SAVE $100 ON AALL 2024 REGISTRATION / JULY 20-23

Make plans to join your fellow colleagues and legal information peers in Chicago this summer July 20-23. The deadline to receive $100 off Conference registration is next Friday, May 3rd. Do you need assistance getting approval to attend AALL 2024? Use the Justification Toolkit to help you build a case, including a sample memo you can use to communicate the benefits of attending to your supervisor.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- **Preconference workshops** provide intensive and practical experiences. These full-day workshops cover important topics such as foreign and international law, implementing generative AI successfully within your organization, legal cataloging, and strategies for improving legal scholarship. Attendance is limited and separate registration fees apply—be sure to register in advance of the June 28 deadline!
- **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 14**.
- Showcase your great ideas, projects, and programs by submitting a **poster session**. **Submit your poster ideas by June 14**.
- **Library tours** are selling out quickly. If you are interested in attending one of these tours, be sure to add it to your Conference registration soon.

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

**Secure your housing** at the Hyatt Regency Chicago to ensure you receive the discounted room rate. Use the **airline discount codes** before booking your flights.

REGISTER NOW

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

EXCLUSIVE AALL FOUR-PART WEBINAR SERIES – THE FUTURE OF LEGAL RESEARCH

Sign up for the new webinar series: **AALL GenAI Webinar Series: Context, Challenges, and Solutions—Implications of AI in Legal Research, Practice, and Instruction** to explore the impact of generative AI on legal practice, from its foundational principles to advanced applications. Whether you are an AI enthusiast seeking to deepen your understanding or simply curious about its potential, this webinar series offers a unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights, practical knowledge, and actionable strategies you can implement in your work.

- **From AI to Z: An Introduction to Generative Intelligence Foundations / May 7**
- **From AND/OR to AI – Techniques for Prompting Generative AI Tools / May 21**
- **AI, What Is It Good For? Exploring Advanced Applications of Generative AI / June 4**
- **Context, Challenges, and Solutions: Implications of AI in Legal Research, Practice, and Instruction / June 18**

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER FOR NEXT WEEK’S AALL VIRTUAL MEMBERS OPEN FORUM

Please join the Executive Board for a Virtual Members Open Forum next Tuesday, April 30 from 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. (CDT). This forum will provide you with the opportunity to connect directly with the Executive Board to learn more about AALL’s activities and ask questions related to the Association.

EXPLORE NEW AALL 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 enhancing your data and an introduction to OpenRefine. Videos are available on AALL eLearning; simply search "microlearning."

AALL GRANTS

LEXISNEXIS RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 1

The AALL LexisNexis Research Grant Jury is accepting grant applications for the next deadline of May 1.

If you have a research project that may benefit from this grant, review the complete guidelines and apply. As the guidelines state, the research should be completed within one year and the final product published.

AALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT / APPLY BY 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. The next deadline for grant applications is May 15, 2024.

LEADER IN YOU

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

Jason Sowards
Library & Research Manager
Locke Lord LLP
Houston, TX

What does leadership mean to you?
Leadership means doing what I can to cultivate an environment where everyone feels their input matters (even if it cannot always be incorporated). It means making sure those around you feel valued, empowered, and heard, and exhibiting empathy, energy, and positivity. I have been fortunate enough to complete the law librarianship hat trick of working in all three library types (academics, government, and now a firm). People might think there are different approaches to leadership in each of these environments, but I do not think so.

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?
I think developing as a leader in AALL was facilitated by the fact that the Association does an excellent job (in my opinion) of getting newer members involved as soon as possible, and committing to a mentorship program to help guide new members where they can make the most impact. People who choose to give back through professional service are leaders. You see them working to make their experience and that of their fellow members more meaningful. It’s contagious. Seeing so many people feel good about making a difference is what really helped me develop as a leader.

What advice would you give to someone entering a leadership position for the first time?
Ask questions, listen more, and talk less. This is a new opportunity for you, and while you will know some things (because how else did you get the leadership position?), there is still so much to learn. Being open about how much you do not know, and exhibiting a willingness to learn goes a long way in establishing trust. Also, keep in mind that...
effectuating change in a leadership role may not happen quickly. Be content to be part of the process of making something better, even if you are not the one bringing it across the finish line.

What has been one of your biggest challenges as a leader?
I think the biggest challenges as a leader has been becoming comfortable with seeing myself as a leader. It seems like a conceited thing to say out loud ("I am a leader"), so it makes answering these kinds of questions difficult. Also, those of you who know me may disagree, but I have strong introvert tendencies, so being outgoing does not come easily to me. I find it tough sometimes to get a conversation started, but I’m getting better at it. This matters because you cannot lead if you cannot communicate and learn what matters to people.

What resources do you recommend for those looking to build or improve their leadership skills?
Anything Brené Brown writes, I’m there for it. *Dare to Lead* was her application of her research to the management and leadership spheres, but everything that came before helped rewire my brain with respect to how I treat myself and engage with other people. Recognizing privilege, and embracing clarity, kindness, and vulnerability, have been real game changers for me (both personally and professionally). You cannot show up to lead if you are not your authentic self. Until I read Brené’s work, I did not know that I was not.

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.

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**ON-DEMAND LEARNING**

**PROPEL YOUR CAREER FORWARD 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 discusses the concepts of managing a law library budget.
- Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians outlines the essentials of strategic thinking and project implementation success.
- Foundations of Legal Research provides you with the right tools to successfully approach legal research.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

**UPCOMING WEBINAR**

AALL has exciting webinars planned this spring, including next month’s AALL Webinar: The Case for Putting a Hard Stop to Soft Costs Recovery, Thursday, May 2, 2024, 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 elearning@aall.org.

**WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND**

- CEB Partner Webinar: Trends and Industry Insights in Knowledge Management
- AALL Webinar: What in the World Is Happening....in Niger?
- AALL Webinar: Improving Belonging Through Inclusive Language

**PICK OF THE MONTH**

*Selected by AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee*

**AALL WEBINAR: THE LIFE & LIBRARY OF ROBERT MORRIS, AMERICA’S SECOND BLACK LAWYER**

Robert Morris was the nation’s second African American lawyer. An activist for civil rights and abolition, he risked his own freedom to aid fugitives from slavery. He advocated for integrated schools, advancing legal arguments that anticipated the Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board*. During this webinar, presenters share highlights of Morris's biography and his collection, as well as their experiences building a website to share his story.

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

The Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS (PLLIP-SIS) will be holding its 2024 Virtual Summit, over Zoom on June 20-21, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CDT) on both days. This year’s Summit will focus on the present and future.

- **Day 1: Made for the Moment** will focus on the present-day environment and the skills librarians need to thrive.
- **Day 2: Made for the Future** will examine how librarians can use those skills to prepare for what is coming next.

Additional information, including registration costs, agenda, and confirmed speaker list, may be found on the Summit webpage. The registration deadline is June 14, 2024 (with zero exceptions). If you have any questions, please contact LiMin Fields.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH AALL

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.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES | [www.aallnet.org]