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Presidential Ponderings ... from Shamika Dalton

I remember when I joined SEAALL in 2012 at the encouragement of my colleagues Ed Hart, the SEAALL President at the time, and Elizabeth Outler. Back then, as a new law librarian, I could have never imagined that I would be serving as President eight years later. Even as we navigate uncharted waters due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am honored and excited to serve as your 2020-2021 President.

Before I mention all of the exciting things that I am looking forward to during my presidency, I must first say, "thank you." Due to COVID-19 and the travel restrictions imposed by most of our organizations, the Executive Board had to cancel this year's annual meeting. It was a difficult decision, but our first priority is the health and safety of our members. I know how important the annual meeting is to our members, so I want to

thank you for your patience and understanding.

I want to thank Stephen Parks and the 2020 SEAALL Local Arrangements Committee for all of their hard work over the past two years. The committee was able to secure two exceptional keynote speakers, Jeffrey Mitchell and Pamela Junior. To minimize the cost of the Institute, Mississippi College School of Law agreed to host and record the Institute at no cost to SEAALL, the State Law Library of Mississippi planned to sponsor our lunch, and the University of Mississippi School of Law graciously offered to pay an honorarium for the Institute's keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Glisson. The hospitality that Mississippi showed SEAALL was incredible, and I am hopeful that we can have the 2023 SEAALL Annual Meeting in Jackson. I also want to thank the Program Committee. I would not have been able to solicit and

select our amazing slate of programs for the conference without your hard work. Thank you. Last, but definitely not least, I want to thank Louis Rosen for his exemplary leadership as last year's President. I also want to thank our outgoing Board members, Kris Niedringhaus, Kat Klepfer, and Suzanne Corriell, for their commitment and service on the Executive Board. I have learned so much from all of you over the past year. Thank you.

Looking Forward

Even though we were unable to come together for an in-person conference, I am happy to announce that SEAALL will be hosting a virtual conference on the Zoom platform. Starting the week of May 18 and ending the week of June 1, we plan to host three programs per week at noon EST. You can find the detailed program schedule and the Zoom meeting information on the SEAALL webpage

Presidential Ponderings Cont.



Shamika Dalton
Associate Director and
Associate Professor in
the Law Library
University of Tennessee

under the “2020 SEAALL Annual Meeting”. We hope you can attend one or more of these fantastic programs.

I am appreciative of all of the members who volunteered to serve on SEAALL committees this year. The 2020-2021 committee rosters can be found on the SEAALL webpage under the “About” tab. I want to thank all of the committee chairs for taking on their new leadership roles. To help the Executive Board stay abreast of committee activities and to build synergies between committees, I am planning to host quarterly committee chair meetings (via Zoom) starting in May. I am hopeful that we can find new ways for committees

to collaborate to further SEAALL’s mission. Looking ahead, I am incredibly excited about the 2021 SEAALL Annual Meeting on March 18-20, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. It has been nine years since the annual meeting was in South Carolina. Eve Ross and Candle West-er, co-chairs of the 2021 SEAALL Local Arrangements Committee, have already secured two excellent keynote speakers, Colin Miller, Associate Dean for Faculty Development Professor of Law & Thomas H. Pope Professorship in Trial Advocacy at the University of South Carolina School of Law, and Tamara King, Community Relations Director for Richland County Library. You can expect an email from the 2021

SEAALL Local Arrangements Committee with more information soon.

COVID-19 has hugely altered our lives. For many of us, our “new normal” consists of virtual meetings and isolating ourselves in our homes. I want to encourage all of you to check-in on your colleagues and prioritize self-care. Self-care can include meditation, yoga, exercising at home, taking a walk around the neighborhood (practicing social distancing of course), dancing in your living room to your favorite music genre, or video chatting with your closest friends.

Remember, we are all in this together.

Shamika Dalton
President of SEAALL

Past President ... Louis M. Rosen



Louis M. Rosen
Reference Librarian
and Associate Profes-

So, how has everyone else been over the last month and a half? Anything new and exciting going on?

With all seriousness, it’s staggering to think about how much our lives and careers have changed since the last issue of *The Southeastern Law Librarian*, my favorite newsletter. First and foremost, I hope you are all still safe, healthy, employed, sheltering in place, and hold-

ing up as well as possible. I find myself writing this, my fourth and final “Presidential Ponderings” column, on April 20th, exactly one month after our library closed, and we started working from home. It has definitely been a unique month, where I find myself alternating between boredom, intense stress, and existential dread, often within the

same moment.

As you know, we had to cancel our 2020 SEAALL Annual Meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, which was disappointing, but we didn’t have a choice. It pained me to do it, but as our employers started to institute travel restrictions and as COVID-19 infection rates climbed around the country, it was the only rational response. A global pandemic and a national emergency were both de-

Past President Cont.

and a national emergency were both declared within days of us cancelling, so our timing was spot-on. Thanks to our Treasurer Cas Laskowski's quick actions, every member who paid for their Annual Meeting registration should have received refunds by now.

