Greetings, HALL Members. Autumn is upon us. Samuel Butler once wrote, “Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.” It is an exciting time in the city of Houston as our Houston Astros have taken it back to the World Series. It is also an exciting time for HALL. HALL membership is growing. I want to welcome new members: Jonathan Briley (Winstead), Monique Gonzalez (Thomson Reuters), Debra Jobes (Student), Michael Kitzen (Juris Publishing), and Keely Southwick (Baker Botts). If you know of anyone who fits our membership profile, please let me know so I can reach out to them about joining HALL.

We have had some excellent presentations in the past few months. Joe Lawson, the recipient of the HALL Annual Meeting grant, shared his AALL D.C. experience. Joe and the Harris County Law Library concluded the conference with the winning Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award. In September, we had an informative presentation from Nakul Goenka, Founder and President of Houston Legal Tech Association (HLTA), on legal technology trends and cyber-security. Our October meeting was an innovative show-and-tell presentation on electronic resources organization from HALL member volunteers. Thank you to Michael McHenry, Margaret Bartlett, Colleen Manning, Trisha Petit, and Karen Kronenberg for the interesting perspectives on the use of library catalogs and intranets to help researchers locate resources. Thanks again to Michael McHenry, for organizing.

I look forward to our remaining events in the calendar year. We hope to see everyone and celebrate another World Series championship at our November meeting and enjoy food, fellowship, and fun at our HALL-iday party in December. As we draw near to the holiday season, I am thankful to be part of an organization of amazing professionals. I wish everyone a joyful holiday season.
Message from the Vice-President

Michael McHenry
Director of Research and Knowledge Services
Vinson & Elkins LLP

When I was about 8, my sister and I started a podcast. We didn’t call it that, of course. But we planned a program, popped in a tape to our cassette player, hit play and record, and filled up the cassette talking about . . . whatever 8- and 10-year-old siblings talk about. Then we listened to ourselves, laughing mostly about how strange our recorded voices sounded. I think the idea was we would give it to friends, but we never got that far. We only owned three cassettes (and one of them was reserved for an unauthorized recording of songs from when Grease aired on TV), so we had to overwrite ourselves constantly, and thus none of our previous observances were saved for posterity. But, we were early technologists without even thinking about it. It was fun to use these new-to-us devices, and discovering what else we could do with them was natural.

Eagle-eye observers may have noticed a technology theme in our September and October meetings, and it will carry on into November as well. Technology is pervasive in our jobs, and it’s easy to take it for granted. It also can be difficult to manage. Our role, whether it be in a firm or school or county law library, is to harness the tech available to us in a meaningful way so that we can guide others towards answers. We should do this with a little bit of wonder (“This is kinda fun!”) and a lot of curiosity (“I wonder how else can we use this?”). And patience when things aren’t working right. Lots of patience.

Be on the lookout for details on our HALL-iday Party which will take place at noon on Wednesday, December 11. In addition to a fantastic lunch, we will have a White Elephant Book Exchange. Celebrate the holidays with friends and colleagues by stealing books from one another!
Monica Ortale  
Associate Director for Public Services  
South Texas College of Law Houston  

Life is stressful; we try to relax with yoga, or therapy dogs, or perhaps your employer schedules a morale-boosting event to help you relax and become a team. Well, here at South Texas College of Law Houston, we decided to try something different. We planted a garden.

We approached the Dean about our plan to redesign one of the raised garden beds on the 6th floor of the Library. At the time, I had an inkling that he would give us what I called, “the mud pit,” full of nasty ferns trying to grow in the shade. But we said “okay,” and then the work began, getting in dirt and compost and researching the plants we would try to grow. Then reality hit, and everyone got excited and involved.

Then Jeannie Mazzone said, “What garden is complete without a gnome?” and donated our friendly gnome, who, thanks to Caren Luckie (the winner of the “name that gnome” competition) became known as Oliver Wendell Gnome. He is now featured throughout the library, and Heather Kushnerick developed an entire marketing program we call “the gnome knows.” Oliver is placed throughout the library with his photo and Instagram feed #thegnomeknows. Heather posts how the gnome knows about printing or the gnome knows there’s a special event in the library today.

