

# HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Volume 33 Number 2

Summer 2016

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## Next Meeting:

### Texas Public Information Act Requests

Wednesday  
October 12  
11:45 a.m.  
at  
Fred Parks Law  
Library  
Emilie Slohm Room

## Message from the President

Well, folks, here we are in the 2016-2017 membership year. I'm very happy to serve as HALL's president this year and I'm excited about what this year will bring. Getting off to a quick start, we've expanded our committees by adding members, supported Houston Volunteer Lawyers with a #DrinkForJustice night out at OKRA Charity Salon, and had a couple of well-attended meetings organized by our new VP Chris Dykes. Looking toward the future, our new Community Service Chair, Mary Ann Wacker, is already hard at work on our service project with Star of Hope Mission and we're starting to ramp up planning for our Spring Seminar. We're looking forward to an exciting year with lots of rewarding opportunities for our membership.



President Joe Lawson

As we start to settle in, it's important to think about our strategic direction. Immediate Past President Margaret Bartlett, with the assistance of the board and committee chairs, did a fantastic job last year of getting our new website up, updating our bylaws, recreating the procedures manual, and implementing an annual budget. My goal is to build on the great work she did by getting the organization to work harder for its members. For example, I would like to make sure HALL does a good job of promoting its membership and law librarianship within the local legal community. That includes spotlighting member accomplishments through HALL's public relations outlets, pitching members as speakers for local CLE programming through the HBA and other groups, and making sure we take our seat at the table with local bar leaders every chance we get to remind them of our value. Thankfully, we have plenty of members who do great things every day, so you guys will make my goal easy to accomplish. However, if I can be greedy,

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### Message from the President *(continued)*

I would like to ask that if you have an accomplishment you wouldn't mind sharing or you know of something great a fellow HALL member has achieved, be sure to send me an

[email](#), pen an article for The HALL Quarterly, or [drop a line](#) to our PR Committee chair Heather Holmes. We'll be happy to hear from you!

- Joe Lawson



*Drinking for Justice*

### Editor's Notes

With the weather cooling and days growing shorter, now is the perfect time for HALL members to kick back and enjoy their favorite parts of October: apple cider, football games, trick-or-treating, and reading the summer edition of the *HALL Quarterly*. While this summer issue was delayed to ensure that it

included last month's HALL meeting's AALL conference recap, the delay between this issue and the coming fall edition will hopefully be shortened enough that the *HALL Quarterly* will return to its usual schedule by early 2017. Members are, as always, invited to submit articles to the *Quarterly* for publication.

- 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, at [newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.org](mailto:newsletter@houstonarealawlibrarians.org).

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

## Recapping the 2016 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Chicago

By Mariann Sears, HALL's 2016 AALL Grant Recipient

### Big Thanks

AALL held its 109th Annual Meeting and Conference in Chicago from July 16 – 19, 2016. It was awesome! I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the HALL Executive Board and the Scholarship and Grants Committee for providing me with the opportunity to attend. This is the view I was greeted with when I arrived at the hotel. Pretty impressive, no?



*Pretty impressive.*

Although I could have spent all day looking out my window, there were places to go and things to do. And, as usual, I overbooked myself at the Conference. Here's a summary of some of the things I did in Chicago.

### The Skinny on "Lean"

My conference experience began bright and early at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning,

when I was fortunate enough to snag a seat at a preconference half-day work-shop entitled, "Finding

Time: Lean Six Sigma."

The name of the

workshop

was actually a misnomer,

since the moderators

took great pains to

differentiate between

"Lean Six Sigma" and

"Lean." We were there

to learn about "Lean," the touchy-feely (the moderators' words, not mine) cousin of the more process-oriented, step-by-step project management tool known as "Lean Six Sigma."

"Lean" is an organization workflow management tool that is first and foremost about people—respecting them and engaging them at every level.

"Lean" is also about purpose—focusing on creating value and delivering service to your customers. Finally, "Lean" is about process—

identifying and eliminating waste in your organization's workflow processes that cause frustration, don't add value, and prevent creativity.