I was, and still am, heartbroken. Stephen Parks and the Local Arrangements Committee put together an incredible Annual Meeting in Jackson. With any luck, we might be able to reschedule there for the future, and if the committee members are willing to serve again, hopefully they won't have to reinvent the wheel with the planning. The theme won't be "2020 Visionaries," and it won't happen to fall on SEAALL's 80th anniversary, but things don't always work out the way we planned.

So as I sign off for the last time as SEAALL President, I have a lot of people to thank.

Thank you to everyone who submitted program proposals for the Annual Meeting, and to our Program Committee. Shamika Dalton chaired the Program Committee this year, and they curated what looked like a sensational slate of programs for Jackson. I was so psyched to watch you all in action, to learn from the best and

brightest of my professional *frolleagues* (friend-colleagues), and not just because I'm about to teach Advanced Legal Research for the first time in our shortened summer term, for the first time since 2017, and for the first time online. I hope many of you will have opportunities to present your programs over the next year, either online or in person somewhere, when the world is a safer place. If not, keep them in mind for 2021 in Columbia, South Carolina!

Thank you to everyone who served on committees this past year, and to the committee Chairs. Several of our committees' charges and duties were frustrated and foiled by the cancellation of our Annual Meeting and the whole global pandemic, beyond just the Local Arrangements and Program Committees. You all worked so hard, and you were ready to make things happen on behalf of SEAALL, but they didn't happen. They couldn't. And I am so, so sorry about that.

I want to give a special thank you to the Newsletter and Public Relations Committee for continuing to publish *The Southeastern Law Librarian*, and to the former Chair, Katie Brown, for stepping up to volunteer as our new ongoing newsletter Editor. I've written before about my fondness for this newsletter and my time on this committee, and I know it will be in the best hands with Katie. After all, everyone needs an editor!

I owe my deepest thanks to our extraordinary Executive Board for keeping everything so organized over the last year. I am so grateful to our outgoing Secretary, Kat Klepfer, and our outgoing Member At Large, Suzanne Corriell, for being on top of everything, always. And I am so relieved that our current Vice President/President-Elect, Shamika Dalton, will already be acting as President by the time you read this, that our treasure of a Treasurer, Cas

Laskowski, will still be running the numbers, and that our other current Member At Large, Leslie Street, will still be streets ahead.

I have the utmost faith in them to keep steering SEAALL into an all-new, all-different era of greatness for 2021-2022, joined by our newly-elected Vice President/President-Elect, Sarah Mauldin, our new Secretary Jason Tubinis, and our new Member At Large, Lance Burke. I'll even still be hanging around in the role of Immediate Past President, most recently vacated by the kind, patient, and wise Kris Niedringhaus. Thanks again to all of you for volunteering your time for two years (or three, in Kris, Shamika, and Sarah's cases) on behalf of our chapter.

Finally, to all of you who voted for me back in 2018, thank you for trusting me, and for allowing me the chance and the opportunity to serve. I'll bet you didn't think I would be the first SEAALL President ever to cancel the Annual Meeting, did you?

I have one request for all our members: please be patient with Shamika, Sarah, Cas, Jason, Leslie, and Lance. They are going to work so hard on your behalf, but they will have a new and unique set of circumstances to deal with this year. I have the utmost faith in them to figure everything out, and I promise I will continue to help however I can.

SEAALL MEETING 2020 GOES VIRTUAL

Even though the SEAALL 2020 Annual Meeting is not happening physically, the SEAALL Board, along with members of the Program Committee, has been planning for a Virtual Conference. Special thanks to the [Local Arrangements Committee](#) for spending so much time and effort into planning this year's conference in Jackson.

Keeping this year's theme in mind, we hope you will "look" forward to this Virtual Conference as much as we are. We will host

three programs per week at noon EST via Zoom starting the week of May 18. Sessions will last approximately an hour and will include programming on diversity, teaching, and service. You can find a detailed schedule on the [SEAALL 2020 Annual Meeting webpage](#).



Tech Tip: Turn the Screens Off and Give Yourself a Break



Eve Ross
Reference Librarian
University of South
Carolina Law Library

When I was asked to write a tech tip, it occurred to me that even those of us who love technology are experiencing unprecedented levels of "work hard on screens, play hard on screens" right now. All that screentime, on top of the blurred

boundary between work and home, can be hard on us as people.

So here are a few ideas for cutting back on tech usage--specifically screentime and work-related technology--to manageable levels, even during a lockdown.

Shut down your computer.

