

**DECEMBER 23, 2025****FEATURED****START YOUR 2026 PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY WITH AALL**

A new year brings new opportunities—and AALL is here to help you build skills, strengthen connections, and shape the future of the profession. Whether you're looking to learn, lead, or give back, here are ways to chart your path forward this year:

**GROW YOUR EXPERTISE**

- Explore [AALL's self-paced courses](#)—including [Evolving Collection Development in Law Libraries](#), [Foundations of Legal Research](#), [Strategic Thinking for Law Librarians](#), and [Introduction to Law Library Budgets](#).
- Access [AALL eLearning](#) to watch on-demand webinars and past Annual Meeting recordings anytime.
- Apply for an AALL [grant](#) or [scholarship](#) to support your continuing education.

**BUILD YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Join the [AALL Mentor Program](#)—as a mentor, a mentee, or both over time.
- Connect in person at the [2026 AALL Annual Meeting & Conference](#) in Cleveland, July 18-21.
- Nominate yourself or a colleague for a [2026 AALL Award](#) and help celebrate member achievements.

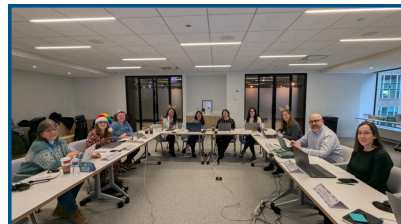
**SHARE YOUR TALENTS**

- [Propose a webinar or Virtual Coffee Chat](#) to share insights with peers.
- Contribute to the profession by writing for [AALL Spectrum](#) or [Law Library Journal](#).
- [Join an upcoming Coffee Chat](#) - Learn how to write for *Law Library Journal* at next month's [coffee chat](#).
- Volunteer for the AALL Spectrum or Law Library Journal editorial boards—applications open March 3.

No matter what your goals look like this year, AALL is here to support your growth—one step, one skill, and one connection at a time.

**ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE****AALL 2026 PROGRAMMING UPDATE—LEADING WITH ALOHA**

The [2026 Annual Meeting Program Committee team leaders](#) gathered in Chicago December 9-10 to finalize the program lineup for the [2026 Annual Meeting & Conference](#), with the theme *Leading with Aloha*, taking place **July 18-21 in Cleveland**. Program proposers will receive notifications by January 2026, with the full schedule unveiled this spring.



Planning to attend? [Book your housing early](#) to secure special conference rates. Registration is set to open in early 2026—stay tuned for more updates!

**GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS****CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALL AALL/BLOOMBERG LAW CONTINUING EDUCATION GRANT RECIPIENTS**

AALL is excited to announce the most recent [AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant](#) recipients:

- Southern California Association of Law Libraries: 54th Annual SCALL Institute (2026)

- Houston Area Law Librarians: HALL Annual Spring Institute 2026 – Pipeline to the Profession
- Alexandra Godfrey, Senate of Pennsylvania: "Flirt with the Line: Reduce Risk Averseness and Help Pro Se Litigants Right Up to the Unauthorized Practice of Law"

Does your chapter, special interest section, committee, or caucus have an educational event that needs funding? Consider applying for an [AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant](#). Grant requests are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. **The spring 2026 application will open early next year with a deadline of May 18.**

## APPLY FOR AN AALL SCHOLARSHIP OR SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

AALL is committed to providing opportunities for your professional growth. Each year, the Association awards thousands of dollars in [scholarships](#) to law school and library school students as well as to AALL members. The following scholarships are now open for applications:

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

The deadline for applications is April 1. For additional questions, please contact AALL at [membership@aall.org](mailto:membership@aall.org).

## LEADER IN YOU

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

**Stephan Licitra**  
 Associate Law Librarian for Technical Services  
 Alexander Blewett III School of Law  
 University of Montana  
 William J. Jameson Law Library



### What does leadership mean to you?

Leadership, to me, is about serving others by using my skills and knowledge to create shared success. At times, that means working together as a team to create or clarify a shared vision. At other times, it means encouraging others to grow toward their potential. Sometimes leadership means removing obstacles from another's path, so we can move forward together as a team. I have found that we can be leaders in whatever role we find ourselves in. Even if that role is as a thoughtful team member.

