

# HALL Quarterly

HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS



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Winter 2020

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## Message from the President

**Andre Davison**

Research Technology Manager  
Blank Rome

Happy New Year, HALL Members. As we enter the new decade, I will celebrate twenty-five years of membership with the Houston Area Law Librarians. A lot has changed in twenty-five years. We have seen our print collections shrink and our digital collections grow. We've moved from WestMate to Westlaw Edge. We moved from the HALL Directory to LinkedIn. One thing that has not changed is HALL is still a group of Law Librarians that meet once a month to exchange ideas, learn from one another, and champion the legal information profession.

I remember my first meeting being held in the then Nations Bank building (now TC Energy Tower). I remember going to the meeting with Charles Gibson and Karl Gruben. Bob Grundy was the HALL President and Elizabeth Black Berry was the Vice-President. I had no clue what a

law librarian was, but as I sat at the meeting I begin to hear people passionately speak about the profession.

Those initial meetings peaked my interest in law librarianship and started to lay the foundation for my career in legal information. The Houston Area Law Librarians have played a tremendous role in my growth as a professional. I never thought I would be standing in the same position as Bob, calling a meeting to order or asking for a motion to adjourn a meeting. I did not envision participating in the Vice-President tradition of presenting the gavel to the outgoing president as Elizabeth did on the last meeting of the year in May 1995. Winston Churchill stated, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." I am so thankful for every member of the organization past and present who have given their time and talents to HALL to make it such a wonderful institution in the legal community.

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## Message from the Vice-President

### **Michael McHenry**

Director of Research and Knowledge Services  
Vinson & Elkins LLP

January is usually the time for new resolutions and new initiatives and also a chance to contemplate how the previous year went. However, I read something last week that said if you are spending more time on goal-planning and self-assessment in January than a random time of the year, say, August, then you're doing things wrong. I can certainly understand that sentiment of continuous renewal. And I'm all in favor of always looking for ways to make things better. But I'm a traditionalist, and the rollover of the calendar still means something to me. I hope you all had a good holiday break, and you're ready to do great things in 2020.

On February 12th, Luis Acosta, Chief of the Foreign, Comparative, & International Law Division at the Library of Congress and current AALL Secretary, will be joining us to present an update on AALL activities.

Our March 11th meeting will be the HALL Spring Institute. We'll have two guests presenting on how to bridge the gap between a law school education and practicing at a large firm. Kenton Brice, Director of Technology Innovation at the University of Oklahoma School of Law, and Jocelyn Sagherian, Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law, will speak to their experiences with technology, Advanced Legal Research and training. And later in March... prepare yourself for a HALL Happy Hour!

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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 the Editors 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](#).

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I want to welcome our newest member, Callie Markantonis (Attorney's Library Service). If you know of anyone who fits our membership profile, please let me know so I can reach out to them about joining HALL. November's meeting was a fantastic opportunity to share portions of my AALL Innovation Tournament presentation. Thank you to Blythe McCoy and Pat Barry for joining me in showing how to use Single Sign-On (SSO) to eliminate passwords, increase security,

and improve convenience. Our December meeting was our annual HALL-iday party at the Pearl Restaurant, inside the Sam Houston Hotel. The food was excellent, networking was valuable, and the white elephant book exchange was fun. Thank you to Michael McHenry for organizing. We are excited about the February monthly meeting in which Luis Acosta, Secretary of the AALL Executive Board, will join us for our annual AALL update.

## HCLL Legal Tech Institute Publishes 2020 Course Catalog

Press Release, Jan. 20, 2020: The Harris County Law Library's Legal Tech Institute today released the 2020 Course Catalog for its Hands-On Legal Tech Training Program. Four new sessions, including "Microsoft PowerPoint for Legal Work" and "Basic Automation for Lawyers," debut in the new Catalog. In total, nine sessions will be offered on rotation every Thursday at 2 p.m. in the Legal Tech Lab at the Law Library.

"Since the Law Library joined our Office, we have worked to make it a destination where all residents of Harris County can connect with their government and access legal information," County Attorney Ryan said. "I encourage everyone to take advantage of the free educational programs at the Law Library and to never hesitate to ask to use 'our' resources – they are your resources."

More than 250 people attended programs from

the Legal Tech Institute in 2019, which was double the number who attended in 2018. Training sessions are free and open to all, and most carry free continuing legal education credit for Texas attorneys courtesy of the CLE Committee for the Office of Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney.

