

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

THE SELF HELP LEGAL CENTER AT THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Nolan L. Wright

Reference Librarian, Assistant Professor, and Faculty Supervisor - SIU Legal Self Help Center Southern Illinois University School of Law

The Self Help Legal Center (SHLC) at the Southern Illinois University School of Law was established in 1998 as a source of legal information and forms for public use concerning common legal issues such as divorce and other family and child related matters, wills, guardianships, landlord-tenant matters, and the like. The goal has always been to help people find answers to their own legal questions and do a better job of representing themselves in court if they choose to file a legal action or need to respond to one, consistent with the longstanding mission of the law school “to serve the public good.” The SHLC provides this assistance to anyone who asks for it, without regard to income, but most of the people who contact the SHLC have little money and many are indigent. Southern Illinois has been economically challenged for years. Broadband connections are unavailable or prohibitively expensive for many. Ensuring that materials are not only available but also as accessible as possible has therefore been a guiding principle for the SHLC since its inception. Toward that end, in addition to offering materials for download from its website, the SHLC also distributes hardcopy information and form packets by mail without charge, and copies of the most frequently requested packets are available for pick up at a kiosk in the self-help area in the SIU Law Library as well. The School of Law also hosts free divorce classes taught by volunteer lawyers from Land of Lincoln Legal Aid Foundation to help people with the forms, and the classes are available online from the SHLC website.

Initial funding provided by the Lawyer’s Trust Fund of Illinois made it possible to hire a staff attorney to develop the information packets and forms, set up the SHLC as part of the Law School’s Clinic Program, and to supervise the participating law students. The SHLC continued in that form with funding from SIU and the Equal Justice Commission until around 2008. When that funding dried up the Law Library stepped in, covering the cost of copying, postage, and the phone line for the law students to use who chose to continue on as volunteers taking and returning calls and emails requesting help, working from an office space located in the Law Library near our self-help materials. Since arriving in the fall of **continued p2**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Stefanie Pearlman

The MAALL meeting at the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference in Boston is rapidly approaching. I am very excited about this event and hope you will be too! We are providing a lunch buffet and subsidizing most of the cost of the meal. We also have a speaker who will give a presentation after the business portion of the meeting (more details to come later...). I hope that all of you can attend!

For those of you trying to find funding for the AALL conference, I would like to point out that MAALL is one of the chapters to get a free registration award for the conference. If you have any questions about this grant, please contact Needra Jackson, our amazing Grants Committee Chair(jacksonn@missouri.edu). The Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section also has annual meeting grants available. You do not need to be a member of RIPS-SIS to receive a grant. There are six grants, with grants specifically set aside for firm law librarians and state, court, and county law librarians. See <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/ripssis/> to apply. You can also review grant opportunities on the AALL website (<http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/grants>).

I want to sincerely thank all of you that answered my last call to serve on a committee. I have one more opportunity to present to you. We need at least one more member on our bylaws committee. If you haven't already volunteered, please consider helping with the work of this very important committee. Interested? Please contact me at spearlman2@unl.edu.

Finally, soon you will receive an invitation to participate in a survey from the MAALL Internet Committee. This committee has been working very hard to improve and update our website, but they need your input. I would strongly encourage each of you to help by providing your opinions about our website.

IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD **continued from p1**

2009, part of my job as reference librarian has been to function as faculty supervisor, recruiting and training new volunteers and answering their questions when they are not sure how to respond to a particular request. Practicing law for a number of years before entering law librarianship, much of it handling family law matters, has definitely helped.

We make it clear to both the law student volunteers and to the public that we cannot and do not represent people or give them legal advice, just help them access information so they can help themselves. Still, it is a great way for students to get experience working with people who need help with legal problems, and even first year law students can do so as participation is open to all law students. Those who put in 30 hours or more in a school year receive a special designation on their Student Involvement Transcript documenting their public interest commitment, and everyone who participates learns about free legal resources in the process.

