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SEAALL

VOL. 49
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SPRING 2024

**IN THIS
ISSUE:**

A LOOK FORWARD TO SEAALL 2024
Get a preview of the annual meeting.

Succession Planning

Donna Nixon, UNC Law

Presidential Ponderings

Spring is my happy place, a lush, vibrant buffer between teeth-chattering winters and sweltering summers. It is a point of transition for flora, fauna, and humans alike (hang in there, allergy sufferers). Our organizations also may go through or begin transitions in spring. In May, SEAALL will welcome new leadership on the board and in its committees. So, this is a point of transition for me as I write my last column as president of this organization that has nurtured my professional growth and friendships.

That has me pondering succession planning. I have focused on documenting and updating processes and roles as much as I can. But that is just a piece of succession planning. Most of you will deal with some aspect of succession planning (or lack thereof) in your paid or volunteer positions, as well. It may be as someone who inherited a job or as someone who wants to leave your successors, colleagues, and your institution in the best position. Planning should begin long before an expected absence because, surprise, life happens. Transitions may be unexpected and can happen at any time. Team members or their loved ones get sick, injured, need to move suddenly, or must deal with a family or personal crisis. People leave for other opportunities. In fact, we should be setting people up for career growth, even if it means they leave our organizations.

There has been a recent wave of retirements in law libraries at the same time as we face challenges in recruiting and hiring. Succession planning is key to making sure an organization's operations don't become a hot mess because of a loss of institutional knowledge and skills.



In the ideal world, we'd be able to train someone new before the person currently in the role leaves. But we rarely have that luxury. Here are some tips I garnered from the AALL 2023 program "[Are You Ready?: Succession Planning Done Right.](#)"

- Document processes and why they are done that way.
- Keep documentation in shared folders and make sure team members know where to find it.
- Cross train others on the various components of each team member's job and document who shall take over which piece when they are gone.
- Have the expert in the job do the training, if possible.
- Make job descriptions well defined and make documenting procedures part of annual review goals.
- Prioritize training for and tackling the most critical processes and those only one person knows how to do.
- Manage up by making sure decision makers understand the breadth and depth of what you and your team do.

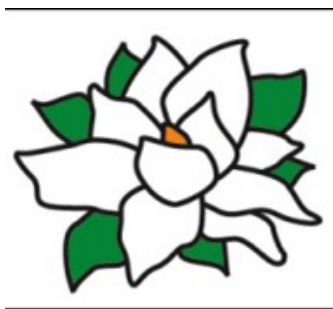
Those are just a few of my takeaways from the very enlightening program. I highly recommend it. I look forward to seeing many of you at equally enlightening programs at the [SEAALL meeting](#) in Lexington, KY. Have a good spring.



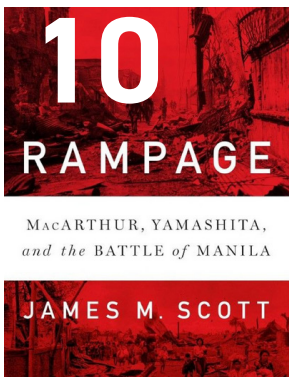
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SEAALL 2024**Advancing the Ball
Netting Results**Lexington, KY
May 16 - 18**GATHER WITH YOUR
FELLOW SEAALL
MEMBERS FOR SEAALL
2024!**

Advancing the Ball, Netting Results will be held at the University of Kentucky from May 16th to May 18th. Join us for learning, socializing, and reconnecting with each other.

Look for the institute on Technology Innovation in Legal Practice and Research that will accompany SEAALL 2024.

A visit to the Bluegrass State is always a good time!

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ADVANCING THE BALL, NETTING RESULTS

SEAALL 2024

SEAALL 2024

Advancing the Ball Netting Results

Lexington, KY
May 16 - 18



Another year has passed and we are looking forward to the 2024 edition of the SEAALL Annual Meeting. Hosted this year at the renovated and updated University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, the Annual Meeting will give us a chance to reconnect, learn, and grow in our profession.

The UK College of Law building was taken down to its foundation in 2017 and rebuilt to meet the needs of the modern law school in mind. During this time, the law school and the library moved across the street to temporary accommodations. It reopened in 2019 with new and

welcoming library spaces.

One of the unique things about the UK Law Library is that it hosts the SEAALL Archives. You can browse the archives on their digital repository site [UKnowledge](#).

Take a moment and browse the correspondence and schedules for past Annual Meetings.

Many thanks to UK Law for hosting us!

