



# Navigating the Sea of Information: Celebrating 50 Years of SWALL

Southwestern Association of  
Law Libraries 50th Annual  
Meeting & Educational  
Program



April 10-14, 2008 aboard  
Carnival Ecstasy, departing  
from Galveston, TX

**Registration**  
**Thursday, April 10, 2008**  
**1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.**  
**Conference Room, Promenade**

## Welcome to SWALL's 50th Annual Meeting

What do SWALL, Hula Hoops, Rice-a-Roni, the Grammy Awards and modems have in common?

All were introduced in 1958. The Southwestern Association of Law Libraries was founded on April 11, 1958, in Dallas, Texas, and received AALL chapter status in June of 1958. For the 50 years since our founding, SWALL has been committed to developing educational opportunities and professional cooperation for our members. The energy, warmth and collective professional knowledge of the members are what make SWALL a success. I know, because SWALL meetings and members have provided me with professional support since March of 1995 when I attended my first meeting in Oklahoma City. My participation in SWALL has enhanced my research skills, improved my public speaking ability and developed my leadership qualities. I've also met mentors, friends and colleagues. These are common experiences for SWALL members.

I am happy to welcome you to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting, *Navigating the Sea of Information*. The meeting schedule includes excellent educational programming and time for librarians to connect with one another. Celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary has renewed the enthusiasm of established members and encouraged newer members to get more involved. Now we are looking forward to maintaining SWALL's commitment to education and networking until our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2033.

Anna Teller  
President



All Programs, Exhibits, and Breaks will be in the Starlight Lounge, Promenade Deck.  
7 hours of MCLE accreditation pending

Thursday, April 10, 2008

3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mustering Drill

5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. SWALL Executive Board Meeting, Conference Room

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Keynote Address: *What the Web Has Done to My Job and Yours*

Sponsored by Thomson West

Mary Flood, Reporter, Houston Chronicle, J.D., Harvard Law School, B.G.S., University of Houston.



I am interested in how the Internet is changing our professions because I want to be both proud of my work and able to pay the mortgage. The Web's redefining and broadening of journalism has created experiences for me that are simultaneously among my most exhilarating and most exhausting.

Mary currently reports on legal business and the law for the Houston Chronicle with a regular column, stories, and a blog. In four years of covering Enron, she broke numerous stories and helped develop the extensive online Enron coverage that gained the Chronicle national recognition.

7:30 p.m. Champagne Reception Sponsored by Thomson West

8:00 p.m. Dinner, Wind Song Dining Room

Friday, April 11, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Exhibits

8:00 a.m. to 9:15

### **Cruise Ship Law**

**Michelle Rigual**, Associate Director of the University of New Mexico Law Library & Assistant Professor of Law Librarianship, B.A., University of Texas at Austin, J.D. and M.S., University of Illinois.



Cruise ships are floating hotels that transport guests from exotic port to exotic port where they stay a few hours for shopping, snorkeling, scuba diving, parasailing, touring, and much, much more. While cruising can be an exciting vacation experience, the cruise industry has been featured in troubling news stories about the Norwalk virus; disappearing passengers; deaths during shore excursions; environmental damage from ship discharges; and most recently, crewmembers' charges of forced labor, slavery and human trafficking. We'll discuss the law of cruise ships including passenger rights, cruise ship duties and liabilities, and jurisdictional issues, plus we'll take a closer look at the stories behind the headlines.

Michelle has a long-standing interest in travel that started when her dad pulled her out of her elementary school every May to accompany him on academic study tours he guided, saying that she'd learn a lot more on those trips than she would in the classroom. Though her current job doesn't allow a lot of time for travel, you can be sure she is always in the midst of planning a new trip. Despite that, this is her first time on a cruise ship.

Friday, April 11, 2008

9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

### **Hot Topic — Do New Attorneys Have the Skills?**

Law firms increasingly perceive that incoming associates cannot perform effective legal research using either paper or electronic resources. Susan Yancey, Director of Firm Libraries at Vinson & Elkins LLP, and Tobin Sparling, a professor of legal research and writing at South Texas College of Law, discuss this phenomenon from their different perspectives in a friendly point/counterpoint format. Their interchange is intended to illuminate areas of concern, suggest possible solutions, and initiate an ongoing dialogue between law librarians and legal research and writing teachers to effectuate common goals.

**Tobin Sparling**, Associate Professor, South Texas College of Law, B.S., Dartmouth College, M.L.S., Columbia University School of Library Service, M.A., Columbia University, J.D., Columbia University School of Law



Tobin Sparling has a diverse background in librarianship and law. He worked as a rare books and print specialist at the Yale Center for British Art and the New York Public Library, practiced commercial litigation at Schulte Roth & Zabel in New York City, served as Reference Circulation Librarian at South Texas College of Law in Houston, and currently teaches legal research and writing at South Texas, where he is an associate professor. Professor Sparling is a former treasurer of SWALL.

