

**Atlanta Law Libraries Association  
(ALLA) 2019-2020 Annual Report**

The 2019-2020 Atlanta Law Libraries Association Executive Board members were: Avery Le, President; Pamela Brannon, Vice President/President-Elect; Michelle Dewey, Treasurer; Sybil Turner, Secretary; Rebecca Engsborg, Member-at Large; Toral Doshi, Member-at-Large; and Patrick Parsons, Immediate Past President.

**Educational Programming**

ALLA hosted monthly educational programming for its members from September through May. ALLA programming is provided to give our members the opportunity to hear diverse topics important to law librarians and the ability to discuss other issues facing our members. ALLA’s first meeting of the year is a recap of the different conferences that members have attended. ALLA provided informative sessions for members during a lunch session for each meeting. The ALLA monthly meetings for 2019-2020 were as follows:

October 8, 2019	Smith, Gambrell & Russell LLP	Wolters Kluwer preview of new AI tools, WK materials, vendor partner relations
November 12, 2019	Alston & Bird	The Newer Librarian Experience: tips and resources to get a running start
December 2019 <b>(TBD)</b>	Einstein’s	SLA/ALLA Annual Holiday Party- mix, mingle, and donate to a community service project (Lifeline Animal Project)
January 14, 2020	U.S. Court of Appeals, 11 <sup>th</sup> Circuit	National Library Week: Ideas for creative displays and promotions
February 11, 2020	Dekalb Law Library	ALLA Cool Tools Café: Short five-minute demos of a tool/resource that brings magic to your work day
Late March 2020	(cancelled due to COVID-19)	ALLA Institute
Early May	(converted to first virtual meeting due to COVID-19)	Annual End-of-Year Luncheon

**Major Initiatives**

ALLA continued its initiatives from the previous year with determining workflow strategies, particularly for the Treasurer, which is the most heavily-tasked position. We shifted some of the responsibilities to give the Secretary and the Members-at-Large a little more responsibility. We discussed what possible policies should be in place regarding vendors posting on the listserv in regards to target marketing. We also discussed editing the timeline of when reminders for dues are sent out, and when they are to be

collected, as we've strayed from the suggested timelines mentioned in the handbook in the previous few years. It would give the Treasurer more time to process information.

ALLA offered our scholarship grants again. However, with the low number of applicants from last year, we realized that the amount of \$695 to cover a registration fee did not help those who could not afford travel and hotel expenses. With the extra money in our budget, the Executive Board changed the grant money offering to a \$1500 maximum total, towards \*any\* type of continuing education conference that could be justified to promote a librarian's interest. The grant recipient was Jennifer Waite for \$1500 to attend PyCon to learn about python coding. However, PyCon became virtual due to COVID-19 and Jennifer has decided to wait until it returns in person to attend next year. The Executive Board approves of that decision.

The CD for our organization matured and gave us a much larger budget than previous years, so we decided to continue the idea of hosting an inaugural Spring Institute, with the possibility of it becoming a recurring event for our organization. More on that below.

All plans beginning in March were thwarted with the emergence of a global pandemic, COVID-19, and the association has yet to deal with something of this grand nature before.

#### **ALLA Institute**

The ALLA Institute Committee, led by Sarah Mauldin, and the Executive Board worked to secure noteworthy guest speakers, particularly Judge Martin Clark of Virginia. We also invited NextProgression and Heather Simmons. All guest speakers were to speak on our topic of Preserving Mental Health in the Law and suggest ways to maintain a healthy balance between work and self-care. We agreed to purchase 50 books from Judge Clark and cover his travel/hotel fees in exchange for his taking part as keynote speaker. We also received the AALL Bloomberg Continuing Education Grant of \$800 to cover part of the expenses for the Institute in exchange for it being recorded and made available to all AALL members.

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### ***INSTITUTE SCHEDULE***

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8:30 – 9:00	Continental breakfast
9:00 – 10:00	Mental Health First Aid <a href="#">Heather Simmons</a> , University of Georgia Law Library
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:15	Achieving Success with NextProgression by T.E.A.M. Outlaw <a href="#">GB and Kandy Outlaw</a> , Atlanta, Georgia
11:30 – 1:00	Luncheon w/ Keynote Speaker <a href="#">Martin Clark</a>

Before the ALLA Institute was cancelled a week prior to the event date, we had received a good number of registrants for the program. The intended event schedule was as follows: Since the event was cancelled, the new Executive Board is currently exploring options for rescheduling or further postponement until social gathering is advised again. All speakers were flexible with the cancellation

regarding travel/hotel/honorariums.

### **COVID-19 Global Pandemic**

Well, this was a first – the announcement of the global pandemic and almost all offices, schools, businesses closing and all persons asked to go into a quarantine lockdown across the country – and the world – was not how we anticipated the end of the year to be like. As such, the last two in-person meetings we had planned – the ALLA Institute and the Annual End-of-Year Luncheon – were cancelled. We hosted our first virtual end-of-year business meeting on Tuesday, May 12, with a good record of attendees calling in on WebEx from home, most with video chat capabilities. We had to improvise and save parts of the traditions for the Fall, or whenever we could gather again, but overall it went well. The WebEx virtual platform was provided courtesy of Georgia State University to accommodate the large number of users.

The news of the AALL Annual Meeting being converted into a virtual one came shortly after, and that was something many of our members had never experienced before either. However, the silver lining was the affordable cost of the Annual Meeting being \$99, so that more librarians were able to attend since there were no travel and accommodations needed. Incoming President Pamela Brannon suggested ALLA offer the amount of \$1000 to our members to attend the AALL Virtual Annual Meeting, and two recipients were awarded the registration fee – Molly Olsen and Michelle Hook Dewey.

As everything is still uncertain as of August 2020, we hope to convert our monthly in-person meetings into virtual ones until the global pandemic is eradicated. This is putting a whole new pressure onto incoming Executive Boards to revise policies and adjust procedures to fit the new world we live in, with the majority of librarians still working from home, and those in the office doing so with limited social contact with others. I am hoping the next Annual Report will bring good news for us all when restrictions will be lifted, and we can celebrate our steadfast association once again.