Greetings, HALL members. Our world has changed tremendously since our last newsletter. COVID-19 has impacted all of us as individuals and as organizations. I hope that everyone and their families are well, are healthy, and staying safe. As we consider the realities of a post-pandemic world, HALL prepares to transition to new leadership under President Michael McHenry.

I want to say I am truly honored to have served as HALL President for the 2019-20 year. Although I was initially hesitant to accept the role of HALL Vice President/President-Elect, I am glad I did because I have grown tremendously. I would like to thank every member of this wonderful organization for your patience, understanding, and encouragement throughout this process. I would like to extend special thanks to all the HALL Board Members and Committees Chairs and Members for your contributions. As we deal with uncertainty about the future, I am comforted that you are truly in great hands with President Michael McHenry and Vice-President Sabrina Davis. As Immediate Past-President, I will be around to help Michael and Sabrina with our new normal.

Thank you, Monica Ortale, for organizing the HALL Community Service event with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership. Although the work was strenuous, I am gratified we were able help revitalize Buffalo Bayou Park. I would like to thank AALL Secretary, Luis Acosta, for his visit in February for our Annual AALL Update. I want to also applaud Michael for our wonderful March Spring Institute, Creating Practice-Ready Attorneys, featuring awesome speakers Kenton Brice and Jocelyn K. Sagherian.

We had our first-ever HALL Hall at the end of April to check in with everyone to see how they were managing during COVID-19. Lastly, it was great seeing...
everyone for our HALL Virtual Business meeting, and I am excited about the new slate of officers for 2020-21. Although the AALL July meeting in New Orleans was canceled, I hope we have the chance to do something virtually as a group in the upcoming months. Have a great summer, so long, and thanks for all the fish.

Message from the Vice-President

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

Hours before the COVID quarantines started, we squeezed in the 2020 HALL Spring Institute. Kenton Brice, one of our speakers, got the word as he touched down in Houston that all university travel was suspended. (They still let him return home.) I’m not sure that we realized it at the time, but that was our last non-Zoom meeting of the year. It’s certainly a strange time we’re currently living in.

I’m hopeful that a little of the uncertainty begins to clear up before our next meeting in the fall. I’m looking forward to 2020-2021 and serving as your President!

But as a group, we are both flexible and resilient, and we’ll handle what comes our way.

My time as VP/meeting planner has been more fun than I expected it to be, and I hope the meetings and presentations were a good use of everyone’s time. Thank you to Andre for his guidance and to the outgoing members of the board – Colleen, Katy and Lori-Ann – for their service to the organization. And a special thanks to Colleen and Laura, our gracious hosts at South Texas, who made the planning and execution of all of our monthly meetings so much easier.

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 the Editor at newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.org.

All contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. HALL does not assume responsibility for the statements of contributors. Views or opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of Houston Area Law Librarians. The *HALL Quarterly* is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

Membership dues are $40/year. For membership information, please visit the [HALL Membership page](#).
This might not have been the best time for a topic on networks, given that we’re in a state of “social distancing,” but I have found that one of my most valuable resources is my network. Or, maybe it’s networks, rather than a single one. I have networks for many aspects of my life—both for work, for social, for my horses, as a parent, and the list goes on. And, as many of our institutions have instituted a “work from home” policy for the next few weeks, networks are more important than ever.

Networking isn’t just attending receptions, meetings, or other gatherings. It’s about being part of something. Yes, attending professional meetings and the associated receptions is a great way to network in person. You attend, chat with people you don’t know, give out your business card, and receive other business cards in exchange. Then you enter all that information into an electronic system—because, let’s face it, few of us have a Rolodex or business card file anymore [full confession, I still have a Rolodex in my office, but it hasn’t been updated in years]. Today, networking is online—think LinkedIn, Facebook, AALL My Communities, or your local chapter email listserv.

I wouldn’t be as effective at my job if I didn’t have a great network. Or networks, plural. There’s our internal network of researchers (as well as attorneys and staff). I also have several email listserv networks. One of the things that I tell our new hires and summer associates is that they shouldn’t be afraid to ask for anything. That includes books or other materials that we don’t have in-house. I rely on my library networks to help locate materials. These networks have made me look AWESOME to our attorneys and staff. There is rarely an item that we can’t get from somewhere, another firm, a law school library, or other institution. And it’s quid pro quo—I am happy to respond to requests from outside our firm if I can help. As a service-oriented profession, we help our patrons, and our colleagues.

