

NOVEMBER 26, 2025**ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE****BOOK YOUR HOUSING FOR AALL 2026**

You may now book your housing for the **2026 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference**, July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio. **Reserve your room** early to lock in special conference rates and stay close to all the action. Please note registration will open in early 2026. If you have any questions, please contact us at annualmeeting@aall.org.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE / APPLY FOR AN AALL SCHOLARSHIP OR SHARE WITH A COLLEAGUE**

AALL is committed to supporting professional growth across the legal information and library communities. Each year, we award thousands of dollars in **scholarships** to law and library school students and to AALL members pursuing further education.

Applications are now open for:

- AALL Scholarships
- LexisNexis John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship
- George A. Strait Minority Scholarship & Fellowship
- Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship

Applications are due by April 1, 2026. Don't miss this opportunity to advance your education—or encourage a colleague to apply.

Questions? Contact membership@aall.org.

BUILD YOUR TEAM'S SKILLS / AALL'S SELF-PACED LEGAL RESEARCH COURSE

While you may already be an expert in legal research, the **Foundations of Legal Research** course is a valuable tool for developing the next generation of talent. This self-paced program provides a clear, practical overview of core legal sources and research principles—ideal for new hires, early-career librarians, student assistants, and interns.

If you're responsible for training or onboarding, consider incorporating this course into your team's development resources. **Student members can register for just \$49, and nonmember students receive a rate of \$79.**

Share this course as well as our other **self-paced courses**, and help strengthen the future of our profession.

UNLOCK 600+ FREE CALI LESSONS—INCLUDED WITH YOUR AALL MEMBERSHIP

Looking to sharpen your legal knowledge or dive into a new subject area? Your AALL membership gives you **free access to the full library** of CALI's interactive, expert-written lessons. With **more than 600 tutorials across 32 legal topics**, CALI offers quick refreshers, deep dives, and practical learning you can use right away.

Don't miss out on this powerful member benefit.

LEADER IN YOU

Each month the **Leadership Development Committee** highlights a librarian

leader and asks them a few questions about their leadership journey.

Jessica Almeida
Assistant Dean of the Law Library
University of Massachusetts School of Law Library



What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership means many different things to me. It's being calm in the storm, listening and talking through an issue, and being the first person to pitch in. Leadership is the day in and day out of leading by example and embodying the values of the library and its parent institution. I believe good leaders communicate well—not only their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs but also by actively listening to and considering the thoughts, ideas, and beliefs of others.

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

The opportunity to serve in [special interest section \(SIS\)](#) leadership positions early in my career helped me develop as a leader. I had the privilege of working with remarkable law librarians in the [Legal Information Services to the Public Special Interest Section \(LISP-SIS\)](#). They were role models and mentors who welcomed me to law librarianship and guided my professional growth. Those experiences also helped me hone the logistical aspects of leadership, such as managing meetings, communicating with stakeholders, and making financial decisions.

How do you help others develop their leadership skills?

I help others develop their leadership skills by mentoring, coaching, and leading by example. I try to be supportive—being there when they need advice or guidance, reminding them of their strengths, and encouraging them to challenge themselves. I also encourage them to find a mentor—or even multiple mentors—whether at their institution, within the profession, or outside of it. These mentors don't have to be formal; you can join groups, meet like-minded colleagues, and embrace the community.

I was fortunate to find many mentors early in my career, each of whom helped me develop my leadership and professional skills in different ways. Looking back now, I realize I didn't even know it was happening—it felt so organic.

What advice would you give someone going into a leadership position for the first time?

It takes time to grow into a new role, so be patient. You will make mistakes, so make sure to learn from them. You may need to spend extra time communicating your vision, explaining your thought process, and getting buy-in from your stakeholders and team. In the long run, it is worth it, because you are building trust. I find that when there is a goal in sight and a roadmap created together—with buy-in and trust—there is no goal that can't be accomplished.

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

RECENT WEBINARS AVAILABLE ON-DEMAND

- [Bloomberg Law Partner Webinar: The State of Practice: Insights for Law Librarians from Bloomberg Law's Survey](#)
- [AALL Webinar: Cool Tools for Neurodiverse Librarians and Their Allies](#)
- [Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: The Future Is Now: AI Strategy for Information Professionals](#)

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

UPCOMING ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

COFFEE CHAT

Be part of the conversation! There is still time to register for **next Monday's AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: Getting to Know the Black Law Librarians Special Interest Section**, happening on **December 1 from 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. (CST)**.

AALL/PARTNER WEBINARS

AALL has exciting educational programs planned for the remainder of the year, including **next Tuesday's Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: Inside Thomson Reuters CoCounsel Legal: What Librarians Need to Know**, scheduled for **December 2 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (CST)**. Get an inside look at CoCounsel Legal and discover how your library can lead the way in responsible AI adoption

Plus, don't miss the **December 11 AALL Webinar: Leadership in Action: Strategies from Law Librarians**, taking

place from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CST). A panel of law librarians will explore different leadership styles they've used and observed—autocratic, democratic, delegative, transformational, transactional, and servant—sharing insights, pros, and cons from their experiences.

Visit [AALL eLearning](#) to stay up to date on future topics and to register.

SHARE YOUR EDUCATIONAL IDEAS

Submitting your ideas for [AALL's online education](#) is easier than ever! Our [online form](#) now accepts proposals for webinars, coffee chats, and partner webinars all in one place. Have a topic in mind? [Fill out the form today](#) and help shape upcoming programming.

COMMUNITY

PLLIP-SIS WEBINAR: SPEAK UP: HOW MENTORS HELP YOU FIND YOUR VOICE

Join the [Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS \(PLLIP-SIS\) Wednesday, December 10 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. \(CST\)](#) for a [webinar](#) on building confidence and effectiveness as a speaker—whether you're looking to present for the first time or help others strengthen their skills. Learn how to overcome common barriers, address fear and uncertainty, and leverage your interests and expertise to deliver engaging presentations.

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.

QUICK LINKS

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

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