**Susan Yancey**, Director of Firm Libraries at Vinson & Elkins LLP, B.A., University of Houston, M.L.S., University of Texas.

I am very interested in the topic as we greet 70+ summer associates annually and a crop of 20 or so new attorneys each fall from law schools all over the country. Most capably mask their insecurities about legal research, but the savvy ones take me up on my offer to "help them get started" when they receive their first assignment. It is those one-on-one experiences that have given me cause for alarm. A few weeks ago a group of litigators here asked me to

Friday, April 11, 2008



focus on the associates who did not go to Texas law schools and be sure they are issued a "green book" and schooled in the quirky Texas legal citation as they were having to re-do that portion of the memos and briefs they were receiving. That has launched a new focus on legal research in general here at the firm where I have been Director of Firm Libraries since January 2002. My oldest daughter is a 1L at Tulane so I can really relate to the group of students who are passing through our doors.

**9:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Break Sponsored by William S. Hein & Co.**

**10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

### **Hot Topic — Library Portals**

This program will focus on the management of a law school portal from working with other departments to special emphasis on controlling access to restricted databases. The speaker will demonstrate her school's portal and the information that is available. Hopefully, the session will evolve into an open discussion to share ideas.



**Susan Spillman**, Computer Librarian & Portal Manager, The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, B.B.A., Stephen F. Austin State University

I have been working with computer legal databases since I ushered in the first Westlaw and Lexis terminals at South Texas School of Law almost three decades ago. Although my job description has changed a bit through the years, my main emphasis has remained in the computer area. I excitedly accepted the added responsibilities of managing our school's portal when it was implemented over a year ago.

Friday, April 11, 2008

**10:45 a.m. to Noon**



### ***When Nature Strikes: Weather Disasters and the Law***

Weather is interconnected with the law in fascinating ways. Weather can be the means of committing a crime. It can be an excuse against prosecution. Weather can be a factor in a tort claim or a contract action. Weather is presented in court as evidence and as alibi. And, everyone wants to hold the forecaster liable for an inaccurate forecast. This presentation will cover some of the topics discussed in Baum's book, *When Nature Strikes: Weather Disasters and the Law*, using examples such as murder, looting, drought, maritime misadventures, faulty forecasts, and the impact of weather disasters on animals to illustrate the connections between weather and law.

**Marsha Baum**, Dickason Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law, B.A., University of Rochester M.S., Columbia University, J.D., SUNY at Buffalo

Marsha Baum was formerly the Associate Dean for Library Affairs at UNM. She left the law library to turn to full-time law teaching in 2003. After reading David Laskin's *The Children's Blizzard* in 2005, Baum became fascinated (some might say obsessed) with the intersection of law and weather. Finding that no one had written a book on the subject, Baum began to research the subject in summer of 2005 (with tremendous amounts of support from the UNM Law Library). The first edition of the book was released in June of 2007.

**Noon to 1 p.m. Lunch, Wind Song Dining Room**

Friday, April 11, 2008

1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Hot Topic — A Quick Cruise to Key Business Research Tools**

Join Mary as she cruises through key business research tools with five minute stops in each port: Forrester Research, SNL Financial, Comperemedia, Corporate Insight, comScore, and Corporate Executive Board.



**Mary Forman**, Sr. Analyst, Marketing Research & Analysis, USAA, B.A., History, Stetson University, M.A., Library & Information Science, University of South Florida.

Mary moved from law into corporate libraries in the mid-1990s and was "forced" into learning an entirely new world of resources. It's important to key your eye on the "other stuff," even if it's not on your daily radar screen. In 2002, she and her team dismantled the USAA Research Library, donating the 10,000+ volume collection to San Antonio's Alamo Community College District, and she turned her focus to the acquisition and delivery of electronic content to employee desktops. One of her current projects is the development and implementation of Einstein: USAA's Integrated Knowledge Portal, which will integrate internally-produced market research with syndicated research.

Friday, April 11, 2008

1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

**Understanding the Relationship between the Law of War and the War on Terror**  
*Sponsored by LexisNexis*



In the wake of 9/11, the United States declared a "war on terror." By mixing the paradigms of terrorism and war, the decision to engage al Qaeda with military power created an avalanche of uncertainty as to the legal rules applicable to that "fight". This uncertainty manifested itself in a number of legal challenges, almost all dealing with the treatment of captured enemy personnel. It also exposed the insufficiency of the law of war application paradigm that evolved in the years following the Second World War. What we have learned as the result of these events is that policy makers must return to a more pragmatic relationship between law and war that ensures no "fight" falls into the twilight zone of legal regulation.

