

HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Volume 32 Number 3

Summer 2015

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Next Meeting:

**Trial
Presentation
Technology,
and Tricks**

Wednesday
September 9
11:45 a.m.
at
STCL Fred Parks
Law Library,
Emilie Slohm Room

Message from the President

Welcome to a new HALL year! We have a number of projects in the works -- some already in place, and some that will roll out throughout the year.

Two of the immediately obvious changes are our new HALL logo and the newly renamed *HALL Quarterly*. I'm excited about the name change -- it's a good step towards getting more article submissions from a larger group of contributors in the librarian community. I'm also pretty excited about our new logo -- it's on our website, on the *Quarterly* masthead above, and



So long, old logo

will soon be popping up in other places. Richard Guajardo, along with Laura Edstrom, Barbara Szalkowski, and Joe Lawson, have been hard at work on the new HALL website. It is powered by Wild Apricot, the new web management database we purchased earlier this year. We're still moving over content but it will allow us to add new features like a members only section and a dynamic member directory. In addition to redesigning our website, we now are able to have online RSVPs for meetings, online membership renewals, and automatic reminders. It also has an administrative side -- the VP will have access to RSVP lists, which will streamline the process of ordering lunches for meetings.

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



President Margaret Bartlett



The new website

Message from the President *(continued)*

Finally, a follow-up from last year -- thank you again to everyone who contributed their time or

money (or both) to our volunteer event at the Ronald McDonald House. We now have the final tally on donations and expenses for the event.

There were \$300 in contributions and our expenses for providing the dinner totaled \$164.58. Since we had so many generous contributions from HALL members, we were able to donate the balance of \$135.42 to the Ronald McDonald House to help them continue their great work. Thank you all for making that such a big success!



HALL Volunteers at the Ronald McDonald Holcombe House {left to right}

Back: Blythe McCoy, Katy Badeaux, Patti Curtis, Shelby Shanks

Front: Mary Ann Wacker, Margaret Bartlett

- Margaret Bartlett

Editor's Notes

The official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians has a shiny new name, and Editor Emeritus Joe Lawson has moved on to greener Vice-Presidential pastures, but one thing that has not changed is that content created by HALL

members is the foundation of this publication. If you or your library are involved in anything you would like to share with your fellow HALL members, your submissions will be welcome at the *HALL Quarterly*.

- 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.

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](#).

Continuing Education

Welcome to a new year of exciting educational opportunities from HALL! We kicked off the year in our customary fashion with an AALL Recap.

Saskia Mehlhorn of Norton Rose Fulbright gave a fantastic snapshot of her experience at the Annual Meeting in Philly.

Beginning with the PLL Summit, Saskia explained

how impressed she was with a new method for generating creative solutions called the Innovation Tournament. She explained that the tournament could help spark ideas among team members and competitors, and promote buy-in even among participants whose ideas did not ultimately succeed. Saskia also told us about two very interesting programs of her own that were selected for this year's meeting. We're always happy to hear about HALL members at the front of the class – way to go, Saskia!

Coming up, we have some great educational opportunities in September and October. Our September meeting will feature Bob

Snyder, founder of Strategic Presentations, Inc., who will speak about trial presentation technology and techniques. Bob has a great deal of hands-on



Saskia Mehlhorn



Bob Snyder

experience with the courtroom technology available in Harris and Fort Bend Counties, and his insights will certainly give you something to pass on to the litigators in your life.

In October, we'll hear from one of our own. Robert Clark, legal reference/research librarian at UH, will present a program on white collar crime research and resources.

Given Houston's boom and bust cycles, it's only a matter of time before many of us are called upon to find this kind of information!

As the year progresses, I'm hoping to accomplish two goals with our continuing education schedule. First, I hope to draw talent from within. We are fortunate to have very talented and intelligent members in our local chapter who have a great deal of expertise to share that would benefit us all. Additionally, HALL's monthly meeting is a great venue to gain public speaking experience in front of a friendly group, so I encourage anyone who is interested in presenting to contact me to schedule a program. Second, I'm hoping to deliver practical programs that meet a current need. If you would like to learn about a specific topic, please let me know and I will try to track down a speaker. Chances are, if you would like to hear about a topic, someone else at HALL will too. Thanks for your help!



Robert Clark

- Joseph Lawson

HALL Website Redesign: Membership Services Move to the Cloud

By Richard Guajardo

The HALL web site has moved to a new platform. The new platform offers added features for HALL members and provided an opportunity to redesign the website. The site design incorporates a new HALL logo and a more vibrant color palate.

Moving to a cloud-based content management platform allows for more robust handling of HALL events and membership services. Member accounts will offer self-serve options for membership renewal, meeting RSVP's and more. Meeting announcements, reminders, and membership renewals will be automated and scheduled for distribution via email.

