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Spring 2023

Volume 48

Issue 2



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Southeastern Law Librarian

Presidential Ponderings ... from Donna Nixon

Hello from Chapel Hill

As I begin my first column, I am stuck on the title, which sounds, well . . . ponderous. I picture myself grey and wizened, wrapped in layers in a rocking chair by a fire, not at my tech-laden standing desk staring at the towering black eyeball orb of my desktop conference apparatus. We have wonderous and terrifying tech at our fingertips. Every new technology can (and will) be used for both good and ill. We often fret about what we may lose even as we innovate ways to utilize technology to benefit our communities and ourselves. ChatGPT and other Large Language Models (LLMs) are our latest worry (and opportunity) in academic, firm, and government organizations. We are wonderfully resilient in the face of disruption. I've been excited to see SEAALL and AALL members taking the lead in exploring the good, bad, and ugly of these emerging technologies, generating helpful conversations, ideas, tools, and scholarship.

We also are taking seats at the table as leaders make decisions concerning the next generation bar exam, and as schools decide whether and how to implement LSAT-optional admissions policies. Firm librarians are taking on leadership roles in competitive intelligence, risk management, knowledge manage-



Donna L. Nixon
SEAALL President
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Katherine R. Everett Law Library

ment, and marketing in greater numbers. And we continue to advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We can do this all more, and more powerfully, because of the compounding magic of a strong law library community. I am belatedly "reading" (listening to) the 2013 book, *Bowling Alone*, which chronicles the long painful slide of direct individual engagement in organizations in the United States. Community is about relationships with fellow humans, with all their ups and downs: neighbors, colleagues, and members of leagues, clubs, PTAs, volunteer and advocacy organizations, and more. There is a world of difference between writing a check and

showing up. Though both are vital supports, showing up for each other builds much stronger bonds.

Thank you to the many of you who have over the years shown up for SEAALL, whether you volunteered for a leadership role, attended an annual meeting, engaged on the SEAALL listserv, or reached out to a SEAALL colleague to give or receive help. I hope you will continue and encourage your colleagues to participate in SEAALL.

It was such a delight to spend a couple of days with the many of you who came to beautiful, vibrant Richmond, VA to experience the great programs your colleagues presented and the social activities that reenergized our connections. We happily put SEAALL back on strong financial footing with this meeting and are working now to plan our SEAALL 2024 meeting. We are brainstorming ways to reduce the hosting burden on our local arrangements folks, and the financial risks to SEAALL, going forward. Stay tuned and do let us know if you would like us to consider your area for 2024 or 2025.

Happy Spring!

TechTip: Trellis—A Game Changer for State Trial Court Research



Cynthia Barnes
Reference Librarian
Barry University
Law School

I am really excited to share this month's tech tip on Trellis, <https://trellis.law/>, which is a comprehensive AI-powered state court research and analytics platform that was built by litigators for litigators. This article

starts with a brief overview of Trellis features with links to Trellis' Research Knowledge Base, which you can access without a subscription if you are interested in seeing more details. Then, I'll share my thoughts on where Trellis fits in legal education and my customer service experience.

The Trellis platform currently contains data for 1,043 counties across 26 states, <https://trellis.law/coverage>. Trellis is planning to add Virginia, Vermont, South Dakota, and Tennessee in the second quarter of 2023. Trellis contains the following 7 features: Smart Search, Verdicts, Judge Analytics, Court Comparisons, Motions & Issues, State Rules, Daily Filing Report, and Trellis API.

Smart Search is where substantive legal research starts on Trellis' platform. Searching is done on state trial court records, which includes the dockets, rulings, and documents filed in the case, across all the states in your subscription and across all counties. <https://support.trellis.law/what-is-smart-search>

Verdicts allow the searching of arbitration awards, verdicts, and mediat-

ed settlements in California and New York and then displays analytics visually as pie charts and bar graphs. <https://support.trellis.law/what-is-the-verdicts-tab-on-the-smart-search-results-page>

Judge Analytics provides publicly available subjective information about the judge, including career history, information about the court, links to articles about the judge and by the judge, and the court rules. Judge Analytics also provides visual displays of data and metrics to help you predict the likelihood of success of your motion or case. <https://support.trellis.law/what-types-of-judge-analytics-are-available>

Court Comparisons is a feature that is not available on any trial. However, during the demo, I was able to see how easily an analytical report can be generated to compare up to 3 counties. The analytical report looks at docket data and provides a visual display of case outcomes by practice area, motion grant rates by type, and case milestones, which is case closure timing analysis. Currently, this feature is available for 21 popular states

and 294 popular counties. <https://support.trellis.law/what-is-manage-company-users>

Motions & Issues is an area that serves as a nationwide brief bank where you can search filed documents by motion type or legal issue. The result of the search is a mini treatise with links to useful examples that thoroughly explain the motion or legal issue. <https://support.trellis.law/what-is-the-motions-issues-directory>

State Rules contain state laws, including codes, regulations, and statutes. Once a specific law is accessed by browsing then you can access documents that cite and analyze that specific law. <https://support.trellis.law/what-is-the-state-rules-library>

Daily Filing Report allows a law firm to stay on top of newly filed litigation in a jurisdiction. The daily file includes all the case metadata such as the judge, parties, counsel, practice area, and links to the full docket and complaint. <https://trellis.law/daily-filings-report>



Tech Tip, continued

Trellis API allows most data on the platform to be delivered via API. [<https://trellis.law/legal-data-api>]

My overall review can be summed up in one word, AMAZING! As a Six Sigma process expert and engineer, who has spent hours manipulating data in excel spreadsheets and writing Access database reports, I am amazed at how Trellis has harnessed technology to produce data analytics so easily and effortlessly. The first thing that I noticed is there are no limits on the number of results that are returned. Searching the entire database for “motion AND (“dismiss” OR “summary”)” returned 13.8 million documents, 5.4 million dockets (individual cases), 80K rulings, and 6.8K Verdicts. Once the initial search was done, I was able to filter the results using the filter options, which are typically found on the left side of the screen. I found the searching and filtering intuitive and easy to use because it is very similar to other legal research databases.