I try to encourage new librarians to join their local chapter and attend meetings. The local group can be the most effective network, and it’s certainly the one with the fastest response time. The larger listservs mean more chances to find obscure material because it’s a wider network. The more-focused My Communities mean that you can get assistance from those institutions and librarians who are in similar positions/institutions/etc. Take advantage of as

Continued on page 4
many networks as you can. You may never need one/all, but they are there when you need something.

Conferences provide an excellent opportunity to put a face to a name on an email. In addition to the anonymity of a national/international listerv, I have, and I’m sure many others have, a more personal network of go-to librarians. Conferences provide a chance to catch up with friends, direct contacts, and make new contacts. It’s also a chance to thank people who have helped me out through the years, even if it’s just a chance to say “thank you” in person. You never know if that person you met last month might just happen to have that one elusive resource that you need. Social distancing doesn’t mean you’re cut off, take advantage of your networks.

**COVID Comfort Food: Hungarian Lesco**

**Cristina Minter**  
Librarian  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

I used to hang out with several Hungarian expats in the Houston area, and one of the dishes I learned to make from them is a pepper and tomato stew called “lesco” (lech-o). For the last step, if your instinct is to the temper the eggs before adding them to the stew, that instinct would apparently be incorrect. (I was assured that pouring the egg mixture in slowly at the end and gently stirring it in is correct).

**Ingredients**

- 2 ¼ lb of assorted bell peppers (if your grocery store offers Hungarian and/or Anaheim peppers, add a few of those)
- 1 ½ lb of Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 5-6 beaten eggs
- 1 to 2 cups of water
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp of butter
- 2 tbsp of Hungarian smoked paprika (you can always add more)
- Salt and pepper
- Optional ingredients: 1-2 cloves of minced garlic; crushed red pepper to taste

**Preparation**

Remove the stalks and seeds from the peppers and cut into rings or about 1-inch pieces (this takes a lot of time). Sauté the diced onions in the oil and butter. Add garlic and crushed red pepper, if using. Remove from heat and stir in the paprika. Add peppers, salt, and pepper. Cover with lid. Simmer for about 10 minutes, and then add tomatoes. Let simmer for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add about 1 cup of water, and continue simmering for another 10 minutes. Adjust taste with salt, pepper, and more paprika, if needed. Take pot off of heat and SLOWLY add beaten eggs, while stirring gently. Eggs will set, and liquid will thicken. Serve in bowls topped with sour cream and a nice, crusty piece of bread.

**Serving Size:** 4-6
Collaboration Between Texas State and Harris Co. Law Libraries

Press Release: April 29, 2020

Contact: Joseph D. Lawson, Deputy Director
Harris County Law Library
Joseph.Lawson@cao.hctx.net
713-755-5183

State Law Library and Harris County Law Library Launch Partnership to Expand Digital Services

Today, the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library announced a new partnership to expand digital services for all Texans. Beginning on Law Day, May 1, 2020, law librarians from both institutions will work together to offer expanded chat services in English and Spanish Monday through Friday. Anyone who needs assistance with legal research can contact a law librarian through either libraries’ website to access expansive collections of digital resources.

“We are excited to expand access to legal information with our partners at the State Law Library,” Harris County Law Library Director Mariann Sears said. “Each library has unique resources to support self-represented litigants, attorneys, and the judiciary. Through this partnership, we can make more of those resources available to help ensure continued access to justice as we stay home and work safe.”

Following guidance from the Supreme Court of Texas and public health officials, both law libraries suspended in-person services in March and expanded virtual services to support remote work by attorneys, judges, and self-represented litigants. Expansion of real-time chat services will further assist the legal community to work remotely following the Supreme Court’s extension of its emergency order through June 1, 2020, allowing Texas courts to postpone hearings and encourage remote participation in proceedings.

“This partnership is a great opportunity for the State Law Library to serve more Texans, especially in Harris County,” Texas State Law Library Assistant Director Amy Small said. “With a third of the Texas legal community and the state’s busiest courts, the Houston metro area has the most potential users of the State Law Library’s expansive digital collections. Working with law librarians at the Harris County Law Library and drawing on their expertise will help us connect more Texans with needed legal resources.”

The new partnership will serve as a pilot program with the goal of expanding opportunities for collaboration between Texas’s network of public law libraries. Law libraries that are interested in participating are encouraged to contact the State Law Library.

Continued on page 6
About Chat References Services
Law librarians at the Texas State Law Library and Harris County Law Library will offer real-time reference services in English and Spanish Monday through Friday, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., beginning on Friday, May 1, 2020. Visit either library website to access the chat interface and to learn more about digital services.