We did a short story in the staff newsletter and sent out emails, and suddenly, staff from other departments were coming to the garden space. They would linger, smell the aromatic herbs, and talk to us. Employees we had never met before would approach us at a school event and ask about the garden; it gave us a way to break the ice and get to know each other. When the okra started producing, we discussed favorite recipes and how Grandma cooked it.

Then the students would stop in and ask if they could help. We also found they were studying at the benches and tables near the garden. When the plants started to produce, interest increased as they watched the herbs and vegetables grow, knowing that they could take what they needed.

It was amazing how the plants just took over. We are not green thumbs — we threw the seeds in the dirt and hoped for the best! We had a fabulous Texas cherry tomato plant that grew and grew — we started to call her “Audrey,” but she produced the sweetest tomatoes ever!

Now, summer is over and we have flipped the garden to typical Fall produce — corn, squash, zucchini, and best of all, pumpkins! We intend to grow a pumpkin patch and make it available to students to for photos, share it with their children or spouses, and eventually take some of the edible pumpkins home. In addition, our resident scarecrow will make an appearance, and October festivities will begin.

So what was intended as a way to relieve stress, a way for the students to become involved, will be, well, growing. In January, another garden bed will be converted to sustain citrus trees!

(See pictures on next page.)
South Texas College of Law Garden Pictures

Above: Oliver Wendell Gnome

Right: Audrey the Tomato Plant

Below: Garden View
1. Death comes to Earth to learn about Life in this 1998 movie.
2. This half-vampire, half-mortal becomes the protector of knowledge and the mortal race – but he needs the help of Pearl – the Archivist.
3. Librarian Adrienne Barbeau helps solve the murders (caused by Jack the Ripper) or his ghost – that result when London Bridge is relocated to Lake Havasu City, AZ.
4. The Green Slime was not in the ice machine but in the library in this 1984 movie.
5. The librarian – just known as a “Microfilm Clerk” - helps the lead character use his research skills to find more information about a haunted house in this 1980 movie.
6. Many people dress as characters from this futuristic movie, in which the archives help find a missing planet.
7. Four people are killed in a bus crash but are allowed to return to life to take care of “unfinished business.” One of them is a shy librarian and aspiring singer.
8. X marks the spot in the library as our heroes go the catacombs and see skeletons fall from their coffins.
9. A young lady haunts the “Musik” section of a Vienna library, trying to find more information about a man she loves in this 1948 film.
10. Many dress up as one of these for Halloween, but our librarian goes on a hunt for historical information for her library.
11. A meek librarian is the only person in town with enough courage and will power to confront the evil brought by the traveling carnival and the mysterious Mr. Dark.
12. This trio of diabolical sisters have some Halloween fun when they awaken after being executed in the 17th century. Where else – in Salem.
13. You can find lots of old lore in the “Restricted Section” of the library in this series of movies about young witches and wizards.
14. The dad goes to the library to find out about the history of his supposedly haunted house that has taken his daughter.
15. Did the personification of murders in the library start with a board game that this 1985 movie is based on?

“Legal Tech is Not Optional”

Joseph D. Lawson  
Deputy Director  
Harris County Law Library

On August 19, 2019, the Harris County Law Library’s Legal Tech Institute welcomed a renowned legal tech innovator, D. Casey Flaherty, as a guest speaker for its Legal Tech Lecture Series program, “Legal Tech is not optional.” Casey discussed the growing need on the part of lawyers and law firms to adopt technology, especially in Texas where technological competence is now a part of the ethical duty of competence.

Casey made a splash several years ago with his Legal Tech Assessment, which tested basic tech skills of big law attorneys hoping to win the business of Kia Motors. As in-house counsel, Casey looked for ways to rein in legal fees and maximize value for his company. He discovered many billable hours were spent on partners, associates, and paralegals using common software, such as Microsoft Word and Excel, inefficiently. The breakthrough discovery led to more testing — of more than 15,000 participants — and plenty of articles and accolades, including honors from the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) for the online learning platform called Procertas that Casey developed to help legal professionals learn basic tech skills needed for a modern practice.