At the end of the workday, don't let the computer drift into sleep mode; it's too easy to wake it back up again. Consider using a shortcut to prevent yourself from being tempted to change your mind and peek

back at your email before committing to the shutdown. Type the shortcut (Windows: Ctrl+Alt+Delete; Mac: Control+Eject), and when the dialog appears, select Shut Down. After the computer is shut down, unplug it. For an additional visual cue that work is over, consider draping a tablecloth, towel, or sheet over the monitor.

Separate devices for work and play. I'm not advocating a strict separation, because that's often inconvenient and sometimes truly unworkable. I'm just suggesting that everyone needs a device where they can drift away to their favorite tunes without hearing a chime remind them they have email and get absorbed into a movie without seeing a calendar reminder pop up for a canceled flight to a conference.

More audio, less video. Connecting with others is important. And it's really nice to see each other's faces on Zoom, Teams, WebEx, Skype, Facetime, Hangouts, and so on, but when we have on-screen meetings for work and onscreen happy hours and friend hangouts, that is a lot of screentime. With an audio call, especially if using a headset, it's a lot easier to chat with friends while on a walk outside or while doing a little housework.

Read a physical book. I still have, ahem, at least one book on my To Be Read pile. And many of us have home libraries filled with books we love.

Tech Tip: Turn the Screens Off Cont.

Rereading beloved favorites can be comforting.

Exercise screen-free. If you can get out to a little porch, deck, or balcony, outdoors is a great place to greet the day

with some gentle movement, and most of us don't need someone on a screen to tell us what part of our body is tense and needing a stretch. At home, if the music in the headphones is pumping, then you can dance like nobody's watching and also like you're watching nobody

dance onscreen. If you've got a pen and paper to record how many reps and sets you're doing with bags of rice and cans of beans, then you do indeed lift, bro.

Readers Advisory: The Missing Course

The Missing Course: Everything They Never Taught You About College Teaching, by David Gooblar
ISBN: 978-0-674-98441-7
2019

During the past year, one book was requested over and over through interlibrary loan at Charleston School of Law. We had just added *The Missing Course: Everything They Never Taught You About College Teaching*, by David Gooblar, to our professional collection, and borrowers were in line for it. The title instantly caught my eye, and I checked out the book. When I was in library school, we practiced presenting projects and “one-shot” instruction sessions, but developing teaching skills was not emphasized. After school, skill with short,



content-driven instruction was what I needed as a new academic librarian. However, as institutional needs evolve, librarians have assumed more long-term instructional duties, and the focus of the class changes from conveying content to developing student success. Whether the class is a 1-credit mini-course or a semester-long class, student success demands excellent teaching skills. I believe the author identified a skills gap many of us may feel about their graduate school training and want to improve upon that gap.

David Gooblar teaches writ-

ing and rhetoric at the University of Iowa. He writes that “extensive pedagogy training should be a required element of graduate programs across the disciplines.” The

training of effective teachers has been the “missing course” in graduate schools for future instructors. The author describes his path from an untrained lecturer to an instructor engaged in active student learning following an inspiring conference and stint at writing a column, “Pedagogy Unbound,” for *Chronicles of Higher Education*. *Missing Course* is organized by chapter topics, for example, how to know the students you are teaching, improving course and assessment design, and modeling scholarly practices. For example, a few tips include asking the students what they want to learn and



Deborah Turkewitz Reference, Faculty Liaison, and Publications Librarian
Charleston School of Law

Readers' Advisory: The Missing Course Cont.

and embedding it in the syllabus, flipping a class by teaching the 'last day first,' student peer reviews, and one-on-one working conferences at office hours. Librarians may be especially interested in Chapter 7, "Teaching in Tumultuous Times." While the book predates our current "tumultuous time" of remote teaching, the author's description of recognizing bias, addressing divisive politics, developing citizenship, fostering inclusivity, and addressing "fake news" is especially relevant today. The author notes that all the above are ways to try and teach information literacy skills. Gooblar especially recommends meeting with an academic librarian before the semester begins to incorporate information literacy exercises throughout the semester. In particular, the author notes that instructors are now aware of the

CRAAP test for evaluating sources (currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose). He recommends going the further step and teach students to evaluate *claims*, rather than just evaluate the *source*, by fact checking, following citations, and reading laterally. This way, the author suggests, students will be able to evaluate any claim, wherever it is found, rather than just learn which journals are "reliable."

I would recommend this book for anyone interested in evaluating their teaching skills. The book is a conversational blend of theory and practical teaching tips. I believe the book's concepts of active student learning thoughtful course design will be especially meaningful after our semester of remote teaching. Personally, I'm looking forward to rereading the *Missing Course* and filling in those gaps.