I was pleased to see Trellis kept the customary usage for the Boolean

terms and connectors <https://support.trellis.law/boolean-operators>. In my opinion, the data analytics and access to state trial court documents can help any size law firm be more efficient and effective in the use of time and resources to complete tasks.

Incorporation Trellis in Legal Education: Let me start by saying Trellis, is not a replacement for Westlaw or Lexis, which contains Federal and Court of Appeals data, but a complement because Trellis contains state trial court data. As a professor that teaches Advance Legal Research, I would incorporate Trellis in the course when I teach practical tools for attorneys. If I were teaching a first-year legal writing class, I would design the course around Trellis because the comprehensive brief bank contains documents that are more relevant for entry-level attorneys. If I were designing a brand new course around Trellis, it would focus on how to harness the power of the legal analytics to make business decisions.

Customer Service Experience far exceeded by expectations. When I decided to write this tech tip article on Trellis, I contacted Trellis to request access to their database in preparation for this article. Megan, an Academia Account Executive, was my first contact. During our initial call she listened to my requests and within a day granted me full access to the database instead of just one jurisdiction, which you get with a 14-day free trial, and connected me with Mike, the Marketing Director. When Megan transitioned to another role, she connected me with her replacement, J.C., who promptly followed up with me to schedule a demo of the Court Comparison feature. After the demo, J.C. sent me an example of the Court Comparison Analysis report and the Zoom recording. During the week before my article was due both Mike and J.C. reached out to see if I needed any additional information. Trellis’ commitment to the customer, or should I say potential customer, satisfaction was evident. I am honored to share Trellis with the SEAALL audience.

Tech Note: SEAALL has a Twitter account and we love to highlight the accomplishments and activities of SEAALL members. Please tag @SEAALL1 on Twitter or send us a direct message or email apitt16@lsu.edu with your news you would like us to share with our Twitter followers.



Closed Stacks: Guest author, Carol Bredemeyer

I've always been a reader. One of the earliest books I remember was (I think) a Golden Book titled *Mr. Flibertyjib*. My parents always read to us – until we could read for ourselves. I had to beg the library staff at the public library to read young adult books because I'd read everything in the children's section that I was interested in. In elementary school, Scholastic Book Services flyers were a highlight – books for 25 or 35 cents! High school brought the reality of having to read things I didn't like (like *Beowulf* – and a few other titles I've blocked from my memory), but also allowed me to read *Our Town*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *A Separate Peace*.

There are nine bookcases of various sizes in my two bedroom



condo, in addition to several stacks of books on my living room floor. I've always said that buying books was an occupational hazard. In addition to Amazon and Barnes & Noble, I'm lucky to have several independent bookstores in the area. Joseph Beth Booksellers hosts lots of author signings as well as a really nice private event for members of their Gives Back program, which sends a portion of sales to local nonprofits. I was just there last week to take advantage of a promotion to get 30% off one hardcover book. I miss reading *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly* for reviews of new books.

I also have quite a few books on my iPad. For awhile, I belonged to BookBub which sent you a list of ebooks every week that you could buy for up to \$4.99 (and some were free). I unsubscribed when the only payment option was Apple Pay.

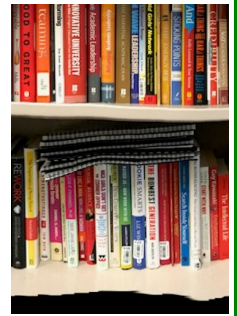
Now that I'm retired, I have more time to read. I like to read by my patio door, but it's kind of cold there right now. I also like to read before going to sleep at night. I like reading by the pool or at the beach. What do I read? I like history, biography, and current events as well as "beach fiction". I have

a Goodreads account and occasionally write short reviews for books I like. I'm not interested in setting reading goals – that's too much like homework! I've already read more books since I retired at the end of July, 2022 than I did in the previous year. I do occasionally borrow books from the public library, especially if I don't want to put my money in the author's pocket. I've always been a person that when I have time to read, I have time to read now – not tomorrow or whenever I can get to the library. Hopefully, the public library misses the same day delivery service they got when I was filling ILLs.

I don't belong to a book club. Most of the clubs I know of don't read books I'm particularly interested in. And again – having to read the book by a certain time is too much like homework.

What are some of the special books in my collection? Mostly books by authors I know – a former neighbor has written several short Christmas stories. One of our former students writes political thrillers. Many years ago, I won an autographed copy of F. Lee Bailey's *The Defense Never Rests* at an AALL meeting.

I recently saw a meme on Facebook saying that you shouldn't have more than a small number of books. Hogwash! THEY BRING ME JOY!!! Take that, Marie Kondo.



