ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
American Association of Law Libraries (AALL)
Report to the Council
August 2020

AALL First Virtual Conference

AALL 2020 Reimagined – Unmasking Our Potential

COVID-19 has forced all of us to rethink many things, including the way we work and the way we interact with each other. The AALL Annual Meeting and Conference scheduled to take place in July 2020 in New Orleans was cancelled as an in person Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue to offer professional growth to AALL members and legal information professionals, AALL hosted its first Virtual Conference, which featured educational programs and a virtual exhibit hall from July 13 through July 17, 2020.

Below are some exciting numbers about the Virtual Conference:

- 1,245 attendees; members and nonmembers
- Attendees representing 7 countries and 2 territories across 13 time zones
- More than 40 educational sessions
- 20 exhibiting companies, offering 9 exhibitor education sessions

Our 2021 AALL Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, July 17-20. We are already discussing offering a hybrid in person/virtual conference in 2021.
Advocacy and Government Relations

The American Association of Law Libraries’ (AALL) recent legislative priorities have focused on the needs of law librarians and legal information professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes advocating for benefits for the legal information industry in the federal relief and stimulus packages passed by Congress earlier this year.

Professional Development

Many of AALL’s in person programming has had to move to a virtual setting due to the pandemic. AALL’s Competitive Intelligence Strategies & Analysis program originally scheduled to be offered in Chicago as an in person program has been redeveloped into a virtual course that will take place September 9 to September 30.

The AALL Leadership Academy is an intensive learning experience designed to prepare AALL members with core leadership skills, strategies to handle leadership challenges and tools to grow their career as an effective leader. This program will now be offered virtually August 6, 7 and 14.

In addition to our monthly webinars, we have started offering virtual coffee chats biweekly and so far, they have been well attended and appreciated by our membership. These virtual chats are more informal than our webinars but still focus on a specific topic, such as diversity and inclusion in law librarianship and our institutions. We will continue these chats for the foreseeable future.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people, lawyers, judges, students, and the public need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its 4,000 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.