

OCTOBER 30, 2025

## FEATURED

GROW YOUR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL AT AALL'S  
2026 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The [2026 AALL Leadership Academy](#), taking place **April 28-29 in Chicago**, will be led by **Shawn Devine**, an engaging facilitator and leadership coach who has trained professionals at Emory University, Hogan Lovells, and other top organizations. Devine's highly interactive approach helps participants strengthen communication, confidence, and strategic thinking while building lasting professional connections.

"A persistent myth about leadership is that it's something you either have or don't. The research tells a very different story—leadership is a set of learnable skills that *anyone* can develop and apply, regardless of their role or title." [Learn more about](#) Shawn Devine.



As a Leadership Academy Fellow, you will gain:

- A **year-long mentorship** with an experienced AALL member
- Access to a **private online community** of peers and mentors
- **Ongoing leadership development opportunities** throughout the year

**Registration: \$799 (travel not included). All fellows must attend in person.**

**Apply by November 14**—and if you know someone who would be a great fit, encourage them to apply too!

Our thanks to [Thomson Reuters](#) for their generous support of the 2026 Leadership Academy and AALL's commitment to developing future leaders.



LEARN MORE &amp; APPLY

## ANNUAL MEETING &amp; CONFERENCE

## AALL 2026 UPDATE

## PROGRAM PROPOSALS

Thank you to everyone who submitted a program or workshop proposal for the [2026 Annual Meeting & Conference](#). The [Annual Meeting Program Committee](#) received **101 proposals**, providing a strong foundation of ideas as they begin developing another engaging and inspiring conference program.

## UPCOMING DATES

- **October 27-November 21**: Proposal Review and Scoring by the AMPC
- **December 9-10, 2025**: Program Selection Meeting
- **January 2026**: Accepted Programs Notified

## SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE NOW AVAILABLE

The [Schedule At-a-Glance](#) is now live on AALLNET, showing session times and events so you can plan your conference days. Conference [registration costs](#) and [housing rates](#) are also posted to help with your planning and budgeting. Registration and hotel reservations will open in early 2026, and members will be notified as soon as they are available. If you have any questions, please contact [annualmeeting@aall.org](mailto:annualmeeting@aall.org).

## PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

### BRING YOUR EDUCATION IDEAS TO LIFE—APPLY FOR ANAALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT

Does your chapter, special interest section, committee, or caucus have an educational event in need of funding? The [AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant](#) supports program development and encourages sharing educational opportunities across AALL entities. Past grants have helped cover speaker fees, webinar costs, and more.

As [Tanya Livshits](#) of the [Southern California Association of Law Libraries \(SCALL\)](#) shared, “The AALL/Bloomberg grant was a great help for us—we were able to have additional microphones to help facilitate the conversation during our educational sessions. Without that funding, we would have had to cut the number of microphones we could have, which would have made for a much more disjointed event. Instead, we could create a really great experience for everyone who came to the Institute.”

**The next deadline to apply is November 10**—don’t miss your chance to enhance your next program with this valuable support.

LEARN MORE & APPLY

### BUILD YOUR EXPERTISE WITH AALL'S SELF-PACED COURSES

Looking to strengthen your professional skills? [AALL's self-paced courses](#) make it easy to learn when it works best for you—whether you want to enhance your budgeting know-how, strategic mindset, research expertise, or revamp your library collection.

- [Introduction to Law Library Budgets](#) – Explore the fundamentals of effective budget planning and management.
- [Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians](#) – Learn to set priorities, plan strategically, and deliver successful projects.
- [Foundations of Legal Research](#) – Develop practical strategies for finding and analyzing legal information.
- [Evolving Collection Development in Law Libraries](#) – Create collections that reflect current formats, budgets, and community needs.

Advance your career—[register today](#) and start learning on your schedule.

