AALL Weekly eNews

JUNE 29, 2020

AALL 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE / REGISTER NOW

Only 15 more days until AALL's Virtual Conference, July 13-17, 2020. Register now to get access to programs that will help you grow professionally and personally. If you have been waiting to see the programs offered before you register, the complete schedule of livestreamed sessions is now available on AALLNET. The conference includes a virtual exhibit hall and more than 20 livestreamed sessions--covering valuable topics, including enhancing research services, delivering more effective legal instruction, navigating remote work, and adapting to and preparing for a profession changed by COVID-19. Numerous prerecorded sessions will be made available to Conference registrants the week of July 20 with some live chat options with speakers.

Monday, July 13 is a partner solutions day where registrants may explore and connect with providers of legal information products and services via the Virtual Exhibit Hall. Participate in the daily raffle drawing for a chance to win prizes, including a New Orleans gift basket, a 2021 AALL Annual Meeting registration, and more. Winners will be contacted via email, and their names will be announced each day via social media as well as announced in the July Monthly eNewsletter. Livestreamed sessions begin on Tuesday, July 14, including an interactive discussion between AALL President Michelle Cosby and keynote speaker Jim Kwik, learning coach and advisor to many of the world's leading CEOs and celebrities.

REGISTER FOR CONELL / FREE FOR AALL MEMBERS

The Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) is AALL's orientation to welcome newer members, introduce them to AALL, and facilitate networking with peers. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from representatives of AALL and some of our special groups to learn firsthand how to get involved and maximize the benefits of membership. CONELL includes a happy hour the evening before the program. Register now to make connections that will last your whole career.

VIRTUAL COMPETITIVE INTELLIGENCE STRATEGIES & ANALYSIS / REGISTER NOW

- Dates: September 9-30, 2020
- Register by August 28, 2020
- Cost: $395 - members / $589 - nonmembers
AALL's four-week Competitive Intelligence Strategies & Analysis virtual course is designed to build capabilities in performing critical competitive intelligence (CI) work. Learn skills essential to growing a CI function, examine, practice, and discuss techniques with other professionals, and network with peers from various settings.

**Offered by the American Association of Law Libraries in partnership with:**

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**RENEW YOUR 2020-2021 AALL MEMBERSHIP**

Renew your 2020-2021 AALL membership today—don't miss out on the exclusive benefits that being an AALL member provides. AALL is offering a 90-day grace period before your member benefits cease. The grace period runs from June 1, 2020 through September 1, 2020. Membership dues are $270 and include access to outstanding educational content, programs to grow professionally, carefully curated publications, a vast network of professional colleagues, and more—a total value worth more than $2,120.

In addition, AALL offers a discounted membership rate for members who are 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.

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**AALL CONSULTING SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY**

AALL encourages experts in diversity, inclusion, and equity to apply for AALL's Consulting Services pilot project. The goal of this initiative is to connect organizations with experienced law librarians to solve strategic and leadership challenges. Other areas of focus include data analysis and predictive analytics strategy, law library assessment and guidance, legal research strategy, and strategic planning, benchmarking, and environmental scanning.

Members with 10 years or more of professional experience are encouraged to apply. Previous consulting experience is not required. Clients in need of these services are welcome to enroll. Please contact Megan Mall, director of content strategy, with questions.
Our last virtual coffee chat, "Giving Voice to What Weighs Upon Us," brought AALL members together to examine biases and disparities within the profession, and to discuss ways that we can better support our colleagues. Please join us once again for a continuation of this discussion, co-moderated by Casandra Laskowski, Duke University School of Law and Clanitra Stewart Nejdi, Vanderbilt University. This critical conversation will be another opportunity for AALL members to share their experiences, voice their concerns, and express their hopes.