Another added benefit of the new platform is an online, real-time member directory. The new HALL Directory included an online search form; active members can search the directory by name, institution, or email address. A key benefit for members is the ability to update their membership information as needed. A change of

work address, email address, or phone number can be updated by individual members; the revised information is immediately searchable in the online membership directory.



<http://houstonarealawlibrarians.wildapricot.org/>

The move to the new platform is still in progress. Once completed it will be a huge time saver for HALL officers and committee chairs. Much of the work that is now being done manually will be automated. Work on the new site will continue through the Fall. The old site will soon be decommissioned; keep an eye out for the announcement.

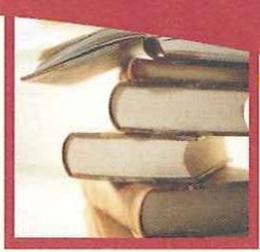
Richard Guajardo is Head of Resource Discovery Systems at the University of Houston Libraries.

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Local Events

Exploring the Archives at Baker Botts

By Joseph D. Lawson

On Wednesday, June 24, 2015, Bob Downie, Manager of Library Services at the Houston office of Baker Botts, LLP, hosted several members of HALL for an exhibit that showcased recently-preserved materials from the firm's archives. Both the preservation efforts and exhibit were presented as part of the Baker Botts 175th Anniversary Celebration - a year-long series of events focusing on the firm's history since it was founded by Houston attorney Peter W. Gray in 1840. Bob was deservedly proud of his efforts and those of his team both in preserving valuable historic materials and in creating an exhibit that impressed both in scope and execution.

Beginning with a 200+ year old Spanish colonial legal text, the chronologically-arranged exhibit quickly progressed to the mid-19th century and focused on the legal materials used

by Gray, Colonel W.B. Botts, and Judge James A. Baker, as well as the role these men played in the growth of Houston and Texas through the early 20th century. Items of note included the original newspaper advertisement placed by Gray in 1840 and annotated personal copies of Gammel's Laws of Texas. Moving into the 1900s, the exhibit showcased the contributions of the firm's next generation of attorneys in laying the foundation for Houston as a world-class city. Business records, correspondence, and photographs - all carefully protected in archival-quality displays - provided a detailed look into an important and expansive era in the firm's history.

Turning the corner - both in terms of moving to the next portion of the exhibit and the next period of Baker Botts and world history - World War II took center stage. A large collection of colorful maps detailed strategic Middle Eastern oil fields and firm newsletters memorializing attorney and staff members' service to their country. Thereafter, the firm's contributions in making Houston the energy capitol of the world

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Bob Downie in front of the exhibit