"Finding adequate legal tech training opportunities can be difficult for both attorneys and self-represented litigants," said Legal Tech Institute Director Joe Lawson. "As a public law library, our mission is to eliminate barriers to accessing legal information. Offering these free, hands-on training opportunities to all is a big step in the right direction."

Visit the Legal Tech Institute website at [www.harriscountylawlibrary.org/tech](http://www.harriscountylawlibrary.org/tech) to download a copy of the Course Catalog and to register for an upcoming training session.

## “If you’re not first, you’re last.”

**Heather Kushnerick**

Special Collections Librarian  
& College Archivist  
South Texas College of Law Houston

Book Review of *The Yuppie Handbook: the State of the Art Manual for Young Urban Professionals*, by Marissa Piesman and Marilee Hartley (New York, NY: Pocket Books, 1984)

If you attended the HALL-iday party, you know that there was a while elephant book exchange. You probably also know that our own Sabrina Davis received a copy of *The Yuppie Handbook*, and that I was ridiculously enraptured with it. She let me borrow it on the condition that I write a book review of it – so here it is. Enjoy!

The *Yuppie Handbook* may have been written by psychics who saw the future. The book describes Judd Nelson’s character in *St. Elmo’s Fire* perfectly, but it also describes people that everyone knows today. It discusses the genesis of trends that have become norms such as raspberry vinegar, esoteric versions of chicken salad, and the desire to have the coolest, newest technology. The authors also use the tagline of Will Ferrell’s character Ricky Bobby, from *Talladega Nights*, a full 30 years before the film was made.

The manual is divided into eight sections that cover almost everything: how to not be a Preppie, what to do in your spare time, career advice, personal relationship advice, food, and failure. How should you decorate your home? Think minimalist, with natural fibers, no plastic, and stylish but uncomfortable sofas so you won’t want to lie around all weekend. What car should

you buy? A small, stylish convertible or luxury car. Only buy a pickup truck or jeep if you have no use for one. Where should you eat out? At restaurants that refer to whipped cream as Chantilly and have dishes that require unusual mushrooms. Drink designer water and expensive caffeinated beverages. Vacation? Go to an exotic, undiscovered location along with everyone else who “just” discovered it. When that disappoints, go to a fallback location like the Hamptons, Vail, Montana, or somewhere in Europe—bonus points if this trip involves a film festival, one of the wonders of the ancient world, or is just strange. Make sure you take a lot of pictures so you can force your friends and family to watch a slide show of your adventures.

There is additional advice on when to have children, appropriate reasons to get divorced (e.g., downhill vs. cross country skiing, country house vs. beach house—you know, the serious issues in life), and how to cope with your stressful Yuppie life (therapy – lots of it). You should have a restaurant-quality kitchen, an herb garden (at the very least), and regular access to Valium.

The interesting thing about this book is what lies underneath the satirical, over-the-top “me-generation” consumerism that it presents as the goals of Yuppiehood. The 1980s sparked foodies, treating pets like children, giving your actual children weirdly-spelled names, multiculturalism, and online—er, sorry—mail-order shopping when you can’t sleep. So, Japanese inspired decor isn’t as cool as it used to be, and we moved from Jane Fonda VCR tapes to Beach Body for our at-home fitness needs. Coach bags, camel plaid scarfs, wood smoked meats, and gen-

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[Continued from page 4](#)

trification are still in. Honestly, other than the evolution of technology, not much has changed for the urban professional—young or otherwise.

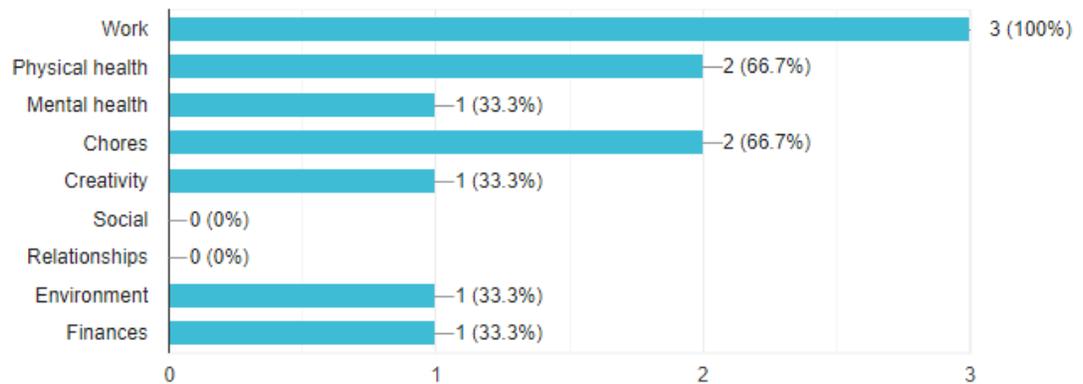
If you remember the 1980s or are a fan of 80s movies—particularly the film *Baby Boom*—I high-

ly recommend this book. Grab your favorite beverage, curl up on your (hopefully comfy) couch, and indulge in this walk down “memory lane.” Preferably, while a movie starring Andrew McCarthy or James Spader is on in the background.

