

# HALL Quarterly



HOUSTON AREA LAW LIBRARIANS

Volume 36 Number 4

Fall 2020

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Join us virtually via Zoom for our monthly meetings.

Don't forget our HALL-iday Party on December 9! More details in the Community Education Committee Column.

## Message from the President

**Michael McHenry**

Director of Research and Knowledge Services  
Vinson & Elkins LLP

Staying connected.

We lose so much in this virtual world and “new reality” that it’s easy to lose focus on the way things were and what we’re now missing. I was reminded of this as I sat in on a Zoom call that spanned about four hours over two days. When this group and others like it have met in person, it’s an immersive experience, and, even when talking about state docket coverage, it can be—dare I say—fun. But staying focused on any video conference can be difficult. Something as small as remembering to unmute yourself adds a barrier to communication. It’s easier . . . but it’s not better. I guess my point is: don’t take the personal connections for granted.

Even when all this ends, there will be some desire to just conduct an online conference or a Zoom call to eliminate travel time and, possibly for some, getting dressed. But we lose so much without that face-to-face interaction, and we might need to actively push back against the ease of being 100% virtual.

Another way to stay engaged is to volunteer. Step out of the normal daily work grind and add some new things to your plate. And I say this not just as a push for doing more for HALL and other professional organizations. But really—doing more for HALL would be great. We have several “core” members who have volunteered their time and energy consistently for years, and I hope we’re not asking them to do too much. If you would like to be more “core,” please let me know!

-Michael

## Continuing Education Committee Column

Greetings, HALL Members. Just a quick reminder that the (virtual) HALL-iday Party will be on December 9 from 12-1 p.m. In addition to “door” prizes for just showing up, our two planned activities are:

- **Mystery Book Tweet:** We are seeking submissions of Tweets (i.e., 280 characters) describing books for others to guess—hence, the mystery part! Submissions are due to [Sabrina](#) by **Friday, December 4.**

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- **Ugly Holiday Apparel Contest:** This can be for ANY holiday, and it can be any (appropriate!) apparel—sweaters, hats, shirts, socks, ties, etc.

In addition, we have the following events planned for next year:

- Jan. 13 – (Tentative) Marcy L. Rothman, Managing Director—Houston Office, Kane Russell Coleman Logan, will speak about her experiences conducting a trial during COVID restrictions.
- Feb. 10 – AALL Board Member Visit: President Emily Florio.
- March 9 & 11 – Spring Institute (details below)
- April 14 – “Unmasking Our Marketing Potential: Tales from Academic, Firm, and Government Law Libraries”: Join Heather Holmes, Heather Kushnerick, and possibly a firm librarian TBA (let them know if you are interested!) for a presentation on marketing ideas for various types of law libraries.
- May 12 – Annual Business Meeting

[Spring Institute Details](#)

With a theme of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Committee has lined up the following two speakers:

- March 9, 1.5 hours (Time TBD) - Jasmine Shadding, Diversity & inclusion Training Specialist at Harris County Public Health, will provide an introduction to diversity, equity, & inclusion that includes concrete action steps people can take.
- March 11, 1 hour (12-1 p.m.) - Marredia Crawford, Associate Director, D&I (North America), Baker McKenzie, will present on antiracism and the different types of allyship.

[2020-2021 Continuing Education Committee](#)

Sabrina A. Davis, Chair  
Andrew Bennett  
Ashley Arrington  
MaryAnn Wacker  
Melinda Elder



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 Editor at [HALLQuarterly@gmail.com](mailto:HALLQuarterly@gmail.com).

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

## Virtual Community Service: Project Gutenberg

### Monica M. Ortale

Associate Director for Public Services  
South Texas College of Law Houston

Because we are limited on in-person Community Projects, Sabrina had the great idea to look for some virtual projects for which HALL members may be willing to make a contribution. I waded through the options and discovered that Project Gutenberg needed some proofreading. To assist, please visit: <https://www.pgdp.net/c/>. You can create your own account. (I had set up a community /generic account then realized that you need

to progress through various tutorials, so it is best if you set up your own.)

Once you log in, there are instructions, along with small tutorials and quizzes. It's not just "open a page and fix the mistakes." There are precise instructions on how to deal with superscript text, dashes, and hyphenated words. I made my way through most of the quizzes so I could write this article. It's interesting and easy. I think it will be well worth jumping through the hoops to help them out.