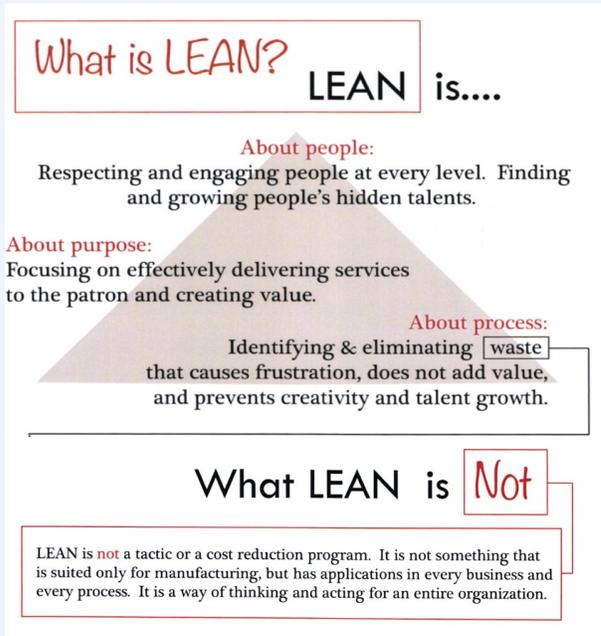
The following schematic shows what "Lean" is and what it is not:



*Mariann Sears*

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*Lean.*

Amy Emerson and Margaret Ambrose spoke first about their experiences with “Lean” at the Cornell University Law Library, which was struggling with processes that failed to add value to the faculty of the law school and prevented staff members from reaching their full potential. When law school administrators determined that “Lean” was to be instituted at the law library to eliminate waste in law library processes, many members of the staff feared the worst, thinking that the program was actually the precursor to downsizing the law library staff and reducing its funding. This initial resistance was soon replaced with excitement and a sense of relief and belonging once the “Lean” process was explained and put into practice.

Jennifer Fonseca, a consultant for Cornell University’s Organizational Workforce Development group, was on hand to describe

how she facilitated the “Lean” process at Cornell. She demonstrated how the Cornell Law Library staff worked through a difficult project by identifying every possible step that could be taken by the library staff from the onset of the project to its conclusion. Multi-colored Post-It Notes® slapped on flip chart paper offered a low-tech solution for identifying each of the steps. Once all of the steps were identified, Ms. Fonseca demonstrated how the “Lean” process could be used to eliminate all the wasteful, frustrating steps that were holding back the library’s potential to add value for its stakeholders. The result was an improved process that saved staff time and raised the law library’s value to the administration of Cornell University.

After demonstrating how the process worked for Cornell, it was time for the participants to try their hand at it. We split into groups, came up with a workflow process that cried out for a “Lean” solution, and set to work identifying all the steps that were being taken in the flawed process. We used a ton of Post-It Notes®, but, during the course of the simulation, we also eliminated a ton of unnecessary steps. More importantly, we came away with an understanding that the “Lean” process of continuous, incremental improvement could foster innovation at every level of law library service. To learn more about the philosophy of “Lean” and strategies for its implementation, check out [Lean Thinking](#), by Womack and Jones, ISBN-10: 0743249275, ISBN-13: 9780743249270; and

*Continued on page 6...*

## Local Events



*Houston Bar Association President Neil Kelly visited the Harris County Law Library and Houston Volunteer Lawyers on September 4. In the photo from left are Parker Lee, HVL volunteer and associate with Andrews Kurth LLP; Stephanie Sommerlatte, HVL Staff Attorney; Patrick Yarborough, HVL volunteer and associate with Andrews Kurth; County Attorney Vince Ryan; Law Library Director Mariann Sears; Neil Kelly; and Alissa Rubin, Executive Director of HVL.*

*Source: Harris County Law Library, Photographer Joe Strange.*

### **Lawyers at the Law Library**

The Harris County Law Library is pleased to announce a new program that helps litigants with limited means to speak with an attorney within steps of the courthouses in Harris County, Texas. In collaboration with Houston Volunteer Lawyers, volunteer attorneys and law students are now meeting with self-represented litigants every Wednesday and Friday from 9a.m. to 12p.m. at the Law Library's downtown Houston location. The Law Library provides support services to both the volunteer attorneys and limited-means

clients by offering research and technology support, computers where self-represented litigants can access and create documents, and information about navigating the downtown courthouse complex.

### **Wednesday Clinics**

Each Wednesday, faculty and students from Houston College of Law help self-represented litigants determine the legal information and documentation they need to represent themselves in court. The purpose of these clinics is multifaceted.

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

Lean Library Management, by Huber, ISBN-13: 9781555707323.