## 2020 New Year’s Resolutions

Please categorize your resolutions (select as many as you like):

3 responses



### Editor’s New Year’s Resolutions

- 1) Environmental: Decrease buying of single-use plastics. (I recently learned about bar shampoo.)
- 2) Health: Eat fewer carbs.
- 3) Budget: Decrease online shopping.
- 4) Work-Life Balance: Think (for at least 2 days) before I volunteer for a new committee.
- 5) Career: Write and publish an article in a law library journal.
- 6) Pets: Be diligent about training my dog, Whiskey Jane.

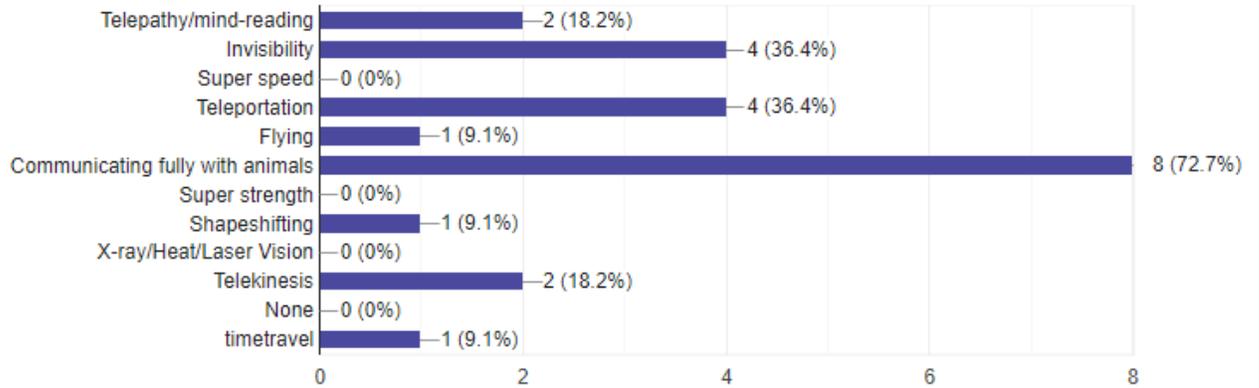
### Anonymous Responders’ Resolutions

- Use my new Instant Pot once a week!
- Learn to really type and not just look down at the keyboard.
- Quit honking my car horn (sometimes road rage can get the better of me).
- Stop buying books...read the books so I can clean out my bookcase.
- Organize, Organize, Organize

## Member Poll: Superpowers

Which superpower(s) would you like to have? (Select as many as you like.)

11 responses



### Extended Answers

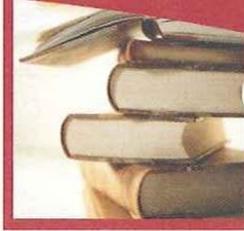
- Teleportation: I'd love to be able to pop in on my colleagues in the firm's other offices and have lunch or attend a meeting with these folks in person.
- Teleportation: My schedule is so hectic, sometimes there is just no time to travel between locations!
- Communicating with animals: Who wouldn't like to know what animals are saying to us - although we may not like what we hear!
- Communicating with animals: I would love to know what my pet REALLY thinks!!
- Communicating with animals: It would prevent much of the yelling in my house, from other family members.

