MAY 30, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

THERE’S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR AALL 2024

Join over 1,200 of your colleagues who have registered for AALL 2024 for educational programs, a bustling exhibit hall with over 60 exhibitors, and many networking opportunities. Walk away energized with new strategies to benefit you, your library, and its users. Whether you are interested in honing your research techniques, learning how to harness AI to improve efficiency and workflows, learning more about collaborative partnerships to improve access for pro se patrons, or successfully onboarding new hires, there is a program for you.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Rooms are filling up fast! Book your housing at the Hyatt Regency Chicago (AALL’s headquarters hotel) before June 25. If you have not yet booked your flight, use the AALL airline discount codes on your flights.
- There is still time to boost your professional development by adding a Saturday preconference workshop to your registration. Attendance is limited and separate registration fees apply.
- Discussions dens are a great opportunity to brainstorm ideas, and share successes, challenges, and other experiences in a smaller, informal setting. If you would like to facilitate a discussion, propose a topic by June 14.
- Showcase your great ideas, projects, and programs by submitting a poster session. Submit your poster ideas by June 14.
- Don’t miss the Exhibitor Showcase Sessions, where industry leaders and experts will unveil the latest trends and advancements in legal research and technology. Check the conference schedule for the latest information.

NEW THIS YEAR

- AALL will provide live closed captioning for all programs. You may access the closed captioning on your own devices. Stay tuned for additional information.
- AALL has partnered with Go City so you can save 50% on 30+ must-see attractions while you are in Chicago for AALL 2024. Learn more about these amazing discounts and make the most of your trip.

REGISTER NOW

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

REGISTER FOR AALL’S VIRTUAL MEMBERS OPEN FORUM

As part of AALL’s ongoing commitment to fostering open communication and engagement, the Executive Board invites you to join them for a Virtual Members Open Forum on Monday, July 15 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. In addition to the live chat feature during the Zoom meeting, you may also submit questions in advance. The Members Open Forum will not be recorded.

REGISTER NOW

REGISTER FOR THE NEXT GENAI WEBINAR / JUNE 4
Register for the Part 3 in the AALL GenAI Webinar Series, taking place next Tuesday, June 4 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CDT). AI, What Is It Good For? Exploring Advanced Applications of Generative AI takes a deep dive into more complex use cases. Learn how to provide valuable tips to ensure reliability and accuracy and discuss how to become involved in generative AI developments by vendors.

LISTEN TO THE RECORDINGS

If you missed Part 1 "From AI to Z: An Introduction to Generative Intelligence Foundations" and Part 2 "From AND/OR to AI – Techniques for Prompting Generative AI Tools," both recordings are available on eLearning.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

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 ideas with Ashley Laverty at alaverty@aall.org by next Friday, June 7, 2024.

COMPLETE THE AALL BoK SELF-ASSESSMENT

The AALL Body of Knowledge (BoK) Self-Assessment will help you gauge not only where your skills align with the BoK, but also where opportunities exist for improvement and enhancement. This tool is self-scored with no right or wrong answers. Use the results to make a professional development plan and complete the competencies tool at desired intervals to measure your growth over time. A curated list of AALL educational programs will be provided based on your individual responses.

For more information on the domains, competencies, and skills referenced, please visit AALLNET.

LEADER IN YOU

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

Ann Walsh Long
Director, Law Library
Supreme Court of Nevada Law Library
Carson City, NV

What does leadership mean to you?
I respect leaders who inspire action and positive behavior. Last year, the legislature approved funding to build a Judicial Education Center in a portion of the law library’s space. I saw this as an opportunity for us to reorganize the collection, add compact shelving, and plan for growth. I am still marveling at the number of hours and the thousands of books the library staff moved in a very short period of time. We had great leadership from the Chief Justice who inspired me to rethink how the library space could be used to serve more than one purpose. I appreciate the future opportunities this will provide for the library to be involved in educating the judiciary on continuing advancements in legal research, generative artificial intelligence, and whatever comes next.

