

HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Volume 32 Number 4

Fall 2015

Inside This Issue:

- Continuing Education 3
- Pro Bono Week Clinic Successful 4
- Harris County Law Library Featured on KHOU 5
- Member Spotlight: Colleen Manning 6
- Meeting Minutes 9

Next Event:

HALLiday Party

Wednesday
December 9
12:00 noon
at
Sambuca
Restaurant
(downtown Houston)

Message from the President

The budget is done! Those of us in firm libraries are wishing we could say those words about our upcoming library budgets. However, it is no less satisfying to say them about the HALL budget. Yes, HALL now has a budget for our 2015-2016 fiscal year. Thanks to the hard work of our Treasurer, Sarah Lopez, and Vice-President, Joe Lawson, we now have a clear list of expenditures for the year so that our spending stays within our means. We had a number of major expenses this year including our new logo and new website, but they were all worthwhile investments. One additional expense this year is that we purchased Chapter Liability insurance for the year through AALL. While I sincerely hope we never need to use it, this will protect HALL, and its members, in case something unforeseen happens.

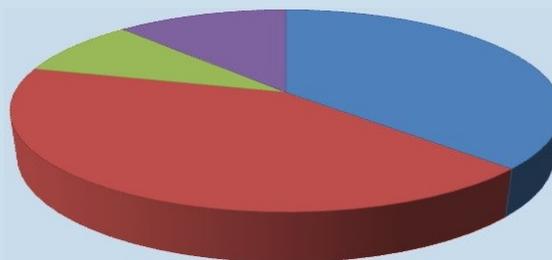


President Margaret Bartlett

While working on the budget and liability insurance, I took a good look at our member statistics, which I thought the members would also find interesting. We have 81 members total – 37% from academic law libraries, 42% from private law firms, 9% from government and county law libraries, and 12% those that don't fit into the major categories, like retired members and vendor representatives. Not sure yet what we'll do with this information, but it could be useful as we're coming up with programs that will be most useful to members. -Margaret Bartlett

Member Breakdown

- Academic – 37%
- Private – 42%
- Government – 9%
- Other – 12%





Save the Date

HALL   *iday*
HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Party 

December 9, 2015
Noon to 1p.m.
Sambuca Restaurant
Downtown Houston

This year's luncheon is sponsored in part by



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Visit houstonarealawlibrarians.org for updates and details.

Editor's Notes

Just a reminder, the 2015 HALLiday Party will replace HALL's regular monthly meeting for December. Meetings will resume in January.

-Dan Donahue

The *HALL Quarterly* is the official publication of Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments and news items to Dan Donahue, Editor, and Joe Lawson, Co-Editor, at newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.com.

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Membership dues are \$40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).

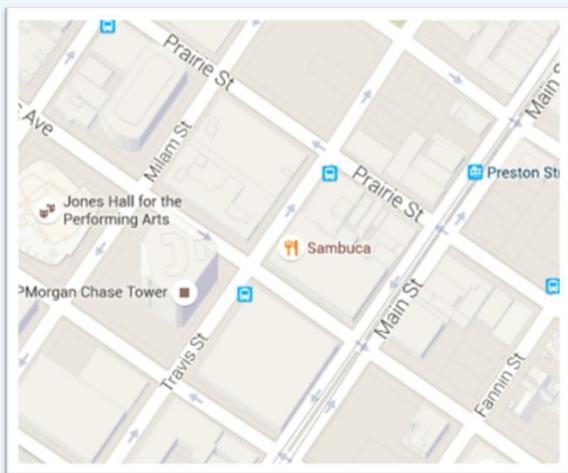
Continuing Education

Approaching the end of the year, folks often look back and reminisce. November's meeting certainly gave us that opportunity as Patrick Kehoe told us about the Oral History of Law Librarianship Project. Pat was in town to interview several HALL members and graciously agreed to tell us about the project and about his own history as a law librarian in Houston in the late 1960s. It was certainly wonderful to hear about the rich history of law librarianship in Houston!



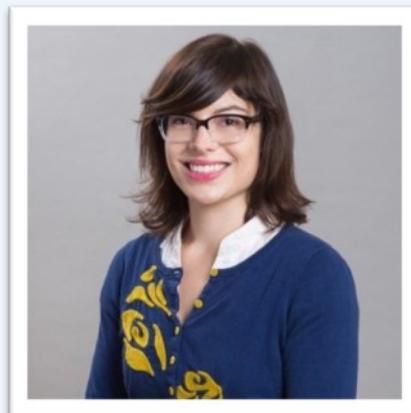
Patrick Kehoe

Next up is our HALLiday Party on December 9 at Sambuca in downtown Houston. With a tasty meal in a wonderful space, it's sure to put you in the HALLiday spirit! Look for details as they are available on [HALL's website](#) and [Facebook page](#). I would like to thank Margaret Bartlett for her assistance in planning the event.



