



## Top stories in this newsletter



From the President



ALA Midwinter 2020



Putting Ethics in Context



ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap



Membership News

## From the President



*SCALL's annual Institute was held March 6th and 7th in San Diego, and it already feels like a lifetime ago. In addition to the interesting topics and speakers, one topic of conversation that came up over and over was how our institutions were responding to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus...*

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## ALA Midwinter 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



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## Putting Ethics in Context: Professor Scott Cummings on "Legal Ethics in Unethical Times"



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## ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap: Impressions



*For those of you unable to attend the American Bar Association's 2020 Tech Show, here are some of my takeaways as a first-time attendee, a life-long Californian, and a technology law librarian...*

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## Membership News



*Cara Henley Johnson of O'Melveny, and her partner Tomas Velazquez celebrated the due date of their son Tommy. Tommy was born at 23 weeks, so his due date marks an incredible milestone. Congratulations, Cara, Tomas, and Tommy!*

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## From the President

By Erik Y. Adams

### *Stay home. Be safe.*

SCALL's annual Institute was held March 6th and 7th in San Diego, and it already feels like a lifetime ago. In addition to the interesting topics and speakers, one topic of conversation that came up over and over was how our institutions were responding to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. It seemed that if one person reported a new employer mandate in the morning (e.g., no unnecessary travel, or no meetings with outside vendors), by the afternoon everyone else would have an email with a similar restriction. As I write this, most of us are now working from home and adjusting to life where most outside contact is mediated by the telephone or video conference software.

The Board met in March via teleconference and decided to cancel SCALL's spring meeting, which is normally held at the end of March or beginning of April; most of us would not have been allowed to attend, anyway. We are now looking into how we will handle the business meeting, and I suspect it will have to be done virtually, which will be a first for SCALL. The American Library Association (ALA) announced that it has canceled its annual conference in June, and the American Association of Law Libraries has just announced that the in-person conference in July is also canceled.

Social distancing will eventually come to an end, and we will meet in person. There will be more Institutes and more business meetings. They have not left us; they have only been put aside, for a little while, for the greater good.

### **The How and Why of the Institute**

The Institute has two objectives: educate the membership, and make money. Tremendous effort goes into planning an event that will appeal to a broad section of the membership—we really do try to appeal academics, law firm librarians, and public and government law librarians. I have often thought that we are a curious profession, as we are joined by a subject matter, rather than the circumstances of our employment. Appealing to such diverse professional

needs is a challenge, and I think this year's Institute did a particularly good job.

That said, we cannot ignore the fact that the Institute is a money maker for SCALL and makes possible the programs that are at the core of what SCALL does. Most



regional chapters affiliated with AALL host some kind of annual meeting, but the scale and goals vary considerably. Some host one-day events, jam packed with educational content, but not particularly profitable. Others host events that are similar in scope and ambition to AALL's annual conference. With our Institute, we try to split that difference and satisfy our two objectives. That is part of why our Institute spans two days of content: most subjects simply cannot be adequately covered in a single day.

The profits from the Institute make possible the grants we give to members to attend other educational events (like AALL), and sponsor the youth internship program which grows the profession. The majority of the budget that is devoted to these programs comes from profits from the Institute. The quarterly meetings generally break even, and membership dues contribute as well, but the bulk of the funding comes from the Institute.

There is an interplay between different aspects of the Institute that make it into the well-run machine we know and benefit from. For example, by having a two-day event that is out of town for most of our members, we can guarantee a number of overnight guests at the host hotel, which results in much better rates on conference rooms and other facilities. If we held the event closer to home, fewer members would stay overnight, and SCALL would

not make as much money.

We are careful to choose hotels that will give us a good rate, but are also pleasant to work with and nice to stay at. There are many hotels that we have considered and found either to be too expensive, or not nice enough for our members. That is part of why we returned to the Horton Grand Hotel this year. There are other hotels in San Diego, but not as many would be as reasonable or pleasant. Sadly, that is also why we are probably not going to return to Santa Barbara any time soon; most hotels are simply too expensive for our membership.

Having a two-day event also makes the Institute more attractive to vendors, who contribute a considerable portion of the Institute's profits. Without the sponsorship of our vendors, the event would not be as financially successful as it is.

We are now putting together a committee to work on the future of the Institute. If you want to have a say in how the Institute looks going forward, please reach out to Margaret Hall at [mhall@swlaw.edu](mailto:mhall@swlaw.edu). We would love to hear your opinions. And see you next year.

