

President’s Message

Steven Weber, Quarles & Brady



The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) begins 2016 with a rebranding exercise that forces law librarians, information specialists, knowledge managers, legal researchers, and others to

reconsider how our professional organization—and perhaps our profession more broadly—represents itself to the rest of the legal community. According to AALL, more than half of its members do not have the word librarian in their title and nearly 60% of members do not work in an organization with the word library in its name. The rebranding initiative then seeks to reflect the professional roles and responsibilities of its members more accurately as well as develop a brand that better resonates when engaging stakeholders, such as CIOs, deans, and judges. With that in mind, the AALL Executive Board voted in November 2015 to recommend to membership that the name of the organization change to the *Association for Legal Information*. After one month of voting, AALL announced that membership voted against the proposed name: 80% against, 20% in favor.

Whether or not one supports the proposed name change, it has overshadowed a larger conversation concerning how AALL can assist its members to better articulate the unique skill sets we bring to the legal community. We curate and analyze data, serve as project managers, negotiate contracts, and manage internet and intranet content. Let us talk about how we can expand our knowledge services inside of the organizations that employ us. Reclassifying what we call our profession is not going to resonate with stakeholders unless we continue to demonstrate and promote the values and skills of law librarians...or legal information professionals...or business analysts.... Perhaps that is where the AALL rebranding exercise should focus.

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The LLAW Newsletter, official publication of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter and distributed to all LLAW members. Dues renewal falls in June of each year. For membership information contact Katie Kvien, Chair of the Membership Committee, at kkvien@reinhartlaw.com. Address all inquiries or items of interest to the LLAW Newsletter Editor, Michelle Wollmann by e-mail at mwollmann@reinhartlaw.com. © Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc., 2016.

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

I encourage members of AALL to review the [AALL Rebranding content](#) . Then consider and discuss ways in which we can continue to evolve as a profession and promote our expertise.

In other news, I submitted an email on behalf of LLAW to the state Public Records Board calling on the Board to rescind its recently revised definition of transitory records. At its meeting on January 11th, the Board did rescind the definition that limited access to certain types of records. Special thanks go to our Government Relations Committee members Deborah Darin, chair, and Diane Duffey for their work on this effort. Our third quarterly business meeting scheduled for February 23rd will include presentations about the status of open records laws in Wisconsin. I hope to see many of you there!

For more information about the public response to the revised definition of transitory records, see this [January 8th article](#) from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

For more information about the decision by the Public Records Board to rescind the new definition, see this [January 11th article](#) from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Member News

Kara Higden Getter, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, with Christopher Hughes has published an article for InsideTrack on alternative energy resources: [Alternative Energy Resources: A Primer on Wind and Solar Energy Research](#)

Don Mac Gregor, Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, published an article in InsideTrack on legal oddities. It's a fun read. [Legal Oddities: Goats on a Roof & Authentic Farting Hippo Toys](#)

Kara Higdon Getter, Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, published an article in Wisconsin Lawyer on working mothers. [Bringing Up Baby: How Lawyer-moms Make It Work](#). Her article is number 2 on the top 10 list of articles in the Wisconsin Lawyer.

[An Introduction: American Indian Tribes and Law in Wisconsin](#) includes a contribution by **Bonnie Shucha**, UW-Madison Law Library, on tribal law resources, "Engaging the Third Sovereign: The Nature, Reach, and Sources of Tribal Law," see the "learn more" box inside this article on American Indian tribes and law. This was the 10th article on the top 10 list of articles in the Wisconsin Lawyer.

Beth Bland, Davis & Kuelthau, for her article on election and voting resources published in the Wisconsin Bar's InsideTrack. [Legal Research: Election and Voting Resources on the Web](#)

Nominations Sought for the LLAW Distinguished Service Award

Mary J. Koshollek, Godfrey & Kahn

The Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin will again honor an LLAW member who has made outstanding contributions to the organization and to the profession of law librarianship. Nominations for the 2016 LLAW Distinguished Service Award may be submitted by any Chapter member or members of the legal community. A nomination form appears on the LLAW website at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw/membership/grants.html>.

To be eligible for the award, a nominee must be a current Chapter member, active or retired, in good standing. However, current officers (with the exception of the past president) and Awards Sub-Committee members are ineligible for nomination. Judging criteria are as follows and also can be found on the form:

Achievement in a particular area of law librarianship, service to LLAW, and/or the legal community, or contributions to the professional literature. Particular attention should be given to local involvement and LLAW contributions. The following criteria will be considered in the selection process. Nominees may excel in one or more areas.

- *Outstanding leadership in LLAW, at meetings, and in committee work.*
- *Special and notable service to the chapter, such as participation in special projects.*
- *Participation in seminars, teaching courses, and public speaking activities.*
- *Publication and editorial contributions to professional literature.*
- *Innovations at the workplace.*
- *Mentoring activities which encourage others in the profession.*
- *Extracurricular activities which provide the profession and/or LLAW with commendable publicity and acclaim.*
- *Other achievements indicating noteworthy dedication to the profession of law librarianship/information science.*

Please submit all nominations to Bev Butula, Bbutula@dkattorneys.com or contact her should you have questions.

Past recipients were Cindy May (2014) and Bev Butula (2015). Help us to celebrate more LLAW members and nominate a talented colleague today!

The chances to talk with colleagues continued in the Exhibit Hall, at meals and other gatherings. Elsie the cow anchored a well-themed LLAW table in the Exhibit Hall (thanks, Jenny Zook). Thank you, LLAW, for helping me connect in Philadelphia, whether through programs, conversations or by handing out cheese pencil-toppers!



Unsung Hero Awards

Jenny Zook, UW-Law Library

The Wisconsin Law Journal has posted the Unsung Hero Awards for this year and several award winners are members of LLAW. See the current issue: <http://wislawjournal.com/2015/12/03/2015-unsung-heroes/>

The list includes:

Lynn Gehrke
Milwaukee County Law Library

Laura La Rose
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren

Amy Thornton
Wisconsin Department of Justice

Congratulations all of you! Way to go.



AALL Announcements



AALL2go Pick of the Month- [Plays Well with Others: How Collaboration and Crowdsourcing are Changing Legal Research](#)

In this session, Robert Ambrogi, the author of the LawSites Blog (www.lawsitesblog.com) discusses collaborative research tools--what's new and what isn't. He points out that some of the "new" sources are analogous to sources that are very familiar. He also discusses what is new and different about some of the trends we see today through a discussion of various projects that lawyers, librarians, and legal technologists have tried. This process allows us to think about why some projects have succeeded while others have failed.

Find this and many more archived continuing education programs on [AALLNET](#).

LLAW Meeting Minutes and Reports

Meeting minutes are available in PDF by clicking the links below.

- [2015-2016 Second Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting, November 10, 2015, Madison and Milwaukee offices of Quarles & Brady](#)
- [2015-2016 Second Quarterly General Business Meeting, November 18, 2015, University of Wisconsin Law School Library, Madison, WI](#)

Events Calendar

2016

SLA Annual Meetings

June 12-14, 2016 Philadelphia, PA

AALL Annual Meetings

July 16-19, 2016 Chicago, IL

**The deadline for submitting
articles for the next**

LLAW BRIEFS

is

March 15, 2016

**Submit articles to
mwoollmann@reinhardtllaw.com**