Casey’s program is a perfect example of the service the Law Library’s Legal Tech Institute provides. Although the ethical duties and market pressures that make legal tech a requirement for modern practice fall equally across all segments of legal professionals, training is often reserved for large firms. In the 2018 ABA Tech Report, 98% of attorneys at the largest firms reported that tech training is available to them, while only 25% of solo attorneys responded the same way. (Mark Rosch, “2018 Technology Training,” ABA TechReport 2018). By making legal tech training free and open to everyone, the Legal Tech Institute strives to ensure that no one is excluded from the modern practice of law, and that, by extension, clients who hire solo and small firm attorneys are not excluded from the legal system. “Legal Tech is not optional” is now available here.

I encourage all HALL members to take advantage of the legal tech training offered by the Harris County Law Library. In addition to the Legal Tech Lecture Series, we also offer a free CLE in the Law Library every Thursday at 2 p.m. These sessions involve hands-on learning opportunities with legal research databases and commonly-used software, such as Microsoft Word and Excel. The Legal Tech Institute has also partnered with Casey and his company, Procertas, to offer free access to the online learning platform Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Law Library.
Tattoos: Trendy or Taboo?

Fall 2019 Member Poll Question: Do you have any tattoos?

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<td>No, but maybe someday!</td>
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<td>7.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No, and never will.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, and not likely.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respondent Comments

- I was never interested in getting one, and I never felt it was worth the pain :(
- I express myself in other ways.
- If God meant me to have art on my body, He would have put it there Himself.
- I do not need to see what happens to a tattoo as my skin ages!
- I have no objections to other people having/getting tattoos, but for business purposes, I do think they should be either not visible or very small/unobtrusive.
- Ink is fine by me.
- I love tattoos and those who have them. I have a personal standard when it comes to tattoo selection. It's another form of self-expression.
- I got my tattoos in college and always planned to get more. It's taken me a while to decide on what those would be (over 20 years!), and I still intend to get them. I just haven't, yet.
- I wanted a tattoo when I was too afraid to get one.
- Ewww!
I was studying human rights law about four years ago when I first learned of the Human Rights Tattoo project. Per its website, such project is “an art project to create awareness and underline the importance of human rights” accomplished through the tattooing of the complete text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) —a total of 6,773 letters—one letter at a time. As each participant receives a single tattooed letter, only 6,773 people in the world will become a part of such project. To achieve its objective, the Human Rights Tattoo project travels the world, hosting its tattooing events at locations across the globe and raising money for various human rights issues along the way. Participants must travel to the host location in order to take part. As the artists tattoo the letters in the order laid out in the UDHR, participants do not have the option to choose which letter will be tattooed. However, each participant’s passion for human rights is documented by the project, which collects and posts a photo of each tattooed letter, the name of its owner, and a story about their personal motivation for taking part on its website. At present, the project is just over halfway finished, with 3,462 letters having been tattooed.

Though I don’t anticipate getting a tattoo myself, I was intrigued when learning of the Human Rights Tattoo project, and, given this quarter’s poll, I thought this a good time to highlight the project to those who may be seeking an opportunity to combine their love of ink with a desire to advocate for human rights. In addition to being a worthy cause and unique—well, one in 6,773—experience, it’s a pretty interesting conversation starter, don’t you think? (To learn more about the Human Rights Tattoo project, visit humanrightstattoo.org )
Member Spotlight: HALL President

Andre Davison
Research Technology Manager
Blank Rome

- Which library school did you attend? Year of graduation?: University of North Texas, 2014
- Last movie seen: Godzilla: King of the Monsters
- Least favorite food: Beets
- What is on your mouse pad?: Nothing
- Non-travel item on Bucket List: Skydiving
- Star Trek or Star Wars: Star Wars
- Pineapple on pizza?: Yum
- Book currently reading: Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson
- Favorite drink: Cuba Libre
- Favorite color: Red
- Conferences: Invigorating or exhausting?: Invigorating
- Favorite type of music: 80s R&B
- Biggest fear: Not seeing my children grow up.