### The Law Library in the Sky

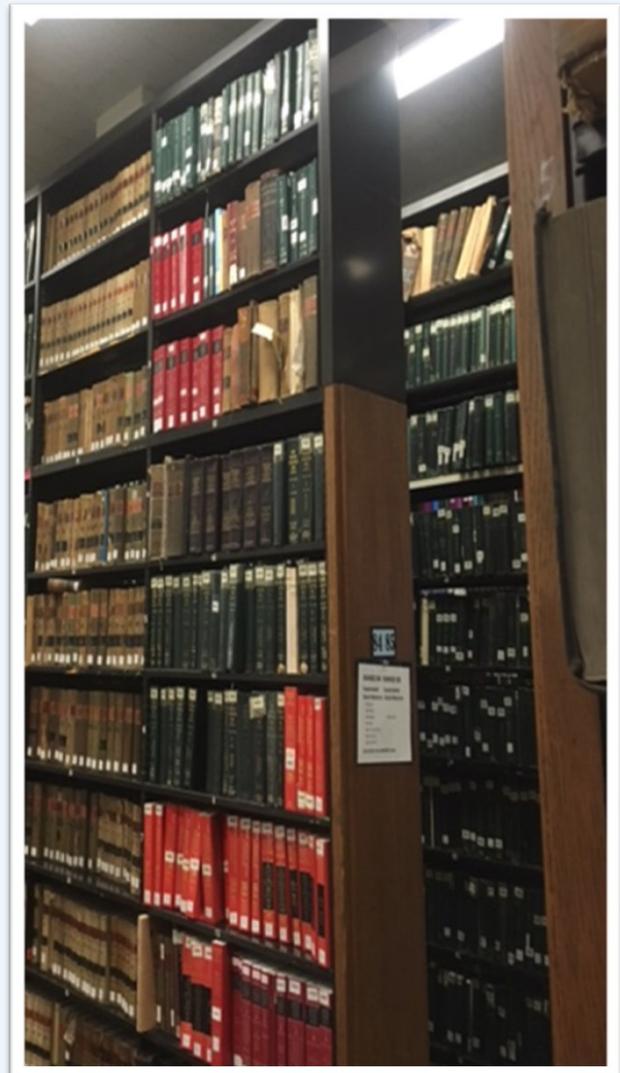
After a thought-provoking morning, it was time to take a break and head off for a tour of the amazing Cook County Law Library. Located on the 29th Floor of the Richard J. Daley Center, the Cook County Law Library undoubtedly sports the single best view of Lake Michigan of any library in the Chicago, law or otherwise. It was hot and muggy, typical mid-July Chicago weather, when we left the Hyatt lobby for the 0.7 mile trek to the Daley Plaza. Note to self: Always wear comfortable shoes if your destination's more than a quarter of a mile away.

Before entering the building, we took a few minutes to admire the Chicago Picasso, an intriguing sculpture the renowned artist presented as a gift to the people of Chicago, a city he never visited, in 1967. Then-Mayor Daley unveiled the structure, prophetically proclaiming "that what is strange to us today will be familiar tomorrow." There's no doubt that the Chicago Picasso symbolizes the city today. Here's a photo of the sculpture I took with my iPhone on that beautiful afternoon.



*Person? Dog? Baboon? You be the judge.*

Once we arrived on the 29th floor, we were greeted by Jean Wenger and her welcoming staff. The library itself is huge and reminded me in many ways of the Harris County Law Library when it was located on the 17th Floor of Congress Plaza. So many books! Floor-to-ceiling stacks and even stacks on top of stacks! This picture shows an additional three rows of shelving built atop a traditional library bookcase:



*And the step ladder is a regular ladder.*

With the addition, there are ten rows of shelves per case. Wow!

*Continued on next page...*

And here's a shot of a very creative storage method for obsolete or superseded materials:



*Only lazy librarians need to read book spines.*

Thank goodness the architects had the foresight to reinforce the law library's floors!

The Cook County Law Library is a model for county law libraries across the country. Serving the legal information needs of legal professionals, the judiciary, self-represented litigants, and the public, the Law Library connects Cook County

residents to legal information. With a main location downtown, five branch locations throughout the County, and revenues of \$5.4 million, the Cook County Law Library served just over 117,000 patrons in 2015, more than 80,000 of them at the main location.

I suspect that all of those 80,000 or so visitors to the Law Library never tired of the view. Imagine taking a break from your research and looking out to this absolutely gorgeous scene:



*View works for unintentional distractions as well as breaks.*

I was fortunate enough to see this view both during the day and in the evening, since the Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section reception was hosted by the Cook County Law Library a few days after the Saturday afternoon tour.

### **Breakfast Meetings, Awards, and Accolades**

After a long Saturday (ask me about the eventful cab ride to Pizzeria Due for dinner Saturday night), 7:30 Sunday morning came all

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## Lawyers at the Law Library

*(continued from [page 5](#))*

Students gain professional experience and an awareness of the depth of the access to justice problems many individuals face while self-represented litigants receive assistance that makes their legal process more efficient both for them and the courts hearing their cases.