AIMEE SELF PIT-
TMAN, REFERENCE
LIBRARIAN,
LOUISIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY LAW
CENTER LAW
LIBRARY



NAVIGATING THE COURT: A ROOKIE LOOKS AT HER FIRST SEAALL CONFERENCE

As a newcomer stepping into the vast, evolving world of academic librarianship, the opportunity to attend and present at the SEAALL 2024 Conference under the inspiring theme “Advancing the Ball: Netting Results” fills me with a mixture of anticipation and a keen sense of responsibility. From what I have heard from others, this conference is celebrated for fostering a supportive community and delivering insightful knowledge. When I look back on this experience, I expect that it will be a pivotal moment in my new academic career and the foundation for my scholarly writing agenda.

From the moment I scanned the “SEAALL 2024 Schedule at a Glance,” I could sense the breadth of knowledge and community waiting to be discovered. The conference kicks off on the evening of Thursday, May 16, with a warm New Members Welcome, an essential for newcomers like me, followed by an Opening Reception and Library Tours. These initial gatherings underscore SEAALL’s commitment to fostering connections, showcasing the host institution’s resources, and weaving the first threads of connection among participants – an excellent start to the conference.

Professor Joshua A. Douglas’s opening keynote presentation, “The Court v. the Voters,” promises to ignite a thoughtful discourse on democracy and the law, setting a high bar for the conference. The sessions that follow encompass a broad spectrum of our profession’s interests and challenges. The topics reflect the dynamic intersection of law, technology, and social justice, while also including wellness and self-care, underscoring our commitment to holistic professional development.

The variety of formats, from in-depth presentations to the dynamic “Teddy Talks & Poster Presentations,” ensures a rich and multifaceted learning environment. Outside the formal sessions, the conference includes opportunities for informal interactions like the Dine-Arounds and Exhibit Breaks. These moments of informal connection and camaraderie are where the seeds of future collaborations and friendships are sown.

The exchange of ideas is at the heart of what makes the SEAALL Conference an event for professionals at all stages of their careers. The chance to add my voice to the bench of experts and enthusiasts, all dedicated to ‘advancing the ball’ in their respective arenas, is an opportunity for professional growth and contribution. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to share and learn from the feedback and perspectives of my peers. These discussions not only broaden our understanding but also equip us with actionable strategies to implement in our institutions.

To my fellow attendees, especially those who are also navigating the conference for the first time, I look forward to meeting you. Together, let’s seize this opportunity to be inspired, to challenge and support each other, and to contribute to the rich tapestry of our profession’s future. We are not just guardians of knowledge but active players in shaping the access, equity, and quality of legal education and research. Let’s move forward with the goal of not just “advancing the ball” but ensuring it “nets results” that will propel our field into the future. See you in Lexington!

CYNTHIA BARNES, REFERENCE LIBRARIAN,
BARRY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW



WASHINGTON & LEE SCHOOL OF LAW LIBRARY

LIBRARY PROFILE

The Judge John White Brockenbrough's Lexington School of Law opened in 1849 with a one-man faculty, no campus, no building, and no library. In the early 1870s, after the law school became an integral part of Washington and Lee University, the faculty still complained that "there is absolutely no law library here." Though its origins are unrecorded, by 1881 a separate law library existed to which additions were made each year. Philadelphia attorney Vincent L. Bradford made annual monetary donations for the purchase of books during the 1880s and 1890s. In the 1890s, New York attorney Dudley Field donated 1,200 treatise volumes to the collection.

In the early 1900s, three events hastened the growth of the library in size and importance: the erection of Tucker Memorial Hall, the first building devoted entirely to the School of Law; the adoption of the case method which required constant reference to law library materials; and a gift from Vincent Bradford upon his death consisting of his 1,000-volume law library collection and an annuity "for the maintenance and increase of the library." In gratitude of Bradford's gift, the library was named the Vincent L. Bradford Law Library and electric lights were installed. By 1906, the library was open 24 hours a day; a tradition that continues today.

On December 16, 1934, Tucker Memorial Hall was destroyed by a fire that consumed all 11,000 volumes within the Bradford Library. Immediately plans were made to replace the law school building with a modern structure in harmony with the architectural pattern of the Washington College group. The new Tucker Hall opened February 16, 1936 with a library collection that was rebuilt with insurance money and a \$10,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

From the late 1890s until 1939, students served one year appointments as law librarians. When Assistant Professor Theodore Allyn Smedley became the first non-student law librarian in 1939, he found himself in charge of a library which fulfilled "in every respect the requirements prescribed by the Association of American Law Schools for member schools."

