COVID-19 UPDATES

Due 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. If you had registered early for the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, you should have received a separate email regarding available options last week. 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 ANNUAL 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. 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 / Q&As

During last Wednesday’s AALL Connection, we experienced a few technical issues where participants’ questions did not display during the live event, however, they were captured in the post-event report. AALL President Michelle Cosby reached out to all members who asked questions with a reply. To keep you informed of the questions asked, please find the questions and responses below.

• How will AALL support SISs as they need to move their business meetings online?
  ○ AALL provides the GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar license for SISs to use for free. SISs may request to use this license to conduct their business meetings virtually.

• Do you anticipate an in-person conference next summer?
  ○ At this time, we anticipate an in-person July 2021 Annual Meeting in Cleveland. We will continue to monitor the situation for the health and safety of our members.

• When will the virtual conference program and cost be in place?
  ○ Unfortunately, we do not have a final answer for this at this time. We are still evaluating the best platform provider for the virtual conference. Once the information is finalized, AALL President Michelle Cosby, will send out an eBriefing
Is there a chance of hearing some of the programs that would have been offered in New Orleans?
- Yes, we will be using existing programs from our original New Orleans lineup for our virtual conference content. Some additional hot topic programs may also be offered to reflect the current situation.

If we chose to apply Annual Meeting credit to Cleveland but a virtual meeting is offered, will our credit be applied to the virtual meeting?
- Your credit will not be applied to the virtual meeting if you selected to rollover your registration to Cleveland and did not select that you are interested in a virtual conference. If you would like to use your credit toward the virtual conference instead and receive a partial refund, please contact leadership@aall.org.

Will there be a virtual General Business Meeting/Open Forum this year? If so, will it be possible to submit questions?
- Yes, we will be having a virtual General Business Meeting and Members Open Forum. There will be an opportunity to submit questions ahead of time. There will also be a live Q&A session during the Open Forum.

Are all preconference workshops cancelled as well, or is there a plan to work with committees for virtual offerings?
- It is likely that the preconference workshops will not be held as part of the virtual conference platform. However, we are working to determine if they can be offered as separate virtual events. The AMPC is working on logistics for all of our sessions and we will know more in the coming weeks and will share that with membership. There are plans to work with AALL Committees and SISs for virtual committee meetings as needed. The logistics of this are also still being worked out and more information will be available in the coming weeks.

How will you decide which 2020 AALL programs to provide virtually?
- The AMPC has been tasked with determining which 2020 programs will be offered virtually. They are still in the research phase of how they will proceed. They are also surveying current program coordinators and speakers to help with their determination.

If you missed the AALL Connection, the recording is available on AALL2go. The next AALL Connection will be held after the Executive Board meeting in July.

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.

**IMPROVED AALL CAREER CENTER LAUNCHING THIS WEEK**

The AALL Career Center is changing its career provider and the revamped Career Center will go live this Wednesday. The redesigned Career Center will feature single single-on (you'll use your AALL website credentials to log in) and an updated look and feel. The AALL Career Center is the most effective way to connect job seekers to job opportunities in the legal information profession. We hope this redesigned Career Center will better serve you as both an employer and/or job seeker.

**WASHINGTON UPDATE**

**AALL URGES CONGRESS TO MEET FISCAL NEEDS OF GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE AND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

AALL wrote to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch, in support of the Fiscal Year 2021 funding requests of the Government Publishing Office (GPO) and the Library of Congress. AALL believes that approving the immediate fiscal needs of GPO and the Library of Congress will be a valuable use of limited resources as the workload for these agencies has increased during the current pandemic. Funding will enable GPO and the Library of Congress to meet their important missions to provide permanent public access to and preservation of essential government information.

**AALL PRESIDENT PROVIDES REMARKS AT GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION'S eRULEMAKING PANEL**

On April 30, AALL President Michelle Cosby participated in the General Services Administration's (GSA) virtual public meeting on Improving Public Access to Regulatory Data. President Cosby provided remarks about how law librarians and legal information professionals use Regulations.gov, and offered suggestions to improve Regulations.gov to support the legal information profession. AALL's suggestions included that GSA integrate regulatory information systems and improve collaboration with other agencies, and that GSA improve the ability of users to move between the various stages of a rulemaking, from law, to regulation, to the U.S. Code. AALL also encouraged GSA to provide additional explanatory materials—including administrative law guides produced by law libraries—to Regulations.gov to help users learn more about rulemaking and encourage informed participation in the rulemaking process. The event was part of GSA's efforts to modernize electronic rulemaking. The video recording and transcript will be made available on Regulations.gov at a later date (Docket Number GSA-GSA-2019-0002).

**UPCOMING CHATS & WEBINARS / REGISTER NOW**
VIRTUAL COFFEE CHAT: CHECKING IN WITH NEWER LAW LIBRARIANS / LAST DAY TO REGISTER

- Tuesday, May 5, 2020 / 3:00 p.m. (CDT)
- Register by today Monday, May 4, 2020

If you're newer to law librarianship, you have a unique perspective on the path you've taken, what excites you most about the profession, and how you were prepared (or not prepared) for entering the field. Throw in a pandemic, and we're guessing there's plenty to talk about. Connect with your colleagues for our next informal virtual coffee chat, moderated by Jenna Pontious, Riverside County Law Library, and Geraldine Kalim, University of Georgia.