## Edifications — Editor's Notes

This is the last issue of *HALL Quarterly* with me as editor. I recently sent out an e-mail to the HALL listserv, stating that I was going to transition the newsletter to a blog starting in January 2021.

Many thanks to Andrew Bennett and Debra Jobs for volunteering to assist with this transition and to take ownership of the blog. And thank you to Barbara Szalkowski for proofreading *HALL Quarterly* and for agreeing to stay on as Editor Emerita for the blog!



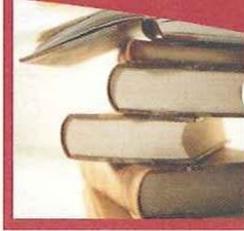
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# STCLH Halloween Party

**Barbara Szalkowski**

Core Operations Librarian  
South Texas College of Law Houston

The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law Houston, has traditionally hosted an annual Halloween party for all faculty and staff. It had become so much a favorite community event that, when staffing was reduced several years ago, many asked if the Halloween party would still go on and some even offered to help if needed. This year the staff created a virtual event that included an escape room competition, delivery of treats, and other costume, background, and trivia contests. It was a welcome break for all who participated.



## Who took Stella? A Halloween Digital Escape Room

Stanley was supposed to meet his fiancée, Stella, in the Library's Lobby, then they were going out to celebrate Halloween! Instead Stella has gone missing! Solve the clues to help Stanley find Stella, unmask the kidnapper, and save Halloween.

Stanley always returns to the Library during the month of October. He has fond memories of when, as Library work study students, he and Stella met at the Library's Halloween event, and 3 years later they became engaged on Halloween night. As alumni, they are both keen to keep in touch and see how the student body is doing.



## Member Spotlight: Sarah Lopez

**Sarah Lopez**  
Library Clerk  
Jackson Walker

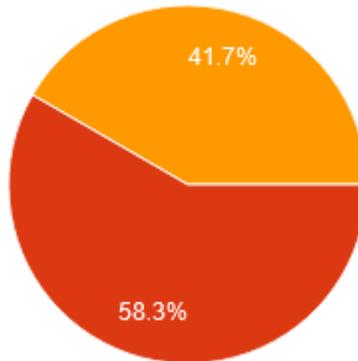
- *Last movie seen:* Poseidon. I don't know why, but it popped up on Netflix and I hit "watch!"
- *Least favorite food:* Brussel sprouts
- *Non-travel item on Bucket List:* Start a non-profit organization or outreach program for at-risk or underprivileged kids to help them get into college or find a job.
- *Star Trek or Star Wars:* Star Wars! My son is a huge Star Wars fan. I have never seen it (ALL the movies...never seen them), but I do remember catching on episodes of Star Trek on UPN 20!
- *Pineapple on pizza? Y/N:* Pineapples do not belong on pizza! They belong on ice cream or in a smoothie or in an upside-down cake!
- *Book currently reading:* Best Kept Secret by Sandra Brown
- *Favorite drink:* WATER!! I can never have enough water...but, I am currently loving Dulce de Leche Iced Coffee (HEB)!
- *Favorite color:* Green
- *Conferences—Invigorating or exhausting?:* I don't attend them enough, but I would hope they are all invigorating!
- *Biggest fear:* Losing a close member of my family.
- *Favorite type of music:* I love listening to all kinds of music, but I would have to say it is a tie between Christian & 90's hip-hop...that's a nice combo, huh?
- *Favorite smell(s):* The smell from the Budweiser Brewery on Gellhorn (weird, I know) & Pumpkin Apple from Bath & Body Works!
- *What's on your phone home screen?:* Two pictures of my grandma and I.
- *Favorite TV show or movie:* I have so many favorite TV Shows...Friends, Grey's Anatomy, Gilmore Girls, Beverly Hills 90210 (not the reboot), S&TC, The Handmaid's Tale!
- *Favorite streaming service:* We have too many. I'd have to say Netflix, I think!
- *Ice or roller skating:* ICE!
- *Text or phone call:* Text, but I do miss talking on the phone with people! It's like we have to pay for our minutes, nobody answers anymore.



