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FROM THE EDITORS

Philip Johnson, Juanita Harrell, and Emily Barney

Our previous introduction mentioned the beginning of the real cold coming in, and now it seems the end is in sight, so we have for you the winter edition of the *CALL Bulletin*. This issue is slim—as if it’s coming out of hibernation—but it still packs a punch. Please enjoy Debbie Ginsberg’s [piece on blockchain](#); Lindsey Carpino, Annie Mentkowski, and Clanitra Nejd’s [recap of their discussion on keeping up to date](#) from last fall’s joint annual meeting; and a [profile of new CALL member Anne Danberg](#).

Of course, this issue has the board meeting minutes, business meeting recaps, and other CALL business for your reference and perusal. Of note is this year’s [slate of candidates for the Board of Directors](#).

On a *Bulletin*-related note, it is with sadness (for us) and excitement (for her) that we announce that Juanita Harrell is leaving CALL and the *Bulletin* Committee to return to work at the public library. She’s brought a lot of energy to the *Bulletin*, it’s been a pleasure working with her, and we wish her the absolute best.

Happy reading!



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Joe Mitzenmacher

Dear CALL Colleagues:

When I became Vice President, I understood that I'd have to write my first President's Letter eventually, but I didn't realize that "eventually" would happen so soon! In any case, congratulations to Clare, and please join me in wishing her and her family all the best.

Part of being a librarian is having to deal with unexpected challenges, and being taken in unexpected directions. I have been a member of this profession for nearly 20 years, and I can safely say that when I started I never would have imagined that one day I'd be teaching a course on using Legal Technology. But one of the things I've enjoyed the most about being a librarian is that whatever challenges arise, there is someone out there who has already faced that same challenge (or something similar) and who is willing to share what they've learned about overcoming it. I tell my students that one of the benefits of using an index when conducting legal research is that it's a way to utilize someone else's thought process, and that it may lead you to answers you otherwise wouldn't have considered. Likewise, when we rely on the wide range of resources both inside and outside our organization, we can "think outside our brains" and give ourselves a greater chance of coming up with the solution to a challenge.

There are many ways to discover what's new and exciting in the realm of legal professionals and to see how others are dealing with and overcoming challenges in the legal industry: the ABA Legal Tech Show (either the programming sessions or just visiting the Expo Hall and

chatting with the exhibitors), the CALI Conference, the AALL and MAALL Annual Meetings, the *CALL Bulletin* (but of course you already knew about that one), and so many other events and publications. Take advantage of these resources!

Speaking of “new and exciting”, our CALL committees have some new projects in the works:

- The Government Relations Committee is working to provide targeted outreach and advocacy efforts on legislative issues that are important to CALL members.
- The Continuing Education Committee is increasing and diversifying its programming.
- The Community Service Committee is offering expanded opportunities for volunteering.
- The newly-formed Professional Development Task Force will help newer members who want assistance with proposing and submitting AALL programs and with becoming more active in CALL and AALL.

These and other CALL committee activities allow us to work together to help solve each other’s problems. If you are involved on a committee, we appreciate your great work! If not, think about how you’d like to help next year!

Best,
Joe Mitzenmacher

CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 2017

Complete, up-to-date CALL Board meeting minutes are available on the [CALL website](#).

AALL Headquarters, 105 W. Adams St., Suite 3300

- October 10, 2017

Board Members Present:

- Clare Gaynor Willis
- Todd Ito
- Joe Mitzenmacher
- Tom Gaylord
- Scott Vanderlin
- Lindsey Carpino
- Annie Mentkowski

Board Members Absent: None.

Guests: Placement and Recruitment Co-Chairs Megan Butman and Susan Berg.

Treasurer's Report (Section IV):

1. Harris Bank balance as of September 30, 2017: \$24,837.78
2. Net income as September 30, 2017: \$3,966.14
3. Membership numbers as of October 10, 2017: 295 (Two New Members)

Significant Actions: None

CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2017

Complete, up-to-date CALL Board meeting minutes are available on the [CALL website](#).

