

JUNE 26, 2025

## ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

### THE COUNTDOWN IS ON—JUST 23 DAYS UNTIL AALL 2025!

Get ready for an unforgettable experience at the [2025 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#), where you will connect, learn, and engage with the legal information community in dynamic and meaningful ways.

From [preconference workshops](#) and [thought-provoking programs](#) to invaluable networking and a bustling exhibit hall featuring [65+ exhibitors](#), this year's conference is packed with opportunities to grow and explore.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Tomorrow, June 27, is the last day to add a [preconference workshop](#) to your registration.
- The [discounted hotel rate](#) has been extended through June 30. If you have not already done so, please book your stay before the deadline to receive the best rate.

Want to get in on all the action? There is still time to [register!](#) If you are unable to attend the full conference, [single-day passes](#) are also available. We look forward to welcoming you to Portland!

REGISTER  
NOW

## ON-DEMAND LEARNING

### UPCOMING COFFEE CHAT

Be part of the conversation! Register for next week's [AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: What Can Law Libraries Do to Comply with the New ADA Title II Regulation?](#), taking place on **July 2 from 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. (CDT)**. Visit [AALL eLearning](#) to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

### SHARE YOUR COFFEE CHAT IDEAS

Contribute to the growth of AALL's community of experts by sharing cutting-edge trends, best practices, and innovations spanning a diverse range of topics, igniting inspiration among your fellow professionals. Do you have ideas or topics for future coffee chats? **Please share your ideas with [elarning@aall.org](mailto:elarning@aall.org).**

### SUBMIT A WEBINAR TOPIC

Do you have an idea for a webinar? The [Continuing Professional Education Committee](#) is looking for fresh ideas to create engaging and relevant webinars—and we need your input! [Submit a webinar proposal](#) and share the topics that will support your professional growth. Your ideas will help shape upcoming programs tailored to your interests. Have questions? Please email [elarning@aall.org](mailto:elarning@aall.org).

## ADVANCE YOUR CAREER / REGISTER FOR AALL'S SELF-PACED COURSES

Whether you are new to the profession or looking to sharpen your skills, mastering the fundamentals of collection development, legal research, strategic thinking, and budgeting is key to advancing your career. AALL's self-paced courses are designed to help you grow at your own pace—offering both a solid foundation and a valuable refresher for experienced professionals.

- [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.
- [Evolving Collection Development for Law Librarians](#) helps you build a relevant, well-balanced collection that meets patron needs while managing budget, space, and user preferences.

LEARN MORE &  
REGISTER

## LEADER IN YOU

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

**Sarah Larsen**  
Outreach Librarian  
Minnesota State Law Library



### What does leadership mean to you?

I tend to view leadership in terms of "everyday leadership"—those seemingly small moments that have a big impact on the world around us. In an everyday leadership framework, you do not have to be the person in charge to make a difference. Rather, every person can make change where they are. Everyday leadership prizes collaboration and communication. It is about understanding your own strengths and weaknesses and helping those around you do the same. It is about listening to the ideas of the people around you, no matter where they fall in the hierarchy. It is about being curious and learning about new ways to do things. These traits have been the hallmark of every good leader I have observed, as well as instances where I have felt like an effective leader.

### Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?

There have been many opportunities and programs that have been helpful to me, but I would have to credit the [Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section](#) (LISP-SIS) with helping me grow the most as a leader. I was invited and encouraged to take on a leadership role despite being early in my career. When I joined the SIS as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect in July 2020, I did not have much experience in leadership roles. As a smaller SIS, LISP-SIS is a great place to explore your leadership style with the support of an incredible group of professionals. The three years I spent on the LISP-SIS board were invaluable in understanding how I approach leadership and building my confidence as a leader.

### How do you help others develop their leadership skills?

[Mentoring](#) is a vital way to help others develop their leadership skills. Not only is it incredibly helpful to have experienced colleagues I feel comfortable contacting with my questions and challenges, but I learn a lot when serving as a mentor to newer law librarians. A good mentor/mentee relationship should be a two-way street. Whether it is a formal arrangement through AALL or the [Leadership Academy](#) or an informal relationship that evolves over time, the benefits of mentorship cannot be ignored.

### What is the best advice regarding leadership or being successful in your work that you have ever received?

As someone who has a history of undervaluing my own skills, a phrase I try to incorporate into my work and life is "Be scared and do it anyway." When I was approached to take on a role as a committee chair in an SIS as a newer librarian, my first reaction was "I am not qualified for that!" But despite feeling certain I would fail, I did it anyway. I know I made mistakes, but I learned so much and ended up enjoying the experience. The reality is you are rarely completely on your own and you learn so much by actually doing the thing that scares you a little.

### What is something you wish someone had told you about leadership early on in your career?

That there are many ways to be a leader, and it is not just about being a manager or supervisor. Leadership is so often thought of as being the person in charge, but leaders exist at every level of the organizational chart. You can be a leader when you propose a solution to a problem in your workplace, suggest a new program to try in your library, or volunteer in a professional organization. Being a leader does not necessarily mean being "the boss." It does not mean having the most experience or longevity either—literally everyone can be and is a leader at different times in their careers.

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 [Ed Hart](#), chair of the [Leadership Development Committee](#).

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPRING AALL GRANT RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following members/organizations who have been awarded [grants](#).

## AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant - Spring Recipient:

- [Black Law Librarians Special Interest Section \(BLL-SIS\)](#): "Mental Health and Social Change: Advancing Racial Justice Through Activism, Self-Care, and Awareness"

## LexisNexis Research Grant - Spring Recipients:

- [Dr. Sarah Ryan](#), Director of the Law Librarianship Program and Associate Professor, University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences: "What Do You Need?: Interviewing Allied Professionals About Job Satisfaction & Training"
- [Annalee Hickman Pierson](#), Head of Reference and Faculty Services, Brigham Young University and [Kristen Clarke Kellems](#), BYU FCIL Librarian, Brigham Young University: "Empowering Neurodivergent & ESL Legal Research Students in the Era of Gen AI"

## WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [CRIV Vendor Roundtable: Shared Responsibility—Navigating Security and Privacy in Library Technology](#)
- [AALL Webinar Law Archive - Free Legal Scholarship Repository](#)
- [AALL Webinar: Academic Law Library Collections: Looking to the Future](#)

Find many more continuing education programs and webinars on [AALL eLearning](#).

## COMPLETE THE AALL BoK SELF-ASSESSMENT

AALL's [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 the AALL Body of Knowledge (BoK) on [AALLNET](#).

[START YOUR ASSESSMENT](#)

### QUICK LINKS

[AALL Events Calendar](#) | [AALL eLearning](#) | [AALL Education on AALLNET](#) | [AALL Body of Knowledge](#) | [AALL DEI Resources](#)

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