



# Newsletter

Volume 29, Number 4

January-February 2003

## Inside . . .

Meeting Notice	2
Member News	3
Internet Column	4
Election 2003	5

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[www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall](http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall)

## MALL Listserv

To subscribe, point your browser to:  
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## President's Column KAREN WESTWOOD President

### Top Ten Things for Minnesota Law Librarians to Do This Winter

Number 10 is a two-for-one bonus, available only at the MALL Legal Research Institute on January 29. "The American Legal System" presented by April Schwartz (University of Minnesota Law Library). An introduction to our system of law, including the structure of government and basic sources. "Professional Ethics and Legal Research" with Ed Edmonds (University of St. Thomas Law Library). Ethical rules of conduct affecting information professionals, such as unauthorized practice of law, confidentiality, privacy, and censorship.

9. "Use of Secondary Materials" (February 5) presented by John Tessner (Hamline University School of Law). Resources that analyze, explain, or aid in finding the law, including treatises, periodicals, loose-leaf services, reference works, and practice materials.

8. "Researching Case Law" (February 12) presented by Susan Kiefer (Hamline University School of Law). A look at the American

court system and techniques for finding and using federal and state court decisions.

7. "Researching Statutory Law and Legislative Histories" (February 19) with Rick Goheen, and Mary Wells (University of St. Thomas Law Library). Legal publications containing statutory law and legislative history and techniques for finding and using federal constitutions, laws, codes, and Congressional documents.

6. "Federal Administrative Law" (February 26) presented by Vic Garces (University of Minnesota Law Library) and Jan Stone (William Mitchell College of Law). Publications emanating from federal administrative agencies, particularly regulations and administrative decisions.

5. "Researching Minnesota Law" (March 5) with Barbara Golden (State Law Library). Instruction on tools and techniques used to find primary and secondary Minnesota legal information.

4. "Researching Foreign and International Law" (March 12) with Mary Rumsey (University of Minnesota Law Library). Research guides and introductory sources for both public

and private foreign law research, including treaties, immigration, arbitration, commercial transactions, and family law.

3. "Legal Research on the Internet" (March 19) presented by Susan Catterall (Leonard, Street and Deinard) and Bill Jack (William Mitchell College of Law). This final session will provide general tips for when to conduct legal research on the web, how to locate relevant materials, and how to evaluate quality.

2. Keep current on the LSTA Grant project. Aimée Blatz has been working hard on getting this put together. Four day long workshops for public librarians will be offered in Wadena (May 12), St. Cloud (May 13), Austin (May 15), and Mankato (May 16). Former MALL member Paul Healey will be the instructor. Contact Aimée if you'd like to assist with this exciting project. And be sure to talk it up with your public library colleagues!

And the Number 1 thing for Minnesota law librarians to do this

winter is: Mark February 18 on your calendar for the next MALL meeting and education program. (see below) A panel of MALL members will talk about alternatives to LexisNexis and Westlaw. Come with your questions and experiences. The start time will again be 5 p.m. and we anticipate ending around 7:30.

Please think about attending one or more of these educational opportunities. See you at one of the sessions. §

## February MALL Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2003

Place: Kelley Board Room, William Mitchell College of Law

Time: 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.

What: Following appetizers and conversation, Bill Jack will give a brief overview of alternatives to LexisNexis and Westlaw. Then a panel of law firm and law school librarians will talk about how to help lawyers and law students work with these options appropriately.

Cost: To be determined. Watch the MALL listserv and web site for registration information

Come and enjoy food, friends, and stimulating discussion



# Member News

BARB GOLDEN  
Membership

Look for the *MALL Directory* at <http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/directory.htm> and send or phone in any corrections and/or additions to:

Barbara Golden  
Minnesota State Law Library  
651.296.0031  
[barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us)

## MEMBER NEWS

New member **Becky Welander** has joined Maslon Edelman Borman & Brand, replacing Stephanie Hull. Please join the committee in welcoming Becky to MALL.

An article by **Ed Edmonds**, "The University of St. Thomas Law Library: A New Library for a New Era in Legal Education," was published in *Trends in Law Library Management and Technology*, v. 13 no. 2 (2002).