Geoffrey S. Corn, Assistant Professor of Law, South Texas College of Law, B.A., Hartwick College, J.D., George Washington University Law School, L.L.M., The Judge Advocate General's School, United States Army.

I came to academia after spending 22 years in the Army. I began as a Private and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the JAG Corps. During my career I spent three years as a Professor at the Army JAG School, teaching national security law subjects to new and career military attorneys. My interest in the subject is a reflection of the intersection of my life in the military and my interest in how the Constitution defines the function of the military in time of national crisis.

2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Break *Sponsored by Lexis Nexis*

**Friday, April 11, 2008**

**3:15 to 4:30 p.m.**

***NAFTA: Will Security Trump Trade? Exploring the Tangle of National Security, Law and Economic Viability of a Trade Agreement***  
*Sponsored by LexisNexis*



While commonly underestimated, the United States' relationship with Mexico is, without a doubt, one of its most important particularly to the Southwestern United States. The overriding idea behind NAFTA was to create virtually seamless borders on the North American continent that would encourage trade and cooperation between the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Today, a deteriorating situation has been exacerbated by the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Rhonda Keaton will provide an overview of NAFTA legislation and explore issues such as the resistance to cross-border trucking under NAFTA, the deferment of immigration reform for Mexicans, and US non-compliance with NAFTA obligations to protect National Security interests.

**Rhonda Keaton**, Librarian Relations Consultant for LexisNexis, B.A., Texas A&M University, M.S.I.S., University of North Texas, J.D., Texas Wesleyan University.

Rhonda comes to LexisNexis with experience as a law librarian and in retail management. Most recently, Rhonda was the Executive Director of Legacy, an upscale gift store, in Fort Worth. Previously she was a Public Services Librarian at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

**4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Round Table Discussions**

- *Academic Law Libraries* – Mon Yin Lung, Moderator
- *County, Court, & Government Libraries* – Peggy Martindale, Moderator
- *Law Firm & Solo Practice Libraries* – Terri Wilson, Moderator
- *Library Students* – Yvonne Chandler, Moderator

**8:00 p.m. Dinner, Wind Song Dining Room**

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**

**A day of relaxation in Cozumel, Mexico**

**8:00 p.m. Dinner, Wind Song Dining Room**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

***Diversity and the Law: Gender Equity in the Workplace: Best Practices***



Women now make up the majority of law students and law graduates entering law practice. Also, women make up the majority of library and information studies students and graduates entering librarianship. In spite of this ratio, these talented women often face discrimination that causes at the very least, a stressful work environment and a loss of enthusiasm for their chosen career. Both employers and established professionals can work together to ensure gender equity in the workplace. As noted by the New York State

Bar Association, gender equity issues include work environment, compensation, evaluation and promotion, recruitment and retention, professional growth and development, work and life balance, and leadership.

**Herman L. Totten**, PhD, is the Dean of the University of North Texas (UNT) School of Library and Information Sciences (SLIS). He joined the SLIS Faculty in 1977, and became a Regents Professor in SLIS in 1991. He has received numerous awards including the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) Award for Professional Contribution to Library and Information Science Education, the Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies Award of Merit for the Outstanding Alumnus, the American Library Association Black Caucus Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Library and Information Science Education, the ALISE Outstanding Teacher Award, and the Texas Library Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. He is currently serving on the United States National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, a federal agency charged to advise the President and Congress on information and learning needs of the American people.

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**Hot Topic —Tech Tools and Tips**

What technology will be in your future? Attorneys are beginning to explore the paperless office and the mobile office. Digital signatures, security, and mobile tools are among the stops of this quick tour of the emerging digital law office.

**Katherine Greene**, Automation & Acquisitions Librarian, Wheat Law Library, University of Kansas School of Law, B.A., University of Kansas, M.L.S., Emporia State University

Katherine Greene became the Automation and Acquisitions Librarian in July 2003, after serving as Acquisitions Manager since 1985. She is responsible for the library computing systems and provides software training and support to library staff. She oversees the acquisition of library materials, including electronic resources. She is a member of the reference staff and is the technology liaison to the University Libraries.



**10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Break Sponsored by Thomson West**

**Program Committee Members**

- **Katherine Greene, Chair, Wheat Law Library, University of Kansas School of Law**
- **Kathryn Fitzhugh, University of Arkansas, Little Rock**
- **Mon Yin Lung, O'Quinn Law Library, University of Houston Law Center**
- **Robert Mead, New Mexico Supreme Court Law Library**
- **Karen Selden, Wise Law Library, University of Colorado**
- **Terri Wilson, Underwood Wilson Berry Stein & Johnson, PC**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

**The Challenge of Virtual Reference  
Sponsored by Thomson West**



In the multi-office and multinational law firm environment, virtual reference is increasingly the rule and no longer the exception. The same is true of many academic libraries, where distance learning and virtual students are a reality. How do you effectively perform a virtual reference interview with a virtual client? How are reference queries submitted and addressed as well as answered and documents delivered? What tools, skills, techniques and resources can facilitate virtual reference services? How do you measure the quality and effectiveness of the service? These are just a few of the challenges that will be addressed in the program

**Blythe McCoy**, Librarians Relations Manager, Thomson West, B.A. and J.D.—University of Mississippi, M.L.I.S.—University of North Texas.