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

The world around libraries continues to evolve, and libraries, no matter where we are, serve as a bridge between our patrons and their goals. For this reason, I believe continuing to learn and grow—personally and professionally—is important. This is one reason I think AALL's webinars are helpful for my own professional and leadership development. These webinars broaden my perspective by highlighting emerging challenges and the innovative solutions other law libraries are implementing—no travel required. I can then take this information and make it meaningful for my own teams.

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

Learning to delegate has been the hardest leadership skill for me to grow. Sometimes I have a clear vision in my mind but explaining the "how" and "why" to someone else feels complicated. Other times, I'm still figuring out the best path myself—which makes it tricky to set expectations or give guidance. In those moments, it can feel like writing instructions takes more time and energy than just doing it on my own. But leadership isn't a solo effort. It's about building trust, investing in others, and recognizing that we move further when we move together. That's why I'm continuing to work on delegation—because the growth of our team is worth the effort.

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

There are many important attributes successful leaders must cultivate, but I think the most important one is integrity. Integrity is the consistent practice of being honest and ethical. Without integrity, you cannot build trust or credibility with others. Without trust, not even the smallest vision can be built, and without credibility, the most empowering of speeches will not motivate. But integrity is perhaps the hardest attribute to build if you don't have the other attributes of a leader (such as adaptability, humility, or communication). After all, what good is being consistently honest if you routinely make bad decisions?

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

One thing I learned later in my career is how much emotional energy leadership truly requires. It's not just strategy and decision-making—it's navigating the human experience with your team. Leaders must manage their own

emotions, support others through stress and uncertainty, and provide stability when things feel chaotic. This emotional labor is often invisible, but it's essential to building trust, morale, and a shared sense of direction.

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

- [AALL Webinar: Leadership in Action: Strategies from Law Librarians](#)
- [Thomson Reuters Partner Webinar: Inside Thomson Reuters CoCounsel Legal: What Librarians Need to Know](#)
- [Bloomberg Law Partner Webinar: The State of Practice: Insights for Law Librarians from Bloomberg Law's Survey](#)

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

### REGISTER FOR THE AALL TOWN HALL

Connect with the Executive Board during AALL's upcoming [Town Hall](#) on **Tuesday, January 20 from 2:00 p.m. 2:45 p.m. (CST)**. This is your chance to hear updates on AALL's work, ask questions, and share your perspective. [Submit questions in advance by Friday, January 9](#), or bring them to the live Zoom session. The Town Hall will not be recorded.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

### UPCOMING ONLINE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

#### COFFEE CHAT

Be part of the conversation! Register for next month's [AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: How to Write for and Publish in Law Library Journal](#), **Tuesday, January 20 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (CST)**.

#### AALL WEBINAR

AALL has exciting educational programs planned in the new year, including the [AALL Webinar: Create Digital Accessibility: Use WCAG 2.1 to Comply with the Law](#), **taking place from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (CST)**. This webinar introduces the legal foundations of digital accessibility, explains how WCAG 2.1 may apply to AALL member institutions, and equips attendees of all experience levels with practical principles and resources to confidently support accessible digital environments.

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.

The [Continuing Professional Education Committee](#) is currently soliciting for webinar content and panelists on the following topics to build out the 2026 Calendar. If you have interest or expertise in these areas, please complete the submission form or email [elarning@aall.org](mailto:elarning@aall.org).

- Emergency Situation Planning: Preparing for and Managing through Disaster
- Legislative or Regulatory Research

## COMMUNITY

### PLLIP-SIS WEBINAR: FINDING YOUR VOICE: USING VALUE ON INVESTMENT TO LEVEL UP THE LIBRARY/RESEARCH TEAM IN THE AGE OF AI

Join the [Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS \(PLLIP-SIS\)](#) on **Tuesday, January 22 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (CST)** for a [webinar](#) on how law firm librarians and research professionals are navigating rapid change as AI reshapes legal work and pressures around staffing and value intensify. This panel explores shifting from traditional ROI to a Value of Investment (VOI) approach, offering practical strategies to demonstrate impact, advocate for resources, and position research teams as essential partners in today's law firms.

## 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 DEIAB Resources](#)

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