



MAALL Markings

Mid-America Association of Law Libraries

Volume 33, Issue 2

March 2024

MAALL.newsletter@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Le'Shawn Turner, Reference Librarian,
Chickasaw Nation Law Library at Oklahoma
City University School of Law (lturner@okcu.edu)*

Let's talk about February: Groundhog Day has come and gone, and Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow. You know what that means . . . SPRING IS ON THE WAY! Never mind the fact that Phil has only been accurate 30% of the time over the last 10 years LOL! I'm just ready for warmer weather - not hot, but warm.

I hope you all had a wonderful Valentine's Day. My forever Valentines, my children, made me cards and offered to take me to dinner, which I would have to pay for because that is how broke best friends work. All in all, it was a great night.



Photo from aallnet.org -
used with permission

February is Black History Month so it is fitting that I tell you about A. Mercer Daniel (May 27, 1887 – February 17, 1976). Mr. Daniel was the first African American member of the American Association of Law Libraries in 1933. Mr. Daniel worked as a lawyer first, then a librarian for the US Department of War, and then later served as a librarian at the Howard University School of Law. After he had become Acting Director of the Law Library, Howard was finally successful in meeting the standards of the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools and thus was admitted membership into AALL. Mr. Daniel was very active in AALL. He was the first African American to run for an executive board position, was a charter member of the D.C. Chapter of AALL, and chaired three AALL committees. Even though Mr. Daniel encountered a great deal of discriminatory treatment, he continued to be a faithful AALL member throughout his career and maintained his membership in AALL until his death. Feel free to read more about A. Mercer Daniel

on Wikipedia. Make sure you click on the References at the bottom, as I did, to learn more about this pioneer. You can also find a great deal of information about Mr. Daniel through Howard University's library system.

In February, I also took part in MAALL's first Cross-Institutional Roundtable meeting. The purpose of this roundtable is to bring together our academic librarians, firm librarians, government librarians, and others in a forum to discuss mutual ideas and differences in a way that is productive to all.

The first meeting was filled with people eager to work together. Thank you to Allison Reeve Davis for bringing us all together. This will be an ongoing task force.

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I look forward to all of the wonderful ideas that come from this group.

Thank you to all who answered my call for volunteers. MAALL greatly appreciates our volunteers for all of their hard work. We could not do anything without you! If you haven't signed up for a committee or two, and would like to, it's not too late. Send me an email telling me which committee you would like to join. For a list of the committees, please see the MAALL website.

Speaking of the MAALL website . . . have you seen it lately? The website committee has given our website a beautiful facelift! I love the colors and the pictures of the featured library, wow! LOL! At your earliest opportunity, check it out at maall.wildapricot.org.

Spring is almost here. When it begins I hope you all can get outside and enjoy the longer days and warmer temps! Take care of yourselves!!

MANAGER TO MANAGER: TIPS TO KEEP YOU SANE AND EFFECTIVE

Gail Wechsler, Library Director, Law Library Association of St. Louis
(gwechsler@llastl.org)

LEADERSHIP FOR MANAGERS - AND EVERYONE

For this column, I am going to shamelessly borrow from an interview I gave in December 2023 for the American Association of Law Libraries feature "The Leader in You," where I answered a few questions about leadership. We all have the capacity to be leaders, no matter what role we play at our law library. With that in mind, here are my thoughts on that topic.

What does leadership mean to you?

To me, leadership means that I am using the knowledge and skills I have acquired over the years to guide others to reach their highest potential. Sometimes it means leading from ahead, where a certain amount of guidance is needed to support those who are newer in their roles. Sometimes it means leading from behind, giving people the space and freedom to do things in their own way.

Is there a particular AALL product/program/article that was especially helpful for you as you developed as a leader?

For me, one of the most beneficial AALL "programs" that was and continues to be very helpful to me is the initially weekly, and now monthly check-in calls for the Government Law Librarians Special Interest Section cohort. Led by the wonderful Caroline Nevin and her able staff out of the British Columbia Library System, these calls started at the very beginning of the COVID pandemic when we were all in lockdown. The shared wisdom of the law librarians in this group helped me navigate and follow best practices during an extremely difficult time. The amount of give and take is tremendous. This is a cohort where we all have each other's backs and work to address everything from personnel issues, vendor issues, patron issues, and everything in between.

What are the most important attributes of successful leaders today?

This has probably always been true, but certainly today's leaders in law librarianship need to be adaptable and open to change. Change is constant and it seems to be coming faster these days than in prior decades. Even if you have done something well in the past, do not assume what worked before will always work moving forward. Be accepting, be curious, and be willing to continue to grow as change happens in the profession.