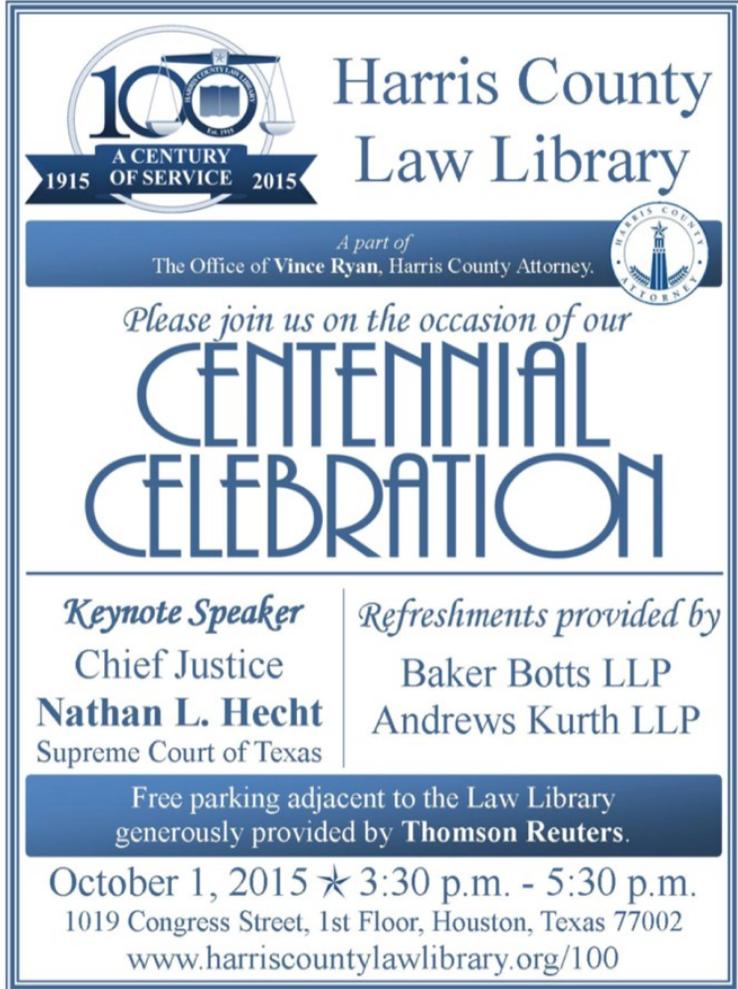
Local Events

Help Us Celebrate a Century of Service

By Mariann Sears

On October 1, 2015, the Harris County Law Library will hold a Centennial Celebration to commemorate a century of service to the local legal community. All of HALL is welcome to attend! You can also forward the invitation to attorneys, professors, and staff at your respective institutions because we are inviting the entire local legal community to the event. We hope to see you there!

Mariann Sears is Director of the Harris County Law Library.



100
A CENTURY OF SERVICE
1915 2015

Harris County Law Library

A part of
The Office of **Vince Ryan**, Harris County Attorney.

Please join us on the occasion of our
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Keynote Speaker Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht Supreme Court of Texas	Refreshments provided by Baker Botts LLP Andrews Kurth LLP
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Free parking adjacent to the Law Library
generously provided by **Thomson Reuters.**

October 1, 2015 ★ 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
1019 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Houston, Texas 77002
www.harriscountylawlibrary.org/100



The Harris County Law Library

Member Spotlight

Rachel Little's Library Capstone Project Cited by *New York Times*

On June 26, 2015, the *New York Times* cited the University of Texas Tarlton Law Library's Research Guide for Aztec and Maya Law. As a library student at the University of Texas, Rachel researched and wrote content for the guide, updated the associated bibliography, and worked with the Benson Latin American Collection to obtain the images that are featured throughout the guide.

WHAT STARTS BEING CHANGED THE WORLD
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW
TARLTON LAW LIBRARY
JAMAIL CENTER FOR LEGAL RESEARCH

AZTEC AND MAYA LAW

Introduction

Aztec Law

Maya Law

Bibliography

► **Credits**

Related Links

Other Tarlton Exhibits

TALLONS Library Catalog

Tarlton Home Page

Credits

Curator and Web Designer: Rachel Little

Web Developer: Melanie Cofield

Acknowledgements

Tarlton Law Library recognizes Michael Widener, Eric Glass, and Emma Molina Widener for their role in the creation of the original Aztec and Maya Law exhibit and bibliography. The staff of Tarlton Law Library also thanks Craig Schroer and Michael Hironymous of the Benson Latin American Collection for their support and participation in this new exhibit and bibliography, and for their assistance with locating the many images for this website.

Exhibit History

The original collaborative exhibit "Law in Mexico Before the Conquest," opened in 1992 in the atrium of The University of Texas School of Law, curated by Michael Widener, former Head of Special Collections, Tarlton Law Library in connection with the Columbus Quincentenary. Tarlton Law Library staff member Eric Glass prepared an online version in 2003. Michael Widener and Emma Molina Widener also created the original guide to resources on Aztec and Maya Law. Both efforts were aided by Jane Garner and Michael Hironymous of the Benson Latin American Collection, The University of Texas at Austin.

In 2010 in fulfillment of her Capstone requirement and as a Tarlton Law Library Fellow, Rachel Little completely re-researched and updated the exhibit and annotated bibliography, both of which include new information and research concerning the contributions of the Aztec and Maya people to the legal history of Mexico and Latin America.

[← previous |](#)



Article: <http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/26/on-same-sex-marriage-john-roberts-invokes-the-aztecs/>

Rachel's work credited by the Tarlton Law Library:
<https://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/exhibits/aztec/>

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

carried the exhibit through the mid-20th century. At the end of the line was a single volume with "Penzoil Case" inscribed on the spine that contained documents associated with the largest settlement in history. Looking toward the future, Bob expects that many of the materials will occupy a permanent exhibit in Baker Botts' Houston office. I would encourage anyone who receives the

opportunity to see this exceptional collection of historic documents that tell the story not only of the growth of one of Houston's most important law firms, but also the city and state it has helped to shape in the last 175 years. Whether you are interested in archiving, history, or just the cheese and crackers Bob is serving, you won't be disappointed.

HALL Meeting Minutes - June (Board Meeting)

HALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2015

Locke Lord

Meeting was called to order by President Margaret Bartlett at 12:04 p.m.

In attendance: Margaret Bartlett, Joe Lawson, Kelley Bocell, Heather Kushnerick; By phone: Mary Ann Wacker, Sarah Lopez

AALL – Joe and Heather will be attending; some discussion about the HALL/SWALL/DALL booth. Heather will see if she can find some photos. We will also have magnets and copies of the HALL newsletter to hand out. We will ask for volunteers to sit at the table.

