



The Reference Desk

President's Corner

Welcome to the summer issue of the MALL newsletter! I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are preparing for a busy fall. For those of you who attended AALL and the MALL Spring Meeting, I hope you found both conferences to be informative and fun.



of the newsletter).

Fall is a season of change, and MALL is no different. This Spring/Summer, MALL Members selected a new board; we had a change in membership dues; we have a new logo; and we have many new activities and projects planned for the upcoming year.

Upcoming events include the MLA Conference, where MALL will have a table (come say hi to us!) and the MALL Fall Meeting. Later this year, MALL members can look forward to the MALL Winter meeting and the Legal Research Institute. You can also anticipate more activity from MALL on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, thanks to our New Public Relations Committee Chair, Janelle Beitz. If you would like to contribute photos or tweets, please do not hesitate to contact her (see contact information for all committee chairs at the end

Writing this column is one of my first acts as President of MALL and I am so excited for the year ahead of us. We have gathered a great team of volunteers to help with the various committees and the projects we need to complete this year. There is still room for additional volunteers so do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to get involved. Don't be afraid to volunteer just because you are a new member – we need you and your fresh ideas!

The association can only exist because of you and I want to thank you in advance for helping make this a successful year for MALL.

I hope to see you at the next meeting! Cheers!

- Valerie Aggerbeck



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News

- **New MSBA Membership available to Law Librarians as "Law Management Associate".** The rate is \$135.00 and the application can be found [here](#).
- **Olmsted County Law Library is looking for a part-time (.5 FTE) law librarian.** Read the announcement [here](#). Application deadline is 10/12/18.
- **PowerPoint presentations from the MALL Spring Meeting have been [posted to the association site](#).**
- **[Tell us how you want to get your MALL news.](#)** Take our 3 Question Survey.

2018 SPRING MEETING SUMMARY

CONTRIBUTED BY TERESA MYERS

This year's Spring Meeting featured a number of exciting education programs on a wide variety of topics that all touched on how information is used in the legal profession. The event page now includes links to the presentation materials as well as the CLE codes for the sessions where that was available. We were hosted by the newly-renovated Ramsey County's Shoreview Library and shared breakfast provided by Thomson Reuters and lunch provided in part by Bloomberg Law.

During the business portion of the meeting, I was honored to recognize a number of new members and retiring members Pat Dolan and Hope Porter.

One of the exciting portions of the business meeting included the unveiling of the new MALL logo that all the members helped select! A drawing was held later in the meeting for a few prizes brandishing the new loon design. Thanks to Pauline Afuso and Mary Freyberg for coordinating the commissioning of the new logo!

Abby Walters, Director of the Attorney General's Law Library, was installed as our new Vice President/President-Elect, and Sarah Larsen, Outreach Librarian at the State Law Library, was installed as our new Member-at-Large. MALL thanked Neal Axton and Mary Freyberg for their many years of service on the MALL Executive Board. This year's election was the first contested election in recent memory, with a 43% response rate!

The committee reports included updates from a number of committees:

- **Membership Committee:** Membership continues to increase over last year's numbers to a total of 143 for 2017-18. Abby Walters, however, will be stepping down from her role as chair which will be taken up by Leslie Greenwood.
- **Newsletter Committee:** Elizabeth Schutz and Wendy Fossum are continuing in their roles as editors for the committee with a number updates to format and content on the horizon.
- **Website Committee:** Pauline is continuing as webmaster for the MALL website and is looking for more members to train on the working of Wild Apricot (our website provider).
- **Downtowners Committee:** Abby Willemssen and Beth Northcutt are stepping down as chairs for Downtowners, with Kallie Wass and Chris Elkin taking up the role for the coming year!
- **Scholarships & Grants Committee:** Vicente Garcia continues to head up the scholarship committee.

As part of the Scholarship Committee's update, Vic present-

ed three grants to Sarah Larsen, Nicole Catlin, and Donna Trimble. Vic also had the honor of presenting Hope Porter with the MALL Law Librarianship Award. Hope has been a member of MALL and served as leadership in a variety of capacities, including on the Executive Board and as the chair of the Public Relations committee. As she retires this summer, she looks forward to relaxing and continuing to knit!

The Financial Update showed a healthy growth in MALL's assets from last year. This is due in large part to meeting attendance covering meeting costs and the recent increase in membership dues. In the coming year, the LRI should provide another boost to the funds available to scholarship and grant applicants as well as cover an increase in our technology subscription prices.