Carol Bredemeyer, former Law Library Director & Professor Emeritus at Salmon P. Chase College of Law Library, Northern Kentucky University.



Library Profile : The Law Library of Louisiana in 1898: A Different Time, and a Different Name



Fran Norton Jr.
Law Librarian of Louisiana

March 12, 1898 was a warm spring day. The book collection that would one day become the Law Library of Louisiana had moved into Tulane Hall, by the corner

of Dryades and Canal, and was ready for use. The collection had been here once before, back in 1866, when the building was known as the Mechanics' Institute and was leased by the Louisiana Legislature.

Exactly 60 years earlier, on March 12, 1838, the Louisiana Legislature created the State Library. Also in 1838, Charles Dickens published his three-volume work *Oliver Twist*. You may not believe it, but the library and the orphan have much in common.

The Legislature made the State Library to serve the needs of the legislature; they even housed the library in the same building. A few years later, however, the Legislature took away that space, and abolished the salary of the librarian. Then, the very next year, the legislature revived the library. This inglorious and inconsistent beginning presaged the troubled life of the library for the following decades.

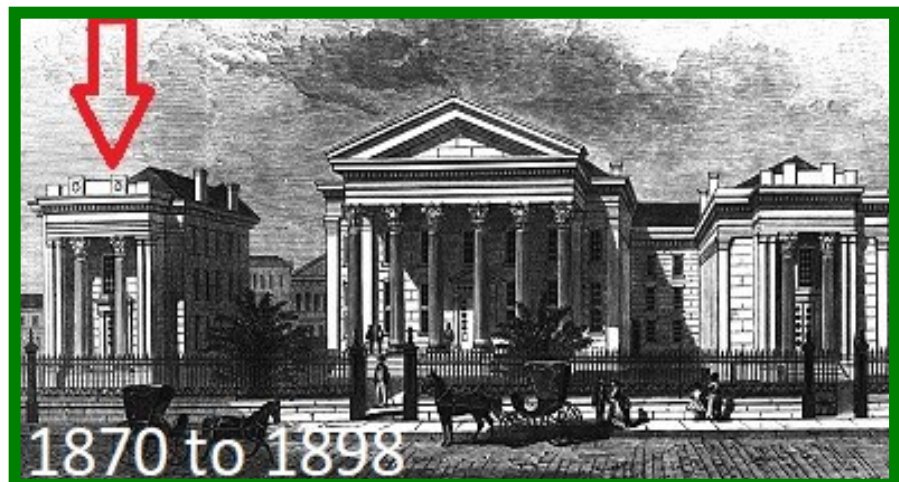
The library had a brief respite during the tenure of Charles

Gayarré, who served as Louisiana Secretary of State from 1845 to 1853. (His Dickensian counterpart would be Mr. Brownlow.) He hired agents in Spain to secure copies of Louisiana related documents from their archives, and to purchase works from all over Europe. Subsequent secretaries did not share his enthusiasm for the library.

By the spring of 1898, the State Library had already moved at least nine times. It lost vast quantities of books along the way. For example, when the Union Army went to Baton Rouge, the library left the Capitol Building there and moved into New Orleans City Hall. Books left behind were lost in a fire; many were lost to theft along the route. Once at City Hall, the books were literally piled up in hallways and on the staircase, since the mayor gave no separate room for them. A few years later, the books were moved from City Hall to the Mechanics' Institute, where they lay scattered about the floor. The collection seemed destined to be confined in small, wet, dark places.

During these years, the official reports of both state librarians and secretaries of state show that state legislators would regularly borrow books from the library. Unfortunately, they rarely returned those books. Those legislators also regularly failed to provide adequate funding for the library, and failed to address the need for a permanent location for the library. Unlike *Oliver Twist*, the library's requests for more were simply ignored.

In 1870, the library relocated to the Law Department of the University of Louisiana, a building which was then adjacent to the State Legislature. The building was already old in 1870; by February 1898 its condition was very poor indeed. The State Librarians were dependent upon the legislature for both library funding and for their own livelihoods. The Secretaries of State were not. These facts are evident in the different styles of their respective reports on the move.



Library Profile, continued

Albertine F. Phillips, the State Librarian at the time, characterized the 1898 move this way:

“On the 10th day of February we were notified by the Secretary of State that the Library would be removed in a few days to Tulane Hall, and on Saturday, the 12th day of February, preparations having been previously made, the work of removal began, and continued along during a period of three weeks, within which time the work was completed.”

John T. Michel, the Secretary of State, gave a fuller description of the move:

“The question of transfer, the care of the valuable works, chances of weather, the damage to and renovation of the books, pamphlets, etc., from the consequences of dust and other accretions of time, and handling in removal, were all parts of

the problem. It was not merely a question of transferring and housing the books on new shelves. It was necessary to take down the books from the old shelves, remove the old shelving and re-arrange them to fit in the new rooms, then transfer the books systematically and carefully so that each volume should be carried from its former place in the old building to a corresponding place in the new building, and so well and carefully was this done that all of the State reports, State documents, text-books, etc., belonging to the Law Library proper, were accessible to the readers within a few days.

The condition of the old building was such that in the removal all of the books on one side could not be transferred at one time, because too much reduction of weight on any one side would have resulted in a complete collapse. On three differ-

ent occasions during the removal it was necessary to shore up and brace the building with heavy timbers to prevent this.”