- Favorite smell: Grandmother’s Peach Cobbler
- What’s on your phone homescreen?: iPhone default background
- Favorite TV show: Scrubs
- Manual or automatic: Automatic
- Ice or roller: Roller
- Text or phone call: phone call
Member Spotlight: New(ish) Member

Sabrina A. Davis
Research Librarian
Norton Rose Fulbright

- Which library school did you attend? Year of graduation?: University of Arizona, 2013
- Last movie seen: Always Be My Maybe
- Least favorite food: Olives (shudder)
- What is on your mouse pad?: Bookshelves with cat (see bottom picture)
- Non-travel item on Bucket List: write a children’s book
- Star Trek or Star Wars: Live Long & Prosper with the Force
- Pineapple on pizza?: Every time!
- Book currently reading: About Grief by Ron Marasco & Brian Shuff
- Favorite drink: Tea (hot or iced)
- Favorite color: Teal
- Conferences: Invigorating or exhausting?: Tired just thinking about it.
- Favorite type of music: Oldies
- Biggest fear: Failure
- Favorite smell: Cinnamon
- What’s on your phone homescreen?: my dog, Whiskey Jane (top picture)
- Favorite TV show: Golden Girls
- Manual or automatic: Automatic
- Ice or roller: Either
- Text or phone call: Text
Book Review: The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Mary Ann Wacker
Research Services Manager
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

As a librarian, I felt compelled to read this book by Susan Orlean. I am really glad that I read this quirky, interesting, and fun read.

The main plot of this non-fiction story revolves around a devastating fire that took place at the Los Angeles Public Library on April 29, 1986. The fire burned for seven hours and destroyed most of the library’s collection. More than 30 years later, the fire’s origins are still a mystery. Orlean uses the fire to delve into the workings of the Los Angeles Public Library. However, the book is so much more than the story of the fire. We meet the librarians and feel their heart-felt grief over the loss of their beloved library and the effort that went into the cleanup and repair of some of the books. Orlean goes on to pay homage to the pioneering librarians who began the library and guided it through its early days. We hear the librarians tell great stories about the wacky and wild reference requests they receive, and we meet some of the patrons who donate beloved collections to the library.

Woven in and out of the library story is the life and misfortunes of Harry Peak, the possible arsonist. Harry was a semi-con man and actor-wannabe who confided to several acquaintances and others that he started the fire—but then changed his story too many times to count. His guilt was never proven, and the mystery of his involvement died with him.

Orlean also reflects on her own history as a frequent library patron as a child and her love of books. I found this very moving as I remember my late mother taking me to the library when I was little and how much I loved it. This is a perfect ode to libraries and those who love them!

Edifications — Editor’s Notes

Seeking Members to Spotlight
We would like to feature a fun profile of at least one HALL member in each issue of HALL Quarterly — see pages 9 and 10 of this issue. If you would like to volunteer yourself or someone else for this illustrious honor, please send an e-mail to sabrina.davis@nortonrosefulbright.com.

Special Thanks
Sending a heart-felt thank you to Barbara Szalkowski for her editing expertise!

Next HALL Meeting
The next HALL meeting will be November 13, 2019, at South Texas College of Law.
The 2018-2019 HALL Officers were Colleen Manning, President; Andre Davison, Vice President/President-Elect; Chris Dykes, Immediate Past President; Katy Stein Badeaux, Secretary; Margaret Bartlett, Treasurer; Michael McHenry, Member-at Large; Lori-Ann Craig, Member-at-Large.

HALL took a larger part in organizing and arranging funding for the DALL/HALL/SWALL/UNT reception at the 2019 AALL Annual Meeting. The website was reorganized and updated. HALL issued a renewed resolution in support of the Enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in the State of Texas, and the Government Relations Committee worked with other organizations to support the successful enactment of the law.

To ensure that the data of HALL members is adequately protected under various new laws, the Board appointed the Data Protection Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee is charged with (1) reviewing the current disclosures and privacy policies and (2) proposing changes and new policy language. This Committee and charge will continue into the new fiscal year. HALL continued to have a busy schedule with monthly educational meetings, a holiday party, a reception at the AALL Annual Meeting, and a Spring Seminar on “Cybersecurity Habits for Legal Professionals.”

At the monthly meetings, various educational topics were presented, including: “Houston Stronger: Harvey One Year Later;” “From Applications to Services: Emerging Technologies and Innovation for Attorneys;” “The Robot Librarian;” and “Harris County Cash-Bail Reform.” Jean Willis, AALL Treasurer, provided an AALL update at the February meeting.