Readers' Advisory: POP! Create the Perfect Pitch, Title, and Tagline for Anything

Sam Horn, *POP! Create the Perfect Pitch, Title, and Tagline for Anything* (2006) ISBN: 978-0-399-53361-7

I recently submitted my first conference presentation proposal. The most difficult part of the proposal was coming up with a title for my program. I needed something catchy but not cutesy; descriptive but not dull. What would say "This is the must-attend program of the conference"? I needed a title that would



Jennifer Dubetz
Library Technology
Specialist
West Virginia University

POP! So being a librarian, I sought out a book.

POP! Create the Perfect Pitch, Title, and Tagline for Anything by Sam Horn is the guide to making your business name, program, or slogan immediately engaging and memorable. More than a how-to book, POP! is a workbook that first determines your key terms, and then walks you through more than 20 exercises to turn your terms into something that stands out from the crowd and is memorable to the consumer. Each exercise also includes a real-life example demonstrating its suc-

cess.

Be Purposeful asks nine questions that will define what you're selling, who you're selling it to and how it fulfills a need. You will also determine what sets you and your product apart from the competition. This is the most important part of the book; all the future exercises build upon the goals and terms laid out here.

Be Original covers coining the winning name or phrase. A few of the techniques included for

Readers' Advisory: POP! Cont.



for this process are changing a letter of the name (for example, *Go-Gurt*), changing up an old cliché (*I think, therefore, IBM*), and

painting word pictures (*Gorilla Glue* – Gorillas are strong, therefore the consumer associates “Gorilla Glue is strong like gorillas”). Another

option covered here is connecting your product with something personal, such as a hobby, an achievement, or an adversity faced.

Be Pithy takes you through making your title or slogan roll off the tongue and into the brain. This section has suggestions for trying out rhymes (*shop till you drop*), alliterations (*Bed Bath and Beyond*), and other sound bites (“*If it doesn't fit, you must acquit.*”) for maximum memorability.

The book concludes with **Seven Secrets to Keep Their**

Interest Once You've Got It. Included here are methods for making your content come alive (by sharing stories), open minds (connecting your story to the listener), and inspire action (by getting the listener excited about the next steps).

With the multitude of techniques in POP! I can now take programs and proposals from “meh” to “must attend” and so can you! Perhaps we will be the next entries on Sam Horn's top ten POP! list with the likes of *Yappy Hour*, *Freakonomics*, and the ever-memorable Aflac duck.

Legal Movie Review: Spellbinder (1988)

Spellbinder 1988 – Tim Daly, Kelly Preston

Hey, all you cool cats and kittens. I realize that most reviews focus on new releases; however, I am bucking this trend with a review of 1988's *Spellbinder*. If you are interested in watching this legal thriller, you can find it on Starz, Hulu, and Amazon Prime.

I found *Spellbinder* while I was flipping through Starz's TOC, looking for something to watch. I was immediately intrigued by the hook: “A young law-

yer, after falling in love with a beautiful woman, finds that she has an extremely mysterious past.” A young lawyer, you say? A beautiful woman with an extremely mysterious past? I had to watch it.

Oh boy, whoever wrote that blurb wasn't exaggerating. There were young lawyers. There was also big hair, shoulder pads, a hot little Triumph TR6 convertible, and Satanists. Yes, Satanists. There's even a mall chase scene. This movie is so 1980s. If you love the 1980s, *Spellbinder* is for you.

Spoilers ahead....

Lovelorn young lawyer who we will call Tim (play by Tim Daly, of *Wings* fame) witnesses a beautiful young woman who we will call

Kelly (played by Kelly Preston, pre-John Travolta) being assaulted by a man with extraordinarily big hair. Calling the police must not have been a thing in the 1980s, because it's not even brought up. Tim tussles with the big-haired man, who hisses *you'll regret this* and storms off. I thought the big-haired man gave up a little quickly, considering he was armed and whatnot, but that's me. Tim valiantly offers to give Kelly a ride home, because cabs must not exist yet. Surprise! Kelly is homeless. Tim takes her to his home because that's how the action starts.

On a side note, Tim lives in this amazing little bungalow with a white picket fence.



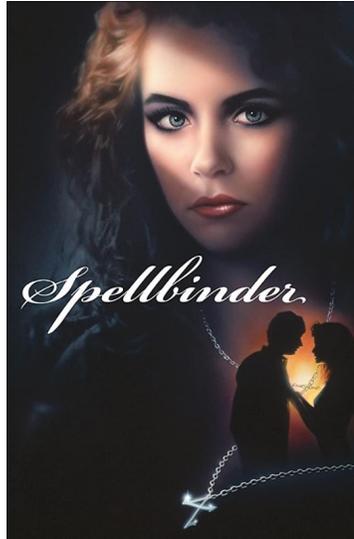
Adrienne DeWitt
Law Librarian
Campbell University

Legal Movie Review: Spellbinder cont.

It's so cute, and Tim's cherry red 1975 Triumph TR6 ragtop looks amazing parked in front of it. TR6s are tight.

