have worked with over the years. Every new face in the Library brings new experiences and ideas and presents an opportunity to think about how you do things and adjust the way you approach the job. That is one nice thing about being an academic librarian; every year I get to meet a lot of new people. If I have to be pinned down to one person, I think it would probably be Karin DenBleyker. She opened a lot of the doors that eventually led me to being here.

If you could have a law library animal mascot and danger was not an issue what would you choose and why?

I had to make sure cryptozoological creatures were acceptable, and I was assured they were. That's when the choice became obvious: Bigfoot! That's right, the hairy wonder of the northwest woods and, if you believe the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (<http://www.bfro.net/>), an active denizen of Southeast Mississippi swamps, would make a perfect library mascot. Bigfoot is large, quiet and rarely seen or heard, perfect for a library environment. But the thing about having a bigfoot in your library is: even if you never see or hear him, you know he's there and you are pretty sure you don't want to do anything to make him mad. I have seen the commercials... Bigfoot could rip you limb from limb. Pretty sure patrons will obey the rules with the threat of a Bigfoot hovering over their heads.

If you could change anything in legal publishing or libraries what would it be?

The notion that electronic resources can supplant paper. More and more it seems the pricing of books is structured to force you away from the print material. While electronic resources can provide easier access, there is an impermanency to the information. What we know of ancient civilizations comes from writings in clay, stone and paper. Once the electricity is turned off how will the future know who we are or what we accomplished?

Where is Waldo?

When I was first given this question I pondered how to approach it for a while. The first, most obvious, approach is where am I most happy (laying on my couch reading a book with my son). The second is where would I most like to visit (a toss-up between Wales and Japan). The third approach is someplace in my home town/state everyone should see (a day in the Mississippi Delta can both wow you with the wonders of nature and the abject poverty some people are forced to live in). But I decided to go a different direction altogether. Below is a description of a place I have been (no fair picking a random spot) and really think is worth a visit. The first person to guess the correct answer will receive a prize. Not sure what the prize is yet... this just came to me, but it will be something useful. Email guesses to walter@mc.edu no later than July 15, 2013. So... where's Waldo?

Waldo is standing on a narrow strip of sand, looking out over a small body of water. To his right, a stream falls over a weir of stones to begin its run to the sea. Looking at the stream, you would never guess the river it will become. If you are lucky, like I was, you may even get to see a baby Moose!

SEAALL Business Meeting Minutes

Decatur, GA - April 20, 2013

Ed Hart called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He thanked Bloomberg for sponsoring the business breakfast. A representative of Bloomberg introduced herself and her team. Ed then introduced members of SEAALL's executive board and the new members who won the election: Vice-President/President Elect Fran Norton, Treasurer Kate Irwin-Smiler, and Member-at-Large Christine Sellers.

Ed asked if there were any changes to the minutes of the last business meeting, which took place in Boston, Massachusetts. There were no changes, so Ed called for a motion to approve the minutes. That motion was given and seconded. All voted aye.

Billie Blaine did not attend the meeting in Decatur, so Ed gave the Treasurer's report. Ed reported a balance of \$31,367.07 and that the chapter was doing well.

Ed then asked the committee chairs to give their reports.

Carol Watson reported that the bylaws had been updated and brought into compliance.

Rebekah Maxwell thanked SEAALL members for their generous contributions to the DeKalb County Public Library and passed the donation jar around the room for everyone's final contribution.

Jack Bissett, chair of the Education and Publications Committee, gave the report. The committee has sent the membership almost 30 notices of activities of other chapters within SEAALL's geographic area. After the AALL meeting in Boston, the committee invited members to submit program proposals for the AALL meeting in Seattle. Two program proposals were submitted for review, and one, Emily Marcum's "Get Hired: How to Convey Your Value," was accepted by AALL for its Seattle program. SEAALL has sponsored, and AALL has produced, a webinar called "Technology Skills for the 21st Century Law Librarian: What's in Your CV?" It will be presented on Wednesday, June 5, 2013.

Sarah Mauldin gave the report for the Local Arrangements Committee. She presented the Decatur meeting itself as her report. Ed thanked Sarah and presented a certificate to her for her work.

Ryan Valentin gave the report for the Membership Committee. He said that the committee is working with the SEAALL webmasters to make a better membership directory. Letters that welcome new members and that solicit new AALL members to join SEAALL are sent out periodically. SEAALL has added 50 new members this year for a total membership of 597. At the AALL meeting in Boston, SEAALL had a table that featured pens, Post-It notes, and beverage coasters, all with the SEAALL logo. SEAALL will have a similar table at AALL's meeting in Seattle.

Ed presented lifetime membership awards to Pam Deemer and Sally Wambold.

Beau Steenken, the chair of the Placement Committee, reported that SEAALL had maintained a private room at the Decatur conference. The committee is looking forward to providing more positions for its members.