AALL Headquarters, 105 W. Adams St., Suite 3300

- November 14, 2017

Board Members Present:

- Clare Gaynor Willis
- Todd Ito
- Joe Mitzenmacher
- Tom Gaylord
- Scott Vanderlin
- Lindsey Carpino
- Annie Mentkowski

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Corporate Memory Chair Betty Roeske, Public Relations Co-Chairs Donna Tuke and Jesse Bowman, and Mentorship and Leadership Development Co-Chairs Debbie Rusin and Gretchen Van Dam

Treasurer’s Report (Section IV):

1. Harris Bank Balance as of October 31, 2017: \$26,934.06
2. Net Income as of October 31, 2017: \$20,734.93
3. Membership numbers as of November 13, 2017: 299 (4 New Members and 1 Renewal)

Significant Action: None

CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 2017

Complete, up-to-date CALL Board meeting minutes are available on the [CALL website](#).

AALL Headquarters, 105 W. Adams St., Suite 2190

- December 12, 2017

Board Members Present:

- Clare Gaynor Willis
- Todd Ito
- Joe Mitzenmacher
- Scott Vanderlin
- Lindsey Carpino
- Annie Mentkowski

Board Members Absent: Tom Gaylord

Treasurer's Report (Section IV):

1. Harris Bank Balance as of November 30, 2017: \$25,934.06
2. Net Income as of November 30, 2017: -\$1,499.00
3. Membership numbers as of December 7, 2017: 299

Significant Action:

Adding to the President's charge: The President may, at her discretion and with the advice of the Board, convene quarterly conference calls to replace a monthly in-person meeting.

Policy: The business meeting registration form will include checkboxes where registrants can opt into having their contact information shared with the vendor who sponsored that business meeting and the speaker from that business meeting. At the meeting sponsor's or speaker's request, the Meetings Committee will provide the vendor or speaker with the resulting list of attendees at no charge.

CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 2018

Complete, up-to-date CALL Board meeting minutes are available on the [CALL website](#).

AALL Headquarters, 105 W. Adams St., Suite 3300

- January 9, 2018

Board Members Present:

- Clare Gaynor Willis
- Todd Ito
- Joe Mitzenmacher
- Tom Gaylord
- Scott Vanderlin
- Lindsey Carpino
- Annie Mentkowski

Board Members Absent: None.

Guests: Archives Co-Chair Pat Sayre-McCoy, Community Service Co-Chairs Julie Swanson and Jamie Sommer, Membership Co-Chair Stephanie Crawford

Treasurer's Report Section (IV):

1. Harris Bank Balance as of December 31, 2017: \$24,593.73
2. Net Income as of December 31, 2017: \$-841.33
3. Membership numbers as of January 8, 2018: 299

Significant Action: None

NOVEMBER 2017 BUSINESS MEETING ROUND-UP

Annie Mentkowski

The meeting was held at Berghoff Restaurant (17 W Adams St.), Thursday, November 16, 2017.

CALL President Clare Gaynor Willis welcomed the membership. There were 85 attendees at the meeting.

Meeting Sponsor

CALL Vice President Joe Mitzenmacher introduced and thanked the meeting sponsor, Bloomberg Law. Peter Kaiser spoke on behalf of Bloomberg and introduced the team members joining him at the meeting. Peter thanked the membership and spoke briefly about Bloomberg.

Meeting Speaker

CALL Vice President Joe Mitzenmacher introduced the meeting's speaker, Casey Flaherty. He is a leader in the legal technology movement and the creator of the legal technology assessment. He is an ABA Legal Rebel and the AALL Champion of the Year and a self-described uber nerd. He is the founder of [Procertas](#) and is a legal operations consultant.

Flaherty began his talk by surveying the audience about using "control f" as a search function. In a room full of librarians, it was not surprising that audience was familiar with the tool. He commented that at a typical talk the audience is less familiar with the tool. He made the point that everything is obvious once you know the answer. He then went on to discuss digital natives. He talked about how young people are more comfortable with technology, but that that does not mean proficiency in the office. He provided the example of giving his skills assessment test in a law school where 1 out of 15 passed the proficiency test. Flaherty talked about how skills are not intuitive. Apps, Google, and Apple products make using technology seem easy and efficient because the products are streamlined and easy to use on a basic level. However, as a general matter medium-complex skills drop significantly. He used advanced Google searching to support this argument and stated that just because you have the tools does not mean you know how to use them.

Flaherty went on to discuss technology and legal services. He commented that legal service is getting more and more complex and the demand for legal services has quadrupled since the 1970s. Lawyers are moving in-house, and there are more in-house attorneys than in AM 200 law firms. Flaherty is interested in changing behavior and feedback loops so legal service

delivery improves. His goal is to change the way people think about lawyering. He would like to see a change where we think about the system as a whole, not the traditional view of the lawyer doing one thing in a vacuum. One way he does this is to use business language when presenting at law firms (e.g. key performance indicator, return on investment). He also talks to lawyers about how to have data driven conversations. Flaherty works with in-house counsel through the Association of Corporate Counsel and he works with law firms and bar associations.