Moving on. Tim and Kelly hook up, because she's perfect. Maybe a little too perfect, but Tim's a busy lawyer, so he's not paying a lot of attention. She moves in, and then they go to the mall, where they spend time discussing stuff animals at the Teddy Bear Factory.

After they leave the Teddy Bear Factory, some strange man follows them, but he gets roughed up trying to get on an escalator. All I can say is SAHMs (stay-at-home-moms) were tough in the '80s. This poor guy eventually gets burned up by the big-haired guy from the beginning. This confuses me. Why didn't he burn up Tim? I am suspicious. Anywho, then there's this party, where Tim introduces Kelly to his friends and colleagues. Everyone loves her except his administrative assistant (referred to as *secretary*, because 1988). The Admin is immediately suspicious of Kelly's spooky weirdness. And it is true that Kelly spends a lot of time chanting, reading palms, and referring to the Winter Solstice as a holy day. Nobody else cares, though. They're all, like, *read my palm! Read my palm!*



The Admin ends up following Kelly into the kitchen, where she witnesses her taking out a roast turkey from the oven with her bare hands. In all fairness, Kelly does stick her hands in a nearby ice bucket for a minute or two before she gets to the task of cutting the turkey. Okay, if I saw someone take a turkey out of the oven without oven mitts, I'd be, like, "*Holy moly! You just took that out of the oven without any oven mitts!*" But the Admin just asks Kelly a few questions about where she's from and whatnot, so maybe oven mitts weren't invented yet?

Back at the office, Tim has an after-hours appointment with an old woman who tells him, "We want her back." Tim is upset and runs to his car in a

super dark parking garage, which leads me to wonder if they didn't have lights in parking garages in the 1980s. Waiting for him is the big-haired man who magically LIFTS UP THE BEAUTIFUL TR6 INTO THE AIR AND DESTROYS IT!

I am screaming *not the car! Not the car!*

But the car is fine, because it was only a warning spell. I am relieved. Undeterred, Tim races home to find Kelly has left him. He is sad, so he goes to the police, who detain him without cause. I think Tim needs to brush up on his criminal procedure. Then a Detective shows up and tells him Kelly might be a witch. A witch you say? Tim is affronted. Kelly is perfect and beautiful, so she cannot be a witch.

The Detective refutes Tim's argument by sharing classified information about a cult in the community who is suspected of engaging in human sacrifice.

Legal Movie Review: Spellbinder Cont.

Apparently, this unholy ceremony takes place oceanside during the Winter's Solstice. I wonder if there's a permit for that. Tim handles this news with an admirable amount of stoicism, yet remains unconvinced. If Kelly is involved, it is because she is a victim, don't you know? The Detective takes Tim to see the burned man's body because a carving on the dead man's chest is the

same design as a necklace that Kelly always wears. Tim is dismayed. Later, he is downright glum as he goes with a colleague to pick out a Christmas tree.

More things happen, but you'll have to watch it to find out. The ending is unexpected, and in my opinion, makes the movie.

In all seriousness, *Spellbinder* is a time-capsule. The movie touches on 1980 law firm culture that law stu-

dents today might find interesting. It is well-worth a watch for the 1980 experience alone. Personally, I think it deserves a place in a law library's film catalog.

I give *Spellbinder* five scrunchies.



Tech Tip : Video Conferencing



Casandra Patterson
Reference & Outreach
Librarian
Georgia State University
College of Law

Most of us never would've thought a month ago that we would all be working remotely – or from our own kitchen table/patio/ wherever we find ourselves working from these days. We've all had to adjust our lives to address our new work environ-

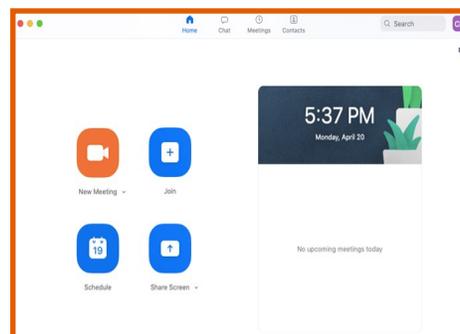
ment. Until recently, I considered myself to be somewhat "tech-savvy." I've learned so much about the different things that can be done with online conference platforms that I thought I would share some of what I've learned in this Tech Tip. Many of you may already know about these features. For those who don't, I hope you find this information helpful!

Most institutions subscribe to at least one online conferencing system. Two of the main ones that I will focus on are Zoom and WebEx. I've had the chance to work with both, having used Zoom for various committee meetings, and WebEx during my first-year legal research class at my previous institution. (I also have access to WebEx at my current job.)

Both offer a lot of the same features, but there are a couple of places where they differ.