In the weeks prior to the Spring Meeting, the Executive Board was contacted by AALL requesting we write a letter to Senator Amy Klobuchar in support of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) Modernization Act, H.R. 5305. Alicia Kubas, the Government Publication and Regional Depository Librarian at the University of Minnesota, presented a micro-session on how the Act would affect her library and other FDLP libraries around the country, and MALL members had an opportunity to review a draft of the letter that made its way to the Senator. The bill itself is currently stalled, but you can check out Alicia's presentation in the presentation materials from the Spring Meeting.

As wrap up of for the business meeting, there is a general need for volunteers to continue a lot of initiatives that are currently on MALL's horizon:

- LRI Committee
- Web Committee
- Public Relations/Social Media Committee
- Graphic Designer
- Archives
- Government Relations
- Recruiting
- Executive Task Force: Listserv Replacement

Explanations of the duties and time commitments for these committees is included on the website and in more detail in our President's section, but please consider how you can help and contact an Executive Board Member to get involved!

BALTIMORE 2018: AALL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Niki Catlin

I am so grateful to have been a recipient of a MALL Grant for the 2018 AALL Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, where the grant money helped me attend CONELL (Conference of newer Law Librarians). I was repeatedly assured by any law librarian that I met in the last year that this would be a formative experience in my career, and that I would “find my people” (that is a direct quote from my Director, Michael Robak). I was a little worried that the experience wouldn’t live up to the hype, and I was happy to be proven wrong. Not only was I introduced to other “newbies” in the profession, but I also learned so much about what being a member of AALL means and the many opportunities there are to get involved.

Probably the best thing about CONELL was how welcomed into AALL we were, and how we all felt taken care of. Prior to the event, we were invited to join a CONELL Community, which was a great place to start learning each other’s names, trade tips on where to stay and what to do, and start scheduling our time at AALL. We also had the opportunity to sign up for dinners, hosted by AALL veterans, taking place the night before CONELL. This was a fun opportunity to get to know people and settle in to Baltimore. Throughout the entire conference, knowing that we would know at least one person in every room really set us all up for a successful conference experience.

Check-in on Saturday was bright and early, and as usual I was (a little) late. However, I was greeted warmly and quickly felt like a part of the group (95% coffee drinkers = my kind of people). Sitting in on sessions geared towards learning about AALL, I very quickly understood what a great resource it would be for me. The panel of the Executive Board was especially nice: real people doing important work, but who will still take the time to answer your questions. I was amazed at all of the opportunities to get involved that were presented, and there were more than a few of us who couldn’t wait to begin.

After the panel discussions, we were split into groups, with one group attending the CONELL Marketplace, and the other doing Speed Dating...I

mean Networking. Definitely networking. The Marketplace was great not only to see the breadth and depth of AALL, but also to get some better ideas about which conference sessions would be best for me. It was also a great primer for the Exhibit Hall, and it felt good to get some practice in walking up to a table and saying, “Hi, what’s happening over here?” Once that was completed, it was time for the Speed Networking. I’m not going to lie, I was skeptical, how could I possibly get to know someone in 2 minutes (if any of you grew up in a time where speed dating was *actually* a thing, you understand my hesitation...I am obviously way too young for that, but I’ve heard the horror stories). However, I was surprised by a) how much fun I had and b) how quickly I found those people that had the same interests and were on the same career path as me. It was directly after this, at lunch, that we all really gravitated toward each other and started to form bonds that I know will be life-long.

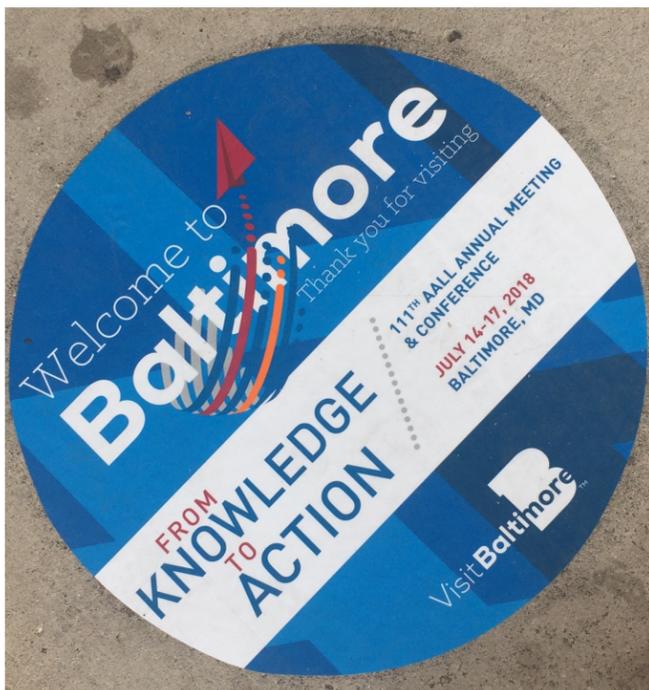
The sum of the rest of my experience at AALL was, I’m sure, much like everyone else’s. I attended some great, thought provoking sessions, I toured the exhibit hall multiple times, I had the pleasure of watching my friend Sarah Larsen present her poster (also a first-time attendee), and I had the pleasure of hearing John Waters opening speech. He said something that I will never forget (please excuse the paraphrase), “I like librarians, they seem really pissed off.” While I hooted and hollered along with the rest of the convention attendees, I will say that at least at CONELL and AALL, I disagree with Mr. Waters. What a great group of smart, talented, dedicated people who also like to have a lot of fun. I am so grateful for receiving this grant that helped me attend this once in a career experience, I can’t wait to become more involved in AALL and attend again, especially with “my people”.

