ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Conference registration for the 2024 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference will open soon. Use the Justification Toolkit to build your case with your employer to attend. Explore the list of program titles by library type and review the Schedule-At-a-Glance. Housing is also open for those who would like to book early. If you have any questions, please contact us at annualmeeting@aall.org.

ANNUAL MEETING HOT TOPICS DUE TODAY

Over 160 of your colleagues have provided their input on Hot Topics programs for the 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference in Chicago on July 20-23, 2024. Hot Topics programs are tailored to tackle current challenges, recent legal developments, and emerging issues that have arisen since the initial program proposal deadline. Please complete the short, two-question survey to ensure programming covers the most recent issues impacting law librarianship. If you have questions or need assistance, please email Ashley Laverty, AALL’s manager of conference programs & education.

APPLY FOR AN ANNUAL MEETING GRANT BY APRIL 1

The 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference, taking place July 20-23 in Chicago, is the only event of its kind that is specifically designed for law librarians and legal information professionals. To help get you there, AALL provides resources such as the Annual Meeting Grant, which funds your registration for the Annual Meeting. Additionally, special interest sections and some chapters provide grant opportunities for their members. With Annual Meeting registration opening soon, now is the time to apply and secure your funding.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

EXPLORE AALL’S MICROLEARNING VIDEOS

Free to AALL members, AALL’s Microlearning Videos are short-form videos designed to cover an individual skill pertinent in the law librarian’s world. Recent topics include jumpstarting your foreign legal research, using Headings in Microsoft Word, and more. Videos are available on AALL eLearning; simply search "microlearning."

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

APPLY FOR AN AALL SCHOLARSHIP OR SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

AALL is committed to providing opportunities for your professional growth. Each year, the Association awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to law school and library school students as well as to AALL members. The following scholarships are now open for applications:

- AALL Scholarships
- LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- George A. Strait Minority Scholarship & Fellowship
- Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship

The deadline for applications is April 1, 2024. For additional questions, please contact AALL at membership@aall.org.

LEXISNEXIS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1

The AALL LexisNexis Research Grant Jury is now accepting applications through Monday, May 1. If you have a research project that may benefit from this grant, please review the complete guidelines and apply. Grants will be awarded and announced by the end of May.
What does leadership mean to you?
Leadership, in my humble opinion, does not have a simple or singular meaning. Generally, leadership means leveraging your specific knowledge and skill set to guide a team of individuals toward achieving a specific goal. The utilization of these skills may vary depending on the purpose guiding your team. Sometimes, leadership will mean hard work and long hours. It can mean sharpening your communication skills to be sure each listening member hears and understands the same message. It certainly means humility and recognizing when it is necessary to change or shift gears when encountering a barrier to your cause. It is deep breaths in the bathroom at lunch when you are feeling a tad bit overwhelmed. Ha! It means focus, sacrifice, and perseverance. Overall, I believe leadership means using everything in your power to meet your group’s specific purpose, regardless of what that purpose may be.

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?
I find it imperative to try and dabble in everything I find an interest in, and I aim to take at least one tidbit from every program I attend or resource that I read. I do not think you can ever perfect leadership, you can only continue to build knowledge and use it to guide others. I am grateful that AALL provides access to a wide range of communities and resources to help us continue to learn, and I try to use each piece of what’s available to help me in guiding others.

What resources do you recommend for those looking to build or improve their leadership skills?
I highly recommend speaking directly with mentors, both current and former leaders in the field. As law librarians, many of us, if not all, understand the importance of oral history. That same impact applies in the field of law librarianship. I find the most valuable advice I received came from those with firsthand experience in leadership roles, particularly in the same leadership roles I found myself in, and hearing how they overcame the challenges within that role. People are more personal and candid when speaking, rather than emailing or writing, and are willing to be more honest with you about any hardships faced in those positions and how to best address those issues. I find talking with past and present leaders to be an illuminating, more accurate, and engaging experience than reading from resources online, and I highly recommend getting a chat or two in at our next Annual Meeting to truly gain some valuable insight!

What is the best advice regarding leadership or being successful in your work that you have ever received?
Amid celebrating Black History Month, my favorite quote and piece of advice stems from the wise words of Martin Luther King Jr.: “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”

What has been one of your biggest challenges as a leader?
Imposter syndrome. I can be my own worst enemy and my insecurities run deep. Still, there are people who rely on me to get things done. I hate to let others down, and that pressure drives me to overcome those insecurities and give my all to anything I commit to. Ironically, it seems peer pressure in the work environment is working well for me!

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

ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS WITH AALL’S SELF-PACED COURSES

Proficiency in legal research, strategic thinking, and budgeting are critical skills to possess, particularly as you advance into leadership roles. AALL’s self-paced courses will help you master these fundamental competencies and elevate your career potential. For the more experienced professional, each course provides a fantastic refresher on these important topics.

- 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 successfully approach legal research.
UPCOMING COFFEE CHAT

AALL has exciting webinars planned this spring, including the Virtual Coffee Chat: Faculty Services Tech Talk - Overuse, Underuse...or Just Plain Use of Technology in the Delivery of Faculty Services, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. (CDT). Visit AALL eLearning to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

Do you have ideas or topics for future coffee chats? If so, please share your ideas with Ashley Laverty at alaverty@aall.org by Friday, March 15, 2024.

WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- Trellis Partner Webinar: Trellis Product Updates: Winning More State Trial Court Cases with Legal Data & Analytics
- Bloomberg Law Partner Webinar: How Do You Spend Your Time? Attorney Workload & Hours Trends
- AALL Webinar: A Researcher’s Guide to the History of AI

PICK OF THE MONTH
Selected by AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee

ONBOARDING WHEN YOU CAN'T SHAKE HANDS

Onboarding is a vital component of hiring and retention, and onboarding remotely presents an additional layer of complexity to the process. During this webinar, learn best practices and get tips for onboarding new hires in a remote environment. Both presenters come from different law library environments and will discuss ideas for successful remote onboarding.

Find many more continuing education programs and webinars on AALL eLearning.

COMMUNITY

UPCOMING SIS WEBINAR

Several of AALL’s special interest sections (SISs) feature webinars each month that are open to all AALL members. Be sure to visit the AALL Calendar of Events page to stay up to date on future topics and to register. Upcoming webinars include the “PEGA-SIS Webinar: Live Interview Series: So You Wanna...Learn About FCIL?”, on Thursday, March 7, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. (CDT).

AALL wants to know what's happening within your specialized groups. If your caucus, chapter, or SIS has any news items, upcoming events, or would like to highlight members' accomplishments, please contact Heather Haemker, AALL director of marketing & communications.

QUICK LINKS

AALL Events Calendar | AALL eLearning | AALL Education on AALLNET | AALL Body of Knowledge | AALL DEI Resources

Stay Informed: Join our mailing list.