Zoom

The first thing to note is that Zoom is continuing to provide a [free personal meeting basic plan](#) that gives you meetings with up to 100 participants to use for up to 40 minutes. It also has a [new desktop client](#) that provides for new features within its platform. This is a snippet of what it looks like:



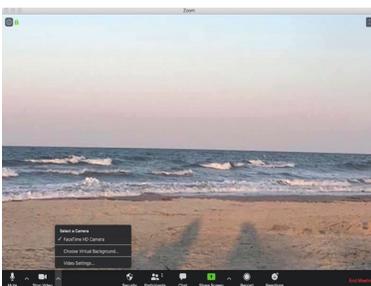
Tech Tip : Video Conferencing Cont.

Both offer a lot of the same features, but there are a couple of places where they differ.

Zoom

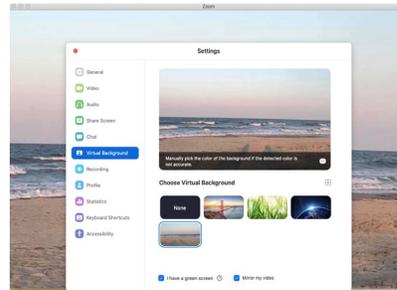
The first thing to note is that Zoom is continuing to provide a [free personal meeting basic plan](#) that gives you meetings with up to 100 participants to use for up to 40 minutes. It also has a [new desktop client](#) that provides for new features within its platform. This is a snippet of what it looks like:

One of the new features is the ability to customize your background picture. As we all sit in our homes, it's easy to want to look around at your colleagues' house to see how it looks. With this customizable feature, meeting participants can change their background to almost anything. Georgia's Supreme Court used it to hold its first virtual court session with the junior justices using a courtroom image as their backgrounds.



Here's one where I chose my last beach vacation as a background – it's a picture of my

favorite vacation spot, the Isle of Palms!

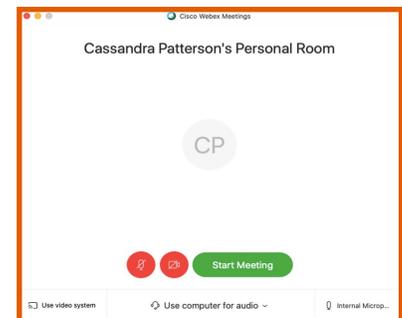


Zoom's new desktop client also provides a way to easily search contacts and files, among other things. You can add people to the contacts tab to allow for quick contact or invitations to chat. You can also add a personal space within the meeting to type up some of your thoughts or reminders. Additionally, there's a new meeting tab that allows participants to view upcoming meetings and past recordings in one complete list.

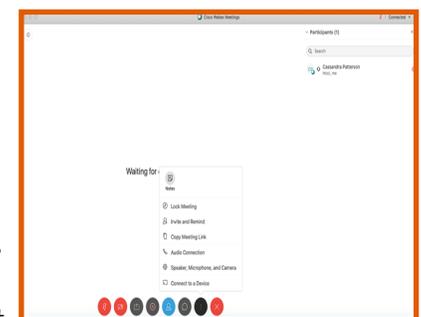
WebEx As of April 20, 2020, WebEx is providing a "[free WebEx Meetings plan](#) that gives you meetings with up to 100 participants...screen sharing, and a personal room to use as long as you like". WebEx has updated their free plan to include meetings for "as long as you want," which is up from the 40-minute limit that they usually have. Allowing 100 participants is also an increase to the 50-person limit that they typically have. Like Zoom, you can also share your desktop, files, etc.

In WebEx, the personal room is useful because it allows

the user to meet and schedule meetings instantly. You can start the personal room and allow people to pop in and out as they like.



I think it's a great option to do virtual office hours. Only one person has to have access to WebEx to be able to invite others who don't have it. Once all of the participants are in, you can even lock the meeting so no one else can intrude!

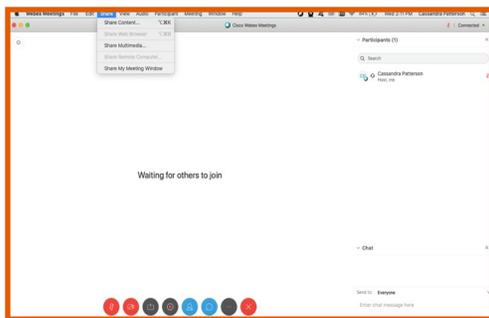


Once in a WebEx meeting, as a host, you can assign roles to people within the group. For example, you may want to designate someone as the note-taker,

Tech Tip: Video Cont.

or maybe you want to pass the role to someone else to present. When we wanted to have someone else present in our classes, we called it “passing the ball.” Students loved doing this, having the ability to show what they learned to their peers! Similar to Zoom, WebEx also allows the user to change or blur their background image.

