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AALL NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020

VOTING FOR AALL'S 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS OPENS OCTOBER 1

Online voting for the AALL vice president/president-elect and Executive Board members opens on **Thursday, October 1 and runs through 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on Saturday, October 31**. Voting instructions will be emailed out to all eligible voters the morning of October 1. Please contact [Christopher Siwa](#), AALL director of information technology, by Monday, September 28 if you prefer to receive a paper ballot for the upcoming election.

Members of the AALL Executive Board ensure that decisions made are consistent with [AALL's mission, vision and strategic plan](#) while continuing to increase the value proposition of the Association. It's important to make an educated decision, and we encourage you to learn more about the candidates before voting by listening to the [Candidates Forum recordings](#), and reading their [biographies and statements](#), as well as the Q&As with the candidates featured in the July/August issue of [AALL Spectrum](#).

Candidates Forum for Executive Board

- September 21, 2020
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register by Friday, September 18](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Members will have the opportunity to ask questions during the forum via live chat. Greg Lambert, chair of the Nominations Committee and past AALL President, will serve as moderator for the forum.

QUICK LINKS

- [AALL Events Calendar](#)
- [AALL Career Center](#)
- [AALL News](#)
- [Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)

STAY CONNECTED



CONTACT US

We encourage you to [send us](#) your suggestions and comments.

STAY INFORMED

[Join](#) our mailing list.

UPCOMING COFFEE CHATS & WEBINARS / REGISTER NOW

AALL VIRTUAL COFFEE CHAT: CHECKING IN WITH STUDENT LAW LIBRARIANS

- Tuesday, September 22, 2020 / 1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register](#) by Monday, September 21, 2020
- Members only; space is limited



REGISTER

Are you a student on the path to law librarianship? Whether you're currently in school, already working in the field, or both, please join us for the next virtual coffee chat. This informal discussion, co-hosted by student members Alexis Rae Branham, Rebecca Chapman, and Marissa Rydzewski, is an opportunity to connect with your peers, and share your experiences finding the right coursework, learning online, and preparing to launch your career.

AALL WEBINAR: INTRO TO DATA SCIENCE FOR LAW LIBRARIANS

- Thursday, September 24, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register](#) by Monday, September 21, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - \$60



REGISTER

Data science is everywhere these days, but what exactly is it? How do you "do data science"? Is it something law librarians could or should learn? What relationship, if any, is there between data science and artificial intelligence? As individuals, we are consumers of data science in all aspects of our lives, and our professional lives are no different. This session will explain what data science is, how it is done, and how it relates to hot topics such as big data and artificial intelligence. Attendees will get an understanding about how data science is relevant to their jobs, how it is used in empirical legal research to optimize the business of law, and how it underpins current legal research products.

BLOOMBERG LAW PARTNER WEBINAR: A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY: REACTION, RESPONSE LOOKING AHEAD

- Tuesday, September 29, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register](#) by Friday, September 25, 2020
- Members - Free / Nonmembers - \$60



REGISTER

A pandemic. A global economic downturn. The presidential election cycle. This year has brought much uncertainty. As we close out 2020 and enter a new year, businesses and their law firm advisors are still facing unprecedented issues, both far-reaching and complex. Attend this webinar to learn how Bloomberg Law is addressing these issues and get a preview of what's to come in 2021.

AALL VIRTUAL COFFEE CHAT: LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATION

- Tuesday, October 6, 2020 / 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register](#) by Monday, October 5, 2020
- Members only; space is limited



[REGISTER](#)

Do you have questions about AALL's processes and procedures? This coffee chat is an opportunity to ask members of the Executive Board about the inner workings of AALL (how decisions are made, how committees are appointed, how members are nominated for the board, etc.). This session will be moderated by AALL President Emily R. Florio and AALL President-Elect Diane Rodriguez. Questions may be submitted in advance to leadership@aall.org or asked during the coffee chat. Join us to learn more about your association.

