

**NEXT  
MEETING**

See you in August for  
**AALL Recap!**

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

<b>Continuing Education</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Check out New AALL web site!</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HALL Member Spotlight: John Eichstadt</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>AALL 2 Go!</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ron Wheeler at April Meeting</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>New HALL Board</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Pictures from May Meeting</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Book Review</b>	<b>11</b>

# HALL Newsletter

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3

MAY - JUNE 2011



*HALL President  
Natalie Lira*

## From the President

We have completed another successful year and I can't believe that my term as President has come to an end. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as President of such a fantastic organization. I would like to thank the HALL Board and the HALL Committee Chairs for their work and support throughout the year. This organization could not function without the time and effort that these individuals commit. Thank you!

Saskia Mehlhorn has been an excellent Vice-President. I'm very proud of the programs and seminars she put together this past year. I have no doubt that she will be an excellent President and take HALL to new heights! I look forward to seeing what she has in store for the coming year. Congratulations to the new Board for 2011-2012. I know you all will work well together and enjoy the new year.

A special congratulations to Mary Ann Wacker for being named the 2010-2011 Volunteer of the Year. Mary Ann's name is one that undoubtedly belongs on the list of amazing past recipients of this award. She has done a fantastic job with our newsletter and is always a great source for ideas and direction. We truly appreciate your commitment to HALL, Mary Ann. Congratulations!

I would also like to thank South Texas College of Law for always being so helpful and for hosting our meetings. Also, a special thank you to the University of Houston Law Center, Mon Yin Lung and Spencer Simons for hosting the HALL/SWALL Spring Seminar. We very much appreciate all of your work to make the seminar a success. I would like to thank my boss, Greg Lambert, for encouraging me to be active in HALL and other library organizations. It has truly been a great experience and I could not have done it without his support.

Finally, as HALL continues to celebrate its 30th anniversary, I hope everyone takes the time to volunteer and share ideas to keep this amazing organization pushing forward for many, many years to come! I wish you all a safe and blessed summer!

*-Natalie*



*HALL Vice-President  
Saskia Mehlhorn*

## Continuing Education

First I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to work as your Vice President this past year. It has been an exciting, inspiring, rewarding and fun experience. It wouldn't have been possible, though, without the guidance of our outgoing President, Natalie Lira, and the help and dedication of Chris Dykes and Lauren Schroeder. I further want to thank the entire HALL Board for their help and patience and the South Texas library staff for their assistance with the organization of the meetings.

I look forward to serving as your President and invite you to think about ideas to increase our outreach efforts and share them with me. We are already one of the most active chapters within AALL and as your Board we will do our utmost to remain strong, active, and involved in the law librarian community.

Please join us at the meetings that our Vice-President Patti Curtis has started to plan and don't hesitate to contact us if you have ideas or would like to recommend good speakers.

Stay safe and have a great summer!

*-Saskia*

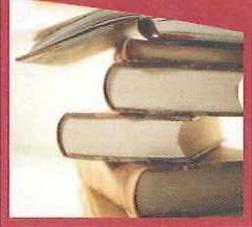
**The Executive Librarian**  
Legal and Tax Library Filing and Maintenance Service  
[www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com](http://www.TheExecutiveLibrarian.com)

---

**Monika Miura**

3510 Kiamesha Drive  
Missouri City, TX 77459

mmiura1@comcast.net  
281.437.2135 - office  
713.859.5100 - mobile



The *HALL Newsletter*, published 6 times a year by the HALL Publications Committee, is the official publication of the Houston Area Law Librarians. The purpose is to communicate information to its members. Send contributions, comments, news items, or advertising queries to Mary Ann Wacker, Editor, [maryann.wacker@bgllp.com](mailto:maryann.wacker@bgllp.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 Newsletter* is not copyrighted, however, permission should be sought from the authors and credit given when quoting or photocopying material from this publication.

Membership dues for HALL are \$25/year. For membership information, please contact Jeannie Mazzone at [jmazzone@stcl.edu](mailto:jmazzone@stcl.edu) or 713-646-2908.

Membership form is available here: <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/hall/dues.pdf>

## Check Out the New and Improved AALLNET!

In May, AALL launched the redesigned AALLNET where you'll discover a new layout, easy-to-use navigation, more features and functionality, and a stronger brand.

The new AALLNET will allow you to:

- Easily navigate the site to browse for information or complete a specific task, such as register for an event or apply for a grant.
- At a glance from the homepage, view the latest news, events, job postings, and AALL's Twitter feed.
- Use the search box to find specific information; results can also be further refined or used to discover related resources.
- Collaborate electronically with your special interest sections, caucuses, and committees and network with like-minded members by using our online network called My Communities.