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

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# HALL-iday 2019 Pictures



# HALL-iday 2019 Pictures

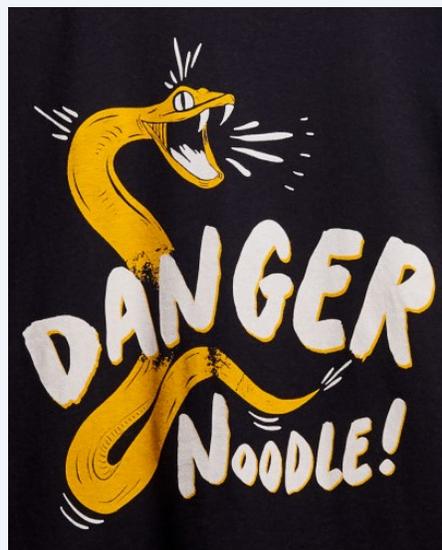


## Member Spotlight: HALL Vice-President

### Michael McHenry

Director of Research and Knowledge Services  
Vinson & Elkins LLP

- *Which library school did you attend? Year of graduation?:* Florida State, 1999
- *Last movie seen:* [The Silent Partner](#) with Elliot Gould as a bank teller running a scam on an evil bank robber played by Christopher Plummer
- *Least favorite food:* Olives
- *What is on your mouse pad?:* Nothing, it's just black
- *Non-travel item on Bucket List:* I'm not really a Bucket List person. But I've been trying to meet Joe Bob Briggs, film critic extraordinaire, for a year now and keep missing his events. Might resort to stalking.
- *Star Trek or Star Wars:* Star Wars
- *Pineapple on pizza?:* I can handle it. Better than olives.
- *Book currently reading:* [Conduit](#), a sci-fi novel written by a friend of mine, Adam Green
- *Favorite drink:* Coke Zero by day / Old Fashioned by night
- *Favorite color:* Blue
- *Conferences: Invigorating or exhausting?:* Invigorating
- *Favorite type of music:* Right now, it's Modern Folk/Americana/Bluegrass
- *Biggest fear:* Snakes
- *Favorite smell:* I like cookies
- *What's on your phone homescreen?:* A nighttime photo of Earth (at least our hemisphere)
- *Favorite TV show:* Nothing current. [The Office](#) (US) is infinitely re-watchable.
- *Manual or automatic:* Auto
- *Ice or roller:* Ice
- *Text or phone call:* Text



## Member Spotlight: Debra Jobs

### Debra Jobs

Library Assistant  
Susman Godfrey

- *Which library school did you attend? Year of graduation?:* Syracuse University, Dec. 2019
- *Last movie seen:* Ford v. Ferrari
- *Least favorite food:* Seafood
- *What is on your mouse pad?:* Don't have one—laptop
- *Non-travel item on Bucket List:* Skydiving
- *Star Trek or Star Wars:* Neither
- *Pineapple on pizza?:* No— allergic to pineapple
- *Book currently reading:* The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moynes
- *Favorite drink:* Dr. Pepper
- *Favorite color:* Blue
- *Conferences: Invigorating or exhausting?:* Invigorating—I am a life-long learner.
- *Favorite type of music:* Country
- *Biggest fear:* Heights (reason for skydiving on Bucket List)
- *Favorite smell:* baked goods (vanilla, cinnamon, etc.)
- *What's on your phone homescreen?:* Big, purple Gerber daisy
- *Favorite TV show:* The Voice
- *Manual or automatic:* Depends on the type of car
- *Ice or roller:* Neither
- *Text or phone call:* Text



## Community Service Project: Buffalo Bayou Partnership

### Monica M. Ortale

Associate Director for Public Services  
South Texas College of Law Houston

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, five intrepid volunteers headed to the visitor's center. Girded in Wellingtons and long-sleeved shirts, they set off with other volunteers to tackle some of the ongoing and never ending tasks to keep our bayou beautiful. They dodged the multitude of joggers and families with their strollers and pets as they



### Andre Davison

Research Technology Manager  
Blank Rome

Patti Curtis, Monica Ortale, Mary Ann Wacker, Catherine Whitney, and I were able to volunteer on Saturday, January 18. Our assignments were to remove sediment from trail and beds, clean the trail lights, and pick up trash in the park. Patti, Monica, and I initially worked with a team of volunteers from Elsie High School to remove sediment from under the Memorial Street Bridge. At the same time, Mary Ann and Catherine cleaned the trail lights with elongated Swiffer

worked on eliminating the silt swept up onto the banks, vanquishing the spiders from the light fixtures, and eradicating the trash swept downstream and deposited onto the shores.

They (Patti Curtis, Andre Davison, Mary Ann Wacker, Catherine Whitney, and yours truly), spent 3 hours helping where we could. It was extremely satisfying to contribute, and we all look forward to the next adventure! Put on your superhero's cape and join us next time if you can.



dusters. After about an hour of shoveling sediment into a wheelbarrow and then taking to dump in the mound, Patti, Monica, and I transitioned to cleaning the trail lights. At the same time, Mary Anne and Catherine switched to trash pickup. With teamwork, our five-person crew accomplished a lot in three hours.