Blythe has over 20 years experience in the legal industry. She is a licensed Texas attorney and previously practiced law for a firm in Houston, Texas, doing commercial litigation and bankruptcy work. During her extensive career at Thomson West she has had a variety of different roles assisting librarians, attorneys and other legal professionals with advanced legal research training, product development, marketing and customer relations. Blythe is an active member of many local, regional and national library associations.

**12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Lunch, Wind Song Dining Room**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.**

***SWALL History and Future***

What do Hazel Anderson, Joy Baker, Della Geyer, John Mara, Mortimer Schwartz, and eight other law librarians working in the southwestern United States have in common? They gathered together on April 11, 1958, to organize SWALL! Did you know that the first dues were \$1.00? And that the first president was Mort Schwartz? And that the topic of "electronic brains" was all the rage? Here's your chance to indulge in the history, people, and even trivia of SWALL and to look toward the past in order to see the future.



**Sharon Blackburn**, Faculty Services Librarian, Texas Tech University School of Law Library, B.A. – Baylor University, M.L.S. – University of Illinois

Sharon Blackburn has been a member of SWALL since dirt was clean. She had an unbroken string of 22 SWALL meetings attended up until Austin 2006 (which, fittingly, was where she began her streak in 1984). She loves SWALL and its membership and has enjoyed delving into its history to see the wonderful things this organization has done and its potential to do even greater things in the future. She would like to send a special thank you to Lou Lindsey, Associate Director at the University of Tulsa Mabee Legal Information Center, for her kind assistance and careful scholarship compiling much of the history of SWALL presented in the program.

**Lifetime Membership & Memorial Committee**

- Richard E. Ducey, University of Tulsa
- Kathryn Fitzhugh, University of Arkansas-Little Rock

**Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Business Meeting**



***What's Happening Nationally in AALL?***

Anne Fessenden, AALL President, is our AALL Visitor this year. She is fresh from the AALL Executive Board Meeting, and will give an update on AALL activities and plans.

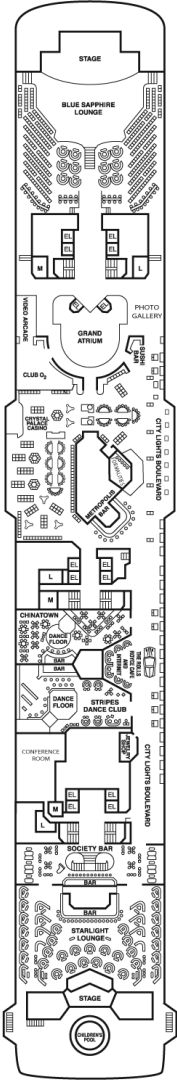
Anne T. Fessenden, Circuit Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, J.D. Magna cum laude, University of Mississippi, M.L.S., University of Oklahoma, B.A. in Journalism, University of Oklahoma.

In addition to her extensive regional and national service to the profession, Anne is on a mission to see all of Shakespeare's plays performed. So far she has seen 33 out of 39.

**6:00 p.m. Cocktail Party, Starlight Lounge, Sponsored by Cruise and Travel Partners**

**8:00 p.m. Dinner with Anniversary Cake, Wind Song Dining Room**

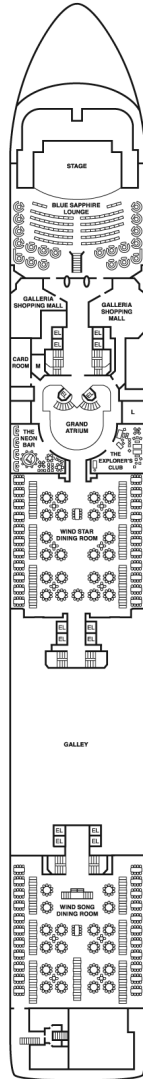
Thank you to Monica Ortale  
and  
The Fred Parks Law Library,  
South Texas College of Law for  
Local Arrangements.



Promenade Deck

Starlight Lounge

Atlantic Deck



Wind Song Dining Room



**Thank you to our generous Sponsors:**

- Bureau of National Affairs
- Cruise and Travel Partners
- The Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law
- GSI/Westlaw Business
- Lexis Nexis
- State Bar of Texas
- Thomson West
- William S. Hein & Co.
- Wheat Law Library, University of Kansas School of Law