Map courtesy of Google Maps

In the new year, we'll have a speaker for our community service project in January, which promises to be awesome as Kendal Bergman has figured out a way for us to do some good by hanging out with adorable puppies and kittens – if that's not genius, I don't know what is! After that, we'll have a visit from AALL VP/President-Elect Ron Wheeler in February.



Kendal Bergman



Ron Wheeler

Stay tuned to houstonarealawlibrarians.org and our Facebook page for more details.

- Joseph Lawson

Successful Pro Bono Week Legal Aid Clinic at Harris County Law Library

By Joseph D. Lawson

As part of National Pro Bono Week, the Harris County Law Library hosted a Houston Volunteer Lawyers legal aid clinic on October 30 in the new Harris County Attorney Conference Center at Congress Plaza. More than 25 attorneys and support staff from the ExxonMobil legal department were joined by students from South Texas College of Law to help more than 30 clients during the 4-hour clinic. Stewart Gagnon

of Norton Rose Fulbright started off the clinic with an informative session for the self-represented litigants while Bobbie Cochran of the HVL Information Booth gave volunteer attorneys a primer on family law. At the end of the day, HVL staff said it was one of their most successful clinics and that they appreciated the assistance of HCLL staff.

This clinic was a successful kickoff to a legal aid project that will soon bring volunteer attorneys to our law library on a regular basis. Offices adjacent to the new conference center have been set aside for volunteer lawyers and law students who will assist self-represented litigants. Law library staff will contribute to the collaboration by providing reference services to clinic volunteers and clients, and assist with facilities and technical support as needed. If the October 30th clinic is an indication of the partnership's future success, I have no doubt it will help the law library fulfill its mission of "promoting open and equal access to justice for all."

Joseph D. Lawson is Deputy Director at the Harris County Law Library.



Visitors and volunteers at the clinic

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Local Events

Harris County Law Library Featured on KHOU's "Great Day Houston"

By Mariann Sears

If you tuned in to Channel 11 on November 4, 2015, you may have noticed a familiar face. The Harris County Law Library's Deputy Director Joseph Lawson appeared on the morning talk show "Great Day Houston" to tell Houstonians about our history and services. Show host

Deborah Duncan touched on a wide range of topics, from the law library's Centennial Celebration held on October 1, 2015, to reference services available to pro se divorce litigants. With ratings buoyed by celebrity-guest Anthony Bourdain of Travel Channel fame, the show led to a sharp increase in our website traffic that day and additional increases in foot and phone traffic. With a smile, Joe said, "The show was a great experience, but it helped me realize I prefer to be in my law library rather than on live TV." The "Great Day Houston" segment is a great example of a law library taking advantage of an unexpected marketing opportunity that grew out of past relationship-building. Show producers cold-called our reference desk the week before the segment aired and asked to speak with our "media person." Of course, the



Deborah Duncan and Joseph Lawson on the set of "Great Day Houston"

Deborah Duncan touched on a wide range of topics, from the law library's Centennial Celebration held on October 1, 2015, to reference services available to pro se divorce litigants. With ratings buoyed by celebrity-guest Anthony Bourdain of Travel Channel fame, the show led to a sharp increase in our website traffic

Harris County Law Library doesn't have a dedicated media person, but Joe took the call, obtained the requisite approvals from our parent organization, the Harris County Attorney's Office, and stepped in front of the cameras. Just before the show, a producer told him that her

Continued on [page 8...](#)