AALL VIRTUAL COFFEE CHAT: MAINTAINING MEANINGFUL REMOTE CONNECTIONS

- Monday, October 19, 2020 / 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. (CDT)
- [Register](#) by Friday, October 16, 2020
- Members only; space is limited



[REGISTER](#)

Whether by design or by necessity, many people now interact with their co-workers online rather than in person. While technology can surmount many obstacles, it can't replace the impromptu exchanges and insights that occur naturally in the office. Or can it? How are you staying connected with your co-workers these days, finding the (virtual) space to really check in with one another, and keeping the idea channels open? Join us for an informal conversation, co-moderated by Ben Doherty, University of Virginia Law Library, and Rachel S. Evans, University of Georgia.

SAVE THE DATE / AALL CONNECTION

As we continue to update you on what the Association is working on to help you in your professional growth and also to update you on decisions made during the virtual Fall Board meeting (November 6 and 7, 2020), please register for the next AALL Connection.

- Date: Monday, November 16, 2020
- Time: 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. (CST)
- [Register](#) by Thursday, November 11, 2020

[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 will also have the opportunity to submit questions via live chat, if time permits

WASHINGTON UPDATE

CONGRESSWOMAN ZOE LOFGREN TO ADDRESS MEMBERS AT AALL VIRTUAL LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TRAINING

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-19) will address AALL members at the upcoming [AALL Virtual Legislative Advocacy Training on September 22, 2020](#). Congresswoman Lofgren has been a member of the United States House of Representatives since 1995. She is known for her work on many of the issues AALL advocates for, including improving access to information, strengthening privacy protections, and securing a more balanced copyright system. AALL President Emily R. Florio will provide opening remarks. **Registration has been extended through Friday, September 18.**

- Tuesday, September 22, 2020 / 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT
- [Register by Friday, September 18, 2020 \(Deadline Extended\)](#)
- Free for AALL members only

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Becoming an effective advocate who can clearly articulate the needs of law libraries and the legal information industry is especially important during these uncertain times. This training will teach you the skills you need to establish yourself as a trusted voice in your community, promote equal access to justice, and contribute meaningful solutions to today's information policy issues. The training is free for AALL members.

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES NEW BILL TO MAKE PACER FREE

On September 15, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee approved a bill that AALL supports, the bipartisan Open Courts Act of 2020 ([H.R. 8235](#)). The Open Courts Act modernizes the federal Judiciary's case management and electronic case filing system and eliminates the paywall that restricts access to court records through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. The Open Courts Act allows the Judicial Conference of the United States to take several actions to support the cost of making PACER free to the public, including collecting an annual fee from the U.S. Department of Justice and raising filing fees for users under specified conditions. The bill has been sent to the full U.S. House of Representatives for consideration.

AALL JOINS PETITION TO COPYRIGHT OFFICE FOR NEW EBOOKS EXEMPTION

AALL joined a [petition](#) to the United States Copyright Office requesting a new, expanded exemption concerning the accessibility of literary works distributed electronically (i.e., ebooks). The petition comes in response to the [eighth triennial rulemaking proceeding](#) under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), 17 U.S.C. § 1201, which provides that the Librarian of Congress, upon the recommendation of the Register of Copyrights, may adopt temporary exemptions to section 1201's prohibition against circumvention of technological measures that control access to copyrighted works. The petition requests an update to the wording and scope of the current ebooks exemption to track changes to the Chafee Amendment, 17 U.S.C. 121, made as a result of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act. The Act requires certain protections for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or have print disabilities.

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR THE CRIV SHEET

Please consider writing for the upcoming issue of [The CRIV Sheet](#). Published three times a year,

The CRIV Sheet is a great opportunity to write shorter pieces covering your experiences or thoughts on anything vendor related. Articles of any length are welcome and *CRIV Sheet* editors will work with you on any relevant topic.

The current issue is in need of summaries from the [AALL Virtual Conference](#). If you attended one of the sessions below, please consider writing a short summary.