He has tested associates' and paralegals' technology skills in AM 100 firms, and he believes firms need to get better at technology. He finds that firms blame their IT departments, and they often tell him that their solution to improve is to form IT committees. Basically, attorneys are using tools that they have, but they are not using the tools well. This is why Flaherty created the technology assessment test. He has found that nobody is teaching people how to maximize the tools that they already have. He pointed out that there is no "easy button" for technology, and even Google offers six week courses on Google searching. He noted that there is a trade-off between depth and ease of use. He noted that availability does not equal learning, and that learning takes time. An investment in training must be made to close the gap. Law schools and firms should invest in competence based learning because technical skills are not learned in the lecture format. He ended by stating that this is a solvable problem, and anyone interested in learning more about his assessment or services should contact him.

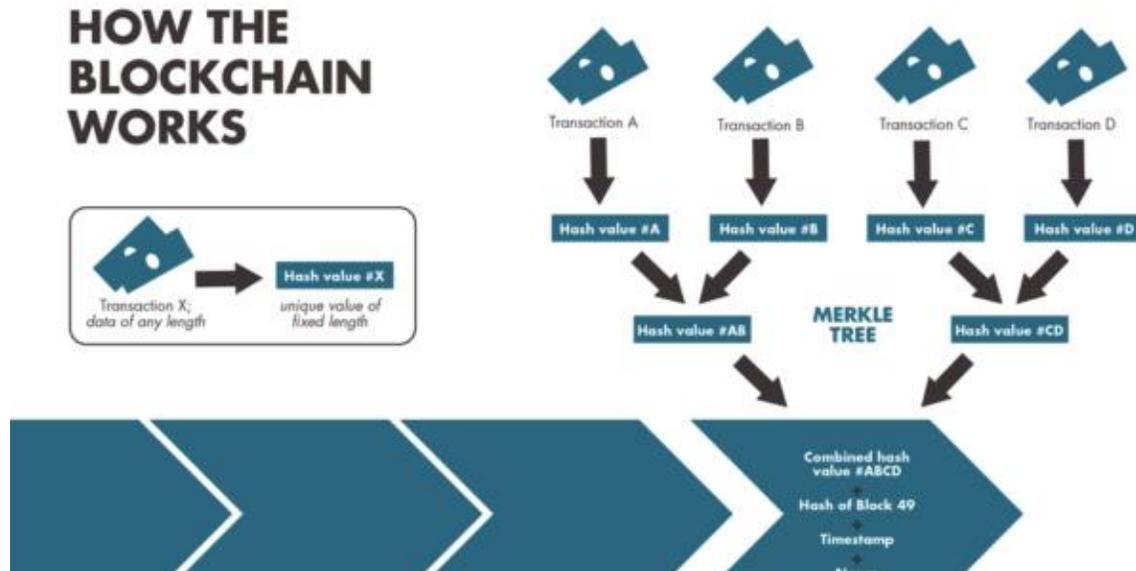
Committee Announcements

Before turning the mic over to the committees, Clare thanked Webmaster Britnee Cole for help with resolving the listserv issue. CALL will be using a new listserv provider and the switch will be occurring on November 17th.

Membership Co-Chair Lucy Robbins announced that a new networking tool has been added to Wild Apricot so that members may upload photos to their profiles. She also reminded people to make sure that their profiles are up-to-date.

Donna Tuke made an announcement on behalf of the Community Service Committee sponsored organization, the Center for Economic Progress. She said the organization is looking for volunteers to help prepare tax forms, to be credit geeks (help families improve their credit scores), or to be a financial coach. She urged members to take a look at the organization's website for volunteer opportunities.

The business meeting door prizes were donated by LexisNexis, and the winners were Nan Norton from Loyola and Susan Cochard from Perkins Coie.



WHO NEEDS BLOCKCHAIN ANYWAY?

Debbie Ginsberg

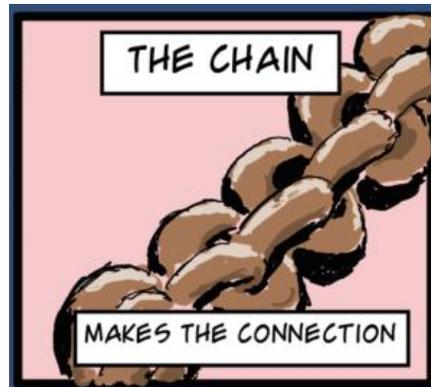
Why Blockchain?