Upper division students have more options for experiential learning, including externships, the Semester-in-Practice Program, and the Civil Practice/Elder Law, Domestic Violence, and Juvenile Justice Clinics, so it is not surprising that most of our volunteers are first year students, but a number of upper division students continue each year as well. This semester we had more than 20 new volunteers go through training, and our student volunteers put in 124 service hours altogether in the first month after training alone!

There are numerous improvements that I have wanted to pursue, beginning with updates to our information and

forms packages, adding new packages to fill gaps in our coverage, and redesigning and adding content to the SHLC website, including links to Illinois primary authorities and plain language tutorials on legal research for unrepresented litigants, but time constraints interfered. With help from the research assistant that Dean Fountaine authorized me to hire this semester I hope to make some headway on that list by summer, and the money contributed by one of our Registered Student Organizations from a fund raiser they undertook for the SHLC will help as well. I will post a follow up report as progress warrants, and would love to hear about similar efforts that others have underway and any ideas for improving what we do at the SHLC.

CROSS-TRAIN AT THE CROSSROADS: MEET MAALL IN ST. LOUIS! VICE PRESIDENT- PRESIDENT ELECT'S MESSAGE

Ted Potter

Hello from the MAALL Education Committee. Now that you've all digested the fabulous annual meeting issue of MAALL Markings, it's time to start thinking about the next MAALL annual meeting in St. Louis, October 25-27, 2012. The theme for this meeting is cross-training. Our goal is to create sessions that challenge us to see our work in the context of the whole, rather than in the silos we often create for ourselves. We envision having technical services librarians presenting on resource description and how that impacts reference; having upper management talk about how important big picture issues are, and having middle managers talk about their issues in a way that engages upper management; we'd like to have public library librarians talk about issues that their patrons bring to them and how we can work together to learn how to help lay patrons; we want to know how courts operate and how we can help them meet litigants' needs. Another goal is to create several educational tracks that provide multiple opportunities to learn from one another in small groups, as well as from presenters.



Ted Potter

We encourage you to propose a program on cross-training and we would like each program to incorporate active learning. We would love to have you participate by creating a program covering something that excites you, or coordinating/moderating a program, or coordinating a panel discussion, or moderating a small group discussion, or by proposing what you would like to see in a program, even if you don't actively participate. Please send your program proposals and/or ideas to any Education Committee member by Friday, May 4, 2012. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the committee. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ted Potter, Kerry Altenbernd, Katie Hahn, Matt Novak, Melissa Serfass and Cindy Shearrer

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the newest members of MAALL:

Erika Cohn

Digital Access Librarian
Washington University Law Library

Natalie DeBerry

Assistant Circulation Librarian
Oklahoma City University Law Library

Brett A. Elder

Collection Development Librarian
University of Iowa Law Library

Manny Nolasco

User Support Specialist
University of Missouri School of Law
Library

Greta Olive

Librarian (St. Louis branch)
Armstrong Teasdale LLP

Chad Pollock

Electronic Services Librarian
University of Arkansas School of Law

Allison Reeve

Catalog and Technical Services
Librarian
University of Kansas

Frances Schach

Librarian (Kansas City branch)
Armstrong Teasdale LLP
Jason Springman
Reference Librarian
University of Arkansas School of Law

Monika Szakasits

Associate Director
University of Arkansas School of Law

Carla P. Wale

Reference and Electronic Technologies
Librarian
Northern Illinois University College of
Law Library

MEMBER NEWS

KANSAS

Washburn Law Library

This spring Creighton Miller is teaching a new course, *Specialized Legal Research: Statutory and Regulatory Law*. Students thoroughly examine federal legislative and regulatory processes and master strategies for finding and using various legal and interpretive materials produced by Congress, the President, and government agencies.



Many of the Washburn Law Library staff wore their red for Women's Heart Health on Feb. 3.

A major recent electronic acquisition is Proquest Federal Legislative Insight, a federal legislative history service. Thoroughly researched compilations of digital full-text publications relevant to enacted U.S. public laws from 1929 to the present are available to researchers campus-wide.

Law Librarian Glen McBeth is providing to the Law School AdobeConnect, a distance learning/collaboration service. It allows face-to-face interaction and instruction over the Internet. It is presently being used for teaching Food and Drug Law, CLEs, and other distance discussions.