## ALA Midwinter 2020, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

By Rachel Galindo  
Public Services Assistant — Archives  
Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

I like Philadelphia and I don't care who knows it! It will always be the city where I attended my first major library conference, ALA Midwinter. It was only last January so I still feel positive about the experience. Here are a few highlights. First, my colleague and I had almost no luggage for the first two days due to an unexpected plane change. It was a little rough as one might imagine, but it gave us an excuse to visit Target and buy matching pajamas. The joke is on you, Southwest! Second, the people we met there were friendly and accommodating, and the food memorable. We found several vegetarian/vegan restaurants within walking distance of our hotel, including a vegan cheesesteak pizza at Blackbird Pizzeria. Third, Philadelphia does a wonderful job of preserving their history. History is everywhere you turn.

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*continued from page 2 (ALA Midwinter 2020)*



*Philadelphia City Hall. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Galindo.)*

Woven in with it are the accompaniments of a youthful, modern, and lively city. If you have never been, it's truly a city of subtle balance.

The Philadelphia Convention Center is one of those modern places squeezed between smaller, older buildings. It is on top of the famous Reading Terminal Market, which houses many small restaurants, delis, and gift shops. The start of the conference was as exciting as it was overwhelming, but unless you had committee duties, first-time attendees could test drive a variety of information

sessions and explore the exhibit hall. I picked a few sessions that related to my public services position at Loyola Law School, and a few unrelated that sounded interesting. The most valuable session I attended was a presentation from C.V. Martoni on library marketing with social media, which is a focus of mine at the law school. Martoni laid out a thorough 10-step program ideal for an entire marketing team, but I knew that I could implement some of her strategies at my own library. When I returned to work the following Wednesday, I proposed a social media committee per Martoni's suggestion. My social media savvy team of coworkers showed up to our first

meeting with an impressive number of great ideas and loads of enthusiasm. We are starting slow with weekly hashtags, Instagram stories, and simple branding.

Prior to the session on social media strategies, I attended a discussion about technology and privacy where participants discussed privacy issues within their library. Oddly

enough, many shared issues concerned email. One participant complained that patrons in their public library cause privacy risks because they often forget or do not know how to log out of their email. Another public librarian struggled to answer questions from patrons about the best email service to use. Noting that all companies have potential security risks, discussion moderators Elisa Rodrigues and Anders Lyon, suggested there is no perfect answer or solution. They suggest informing patrons of the risks and recommending they consider their individual needs before signing up. The most surprising comment from the group was simply a struggle to define privacy within their institution.

This participant offered that with clearer policies and definitions, staff could better direct and protect their patrons.

Aside from our missing luggage, which was eventually returned, the trip went smoothly. The remaining sessions covered many other great topics like artificial intelligence, virtual reality, gender studies, and community impact. Naturally, the conference catered to readers, so yes, we walked away with too many free books. ALA Midwinter 2020, while largely meant for committees to meet, was proof that resource sharing is a major part of librarianship, but also a professional perk. It was inspirational to see so many librarians and library staff contribute to important ongoing conversations regarding technology and



*Exhibit Hall. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Galindo.)*



*Disrupting Tech Session. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Galindo.)*

the future of libraries. It was also a good reminder to enlist help from those who know more than you. Sure, it is difficult to sit back and let others show you the ropes, but you will learn something new and hopefully come away with the confidence to push yourself further in the profession. Lastly (and this is more of a hot tip), I recommend setting specific goals for future conferences. You may go in with a productive mentality, but conferences move fast when you have a busy schedule. So, before you head to your next library conference plan to learn something new, meet another professional who shares your affinity for matching pajama sets, and take advantage of the many resources provided at conferences like ALA that can help you grow in your professional role.



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## Putting Ethics in Context: Professor Scott Cummings on “Legal Ethics in Unethical Times”

*By Elyse Meyers*

*Assistant Director, Library Research Assistant Program Chair, 2020 Institute Speakers Subcommittee  
UCLA Law School*

I had the pleasure of chairing this year’s 2020 SCALL Institute Speakers Subcommittee, which is responsible for the Institute’s educational program. We knew that we would have no trouble identifying a number of exciting topics related to ethics in law libraries, but a fortuitously-timed UCLA Law School presentation organized by Professor Scott Cummings inspired us to go beyond our original plan. After hearing

Professor Cummings’s talk, called “Ethics in the Era of Trump,” we decided to design a session to contextualize the issues discussed at the Institute and to ground us in the past, present, and future of the ethics of lawyers, lawyering, and libraries. (The UCLA presentation took place just hours before our first committee phone call regarding Institute programming!) We were thrilled to secure Professor Cummings to deliver the Institute’s keynote address, “Legal Ethics in Unethical Times.” The speech was a riveting, thoughtful, sometimes dark look at where we came from, what is happening now, and what we can do in the future to address what we perceive as the sharp deterioration of ethics and values in our current system.