### Friday Clinics

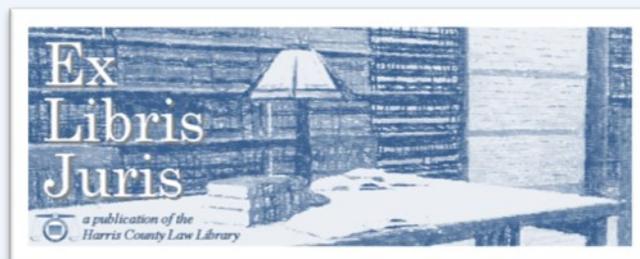
On Fridays, associates from Andrews Kurth, LLP staff clinics at the Law Library. Andrews Kurth is a Houston-based firm that is frequently recognized for its commitment to pro bono service and is listed as an Equal Access Firm by Houston Volunteers Lawyers. Additional members of Houston's legal community have pledged to staff Friday clinics at the Law Library to ensure that services remain available for those in need.

### A Collaborative Effort

The initial plan to bring volunteer lawyers to the Law Library began as a collaboration between Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan

and the Houston Bar Association several years ago. When the Law Library joined the County Attorney's Office in 2011, plans were laid to build out a new space for the Law Library on the first floor of Congress Plaza (1019 Congress Street) complete with offices for volunteer attorneys on the lower level. With all services operational, including those provided by the volunteer attorneys, the Law Library is more useful to the residents of Harris County than ever before and has become a great resource for anyone who must go to court without an attorney.

*- Article courtesy of the  
Ex Libris Juris blog*



<http://www.harriscountylawlibrary.org/ex-libris-juris>

## KEEP IT CURRENT

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## Recapping the 2016 AALL Conference

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too quickly. That's the time that the GLL-SIS held its annual business meeting and silent auction. It's also the time that GLL presented its awards for 2015-2016. The following awards were presented at the business meeting:

Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession was presented to Rita Dermody, retired director of the Public Law Library of King County (Washington).

Connie E. Bolden Publications Award went to Joel Fishman for his series of indexes, including: The Index to J. of Supreme Court History (1976-2015), The Index to the PA Bar Association Quarterly (1929-2015), Index to the PA Family Lawyer (1980-2014), and The Bibliography of Library History (2000-2013).

James Durham & Steven Anderson were the recipients of the Professional Publication Award for "A Safe Haven," published in AALL Spectrum, March 2015.

The Law Library Advocate Award was presented to the Honorable Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney.

Wait...that last award was presented to my boss! The Law Library Advocate Award was created by the GLL-SIS in 2009 and is presented to a law library supporter in recognition of his or her substantial contribution towards the advancement and improvement of a State, Court, or County law library's service or visibility. That description of the award

epitomizes Vince Ryan's support of the Harris County Law Library. Vince even went to Chicago as a VIP Guest of the GLL-SIS to accept the award in person. That's him between Joe and me. Also pictured are Kelly Browne, GLL-SIS President, and Holly Gale, chair of the GLL-



*Stay alert, photobombers can strike when least expected.*

SIS Awards Committee. I have no clue who the photobomber behind Holly is.

Vince was asked to swear in the incoming GLL-SIS Executive Board, too, which he graciously agreed to do. Thanks to the HALL Board's generosity, I was able to witness this personally meaningful event in the flesh. It was a proud moment for me and the Harris County Law Library.

After spending a lovely Sunday evening catching up with Blythe McCoy, Lori Hedstrom, and the rest of the gang at the Thomson Reuters Advisory Board Reunion Dinner in the Signature Room at the 95th Floor of the Hancock Tower, I'll admit that I was none too happy to hear my alarm go off at 6:00 o'clock on Monday

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morning. But if I wanted to attend the AALL Awards Recipients Breakfast at 7:00 (who schedules this stuff, anyway?), I knew I'd have to get a move on. I made it to the breakfast in plenty of time—enough time to show everyone at my table the Harris County Law Library's winning submission for the 2016 Excellence in Marketing Award for Best Campaign. Here I am



*Congratulations!*

accepting the award on the Law Library's behalf from AALL President Keith Ann Stiverson.

No, we didn't discuss our wardrobe choices prior to the breakfast. The award was presented to us in recognition of our marketing efforts for our Centennial Celebration, which was held on October 1, 2015.

### Educational Opportunities

Besides the pre-conference "Lean" workshop, I attended six amazing programs at the AALL Conference in Chicago. Most of them addressed issues that are of concern to me as the director of a large, public law library. Here's a summary of the ones I found most useful.