Wheat Law Library, University of Kansas

Allison Reeve is settling in as our new Cataloging and Technical Services Librarian. She graduated from the University of Kansas in 2006 with a bachelor's in Spanish and anthropology. During her time at KU, she also

worked as a circulation student assistant and library assistant at the Wheat Law Library. Allison earned a Master of Information and Library Studies and a Master of Foreign Language and Literature with a concentration in Spanish literature from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in May 2011. While living in Milwaukee, she worked at the Golda Meir Library in various positions and as an assistant lecturer in the Spanish department. Allison returns to the Wheat Law Library in her new position and is glad to be back in Lawrence and at KU. Please join us in welcoming Allison.

Our new Kansas Supreme Court Research Clinic is under way. Associate Director Chris Steadham spearheaded this venture and Joyce Pearson, Blake Wilson, and Ashly Basgall will be working with it as well. The clinic is a wonderful opportunity not just for students but for the law school to build a stronger relationship with the court. The students will no doubt learn some incredibly valuable skills while helping the court answer some tough questions.

February 19-25 was a big week for Green Hall (law school) in the "Lights Out! Energy Competition" with 2 other buildings on campus. The law school jumped into the lead with 11.4% savings overall compared to this same time last year!

NEBRASKA



MAALL Markings Editor celebrates birthday on February 29.

Laura Headrick, US Courts Librarian in Charge of a Branch, retired this year after 20 years of service to the courts. The Lincoln Branch, which Laura started and nurtured, will now become a shared judges library. She is greatly missed by her colleagues. Submitted by Jeri Kay Hopkins, US Courts Library, 8th Circuit, Omaha.

Lynn Koperski, Reference Services Coordinator, Kutak Rock LLP, is attending the Nebraska Library Legislative Day on Monday, Feb. 27. She is representing law libraries and members of Special Libraries Association Nebraska.

Baird Holm LLP Library will "introduce" Lexis Advance on March 14, 2012 with an open house and demonstrations of the search engine's features by Stacy Lebbens, Esq., Lexis Research Consultant.

Happy 15th Birthday to MAALL Markings Editor Brian Striman!

The Library Staff at Schmid Law Library helped Brian celebrate his 15th birthday with a surprise party. Did you know that a person born on February 29 is also called a leapling?

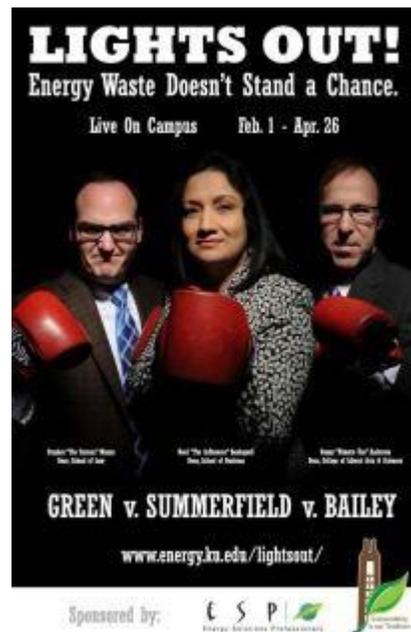
NEWS FROM OTHER CHAPTERS

Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York

ALLUNY Newsletter <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/alluny/2011-03winter.pdf>

Volume 36 , Issue 3 December 2011

In Whither NYSHEI, Stephen Weiter reports on the New York State Higher Education Initiative's (NYSHEI) lobbying efforts on two bills that would expand access to online resources in academic libraries. At the time of publication, the ARIA (Academic Research Information Access) (S.3736-A) act, which would have provided authorization and funding to license STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) databases on a state-



University of Kansas Law School
Dean Stephen Mazza on the left.

wide basis, had just been vetoed for the second time. The CIRA (Clinical Information Resources Access) (S.04991/A.08202) act, which would have provided similar access for health and medical data, was on the verge of being vetoed.