Along with the team of high school students, we doubled the mound from the previous week's volunteers, cleaned at least fifty lights on the trail, and picked up bags of trash. We were tired, yet gratified about the hard work we put in.

## AALL Award Announcements

### AALL Emerging Leader Award

Nominate someone for the Emerging Leader Award by **Jan. 31, 2020**. This award recognizes newer members who have made significant contributions to the profession and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing excellence. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. More details on the award, including selection criteria and a link to the Nomination Form, can be found here: [Emerging Leader Award](#).

### AALL Minority Leadership Development Award

The Diversity & Inclusion Committee encourages eligible AALL members to apply for the Minority Leadership Development Award (MLDA). MLDA recipients will receive prepaid travel, lodging, and registration for the 2020 AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans, mentorship for at least one year from an experienced AALL leader, and the opportunity to serve on an AALL committee. [Application deadline](#) is **Feb. 1, 2020**.

### AALL New Product Award

The AALL New Product Award honors new commercial information products that enhance or improve existing law library services or procedures or innovative products that improve access to legal information, the legal research process, or procedures for technical processing of library materials. Nominate one by **Feb. 3, 2020**. Any AALL member may nominate products. Click for [details](#) and the [nomination form](#).

### Excellence in Community Engagement Award

The Excellence in Community Engagement Award honors outstanding achievement in public relations activities by an AALL member, SIS, chapter, library, or any other group affiliated with the Association. More details about the award criteria can be found [here](#). Eligible projects for this award cycle must have taken place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. The online nomination form is available [here](#), and the deadline for nominations is **Feb. 3, 2020**.

## Edifications — Editor's Notes

### Next HALL Meeting

The next HALL meeting will be February 12, 2020, at South Texas College of Law.

### Seeking Members to Spotlight

We would like to feature a fun profile of at least one HALL member in each issue of *HALL Quarterly* — see pages [9](#) and [10](#) of this issue as examples. If you would like to volunteer yourself (or someone else!) for this honor, please send an e-mail to [sabrina.davis@nortonrosefulbright.com](mailto:sabrina.davis@nortonrosefulbright.com).

### Tip for 2020 - Get in the Habit of Using a 4-digit Year

1/3/20 is far easier for someone to falsify than 1/3/2020. Imagine signing a contract creating an obligation that runs from 1/1/20 to 6/1/20 and then becoming the victim of a falsified version of it that appears to extend the obligation from 1/1/2017 to 6/1/2025. A determined person with access to common tools can still falsify documents with a 4-digit year on them, but why make it extra easy for opportunists?

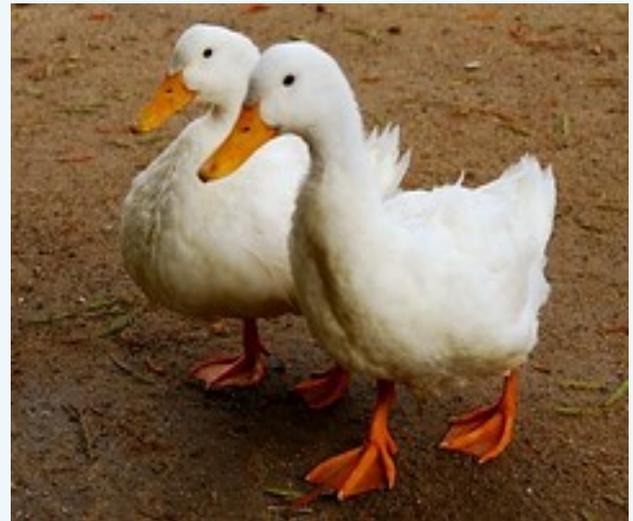
## (Mostly) Fun February Holidays

February is National Canned Food Month! In addition, celebrate next month with these (mostly) fun holidays:

- 1– Hula in the Coola Day
- 2– National Hedgehog Day
- 3– National Women Physicians Day
- 4– National Quacker Day
- 5– National Weatherperson’s Day
- 6– National Frozen Yogurt Day
- 7– Wave All Your Fingers at Your Neighbor Day
- 8– Kite Flying Day
- 9– Toothache Day
- 10– Umbrella Day
- 11– Get Out Your Guitar Day
- 12– Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13– Get a Different Name Day
- 14– Ferris Wheel Day
- 15– National Gumdrop Day
- 16– National Almond Day
- 17– National Cabbage Day
- 18– National Battery Day
- 19– National Mint Chocolate Day
- 20– National Handcuff Day
- 21– National Sticky Bun Day
- 22– National Margarita Day



- 23– Curling is Cool Day
- 24– Tortilla Chip Day
- 25– Let’s All Eat Right Day
- 26– Tell a Fairy Tale Day
- 27– National Strawberry Day
- 28– National Science Day
- 29– National Surf & Turf Day



## HALL Meeting Minutes - January 8, 2019

### **South Texas College of Law Library**

The January HALL Meeting was called to order by President Andre Davison at 12:02 p.m. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### **Old Business**

Andre Davison discussed the HALL-iday party in December.

