



Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL)

2019-2020 Annual Report

The SEAALL officers for 2019-2020 were Louis M. Rosen, President; Shamika Dalton, Vice President/President-Elect; Kristina L. Niedringhaus, Immediate Past President; Kat Klepfer, Secretary; Casandra “Cas” Laskowski, Treasurer; and Suzanne Corriell and Leslie Street as Members at Large.

Newly elected officers for 2020-2021 are Sarah Mauldin, Vice President/President-Elect (replacing Shamika Dalton); Jason Tubinis, Secretary (replacing Kat Klepfer); and Lance Burke, Member at Large (replacing Suzanne Corriell).

SEAALL had every intention of holding its annual meeting in Jackson, Mississippi from April 16-18, 2020. The theme for the meeting was “2020 Visionaries.” We had fascinating and respected keynote speakers booked; a diversity-centric Institute that would have been held at Mississippi College School of Law; a meeting web page on the SEAALL website (<https://seaall.wildapricot.org/SEAALL-2020-Annual-Meeting>); a cool logo; an excellent slate of programs curated by the Program Committee chaired by Shamika Dalton; and an exciting list of activities chosen by the Local Arrangements Committee chaired by Stephen Parks.

Then COVID-19 happened, and the Executive Board acted early to cancel the Annual Meeting for the first time in SEAALL history, due to increasing travel restrictions, financial concerns, and concern for our members’ health and safety. We officially canceled our conference with the Westin Jackson Hotel on March 11, 2020, and luckily, they have not tried to hold us responsible for any cancellation costs or fees. Cas Laskowski quickly issued full refunds to all our members who paid their registration fees.

But all was not lost. We held our final 2019-2020 business meeting over Zoom on April 24, 2020. New President Shamika Dalton led an effort to reimagine and reschedule many of the planned programs as a virtual Annual Meeting in May 2020. But that’s more of a story for the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

At our online business meeting, the 2020 Service to SEAALL Award was presented to Catherine Lemann by the Service to SEAALL Award Committee of Immediate Past President Kris Niedringhaus and previous Award winners Fran Norton and Paul Birch.

The Community Service Committee, chaired by Jennifer Mart-Rice, selected Big House Books as its local service project recipient in Jackson. Big House Books (<https://seaall.wildapricot.org/Service-Project>) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that sends free books by request to prisoners in Mississippi correctional facilities to promote literacy and be a vehicle of change for prison reform. That fell in line with our members’ library work and our commitment to social justice. Unfortunately, we



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were unable to work with Big House Books due to the Annual Meeting cancellation. If our Annual Meeting is rescheduled in Jackson for 2023, we hope we can work with this organization again.

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Laura Scott, awarded two student scholarships to Amber Cain and Nor Ortiz, totaling \$5,500, in the fall of 2019. Due to the SEAALL and AALL Annual Meetings being moved online, the Committee did not award the customary CONELL Grant, AALL Annual Meeting Grant, or the Lucile Elliott Scholarship.

The Newsletter & Publications Committee, co-chaired by Katie Brown and Becca Rich, continued to publish *The Southeastern Law Librarian* quarterly, along with a special election issue. They continue to be archived on the SEAALL website at <https://seaall.wildapricot.org/Newsletter>. Our long-time newsletter Editor, Billie Blaine, left the SEAALL area and stepped down from her duties, but she did a outstanding job putting together our newsletter over the last several years. Katie Brown volunteered to take over the role of Editor starting in 2020, serving in an *ex officio* capacity, as Billie did. The Committee also continued to make active use of Twitter to publicize SEAALL, AALL, and other law librarianship-related information.

Planning for the 2021 meeting is currently underway. Due to continuing COVID concerns, the meeting will no longer be hosted in Columbia, South Carolina, but will be a virtual meeting instead. Sarah Mauldin, our 2020-2021 Vice President/President-Elect, is chair of the Program Committee, and Eve Ross and Candle Wester were co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee. Eve and Candle had done a considerable amount of planning and preparation alongside Shamika Dalton before the on-site Annual Meeting was called off. We plan to reschedule our Annual Meeting in Columbia for 2024. As of now, we remain hopeful that our 2022 Annual Meeting can happen in Richmond, Virginia, and then we will attempt to make it to Jackson in 2023 and Columbia in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis M. Rosen

Immediate Past President
SEAALL President 2019-2020