

AUGUST 31, 2023**FEATURED****CALL FOR AALL 2024 PROGRAM PROPOSALS OPENS TOMORROW**

The [2024 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#) Program Proposal Collection site opens tomorrow. Thank you to everyone who submitted program ideas to Ideascale; there were 106 topics submitted. To ensure AALL delivers a dynamic and diverse lineup of programs designed to meet your needs, the [Annual Meeting Program Committee](#) has selected **30 must-have program topics**. We encourage you to review the [must-have topics](#) and propose a program or workshop when the **call for proposals opens tomorrow**. We look forward to reading your exciting proposals.

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**AALL 2023 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM RECORDINGS AVAILABLE ON eLEARNING**

As an AALL member, you may [access the educational program recordings](#) on AALL eLearning, whether you joined us in Boston for [#AALL23](#) or not. Take advantage of this complimentary member benefit—easily listen to programs from your desktop or on the go.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**AALL SELF-PACED COURSES / DEVELOP CRITICAL SKILLS**

Proficiency in legal research, strategic thinking, and budgeting are critical skills for law librarians and legal information professionals. [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 latest course "[Foundations of Legal Research](#)," will arm you with the right tools to approach legal research successfully.

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

**LEARN MORE &
REGISTER****PARTICIPATE IN AALL'S MENTOR PROGRAM**

[AALL's Mentor Program](#) provides newer members with advice on charting their career path, experienced members with an avenue to lend their knowledge and experience to promising new members, and mid-career members with a network when contemplating a move to another library type. We are currently in need of academic and government mentors. [Please sign up to participate in the AALL Mentor Program today!](#)

LEADER IN YOU

Each month the Leadership Development Committee highlights a librarian leader and asks them a few questions about their leadership journey.

James Durham



What does leadership mean to you?

I believe leadership is about facilitation. My job as a leader is to build a community (in a workplace, a chapter, or special interest section). I assemble groups of talented and motivated people to brainstorm projects, and then I do everything that I can to remove any roadblocks to success. Facilitation can involve providing encouragement, supplying parameters and procedures, building networks, expressing appreciation, and ensuring recognition for the participants. Most importantly, facilitation involves maintaining a positive and creative atmosphere, where the highest quality and most joyful work can happen.

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader? (e.g., annual meeting program, webinar, SIS programming/resource, LLJ/Spectrum article)

I found the “Leadership Training for Chapters” and “Leadership Training for Special Interest Sections” to be immensely helpful. These programs are scheduled on Saturday, preceding the Annual Meeting. AALL’s legal counsel explains aspects of operating a nonprofit organization and unexpected details, such as how providing alcohol at a function might have dramshop liability implications. Other speakers introduce the organizational structure of AALL, and whom to contact for assistance. In addition, there’s plenty of time to become acquainted with other chapter and SIS leaders. Attending these two events was the beginning of my deep dive into leadership over the past decade. I really appreciated all the effort that went into my training sessions and left feeling empowered and inspired.

What are the most important attributes of successful leaders today?

I think the most beautiful thing about leadership today is that there is not a single profile for a successful leader. Leadership may vary depending on the nature of the parent institution and its goals. In any leadership position, however, I ask, “What can I do each day to advance the people, the place, and the mission?”

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

First, I had to learn to be flexible in the face of constant change. I had to transcend mere acceptance, and instead actively embrace the evolution of law libraries into entities that are both familiar and strangely dissimilar to places where I worked at the beginning of my career. As an agent of change, I ask the difficult questions, hold meetings for the challenging conversations, and encourage disparate voices to share their stories. We are building legal information services for the future. It’s time to let all the flowers bloom.

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

Find role models, work with them, watch them, follow their positive examples, and learn from their mistakes. I located mentors who were accomplished and informed, but also who possessed rarer qualities like optimism, civility, and a gentle style. These soft skills enabled them to forge the strongest alliances and to build the sturdiest solutions to professional challenges.

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 [Jenny Silbiger](#), chair of the Leadership Development Committee.

ON-DEMAND LEARNING

UPCOMING COFFEE CHATS & WEBINARS

AALL has several exciting coffee chats and webinars coming up in September, including the **next Thursday's "Virtual Coffee Chat: Proposing a Program for AALL 2024" from 3:00 p.m. - 3:45 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

- [Advocating the Value of the Law Library to Non-Librarian Stakeholders](#)
- [Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: Generative AI and ChatGPT in the Law: What Does the Future Hold?](#)
- [LexisNexis Partner Webinar: Navigating the AI Landscape: What to Know Now About Generative AI and Lexis+ AI for the Legal Industry](#)

PICK OF THE MONTH

Selected by AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee

"KILL A STUPID RULE" TO STREAMLINE PROCESSES AND BUILD ENGAGEMENT

This 2023 Annual Meeting program introduces the "Kill a Stupid Rule" process improvement activity. The program delves into the mechanics of the activity and how it can streamline work and foster innovation and engagement among team members. Panelists share their experiences "killing stupid rules" and provide straightforward guidance on navigating the process. After viewing this program and reviewing the handout, you should be well-equipped to introduce this fun and impactful process improvement activity to your own team.

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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