Please keep Saskia Mehlhorn and family in your thoughts as her son, Cedric Mehlhorn-Hock, has recently passed away.

Announced that HALL's digitization of its archives has been approved.

### **New Business**

Andre Davison announced the deadline to send nominations for the AALL Minority Leadership Award is February 1, 2020.

Andre Davison encouraged members to participate in the AALL Membership Survey. The deadline is January 29, 2020.

### **Committee Reports**

*Archives:* Heather Kushnerick encouraged members to send photos from the HALL-i-day party to her, Sabrina Davis (for the HALL newsletter), and Heather Holmes (for the HALL Facebook page).

*Bylaws:* no report

*Community Service:* HALL will be performing its community service project with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, which involves working on the downtown Buffalo Bayou project on January 18, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. There will be an opportunity to donate to the organization.

*Continuing Education:* Vice-President/President-Elect Michael McHenry announced that AALL Secretary, Luis Acosta, will providing the AALL Update at the HALL February 12 meeting. The Spring Institute, which will be three hours covering practice ready attorneys will be held March 11, 2020. HALL received the AALL Professional Education Grant to help cover the costs.

*Government Relations:* Joe Lawson discussed a proposal to raise court filing fee in Harris County from \$15-\$35, which is allowed by statute. He mentioned that the Harris County Law Library receives its funding from the filing fee, which has not been increased since 1990. He has asked the HALL board to pass a resolution in favor of increasing the filing fee. Joe Lawson announced that he is a member of the technology committee of Texas Access to Justice Commission and invited members to send ideas on technology for pro bono work.

*Membership:* No report. Mary Ann Wacker introduced Debra Jobes.

*Newsletter:* Sabrina Davis encouraged members to send any items for the newsletter.

*[Continued on page 15](#)*

## HALL Meeting Minutes - January 8, 2019

*Continued from page 14*

*Nominations:* no report

*Vendor Relations:* no report

*Placement:* no report

*Website:* Andre Davison asked members to report any links that don't work.

*Public Relations:* Andre Davison encouraged members to send any news or announcements to Heather Holmes.

Andre Davison adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

*Scholarships and Grants:* no report

## HALL Treasurer's Report - January 8, 2020

### HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report - January 8, 2020

**Balance Forward**

6/1/2019

\$11,410.36

Income

Expenses

**2019-2020 Dues**

\$3,152.26

**Luncheons/Receptions/  
Seminars**

\$2,395.00

\$2,662.14

**Scholarships/Grants**

-

-

**Administrative (Wild  
Apricot, Wild Apricot  
Payments, Brinkster,  
Insurance)**

\$705.07

**Total**

\$5,547.26

\$3,367.21

10/9/2019

\$13,590.41



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

Andre Davison  
adavison@blankrome.com

### Vice President/President Elect

Michael McHenry  
mmchenry@velaw.com

### Secretary

Katy Stein Badeaux  
kastein@central.uh.edu

### Treasurer

Karen Kronenberg  
kkronenberg@stcl.edu

### Members-at-Large

Lori-Ann Craig  
lori-ann.craig@cao.hctx.net

### Past President

Colleen Manning  
cmanning@stcl.edu

Melinda Elder  
melinda.elder@chamberlainlaw.com

## HALL Committee Chairs

### *By-Laws:*

Caren Luckie

### *Archives:*

Heather Kushnerick

### *Continuing Education:*

Michael McHenry

### *Government Relations:*

Joseph Lawson

### *Membership:*

Mary Ann Wacker

### *Community Service:*

Monica Ortale

### *Nominations:*

Patti Curtis

### *Vendor Relations:*

Colleen Pincumbe

### *Placement:*

Candice Kennington

### *HALL Website:*

Richard Guajardo

### *Public Relations:*

Heather Holmes

### *Newsletter Editor:*

Sabrina A. Davis

### *Scholarships/Grants:*

Kelley Bocell

Visit us online at:

<http://houstonarealawlibrarians.org>