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Business Meeting Minutes - From Previous Page

Heather Casey, chair of the Newsletter and Public Relations Committee, mentioned the SEAALL1 Twitter account. She noted that last year four issues of the newsletter, including a special election issue, were published. Heather said members should contact Brian Barnes if they have ideas for articles, and she encouraged everyone to submit publications to the newsletter.

Elizabeth Outler gave the report for the Scholarship Committee. Elizabeth informed everyone that almost \$13,000 in scholarships has been awarded, and she named those who received the scholarships.

Wendy Moore is the chair of the Post-COSELL Options task force that will determine what SEAALL may get from COSELL. She reported that the task force had made a recommendation to the SEAALL board.

Tina Brooks provided the SEAALL webmaster report. The webmasters are archiving the past SEAALL annual conference websites, and they are looking into creating a searchable database for the membership directory.

Katherine Marsh of Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law Library reported on the arrangements for our next meeting in Knoxville, TN. She introduced members of the Local Arrangements Committee and, in a drawing where Ed drew the name of the winner, gave away a gift basket to Pam Brannon.

Carol Watson, Pam Deemer, and Georgia Chadwick announced this year's winner of the Service to SEAALL award, Jack Bissett.

Ed gave certificates to Carol Watson and Jason Sowards for their service to SEAALL. Billie Blaine, who was not at the Decatur meeting, also received a certificate.

Ed offered his thanks to the membership for the year he served as its president and then passed the gavel to SEAALL's new president, Pamela Melton. Pamela thanked the committee members of the Program Committee and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was given and seconded. The meeting ended at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nick Sexton
SEAALL Secretary

2012-13 SEAALL Articles & Bylaws Committee Report

The SEAALL bylaws were revised to be more in line with AALL's bylaws. Aside from several minor text revisions, in particular, an anti-discrimination clause was added. The newly revised bylaws were voted on and adopted at the July 23, 2012 SEAALL business meeting held at AALL.

Submitted by Carol A. Watson, chair of the Articles & Bylaws Committee

2013 SEAALL Placement Committee Report

The Placement Committee posted vacancies to the SEAALL website throughout 2012-2013. Below are the statistics for this period:

April 2012	2
May 2012	4
June 2012	4
July 2012	2
Aug. 2012	1
Sept. 2012	2
Oct. 2012	3
Nov. 2012	1
Dec. 2012	1
Jan. 2013	0
Feb 2013	1
Mar. 2013	3
Apr. 2013	4

The total number of job postings was 28. The Placement Committee would like to thank Tina Brooks at the University of Kentucky and Sharon Bradley at the University of Georgia for their service as Webmaster and posting jobs to the SEAALL website.

In addition to posting jobs to the SEAALL website, the Committee entered into a partnership with the SEAALL newsletter, The Southeastern Law Librarian, listing current postings in each issue. The Committee also created an Interview Tips sheet, which offers suggestions to job seekers. This sheet is posted on the Committee's webpage and was made available to members at the Placement Services table in Decatur.

The Committee continued its email discussion about the charge of the Committee, its size, and its feasibility in the future, which was carried over from the previous year. The Committee recommended to the SEAALL Board that new prospective members be advised of the expected workload: light during the year with most of the activity taking place with Placement Services at the Annual Meeting.

The Committee also maintained Placement Services both in person and via email during the Annual Meeting in Decatur. Information about current vacancies was available at the Placement Services table; the Committee also collected resumes on behalf of applicants, passing them along to potential employers which were interviewing on-site. Members concerned about privacy were also able to request information and submit resumes to Placement Services via a new email system. Thank you to all attending Committee members who assisted with setup and manning the table.

I would also like to thank this year's Placement Committee members for their work throughout the year: Suzanne Corriell, Scott Craft; Michelle Cosby, Katherine Marsh, Beau Steenken, and Lisa Watson.

Next year's chair of the committee will be Beau Steenken.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Schander
Chair

SEAALL Library Profile

Belmont College of Law Library

Information by Nathan Collins, Layout by Brian Barnes



At the Belmont College of Law in Nashville, Tennessee, our beautiful two-story library clearly serves as the heart of the law school experience for faculty, students, staff, and visitors. With its striking architecture and state-of-the-art amenities, the library joins traditional quiet study areas with spaces for collaborative work and informal socializing. The library has seating for more than 300 patrons which includes eight group study rooms, a legal research classroom, and a quiet reading room. The library is on the second and third floor of the law college's 75,000 square-foot Randall and Sadie Baskin Center, located directly on the Belmont campus. The Baskin Center also contains three courtrooms, 14 class rooms, offices for more than 25 faculty members, and an underground parking garage with over 500 parking spaces.

The Law Library maintains both print and digital resources and is particularly strong in U.S. Supreme Court materials, church/state law, Tennessee legal materials, as well as emerging fields of law such as bioethics/biotechnology, and digital law. Furthermore, the library is building strong collections in Health Law and Entertainment and Music Business Law to build on Belmont University's successful programs in these areas.

