

APRIL 27, 2023

FEATURED

JUSTIFY YOUR ATTENDANCE AT AALL 2023 / JULY 15-18

Make plans to join your fellow librarians and legal information peers in Boston this summer July 15-18; get ready to engage with your community, develop new strategies, and elevate your learning. You may be clear on the value of attending AALL 2023 but securing funding from your employer might require some extra steps. [Download the Justification Toolkit](#) and build your case for attending AALL 2023.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- [Discussion Dens](#) will be held throughout the Conference and are a great opportunity to brainstorm ideas, and share successes, challenges, and other experiences in a smaller, informal setting. **If you would like to propose a discussion, sign up by June 2.**
- Showcase your great ideas, projects, and programs by submitting a [poster session](#). **Submit your poster ideas by June 5.**
- Kick off the Annual Meeting by registering for one of our Saturday [preconference workshops](#). **Attendance is limited and separate registration fees apply—be sure to register in advance of the June 16 deadline!**

HURRY: Early bird savings end soon: Register by May 12 and save \$100. AALL hotels are quickly selling out, [book your housing](#) at the discounted rate while availability lasts.

AALL GRANTS

LEXISNEXIS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MONDAY

The [AALL LexisNexis Research Grant](#) deadline is **Monday, May 1**. If you have a research project that may benefit from this grant, [review the complete guidelines](#) and [apply](#).

AALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT / DUE MAY 15

Does your chapter, special interest section, committee, or caucus have an educational event 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 is May 15, 2023.**

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

AALL SELF-PACED COURSES / MASTER THESE ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Legal research, strategic thinking, and budgeting are all essential skills every law librarian and legal information professional needs. [AALL's three self-paced courses](#) will help you master the fundamentals of these skills. "[Introduction to Law Library Budgets](#)" covers the concepts of managing a law library budget, and "[Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians](#)" will help you understand the essentials of strategic thinking and project implementation success. Our newest course "[Foundations of Legal Research](#)" will provide you with the right tools needed to approach legal research.

Cost for each course: Members \$99 / Nonmembers \$149 *Discounts are available for AALL student members (\$49) as well as nonmember students* (\$79) for the "Foundations of Legal Research" course.

LEARN MORE &

TUNE INTO AALL'S MICROLEARNING VIDEOS

AALL's Microlearning Videos Series are short, focused videos designed to cover an individual skill pertinent in the law librarian's world. Current videos discuss fair use, Excel pivot tables, our "day in the life" video series, and more. Videos are available on [AALL eLearning](#); simply search "microlearning." Additional videos are planned to drop throughout the year.

Cost: Free for AALL Members

LEADER IN YOU

Each month the Leadership Development Committee will highlight a librarian leader and ask them a few questions about their leadership journey.

Amy Small
Executive Director
Texas State Law Library



What does leadership mean to you?

My approach to leadership is to try my best to serve as an example for those I work with. If there is something that I expect from my staff (timeliness, communication, flexibility, follow-through, accountability, etc.), I aim to demonstrate that quality as publicly as I can. Basically: be the change you want to see in the world! Not only does setting an example inspire similar behavior in others, but putting forth that kind of personal effort demonstrates your investment in the success of the institution and your colleagues. I think people are more willing to trust someone they have seen actually "walk the walk."

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?

I'm a big fan of the "So You Wanna..." series and the Virtual Coffee Chats. One of the most valuable things about AALL membership is the exposure to the experiences of librarians at different types and sizes of libraries. There are so many stars in this organization who are willing to share their knowledge on these platforms! These webinars are an approachable and accessible way to draw on the expertise of people who may have faced the same challenges or career milestones that you are facing. I have valued being able to hear about so many different thought processes, approaches, and strategies that have expanded the way I have thought about our profession.

How has your leadership style developed or evolved during this time of constant change?

These days I am much more likely to delegate, and project manage rather than taking charge of everything myself, which makes it easier to be responsive to sudden changes. While this was born of a necessity to be a little more nimble as an institution, it's had other benefits for the staff—it requires people to partner up with others they might not have worked with closely before, it allows them to step outside their normal day-to-day tasks and gain more experience, and it allows them to learn about how the library functions beyond their specific duties. It's taken some effort for me because my natural inclination is to be hands-on and involved with everything, but that's not healthy or sustainable as I become responsible to more and more people. I think this approach has gotten us all out of our silos or routines a little bit and we are better off because of it.

What advice would you give someone going into a leadership position for the first time?

I would suggest investing sincere time and effort into truly understanding the responsibilities and duties of the people you support—not only the technical details of what it is they need to do, but the emotional and intellectual aspects of those duties as well. Strictly learning the job on paper doesn't always tell the whole story; sometimes there are other factors that really complicate something that seems simple from a distance, like red tape or the vicarious trauma of reference interactions with the public. Taking the time to get a holistic picture of your staff's workload will be well worth it from the trust and understanding you gain.

How do you inspire others while keeping yourself inspired about the organization's mission?

As a government law library serving the public, our unofficial mission is to make legal information accessible to Texans so that they can attempt to manage legal issues on their own. I love going through our customer satisfaction survey for specific kudos from patrons—it's so fulfilling to hear directly from people whose lives were positively impacted by the work we do. Occasionally we will get an email or comment letting us know that someone had a happy outcome because of the information or resources we provided. What is more inspiring to keep pushing forward than hearing something life-changing like that!? Because we don't always hear directly from patrons, I make it a point to take time to review the reference responses from my staff and recognize excellent research and well-written responses among the crew. We have a Reference Response of the Month event where everyone can nominate responses (theirs or others') to be recognized among the staff. Not only does it encourage people to stay apprised of what other librarians are working on, it's really energizing to see the level of knowledge, skill, and care from our colleagues.

Do you know a great leader? Recommend a leader for us to spotlight in the Leader in You column. Send your recommendation with a brief description of why you think they are a great leader to [Holly M. Riccio](#), chair of the Leadership Development Committee.

ON-DEMAND LEARNING

UPCOMING COFFEE CHATS & WEBINARS

AALL has several exciting coffee chats and webinars coming up next month, including the **AALL Webinar "Boost Your Legal Research Efficiency: Exploring the New & Valuable Features of IFLP"** **Wednesday, May 10 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CDT)**. Visit [AALL eLearning](#) to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

Is there a topic you want covered in an AALL webinar? Please submit the [webinar proposal form](#) or email elarning@aall.org. If you have any ideas or topics for a future coffee chat, please email Ashley Laverty at alaverty@aall.org.

WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [Going Up: Creating Elevator Pitches That Work](#)
- [PacerPro Webinar: Understanding State Court Access](#)
- [Don't Scale Crap: Effective Ways to Expand the Competitive Intelligence Function](#)

PICK OF THE MONTH

Selected by AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee

AALL MICROLEARNING SERIES: EXCEL PIVOT TABLES

This short video provides a quick, easy to follow introduction to Excel pivot tables, a useful and powerful tool that can help you gain valuable insight about your Library's budget. With just a few simple steps, learn how to arrange, filter, summarize, and analyze your data to assist with budget management and informed decision-making. If you are new to pivot tables, this is a great place to start.

Find many more continuing education programs and webinars on [AALL eLearning](#).

QUICK LINKS

[AALL Events Calendar](#) | [AALL eLearning](#) | [AALL Education on AALLNET](#) | [AALL Body of Knowledge](#) | [AALL DEI Resources](#)

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