Visit AALLNET today and explore the new resources available for you!

AALLNET link: <http://www.aallnet.org>

### KEEP IT CURRENT

Library Update Service



**JEANNE HARRIS**

MSLS

**(512) 632-9637**

**kic4jharris@hotmail.com**

**3112 Windsor Rd • Suite A-363  
Austin, TX 78703**



Sara Luckie (daughter of Caren and star of the last *HALL Newsletter*) in her first walk-trot horse show. Sara won Reserve Champion! Way to go, Sara!



## HALL Member Spotlight:

### John Eichstadt

John Eichstadt was Director of the Harris County Law Library for 25 years, and recently retired. He is looking forward to his retirement and has lots of wishful plans for travel: Europe, Alaska, and Canada!

John hails from St. Joseph, Missouri, near Kansas City. He attended college at the University of Kansas where he majored in English. His favorite type of literature was contemporary American plays. John had plans to teach English and went on to get a Masters Degree, also in English, at KU. John was then drafted into the Army and spent 1968-1970 at Fort Riley, Kansas and in Stuttgart Germany, serving in the military police. When John returned to the States from Germany, he came to the realization that the job market for teaching humanities in small or junior colleges had completely collapsed. So he decided to attend law school, again at the University of Kansas. He practiced law in Kansas City for four years after a judicial clerkship. John's practice included working on complex litigation matters. He preferred doing legal research to being in court... which led him to Library School! This time he ventured out of state to the University of Denver for their then Masters Degree in law librarianship. While in school, John worked part-time at the law library mainly doing reference and really enjoyed it.

Following library school, John took a job at McGeorge Law School Library. He primarily worked evening and weekend reference. He stayed there for about a year, then moved on to be Associate Director at the Supreme Court Law Library in Santa Fe, New Mexico. John stayed in Santa Fe for four years before coming to Texas.

John was offered the job as Director of the Harris County Law Library, where he would be able to work on building a new library facility. This was an offer John could not refuse! He worked with, as he says, "librarian-friendly" architects in a collaborative effort to come up with a good design.

John's vision for the Library was a place for attorneys to research and find what they needed quickly and easily - he continued the prior law librarian's policy that nothing circulated. He wanted everything to be available for the patrons coming in to use the library. Today's customer base for the Library is mostly lawyers (rather than attorney's staff) and pro se patrons. When I asked John about pro se patrons, he said most come in with family law questions and need sample forms. The staff must be careful not to practice law. He said a big help on this occurred several years ago when Houston Volunteer Lawyers set up an information booth at the Family Law Center. (The booth is open weekdays from 8:30 to 11:30 and 1:00-2:00.) The booth does not give out forms but gets pro se patrons started in the right direction. If the booth directs them to the Law Library, the pro se patrons come with instructions on what they should be looking for and which resources are best to use for their specific matters.

The Harris County Law Library is funded by civil case filing fees, which have remained flat in recent years (with the advent of tort and workers compensation reform). However, the Library continues to be a valuable tool for the legal community.

During his career, John served as a HALL Board member, as chairman of the AALL By-Laws Committee, and as a member of the AALL Nominations Committee.

John remains a huge Kansas Jayhawks sports fan and plans to use his newfound freedom to attend more home football and basketball games at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

*-Mary Ann Wacker*



## WESTLAW COURT EXPRESS

Worldwide document research and retrieval services

Westlaw Court Express® Document Research and Retrieval has a network of retrieval experts around the world. They know their territories inside out – court jurisdictions, local rules, and shortcuts. With their deep knowledge base, our researchers deliver more than documents – they deliver accuracy, confidence, and peace of mind.

Call 1-877-362-7387, email [westlawcourtpress@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:westlawcourtpress@thomsonreuters.com), or visit [westlawcourtpress.com](http://westlawcourtpress.com).



## Learn to Create a Quick Strategic Plan When You Don't Have Time to do it Perfectly

Strategic planning is one process for setting goals and priorities. However, it is easy to become distracted by unwieldy and repetitive processes, jargon, and arguments over whether something is a goal, outcome, principle, or strategy. Join the **June 9 webinar**, The Five-Minute Strategic Plan: When You Don't Have the Time or Resources to Do It Perfectly, **from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. CST**, to learn a simple, proven model that translates strategic planning into four basic steps (plus one that repeats). It allows for effective design and execution when time is short, and you need to move ahead quickly – without driving yourself and other people crazy.