The Law Library has adopted policies that help create a user-friendly environment and one that encourages use of the facility. "Putting students first" is the mantra of the library. Thus, conversation in reasonable tones by students and patrons is permissible, food and drinks are allowed in the library with limited exceptions, and many popular magazine and newspaper titles are available for student leisure reading.

The Belmont Law Library serves as a beautiful and functional space for faculty, students, and the wider Nashville community, as well as providing all the necessary resources to further Belmont's mission of emphasizing challenging academics, a service-minded approach, real-world experience, and community leadership. Please stop by when you are in the Nashville area!



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Have an idea to share?

Need publications to help with achieving
promotion or tenure?

Want to promote a project you have done at
your library?

Become an author in the Southeastern
Law Librarian !!!

Contact Brian Barnes, bcarnes@loyno.edu.

Announcements

Make AALL Count: Learn Something New!

At FCIL's program, *Piercing the Veil of Sovereignty: The Sources of International Human Rights Law*, you'll learn how the major human rights institutions work, how to analyze human rights issues, and where relevant legal sources are most likely to be found. In the first part Marci Hoffman and Mary Rumsey will describe the charter-based and treaty-based bodies of the UN. In the second part Gloria Orrego Hoyos of Argentina will cover the OAS, Inter-American Commission, and Inter-American Court's activities; and James Hart will describe the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. The program is co-sponsored by ALL and RIPS. Both parts will be on Sunday, July 22nd ; the first will be from 1:15 to 2:45 in HCC room 312 and the second will be from 3:45 to 5:00 in the same room. Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Rumsey are the authors of *INTERNATIONAL AND FOREIGN LEGAL RESEARCH* (Martinus Nijhoff 2nd ed. 2012). Ms. Orrego Hoyos was the winner of the Schaffer Grant for Foreign Law Librarians last year and Mr. Hart is the author of *The European Human Rights System*, 102 *Law Libr. J.* 533 (2010).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

James Hart

2012 AALL Price Index for Legal Publications Now Available

The [2012 AALL Price Index for Legal Publications](#) is now available on AALLNET. The table-based report includes details for the mean cost of titles and percentage increases over previous years for serial publications, legal periodicals, loose-leaf services, commercially published court reporters, and supplemented treatises.

The purpose of the Price Index is to provide members with comparative information about past price changes to help with budgeting and collection development decisions. In gathering information for the Price Index, the committee asks publishers to provide their pricing. If a publisher declines to do so, its pricing is not included in the index.

Spring 2013 Law Library Journal Available

The [Spring 2013 issue](#) of *Law Library Journal* is now available and has been mailed to members. The issue features articles on the legislative history of the Affordable Care Act and how the history of that legislation is an example of the changing process needed to research federal legislative history; how academic law librarians can help their law schools enhance the visibility of faculty scholarship; and ways that training for foreign, comparative, and international law librarians can be improved.

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Uniform Changes

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For anyone who watches sports these days and also has a historical aspect of sports you can attest that we are now in an era of uniform changes. There are a few holdouts like the New York Yankees with their home pinstripes but by in large teams have all sorts of uniforms to wear these days. This is driven by marketing to sell more uniforms and in an attempt to be hip and cool.

This comment is not on the dress of law librarians today, I'll pass on that, but about how law librarianship is hanging rather rapidly on how we are perceived and the image we portray as professionals. Some in our schools and universities think librarians are an outdated idea that have been replaced by online resources. I know this was the talked about fear that we all dismissed 10 years ago because it was "silly" but I don't think administrators understand just how that belief is silly and when it comes time to save some money that "silly" idea all the sudden becomes useful. Instead of falling victim to "silly" ideas like this librarians should be proactive and stay ahead of changes.

In staying ahead of changes it is important to realize some others in our schools see us as valuable, with libraries generally providing value but in times of reorganizations many new tasks get assigned to librarians. Libraries that once were separate from IT are now taking over labs; libraries that provide valuable print materials are seeing books pulled from shelves to provide study rooms; libraries then see study rooms turned into storage for other departments or offices for faculty or growing administration departments. All of these changes if looked at in a positive way can just be seen as uniform changes. Things to make us more marketable, and at times more hip and cool. More study rooms are cool to serious students, libraries taking over labs make them more valuable.

In the end we as librarians need to recognize that change is going to happen either with us or without, and if we can seize onto that newly possible value we can make our libraries even more essential than they were in the past.

Submission Guidelines

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Brian C. Barnes -- Deputy Law Library Director -- Loyola New Orleans -- bcbarnes@loyno.edu

Submissions are preferred to be sent electronically in MS Word format.

Newsletter Deadlines are:

Spring -- May 31, 2013

Summer -- August 31, 2013

Fall -- November 30, 2013

Winter -- February 28, 2014

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