When I give professional presentations, I choose either a subject I know a lot about and talk about what I've learned, or I'll pick a topic I know almost nothing about so I can research something new. When planning my presentation for [CALICon 2017](#), I decided to go with option two.

I chose blockchain because I'd heard about it at a few finance/law/tech conferences but wasn't sure exactly how it worked. The more I researched, the more I realized how vitally important blockchain will be in finance and law over the next few years. Many banks, law firms, and other businesses have already begun to explore how to incorporate blockchains into everything from payment systems to real estate titles to creating secure online identities.

What Is Blockchain?

If you're not familiar with blockchain, it's basically a secure, immutable database distributed on many different computers (there's more to it than that – [check out my article in AALL Spectrum](#) for a few more details). It is the technology behind [Bitcoin](#) that allows consumers to transfer this online currency without intermediaries. Other online currencies like [Ethereum](#) and [Dogecoin](#) also use blockchains, but other industries have now noticed its potential.



Blockchain and the Law

Blockchain is impacting the legal field, too, most notably in the areas of intellectual property and contracts. Musicians and others who create digital assets have realized they can use blockchains to secure songs and other media in such a way to track who has access and who should be paid royalties.

Other businesses are looking into smart contracts, which can refer to a few different kinds of contracts. Some use this term to mean contracts contained in a blockchain – all parties have access to the same copy of a contract and have agreed to its terms. Other smart contracts are “self-executing,” meaning they use programming incorporated into the blockchain to execute parts of a contract when a particular event happens (e.g. buy a certain amount of stock when its price reaches a certain level).

Blockchain in Illinois

Illinois is particularly interested in blockchain and has **started an initiative** to use this technology for a number of projects. These include recording real estate titles in Cook County, tracking professional licences, and recording birth certificates.

More Resources

What Is Blockchain?

- “What is Blockchain Technology, A Step by Step Guide for Beginners,” BlockGeeks, <https://goo.gl/7gaHLA>
- Daniel Newman, “Blockchain 101: How This Next Big Service Will Change The Future,” Forbes, April 13, 2017, <https://goo.gl/rE8WZK>
- “Understand the blockchain in two minutes (video),” Law Librarian Blog, April 25, 2017, <https://goo.gl/Hf4e4m>

Blockchain – Legal Implications

- “A Beginner’s Guide to Smart Contracts, BlockGeeks, <https://goo.gl/m7XsaS>
- “Is Blockchain Technology the Biggest Disruption in Law?,” Big Law Business, August 17, 2017, <https://goo.gl/puVRhc>
- “Blockchain / Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)”, Crowell Morning, <https://goo.gl/Sk6D76>
- Linklaters, “Smart Contracts and Distributed Ledger – A Legal Perspective (Whitepaper),” ISDA, August 2017, <https://goo.gl/6PtEGh>

Create Your Own Blockchain

- Block Chain Demo (video and blockchain “sandbox”), Anders.com, <https://anders.com/blockchain/>



STAYING CURRENT TOGETHER AT THE MAALL, LLAW, MICHALL, MALL, AND CALL JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

Lindsey Carpino, Annie Mentkowski, and Clanitra Stewart NejdI

We presented on the topic of current awareness at the MAALL, LLAW, MichALL, MALL, and CALL Joint Annual Meeting on October 19, 2017. We thought it was important to offer the perspective of a firm, academic, and government librarian to reflect the needs of an audience with diverse constituencies. With the buzz around “fake news,” now more than ever it is important for librarians to discuss the best ways to disseminate information. During our presentation, we discussed the current awareness tools we use to stay current, how we stay organized with current awareness and prevent becoming overwhelmed with information, and finally how we can collaborate and tap into our professional network to expand information possibilities.

Current Awareness Tools

One common thread was that all of us use Westlaw, Lexis, and Bloomberg Law more or less when finding news. Lindsey also uses Manzama, a news aggregator that goes back six months. Lindsey tends to focus on providing attorneys with news on company and people information via public records and company profile resources. Clanitra focuses on teaching her students the best resources to use, verifying information, and the pitfalls of using finding news from social

media. Annie pays attention to issues within the railroad industry; policy and legislation affecting the Railroad Retirement Act; and policy, legislation and issues that affect federal employment.

