2020 AALL IN-PERSON ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED / VIRTUAL MEETING IN THE WORKS

In response to continued concerns related to COVID-19, the AALL Executive Board made the very difficult decision to cancel the in-person AALL Annual Meeting & Conference scheduled for this July in New Orleans. The Board’s detailed decision is outlined in last Friday’s eBriefing. If you had registered early for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, you will be receiving a separate email regarding available options. Those options include a full refund or deferring your registration to the 2021 AALL Annual Meeting in Cleveland. If you made a hotel reservation for the AALL Annual Meeting within AALL’s block of rooms, AALL will cancel this reservation.

Information for exhibitors and sponsors will be forthcoming.

VIRTUAL MEETING

The Executive Board and AALL staff are working with AALL committees, juries, and other entities to develop a plan to provide a virtual meeting option during the summer months in lieu of the in-person Annual Meeting. Stay tuned--more details will be forthcoming.

AALL Headquarters staff is here to assist you and answer any questions you may have--please call AALL Headquarters at 312.939.4764 or email leadership@aall.org. We are #AALLin this together. Visit AALL’s COVID-19 webpage for the latest information and resources.

AALL CONNECTION THIS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

As a follow-up to the Spring AALL Executive Board meeting and also to update you on what the Association is doing during these uncertain times, please register for the next AALL Connection this Wednesday.

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2020
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. (CDT)
Register Now

This session will be recorded and made available to members on AALLNET.

We encourage you to submit questions ahead of time to leadership@aall.org. You can also submit questions via live chat, if time permits.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / INVEST IN YOURSELF
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL GRACE PERIOD & UNEMPLOYED RATE

Renewals for the 2020-2021 membership year are open. During these challenging times, AALL is offering a ninety-day grace period before your member benefits cease. The grace period runs from June 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020. As we continue to navigate this constantly evolving health crisis, it is more important than ever for law librarians and legal information professionals to support each other. AALL will continue to provide you with the right tools and resources to keep you moving forward.

AALL offers a discounted membership rate for members who are recently unemployed (verification required). If your employment situation has changed and you wish to receive this discount, please contact member services.

To renew your membership log in to your AALLNET account.  

WASHINGTON UPDATE

AALL PRESIDENT TO SPEAK ON FEDERAL eRULEMAKING PANEL

On April 30, AALL President Michelle Cosby will participate in the General Services Administration's (GSA) virtual public meeting on Improving Public Access to Regulatory Data. President Cosby will describe how law librarians and legal information professionals use Regulations.gov, and offer suggestions to improve Regulations.gov to support the legal information profession. The event is part of GSA's efforts to modernize electronic rulemaking. Register for the virtual public meeting to receive a link to the livestream.

NEW FEDERAL AID PACKAGE REPLENISHES SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PROGRAMS

On April 24, President Donald Trump signed the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (P.L. 116-139) to provide nearly $500 billion in additional funding for economic relief programs to help small businesses including solo and small law firms; nonprofits; independent contractors; and self-employed individuals.

The Act provides an additional $321 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), $60 billion of which is designated for loans made by small and mid-sized insured depository institutions and credit unions. The package also provides $10 billion for grants under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. In addition to aid for small businesses, the Act includes $75 billion in emergency relief for hospitals and $25 billion to increase coronavirus testing.

For more information about help for small businesses, including the latest news about available funding, eligibility information, and how to apply, see the SBA's Coronavirus Relief Options webpage.

U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES GEORGIA’S OFFICIAL ANNOTATED CODE MAY NOT BE COPYRIGHTED

The U.S. Supreme Court has issued its opinion in Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org Inc., finding that the Official Code of Georgia Annotated is not eligible for copyright protection. Writing for the 5-4 majority, Chief Justice Roberts stated that, "Because Georgia's annotations are authored by
an arm of the legislature in the course of its legislative duties, the government edicts doctrine puts them outside the reach of copyright protection." This finding supports AALL's position, expressed in an amicus brief with other national library associations, that government information should be in the public domain and available to the public without restriction.

UPCOMING WEBINARS / REGISTER NOW

AALL CONSULTING SERVICES WEBINAR

LAST DAY TO REGISTER

- Thursday, April 30, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- Register by Monday, April 27, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

During this webinar, learn about AALL's new pilot project, AALL Consulting Services, which aims to connect law schools, law firms, and government agencies with highly qualified law librarians who can provide expertise for strategic projects. Immediate Past President Femi Cadmus will explain the initiative's strategic goals, the application process for members, and how member-consultants will be matched with clients.

USING COGNITIVE THEORY TO BOOST LONG-TERM RETENTION OF LEGAL RESEARCH SKILLS

- Wednesday, May 20, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- Register by Monday, May 18, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

Having a baseline understanding of cognitive theory and educational psychology is critical to ensuring students/patrons learn effectively. This webinar will discuss key concepts from cognitive learning science and give concrete examples of how librarians can incorporate these theories into their instructional choices.

AALL OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

AALL is committed to providing opportunities for professional growth. Each year, the Association awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to assist individuals in meeting their educational and professional development goals in the field of legal information.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
For those working in academic institutions, please encourage your students to apply for the following scholarships.
• **AALL Scholarships** (for MLIS/JD degree-seeking students or MLIS graduates seeking a degree in an area, other than law, which will be beneficial to the development of a professional career in law librarianship)

• **LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship** (for MLIS/JD degree-seeking students or MLIS graduates seeking a degree in an area, other than law, which will be beneficial to the development of a professional career in law librarianship)

• **George A. Strait Minority Scholarship & Fellowship** (for MLIS or JD degree-seeking students)

**OTHER**

• **Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship** (for state, court, or county law librarian AALL members to attend continuing education programs)

The deadline for all applications is May 15, 2020. To learn more about the scholarships and applications process, please contact AALL.

**INSPIRATIONAL STORIES AMID COVID-19**

AALL members and their organizations are helping students, lawyers, judges, and the public during the COVID-19 crisis. Here are just a few highlights that show how amazing law librarians and legal information professionals truly are.

• **Joseph Lawson**, deputy director, Harris County Law Library - "If you're like me, you're rounding out a difficult week of grueling uncertainty. I know many of us who provide services to the public are feeling disconnected from our patrons and may be a bit unsure about the effect of our 'virtual services.'" That's why I knew I had to share a comment one of our law librarians received after exchanging several emails with a patron who is going through a difficult employment situation:
  - "You are awesome; thank you for your help and guidance. May God keep you and your love ones safe during this COVID crisis."

• **Maria Sosnowski**, Clark County law librarian - "I have heard from self-represented litigants who had issues while our library is physically closed. They have all been grateful for the information and/or links we have been able to provide them. It's good to know that we can still help some people even while physically closed. An attorney asked about a particular citation as well as also information on the topic. I was able to log in remotely and use Westlaw to look around for her, and sent her the citation and also a few more things that I thought would be of help. She won her motion using the material I sent."
  - "Wow! What a wonderful gift."

If you have received any feel-good responses or feedback for the hard work of your legal information professionals and library staff, please email Heather Haemker, AALL director of marketing & communications, and/or Megan Mall, AALL director of content strategy, and tell us about it. Your story may appear in a future Weekly eNewsletter.