In the next hundred plus years, the library would only move four more times, but its collection, name, governance, support, and function would change dramatically. The red-headed stepchild became a respected institution.

You may read about the whole history of the law library here at <https://lasc.libguides.com/history-law-library>.

You may also read a profile of the present day library in last year’s Southeastern Law Librarian at <https://seaall.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/newsletter/SEAALLv47n1%20Winter%202022.pdf>

Recent Acquisitions: A New Library Space

The Sol Blatt Jr. Law Library recently went through a special new acquisition: the acquisition of a brand new library space in January of 2023. This experience felt worthwhile to talk about as it is something that many libraries undertake within their histories at one point or another but was unique enough to make for a fun “recent acquisitions” article. The library’s old, historic building was beautiful, but came with several drawbacks such as crumbling brick walls and limitations to what we could do with the space. We traded the historical building for the bottom floor of the rest of our school, which allows for a more centralized experience for our students and opened more of them up to experiencing the library.

There were several steps when it came to moving our collection from one location to another, a complicated task, even though we were lucky to be moving just two buildings down the street. The space we moved to, which was once an office space, had to be completely redesigned and fitted with a new floor, new lighting fixtures, and new walls. Juggling timelines, auditing our collection, and creating a floor-plan – not to mention packing up our materials – were all things that needed to be taken into consideration.

The new library space has several benefits for our students and patrons. First and foremost: it is clean and new. We have brand new book-

shelves, tables, chairs, carpet, bathrooms. All of these things have been a much needed upgrade and make the library seem much

brighter and inviting for our students and faculty. I have seen much more of both of these groups in the library, since it is simply a jaunt downstairs from classes and offices. The benefits of which means many more people study in the library space and are familiar with the resources we provide.



Marisa Kate Henthorn
Access Services
Specialist
Charleston School
of Law

Recent Acquisitions Cont.

One of the focal pieces is our brand new circulation desk with beautiful marble counters and enough space to fit an IT help desk, circulation workers, and reference workers. This space has allowed for a better flow and function of our library, when these pieces were previously more isolated in different places. The semi-circular design of it is a classic piece of library furniture that our previous library lacked and has been a functional and aesthetically pleasing addition to our new library space.



Determining where our new collection would fit within the space was challenging and required much flexibility. The floorplan that we were finally able to come up with had several different iterations that were evaluated for their functionality and aesthetic nature. Collections had to be joined together, split up, or created entirely new. This has allowed us to highlight pieces of our collection that had previously been tucked away on rolling shelves. Now, all our books are on more obvious display, allowing students, faculty, and other patrons to access them more easily.

Moving to a new library space was certainly stimulating, but the fresh look at our collection and space has allowed us to make new discoveries and discuss the functionality of our library space. This has led to new

policies and new understanding of what our students and other patrons require to have a successful library. These lessons have been valuable and allowed us to grow as a community space for our school. As of now, we have finally settled into our new home, with only a few minor tweaks left. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding! I know that the new space will serve our school well for years to come.



Legal Podcast Review: Civics 101



Dylan Dunn
Research & Instruction Librarian
Florida State University
College of Law

Though I consider myself an avid podcast listener, I've never really had a go-to legal podcast. I've learned the hard way that discovering one can be quite the challenge. True crime and political podcasts come close, sure,

but neither one tends to focus explicitly on the capital-L "Law." Law-specific podcasts are out there, of course, but they're tricky to find and even trickier to find a good one. With that in mind, I was very happy to stumble across the Civics 101

podcast.

Hosted by Hannah McCarthy and Nick Capodice, each episode of Civics 101 covers a topic in governance or legal issues, often in the form of a question. The topics run the gamut from contemporary issues (one particularly recent episode is called "How Can the Government Ban an App?") to functions of the government (e.g. "Ask Civics 101: How is My Ballot Counted?") to legal imponderables (e.g. "Who owns the sky?"). The hosts will sometimes discuss the topic at hand on their



own, but more often than not have legal scholars and professors on to talk about their area of expertise.

The more I listened to, the more it became clear that the educational aspect was this podcast's bread and butter. While I'd say anyone with an interest in the subject matter will be able to get something out of the podcast, I'd say the information is presented in a way that even middle/high school students would be able to get something out of it. Taking the "Who owns the sky?" episode as an example, it addresses *US. v. Causby* (the 1946 SCOTUS case establishing ownership of airspace), Ancient Roman common law, the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment,

Legal Podcast Review: Cont.

and space law. This kind of analysis wouldn't be out of the question in a law school property class, yet the episode does an admirable job of cramming a good deal of information into a well-produced, half-hour-ish package.



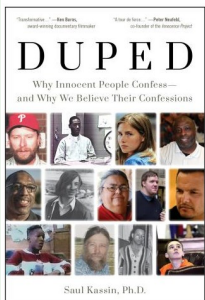
I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the podcast's website, *civics101pod-*

cast.org. It may seem strange to highlight a podcast's website, but *Civics 101* has a surprising number of supplemental materials for students and educators alike. For instance, there's a page for teacher-created lesson plans meant to be used alongside certain podcast episodes (along with a recommended grade level for the material). There are also quizzes each week that review the talking points of that week's episode and a newsletter for even more in-depth analysis that doesn't fit into the main episodes. *Civics 101* bills itself as a "podcast refresher course on the basics of how the U.S. government works," and I'd say that's a good way to look at it. If you're familiar at all

with the legal topics being discussed, you might not learn anything new, but it can still serve as an entertaining, short-form reminder. I'd also say that if find yourself teaching any of the subjects covered by the podcast or wanting to learn some of this material for yourself, it might be worth checking out their supplemental materials. That said, I think I can give all things *Civics 101* a solid recommendation.