Niki Catlin is a Research Librarian at University of St. Thomas School of Law and was a recipient of a 2018 MALL AALL grant award.

BALTIMORE 2018: AALL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Sarah Larsen

This July, I attended my first American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. I would like to thank the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries for awarding me a grant and making it possible for me to attend AALL. I had a wonderful experience at my first conference.



I started the conference on Saturday by attending the Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL). I have only worked in the field of law librarianship for about a year and a half now, so CONELL was a valuable introduction to the field and AALL as an organization. In addition to panels with seasoned AALL veterans and the AALL Executive Board, CONELL also included a marketplace to meet with leaders of Special Interest Sections, Caucuses, and Committees, as well as Speed Networking to get to know other CONELL attendees. After meeting so many people on the first day, there was always a familiar face in whatever session I went to.

There were a number of excellent sessions this year, and it was sometimes hard to choose which to attend out of two or three good choices. Since my role at the State Law Library is focused on outreach, I went to a number of sessions focused

on outreach and marketing. One of my favorite sessions was “...And Justice For All: Three States and Three Approaches to A2J Outreach,” which discussed forming partnerships within their communities to facilitate access to justice through training, digital resources, and online toolkits. This session also made clear how fortunate we are here in Minnesota to have a strong network of law libraries and partnerships with legal services providers, as that certainly is not the case in all areas of the country. I also enjoyed “It’s All About the Relationships: Marketing to Your Stakeholders.” The session included practical guidance for identifying those stakeholders and their different needs, and simple tips for ensuring that the library remains visible within your organization. Both sessions offered practical advice I can use in my library.

I also had the opportunity to present a poster on the State Law Library’s outreach to public libraries, which was well-received during Monday’s poster session. The poster sessions are a wonderful, informal way to start conversations about your library’s programs, as well as to hear from others about what has worked in their libraries. Speaking with other librarians who are working on outreach initiatives during the poster session was some of the most valuable time I spent at the conference.

My first AALL conference was ultimately a very rewarding experience: it was an action-packed four days in which I learned a lot and met many colleagues I will be able to consult with throughout my career. Thank you again to MALL for awarding me this grant and making it possible for me to go to Baltimore!

Sarah Larsen is the Outreach Librarian at the Minnesota State Law Library and was a recipient of the 2018 MALL AALL grant award.

TAKIN' TEN WITH... PATRICK BUTLER

MALL Featured Member Interview



Join us as we get to know our colleagues through our “featured interview” segment. For each issue, we will select one lucky member at random and ask them a series of personal/professional questions. Their answers, along with a photo of their choosing, will appear in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

Name:

Patrick Butler

Your current title:

Director of Library and Research Services

Who is your current employer? How long have you worked there?

Larkin Hoffman. A little over one year.

What do you see as the greatest challenges/opportunities in law libraries today?

One common challenge I found from my experience in law firm and academic law libraries, but I believe is true in public and government law libraries as well, is the ability to stay closely connected to what is being done or considered in the wider organization. It's important for the library leadership to have a seat at the table or at a minimum, regular face time with those at the table. Librarians have a multitude of skills that can benefit an organization and support its initiatives, yet few people outside of libraries have a comprehensive understanding of the services we can offer. I am always happy to hear an individual say, "someone suggested that I contact you." That's great; it means that I'm getting the message out there that we can help, but it is not enough to passively wait for someone to approach us. To address this challenge, it is important to be present and visible. Taking steps to regularly get out from behind the desk to give presentations or start conversations with others to learn about the work that is being done, then thinking about how the library might be able to fit in, provides opportunities for the library to be a participant and maintain a close connection to the organization as a whole. This is a continuous challenge for me, and it can honestly be quite exhausting. But it is important in order to stay relevant, show our value, and be recognized as an integral part of the organization.