How have you remained resilient in the past year?

Do not be afraid of change and be willing to bring new ideas to those above you in the chain of command, which in my case is my Board of Directors. One challenge we had last year was continuing reduced revenue due to lagging filing fees and room rental income. Working in tandem with a few leaders on the Board, we determined that we needed to get serious about fundraising. While this involved a steep learning curve, we did our first end-of-year direct mail campaign and solicited a grant we had never sought before. This first effort at fundraising was very successful and we will grow from there.

What advice would you give someone going into a leadership position for the first time?

Seek out mentors to be a sounding board for you as you enter a new leadership role. This could be someone within your organization or someone at a different library setting whose judgment you value. (Check out the AALL Mentor Program.) Look for continuing education programs to attend. Don't be afraid to ask questions and to take on new responsibilities. And don't be afraid to "fail," whatever that means. All of us have had instances where something we tried or worked on did not go as planned. Learn from that and take it from there. One of my favorite phrases from an old PBS children's series called *The Magic School Bus*, says it all: "Take chances, make mistakes and get messy." That's how you grow.

AFFIRMATIONS

*Autumn Collier, Knowledge Analyst,
Littler Mendelson P.C. (acollier@littler.com) and Jamie Holdeman, Knowledge &
Research Coordinator, Littler Mendelson P.C.
(jholdeman@littler.com)*

RESEARCH TIPS FOR A STORMY LEGISLATIVE SEASON

Since our last article about getting prepared for it, the new legislation season has kicked off, and we are keeping busy every day with tracking and reporting questions for our firm. With so much to remember, we often find it helpful to focus on some of the biggest trends first before moving onto the details. Here are some of the things that we've found the most helpful to remember.



Photo by [Max LaRoche](#) on [Unsplash](#)

When looking at a bill's history, we want to determine what the "big" updates might be – whether readers will care about every single little hearing, or if they are more interested in when it passes a committee or chamber.

Sometimes confusion arises when media outlets provide headlines that say a bill has passed. This does not necessarily mean enacted, but perhaps just that it has passed one of the chambers and still has a little way to go before it becomes law. Toward the end of a session, a stack of bills may be sent to the governor all at once for signing. This results in a surge of enacted legislation toward the end of spring. Likewise, each state adopts its own policy of when a bill becomes effective. The effective date is listed within the bill text, and if not, each state has a standard policy for when bills become effective (e.g., January 1 of the following year, 90 days after adjournment). This can also result in an influx of legislation becoming effective all at once. These two items together can make it chaotic for our clients or attorneys preparing for what is on the horizon. Staying up to date on legislative session schedules and effective and enacted information mitigates additional stress during these times.

Enacted and effective dates are just one of the ways every jurisdiction can be unique. Most states typically start a new session in January, but some outlier states may start later in the spring. Others may schedule additional special sessions in the summer or fall, as this allows the legislature to attempt to introduce or enact bills even after their normal session has ended. In addition to the different legislative sessions, we also keep track of the different structure and processes of each state. For example, Nebraska is particularly unique in that it only has one legislative chamber that assigns bills to committees and votes on legislation, rather than having a separate House and Senate. Each state's unique qualities can be hard to remember, so it is important for us to create strong supporting documentation that will provide consistent guidance for our team year after year.

However, there are still some bills that defy all guidance and preparation. Some bills, like appropriations and finance bills, want to dip their toe in a little bit of everything, legislating everything from tax rates, to employment law, to community programs. We affectionately dub these "spaghetti monsters," with hundreds of pages potentially hiding the most important provisions and rendering them so broad they have no chance of enactment. On the other hand, bills that have "no teeth" may endorse huge, sweeping changes to state and local government, but make no provisions to support them. Others might introduce the exact same or similar text multiple times in order to increase the chances of being enacted. Similarly, the District of Columbia is notorious for their emergency and temporary bills. These bills are introduced and enacted quickly, often with a sunset date included, while the "real" bill goes through the larger process. There's no quick and easy way to deal with these types of bills, so it's important that we are patient in giving ourselves time to learn and always willing to work with others and know when to ask for help.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Matt Timko, Academic Technologies & Outreach Services Librarian and Assistant Professor, Northern Illinois University College of Law, (mtimko@niu.edu)

Believe it or not, we are ramping up toward the Annual Meeting in Lincoln this year! As the Vice-President of MAALL, I have the honor of leading the Education Committee this year in planning and scheduling the Annual Meeting. It is a difficult task but one that is made much easier by a great Education Committee!

In the lead-up to the Call for Proposals, I invite you to start considering sessions you would like to see in Lincoln later this year. AI is top of mind for most librarians, as is teaching to guard against disinformation.