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?
I’m not sure I can point to one source from AALL, but I can point to one organization within AALL: The Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL). I had the good fortune of working at a law firm in Richmond, Virginia, shortly after getting my library degree. I worked with and met so many great law librarians and I’m proud to say I am still connected with most of them today, nearly 30 years later. One of my friends, Gail Warren, (retired Virginia State Law Librarian) became my mentor when I considered applying for my current position at the Supreme Court of Nevada Law Library. Although I had worked in the law libraries of four law firms, a federal agency, and two law schools—working at the Court as the state law librarian was new territory for me. Gail was supportive and introduced me to other state law librarians, all of whom have made my transition much easier. The connections I have made within AALL have helped me develop into my leadership role.

How do you help others develop their leadership skills?
I am very fortunate to have a library staff full of leaders willing to make positive changes to meet our access to justice goals. There are times when I feel we can do better, and I am encouraged when I turn to my staff and learn how they feel our goals can be accomplished. Like most things, leadership, like life, is better shared.

Which leadership skills were the most difficult to develop?

Transitioning from a super worker into a supervisor was the most difficult skill for me (hat tip to the leadership course provided through the National Judicial College). When I was a trailing spouse, I needed to be flexible in finding law library jobs in each new city we moved to. I worked hard to bloom where I was planted and learn what I could from each library and position, knowing there would be another move and another job on the horizon. When I became a director in 2022, the law library needed a lot of attention, as a natural result of COVID, gaps in leadership, and staff changes. My natural tendency to get busy and meet deadlines distracted me from the leadership skills I needed time to develop to bloom in my new role. Thankfully, I had the support and patience of my colleagues and several court librarians to learn from. The Government Law Libraries group has been especially terrific, a big thank you to Catherine McGuire and Jenny Silbiger!

What is something you wish someone had told you about leadership early on in your career?
I have worked with a lot of great leaders who make things look easy. Leadership is not easy! It requires a lot of mental flexibility and resilience. It also requires me to give myself grace and patience or get out of my head and into my heart. Being authentic and honest requires a certain level of vulnerability that can feel uncomfortable. I wish someone would have told me that being uncomfortable is a natural part of being a leader—someone needs to lead and if all decisions were easy, we would not need leaders.

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

GROW YOUR CAREER / REGISTER FOR AALL’S SELF-PACED COURSES

Proficiency in legal research, strategic thinking, and budgeting are essential, especially as you progress into leadership roles. AALL's self-paced courses will help you master these essential skills to elevate your career. 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.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

AALL has exciting webinars planned next month, including the AALL GenAI Webinar Series Part 4: Context, Challenges, and Solutions—Implications of AI in Legal Research, Practice, and Instruction, June 18, 2024, from 2:00 a.m. - 3:00 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

- AALL GenAI Webinar Series Part 2: From and/or to AI: Techniques for Prompting Generative AI Tools
- Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: The State of the Us Legal Market in Early 2024
- AALL GenAI Webinar Series Part 1: From AI to Z: An Introduction to Generative Intelligence Foundations
- AALL Webinar: The Case for Putting a Hard Stop to Soft Costs Recovery

PICK OF THE MONTH

Selected by AALL’s Continuing Professional Education Committee

Hear Me Out! Concise Communication for All Law Librarians
Law librarians working in different workplaces are always in need to share information in a concise and direct way. However, our world seems to need complex and intricate messaging on important topics such as diversity and inclusion, access to justice, big data, etc. During this Annual Meeting program recording, a diverse panel shares how they managed to produce short and insightful content to reach out to internal and external stakeholders. Through multiple examples, panelists explain their process from ideation to implementation and share strategies on how to develop a brief message that can help relate to all audiences.

Find many more continuing education programs and webinars on AALL eLearning.
PLLIP VIRTUAL SUMMIT / REGISTER BY JUNE 14

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

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