

OCTOBER 28, 2023**FEATURED****2024 AALL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY / APPLICATION OPENS NOVEMBER 7**

The application to become a fellow for the [2024 AALL Leadership Academy](#) will open on Tuesday, November 7. The Leadership Academy will take place April 9-10, 2024, in Chicago. This program fosters the professional growth of early-stage legal information professionals with fewer than 10 years of professional experience. If accepted, participants will have the opportunity to develop, enhance, and hone their leadership skills and competencies. If you or someone you know would benefit from becoming a fellow, please apply or encourage them to apply when the application opens.

AALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT / APPLY BY NOVEMBER 10

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](#). The next deadline for grant applications is November 10, 2023.

2024 AALL ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE**AALL 2024 PROGRAM PROPOSALS UPDATE**

We received 125 program proposals for the [2024 Annual Meeting & Conference](#). Thank you to everyone who submitted a program or workshop proposal. The Annual Meeting Program Committee is in the process of reviewing submitted proposals.

UPCOMING DATES

- Program Proposal Review by AMPC / October 13, 2023 - November 15, 2023
- AMPC Program Selection Meeting / December 7-8, 2023
- AALL 2024 Program Selections Announced / January 2024

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**LEXISNEXIS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1**

The [AALL LexisNexis Research Grant Jury](#) is accepting grant applications for the next deadline of Friday, December 1.

If you have a research project that may benefit from this grant, [review the complete guidelines](#) and [apply](#). For inspiration, [review the list of topics](#) awarded grants in past years.

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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

LEADER IN YOU

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

Lisa Davis

**Director, Assistant Dean for Legal Information Services
Florida International University School of Law Library
Miami, FL**



What does leadership mean to you?

For me, leadership is a privilege afforded to you by those you lead, founded in their trust and respect. I must earn the authority to lead various groups across roles. It is my duty to provide patrons a welcoming and need-responsive law library as a director; it is my responsibility to innovate digital resources and their utilization at FIU College of Law as assistant dean; and it my privilege to guide law librarians as we navigate our profession as chair of our faculty group. I provide structure and guidance through transparent strategic planning, owning my missteps, and shared decision-making. Taken together, leadership means ensuring and representing a collaborative environment where the passions and professional pursuits of my team are supported and given the deference required to flourish.

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)

There was a program at the first AALL Annual Meeting I attended in Philadelphia that proved to be immensely helpful: "Library Career Planning: Is Management Right for Everyone?" At the time, I was curious to get out of my own way and explore possibilities; in retrospect, it provided a needed moment to pivot my thinking from one of manager to one of administration via leadership. I found the Communities and professional development content to be valuable guides to answer questions about "how to direct" a library from many perspectives, and to stay abreast of the ever-evolving changes to our profession.

How do you help others develop their leadership skills?

I listen to their passions and encourage taking initiative to participate in communities where those passions can transform into professional pursuits. It's always helpful to be able to provide the financing necessary to make them feel free to engage in those pursuits, and I work within our budget to make sure these funds are consistently available. People want to experience their value to the organization they work with; connecting their strengths to overcome challenges is the easiest way to demonstrate someone's value. I ask, "What are your interests? What are your goals?" Once those passions are discovered through discussion, encouraging participation is the first step toward developing a future leader.

Which leadership skills were the most difficult to develop?

Listening. Being comfortable with failures, but not letting people flail. Listening (did I mention that twice?). I found it challenging to convert from the role of "How can I answer this question to the best of my ability?" to "How can I help guide you to answering the question for yourself to the best of your ability?" Leadership is nuanced—you must let people soar, and be ready to catch them if, and inevitably when, they fall.

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

Write your response, but don't hit send until 24 hours have passed (there's a useful setting to delay any send, turn that on!). In all seriousness, my advice is: There will be challenges, there will be adversaries (both real and perceived), there will be successes! Know yourself, know your strengths, take courage from the facts as to how you "got the leadership role." Most of the time it wasn't by accident or default; most of the time leadership roles are chosen and bestowed because you have either been recognized for your abilities, volunteered, or suffer from the curse of competence. Regardless—it's your role, own it.

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

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 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.
- [Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians](#) discusses the essentials of strategic thinking and project implementation success.
- [Foundations of Legal Research](#) arms 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.

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UPCOMING WEBINAR

AALL has exciting webinars planned for next month, including the **"Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: The Future of Professionals: How New Technologies Affect the Workplace and Upskilling," Thursday, November 9 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)**. 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.

SUGGEST A FUTURE COFFEE CHAT TOPIC

Help enrich AALL's community of experts by sharing trends, best practices, and innovations across a wide spectrum of topics that will inspire your colleagues throughout the profession. Do you have ideas or topics for future coffee chats? If so, **please share your idea with Ashley Laverty at alaverty@aall.org by Wednesday, November 1.**

WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [Applying an Equity Approach in Middle Management](#)
- [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?](#)

PICK OF THE MONTH

Selected by AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee

APPLYING AN EQUITY APPROACH IN MIDDLE MANAGEMENT

This webinar follows up on the 2022 Annual Meeting program "Creating Belonging," to discuss the topic of equity in library management more in depth. This program features a panel discussion on taking an equity-centered approach to management and asks us to consider the legacies of systemic barriers on our institutions' policies and subsequent impact on the profession.

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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