- The Business of Research Services: Transforming Roles to Add Value
- Searching in all 50 State Court Dockets: Will it Ever be a Reality?
- Legal Ethics in the Use of Artificial Intelligence
- Research Toolkit: Answers to Your Research Questions in One Click

If you would like to write an article on another vendor relations topic, please contact [Ashley Ames Ahlbrand](#) or [Matt Timko](#) with your ideas.

RECOGNIZING TOP CONTRIBUTORS

Each month, AALL will be highlighting Top Contributors on [My Communities](#). These active members help keep our community vibrant by earning over 500 points through their posts and connections. Points are earned by posting messages, responding to discussions, and by making connections with other members. The contributions these members have made to the community are outstanding. Below are our Top Contributors from August.

- Saskia Mehlhorn
- Cornell H. Winston

Thank you for all that you do--we appreciate your contribution.

NEW VOICES

This month, [Ana Ramirez Toft-Nielsen](#) provides a unique perspective into the importance of legal research skills.

ABOUT NEW VOICES

[AALL's New Voices](#) is seeking your insights! Whether you recently joined AALL or are a longtime member aiming to become more involved in the Association, AALL is looking for your thoughts on any aspect of law librarianship. This is a one-time commitment.

Possible topics include: diversity, inclusion and equity, recommending a favorite resource, go-to stressbusters, leadership, and starting a new role. Submissions should be about 100-600 words. Accepted posts will appear on the Members Open Forum, in the monthly eNewsletter, and on AALL's social media feeds (Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn).

If you're interested in being involved in the next round, please share your post with [Megan Mall](#), director of content strategy, with the subject line "New Voices Project" by 5:00 p.m. CDT on October 8, 2020.

MEMBER NEWS

- [Nicholas Mignanelli](#) was selected as the AALL Diversity & Inclusion Committee's September Librarian of the Month.

AALL seeks more news about members' achievements, job changes, and connections with the legal information community. Please send your news to [Heather Haemker](#), AALL director of marketing & communications.

COMMUNITY CORNER

- The [Asian American Law Librarians Caucus](#) along with other AALL caucuses, hosted a panel discussion August 26, 2020 titled "Combating Hate, Racism, and Antisemitism in 2020: How Can You Be Part of the Solution?" Panelists described their organizations' missions, their work tracking hate crimes, and how hate crimes have affected their communities. They also addressed the impact of COVID-19, the protests against police brutality, and systemic racism on their work and communities, in addition to providing ways in which law librarians can effect change. In response to the latter question, some suggestions were to acknowledge Native American/tribal laws and water rights; dedicate time and talent through volunteering; use unique strengths and skill sets (legal research), and direct patrons to hard data. The caucus is recruiting members to serve, those interested can [fill out a form to volunteer](#).
- AALL welcomes the [Business and Corporate Research Instruction Caucus](#). The caucus will promote and facilitate quality instruction in researching business and corporate information. Matthew Morrison, faculty services librarian and adjunct professor of law at Cornell University Law Library, is the current chair. So far, the caucus has discussed the syllabi used for courses in business and corporate research instruction, and will continue to delve into more discussions.
- [Encore Caucus](#) members gathered virtually for a one-hour social event on a Tuesday afternoon in July, via GoToMeeting. Attendees were given time to discuss new activities they've started while self-quarantined, either in addition to working from home at their regular jobs (full-or part-time) or by exploring something new (music, exercise, volunteer work, etc.) in their retirement, despite current restrictions. Members came up with activities the caucus could offer including more virtual gatherings and making plans for future in-person gatherings and group travel. Interest was also expressed in being a source of advice for newer members of AALL and in preserving the history of the profession and AALL. The caucus will hold a Zoom meeting in October on the topic of organizing personal photographs. There is now a private Facebook page for Encore Caucus members and friends--over 70 people have already signed up.

AALL seeks more news and announcements from chapters and special interests sections that may be of interest to all members. Please send your news to [Heather Haemker](#), AALL director of marketing & communications.