Or identify questions you have about “the status quo” and present a session that interrogates it. The MAALL Annual Meeting is a great place to come up with ideas, develop ideas, and get important feedback on those ideas.

But none of this can happen *without your ideas!* Last year was the first meeting in person since 2019, and I felt it was a great success. I came back to my institution inspired and determined. I am hoping this next year will be even better as you all take the experiences you have had over the last five years and develop the sessions that will inspire me and so many others who attend in October.



Photo by [AbsolutVision](#) on [Unsplash](#)

If you would like any assistance or need to ask questions about the best ways to develop or propose an idea, please reach out to us at the Education Committee – we are eager and willing to help in any way we can.

I would also encourage librarians newer to the profession to take the leap and propose a session, either on your own or with a group of your colleagues. MAALL is such a supportive and productive organization, and in my experience was the best place to present one of my ideas for the first time. Alternatively, if you know someone who might be bashful about proposing a session, invite them to join your session; outreach makes all the difference in the world to someone just starting out in the profession!

I’m excited to see the proposals that you all come up with, and even more excited to experience those in October in Lincoln. Thank you and please be on the lookout for the Call for Proposals in late March!

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL MEMBERS — MAALL CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL ROUNDTABLE

*Allison C. Reeve Davis, Sr. Manager - Knowledge & Research Services,
Littler Mendelson, P.C. (areeve@littler.com)*

February 7th marked the inaugural roundtable of the new MAALL Cross-Institutional Task Force. A whopping 37 information professionals attended and shared ideas and forward-thinking strategies for the future. This was a vibrant and thrilling discussion, so I share with you, MAALL members, the invitation to join.

Conception and goals

MAALL’s Vision Plan sets goals to increase Community, Collaboration, and Continuing Education. Strategies include “structured networking opportunities,” “connect[ing] librarians from all institution types,” and “host[ing] webinars outside the annual meeting,” among several others. During the 2023 Annual Meeting in Des Moines members gathered to discuss the next iteration of the Vision Plan and how we engage with these strategies without adding charges to existing committees or Board members.

I’m a believer in the power of collaboration and have long planned to do more to bring together MAALL members of various institution types for more frequent discussion, formal or informal.

I shared my visions with colleague Eugene Giudice, Research Services Training Specialist at Dentons, during the 2023 AALL Annual Meeting in Boston. From there we set meetings to conceptualize the Cross-Institutional Task Force and set goals for the group's impact on MAALL, including to

- Increase membership from law firm and government legal institutions;
- Breakdown the silo of information sharing across institution types;
- Infuse MAALL committees, programming, and membership with diverse voices;
- Accelerate networking and educational opportunities outside of the MAALL Annual Meeting; and to
- Support the profession's pipeline and future leaders of MAALL.

Some of these goals seem lofty, but I am heartened by the initial turnout on February 7th. It seems that many of you share the same vision, goals, and desire to support each other and the future of our dear association.

First steps and beyond

Before setting our first roundtable date Eugene and I ran a small recruiting campaign. After identifying law firm and government information professionals from our respective regions, we reached out to them touting the benefits of MAALL membership, the Association's desire to hear their voices, and their potential impact. We've been quite successful in gaining new members, but we will continue looking for more.

In addition to inviting these colleagues to join MAALL, we offered the chance to attend the upcoming Roundtable. The responses from people wanting to be part of this meeting were fantastic.

All MAALL members and those who expressed interest received invitations to the February 7th Roundtable and boy did you show up! As stated, 37 participants joined via Teams and the conversations by audio and chat were lively and full of excitement and fantastic ideas for knowledge-sharing and working together.

The group came to a consensus that we would try out quarterly meetings, so please watch for the next invitation in your inbox (and always check those junk folders just in case).

Ideas shared

The first roundtable kicked off with the group's vision and opportunities for getting involved in MAALL. The floor was then opened to participants' ideas and hopes for the impact cross-institutional collaboration can bring, including:

- Identifying potential members through the AALL directory;
- Increasing membership and Annual Meeting grants;
- Partnering with committees to increase impact and opportunity, such as the Education committee to facilitate webinars and Annual Meeting proposals, the Membership committee for outreach, and the Library School Liaison committee to illuminate future librarians to the profession;
- Keeping roundtable topics fresh, providing multiple perspectives, and allowing members to facilitate discussions on topics of interest, such as
 - Curriculum, training, and education needs and pressures;
 - Professional development policies and support;
 - Speed networking;
 - Typical workdays at different institutions;
 - Connecting to the pipeline;
 - and more!