The first, "Are People Even Using This

Database?: E-Resources and Statistics," explored the role of usage statistics when evaluating purchases and renewals of electronic resources. We learned that there is a wide variety of usage statistics, including those that are vendor-specific, self-generated, institutionally generated, and COUNTER compliant (a Code of Practice designed for librarians [mostly academic], vendors, and other members of COUNTER who require reliable online usage statistics). A panel of experts comprised of representatives from academic law libraries, a consultant from HBR Consulting, and vendor representatives from William S. Hein & Co., fielded questions from a survey made available to academic and firm law librarians prior to the conference. The questions centered on the survey respondents' belief that large law vendors don't seem able to provide consistent, meaningful, and usable usage statistics. Each member of the panel also echoed that concern, but no one was able to provide suggestions for a viable solution. Although no realistic solutions were presented, I was glad I attended the session, if for no other reason than that I knew others were in the same predicament as I—without accurate and useful user information, there really is no answer to the question of whether people are even using a particular database.

My next stop was to take a deep dive into the "Cool Tools Café." Over the course of two and a half hours, I moved in a very relaxed atmosphere from station to station, viewing ten-minute

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demonstrations of emerging and existing technologies presented by information professionals who'd implemented those technologies in their own institutions. Those that particularly piqued my interests included:

- *Case Analysis Research Assistant*. CARA is a new brief-driven case discovery tool developed at Casetext, Inc., that supplements traditional keyword query research tools by enabling an attorney to upload entire documents (e.g. briefs) as queries. The tool takes a brief as input and outputs a list of relevant decisions that are not cited in the brief itself. It does this through data-mining the brief and using the extracted information (citations, key terms, etc.) as a sort of "query" to a case database.
  - *Oral History Metadata Synchronizer*. OHMS is a free tool created by the University of Kentucky Louie B. Nunn Oral History Center. Once a library has created an OHMS account, librarians can make oral histories more searchable by adding keywords to a specific section of each oral history and create indexes for each history, basically creating a table of contents for the oral history. Users can perform keywords searches, browse the index, and jump to specific sections that interest them. Librarians can also add in other pertinent metadata that can provide context to the oral history, such as synopses, external links, GPS coordinates, partial transcription, and controlled vocabulary. A full transcript of an oral history, if available, can also be
- uploaded, synched, and made searchable. The OHMS viewer page can be added to any number of repositories and is easily branded to match your law firm or school's colors.
  - *Permanent Links with Perma.cc and Page Vault*. Perma.cc is a tool that prevents "link rot." Scholars, librarians, and journal editors use Perma.cc to create permanent links to permanent archives. If materials are later altered, moved, or removed, the scholar can still provide access to the original material. Perma.cc is developed and maintained by the Harvard Law School Library in conjunction with university law libraries across the country and other organizations in the "forever" business. Page Vault is a similar tool that allows legal professionals to capture and save web content in a way that is forensically defensible and admissible in court. Web pages are captured exactly as they appear online and metadata is automatically saved.
  - *Slack*. You've heard the rumor that "email is broken," right? Well, the rumor isn't totally true, but Slack is a great alternative to email for dedicated teams. Slack brings back the "chat room" of yesteryear into a modern and useful platform for teams to collaborate and communicate on any project.
  - *U Before Me: Understanding and Implementing UX Tools*. For librarians attracted to technology and design, it's easy to get distracted by the latest shiny new trend. But

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the heart of all design should always be UX – User Experience. This demonstration looked at several easy-to-use tools for creating the best possible technological experience for all library users, focusing specifically on tools for designing and improving websites. The demo addressed ReadClearly (free plain language legal glossary tool), WriteClearly (reading grade level analysis), Compressor.io (image compression), Beeline Reader (increase readability), the Noun Project (icons for everything), and WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool.

- *Scanner Pro 7*: Transform your iPhone or iPad into a portable scanner. Want to save and share that great article you just read? Traveling and want to keep track of your receipts? Had a terrific brainstorming session with a colleague but jotted your notes on pieces of scrap paper? Forget about hunting all over for a photocopier or desktop scanner: Scanner Pro 7 puts the scanner in the palm of your hand. The demonstration looked at some of the unique features of Scanner Pro 7 – including new text recognition (OCR) – that make this iPhone/iPad app a must have for digitizing, organizing, editing, and sharing paper documents wherever you happen to be.