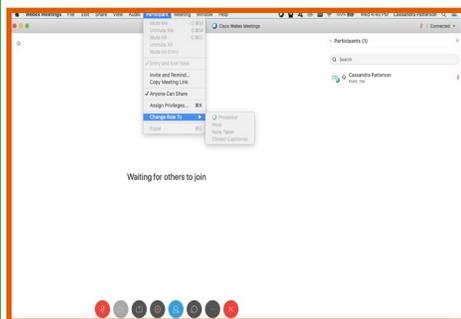
One huge benefit of using



the meeting before allowing them access. Another tip, not included in the article mentioned above, is to lock the meeting once everyone is present.

I am wishing everyone safe and secure online conferences/meetings!

an institution's IT team has usually developed tutorials and tips to ensuring a secure online conference. With the increase in remote learning, many people have experienced problems with people hacking into their meetings. Here's [one resource](#) with tips on making the virtual rooms as secure as possible (it's Zoom based). It suggests tips such as enabling the waiting room feature to see who tries to join



Closed Stacks

About 10 years ago, I pared my unwieldy book collection down to one small shelf of paperbacks that bring back powerful memories of who and where I was when I first read them decades ago: *Mostly Harmless* by Douglas Adams, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *The Princess Bride* by William Goldman, and several more. Many more books are deeply meaningful to me, including books I've encountered more recently. But when I buy books lately, I prefer either to donate them, or give them to a friend to read, who can then pass the book on to someone else when they're done.

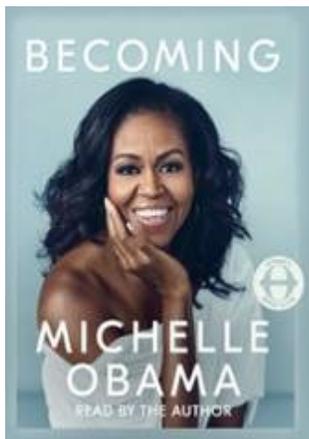
My reading tastes are mainstream enough that I doubt my local library will even need to ILL anything I decide to re-read. I have no regrets about the aggressive weeding of my personal collection, but it does increase the challenge of writing a Closed Stacks column. Fortunately, I've been letting my public library track my e-book checkout history, and there are a few there worth sharing.

I read *Becoming* by Michelle Obama because our academic dean chose it for the text of a 1-credit seminar, and I was intrigued to think this memoir was rich enough to support that much discussion (it really is).

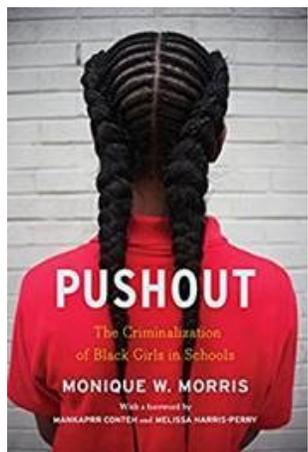


Eve Ross
Reference Librarian
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Closed Stacks Cont.



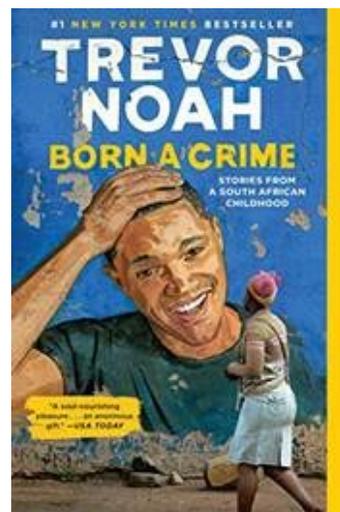
I thought I was already familiar with the Obamas' story, but there was much more in the book. I particularly related to her discussion of the decision to attend law school and of her experience of practicing law, although I was not in the Ivy League nor at Big Law – far from it. The feeling of having achieved what some see as the pinnacle, but not being fulfilled by it and wanting both to be of more help to more people and to have more of a life, might be common to many of us who were once practicing lawyers and are now law librarians. I read *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black*



Girls in Schools by Monique W. Morris because our law school's BLSA chapter held a public viewing of the related [documentary](#). The documentary and subsequent discussion inspired me to review the book for a future issue of the AALS' Pro Bono Section Newsletter.