Civics 101 is a production of New Hampshire Public Radio, and is available on any podcast app – Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, etc. – and on the *Civics 101* website.

Readers' Advisory: Duped: Why Innocent People Confess — and Why We Believe Their Confessions



***Duped: Why Innocent People Confess – and Why We Believe Their Confessions*, Saul Kassin, Prometheus Books, 2022**

Psychologist Saul Kassin was among the first in his field to delve into the science of interrogations and false confessions. While the psychology behind false confessions is a relatively new field, it is a phenomenon that spans centuries. A notable early example being the Salem Witch Trials, in which individuals were physically tortured into confessing of crimes they did not commit. In his book [Duped: Why Innocent People Confess – and Why We Believe Their Confessions](#), Dr. Kassin highlights cases that have occurred throughout American history to show how prev-

alent false confession are in our society, why they occur, and what we can do about it.

Generally, there are three types of false confessions: voluntary false confessions, compliant false confessions, and internalized false confessions. The author focuses on the last two types of confessions, these are confessions that involve police interrogation and coercion. Compliant false confessions are typically the result of subjecting the person being interrogated to a state of discomfort. In the early to mid-1900s America, beating was an acceptable tactic by police to elicit confessions. Today,



Distinguished Professor Saul Kassin, Ph.D. in front of his "wall of faces," a photo archive of innocent people convicted after false confessions

physical tactics police use include withholding sleep or food, or generally putting the person being interrogated in an uncomfortable state. In doing so, a false confession is the short-term solution to ending the person's discomfort or suffering. Those with substance abuse disorders are especially vulnerable in this situation.

Internalized false confessions can come as the result of police outright lying to the individual, claiming to have some form of evidence that does not exist. Juveniles and those with



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Readers' Advisory Cont.

learning difficulties are especially vulnerable to these tactics. Under enough pressure the individual may eventually come to believe that they did in fact commit the crime, but that they cannot remember. In some cases, the trickery places false memories into the minds of those accused. They will provide elaborate confessions, even stating how they felt in those moments, only for crime scene analysis and DNA to challenge the confession.

A quote that the author mentions often in his book comes from a police

interrogator. When asked if he was concerned that his tactics may elicit a false confession, he stated "We don't interrogate innocent people." Leading into the interrogation there is already the sense that the party is guilty and that a confession must be obtained through any means necessary. In America in particular, people of color suffer from this law enforcement mindset. A study on racial bias is cited where a pool of traffic stops was analyzed. The findings showed that language the police officers used with white drivers was often apologetic, while language used with people of color was colder

and matter of fact.

The author continues that Miranda rights may not actually fully protect citizens from making false confessions. There is the prevailing idea that "I did nothing wrong, so I do not need an attorney," or "I am innocent, so there I can waive my rights to silence and submit to an interview." The stigma of requesting a lawyer or remaining silent is enough to push people into talking, and that is a dangerous position to be in when an interrogator's sole mission is to entice a confession.

Meet & Three



Deborah Turkewitz
Reference, Faculty &
Publications Librarian
Charleston School of
Law

Have you ever wondered about the person behind the SEAALL title? What does it take to become the next SEAALL president? Here is your chance to meet our new SEAALL president, Donna L. Nixon. Donna is currently a Clinical Professor of Law and Electronic Resources

Librarian at the Kathrine R. Everett Law Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. You can read more about her professional experience and publications on her [Curriculum Vitae](#).

Meet Donna L. Nixon

Please describe your journey to law librarianship:

I am 1st Gen college, and law school. By my 3rd year of law school, I hadn't found my niche. My experience of practice as a summer (and later 1st year) associate was a deadly cocktail of boredom and stress in equally high proportions. I saw an alternative ca-

reers panel advertised at school. The law librarian listed on the panel piqued my interest. Despite work-study overlap, I made it to the event. When law librarian Erika Wayne started speaking, a lightbulb flashed on in my head. I spoke with her when the program ended, and we began plotting my path to law librarianship. Choosing a library school was one of the first steps. I chose UNC Chapel Hill and made my home here in North Carolina after graduating.

... and Three:

What "words of wisdom" (or suggestions for professional development) do you have for students/newer law librarians?

Join and stay active in professional organizations. People need to understand the significant value of those personal connections and knowledge bases. LinkedIn is no substitute for direct connections you make with people in SEAALL, AALL, and other professional organizations.

Engage in person if you can. Think about the difference between pandemic (Zoom) school and being on a vibrant campus. In our associations you will meet people who will help you in so many ways, including guiding you on best practices, collaborating with you on projects, helping you get access to material you or your patrons need, or recommending you for a position or other opportunity. So do join, and do engage, even if you sometimes feel awkward doing so. And educate your employers about the importance of your membership and engagement.

What would you like to see included in the future of diversity and inclusion in law librarianship?

I'd like us to work harder at establishing and expanding pipeline programming and funding, starting at least at the college level. A law library career never occurred to me until it was presented to me on a career panel in my 3rd year of law school. Planting the idea in people's heads in college and in law school

Meet & Three Cont.

can bear fruit early or later in a person's career. Having funding available will lighten the financial load for underrepresented people.