Did you always know you wanted to be law li-

brarian/work in legal research? If not, what did you do before and what inspired you to enter the field?

I was destined from the beginning. Or maybe I should say, doomed from the beginning? My mother used to bring me to the public library every week as a young child. I would love looking at all of the books and sitting for story time. I really enjoyed the ambiance of the library. Any library. It felt familiar and comfortable. In college, I took a job working in the library. I think that's how we recruit a lot of librarians in the field. I'm sure many of you worked in your college library. I loved being there. I even used to love shelf reading! I spent some time traveling and living abroad after graduation, then enrolled in library school. I didn't know that I would end up in law libraries though. I began my career in an academic library. I had a desire to be "subject specialist" and considered a few areas before I found the law. Throughout law school, I struggled with the decision to practice law or remain in the library upon graduation. I never entered the practice and I believe that I made the right decision. I love the work I do.

What advice do you have for folks who are:

Considering going back to school for an advanced degree (MLIS/JD)?

If someone is considering going back to school, I recommend that they fully understand how much of an investment it is before they take the plunge. It is an investment that requires sacrifices of time, money, and personal life that are far from insignificant. (continued p. 6)

What advice do you have for folks who are:

Thinking of going back to school (cont.)

It is of vital importance that they are confident in their career decision and weigh the impact it will have on their life in the present with the impact it will have on their life in the future. With that said, a quality education and additional degree to one's name can provide numerous opportunities that are otherwise unavailable.

About to graduate?

Experience is everything. Graduating with a piece of paper stating that you learned what you needed to can only go so far. It is your ability to prove that you can apply what you learned to the real world that really matters. Additionally you learn more about your future profession on the job than you will ever learn in the classroom.

Are early/mid-career working in a law library?

Get involved in professional organizations. Volunteer your time. Nothing has been more valuable to my career development and enjoyment of this profession than the people I've met through professional organizations. We share so much in common and we are good people. I've never met a librarian who was unwilling to help me, whether it was career advice or even programming code. Helping people is what we do. Through volunteering, you can make connections that will compound the value of your membership. However, if you make a commitment to volunteer, recognize that it is a commitment and your colleagues are relying on you to fulfill your obligation. Beyond that, belonging to a professional organization is vital to staying current with issues and changes that impact our day-to-day work life. This is especially important in a profession like ours that is constantly evolving.

Planning for retirement in the next 2-3 years?

I have no advice (other than to enjoy retirement!), but I have a request. Share. Share all of the knowledge you have gained over your career with those of us that are continuing to learn.

What was the last song you got stuck in your head?

Bad Blood, by Taylor Swift. My tween daughter loves to torture me with it. She knows that it gets stuck in my head every time I hear it and it drives me crazy!

What's your favorite professional blog?

A Life of Productivity <https://alifeofproductivity.com> by Chris Bailey, a young Canadian author. Chris has some really great insights, a sense of humor (very important!), and writes well, a trait few bloggers actually have. Too many blogs are thrown together as streams of consciousness, without any editing. This blog is professionally done. Check it out! I guarantee you'll learn something that you can apply to your everyday professional or personal life.

EDUCATION CORNER

CLE

- [Strategies to Recognize & Confront Implicit Bias](#) 9/14/2018, MN CLE ONLINE 10:30 –11:30 am
- [Conducting Effective Due Diligence in M&A Transactions](#) 9/21/2018, MN CLE ONLINE 12:00 –1:00 pm.

Full MN CLE Live Seminar list [here](#)

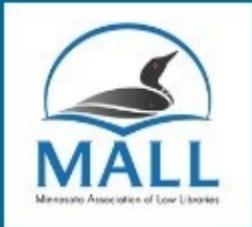
CONFERENCES/WEBINARS

- [Excel for Librarians](#) (Free) Pre-recorded session.
- [My Non-Life - The Story of my CI Success](#) 9/13/2018, 11:00 am—12:00 pm. (free)
- [Congress.gov Webinar](#) 9/27/2018, 2:00—3:00 pm. (Free)
- [Trend Monitoring 101: How to Differentiate between Indicators & Trends](#) 10/9/2018, TBA (free)

The MALL Newsletter is the official publication of the Minnesota Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published four times per year and is a benefit of membership in MALL. Annual membership dues are \$40US. Membership renewals are due by July 1 of each year. For membership information or change of address, MALL's web site at



SAVE THE DATE



MALL Fall Meeting

November 8, 2018

Faegre Baker Daniels

Details to be announced soon!

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Vacant

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Vacant

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Vacant



Our mission is to facilitate the administration of and access to justice through the dissemination of legal information and through education of its members and the public.

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