LEARN MORE &  
REGISTER

### PARTICIPATE IN AALL'S MENTOR PROGRAM

The [AALL Mentor Program](#) helps connect members at all career stages—offering newer professionals guidance as they navigate their paths, and giving experienced members the opportunity to share their insights and support the next generation. With **202 successful matches** so far, the program continues to foster meaningful professional relationships across the Association. Whether you’re looking to mentor or be mentored, now is the perfect time to get involved—[sign up today!](#)

## LEADER IN YOU

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

**Susan Trombley**  
Research Librarian  
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

### What does leadership mean to you?

To me, leadership is a mindset rather than a specific title or position. Everyone has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership in their workplaces, communities, and families. Practicing leadership means consistently showing up and giving my best effort in whatever I do. It also involves sharing information and mentoring others, recognizing that leadership encompasses both guiding and being open to guidance.



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

When I made the transition mid-career from a government law library to a law firm library, I found that attending the [AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#) was instrumental in helping me adapt and succeed in a new professional setting. The [Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals \(PLLIP\)](#) community listserv and webinars provided valuable insights into the distinct challenges associated with firm librarianship. These resources also introduced me to tools and information that were not part of my previous experience in government librarianship.

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

I think the best leadership advice I received is the axiom that “actions speak louder than words.” The most impactful leaders I have worked with set the workplace tone through their actions. For example, a leader may speak about the importance of self-care, but it’s the leader who openly shares that they are leaving early to go to a doctor appointment or a child’s school program that is the true leader. When words and actions do not match it is always the actions, for better or worse, that set the tone.

### Which leadership skills were the most difficult to develop?

For me, one of the biggest leadership challenges was learning to let go. I am surrounded by highly educated, competent, and professional individuals. My job is not to jump in and “rescue” someone when there is a difficult task. Instead, my role is to offer support and give others psychological safety to ask for help if they need it. This has been especially crucial at home as my children have grown into teens and young adults!

### What are the most important attributes of successful leaders today?

I believe empathy is one of the most crucial qualities for leaders today. It’s important to acknowledge and respect the wide range of life experiences people bring. Just because something hasn’t been my experience doesn’t mean another perspective isn’t valid. The best leaders show empathy while also supporting others in reaching their goals. They offer grace when someone’s reaction is unexpected. Because people tend to remember negative experiences, it’s especially important to frequently recognize and highlight the positive. A meaningful connection doesn’t have to be grand—sometimes a kind word or a simple email of appreciation can have a significant impact.

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 AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: The Future Is Now: AI Strategy for Information Professionals](#)
- [LexisNexis Partner Webinar: The Perplexing Mystery of the Lawyer Who Embraced Change](#)

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

### UPCOMING ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

#### COFFEE CHAT

Be part of the conversation! Register for the [AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: Should For-Credit Legal Research Instruction Have a Place of Its Own in AALL?](#), happening on **Thursday, November 13 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (CST)**.

#### AALL/PARTNER WEBINARS

AALL has exciting educational programs planned next month, including the [AALL Webinar: Cool Tools for Neurodiverse Librarians and their Allies](#), scheduled for **Wednesday, November 5 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST)**. Panelists will explore Finch, Goblin Tools, Brick, Focus Friend, Notion, and the Pomodoro Technique—tools designed to support focus and productivity.

Discover how lawyers and law librarians are navigating rapid administrative shifts and the evolving role of AI in legal work during the [Bloomberg Law Partner Webinar: The State of Practice: Insights for Law Librarians from Bloomberg Law’s Survey](#), taking place **Tuesday, November 18 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (CST)**.

## SHARE YOUR EDUCATIONAL IDEAS

We have made it easier than ever to share your ideas for [AALL's online education](#)! Our streamlined [online education proposal form](#) combines webinars, coffee chats, and partner webinars into one convenient place. If you have a topic in mind, [submit it today](#) and help shape AALL's upcoming programming.

## COMMUNITY

### SIS WEBINAR

#### PLLIP-SIS: Bountiful Data: Advanced Excel Techniques for the Fall and Beyond

Join the [Private Law Librarians & Information Professional SIS \(PLLIP-SIS\)](#) on **Thursday, November 20 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (CST)** for an intermediate to advanced level dive into working with data in Excel using practical real-world examples. This [webinar](#) will cover data types, data cleaning, merging datasets, text functions, logical functions, lookup & reference functions, as well an introduction to PowerQuery and consideration of the impact of AI tools on Excel workflows. [Register today!](#)

### SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH AALL

Share what's happening within your specialized groups with AALL. 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.

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### QUICK LINKS

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

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