About the Texas State Law Library
The Texas State Law Library is a public law library that serves the legal research needs of the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, the Office of the Attorney General, other state agencies and commissions, and the citizens of the state. Located in Austin, Texas, the State Law Library offers services and digital collections to all Texans through its website at https://www.sll.texas.gov.

About the Harris County Law Library
The Harris County Law Library opened in 1915 and has continued to serve Harris County's legal information needs for more than a century. After joining the Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney, in 2011, the Law Library greatly expanded its technology offerings and services to the public. Today, the Law Library receives more than 60,000 visitors each year, 90% of whom are not lawyers. To learn more about services and digital collections, visit the Harris County Law Library Virtual Reference Desk at https://www.harriscountylawlibrary.org.
Working from Home Together — A Lesson in Words

Melinda Elder
Director of Knowledge & Research Services
Chamberlain Hrdlicka

Two months ago the virus sent my husband and I home full-time. For the first time, we worked in a shared space. At the end of our first day working at home together, I looked at him, dumbfounded. He literally spoke with people all day. We have laughed about my misperception often these past few weeks. Even I would need quiet at the end of his work day.

My husband and I fit the textbook examples of an extrovert (me) and an introvert (him). When we arrive home after work, I am ready for conversation and he is ready for quiet. We discussed our differences in our after-work state of mind over the years, as we noticed these differences emerging. I have many words left to say at the end of the work day, while his are used. He has described his work day as filled with meetings, one-on-ones, and telephone calls. I secretly thought he was exaggerating how often he spoke with people during the day. He is a software engineer, so isn’t he answering email and looking at a computer all day like I am.

Our after-work state of mind differences were not a problem while our two kids lived at home, because I spoke to them. Our extroverted daughter left home four years ago, leaving me with my introverted husband and our introverted son. But my leftover words were still split between two people. When our son left two years ago, I began regularly calling my mother, sister, or a girlfriend on the way home from work. This used many of my words to avoid bombarding my husband when I arrived at home.

Close Quarters:
View from Her “Office” to His Office

HALL Member News
Congratulations to the following!

On May 20, 2020, Barbara Szalkowski celebrated her 35th anniversary at South Texas College of Law Houston.

Katy Badeaux will serve as President of the SWALL Executive Board for 2020-2021.

Andrew Bennett will serve as Treasurer of the SWALL Executive Board for 2020-2021.
From My Dining Room Table

MaryAnn Wacker
Research Services Manager
Kirkland & Ellis

Hello, HALL friends! I’m on week four of working at home. At first I thought I was going to lose my mind, but I have adjusted. It helps so much to have Zoom/FaceTime calls with my colleagues as well as friends.

I was able to set myself up at the dining room table with two monitors and my work laptop. It’s dangerously close to the refrigerator, but I have kept the hunger pangs in check, thankfully. It’s been incredibly busy working on business development pitches for debt refinancing. Spending all day looking at our local energy companies’ debt loads has been just as terrifying as coronavirus, honestly.

I have caught up with friends and family near and far, which has been wonderful. I have not had time to binge much, but I have watched some of my favorite movies: The Princess Bride, Groundhog Day, Monty Python & the Holy Grail, Hot Fuzz, The Young Victoria, Sense and Sensibility, and Talladega Nights. Getting outside for a walk every day helps, along with daily “Yoga with Adriene” sessions on YouTube. My garden is absolutely gorgeous which also makes me happy.
COVID Comfort Food: Pea Soup

Saskia Mehlhorn  
US Director of Knowledge Services  
Norton Rose Fulbright

One of the most wondrous tools I discovered after moving to the US was a slow cooker. Growing up in Germany, we did not have any of these, but there was another tool, the Schnellkochtopf (pressure cooker, direct translation would be “speed cooker”). I still remember when my mom received one (I must have been 7 or 8), and right away she started to make some tomato sauce, closed the pot, and stood there waiting for what happens next. All in a sudden, the pot started to whistle really loud (in my memory it was akin to a fire alarm), and she managed to open it with force. Well, you can probably imagine when our kitchen was repainted and we got new cabinets (she was fine if anyone is wondering). Where was I . . . slow cooker. For the first few months after I bought my first—and 19-years-later-still-working—slow cooker, I cooked everything that is possible and had some really interesting results. There was the time when I made lasagna, no oil in the pot, not enough liquid, and it took numerous hand washes to get it clean. Being my grandmother’s descendant, we still ate the lasagna—otherwise she would have started rolling over in her final resting place. What I found through many trials are that there are two things that work really well for us—any type of soup that does not involve pasta (the lasagna disaster had a lasting impression) and pulled pork. For now, here is my one of my favorites—pea soup.