In Technical Tips: A New Bibliographic Standard, Venessa Hughes provides some links on the Library of Congress's Bibliographic Framework Transition Initiative.

Law Library Association of Greater New York

Law Lines http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llagny/Law_Lines/LI_Fall2011.pdf
Volume 35, Issue 1 Fall 2011

In A Brief Guide to Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State, Taryn Rucinski offers tips for researching hydraulic fracturing, a form of injection well drilling that allows developers in the natural gas industry to exploit otherwise unobtainable deposits of hydrocarbon-rich shale.

In the same issue, Maxine Wright's Selected Bibliography on Preservation lists websites, videos, books, blogs, and other resources to help librarians develop and implement preservation plans for their collections. At the end of the bibliography, Wright invites readers to provide details about their preservation efforts by completing a survey at <http://surveymonkey.com/s/Y3HKR8W>.

Law Library Association of Maryland

LLAM eNews <http://llamnews.wordpress.com/>
December 2011

Mark Desierto provides the issue's Research Tip of the month, which focuses on EasyBib, a web-based citation manager and bibliography generator.

This issue also spotlights the new Maryland Law Firm Publications Search tool, accessible through the Maryland State Law Library at <http://www.lawlib.state.md.us/researchtools/databases.html#MD>. It uses a specialized Google search utility to index the publications web pages of Maryland's largest law firms.

In Government Documents — 150th Anniversaries, Pat Behles celebrates the 150th anniversaries of the Government Printing Office and the publication Foreign Relations of the United States, and provides links to relevant websites.

Law Library Association of Wisconsin

LLAW Briefs <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/publications/newswinter12.pdf>
Volume 29, Issue 3 Winter 2011

Maureen Burns, Librarian at Godfrey & Kahn S.C., was honored as the Wisconsin Law Journal's "Librarian of the Year." Also nominated were Bev Butula of Davis & Kuelthau and Susie Jankowski of Quarles and Brady.

Law Librarians of New England

LLNE News <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llne/LLNENews/PDF/2011v30n2.pdf>
Volume 30, Issue 2

In Access to Justice and Law Libraries, Marnie Warner calls on law librarians to become more involved in their state access to justice initiatives. The article highlights some web resources designed for self-represented litigants and the judges, attorneys, and court personnel who interact with them.

Minnesota Association of Law Libraries

MALL Newsletter - <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/Newsletter/News382.pdf>

V38 N2 Fall 2011

Interesting article about flooding at the Warren E. Burger Law Library caused by a pipe break. Water from the roof drained down a pipe that went through the library. The library experienced two flooding events.

Excerpt from article: A plumber repaired the pipe by replacing the cinching and adding an external frame. I was assured that "it would take a blowtorch to get that pipe apart again." As it turned out, it took only five days and a really big storm.

Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

Southeastern Law Librarian <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/seall/documents/newsletter/seallv36n4.pdf>

V36 N4 Fall 2011

Newsletter contains a Memoriam for Carol West. Professor West was the first and longtime Director of the Mississippi College School of Law Library. This issue also has an article titled - Preparing Law Libraries for a National Digital Public Library. The author was at the meeting in their role as the Digital Library Fellow for the Berkeley Digital Library Copyright Project. The article shares some thoughts on what a national digital public library might mean for law libraries.

Western Pacific Chapter

WestPac News - <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/westpac/newsletter/No35-1.pdf>

V35 N1 Fall 2011

"Rural States, Legal Services, and Legal Education" By Deb Person

Article discusses a recent presentation given by the author titled "The Struggle for Information Access and Instruction in Less Populous Areas"

WHILE IN NEW YORK

Marilyn Nicely

Head of Technical Services

University of Oklahoma

Editor's note: I doubt many of us in MAALL have had the opportunity to visit the United Nations. When I found out our own Marilyn Nicely was going to be in New York a few weeks ago, I asked her to consider writing up something about her experience for this issue. -- Brian S.