Member Spotlight

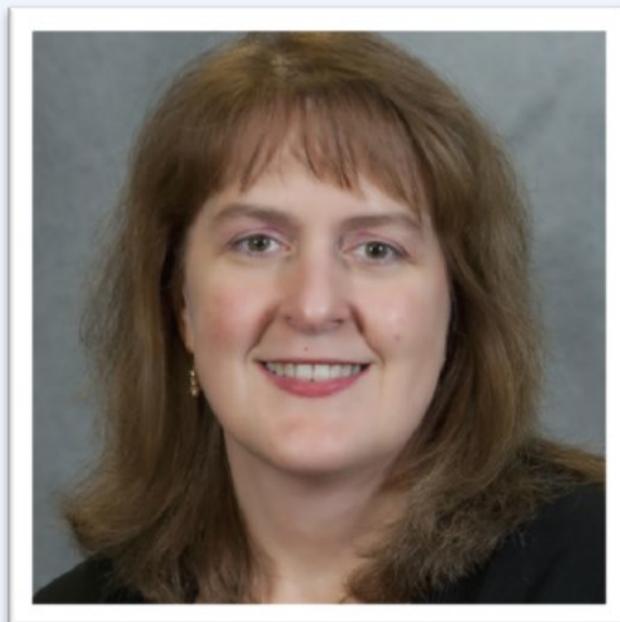
A Conversation with Colleen Manning

By Patti Curtis

Colleen C. Manning is the Director of The Fred Parks Law Library and Assistant Professor at South Texas College of Law. She has her B.S., J.D., and M.S. in L.I.S all from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. (Go Illini!) She started as a law librarian at Ohio Northern University, Taggart Law Library. Where in addition to being the (yes, the) Reference Librarian, she also taught the elder law seminar. Later, she moved to Florida Coastal School of Law where she held numerous positions and titles ending with Assistant Director. At Coastal, she taught various advanced legal research classes. Colleen served as the Interim Director at both institutions at various times. Her husband is a tax attorney and her daughter is in the accounting program at the Goodman School of Business at Brock University in Ontario, Canada.

Patti: *Colleen, when did you decide to become a librarian?*

Colleen: While I had worked in the University of Illinois library system as a student and a non-academic, I didn't truly consider librarianship until after I had practiced law for a couple of years. I had become dissatisfied with my firm and was looking for a change. I looked at my workday, and identified that I loved mentoring the firm's law clerks. I didn't know how that could be a focus in my career until one of my law clerks indicated that she was considering law librarianship as a way to have work-life balance. I had never thought of becoming a LAW librarian. I contacted the director of the nearest law school



Colleen Manning

library to find out more about what it means to be a law librarian. I left my firm to enroll in library school. And as they say, the rest is history.

P: *With all of the work-life balance you have, do you have any hobbies? Do you like to play games?*

C: I love to play games . . . card games, board games, video games. My favorites are Phase 10, Cribbage, Rummy Royal (a/k/a Tripoley), Banjo Tooie, Rail Baron, and Sudoku. We have a pool table (with dark blue felt. Yes, I like the color blue). I am not very good, but I enjoy playing. When I have the opportunity, I also enjoy swimming, white water rafting, miniature golf, and racquetball.

P: *I don't know any of the games except pool and Sudoku. Calling me not very good at pool would be a compliment. At first I thought Banjo Tooie was a specific type of banjo.*

Continued on [next page...](#)

Member Spotlight

P: Let's jump over to music? Do you have a favorite band?

C: My musical tastes are eclectic. I am the youngest in a family of children who are separated by many years. My music downloads include Phantom of the Opera, Toby Keith, Pink Floyd, Bing Crosby, The Association, Asia, and Lady GaGa. Perry Como was the first concert I attended (with my parents). I attended the first Farm Aid concert and discovered why John Cougar Mellencamp was such a big deal at that time – he had amazing presence. Now, I mainly listen to country and the oldies pop stations.

P: That is a variety pack! I would have been worried if Perry Como was your choice. We always went to the rodeo and my parents picked the performers, I think we saw Eddy Arnold. They did take us to see Elvis though. That was crazy!!!

P: Do you like to cook? Favorite meal to prepare? Or do you make really good reservations?

C: I like to cook, but I don't like how long it takes. I have a few signature dishes I enjoy making. I have a really yummy Italian Beef recipe. One of my favorite recipes was the family recipe from a German Prisoner of War during WWII. According to my mother, he was very sweet. He cleaned in the hospital where my mother was a nurse. It is a spaghetti sauce with meatballs. It is really good, but has no oregano, basil, or any other spice normally used in spaghetti sauce (except garlic). And, I am famous for my caramel brownies.

P: That's a really interesting story and an unusual recipe.

P: Do you have a favorite drink? You did mention a Canadian beer you like.

C: I don't drink much these days, but I really like La Fin Du Monde ("the end of the world"). It is a Belgian-style tripel and bottle conditioned golden ale. It has a fruity taste to it and 10% alcohol. If offered, I will rarely turn down a good margarita (lime or flavored) or a Brown Cow. My husband will often split one of these with me.

P: Do you have a favorite vacation spot?

C: My favorite vacations are always with family. My husband and I enjoy going to the Blue Ridge Mountains. They are as pretty as the Smokey Mountains, but not as commercial. We get a cabin and take our rescue bulldog.