This webinar will discuss how to:

- \* Effectively sample qualitative and quantitative research about past, current, and potential users
- \* Distill leadership-level concepts (mission, vision, values) in a "where are we going, and why" statement
- \* Tie strategic planning goals into project management execution
- \* Evaluate plans based on users' criteria
- \* Prevent micromanagement

Register by June 2. Registration link: <http://www.regonline.com/fiveminuteplan>



### AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: Federal Regulatory Information and Where to Find It.

In this one-hour video, David Pritzker of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Regulatory Information Service Center provides a handy tutorial on the federal rulemaking process, including where the public can find access to federal regulations. The GSA Regulatory Information Center publishes a semiannual unified agenda on regulatory actions under development. The fall publication of the agenda includes a regulatory plan identifying current regulatory priorities and highlighting significant regulatory actions expected in the coming year. The center also helped establish Reginfo.gov to provide a "regulatory dashboard" of current information on the regulatory process, which includes handy FAQs on the regulatory process and hyperlinks to government sources for the regulations.

Pritzker's presentation explains the evolution of public access to regulatory information (including the genesis of the *Code of Federal Regulations* and *Federal Register*), how the *Administrative Procedure Act* creates a legal framework for the adoption of regulations in a manner allowing for public input, and where to find regulatory information, including new, free web-based government resources.

**Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go!**

**Link:** <http://www.softconference.com/aall/sessionDetail.asp?SID=237122>



April speaker Ron Wheeler, a member of the AALL Executive Board

### **AALL Executive Board Member Visit Recap**

In April, Ron Wheeler, member of the AALL Board, visited us from California where he is the Director of the Dorraine Zief Law Library and delivered an inspiring and forward-looking speech titled “AALL Update, WestlawNext, and Other Miscellany”.

While Ron talked to us about AALL initiatives, the new AALL website and the possibilities he sees in the near future to deliver webinars and online education much more frequently, the main focus of his speech was the need for law firm librarians to be active at the national level. Ron acknowledged the difficulties of getting involved when law firms don’t see the need to sponsor attending national conferences or support traveling to meetings as well as the daily demand of the job, but he nevertheless made us aware of the need for law firm librarians to be involved. Law librarianship is not just an academic- or court-based profession, but one that offers many opportunities at the firm and corporate level as well. He believes that all areas should be represented within the organization in an effort to continuously be relevant to all members.

Ron finished his presentation with remarks on WestlawNext and whether and how this product will define electronic legal research. His excellent article can be found at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1773767](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1773767)

It was a fascinating talk, and we all enjoyed it. Ron is wonderful, a brilliant speaker and very funny, and we were thrilled he took the time to come and visit with us!

*-Saskia Mehlhorn*

## HALL Treasurer's Report

### HALL Preliminary Final Annual Treasurer's Report (unaudited) May 11, 2011

	Income	Expenses	
<b>Balance forward 05/31/10</b>			<b>\$ 11,512.60</b>
<b>Dues</b>			
2010-2011	\$ 3,250.00		
2011-2012	\$ 100.00		
<b>Newsletter</b>			
Ads	\$ 510.00		
Postage		\$ 5.73	
<b>Luncheons/Receptions/Seminars</b>			
March-10 Seminar	\$ 1,520.00		
August-10	\$ 406.00	\$ 359.96	
September-10	\$ 392.00	\$ 367.29	
October-10	\$ 735.00	\$ 771.28	
November-10 Seminar	\$ 940.00	\$ 514.38	
HALL-iday Happy Hour 2010	\$ 630.00	\$ 597.27	
January-11	\$ 260.00	\$ 239.39	
February-11	\$ 400.00	\$ 389.97	
March-11 Seminar	\$ 2,090.00	\$ 739.06	
April-11			
Expenses for AALL Representative			
May-11			
<b>Scholarships/Grants</b>			
2010 Reimbursement for HALL President Elect's AALL Attendance		\$ 1,571.32	
2011 AALL Grant		\$ 1,700.00	
<b>Administrative</b>			
Texas Secretary of State Filing Fee			
Chapter Liability Insurance		\$ 124.00	
Bank Fees/Petty Cash Withdrawal			
Supplies/Stationery/Miscellaneous		\$ 16.23	
Gifts/Flowers		\$ 193.39	
Charitable Contributions		\$ 1,005.00	
Post Office Box Rental		\$ 46.00	
Website Development and Maintenance		\$ 9.95	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,233.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,650.22</b>	
<b>Balance 05/11/11</b>			<b>\$ 14,095.38</b>