While in New York City the third week in February, I visited the United Nations building. Although I had never seen the building before, it was a very familiar landmark from pictures, TV, and the movie "Interpreter." We had a tour guide from Korea. She pointed out that when you're at the United Nations you are not in the United States jurisdiction. She walked us through the building, pausing at various displays on the work of the UN. I certainly have heard a lot about the UN Peacekeepers but hadn't given much thought to other UN work. She said the peace keepers always wear the uniforms of the country they are in but also wear distinctive UN hats. She explained that the UN was created in the aftermath of the Holocaust and World War II.

The overarching mission of the UN of peacekeeping and fostering friendly relationships among nations is only part of what goes on. She talked about making sure people have food, removing land mines, helping with health problems, and providing basic supplies to carry on education in the face of disaster or war. Sometimes it seems to us like the problems of the world are too great to take on. Even the UN has to rely on the efforts of people like you and me to get things done bit by bit. The UN's activities are often very simple and straightforward, for example the distribution of nets for protection against mosquitos that cause malaria.

I can't help but think of the overused example of uncountable starfish on the beach and a person picking them up one by one and throwing them back into the ocean. There may be more starfish than we can conceive of helping, but in the case of some of the starfish it makes all the difference.

AALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Julia O'Donnell

Director of Membership Marketing and Communications

American Association of Law Libraries

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Learn How to Make Your Voice Heard in State Advocacy

In the midst of state budget cuts that threaten the very existence of public law libraries and a growing number of state governments looking to eliminate print legal resources in favor of online-only, now is a critical time for law librarians to speak up for the important issues that affect the profession.

Join the free webinar, *Making Your Voice Heard: Your Role in State Advocacy*, on March 20 at 11 a.m. CST, to learn practical skills and strategies to make a difference in your state. You'll hear the latest and most effective ways to influence decision-makers and come away prepared to advocate for the enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) to ensure authentication and preservation of electronic legal material in your state. Register by March 13 at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/680497345>.

This webinar is free for AALL members and chapter members.

Register Today for the 2012 AALL Annual Meeting

Designed by law librarians, for law librarians, the AALL Annual Meeting is an event you look forward to every year. Join nearly 2,000 of your colleagues from across the country to find out what they are doing in their libraries.

This year in Boston, July 21-24, you can look forward to:

- Keynote speaker Richard Susskind
- Nearly 100 educational sessions
- A bustling Exhibit Hall featuring about 100 vendors
- The return of the Association Luncheon
- Connecting with the people who understand the issues you face every day

Make sure your plans for this summer include the No.1 educational conference for legal information professionals—you can't afford to miss it. Registration today!

Spread the word to your nonmember colleagues: Nonmember Conference Registration packages include a complimentary one-year AALL membership. By joining us in Boston, they'll be joining AALL!

<http://www.aallnet.org/conference>

Renew Your AALL Membership Early for a Chance to Win a Free 2012 AALL Annual Meeting Registration

In March, AALL dues invoices for 2012-2013 mail out to all library directors for their institutionally paid memberships and to all other individual members. The deadline for membership renewal is May 31.

When you renew early—by May 1—you will be entered in a drawing for a free 2012 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference registration. If you renew on time—by May 31—you'll be entered in a drawing for a free AALL webinar of your choice in 2012-2013. Following is the 2012 membership renewal schedule:

March: First dues invoices mailed out.

May: Second dues invoices mailed out.

June: Final dues invoices mailed out.

July: Expiration notices e-mailed to all members—individuals and those paid by institutions.

August 1: Expired members deleted from the AALL membership database and access to the AALLNET members-only content and Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum subscriptions discontinued.

For more information or to renew your membership online, view the application form on AALLNET at <http://www.aallnet.org/join>. If you have any questions about your membership renewal, contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312/205-8022.

AALL2go Pick of the Month

AALL's Continuing Professional Education Committee presents the AALL2go pick of the month: The New Generation of Legal Research Databases: Eighteen Months Later.

In January 2010, WestlawNext and Lexis for Microsoft Office were unveiled at the Legal Tech trade show in New York. Both products, with their natural language and Google-like search capabilities, promised simplified research and workflow collaboration for attorneys, paralegals, law students, and law librarians.

