

Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL)

2019-2020 Annual Report

The 2019-2020 HALL Officers were Andre Davison, President; Michael McHenry, Vice President/President-Elect; Colleen Manning, Immediate Past President; Katy Badeaux, Secretary; Karen Kronenberg, Treasurer; Melinda Elder, Member-at Large; Lori-Ann Craig, Member-at-Large.

Vice President/President-Elect and Chair of Continuing Education, Michael McHenry organized timely and relevant topics that focused on technology for legal information programs. Programs like “Legal Tech Trends & Cybersecurity”, “Organization of Electronic Resources”, and “Seamless Access Using SSO”. For the annual Spring institute, HALL was awarded the AALL/Bloomberg Law Continuing Education Grant for the program “Creating Practice-Ready Attorneys” featuring awesome speakers Kenton Brice and Jocelyn K. Sagherian.

Annually, HALL organizes a service project giving members an opportunity to serve the local community. The January meeting focuses on this project, encouraging members to participate. This year, the Community Service committee coordinated for HALL to volunteer with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to help care for Buffalo Bayou’s parks and trails. Activities included removing invasive plants, weeding, planting native vegetation, picking up trash and debris and other tasks as needed. Although the work was strenuous, we received instant gratification as park visitors complimented us on the work we completed.

HALL had a wonderful HALL-iday party at the Pearl Restaurant & Bar inside the historic Sam Houston Hotel. The highlight of the party was the white elephant book exchange. In February, AALL Secretary, Luis Acosta, visited for our Annual AALL Update. The HALL board had a wonderful dinner and conversation with Luis the night before the meeting.

In the 2018-19 calendar year, the HALL Board appointed the Data Protection Ad Hoc Committee, to ensure that the data of HALL members is adequately protected under various new laws. A culmination of all their hard work was realized when we updated the website with the new HALL Privacy Policy, Photography Permissions Form, and Consent Fields

Each year, the Board awards at least one grant to a member to travel to the annual AALL meeting. This year the board decided to offer two scholarships to the Annual Meeting, but we did not award the scholarship due to the conference going virtual. The Board also recognizes contributions to HALL that stand out as particularly meritorious each year. Sabrina Davis was named the Volunteer of the Year and received a \$50 gift certificate in recognition of all her efforts in support of HALL.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted all HALL members and organizations. HALL was able to successfully transition to virtual meetings in April after our organizations move to remote work. We held our first HALL Virtual HALL in April to check-in and discuss how our organizations are managing during the COVID 19 pandemic. Our Annual HALL business meeting was held virtually via Zoom on May 13th, 2020. The new 2020-2021 officers elected were, Michael McHenry, President; Sabrina Davis, Vice President/President-Elect; Andre Davison, Immediate Past President; Trisha Petit, Secretary; Karen Kronenberg, Treasurer; Melinda Elder, Member-at Large; Jonathan Briggs, Member-at-Large.