World War II all but emptied the W&L School of Law; only a handful of faculty and students remained. They met in other buildings on campus while Tucker Hall was used as the Army's Special Services training quarters. The law school returned to its Tucker Hall home in 1946. After the war, the reading room of the library was expanded and



a supplemental reading room was constructed. Additional library space was added throughout the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1976, the law school moved into Sydney Lewis Hall which provided the library with greatly expanded and improved facilities, including a separate faculty library, a rare book room, and a new audio-visual media center. In May 1977, the library was dedicated and named the Wilbur C. Hall Law Library after the alumnus and law school benefactor who donated the funds to establish the new audio-visual center.

Lewis Hall was expanded in 1992 to house the generous gift from alumnus Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. of his professional and personal papers and to

keep pace with demand for additional faculty offices and clinical space. This addition included an expanded Main Reading Room and created the Archives, where the Powell Papers are housed, and related office and study space. Recent changes to the Wilbur C. Hall Law Library include a dismantling of the faculty library to make room for additional faculty offices and seminar rooms; a systematic weeding of the collection to make space for the future collection growth and to address the evolution of legal education and scholarship; and the implementation of compact shelving to maximize space on level 2. Renovations to the Library in 2014 and 2015 created group study rooms, additional common study areas, and more accessible law librarian and departmental offices.

The Law Library is a physical and intellectual cornerstone of W&L Law, with a collection of over 500,000 print volumes across four floors and a full complement of digital resources to support the Law School's mission. The Assistant Dean of Legal Information Services leads the library team, including three professional law librarians, a certified archivist, and several full- and part-time staff members. The Law Library contributes to the vitality of the Law School through innovative programs, expert reference and research support, and teaching the required Legal Research course for all first-year students. The Law Library is recognized

nationally and internationally for its valuable and unique assets for scholars, such as the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Archives and W&L Law Journal Rankings. Find out more about the library at <https://law.wlu.edu/library>.

ASHELY EVANS, HEAD OF COLLECTION SERVICES, WASHINGTON AND LEE SCHOOL OF LAW



LAWYER 2 LAWYER

LEGAL PODCAST

Since I've never listened to a legal podcast before, I thought I would investigate the basics and find a comprehensive list of them to begin my research. A great place to start is by looking at Legal Talk Network <https://legaltalknetwork.com/>

Legal Talk Network is a podcast network providing content for legal professionals and those interested in the law. Their portfolio of 30 legal podcasts covers important legal news and innovations, discussions on legal policy, practical tips for improving practice management, law firm marketing tools and more. Topics are laid out with links to access the various podcast episodes and include the following subjects: Access to Justice, Career, Covid-19, Diversity, e-Discovery, Law School & Young Lawyers, Legal Education, Legal Entertainment, Legal Support, Legal Technology & Data Security, Marketing for Law Firms, News & Current Events, Paralegal, Practice Management, Specialty Practice Areas, and True Crime. You can sign up for a newsletter to receive featured episodes and podcast favorites once a month.

The podcast I picked to review for this article is Lawyer 2 Lawyer. Lawyer 2 Lawyer is one of the longest-running podcasts on the Internet having launched in 2005. Host

J. Craig Williams invites hosts to examine current events and recent rulings from a legal perspective, raising contemplative issues for those involved in the legal industry and sparking lively discussion between the host and guest. J Craig Williams is a top-rated criminal defense lawyer admitted to practice law in Iowa, California, Massachusetts and Washington. His early education began in media studies with a focus on journalism, radio, and film which he incorporates nicely into his podcast. He also has a blog called May It Please the Court.

Recent podcast episodes include Women's History Month, Policy Issues, and Fighting for Gender Justice, The Presidential Election and Saving our Democracy, Inside Trump's Criminal Cases, and SCOTUS 2024: Conflict at the Texas Border, Bump Stocks, the NRA and Free Speech. The podcast is readily available on Apple, Spotify, and Google. I highly recommend this podcast- the host asks intelligent and probing questions and actively interacts with the guest speakers. He has obviously done his research on the topics and guests. At the end of the podcast, Williams gives his "rant" on that day's podcast which I found to be a thoughtful and concise wrap-up of the show.

LOREL REINSTROM, HEAD OF ACCESS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW

ACTIVE WORKSPACES: BRING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO THE LIBRARY

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Why Active Workspaces?

Studies conducted at West Virginia University have shown that students who visit the Campus Recreation Center have higher GPAs and higher retention rates. A heatmap also showed the students who live near the Campus Rec visited more frequently than those who live further away. In the Spring of 2020, the WVU Student Government Association (SGA) passed a resolution to increase opportunities for movement on campus. Implementation of the resolution was slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but in the Fall of 2022 the first phase was completed with the opening of four active study rooms containing either a spin bike or yoga mat and ball, at WVU's Downtown Library. Over the next year additional active workspaces and study rooms were added at WVU's Evansdale and Health Sciences Libraries, bringing options for adding movement to spaces students were already utilizing.