A year from now I hope to report on the programming and collaboration that emerges from this new endeavor. All MAALL members are encouraged to be part of the Cross-Institutional Roundtables.

This has great potential to be a vibrant space for you to lend your expertise and focus on development of your career and the profession. Please feel free to reach out with questions or ideas. I'm looking forward to connecting with you all!

STATE MEMBER NEWS



Little

We are thrilled to announce four promotions at Littler. Tyler Brown, Josh Bruegger, and Ben Chipman were promoted to Knowledge & Research Coordinator II and Jamie Holdeman has moved into the Knowledge Analyst position. Congratulations to these dedicated and deserving librarians whose impacts on our team cannot be understated. We look forward to watching their careers grow!

University of Missouri-Kansas City

The Leon E. Bloch Law Library at the University of Missouri – Kansas City Law School has a new art installation. The *Portraits of Justice* exhibit features portraits of American attorneys and judges Charles Hamilton Houston, William Hastie, Edith Sampson, Thurgood Marshall and Jane Bolin. The display includes prints of the original oil-painted portraits by Betsy Graves Reyneau and brief biographies on each subject. The original portraits are housed at the National Portrait Gallery. Peter Fayard, the grandson of the artist, graciously granted permission to display the prints in our library. Mr. Fayard will be in Kansas City this spring and plans to visit the law school to see the installation. We hope this exhibit and the significant accomplishments and contributions of the subjects will provide inspiration for our students.



Portraits of Justice

The Leon E. Bloch Law Library is pleased to display the portraits of five distinguished Black American attorneys and judges painted by artist Betsy Graves Reyneau (1888–1964). The portraits were commissioned by the Harmon Foundation and created between 1943–1956. Special thanks to Peter Fayard for his permission to display these portraits created by his grandmother. The Harmon Foundation commissioned fifty portraits of prominent Black Americans for an exhibition which opened at the Smithsonian in 1944. Following the exhibition, the portraits and accompanying educational materials toured the country for ten years with the goal of creating a visual rebuttal of racism and intolerance. The Harmon Foundation was a philanthropic organization based in New York City and active between 1922–1967.

The foundation was known for sponsoring traveling art exhibits and for honoring Black Americans for their noteworthy achievements in many fields including business, education, fine arts, religious service, science, and innovation. These five portraits were chosen for the exhibit because of their subjects' significant accomplishments and contributions to the legal profession.

The **MU** and **UMKC** law librarians got together last December in Columbia and had a mini-retreat, enjoying discussing common problems and potential collaborations.



Nebraska

Creighton University, Klutznick Law Library/McGrath Norht Mullin & Kratz Legal Research Center

The Law Library has been the benefactor of a donation comprising the personal papers and belongings of Judge Lyle Strom. The Honorable Lyle Strom, a distinguished Creighton alumnus (BA'50 and JD'53), served as one of the longest-standing jurists in the annals of Creighton University's School of Law.

Judge Strom was the Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court in Nebraska from 1987 to 1994. We mourn the passing of Judge Strom on December 1st, 2023 at the remarkable age of 98.



Can you believe it? A stunning 6-foot Christmas Tree crafted entirely from 381 books! A huge thank you goes out to Erin, Lauren, and our dedicated student workers for their tireless efforts in bringing the festive spirit to life. It warms our hearts to see so many patrons visiting the library, specifically to admire the beautifully crafted tree.

University of Nebraska, Schmid Law Library

The Schmid Law Library is delighted to welcome Jennine Kottwitz (jkottwitz2@unl.edu) as our new Access Services Librarian; she started December 1, 2023. Jennine earned her law degree at the University of Connecticut School of Law, and while a student and after graduation worked as a library assistant in the law library. In addition to managing the circulation desk, Jennine is also assuming Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery duties.

To all our other members:

We hope no news is good news! Please let us know of any future news items by contacting Hyla Bondareff (bondareh@wustl.edu), State Member News Editor.



MAALL MARKINGS INFORMATION

MAALL Markings is published four times a year by the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership. The purpose of MAALL Markings is to publish news of the Chapter, selected news of AALL and other professional associations, and MAALL members, as well as to solicit and publish articles to add to the body of literature in the profession of law librarianship. All articles are copyrighted and any republication or use of any portion of the content for any purpose must have written permission from the author/s.

Publication Schedule: Issues are published in March, June, September, and December.

