

Atlanta Law Libraries Association
(ALLA) 2020-2021 Annual Report

The 2020-2021 Atlanta Law Libraries Association Executive Board members were: Pamela C. Brannon, President; Abigail Deese, Vice President/President-Elect; Cassandra Patterson, Treasurer; Sybil Turner, Secretary; Toral Doshi, Member-at-Large; Gerard Fowke, Member-at-Large; and Avery Le, Immediate Past President.

Educational Programming

As in previous years, ALLA hosted monthly meetings featuring programming designed to educate our membership and strengthen our community. Meetings are generally held in person; however, due to the coronavirus pandemic, ALLA’s monthly meetings for 2020-2021 were hosted online. Although in-person interaction was missed, the change to online programming also facilitated participation by members and speakers who would have found it difficult to participate in an in-person meeting, either due to physical distance or work commitments. Ultimately, attendance at the virtual monthly meetings did not appear to significantly vary from attendance at pre-pandemic in-person meetings.

The ALLA monthly meetings for 2020-2021 were:

Meeting Date	Meeting Topic
September 8, 2020	ALLA-SLA Joint Meeting – Pandemic Check-In
October 13, 2020	Cool Work-From-Home Tools
November 10, 2020	Diversity & Allyship Discussion, with Guest Facilitator Cas Laskowski
December 8, 2020	ALLA-SLA Joint Holiday Party
January 12, 2021	Lessons Learned So Far
February 9, 2021	Bystander Intervention Techniques
March 9, 2021	Fastcase Updates, with Guest Speakers Phil Rosenthal and Ken Stern
April 13, 2021	AALL Updates with Guest Speaker Jason Sowards
May 11, 2021	ALLA Institute: Preserving Mental Health in the Workplace

Major Initiatives

Annual Meeting Chapter VIPs

The Atlanta Law Libraries Association had two VIP registrants for the 2020 AALL Virtual Annual Meeting. Those registrants were: Ernie Evangelista, chair of the Georgia Library Association’s Special Libraries and Information Services Division; and Natalie Kelly, Director of Law Practice Management for the State Bar of Georgia.

Dues Waiver

As a response to the financial uncertainty arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the ALLA Executive Board proposed to the membership that ALLA dues be waived for the 2020-2021 year. This proposal was voted upon and accepted at the October monthly meeting.

Diversity and Inclusion

In June 2020, the Executive Board of the Atlanta Law Libraries Association issued a statement condemning racism and pledging to take several actions during the 2020-2021 year. Those actions were:

1. Create a Diversity and Inclusion Committee as soon as possible. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee will develop programs and services to support and promote diversity and inclusion in Atlanta's law library community. As an initial matter, the committee will be tasked with developing a mentoring program for our BIPOC members.
2. Dedicate at least one of our monthly meetings to discuss issues related to diversity and inclusion.
3. Task our Community Service committee to seek opportunities to work with local organizations that are actively fighting racism.

On the first action item, a Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created in late summer 2021 with the following members: Margaret Butler, Cassandra Patterson, Kristina Niedringhaus, and Nancy Adams. The major output for this committee for the year was coordination in completion of the second action item. Two of the Atlanta Law Libraries Association's monthly meetings were dedicated to discussing issues relating to diversity and inclusion: the November meeting, which featured a discussion of diversity and allyship; and the February meeting, where the members of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee presented on bystander intervention techniques. On the third action item, a member of the Executive Board worked in the stead of the Community Service committee to seek opportunities to partner with local organizations fighting racism. In spring 2021, the Executive Board voted to join the Asian American Law Librarians Caucus's statement condemning anti-Asian incidents.

ALLA Institute

The Atlanta Law Libraries Association's first Institute was initially planned to be held in person in March 2020, and was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the pandemic stretched on and it became clear that we would not be able to hold an in-person Institute, the Executive Board decided to transition to a virtual format for the Institute. The Institute was held on May 11, 2021 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the same topic as previously planned, Preserving Mental Health in the Workplace. As with the previous iteration of the Institute, the AALL Bloomberg Continuing Education Grant was applied for. The following was the program for the Institute:

Time	Speaker and Topic
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Martin Clark, Keynote
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Heather Simmons, Self-Care: Taking Care of Others by Taking Care of You
2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	NextProgression by Team Outlaw
4:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	ALLA May Business Meeting
4:45 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Virtual Happy Hour

The Institute was publicized to members of the Atlanta Law Libraries Association, American Association of Law Libraries, and other Georgia library associations, including SLA-GA. There were approximately 53 attendees from a variety of locations and library types.