"It's still a library, but these spaces are designed to switch up our relationship with studying..."

Binging Active Workspaces to the Law Library

In the Fall of 2023, the SGA Senator from the Law School, learned about the popularity of the Active Workspaces and reached out to the Campus Rec to inquire about bringing the initiative to the Law Library. After confirming that the library was interested

in hosting an active workspace, the project coordinator from Campus Rec visited to help us determine if we had appropriate space available and discuss potential equipment options.

Two study rooms were selected as a pilot project with a spin bike being added to one room and a Cubii (under-desk elliptical) to the other. A yoga ball and base were also placed in both rooms. The equipment was provided by Campus Rec – the yoga balls and bases were purchased specifically for this initiative; the spin bike came from surplus and the Cubii was donated by the Exercise Physiology club where it had been used in a now completed study – no outlay of funds required from the library.

Student reactions

The law students seem very pleased to have the active study rooms as an option. We see the equipment being used daily and have observed big smiles on stu-



WVU Law Students Clarence Moore, Lucas Tanner, and Mary Kathryn Kay utilize an Active Study Room at the WVU Law Library to add movement to their study session. Clarence is a senator in the WVU SGA and worked with Campus Rec to bring the Active Workspaces initiative to the Law Library.

dents actively using it. In giving tours to prospective students, current students often point out the active study rooms as a feature of the library.

SGA Senator Clarence Moore who brought the project to the Law Library sums it up best, "It's still a library, but these spaces are designed to switch up our relationship with studying to help increase our mental and physical stamina."

Pros and cons of the Active Workspaces

So far there have been no drawbacks in bringing the Active Workspaces initiative to the Law Library. This is largely due to the support we received from Campus Rec. The project coordinator arranged for the acquisition and delivery of the equipment and provided instructional posters and marketing materials. If maintenance is ever needed, Campus Rec will return to provide it. Since the project coordinator took care of the details, library staff had to invest only a few hours of time – giving a tour, disseminating marketing materials, and updating the Study Room website – to bring the active study rooms online during a busy semester.

Having Active Workspaces available to students adds value to the library by supporting both student mental and physical health and academics. I would encourage any academic library to consider incorporating Active Workspaces into their environment.

JENNIFER DUBETZ,
HEAD OF PUBLIC ACCESS,
WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a lifelong philomath or lover of learning, I decided to learn more about learning by taking Dr. Barbara Oakley and Dr. Terrence Sejnowski's Coursera Course, [Learning How to Learn: Powerful Mental Tools to Help You Master Tough Subjects](#). The course discussed two concepts to which I would like to (re)introduce you: chunking and repetition. You can apply these learning concepts to improve lesson planning and teaching skills.

First, chunking is breaking up large amounts of information into bite-sized nuggets that are easier to digest. If you're familiar with project management, you

Do you deliver your legal research instruction like little research-tots?

already know chunking and its psychology. Just as preparing a new legal research course is too large conceptually to be of help, the task becomes more easily manageable when broken down into discrete, measurable, and accomplishable tasks.

You might "chunk" your class preparation into ever smaller steps, starting with determining what topics to cover, dividing those topics into related sections, determining research tasks associated with each section, and finally determining learning objectives based on those tasks. So, too, your students divide each day's lesson into bite-sized portions to mentally chew on, digest, and retain.

So, do you deliver your legal research instruction like little research-tots that the students can eat individually? Or do you present a bowl of legal research soup where all ingredients are blended, making a delicious whole? Consider how you can change the lessons you teach and the information you convey into more learner-friendly sections.

The second and most familiar concept is repetition. Once you break up your material, either as a student or a teacher, repetition is one of the most effective ways to reinforce learning. The more often you encounter and engage information, the more you will retain that information. Repeated engagement is the only way to move information from your short-term to long-term memory. Thus, as you design classes, are you referencing back to topics you have already covered? Do you show how all the disparate chunks fit into a larger whole? Do you offer your students the opportunity to engage with material over and over again rather than merely mentioning concepts multiple times?

Dividing information into bite-sized pieces you engage with multiple times over an extended period is one of the best ways to encourage learning. Many students and professors know this fact. However, I encourage you to take the time to examine your existing or new lesson plans to make sure you are offering your students the best opportunity to succeed.

MATTHEW P. NEELY, LEGAL RESEARCH LIBRARIAN,
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the SEAALL 2024-2025 Officers!