Next up was a program I sorely needed to attend, “Negotiate with Confidence.” It did not disappoint. Speakers Heidi Kuehl and Alan Boudreau of the Northern Illinois University

College of Law showed us that we all can benefit from improved negotiation skills, whether we’re negotiating with vendors over contract terms, creating opportunities to collaborate, or negotiating within our organizations for our budgets. Some takeaways from the program include remembering that negotiation is merely a discussion aimed at reaching an agreement. Great negotiators use the skills they already have and they plan, because planning builds confidence and leads to better negotiated outcomes. Understand your needs and interests. Don’t concentrate on your “position,” because positions are fixed solutions. Identify the BATNA, the “Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement.” Finally, identify information gaps and critical questions that must be answered by the negotiation. Now, go through the same planning steps for the other side. And lastly, don’t forget to have fun!

The last program I’ll discuss is “Building Pro Bono Partnerships That Deliver.” Moderated by Janine Liebert, Senior Public Interest Librarian at the Los Angeles County Law Library, a panel of distinguished public and academic law librarians shared their visions, strategies, challenges, and success stories for instituting “Lawyer in the Law Library” programs in law libraries whose missions entail promoting access to the justice system for all. Considering the Texas Supreme Court’s interest in access to justice initiatives and 2016-2017 Texas State Bar President Tom Vick’s commitment to incubator programs to

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help bridge the justice gap, my attendance at this program was essential to fulfilling my own institution's mission. It was well worth my time. I was provided with pretty much everything I will need to develop a "Lawyer in the Library" or incubator service at the Harris County Law Library. There were workflow charts, sample registration forms, disclosure forms, checklists, marketing materials, and even sample exit surveys. The panel participants were open about the fits and starts each of them experienced with their own programs, including difficulties with sponsorships, logistics, security, risk management, and volunteers. I came away with a veritable toolkit for the successful implementation of a program right here in Harris County, and I intend to explore the viability of implementing some sort of incubator program to help bridge that justice gap here in our own community.

### Therapeutic Opportunities

Now on to the puppies! The lovebug pictured below is Mitch, a therapy dog from the Lake County State's Attorney's Office. Mitch was celebrating his birthday when he ambled over to me, leaned on my leg and then sat on my foot (the way dogs do) and begged for some loving. Of course I obliged. Mitch's friend Kiwi, the black lab patiently waiting for someone to show her some affection, is from the Will County State's Attorney's Office and Children's Advocacy Center. The Animal Law Caucus hosted these and other therapy dogs on Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Mitch and Kiwi work in the courts of their respective counties to provide comfort and support to children and others in need. Such sweet puppies they were! Congratulations to the Animal Law Caucus for this wonderful addition to our conference programming!

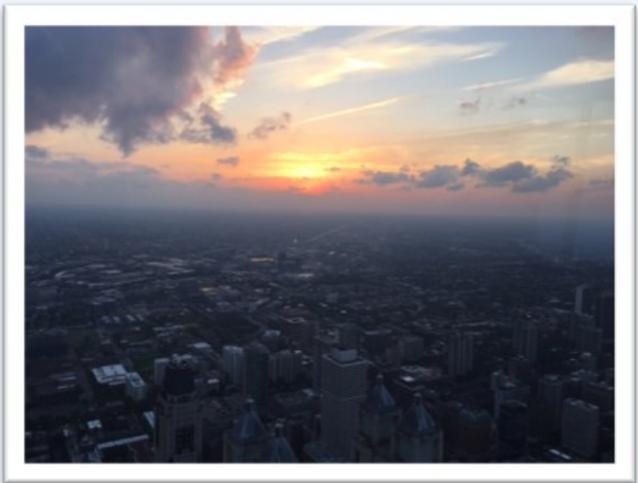
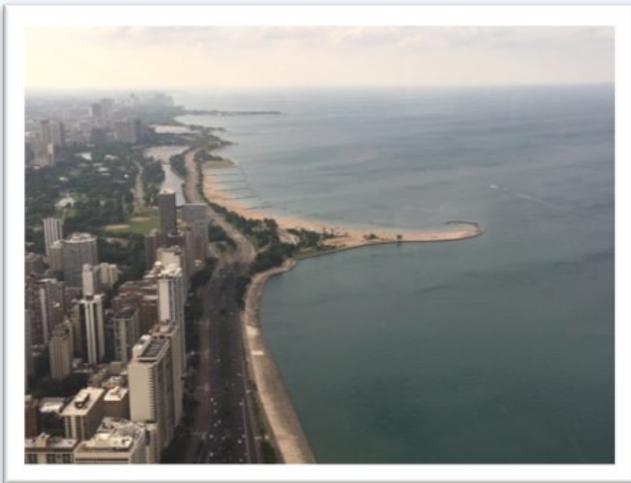


*Center: Mariann and Mitch. Photobomber: Kiwi.*

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**Parting Shots**

Thanks again to the HALL Executive Board and the Scholarships and Grants Committee for allowing me to attend the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Chicago. It was a privilege to represent HALL at the conference. I can't tell you how proud I am to be a member of an organization so full of wonderful, talented, witty, and intelligent law librarians—people I'm pleased to call my friends. And now for a few parting shots of a beautiful city.... Enjoy!



