

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

AALL 2026 PROGRAM PROPOSALS DUE OCTOBER 22

AALL is **now accepting program proposals** for the **2026 Annual Meeting & Conference, July 18–21 in Cleveland**. Share your expertise, connect with peers, and showcase your ideas—no matter where you are in your career.

WHY PROPOSE A PROGRAM?

- **Professional Growth:** Hone your public speaking, refine your ideas, and build confidence.
- **Networking:** Connect with peers, mentors, and potential collaborators from diverse library settings.
- **Career Advancement:** Demonstrate your commitment to the legal field and proactive engagement in learning.

Watch this instructional video to learn how to submit a proposal. Questions? Contact annualmeeting@aall.org. We look forward to your proposals!

**SUBMIT A PROGRAM
PROPOSAL**

BUDGETING FOR AALL 2026

Annual Meeting & Conference registration costs and **housing rates** are available on AALLNET to assist you with budgeting for next year's conference. Conference registration and housing reservations will open in early 2026, and members will be notified as soon as they become available. If you have any questions, please contact us at annualmeeting@aall.org.

AALL UPDATES

REGISTER FOR THE AALL TOWN HALL

Connect with the Executive Board during AALL's upcoming **Town Hall** on **Monday, October 6, from 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (CDT)**. This is your chance to hear updates on AALL's work, ask questions, and share your perspective. **Submit questions in advance** by **tomorrow, September 26**, or bring them to the live Zoom session. **The Town Hall will not be recorded.**

**LEARN MORE &
REGISTER**

SHARE YOUR INPUT ON AALL'S NEXT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The **Executive Director Search Special Committee** invites you to participate in **two one-hour Listening Sessions via Zoom** to share what qualities and skills you believe are most important for AALL's next Executive Director. Your input will help guide this important search, shape the position profile, and ensure we identify a candidate who will best serve AALL and its members. **The Listening Sessions will not be recorded.**

LISTENING SESSION DATES

Friday, October 3

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (CDT)

LEARN MORE &
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Wednesday, October 8
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (CDT)

LEARN MORE &
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PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

ADVANCE YOUR SKILLS WITH AALL'S SELF-PACED COURSES

Want to sharpen your budgeting, strategic thinking, legal research, or collection development skills? [AALL's self-paced courses](#) allow you to learn on your schedule, at your own pace.

- [Introduction to Law Library Budgets](#) – Learn the key concepts for managing a law library budget.
- [Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians](#) – Master the essentials of strategic planning and successful project implementation.
- [Foundations of Legal Research](#) – Gain the tools you need for effective legal research.
- [Evolving Collection Development in Law Libraries](#) - Build collections that align with user needs, budget realities, and changing formats.

[Register today](#) and start building your expertise!

LEARN MORE &
REGISTER

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CONFERENCE PROGRAM RECORDINGS

[Recordings](#) from the 2025 Annual Meeting & Conference are available on [AALL eLearning](#), including two newly released programs: "[Fake News Is Lethal: How Critical Media Literacy Aids to Avert the Violent Consequences of Disinformation](#)" and "[Researching for Evidence on Civil Rights and Reparations Claims: Sources and Strategies](#)." Explore these and other sessions anytime online. [Past recordings from 2019–2024](#) are also available.

LEADER IN YOU

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

Brian J. Harkins, Esq.
Senior Reference Attorney
Social Law Library

What first drew you to law librarianship/the legal information profession?

I came to law librarianship by accident. One of my friends from undergrad began working as a receptionist at a downtown Boston law firm. She excelled in the role, and the firm invited her to join its law library, where she took on increasing responsibilities. When she later decided to leave the firm for family reasons, she let me know that a position was opening in the library. I applied, took the job part-time, and quickly discovered how much I enjoyed the work. Over time, I was given more responsibility and decided to pursue a law degree part-time at Suffolk Law School in Boston. After working in another firm library, I joined the Social Law Library in 1989. While working there, I continued my graduate studies and earned my MLIS from Simmons College, also part-time, in 1993.



Tells us what makes Social Law Library a unique and interesting place to work?

The need for reliable access to law books and legal information emerged early in Boston's history. In 1803—just 13 years after the Massachusetts Constitution went into effect—leaders of the city's legal community established the Social Law Library. Since then, the Library has supported the bar, the bench, and the wider legal community for more than two centuries. Today, our collection is both broad and deep, and our long-standing commitment to service

remains a hallmark of our identity. We support the full spectrum of the legal profession—from large firms to solo practitioners, from specialists to generalists—by ensuring they have the information and resources they need to do their work effectively.

How has your work at Social Law Library changed over the years and evolved with the profession?

Foot traffic has declined as more visitors access our extensive electronic resources online. We now assist with materials that were once difficult to obtain—such as certain government documents, criminal case transcripts, and administrative decisions. Expectations around legal information have also shifted toward immediacy. For example, federal appeals court opinions that once required waiting for advance sheets are now readily available online.

What is it like to be a published author?

I have always enjoyed writing—though I admit it's often most satisfying once it's finished. Over the years, I have been invited to contribute to *Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education* and *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, as well as to write for the Association of Boston Law Librarians in various capacities. It was rewarding to take on a longer project for the book, updating a chapter in *Massachusetts Administrative Law and Practice* (LexisNexis Practice Guide, 2014 edition). I especially value the opportunity to be considered knowledgeable enough to write for an audience of peers and to be included among contributors whose expertise I deeply respect.

What lessons have you gained through the leadership roles that you have held?

As librarians, we build on the work of those who came before us and on the collections we've developed over time. Our role is to continue expanding the body of available information and ensuring it remains accessible. I'd also encourage staying connected with colleagues—everyone is navigating similar questions, and there's much to learn from one another's approaches.

What professional development opportunities would you encourage members, especially younger members and those new to AALL, to seek out?

AALL webinars, along with those offered by other library organizations and government agencies, provide a great way to see the work happening across the library community and connect with colleagues. They showcase how librarians are excelling in their fields—whether focusing on specific areas of the law or collaborating with government agencies and specialized courts.

What is the best advice that you have ever received?

Make sure you understand the request. Ask a few follow-up questions when someone first seeks your help. Sometimes they're unsure what they need, and other times they may not realize the full range of information available or how it could assist them.

What is one thing members might be surprised to learn about you?

I'm a big fan of Broadway musicals. You can come to my office and see posters from various productions over the years. I have a poster from when *Anything Goes* was on Broadway in 1988 with Patti LuPone and another one from *Follies*, which I saw in London starring Diana Rigg.

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 [Pauline S. Afuso](#), chair of the [Leadership Development Committee](#).

ON-DEMAND LEARNING

WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [2025 AALL Candidates' Forum: Secretary](#)
- [2025 AALL Candidates' Forum: Executive Board Member](#)
- [LexisNexis Partner Webinar: The Perplexing Mystery of the Lawyer Who Embraced Change](#)

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

UPCOMING WEBINAR

AALL has exciting educational programs planned next month, including the [Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: The Future Is Now: AI Strategy for Information Professionals](#), scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (CDT)**. Visit [AALL eLearning](#) to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

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 elearning@aall.org.

UPCOMING COFFEE CHAT

Be part of the conversation! Register for the [AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: Mindfulness Well-Being – How to Help Ourselves and Our Constituents Navigate Stress](#), taking place on **Wednesday, October 29 from 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 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.**

QUICK LINKS

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

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