VICE PRESIDENT/ PRESIDENT-ELECT: Brian Barnes

SECRETARY: Richelle Reid

TREASURER: Savanna Nolan

MEMBER AT LARGE (2 year term): Jennifer Behrens

MEMBER AT LARGE (3 year term): Meredith Capps

RAMPAGE: MACARTHUR, YAMASHITA, AND THE BATTLE OF MANILA

READERS ADVISORY

Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila by James M. Scott. W. W. Norton & Company (2018)

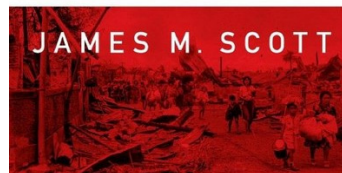
Many people know of the horrors committed by Nazi Germany upon the civilians of Europe, and the subsequent trials at Nuremberg for those war crimes. However, few people know about the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army and the commissions created for the prosecution of those war crimes. In his book *Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and the Battle of Manila*, James M. Scott masterfully weaves together the stories of Gen. MacArthur and his family connections to the Philippines, civilian life under Japanese occupation, the organized massacres of civilians once American forces landed, and the trial and appeal of the general commanding those Imperial troops.

Because of their disturbing content, many chapters of the book are difficult to read. On the campus of The University of Santo Tomas on the northern side of Manila, the Imperial Japanese Army ran an internment camp for several thousand aliens: mostly Americans and Europeans who had lived in the Philippines prior to the war. The Japanese repeatedly reduced rations over the years and months in an effort to slowly starve the internees to death. Hundreds died in this manner. Once the American army began encircling the city and entered Manila itself, Japanese troops began the systemic destruction of public buildings, businesses, and homes with both fire and explosives. At the same time, Japanese troops began the organized massacre of civilian men, women, children, and babies. Whole families would be butchered together in their homes. Refugees packed into overfull churches were put to the sword. The violence was not confined to the capital: villages throughout the archipelago were massacred.

On September 2, 1945, General Yamashita surrendered to American troops at a village in the mountains of Luzon, nearly three weeks after the Emperor broadcast his surrender speech. Investigators had begun collecting evidence of war crimes in February, before the battle for Manila was even over. General MacArthur's staff prepared 22 rules to govern a trial that wasn't a regular criminal trial nor a courts martial. Five officers served as judges on the Commission, six officers handled the prosecution, and six officers handled the defense. By the start of the trial on October 29, the prosecution had assembled a Bill of Particulars with 123 specific charges, covering the torture and death of over 62 thousand civilians. During the trial, the rules of evidence were very loose; in addition to 286 witnesses, depositions and hearsay



MACARTHUR, YAMASHITA,
and the BATTLE of MANILA



were allowed. On December 7, Yamashita was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging.

The main problem for the prosecution was the lack of direct evidence that the general himself had issued the orders to kill everyone. There was no paper copy of the order with his signature. There was no intercepted (and translated) radio message that he had sent. The prosecution's case rested upon the idea that a commander is responsible for the actions of the troops under his command.

Undaunted, his lawyers filed petitions for writ of habeas corpus and another for prohibition to The Philippine Supreme Court. (It met in a different location because the regular building had been destroyed.) The court denied the motions, finding that the commission was properly formed and that Philippine courts lacked jurisdiction. The defense attorneys then cabled the U.S. Supreme Court for a delay of the execution. The Chief Justice contacted the War Department, which then suggested to MacArthur that he await the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court before carrying out the execution. MacArthur refused, so the Secretary of War ordered that final action be withheld until the Supreme Court made a decision. The Supreme Court also issued its own order to stay the execution: 66 S.Ct. 518.

Three defense lawyers were permitted to fly to Washington to argue before the Court on the lawfulness of the commission, the charges against the general, and the fairness of the evidence. A two-day oral argument began on January 7, 1946. On February 4, 1946, a 6-2 court concluded that "the detention of petitioner for trial and his detention upon his conviction, subject to the prescribed review by the military authorities were lawful, and that the petition for certiorari, and leave to file in this Court petitions for writs of habeas corpus and prohibition should be, and they are Denied." 66 S.Ct. 340 at 353.

The opinions portrayed in this book are remarkable in many ways. While Philippine public opinion seemed unified in its hatred of and desire for revenge on General Yamashita, many of the reporters who covered the trial believed that the prosecution did not prove his guilt. Even in America, public opinion was divided. The Supreme Court itself was very divided. In the years since, this case has been cited over a hundred times.

FRANCIS NORTON, RESEARCH LAWYER & GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS LIBRARIAN, LAW LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA



SEAALL

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Have something to say?

The Newsletter and PR Committee welcomes submissions!

Contact the co-chairs for more information.

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