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 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...*
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!

- 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
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 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!

- 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.

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.

http://houstonarealawlibrarians.wildapricot.org/
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.

Continued on page 7...
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.
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.

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.

Rachel’s work credited by the Tarlton Law Library: https://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/exhibits/aztec/
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...
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
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*

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### Treasurer’s Report - August

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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.

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