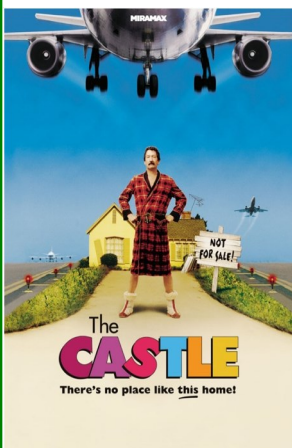
What is your favorite way to unwind/non-work activity?

My favorite way to unwind is to dance. At AALL meetings I always looked forward to the big vendor

parties where they had a live DJ or band. It was always great to move joyfully and be silly with my colleagues on the dance floor.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know SEAALL President Donna L. Nixon. Would you, or a law librarian you know, like to share your law librarian journey in a future newsletter? The editors would be glad to hear from you!

Legal Movie Review: The Castle



The Castle
(1997)
Miramax
Studios

If you are looking for something a bit more light-hearted and with a different focus than your typical

high-stakes legal courtroom drama, *The Castle* is a good pick. It is a low-budget Australian indie film that follows the fight of Darryl Kerrigan and his working-class family to prevent their home being taken by eminent domain (or, as it is known in Australia, compulsory acquisition) for an airport expansion. Kerrigan loves his home, despite it being directly under the airport flight path and in a constant state of DIY rebuilding and add-ons, and vows to stop the acquisition by an ominous private-public partnership that

wants to put a new freight terminal in place of his neighborhood. I thought the exposition of how lower-income people are treated in the legal system was particularly well-done. Kerrigan first attempts to represent himself, in a courtroom scene that first year law students can probably relate to in terms of trying to answer a professor's cold-call questions. He then bands together with his neighbors to hire a hapless, inexperienced lawyer with a solo office located above a fish & chip shop, to only slightly less disastrous results. The lawyer's attempts to respond to a judge's questions about the authority supporting his argument with "well, it's really the vibe of the law" will resonate with anyone who has struggled to make an argument in the face of overwhelmingly negative authority. Kerrigan only improves his chances when he allies with an esteemed retired lawyer – described as "the kind of lawyer rich people use."

The Castle is probably more relatable to an Australian audience, as it focuses to a certain extent on aspects of Australian culture that are not immediately accessible to most Americans. However, I do think that most American audiences will "get" enough of it to make it an enjoyable movie with thought-provoking scenes. While it is often discussed using words such as side-splitting, hilarious, laugh-filled, etc., I found it more amusing than hysterically funny. Also, as I expected for a movie more than 25 years old, the representation of diversity is weak, and it barely passes the [Bechdel test](#). On the plus side, the soundtrack is either great or so bad it is good (The Carpenters, Bread, and similar) depending on your perspective. You can rent or buy *The Castle* for streaming on Amazon.



Sibyl Marshall
Head of Public
Services
The University of
Tennessee
College of Law

The SEAALL Newsletter

Committee accepts guest submissions!

If you would like to write a short piece and see your name in print in the next SEALL

Newsletter please submit it to kbrown@charlestonlaw.edu

Treasurer's Report

Membership Renewals for 2023-24

A hearty thank-you in advance to everyone whose dues keep SEAALL's wheels rolling along!

Institutional invoices are sent mid-May via automated Wild Apricot emails. Renewals are due July 1, but we don't remove anyone from the member rolls until October 1.

Some institutions like to pay early, before their fiscal year ends. The May 15 to June 30 timeframe is for you!

Some institutions like to pay late, after their new fiscal year begins. The July 1 to September 30 timeframe is for you! There is no penalty!

Bundle administrators: you are the wind beneath SEAALL's institutional invoice wings. Please log in to your profile at seaall.wildapricot.org, and explore the powers delegated to you. You may have superpowers you never knew about!

Want the invoice to be sent automatically to two people? A bundle administrator can log into their profile at seaall.wildapricot.org and add a second email address, belonging to the other person.

Want to pay even earlier than May 15? A bundle administrator can log into their profile at seaall.wildapricot.org and click RENEW. Generate your own invoice, including a link to pay online, and receive an emailed receipt! SEAALL thanks you!

Want to pay with a paper check?
Make check payable to SEAALL, and mail to
Eve Ross
USC Law Library - 348F
1525 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29208

Want to make sure your invoice is right the first time? Especially if you've had personnel turnover?
A bundle administrator can log into their profile at seaall.wildapricot.org and edit the individual member profiles listed in the Bundle Summary.

Think of the member profiles as "slots" paid for by the institution. Change the names and emails as needed, whenever there is turnover. If there is a long transition, maybe rename one of these slots "To Be

Hired." Then change it to the new hire's name when they walk in your door, with their SEAALL membership already paid, ready to rock-and-SEAALL!

The only purposes of SEAALL member profiles at institutions are:
1) to make sure your institutional invoice is correct
2) to include the right folks in the SEAALL member directory under your institution name

It's helpful to get all member profiles updated for your institution before May 15, when invoices will be automatically generated and emailed by Wild Apricot. Feel free to edit member profiles whenever the time is right for your institution! Thank you, bundle administrators!