At the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting, a panel of law librarians convened to discuss the results of their survey of WestlawNext users and share their experiences using the next generation of legal research databases (due to the delayed debut of Lexis for Microsoft Office and Lexis Advance, only WestlawNext was discussed). The panel used a "lessons learned" approach regarding database strengths and weaknesses, pricing, generational differences among users, and training. This session provides an excellent overview for any law library that is considering WestlawNext or already using it but wants to compare it with other database options.

Find this and more than 80 other free continuing education programs and webinars for AALL members on AALL2go at <http://www.softconference.com/aall/sessionDetail.asp?SID=250810>!

AALL Members Receive Discounted Registration for 2012 LMA Annual Conference

AALL is an association partner for the upcoming 2012 Legal Marketing Association (LMA) Annual Conference. The LMA Annual Conference is the largest educational and networking event for legal marketing and business development professionals, attracting more than 1,000 attendees. The 2012 conference will take place March 14-16 at the Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth).

Through the partnership, AALL members can enjoy all the benefits and registration discounts that full LMA members receive—simply reference your AALL membership when registering and receive the prevailing LMA member rate. Book online at www.LMAconference.com or call 877/562-7172.

2012 AALL OBS-SIS AND TS-SIS JOINT RESEARCH GRANT

Hollie White

JRGC Chair and Digital Initiatives Librarian at the Goodson Law Library

The purpose of the Online Bibliographic Services and Technical Services Special Interest Sections' Joint Research Grant is to provide support to American Association of Law Libraries members conducting research specific to technical services law librarianship that will enhance law librarianship service to our clients. JRGC awards grants in a single year ranging in amount of no more than \$1,000 at the discretion of JRGC, --and-- pending approval of each grant amount each year as authorized by OBS and TS Executive Boards.

Complete applications are due to the JRGC Chair no later than March 31, 2012. Grant recipients will be announced at the annual AALL meeting. Award amounts will be mailed to successful grant recipients as soon as final approval is received by the JRGC Chair.

For more information on the grant and the application process, please visit: <http://www.aallnet.org/sis/obssis/research/researchinfo.htm>

AALL ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION GRANT

Newer members of AALL and MAALL are eligible to apply for one free conference registration for the AALL annual meeting. By providing an opportunity for a newer member to attend an Annual Meeting, everyone benefits – the member, MAALL, and AALL. Our goal is to provide an enriching and valuable experience as the member learns and networks with colleagues from across the country. The result for the chapter and AALL is a member who supports and participates in her or his professional association, both locally and nationally. To apply, please complete the brief grant application form available online at <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B2fXsdh6IT31dnk3NjVaOENSVetwRUJ2VWQwSkV4UQ> and email it to the chair of the MAALL Grants Committee (jacksonn@missouri.edu).



All applications must be received by April 13, 2012 and the recipient of the award will be notified by April 20, 2012.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Brian Striman, Editor-in-Chief

*Professor of Law Library, Head of Technical Services, and Catalog Librarian
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

This is our newest version of MAALL Markings, and is the first of future issues which will have this same branded "look" to them. We hope you enjoy the new look. Our new Layout Editor, Jennifer Watson has been hard at work to present us with prototype templates to review and help us make a final decision on the type and style of template that will be an emblem for our Chapter. It's a lot of fun to work with a fairly sizable group of dedicated colleagues who have stepped up and brought me all kinds of news, announcements, and articles written by MAALL members. I have to tread the fine line of when to remind and/or hound everyone to write something for MAALL Markings. This is your publication! It's a snapshot of who we are, what we are doing, what issues we feel are important, what ways we have to help our colleagues through grants, awards and consortia activities, and more. A publication like this is evidence of our collective efforts. When we read MAALL Markings, we stop our busy workday, step back from our triaging for a brief time to look at the bigger picture of our great AALL Chapter. MAALL Markings is one of the ways we communicate. The Newsletter Committee will soon be working with the Internet Committee as we look at the other communication vehicles and how they can interact and complement each other.



Our fearless leader.

MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION

MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of MAALL Markings is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.

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