Pushout shows how authority figures at school perceive Black girls wrongly and treat them unfairly, which often leads to the police, court, and detention systems compounding the problems, when empathy and nurturing were needed instead. While our Black women law students are obviously more mature

than the ages focused on in the book, Dr. Morris' recommendation of a multifaceted approach leaves me pondering my role in the one education system in which I have a little authority: how can I center the experience of Black women in the legal research classroom? How can I in-



Readers' Advisory: DataStory Explain data and Inspire Action Trough Story



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Nancy Duarte, DataStory: Explain data and Inspire Action Through Story (2019)
ISBN: 978-1-940858982

When I first began my library career, I did not understand the value of data. I begrudgingly, and I am now embarrassed to admit halfheartedly, kept, and submitted the required stats my boss requested. Yet, I did not see any value in the data

and definitely did not see any art in the numbers. Upon starting my second job at Oklahoma City University, my views on data quickly changed. Lee Peoples is the director of the Law Library, and if you don't know him, trust me when I say he loves his stats. He doesn't just see data as numbers that are gathered and presented. Instead, Lee's love and use of numbers teach his em-

ployees to feel the same way he does. While working for Lee, I received a crash course in how data and statistics are not merely numbers to be reported to the ABA or IPEDS. I saw firsthand how data presented at the right time and in the proper manner, can mean additional budget dollars, staffing, technology, access and materials. My years at OCU inspired me to appreciate all things data,

Closed Stacks: DataStory Cont.

so when it was recommended to me that I read Nancy Duarte, *DataStory*... I quickly picked up a copy.

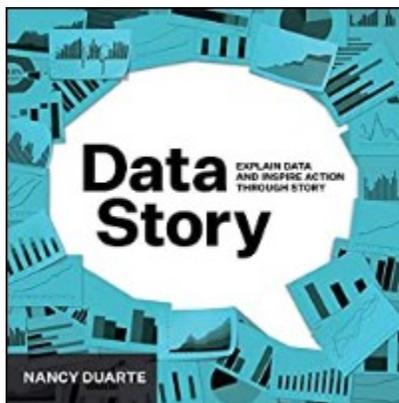
First, a little about the author Nancy Duarte's name may sound familiar if you are one of the more than 2 million individuals who viewed her 2011 Ted Talk, *The Secret Structure of Great Talks*, at Tedx East.

([https://www.ted.com/talks/nan-](https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy-duarte-the-secret-structure-of-great-talks)

[cy_duarte_the_secret_structure_of_great_talks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedco](https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy-duarte-the-secret-structure-of-great-talks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

[mshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/nancy-duarte-the-secret-structure-of-great-talks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)) Ms. Duarte is described as both a communication and persuasion expert, who has written five bestselling books on varied aspects of communication and storytelling. Today, along with writing and speaking engagements, she is often hired by Fortune 500 companies in Silicon Valley to advise them about their storytelling both in and outside of the company.

Her work, *DataStory: Explain Data and Inspire Action Through Story*, is a very accessible book on data. Although it is 200 pages long, it is a swift read as many of the pages are only about 50% filled to ensure that people are receiving specific content on each page. To me, the look and feel of the text are best described as bite-sized with only one or two points on each page. This content layout and style make the work very helpful for a busy profession hoping to grasp and implement a few techniques for the afternoon meeting. I have found that texts about data can be intimidating to some readers new to the topic and depending on the tone of the author, they can read very dry. This tone can



result in a reader having to struggle to get through the work or pull out actionable elements to apply to their workflow. Ms. Duarte's text does not have this problem. It is an exemplary introduction for a beginner working with data and can serve as an excellent refresher or reference guide for those more accustomed to data work.

Much like a reference guide, the book is split up into a formal Introduction and four sections titled: Communicate Data to Others; Bring Clarity Through Story Structure; Make Clear Charts and Slides, and Make Data Stick. Each of the sections is then further broken down into Subsections on point for the umbrella topic. Some of the subsections I found the most valuable for my work were: Communicating to Decision-Makers and Structuring, Executive Summary as a DataStory, Annotating Insights onto Charts, and the Case Studies from the Subsection Storytelling with Data.

I also wanted to highlight that the visuals throughout the work are compelling. They aid the reader in focusing on critical points in each section in the book. With the

straightforward natural structure, visuals, and bitesize points on each page, this book takes the guesswork out of crafting data-based recommendations. It assists the reader in narrowing the focus of their current data set, especially when there is a lot of it, and providing step by step instructions to go from gathering and exploring data to explain it. In turn, the explanation and recommendation crafted using techniques from this book will often move someone to act. Also, this book will help shift readers accustomed to working with data on how to make it more accessible to those who are often not exposed to data. If the reader works with data regularly, then they are probably very accustomed to creating charts and graphs. They often no longer think about why one chart may be better than another and why a non-muddled chart will assist in communicating your message more clearly to stakeholders. The text provided me with a gentle reminder that with a clear chart the stakeholders are listening to me, and with a muddled chart the stockholders are focusing on trying to read the titles and have not heard the bulk of what I have said.

Finally, it is essential to remember *DataStory* is not a book designed to address or explain communication styles, cognitive science, or the interpretation of communication approaches through examples. Instead, Ms. Duarte's *DataStory: Explain Data and Inspire Action Through Story* is more focused on presentation structure, why the human brain is attracted to story, how to leverage this attraction to exact actions and make recommendations with data.

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