Please do not delete, add, or archive a member profile unless there is a permanent change to the number of "slots" for SEAALL members at your institution. Deleting, adding, and archiving should only be done by your treasurer. Adding in particular can add to the expense of our Wild Apricot software. SEAALL is near the 500-contact threshold, above which the price will skyrocket.

Working Toward 501(c)(3)

Much like law librarians, SEAALL's pro bono student-lawyers from the USC Law Nonprofit Organizations Clinic scrupulously decline to fill out the form for the patron (me). Your treasurer has spent unnumbered hours discussing, filling out, attaching fully itemized details from the past five years, and then correcting, and discussing some more, IRS Form 1023. After every item has been triple-checked by all involved, Form 1023 will be filed with the IRS, and then we will wait, wait, and wait some more. Processing time at the IRS is more than a year, according to our student-lawyers. These are all necessary steps to achieve 501(c)(3) status for SEAALL.

SEAALL Financials - 2022-23

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, SEAALL's financials are on the next page.



Eve Ross
SEAALL
Treasurer,
University of
South Carolina
School of Law

Treasurer's Report Cont.

ACCOUNTS	Apr 1, 2022 to Mar 31, 2023
Income	
Membership Dues - Individual	\$ 600
Membership Dues - Institutional	\$ 10,740
Other Income	\$ 20
SEAALL Annual Meeting - Registrations	\$ 13,590
SEAALL Annual Meeting - Vendor Sponsorships	\$ 10,000
Total Income	\$ 34,950
Operating Expenses	
Administrative - Bank Service Charges	\$ 1
Administrative - Elections	\$ 150
Administrative - Incorporation Filing Fees	\$ 162
Expense - Credit Card Processing Fee	\$ 812
Expense - Refunds	\$ 150
Expense - Trophies & Awards	\$ 240
SEAALL Annual Meeting - Venue	\$ 21,040
Scholarships and Grants - Student Scholarships	\$ 800
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 23,354
Net Profit	\$ 11,596

The SEAALL Board decided in recent years to stop sending the financials to an accounting firm, to save money. At the same time, Board also created the Finance Committee, to keep additional eyes on the financials, checking on your treasurer. Much needed! Thank you!

2023 Annual Meeting Financials

The invoices for the shuttle and the Institute registration fee-splitting were submitted and paid after the fiscal year ended March 31. They are included in the Annual Meeting numbers below. SEAALL almost broke even! Thank you, Local Arrangements!

2023 SEAALL Annual Meeting - Richmond

Registrations (less \$1,080 for Institute)	\$ 12,510
Vendor Sponsorships	\$ 10,000
Total 2023 Annual Meeting Income	\$ 22,510
Incidentals (shuttle) – FY '24	\$ 1,836
Venue (Omni)	\$ 21,040
Total 2023 Annual Meeting Expense	\$ 22,876
Net loss from 2023 Annual Meeting	(\$ 366)

American Association of Law Libraries Announces 2023 Gallagher Award Winners

AALL Honors Law Librarians for Service to the Profession

CHICAGO – May 9, 2023 — The [American Association of Law Libraries](#) (AALL) announces the 2023 recipients of the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, the association's highest award for exemplary service to the Association.

The 2023 AALL Gallagher Award recipients are:

- **Joyce Manna Janto**, Director of Public & Instructional Services, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, Virginia
- **Keith Ann Stiverson**, Retired Director of the Law Library and Senior Lecturer, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois
- **Gail Warren**, State Law Librarian, Virginia State Law Library, Supreme Court of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia
- **Carol A. Watson**, Director of the Law Library Emerita, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, Georgia



Ellie Campbell
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Reference Librarian
UNC School of Law

Wild Card: The Story of Us

This past weekend I was lucky enough to attend a performance of The Story of Us project at the University of North Carolina.

The Story of Us is a theatrical piece edited from a collection of oral history interviews

with queer alumni of UNC. Three years ago, the Carolina Pride Alumni Network began collecting interviews with alums about their lives at UNC and beyond. The project now has over 100 interviews, and 20 of them were spotlighted as a part of this production. The performance was a marvelous opportunity to learn more about the LGBTQ+ history of the university and the joys, sorrows, and challenges of queer life in the latter half of the twentieth and the twenty-first centuries.

Of course, many interviews mentioned legal battles, like the persecution and criminalization that predated Lawrence, the breakthrough of Obergefell, Don't Ask Don't Tell, and the broadening of access to health care for trans individuals. Several interviews also mentioned other political battles that queer students had been involved

with, like anti-apartheid organizing in the 1980s, pro-choice work in the 2010s, and ongoing anti-racist struggles at the university like the long fight to found a Black Studies Center. The Story of Us encapsulated the ability of oral history interviews to show how law and legal battles affect ordinary people, not just how the law directly affects their lives but also how they organize themselves to fight back and assert their own voices.

In assisting faculty and student legal research, I am often met with questions about history. Why did the legislature pass this statute, what effect did this court decision have, how was this ordinance or regulation applied after its passage. While traditional legal research sources can tell us a great deal about the law, they cannot always tell us how the law affects ordinary people beyond the bounds of a particular case or statute. While watching The Story of Us, I found myself reflecting on how oral histories can be a research tool to help us answer some of these questions.