I also enjoy going to locations with the families of my brother and sister. This often tends to include amusement parks. Last year (before I moved to Texas), we had a reunion at Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels. We ranged in age from seven to mid-sixties and had a wonderful time. (I did mention I like to swim).

P: Rescue dogs are the best! Yes, you mentioned swimming AND that you make caramel brownies.

P: Favorite TV shows/movies?

C: Too many to mention. I am excited that there will be new Sherlock episodes this year!

P: I know! Sherlock is great.

P: What are you reading now? Do you have a favorite author?

Continued on [next page...](#)

Member Spotlight

C: I am enjoying the Dorothy Cannell books right now. They are a series of humorous mysteries starting with *The Thin Woman*.

P: *Added this to my list.*

P: *What's new at South Texas?*

C: Currently, we are trying to right-size Library operations. We lost so many staff in the last 2 years that every process has to be re-examined. We are consolidating and eliminating processes. We are starting to hire again. Once we are right-sized and have the new hires in place, we will start focusing on student outreach initiatives.

P: *Any tech tips? Favorite Apps?*

C: It isn't really new, but I love facetime. My husband has not been able to relocate to Houston yet. I don't know if we could survive the separation without it. I don't like Skype as well.

P: *Hopefully he will join you soon.*

P: *Do you have a favorite quote?*

C: I have always enjoyed the quote usually attributed to Alice Roosevelt Longworth: If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me.

Of course, there is also: Never fry bacon naked.

P: *Not the exact quote, but that's one of my favorite lines from *Steel Magnolias*.*

C: I love how Olympia Dukakis delivered that version of the quote. It was just the way one of my prior colleagues would say it. She is a strong woman from South Carolina and the person who introduced me to the bacon line. You have to pretend she said never fry bacon naked with a lovely Myrtle Beach accent.

P: *Is there anything else you would like to discuss?*

C: Goodness, No.

This concludes a conversation with Colleen Manning. Patti Curtis is a librarian with Andrews Kurth LLP.

Local Events (*continued from [page 5](#)...*)

mother, a paralegal at a Houston-based law firm, received an invitation to our Centennial Celebration through the Houston Bar Association and forwarded it to the producer. Coincidentally, the producer had also used the law library's services more than 10 years ago as a self-represented litigant and knew the value of having access to legal information for those who cannot afford an attorney. Reminded of her own experience, she pitched the idea of promoting the law library as a useful public resource and it was well received.

The combination of a positive relationship formed at the reference desk a decade ago and the Law Library's positive relationship with the HBA as we marketed our Centennial Celebration led to an unexpected marketing opportunity that we couldn't pass up.

Anyone who would like to see the video can visit our website to find it linked on our homepage: www.harriscountylibrary.org.

Mariann Sears is the Director of the Harris County Law Library.

HALL Meeting Minutes - September

HALL MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2015

South Texas College of Law Library

The September HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:03 p.m.

The August Minutes were approved.

New Business: Catherine Whitney introduced a guest, her daughter-in-law Adrienne Whetstone, who is considering library school.

Joe Lawson invited everyone to attend the 100th anniversary celebration of the Harris County Law Library October on 1st.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Heather Kushnerick reported that the archives were all good.

Bylaws: Caren Luckie reported that the recently revised by-laws were sent to the HALL Membership via HALL-L to comment. This first revision made a few changes to get HALL's by-laws in line with AALL guidelines, plus a general clean-up. Round Two of changes is in the works and will be coming soon. The initial changes to the by-laws were approved by membership (motion

made by Mariann Sears and seconded by Heather Kushnerick).

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that he has speakers lined up for the October and November HALL meetings and details are available on the HALL web site. In November, Patrick Kehoe will join us to speak about his Oral History of Law Librarians project.

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: Kendal Bergman reported she is brainstorming ideas for our next service project. Any suggestions are welcome.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership / Web site: Laura Edstrom reported that members need to remember to go online and get a user name and password. Also, if dues payment is not received by September 30th, people will no longer be considered members of HALL. One last reminder will be sent prior to this.

Richard Guajardo reported that we are working on a new domain name for our site. Soon our original domain name will direct people to our new site, probably within the next month – then

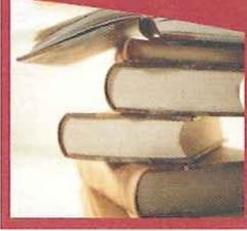
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the old site will fade away.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: No report.