The HALL/SWALL/DALL reception will be held Sunday evening during the conference at Moriarty's Irish Pub. Jennifer Laws, President of SWALL, is coordinating. Jones McClure is donating their usual \$500; we are waiting to hear

how much our portion will be. Joe made a motion that we will contribute towards the reception and this was seconded by Heather.

HALL's day of service at Ronald McDonald House generated lots of generous contributions from HALL members. We spent approximately \$230 and there was a bit left over to donate (around \$75). Details will be published in the next newsletter.

The Volunteer of the Year award for last year will be given to Patti Curtis. She will receive a certificate and a \$50 Visa card.

There was some discussion to change the name of the HALL newsletter to *HALL Quarterly*, reflecting the new publishing schedule. Newer items of interest will be posted to the HALL blog and web site, while more substantive articles will be in the *HALL Quarterly*. Margaret made a motion to change the name, and was seconded by Heather. The name change will be reflected in the upcoming summer issue.

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

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The HALL/SWALL joint meeting in 2018 was also discussed. A committee is already being assembled (includes Trisha Petitt, Shelby Shanks, Margaret Bartlett, Heather Kushnerick). The committee will meet soon to determine the Chair and determine the meeting basics like the venue and dates.

Margaret is working with Caren Luckie to update our bylaws. We need to determine criteria for lifetime membership.

Margaret is still searching for the missing Presidential Procedures Manual. In the event that it never turns up, Margaret would like for there to be a handbooks/manuals for the President and the other officers. They would be created with input from the officers and other association manuals as guides.

Margaret has set up generic Gmail accounts for the President and Vice-President so they can pass from one group of officers to another.

We discussed updating the HALL logo. Margaret has asked a friend who is a graphic designer for some ideas. Margaret's friend will provide her services at a discount (\$250) so Mary Ann made a motion to spend \$250 to update the HALL logo and Joe seconded it.

The new HALL website will take a much effort to finish and Richard Guajardo is working on it. It was suggested that Joe work with him to ease the burden of the big job. Our goal is to have the website ready to accept RSVPs for the August meeting. The old website is on a month-to-month payment schedule, so we would like to move to our new site to get rid of that bill. Board members will have administrative access to the website. The website will feature pictures and HALL minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

HALL Meeting Minutes - August

SUBJECT to APPROVAL

HALL MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2015

South Texas College of Law Library

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

The May Minutes were approved.

Old Business: HALL's service project, serving supper to the residents at Ronald McDonald House on April 26, was a huge success. We had about \$300 in contributions for HALL mem-

bers. Most was used for the meal and we donated the rest. Thanks to everyone who participated in this worthwhile project.

New Business: We have a new HALL logo and a new HALL web site! Richard Guajardo has been instrumental in the rollout of our beautiful new site. The new site includes a new RSVP system. Many, many thanks to Richard for his hard work! Margaret also announced we have several other initiatives in the works for the new HALL year, such as a revamp of the bylaws and a procedures manual for all HALL

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

board positions.

Committee Reports:

Archives: Heather Kushnerick reported that the archives were happy and that anyone can visit them.

Bylaws: Caren Luckie is now the Bylaws Chair.

Continuing Education: Joe Lawson reported that Ron Wheeler will be our special AALL Board Member visitor in February. The September meeting will be about technology used in trials.

Government Relations: No report.

Community Service: Kendal Bergman is the new Chair.

Library School Liaison: No report.

Membership/Web site: Laura Edstrom reported that members may now update their own profiles from the new HALL web site. Richard Guajardo demonstrated the features of the new HALL web site. The colors are red, white and blue and our new logo is prominent. Most content has already

been migrated over from the old site, and will be completed in the next month. Each HALL member now has a login/password. The HALL directory will also be available online and may be searched by name or firm/school. Richard is working on a credit card/PayPal option for paying for lunch.

Nominations: No report.

Placement: Candace Kennington reported that she sent out a couple of job notices via HALL-L.

Publications/Newsletter: Joe Lawson reported the next newsletter (now named the *HALL Quarterly*) will be out soon. Dan Donahue will soon be the new editor. Joe said any articles people wish to contribute are appreciated.

Scholarships and Grants: No report.

Vendor Relations: No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Ann Wacker – HALL Secretary

Treasurer’s Report - August

HALL Treasurer's Report			
HALL Treasurer's Report (Unaudited) August 12, 2015			
Balance Forward			
8/12/2015			\$6,889.56
	Income	Expenses	
Dues			
2015 - 2016	\$2,060.00		
Newsletter			
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars	\$28.00	\$408.00	
Scholarships/Grants			
Administrative		\$50.00	
Total	\$2,088.00	\$458.00	
8/12/2015			\$8,519.56



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 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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Vice President/President Elect

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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:

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