**Ingredients**

1 lb. dried peas  
2 large diced carrots  
¼ diced celery root (Root! not the stuff that you fill with cream cheese and hot sauce)  
½ thinly sliced leek  
½ diced onion  
2 bay leaves  
1 tsp. whole pepper corns  
1 tsp. salt (I started to use a smoked salt, which gives the soup and additional level of depth.)  
1 ham hock

**Preparation**

This soup is best made in a slow cooker. Throw everything in, and let it cook on the lower heat level for at least 8 hours. Once the soup is done, it might look rather mushy. Take the ham hock out, cut off the meat, and put it back in (optional) or add some sausage of your choice. If you want to make it vegetarian, just leave the ham hock out and add a bit of extra smoked salt. The soup freezes very well, and the recipe can easily be doubled.

**Serving Size:** 4-6
In Pictures: Working from Home during COVID

An IT colleague in Houston is checking on my computer issues (Courtesy of Trisha Petitt)

Collaborating on a project with a tight deadline (Courtesy of Trisha Petitt)

Home Office (Courtesy of Barbara Szalkowki)

My co-worker is getting fat from all the treats it takes to placate her. (Courtesy of Sabrina Davis)
Caren’s COVID Creature Comforts

Photos courtesy of Caren Luckie
Member Spotlight: Kim Serna

Kim Serna
Firmwide Associate Director
for Research Services
Jones Day

- Last movie seen: The Age of Adaline
- Least favorite food: BBQ
- Star Trek or Star Wars: Star Trek
- Pineapple on pizza? Y/N: No
- Book currently reading: Daisy Jones and The Six
- Favorite drink: Water
- Favorite color: Today, it’s blue.

- Conferences—Invigorating or exhausting?: Invigorating, until you’re exhausted
- Favorite type of music: All types, but if I have to choose one, Christian music.
- Biggest fear: Car crashes
- Favorite smell(s): Cigars
- What’s on your phone home screen?: A bunch of apps
- Favorite TV show or movie: My Best Friend’s Wedding
- Favorite streaming service: Netflix
- Ice or roller skating: Ice

I keep my phone on silent so that I purposely miss calls, I hate talking on the phone...I don’t respond to voice mail since I never listen to them...but you can text me oxox
HALL Spring Member Poll Results: Charts

How are you getting food/groceries during Houston’s Stay-at-Home order? Select as many as you like.
13 responses

- Regular shopping in stores: 1 (7.7%)
- Shopping in stores with protective gear: 7 (53.8%)
- Curbside pick-up: 8 (61.5%)
- Delivery: 6 (46.2%)
- Take-out: 3 (23.1%)

How is working from home going?
13 responses

- Great: 61.5%
- So-so: 15.4%
- Hating it: 23.1%
- Not applicable: 0%
HALL Spring Member Poll Results: Responses

Question: How are you keeping yourself (and others) engaged and/or entertained during Houston's Stay-at-Home order?

Answers:

• Grad school work, family and friends Zoom meetings, reading, and puzzles.
• LOTS of movies on cable, DVDs, streaming, etc. Online jigsaw puzzles ([bigpuzzle.net](http://bigpuzzle.net) is my fa-ve!), Sudoku, Mahjong, etc.
• Long walks with the baby, Disney+, online gaming, Netflix, and Zoom/Skype calls with friends.
• Exercising, streaming entertainment, outdoor activities, and dogs.
• Watching a lot of DVDs and streaming services, and a lot of one-on-one time with my spouse.
• Daily conference call with team members, quilting, sewing, baking and cooking for a friend who is a nurse and her team, reading, and annoying my husband (which is great entertainment!).
• Working on my papers, watching TV, reading books, Facebook.
• Binge watching shows I never had time to watch before.
• Attempting to start a yoga practice, lots of dog walks, Zoom meetings, and video games with my son.
• I’m working much of the day, but trying to get outside to do chores and play with my animals. And our local indie/used bookstore is a great place to social distance!
• Reading, trying to cook, talking to mom on phone, and daily conference calls with work team.

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 page 12 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.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of the *HALL Quarterly* contributors and readers who made my first year as Editor of the newsletter a success. With our new Chapter President’s approval, I will continue on as Editor during my term as VP/President-Elect. So, please keep your contributions coming in!
HALL Business Meeting Pictures - May 13, 2020
HALL Meeting Minutes - May 13, 2020

Virtual Meeting Conducted via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm.
Secretary did not have access to office to retrieve February meeting minutes, no minutes can be approved at this time.
Treasurer’s report was displayed for review and approved by voice vote.