Submission deadlines for each issue are:

December (No. 1): November 15

March (No. 2): February 15

June (No. 3): May 15

September (No. 4): August 15

Editor-in-Chief: Therese Clarke Arado

Associate Editor: Sarah Kammer

Layout & Photography Editor: Amy Backes

State Member News Editor: Hyla Bondareff

Columnists: Autumn Collier, Matt Timko & Gail Wechsler

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LINKS TO AALL CHAPTER & SIS PUBLICATIONS

Links originally compiled by Lindsey Carpino for the CALL Bulletin and reprinted with permission. *MAALL Markings* updates links on a yearly basis. The original post is available at <http://bulletin.chicagolawlib.org/2016/05/aall-chapter-sis-publications/>.

AALL Chapter	Chapter Links/Newsletter	Blog
Arizona Association of Law Libraries (AZALL)		AzALL Member Blog
Association of Law Libraries of Upstate New York (ALLUNY)	ALLUNY Website	
Atlanta Law Libraries Association (ALLA)	ALLA News	
Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL)	CALL Bulletin	
Dallas Association of Law Librarians (DALL)		Lex Scripta
Greater Philadelphia Law Library Association (GPLLA)	GPLLA News	
Houston Area Law Librarians (HALL)	HALL Quarterly	
Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (LLAW)	LLAW Briefs	
Law Librarians of New England (LLNE)		
Law Librarians of Puget Sound (LLOPS)		LLOPS Cited
Law Librarians Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. (LLSDC)	Law Library Lights	
Law Libraries Association of Alabama (LLAA)		LLAA Blog
Law Library Association of Greater New York (LLAGNY)	Law Lines	
Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM)	LLAM Newsletter	
Michigan Association of Law Libraries (MichALL)	MichALL Website	
Mid-America Association of Law Libraries (MAALL)	MAALL Markings	
Minnesota Association of Law Libraries (MALL)		MALL News Blog
New Jersey Law Librarians Association (NJLLA)		NJLLA Blog
New Orleans Association of Law Librarians (NOALL)	NOALL Website	
Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL)	NOCALL News	
Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries (ORALL)	ORALL Newsletter	
San Diego Area Law Libraries	SANDALL Newsletter	
Southeastern Chapter of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (SEAALL)	SEAALL Website	
Southern California Association of Law Libraries (SCALL)	SCALL Newsletter	
Southern New England Law Librarians Association (SNELLA)	Obiter Dicta	
Southwestern Association of Law Libraries (SWALL)	SWALL Website	
Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL)	VALL Newsletter	VALL Talk
Western Pacific Chpr. of the Amer. Assn. of Law Libraries (WestPac)	WestPac Website	
Western Pennsylvania Law Library Association (WPLLA)	WPLLA Website	
AALL SIS	SIS Links/Newsletter	SIS Blog
Academic Law Libraries SIS (ALL-SIS)	ALL-SIS Website	What's New
Computing Services SIS (CS-SIS)	CS-SIS Website	CS-SIS Blog
Digitization and Educational Technology SIS (DET-SIS)	DET-SIS Website	
Foreign, Comparative & International Law SIS (FCIL-SIS)	FCIL-SIS Website	DipLawMatic Dialogues Blog
Government Documents SIS (GD-SIS)	JURISDOCS	
Government Law Libraries SIS (GLL-SIS)	GLL-SIS Website	
Legal History & Rare Books SIS (LH&RB-SIS)	LH&RB Newsletter	
Legal Information Services to the Public SIS (LISP-SIS)	LISP-SIS Website	
Online Bibliographic Services SIS (OBS-SIS)	OBS-SIS Website	TSLL TechScans Blog
Private Law Librarians & Information Professionals SIS (PLLIP-SIS)	PLLIP E-Newsletter	On Firmer Ground
Professional Engagement, Growth, and Advancement SIS (PEGA-SIS)	PEGA-SIS Website	
Research Instruction & Patron Services SIS (RIPS-SIS)	RIPS-SIS Website	RIPS Law Librarian Blog
Social Responsibilities SIS (SR-SIS)	SR-SIS Website	
Technical Services SIS (TS-SIS)	TS-SIS Website	TSLL TechScans Blog

2023/2024 MAALL Executive Board

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2022/2023 Committee Rosters

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Layout & Photography Editor: Amy Backes
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Columnists: Autumn Collier, Matt Timko & Gail Wechsler

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Public Relations Committee

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Members: Laura Dixon-Caldwell, Shannon Kemen

UELMA Task Force

Chair: Colleen Williams
Members: Ben Keele

Vision Planning Task Force

Chair: Matthew Braun
Members: Allison Reeve Davis, Matt Timko

Website Committee

Co-Chairs: Ted Potter & Keelan Weber
Members: Rachel Ford

***positions not set at the time of publication**

There are a number of opportunities available to serve MAALL. Please contact Le'Shawn R. Turner at lrturner@okcu.edu if you would like to serve on a task force or committee.