## REMINDER:

If you have news you'd like to share with the membership in the next newsletter, please contact one of the Membership Committee members:

*Barbara Golden*, Chair,  
651.296.0031  
[barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us)

*Jane Hopeman*,  
651.290.6424  
[jhopeman@wmitchell.edu](mailto:jhopeman@wmitchell.edu)

*Kathy Kelly*  
612.596.4035  
[kjkelly@locklaw.com](mailto:kjkelly@locklaw.com)



## MALL 2003 Legal Research Institute



The MALL Legal Research Institute, an eight-part program offering a variety of topics in legal research methodology, will begin on Wednesday, January 29, 2003, and run for eight consecutive Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 105 at Hamline University School of Law. Covering the full spectrum of primary and secondary legal authorities, the Institute will provide techniques in finding and effectively using legal resources.

Registration is \$50 per session or \$250 for 5 or more sessions. CLE credits have been requested and CE credits for public librarian certification have also been requested. Visit the web site ([http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/LRI\\_Web\\_Page.htm](http://www.aallnet.org/chapter/mall/LRI_Web_Page.htm)) for a complete brochure with registration details, session synopses, and faculty assignments. §

# The Internet Column



BILL JACK  
William Mitchell College of Law

## Minnesota's Roving *Alces Americana*

LawMoose continues to grow and to accumulate praise. Witness the LLRX review by at Kathy Biehl at <http://www.llrx.com/columns/webcritic17.htm>.

I have always liked LawMoose (<http://www.lawmoose.com>) for its clean, slick, intuitive organization that lets me get quickly to resources that I need. But talk about a moose's roaming! You see the difference the moment you enter LawMoose. You now must choose your community, because LawMoose has created new "ecosystems" for both international materials and for Wisconsin materials. Wisconsin's "home page" in LawMoose resembles its Minnesota counterpart in layout and headings, but a look at the content shows that things have been specially tailored for the Wisconsin resources that are available. LawMoose offers three Wisconsin searches: Wisconsin courts, Wisconsin law schools, and Wisconsin law firms. You can also find links to legal forms and to a Wisconsin judges directory that presently includes Seventh Circuit and Wisconsin State appellate judges.

The Wisconsin "Super-Easy Search" lets you launch a search through Wisconsin law collections for any county or city in Wisconsin,

via convenient pull-down selection lists. Given the difficult spelling of so many Wisconsin place names (e.g., Oconomowoc), those drop-down selection lists are particularly helpful. Select and click on the locality to receive locality-specific search results. Better yet, LawMoose offers integration between its search results and the Wisconsin statutes. The "Find Out More About" link at the bottom of each search results page provides the option to carry forward your search terms to the Wisconsin statutes. Results come from the official statutes, not LawMoose. The "Find Out More About" link can also forward your search terms to the *La Crosse Tribune* articles index (provided by the La Crosse Public Library) and to the Wisconsin Public Radio web site.

The LawMoose World Legal Resource Center home page features "Super-Easy Search" links for each country of the world, as well as their capital cities, U.S. states, and Canadian provinces. This World Legal Resource Center serves as the logical successor to the former U.S. House of Representatives Internet Law Library (<http://www.priweb.com/internetlawlib/1.htm>) that Pritchard Law Webs "adopted" after the House of Representatives abandoned it.

All three LawMoose communities (Minnesota, Wisconsin, the World) show expanded depth of coverage, but there's a lot of technological "added value" lurking beneath that smooth and clean surface. For instance, when you receive your LawMoose search results, you might notice an "AutoLink to MN Stats" choice among the "Power Links" row. When you select a page with citations to Minnesota statutes, you'll see that the statute citations are hyperlinked. The free Web doesn't get better than this. Now if we could only do that with cases that cite to other case. Well, the fault lies not with LawMoose, but with Minnesota's refusal to adopt the universal citation format for court opinions.