Publications/Newsletter: Joe Lawson reported the *HALL Quarterly* was just sent out. The new editor is Dan Donahue. Articles submitted by members are always appreciated. The deadline for the next issue will be October 31.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

HALL Meeting Minutes - October

HALL MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 2015

South Texas College of Law Library

The October HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:03 p.m.

The September Minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

New Business: We have purchased chapter liability insurance provided by AALL in case anyone is injured during a HALL event. The cost is minimal - \$1 per member.

Margaret announced that work continues on the new HALL Procedures Manual. She encouraged all Board members and Chairs to send her a guide to their job responsibilities.

The HALL Board approved a budget for this year.

Margaret reported that Caren Luckie asked her to announce that SWALL is looking for the next slate of Board candidates.

Adrienne Cobb announced she is resigning from South Texas to move to New York City. She will work at Cahill, Gordon and Reindel.

Joe Lawson invited everyone to attend a discus-

sion of this year's Gulf Coast Reads book *The Promise* at lunchtime on October 29th at the Harris County Law Library.

Old Business: Shelby Shanks presented Patti Curtis with the Volunteer of the Year award for 2014-2015.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Heather Kushnerick reported that Sarah Lopez recently sent her additions for the archives and Heather encouraged all former/current Board members and Chairs to send her any notes or documentation.

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that in November Patrick Kehoe will join us to speak about his Oral History of Law Librarians project. Joe is also putting together the HALL-iday party for December. He also announced the return of the HALL Spring Seminar – details to come.

Government Relations: No report. Margaret announced that if anyone has an interest in being the Chair of this committee to let her know.

Community Service: Margaret reported that

Continued on [next page...](#)

Kendal Bergman is working with the Humane Society to see if working with that organization would be a good fit for our annual service project.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership: Laura Edstrom reported that she and Sarah are working through the new system and coming up with a true count for the members for this year. Sarah is checking with a few people to make sure about their membership. The web site will serve as our new directory.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: No report.

Publications/Newsletter: Joe Lawson reported Dan Donahue is at work on the next HALL Quarterly. Articles submitted by members are always appreciated. The deadline for the next issue will

be November 15th.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Social Media: Patti Curtis has updated the HALL Facebook page. All members are encouraged to “like” the page.

Vendor Relations: Keep November 3rd open for our next lunch gathering. Michael St. Onge from Lexis will be our guest.

Web Site: Richard Guajardo reported that we will be changing our domain name to houstonarealawlibrarians.org. Our old domain (.com) will go away soon. The shorter names were taken, so Richard will keep watch on the shorter names if they become available.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

HALL Meeting Minutes - November

SUBJECT to APPROVAL

HALL MEETING MINUTES

November 11 2015

South Texas College of Law Library

The November HALL Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:05 p.m.

The October Minutes were approved. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Old Business: Margaret encouraged all of the officers and committee chairs to submit a description of their duties for the new HALL Procedures Manual.

Caren Luckie reported that the upcoming joint SWALL-SEALL meeting in Dallas is accepting ideas for programs.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Heather Kushnerick encouraged members to “give her stuff.”

Bylaws: No report.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that the annual HALL-iday party will be a luncheon on December 9th at Sambuca. Seating is limited so Joe encouraged members to sign up early. The party is generously supported by Blythe McCoy and Thomson Reuters. In January, a speaker from the Houston Humane Society will join us to talk about the work they do. This is in connection with our April service project there. Ron Wheeler from the AALL Board will be our February speaker. March will bring a Spring Seminar – details to come. Joe encouraged anyone who is

Continued on [next page...](#)



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For the promotion of:

- Ideas
- Sharing
- Education
- Cooperation
- Resources
- Networking

Houston Area Law Librarians is a chapter of the American Association of Law Librarians.

Our monthly meetings are held at the South Texas College of Law.

We present a half-day seminar in the Fall and a full-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.org) for more information.

There are close to 200 members of HALL. We are librarians in firms, law schools, and courts as well as vendors and Library School students.

HALL Officers

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By-Laws:

Caren Luckie

Archives:

Heather Kushnerick

Continuing Education:

Joe Lawson

Government Relations:

Margaret Bartlett

Membership:

Laura Edstrom

Library School Liaison:

Blythe McCoy

Nominations:

Saskia Mehlhorn

Community Service:

Kendal Bergman

Placement:

Candice Kennington

Vendor Relations:

Colleen Pincumbe

Publications:

Barbara Szalkowski

HALL Website:

Richard Guajardo

Scholarships/Grants:

Natalie Lira

Social Media:

Patti Curtis

Visit us online at:

[houstonarealawlibrarians.org](http://www.houstonarealawlibrarians.org)