Organize

We shared our top tips for organizing and staying abreast of information. Lindsey talked about organizing information by running all news alerts through a cataloging electronic management system (ECM), using a master alert spreadsheet, and setting up and managing alerts through Manzama. Clanitra stays organized through her extensive Internet browser bookmarking system, LibGuides, regularly checking blogs/Blawgs and the folder system in Westlaw and Lexis. Being in federal librarianship, Annie has some technology and cloud based tool restrictions. She stays organized by using Outlook folders and paper files.

Collaborate

During the presentation, we shared how we collaborate with one another during our work day at our institutions. Lindsey collaborates through her organization's use of the OneNote, Library Guides, the Document Management System (DMS), and Skype for Business. Clanitra collaborates through LibGuides, OneDrive, and working with students and faculty. For Annie, collaboration is a really important tool in her current awareness tool box. Since her resources tend to be fairly limited in scope, she has to rely heavily on her network of librarian friends to help her with sources in a pinch.

Expand Professional Network

We discussed how we can tap into a professional network to expand information possibilities. The best tool we have for collaboration is each other! We can collaborate via the listserv. We can call upon firm librarians to see what practice ready skills law firms are looking for. Firm librarians can ask academic librarians for ILL requests. If we all work together, it is amazing how much we can accomplish and save time. So remember to tap into our professional network, and we can all be a valuable resource for each other!



NEW MEMBER PROFILE: ANNE DANBERG

New CALL member Anne Danberg was gracious enough to answer some questions for this profile. Please enjoy!

CALL Bulletin: Where did you grow up, and where else have you lived before coming to Chicago? Do you have a favorite among those places?

Anne Danberg: I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. I went to college in Philadelphia and lived in NYC before coming back to the Midwest and to Chicago. I've always liked Chicago, in part because it has everything I like about a big city but with a Midwest feel to it.

CB: What led you to become a law librarian?

AD: I had an arts/creative background, and this led me to become interested in intellectual property law. My first job in high school was in a law library, and it played a big part in my decision to go to library school.

CB: What are some of your favorite hobbies?

AD: Cooking, running, and writing poetry. Also a big baseball fan.

CB: Where's your favorite place to travel? Where have you not visited that you want to visit the most?

AD: My sister used to live in Palm Springs, and getting some California sunshine during the winter is still one of my favorite things. I've always wanted to visit Buenos Aires, and South America in general.

CB: What do you like most about living in Chicago?

AD: The summer!

CB: Physical books or ebooks?

AD: Physical books, but I like ebooks as well (particularly while traveling or commuting).

CB: What is one more thing we should know about you that we haven't asked?

AD: I was a deejay at my college's radio station and had my own weekly show. One of my favorite things to do in the city is to see live music.



CALL EXECUTIVE BOARD NOMINEES

Philip Johnson

Here is your slate of candidates for the next executive board election. Polls will close at the end of Wednesday, March 14, 2018. To access candidates' backgrounds and personal statements, please visit [this page](#), which is password protected.

Vice-President/President-Elect

- Jesse LeMar – Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- Shari Berkowitz Duff – Jones Day

Treasurer

- Julie Swanson – Locke Lord LLP
- Sarah Andeen – Chapman & Cutler

Director

- Clanitra Nejdil – Northern Illinois University College of Law, David C. Shapiro Memorial Law Library
- Jesse Bowman – Northwestern University School of Law, Pritzker Legal Research Center

2017-2018 CALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Business Meetings

Business Meetings and Educational Events Policies

- September 14, 2017 (Thursday)
- November 16, 2017 (Thursday)
- February 15, 2018 (Thursday)
- May 10, 2018 (Thursday)

Details will be posted as they become available. *Dates subject to change.*

CALL would like to thank all of the speakers and meeting sponsors at this year's business meetings.

Executive Board Meetings

For 2017-2018 the Board will meet the second Tuesday of every month. Specific dates are:

- Tues., Aug. 8, 2017
- Tues., Sept. 12, 2017
- Tues., Oct. 10, 2017
- Tues., Nov. 14, 2017
- Tues., Dec. 12, 2017
- Tues., Jan. 9, 2018
- Tues., Feb. 13, 2018
- Tues., Mar. 13, 2018
- Tues., April 10, 2018
- Tues., May 8, 2018

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Contributions to the *CALL Bulletin* are always welcome. Please be advised that contributions submitted for publication are subject to editorial review. The *Bulletin* editors have the discretion to decline to publish articles. Direct questions, articles, or other items of interest to the co-editors:

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