*Mariann Sears, Treasurer*  
*May 11, 2011*

## HALL May Meeting: New Officers!



HALL 2011-2012 Board:

DeeDee Mulligan, Member-at-Large;  
Patti Curtis, Vice-President/  
President-Elect;  
Nanette Collins, Member-at-Large;  
Genel Moran, Treasurer;  
Saskia Mehlhorn, President;  
Natalie Lira, Past President;  
Riva Laughlin, Secretary



HALL 2010-2011 Board:

Lydia Ramirez, Member-at-Large;  
Mariann Sears, Treasurer;  
Ann Patterson, Past President;  
Saskia Mehlhorn, Vice-President/  
President-Elect;  
Natalie Lira, President;  
Riva Laughlin, Secretary  
Not pictured: DeeDee Mulligan,  
Member-at-Large

Below, HALL Past, Present, and Future Presidents (l-r): Patti Curtis, Elizabeth Black-Berry, Mary Ann Wacker, Caren Luckie, Trisha Petitt, Riva Laughlin, Susan Spillman, Natalie Lira, Mary Lippold, Saskia Mehlhorn, Monica Ortale



Below, Saskia Mehlhorn (l) and Blythe McCoy with HALL's 30th Anniversary cake (Thanks to ThomsonReuters!)



Right, outgoing HALL President Natalie Lira



Right, HALL grant recipient Tracy Timmons (center) with Natalie Lira (left) and Judith Jackson (right)



Above, HALL Volunteer of the Year Mary Ann Wacker (center) with Saskia Mehlhorn (left) and Natalie Lira (right)



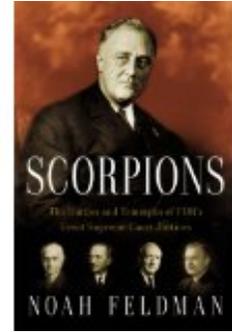
Above, outgoing HALL Treasurer Mariann Sears (center) with Natalie Lira (left) and Saskia Mehlhorn (right)

*Many many thanks to Monica Ortale for the photographs!*

**Book Review – *Scorpions: The Battles and Triumphs of FDR's Great Supreme Court Justices*  
by Noah Feldman**

*"The Supreme Court is nine scorpions in a bottle," -Alexander Bickel*

If nine justices are scorpions in a bottle, then author Noah Feldman would have us believe that the four justices he profiles in his book were in a still smaller bottle. Feldman writes a group biography of the four "great" justices appointed by FDR: Felix Frankfurter, Hugo Black, Robert Jackson, and William O. Douglas. What the reader comes away with is a good introduction to the lives of these men and the influential legal opinions they helped create.



I wouldn't call myself a Supreme Court "geek," but it is undeniably fascinating to read about those lawyers who ascend to the top of the heap, and in pure prestige, (if not in monetary recompense) the Supreme Court is the highest. What is most interesting to me, at least, beyond what influence the justices have, is how they got to the top (you might say I'm more interested in procedure than substance). The justices here all took unlikely, and inspiring, routes to the highest court. Frankfurter arrived in this country at age 12 and spoke no English. Black started out as a country lawyer, became senator from Alabama and a justice. Jackson never completed law school (he apprenticed in a law office), became a successful country lawyer, then worked his way up to Solicitor General, Attorney General, justice, and lead prosecutor at the Nuremburg trials. Douglas rode a railroad box-car cross country, taught at Yale, headed the SEC, and became a justice (and narrowly missed being selected as a vice-presidential candidate). All of these men literally came from nothing, but a combination of brains, hard work, raw ambition, and relationships with FDR, resulted in them becoming a part of history.

Once all had ascended the mountain, Feldman spends the remainder of the book discussing the relationships between the justices (who got along with who), the landmark opinions issued during their tenures, and perhaps the most educational portion of the book: the individual judicial philosophies each created.

In Feldman's writing, each justice becomes a real person with real faults and not just the sum of his resume. Frankfurter, a well-known public intellectual of the time, cannot help but attempt to sway events by using his host of former clerks and law students, and writing letters of advice to the President. Black, his southern honor bruised by his Klu Klux Klan membership being made public, nurses grievances over long periods of time. Jackson, burning with ambition for ever higher offices, meets his match in Reichsfurher Hermann Goering. Douglas, acknowledged by all to be brilliant, sees his presidential dreams repeatedly spoiled and allows his personal life to spin out of control. Feldman does not present these glances under the robes in a gossipy manner; they are all a part of the make-up of these smart, but flawed men. Their triumphs as justices, notably *Brown v. Board of Education*, is weighed against their failures, notably the Japanese-American internment cases. When FDR dies (many at the time assumed he would be president forever), the master politician was no longer there to control them and the four justices each began to lock into their own philosophy, and relations among them broke down.