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A photograph of a stack of several books, with the spines of the books visible. The books are of various colors and sizes, and are stacked neatly.

## Meeting Minutes

### HALL Meeting Minutes - May

#### HALL MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2016

#### Fred Parks Law Library (Annual Business Meeting)

May HALL meeting called to order by President, Margaret Bartlett at 12:08 p.m.

April minutes were approved. Treasurer's report was approved.

**Old Business:** Procedure Manual is complete, and is posted on the HALL website behind the firewall under the membership tab. Margaret will continue to maintain, but will eventually had it over to the Bylaws Committee Chair for ongoing updates.

**New Business:** Board voted to eliminate the Library School Liaison position. The position has been inactive for some time and there is no need at this time to continue.

#### Committee Reports:

**Archives:** Heather Kushnerick asked for folks to continue to send her items for Archives.

**Bylaws:** Caren Luckie brought up changes for the membership to vote on.

1. Life membership will now require a candidate to have worked at least 10 years in law librarianship and have now retired from active library work.
2. The Publications Committee has now evolved into the Public Relations

Committee, and the membership will vote on this name change. The membership voted to approve these revisions.

**Community Service:** Kendall Bergman has accepted a position in Minneapolis and has moved from Houston and is no longer active in HALL. Leadership is looking for a someone to replace Kendall and Chair this committee.

**Continuing Education:** Margaret acknowledged the great job that Joe Lawson has done, and Joe indicated that he enjoyed a good year of service.

**Government Relations:** No Report.

**Membership:** Laura Edstrom announced that Membership Renewals are currently ongoing. Laura also reminded everyone that PayPal is an acceptable form of payment for renewals. If anyone has any questions, they should contact Laura.

**Placement:** Candice Kennington had no report. However, later in the afternoon following the meeting Kendall Bergman posted a job opening via the ListServ for the position she recently vacated.

**Public Relations:** Joe Lawson officially handed over the position of Chair to Heather Holmes. As per previous survey, HALL meetings and events will be posted via Facebook Events in addition to the typical postings on the HALL website.

**Vendor Relations:** No Report

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# Meeting Minutes

**Scholarships and Grants:** This year’s AALL grant was awarded to Mariann Sears

**Website:** Richard Guajardo also reported that the payments for membership renewal can be made via PayPal or credit card.

**HALL Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to Laura Edstrom

**Nominations:** The slate of new officers for 2016-2017 were presented and voted on by the membership. The new officers for 2016-2017 are:

- President: Joe Lawson
- Vice President: Chris Dykes
- Secretary: Patrina Epperson
- Treasurer: Sarah Lopez
- Members at Large: Heather Kushnerick and Mary Ann Wacker
- Past President: Margaret Bartlett

**Slide Show:** Margaret presented a slide show



Margaret and Mariann.



Laura and Margaret.



Left to right: Margaret, Chris, Joe, Patrina, Sarah, Heather.

of HALL – a year in review, highlighting accomplishments and events some of which were:

- Procedure Manual completed
- Wild Apricot online website implemented
- New HALL Logo introduced
- HALL Spring Seminar – 26 attendees + 7 guests for a profit of \$635

Margaret Bartlett offered thanks for a great year, and acknowledging:

- South Texas for hosting monthly meetings
- Board and Committees for all their hard work this year
- HALL members for attending and participating

Margaret officially “passed the gavel” to the new president, Joe Lawson.



Margaret and Joe.

Margaret presented Emily and Joe Lawson with a baby gift of a Onesie with with the HALL logo on it.



Left to right: Margaret, Emily, HALL Onesie, Joe.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

### HALL Meeting Minutes - August

#### HALL MEETING MINUTES

August 10, 2016

#### Fred Parks Law Library

The August HALL Meeting was called to order by President Joe Lawson at 12:03 p.m.

The May minutes were approved (with corrections). The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**New Business:** A guest, Keith Lacey, was introduced. Keith is an intern at the Harris County Law Library and is a student at UT.