A CHAT WITH THE 2020 AALL EXECUTIVE BOARD CANDIDATES

Come "Meet the Candidates" during an informal virtual coffee chat on Wednesday, July 29, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Members can chat with candidates running for the AALL Executive Board. The chat will be co-moderated by Mary Jenkins, incoming AALL Executive Board Secretary and Luis Acosta, outgoing AALL Executive Board Secretary.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A COFFEE CHAT?

AALL Coffee Chats allow members to chat about the most pressing issues of the day. Do you have an idea, or want to have an informal conversation on a particular legal information/library topic? Send your topic (and moderator) ideas to prof-edu@aall.org.

UPCOMING WEBINAR / REGISTER NOW

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING CHALLENGING BEHAVIORS IN THE LIBRARY

- Thursday, July 23, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. (CDT)
- Register by Monday, July 20, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - $60
For some patrons, a visit to a law library can be difficult. This can lead to behaviors that are challenging for staff. In this session, learners will develop strategies for preventing and de-escalating conflict, including use of body language, wording considerations, and equitably enforcing guidelines. Learn strategies for working on solutions, both for teams and solo librarians, and explore how to prepare for dealing with challenging situations while still taking care of yourself. This webinar will also provide tips for implementing these strategies while teleworking. Librarians who work directly with the public, especially in smaller institutions, administrators at courts, academic institutions, law firms, and other organizations are encouraged to attend.

COMMUNITY WEBINAR / REGISTER NOW

CAUGHT! RANSOMWARE, HOW IT WORKS, AND HOW TO AVOID ATTACKS

- Thursday, July 9, 2020 / 12:00 p.m. (CDT)
- Contact Kristina Niedringhaus to register
- Open to all AALL members

In this webinar from the Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals Special Interest Section (PLLIP-SIS), Debbie Ginsberg will talk about ransomware, showcasing several recent cases in law and government. She will examine how ransomware occurs and who is most vulnerable. Additionally, she'll provide tips for avoiding attacks as well as how to respond when an attack occurs.

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.

- **Kelly Leong**, Head of Reference, Maloney Law Library, Fordham Law School - "Like many law schools, Fordham made additional funding available for faculty research assistants. For many years, the Maloney Library has offered a faculty research training at the beginning of every summer. It has been well received in the past with 30 to 40 research assistants attending. This year, we had over 100 research assistants. The student feedback we collected was very positive. The training has also resulted in an influx of reference interactions with research assistants with many of these interactions happening over Zoom. One of our biggest concerns was that we would lose touch with students without the physical space of the library, but it feels like just the opposite. While all the library staff is eager to return to our physical space, without the comforting notion that a librarian is sitting at the reference desk waiting to answer questions, research assistants seem more amenable to reaching out early and often for assistance."

- **Patrick Parsons**, Coordinator of Reference and Instruction Services, Georgia State University College of Law Library - "This summer, as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, a bunch of students from Georgia Law Schools lost their summer positions. A staff attorney
in town decided to create a virtual clerkship program, where Georgia judges sign on to take an extra virtual clerk to mentor. There was a pretty extensive orientation and weekly requirements for the program such as attending virtual hearings and talking with the judges, as well as to mentor attorneys once a month. The Dean of Students from Georgia State College of Law pulled me in to see if I would do a research presentation. Instead of doing an hour-long Zoom call, which I thought would be boring, I created three 25-minute interactive videos designed to help the students with their capstone project. The videos focused on 1) a review of basic legal research tools; 2) a more in-depth Secondary Sources refresher; and 3) a video on how to get started researching your topics.

I suggested that the students create an in-depth research guide and memo that would eventually be collected and made available for all judges taking part in the program. I ended up writing a suggested research guide and memo assignment, which was provided to the students in their orientation packet. It's up to the judges what they want to assign, but I'm confident a large number of students will be working on the project. Finally, the Georgia State University College of Law Library offered both references services to the students and a place to archive the research guides when completed. We also offer reference assistance to all students (even those attending other law schools) via our online chat."

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 tell us about it. Your story may appear in a future Weekly eNewsletter