A NEW ENVIRONMENT OF CHALLENGES: HOW LAW LIBRARIANS AS TECHNOLOGY STEWARDS CAN DIRECTLY IMPROVE FIRM PROFITABILITY (THOMSON REUTERS PARTNER WEBINAR)

- Friday, May 15, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- Register by Wednesday, May 13, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

Unprecedented change in the legal industry is upon us, magnifying the financial impact of operational inefficiencies within law firms. More adoption of technology has occurred in the last month than in years prior. Librarians who adapt and become technology enablers will directly enhance their firm's financial bottom line. During this webinar, learn concepts for identifying and understanding the cost of firm inefficiencies, how a new frontier of data-centric technologies can streamline in-office/remote workflows, and how to create service-driven solutions for attorneys and 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

**APPLY FOR AN AALL GRANT**

**AALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT**

Does your chapter, special interest section, committee, or caucus have an educational event (virtual or in-person) that needs funding? If so, consider applying for an AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant. Grant requests are accepted at various times throughout the year. The next deadline for grant applications has been extended to May 15, 2020.

**AALL LEXISNEXIS RESEARCH GRANT**

AALL LexisNexis Research Grant Jury is accepting applications through May 15 for research grants totaling up to $5,000 from the AALL Research Fund (An Endowment Established by LexisNexis). Established in July 2000, the annual grants fund large or small research projects that create, disseminate, or use legal and library-related information. The AALL Research Agenda offers suggestions for possible research projects that cover a wide range of professional interests. Access the complete guidelines and apply for a grant by May 15, 2020. Grants will be awarded and announced by the end of May.

**SPOTLIGHT ON AALL2GO**

AALL2go provides members with complimentary access to Annual Meeting recordings, CPE Grant recipient recordings, and webinar recordings including last week’s AALL Connection and Consulting Services webinar. Below are some recent recordings you may have missed:

- AALL Consulting Services Webinar
- AALL Connection: April 2020
- Effective Leadership With Virtual Teams: to Infinity and Beyond
- Live Interview Series: So, You Wanna Work Intergenerationally?

**COMMUNITY WEBINARS / REGISTER NOW**

**LIVE INTERVIEW SERIES: SO, YOU WANNA LEARN CULTURAL COMPETENCE?**

- Thursday, May 14, 2020 / 12:00 p.m. (CDT)
- **Register** by Tuesday, May 12, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

In recent years, law librarian scholars have brought discussions of cultural competence and implicit bias to the forefront. Now that we are aware of the issues implicit bias can raise, what do we do about it? This month, in our “So You Wanna...?” interview, we will speak with Michele A. L. Villagran and Shamika Dalton. Shamika Dalton is an associate professor and associate director of the Katz Law Library, and has led much of the discussion about implicit bias and law librarianship, presenting on the topic at recent workshops and conferences. Michele A. L. Villagran is an assistant professor at San Jose State University’s School of Information and was named a
"Leader of Today" in the second edition of *Celebrating Diversity: A Legacy of Minority Leadership in the American Association of Law Libraries* to which she contributed two chapters. This series is brought to you by the Professional Engagement, Growth & Advancement Special Interest Section and the AALL Continuing Professional Education Committee.

**DIVERSITY DIALOGUES: BUILDING PIPELINES FOR DIVERSITY**

- Thursday, May 28, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- **Register** by Tuesday, May 26, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60

Dillard University won the 2018 American Bar Association Diversity Leadership Award for its collection of initiatives designed to build a pipeline for underrepresented students seeking to enter the legal profession. Adria Kimbrough, pre-law advisor at Dillard University will provide a quick background on Dillard's different programs, as well as discuss development opportunities and program effectiveness. Come prepared to engage with Kimbrough and learn strategies to implement in your own organization.

**INSPIRATIONAL STORIES AMID COVID-19**

AALL members and their organizations are helping students, lawyers, judges, and the public during the COVID-19 crisis. Here is another highlight that shows how amazing law librarians and legal information professionals truly are.

- **Holly Riccio**, Director of the California Judicial Center Library - "We had a week's worth of in-person, in-office events—both educational and fun—planned to celebrate National Library Week, but put them all on hold when we transitioned to working remotely. Initially, we decided just to celebrate later in the year, but then we pivoted and did what we called National Library Week Celebration Plan B—The Virtual Edition. Each day, I sent an email and included two “book stories” from staff—stories that shared our personal connections with a special book, whether that was something inspirational that we read recently, or books from our childhoods that still held fond memories and shaped who we are today. We also asked court justices, attorneys, and staff to participate, and compiled and shared their "book story" responses to close out the week.
  - "Thanks for all of these vignettes this week. I think it’s true that the judicial branch is full of book lovers. These stories have reminded me of many favorite books, and all of the new books I have yet to read!"
  - "Thanks to all of you for putting these together! It has been a pleasure to read your stories and to get to know each of you a little bit better. This was an inspired way to have a digital/remote National Library Week."

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.