Annually, HALL organizes a service project giving members an opportunity to serve the local community. The January meeting focuses on this project, encouraging members to participate. This year, our members volunteered to make breakfast bags for Meals on Wheels. The event was coordinated with Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, a United Way Agency. It was a great success, although it ended earlier than expected due to the outstanding organization skills of the participating members.

This year, the Board awarded a $1,000 grant was awarded to Joe Lawson for the annual AALL meeting. The Board also recognizes contributions to HALL that stand out as particularly meritorious each year. Mary Ann Wacker was named the Volunteer of the Year and received a $50 gift certificate in recognition of her efforts.

HALL held elections on May 8, 2019. The new 2019-2020 officers as elected are Andre Davison, President; Michael McHenry, Vice President/President-Elect; Colleen Manning, Immediate Past President; Katy Stein Badeaux, Secretary; Karen Kronenberg, Treasurer; Melinda Elder, Member-at Large; Lori-Ann Craig, Member-at-Large.
HALL Meeting Minutes - October 9, 2019

South Texas College of Law Library

The October HALL Meeting was called to order by President Andre Davison at 12:01 p.m.
The Minutes from the September 2019 business meeting were approved. The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Old Business
Andre Davison discussed Houston Bar Association’s Fundraiser for Shearn Elementary School. The $30,000 fundraising goal was reached as of September 30.

New Business
HALL has obtained AALL chapter liability insurance at no cost.
AALL Leadership Academy to be held March 27-28, 2020, Oak Grove, Illinois is accepting applications until November 11, 2019.
The sessions from this last summer’s AALL Meeting in Washington, D.C. are now available online.

Committee Reports
Archives: no report
Bylaws: no report
Community Service: Monica Ortale announced that HALL will be performing its community service project with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, which involves working on the downtown Buffalo Bayou project. The dates that are being considered include January 18, February 22, and March 7, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. There will be an opportunity to donate to the organization. This project will be discussed at January’s meeting.

Continuing Education: Vice-President/President-Elect Michael McHenry discussed the HALL Show & Tell: Organization of Electronic Resources program.
Government Relations: Joe Lawson encouraged members to follow the AALL Washington E-Bulletin and mentioned vote by Harris County’s Commissioner’s Court not to raise property taxes. He mentioned that he would be following how this might impact the county law library.
Membership: Andre Davison introduced new members Monique Gonzalez and Debra Jobes
Newsletter: Andre Davison encouraged members to send items for the newsletter to Sabrina Davis.
Nominations: no report
Placement: There are two positions available at TSU’s law library.
Public Relations: Andre Davison encouraged members to send any news or announcements to Heather Holmes.
Scholarships and Grants: no report
Vendor Relations: Colleen Pincumbe announced the vendor forum at Thomson Knight on October 31, 2019, will feature Re:searchTX. Philip Vaden will be speaking.
Website: Andre Davison announced that Richard Guajardo has been working to fix broken links on the website and asks members to report any links that don’t work.
Ad hoc (Data Protection): Sent revisions to data policy statement.
Andre Davison adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.
## HALL Treasurer's Report

### HALL Treasurer’s Report - October 9, 2019

**Balance Forward**

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**10/9/2019**

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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 for more information.

There are close to 100 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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Andre Davison
adavison@blankrome.com

Vice President/President Elect
Michael McHenry
mmchenry@velaw.com

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Katy Stein Badeaux
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Karen Kronenberg
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Members-at-Large
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Past President
Colleen Manning
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Melinda Elder
melinda.elder@chamberlainlaw.com

HALL Committee Chairs

By-Laws:
Caren Luckie

Archives:
Heather Kushnerick

Continuing Education:
Michael McHenry

Government Relations:
Joseph Lawson

Membership:
Mary Ann Wacker

Community Service:
Monica Ortale

Nominations:
Patti Curtis

Vendor Relations:
Colleen Pincumbe

Placement:
Candice Kennington

HALL Website:
Richard Guajardo

Public Relations:
Heather Holmes

Newsletter Editor:
Sabrina A. Davis

Scholarships/Grants:
Kelley Bocell

Visit us online at:
http://houstonarealawlibrarians.org