## HALL Member Poll Results: Pumpkin Spice

### Pumpkin spice?

12 responses



- Absolutely
- On occasion
- Only in pumpkin pie
- Never

### Q: What is the strangest pumpkin spice item you've seen or heard of?

- Haven't paid attention. But I Googled and found this [www.wideopeneats.com/15-ridiculous-pumpkin-season-products/](http://www.wideopeneats.com/15-ridiculous-pumpkin-season-products/)
- Pumpkin spice Spam
- Pumpkin Spice Latte-scented Deodorant...as in, roll-on deodorant for your underarms!
- Pringles
- Pumpkin yogurt
- Mac 'n' cheese with pumpkin
- Anything other than pumpkin pie! LOL
- It should not be in yogurt.
- Pumpkin spice kitty litter!!! Just, why???

### Q: Any other thoughts on pumpkin spice?

- <yawn>
- A little goes a long way! Nice in the Fall, but don't overdo it!
- Trader Joe's Pumpkin Butter is DELICIOUS!
- One of the best desserts I have every had was a pumpkin creme caramel.



## HALL Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2020

### Meeting Conducted via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 12:07 pm.

The October minutes were sent out via email to HALL for review. A motion to approve was made and seconded. Minutes approved by voter vote.

Treasurer’s report from October was sent out via email to HALL for review. A motion to approve was made and seconded. Treasure’s report approved by voice vote.

**Old Business:** AALL accepting program proposals through November 30th.

**New Business:** No new business.

### Committee Reports

*Archives:* We have them, send things to Heather.

*Bylaws:* Nothing to report.

*Community Service:* Nothing to report.

*Government Relations:* Nothing to report.

*Membership:* Nothing to report.

*Placement:* Nothing to report.

*Public Relations:* Nothing to report.

*Scholarships and Grants:* Nothing to report.

*Vendor Relations:* Nothing to report.

*Website:* Let Chris know if you have any problems with the HALL website or the listserv.

*Data Protection:* Nothing to report.

*Newsletter:* Deadline for submission is November 16. We will be transitioning the newsletter to a blog format using WordPress, starting in January 2021.

*Nominations:* Nothing to report.

A motion to adjourn was approved and seconded. Motion to adjourn was approved by voice vote at 12:11 pm.

### HALL Treasurer's Report

HALL Treasurer's Report - November 10, 2020

<b>Balance Forward</b>		
	6/1/2020	\$12,969.57
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
2020-2021 Dues	\$2,500.00	
Luncheons/Receptions/ Seminars	\$0.00	\$0.00
Scholarships/Grants/Awards		\$50.00
Administrative (Wild Apricot, Wild Apricot Payments, Zoom, Brinkster, Insurance)		\$467.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$521.71</b>
	9/9/2020	\$14,947.86



P.O. Box 61648  
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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 or virtually, August-May. We present a half-day seminar in the Spring on legal topics. However, meetings are subject to change. Visit the [HALL Website](#) 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 (2020-2021)

### President

Michael McHenry  
mmchenry@velaw.com

### Vice President/President Elect

Sabrina A. Davis  
sadavis.committees@gmail.com

### Secretary

Trisha Petit  
tpetit@foley.com

### Treasurer

Karen Kronenberg  
kkronenberg@stcl.edu

### Members-at-Large

Melinda Elder  
melinda.elder@chamberlainlaw.com

### Past President

Andre Davison  
adavison@blankrome.com

Jonathan Briggs  
jonathan.briggs@fortbend.lib.tx.us

## HALL Committee Chairs (2020-2021)

*Archives:*  
Heather Kushnerick

*Nominations:*  
Patti Curtis

*By-Laws:*  
Caren Luckie

*Placement:*  
Melissa Vann

*Community Service:*  
Monica Ortale

*Public Relations:*  
Heather Holmes

*Continuing Education:*  
Sabrina A. Davis

*Scholarships/Grants:*  
Kelley Bocell

*Data Protection*  
Richard Guajardo

*Vendor Relations:*  
Colleen Pincumbe

*Government Relations:*  
Joseph Lawson

*Website:*  
Chris Dykes

*Membership:*  
Monica Ortale

*Newsletter Editor:*  
Sabrina A. Davis

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