#### Committee Reports:

**Archives:** Heather Kushnerick asked that members send her anything from anyone's time as an officer of HALL.

**Bylaws:** Caren Luckie reported that we have bylaws! Lori Ann Craig agreed to be on the Committee with Caren.

**Continuing Education:** Chris Dykes reported on our upcoming programs. Mariann Sears will present her AALL recap in September, and October will bring a presentation on the Texas Public Information Act, Texas' version of FOIA.

**Government Relations:** Margaret had no report, but Grace Lee has agreed to serve as a member of the Committee. Joe added that HALL sent letters to Texas Senators encouraging the vote for the Librarian of Congress.

**Community Service:** Joe announced that Mary Ann Wacker will be the Chair of this Committee. Lynn Corbett also agreed to serve on the Committee.

**Membership:** Laura Edstrom said that she is keeping an eye on membership records with Sarah Lopez. They are working on weeding out some duplicate records. Laura said if anyone needs help with any of the records to get in touch with her.

**Nominations:** No report.

**Placement:** No report.

**Public Relations:** Heather Holmes is the new Chair of this Committee. She and Joe Lawson will demonstrate the inner workings of the HALL Facebook page today for our program.

**Scholarships and Grants:** Andre Davison is the new Chair of this Committee and DeCarlous Spearman and Colleen Manning have joined the Committee.

**Vendor Relations:** No report.

**Web site:** No report.

Greg Lambert reported that Emily Feltren at AALL worked with law librarians to persuade the government to keep publishing the print supplement to the U.S. Code.

Joe thanked the Fred Parks Law Library for hosting our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

## Meeting Minutes

### HALL Meeting Minutes - September

#### HALL MEETING MINUTES

September 14, 2016

#### Harris County Law Library

The September HALL Meeting was called to order by President Joe Lawson at 12:05 p.m.

The August minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

#### Committee Reports:

**Archives:** Heather Kushnerick asked that members send her items for the archives.

**Bylaws:** Caren Luckie reported that we still have bylaws.

**Continuing Education:** Chris Dykes reported on our upcoming programs. October will bring a presentation on the Texas Public Information Act from Kristin Lee, Assistant County Attorney at the Harris County Attorney's Office. A member of the AALL Board will visit us in February.

**Government Relations:** Margaret had no report.

**Community Service:** Mary Ann Wacker said our charity this year will be Star of Hope and we will serve lunch to the homeless at their facility in January or February.

**Membership:** Laura Edstrom asked if anyone is having trouble with the HALL website login then email her so she can make sure members can access it. Joe then demonstrated how you can access the Membership Directory online. You

have the capability to search by name, firm or school. Laura also mentioned that if you are not receiving notices for the HALL meetings, then contact herself or Sarah Lopez so they can coordinate to get that handled.

**Nominations:** Saskia Mehlhorn had no report.

**Placement:** Joe mentioned the Research Librarian opening at Norton Rose Fulbright US.

**Public Relations:** Heather Holmes asked if anyone has any submissions for the newsletter then to please let her know. The length did not matter and there was no specific deadline for entries.

**Scholarships and Grants:** Andre Davison had no report.

**Vendor Relations:** Colleen Pincumbe had no report.

**Web site:** Sarah Lopez reminded everyone that you can make payments online by credit card.

Joe announced that Heather Holmes will be representing HALL at the HBA meeting in his place.

Blythe McCoy made an announcement for 2 new job positions in Dallas and Birmingham, AL.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



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](http://houstonarealawlibrarians.org) 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

### President

Joseph Lawson  
joseph.lawson@cao.hctx.net

### Vice President/President Elect

Chris Dykes  
cdykes@central.uh.edu

### Secretary

Patrina Epperson  
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### Treasurer

Sarah Lopez  
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### Members at Large

Heather Kushnerick  
hkushnerick@stcl.edu

### Past President

Margaret Bartlett  
mbartlett@lockelord.com

Mary Ann Wacker  
maryann.wacker@bgllp.com

## HALL Committees

### *By-Laws:*

Caren Luckie

### *Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

### *Continuing Education:*

Chris Dykes

### *Government Relations:*

Margaret Bartlett

### *Membership:*

Laura Edstrom

### *Library School Liaison:*

Blythe McCoy

### *Nominations:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

### *Community Service:*

Mary Ann Wacker

### *Placement:*

Candice Kennington

### *Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

### *Public Relations:*

Heather Holmes

### *HALL Website:*

Richard Guajardo

### *Scholarships/Grants:*

Andre Davison

### *Newsletter Editor:*

Dan Donahue

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