We are lucky at UNC to have the [Southern Oral History Program](#), which will shortly celebrate its 50-year anniversary. The program has collected over 6500 interviews on all aspects of life in the South and the U.S., including a project undertaken in the

1990s to interview attorneys in North Carolina. UNC isn't the only school with a substantial oral history archive, however. The University of Florida has an oral history program that has collected over 900 interviews, while the University of Mississippi has the Southern Foodways Alliance, which among many other activities has collected many interviews about all aspects of Southern food (including legal issues!) Some southern law schools have undertaken their own oral history projects, which tend to be smaller and more focused on the lives of attorneys and judges, but remain excellent sources on the history of the legal profession.

Working with oral histories can be challenging. It takes time to dig through transcripts and audio recordings, access may be limited, and the amount of information in metadata and documentation can vary. But direct access to the voices of lived experience can be worth it for the right project, and oral histories and other documentary sources can be important supplements to understanding American law and its impacts.



Committee Quarterlies

The SEAALL Scholarship Committee

is pleased to announce the successful candidates for the Spring Grants and Scholarships awards:

CONNELL Grant:
Joanna Averch
Samantha Thorne

Lucile Elliot Scholarship:
Angela Reaux
Joy Whitfield



It was a difficult decision as the Committee received a number of worthy applications. We regret that we did not have more funds to distribute this year.

Program Committee

We had a great slate of programs for the 2023 meeting in Richmond, VA. Our intrepid webmaster, Kat Klepfer, has posted on the SEAALL website live links to handouts and slides for several of the programs. They are in the program schedule [here](#). Many thanks to Kat and Alex Hutchings for frequently updating the website with meeting information before, during, and after the meeting. A big thank you to our presenters, and to our program committee: Lorelle Anderson, Kate Golsby, Caroline Osborne, Richelle Reid, and Ana Toft-Nielsen. We received very positive feedback on the programs.

Committee Quarterlies

Local Arrangements Committee Annual Report 2022-23

The Local Arrangements Committee is responsible for the logistics of the SEAALL Annual Meeting. While the members gather in the host city for three days, the committee works for a year to make sure that things run smoothly. The year the committee began working in April 2022; the first task being to find a venue that would have dates available during the times SEAALL normally meets. In addition, the dates could not conflict with any major religious observances. Due to the timing of Easter, Passover, Ramadan, and the variety of events taking place in Richmond in late March/ April 2023 the committee selected the Omni as the venue for the meeting and the dates of March 9th through 11th. The Committee, along with the Executive Board negotiated the terms of the contract.

Working with the Programming Committee the LAC determined A-V needs for the meeting and developed a budget for the meeting by

September 2022. This budget was submitted to and approved by the Executive Board at that time. Aside from logistics, the LAC traditionally identifies the keynote speaker for the meeting. This year, in keeping with the programming theme of Access to Information, the LAC invited Justice Stephen McCullough to be our keynote. Justice McCullough serves on the Virginia Access to Justice Commission. This year, in addition to the Dutch Treat Dine-Arounds, the committee introduced a new activity, the SEAALL Hang-out. We reserved space at a local brewery/ winery for an after-dinner gathering.

I would like to thank the University of Richmond School of Law Library for hosting the SEAALL Institute. Roger Skalbeck solicited and received \$5000 in grant money from the Virginia Law Foundation and \$1,5000 from the AALL/BNA Continuing Education Fund. The Law Library also underwrote the SEAALL Opening Reception.

Twenty-six people attended the Institute, six of whom were not SE-

AALL members but members of the Access to Justice community from around the country. Seventy SE-AALL members attended the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

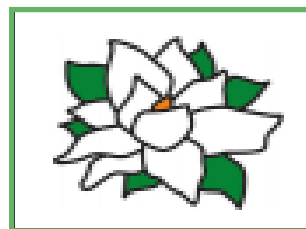
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Roger Skalbeck
University of Richmond School of Law*

*Kat Klepfer (ex officio)
Florida State University College of Law*

*Gail Warren
Virginia State Law Library*



AALL 2023 brings together law librarians, legal information professionals, and other legal experts from around the world for four days of tailored learning. With [65+ programs](#) covering a wide range of topics, from legal research and advocacy to AI, ChatGPT, and foreign and international law, you will be able to customize your experience and learn about areas most relevant to you and your work. Plus stay up to date on the latest technology and innovations in the legal marketplace by visiting with [50+ exhibitors](#). AALL 2023 is the perfect opportunity to sharpen your skills to benefit your library and its users and expand your legal community.



**SOUTHEASTERN
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AMERICAN
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Become an author in the Southeastern Law Librarian! Share your articles, notes, photos, comments, ideas, rejected blog entries, or anything else that will fit into a Word document in the SEAALL Newsletter! Guaranteed to be your first step to conquering the librarianship world or your money back!

Editorial comments should be sent to:

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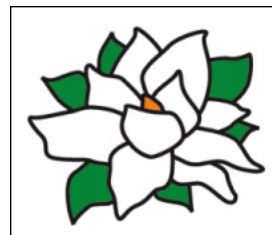
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Submission Guidelines

The Southeastern Law Librarian (ISSN 0272-7560) is the official publication of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published quarterly and is distributed free to all SEAALL members.

Newsletter submission deadlines are:

Summer: July 20, 2023

Fall: Oct. 20, 2023

Winter: January 20, 2024

Spring: April 20, 2024

MS Word is the preferred format for electronic submissions.

All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, and to ensure style consistency within the newsletter. Every effort will be made not to change the intended meaning of the text.

The opinions in the columns are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of SEAALL.

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