When Feldman puts each justice into context regarding his judicial philosophy, the book really comes together. Most importantly, he does this in readable manner, not like a law professor. Noah Feldman's *Scorpions* is three books in one; a readable group biography of four great justices, a short course in constitutional law and history, and a good lesson in how politics works.

*-Submitted by Matthew Mantel, Special Projects Librarian, John O'Quinn Law Library*

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 5, 2011  
King & Spalding**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

**In attendance:** Natalie Lira, Riva Laughlin, Mariann Sears, Ann Patterson, Lydia Ramirez, Saskia Mehlhorn (phone), DeeDee Mulligan (phone), Judith Jackson (phone)

**Minutes:** Approved as written

**Treasurer's Report:** Provided

**Old Business:** Motion to reimburse Saskia for AALL expenses that exceed amount subsidized by employer – approved.

**New Business:** Tracy Timmons was awarded travel grant for \$1700. The current bylaws have been found, but need to be dated and posted on the website.

Volunteer of the year - Recommended Mary Ann Wacker – Approved.

Gift card door prizes purchased, Saskia will take care of flowers and certificate for volunteer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL  
HALL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2011  
South Texas College of Law**

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. Natalie welcomed everyone and thanked Saskia for great job she did planning all the meals this year. HALL's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake provided by West and Blythe McCoy.

Minutes approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** Preliminary report is on the tables. More expenses are expected before fiscal year end and a final report

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**NEW BUSINESS:** Natalie announced that John Eichstadt has retired from Harris County Law Library. She thanked him (in absentia) for all his work with HALL.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

*Archives:* no report

*Bylaws:* need new committee chair - contact Saskia if you are interested

*Continuing Education:* Saskia thanked everyone for help with meetings - especially Natalie for advice. Also thanked committee members and South Texas College of Law for help with organizing meetings.

*Community Service:* Monika thanked HALL for support with Ft. Bend Habitat. Family almost ready to move in. \$2000 donated by HALL members and Board.

*Government Relations:* no report

*Library School Liaison:* UNT needs internships for students. If you have an available position, please contact Yvonne Chandler.

*Membership:* Renewals due by June 1.

*Nominations:* Past President - Natalie Lira

President - Saskia Mehlhorn

Vice-President/President-Elect - Patti Curtis

Secretary - Riva Laughlin

Treasurer - Genel Moran

Member-at-Large - Nanette Collins

*Placement:* no report

*Newsletter:* May 16 deadline - member spotlight John Eichstadt

*Publications:* no report

*Scholarships and Grants:* AALL travel grant awarded to Tracy Timmons

*Vendor Relations:* May 25 - Westlaw Business - changes and new content, also how to download books from library to e-readers.

*Website:* no report

Election of new officers: moved and seconded to accept slate as presented by the Nominations Committee.

Volunteer of the year: Mary Ann Wacker

Natalie recognized Mariann Sears as retiring Treasurer.

Saskia presented Natalie with gavel and gift (flowers and a gift card).

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

## Houston Area Law Librarians

P.O. Box 61648  
Houston TX 77208

- 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.

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 and Committees

**President:** Natalie Lira  
nlira@kslaw.com

**Vice-President/President-Elect:**  
Saskia Mehlhorn  
simehlho@Central.uh.edu

**Secretary:** Riva Laughlin  
riva.laughlin@haynesboone.com

**Treasurer:** Mariann Sears  
searsm@gtlaw.com

**Members-at-Large:**  
Lydia Ramirez  
lydia.ramirez@chamberlainlaw.com

Dee Dee Mulligan  
deidra.mulligan@weil.com

**Past President:** Ann Patterson  
eapatterson@fulbright.com

### Committees:

*By-Laws:*

Charles Gibson

*Continuing Education:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

*Membership:*

Jeannie Mazzone

*Nominations:*

Caren Luckie

*Placement:*

Caralinn Cole

*Publications:*

Barbara Szalkowski

*Scholarships/Grants:*

Judith Jackson

*Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

*Government Relations:*

Ann Patterson

*Library School Liaison:*

Blythe McCoy

*Community Service:*

Monika Miura

*Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

*HALL Website:*

Saskia Mehlhorn

*Newsletter Editor:*

Mary Ann Wacker