Old Business

• AALL had a board meeting in April, many hundreds of pages of notes released.
• AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans cancelled.

New Business

• PLI will be held virtually, and at a reduced cost.
• Thank you to all who attended the virtual HALL hall on Zoom last week.

Committee Reports

Archives: Archives are fine, send Heather pandemic stories and photos.
Bylaws: No bylaw changes at present.
Community Service: Community involvement on hold, but looking into future projects at the African American cemetery or Houston Food Bank.
Government Relations: Visit readyharris.org/Stay-Safe for local guidance. Harris County Law Library is currently closed. Watch AALL for federal government updates.
Membership: Handful of new members have joined this year.
Placement: No report.
Public Relations: No report.
Scholarships and Grants: The board decided that due to AALL’s cancellation this year and the budget money saved as a result, we will increase scholarships for Cleveland meeting next year.
Vendor Relations: No report.
Website: The latest project has been to implement privacy settings and opt-out features. Once implemented, you will see the typical accept cookies option and make selection. Allows you to later opt-out in account settings.
Data Protection: All policies are now complete, committee is now ongoing.
Newsletter: You have two more days to submit pictures, articles, book reviews, recipes, etc.

Andre announced that this year’s HALL Volunteer of the Year is Sabrina Davis, congratulations!

Nominations:

Slate of Candidates
President: Michael McHenry
VP/President-Elect: Sabrina Davis (New)
Secretary: Trisha Petitt (New)
Treasurer: Karen Kronenberg
Member at Large (2019-2021): Melinda Elder
Member at Large (2020-2022): Jonathan Briggs (New)
Past President: Andre Davison

Continued on page 17
Nominations Committee Chair Patti Curtis thanked Blythe McCoy and Marianne Sears for their help with the nominations.

Motion made to approve slate of candidates.
Motion seconded
Vote to approve conducted using “Raise Hand” feature in Zoom, along with voice vote.

The slate of candidates was approved.

Outgoing President Andre Davis passed the floor to Michael McHenry, who presented Andre with a gavel as a token of appreciation for his service, as well as a customized HALL protective mask.

Michael also thanked the outgoing board members for their service.

Motion to adjourn approved at 12:38pm.

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2020-2021 Board Member Pictures

Michael McHenry  
President

Sabrina Davis  
Vice-President/President-Elect
2020-2021 Board Member Pictures Continued

Left: Trisha Petitt, Secretary

Right: Karen Kronenberg, Treasurer

Melinda Elder
Member-at-Large
(2019-2021)

Jonathan Briggs
Member-at-Large
(2020-2022)

Andre Davison
Past President
HALL Treasurer’s Report - May 13, 2020

HALL Treasurer's Report

Balance Forward
6/1/2019 $11,410.36

Income

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Total $5,997.26

5/12/2020 $13,353.35

Call for Committee Volunteers and Programming Ideas

Call for Committee Volunteers
If you are interested in serving on a committee, please let President Michael McHenry know by e-mailing him at mmchenry@velaw.com. At this time, we know we need a new Chair for the Data Protection Committee, which is now a standing committee. Look for other opportunities from Michael later this summer, or reach out to him if you have a particular interest.

Call for Programming Ideas
Your Vice-President/President-Elect wants to know what types of programming you would like to see at the monthly meetings, in virtual format, or for the Spring Institute. If you have any ideas or are interested in the joining the Continuing Education Committee, please e-mail Sabrina Davis at sabrina.davis@nortonrosefulbright.com.
P.O. Box 61648
Houston, Texas 77208

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.

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

HALL Officers (2019-2020)

President
Andre Davison
adavison@blankrome.com

Secretary
Katy Stein Badeaux
kastein@central.uh.edu

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

Members-at-Large
Lori-Ann Craig
lori-ann.craig@cao.hctx.net

Melinda Elder
melinda.elder@chamberlainlaw.com

Treasurer
Karen Kronenberg
kkronenberg@stcl.edu

Past President
Colleen Manning
cmanning@stcl.edu

HALL Committee Chairs (2019-2020)

By-Laws:
Caren Luckie

Continuing Education:
Michael McHenry

Archives:
Heather Kushnerick

Membership:
Mary Ann Wacker

Government Relations:
Joseph Lawson

Nominations:
Patti Curtis

Community Service:
Monica Ortale

Placement:
Candice Kennington

Vendor Relations:
Colleen Pincumbe

Public Relations:
Heather Holmes

HALL Website:
Richard Guajardo

Scholarships/Grants:
Kelley Bocell

Newsletter Editor:
Sabrina A. Davis