LawMoose has always pointed to links that are helpful for finding information on Minnesota judges, and has consistently organized those links in an easy-to-navigate order. But now, LawMoose has begun its own directory of Minnesota judges. It includes judges in both federal and state courts as well as administrative courts. This new format groups judges according to the courts on which they sit. For each judge, you can launch predefined searches through the entirety of the Minnesota Legal Web, locate articles written by the judge, or locate articles written about the judge. If the judge has a profile page on the Web, LawMoose links you to it. LawMoose has also started maintaining an archive of press releases that relate to judicial appointments. (If you've ever tried to research a judge, you'll know the value of those press releases). LawMoose has also added materials for long-time sitting judges.

But perhaps the biggest LawMoose benefit of all is the *Minnesota Legal Periodicals Index*. Wow! Where else in the world can you get a free database of over 19,297 articles (probably more than 60,000 pages) going back to the bygone days of 1984, with 797 live links to online articles, and 744 links to cases? We owe huge debts to Barb Golden and LaVern Pritchard for all their efforts on this.

If LawMoose came from any other state, I think we'd all be saying, "Why can't we have something like that here?" Well, we do, and it keeps getting better and better. §



## Election 2003

It may not be a national election year, but there will be two positions opening up on the MALL executive team. We will choose a new secretary/treasurer, as well as a vice president/president-elect. Both slots require a two year commitment.

The election is held at the annual meeting in May, so it is not too early to think about candidates. Do you have an interest in playing a leadership role in our organization? Do you have a colleague who would make a great leader? It is fun and rewarding to help MALL be all it can be.

The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2003. Contact Nominations chair John Tessner for more information. §

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Volume 29, Number 1	July/August	July 29, 2002
Volume 29, Number 2	September/October	September 9, 2002
Volume 29, Number 3	November/December	November , 2002
Volume 29, Number 4	January/February	January 13, 2003
Volume 29, Number 5	March/April	March 14, 2003
Volume 29, Number 6	May/June	May 16, 2003

## 2002—2003 MALL OFFICERS

### President

Karen Westwood  
651.297.2087  
karen.westwood@courts.state.mn.us

### Secretary-Treasurer

Carrie Long  
612.766.7118  
clong@faegre.com

### Past President

Lori Hedstrom  
651.687.5891  
lori.hedstrom@westgroup.com

### Vice President/President Elect

Vic Garces  
612.624.2597  
garce003@tc.umn.edu

### Member at Large

Susan Catterall  
612.335.1742  
susan.catterall@leonard.com

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Archives

Dennis Skrade  
651.297.2090  
dennis.skrade@courts.state.mn.us

### Awards, Grants & Scholarships

Donna Trimble  
612.672.3239  
dtrimble@bowman-brooke.com

### Consulting & Community Outreach

Susan Larson  
651.297.7657  
susan.larson@courts.state.mn.us

### Education

Elvira Embser-Herbert  
651.290.6337  
eembser@wmitchell.edu

### Exchange

Timothy.H.Baland  
651.297.7659  
Timothy.H.Baland@courts.state.mn.us

### Internet Applications

Anita Anderson  
651.296.8152  
anita.anderson@state.mn.us

### Mary Rumsey

612.625.2905  
rumse006@tc.umn.edu

### Government Relations

Margaret Maes Axtmann  
651.962.4868  
mmaxtmann@stthomas.edu

### Membership

Barbara Golden  
651.296.0031  
barb.golden@courts.state.mn.us

### Newsletter

Barbara Minor  
612.766.8518  
bminor@faegre.com

### Nominations & Elections

John Tessner  
651.523.2131  
jtessner@gw.hamline.edu

### Placement & Recruitment

Wendi Cline  
952.896.3346  
wcline@lhdl.com

### Public Relations

David Zopfi-Jordan  
612.625.9520  
d-zopf@umn.edu

### Publications

Judy Zetterberg  
612.348.2903  
judy.zetterberg@co.hennepin.mn.us

### Technical Services SIG

Janice Leichter  
612.672.8235  
janice.leichter@maslon.com

### Webmaster

Susan Hayles  
612.335.1644  
susan.hayles@leonard.com

### Newsletter Committee:

Bill Jack  
Morgan Wilson

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