Scott Cummings, the Robert Henigson Professor of Legal Ethics and Professor of Law at UCLA School of Law, began with a reminder that Americans have a

history of believing ethics is in decline. He made clear that his purpose was not to ignore past perceptions of contemporaneous times, but to assert that he believes that intensification of certain shifts in law teaching and practice, as well as new challenges, have made the present difficult. As he put it, “A key premise of my remarks this afternoon is that we have, in fact, entered a new, troubling ethical environment, which makes it incumbent on us to reconsider how we train law students (and lawyers), and how we support their professional development over time. Doing this requires that we reflect seriously upon the role of law schools generally, and law libraries in particular, as repositories of fact and truth.”

Professor Cummings began his address by describing two issues he has identified as contributing to our current state of affairs. The first, what the global

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policy think tank RAND calls “truth decay,” Cummings described as a “waning respect for fact and truth.” He explained that truth decay has affected politics and that lawyers have always had a reputation for having a shady relationship with the truth. The second issue Cummings identified is a change in the legal profession away from idealizing the public good, and toward focusing on a “win at all costs” mentality. Professor Cummings then laid out a history of American ethics regimes over time, starting with Judge David Sharswood’s “Essay on Professional Ethics,” and covering the ABA’s 1908 Canons of Ethics, the ABA’s 1969 Code of Professional Responsibility, and the Rules of Professional Conduct issued just a few years later. He argued that we saw a real weakening of “the pillars that held up legal ethics” starting in the 1970s.

The heart of Cummings’s discussion was the three issues he sees as contributing to our declining ethical regime in the U.S.

First is “fragmentation.” He argued that this fragmentation is expressed as inequality in the profession itself, including in the “hyper-stratification” of the gap in salary for firm lawyers vs. nonprofit lawyers, caused in part by changes in big firms’ practice and structure and by an increasing sense that success as a lawyer is about “keeping up with the Joneses.” The second factor Cummings identified is hyperpartisanship, both in the political sphere and in lawyers’ professional sphere. He asserted that, for lawyers, the idea of extreme loyalty to clients increasingly seems in conflict with their duties to the public good and the system (see, e.g., Rudy Giuliani). The audience audibly gasped when Professor Cummings said “we increasingly live in a world in which loyalty trumps—where what it means to be a lawyer has shifted from serving *justice* to serving *just-us*.” The third factor he discussed was hyperspecialization, which happens when

law practice groups get more and more particularized in focus, and when law schools become so focused on rankings that post-graduation employment numbers matter more than values, and the extreme cost of legal education makes public interest work seem financially untenable as a career.

Finally, Professor Cummings turned to what we can do to start mending our broken system. He again had three ideas: first, change our ideas about how to train students in ethics—because the standard single required Professional Responsibility course isn’t working; second, teach students how to identify legitimacy in sources, arguments, etc.; and third, retake control over what we understand ethics to be. As a warm and optimistic closing, Professor Cummings encouraged us to remember that many good things are still happening in the world—and we should celebrate that!

## ABA Tech Show 2020 Recap: Impressions

By Jimmy Pak  
Research Law Librarian for Technology Services  
UC Irvine School of Law

For those of you unable to attend the



*Even the Bean was cold. (Photo courtesy of Jimmy Pak.)*

American Bar Association’s 2020 Tech Show, here are some of my takeaways as a first-time attendee, a life-long Californian, and a technology law librarian. First, the cold. I was shocked how underprepared my wardrobe was for actual seasonal weather. Beyond the soul crushing temperature drops, I was happy to attend presentations geared towards academic instruction. The Tech Show felt

like a snapshot of where the current legal technology market stands, bridging the gap between hypothetical future tech to practical (and profitable) implementation.

Overall, the Tech Show serves as a snapshot of the current legal technology market for small to mid-sized law firms. While a few niche legal

**Save the Date!**  
**SCALL June**  
**Business Meeting**  
**TBD**

market tools stood out from the vendor halls, the majority of the vendors represented varying customer relations management systems (CRMs). One key observation was that nearly all CRM systems automated the same processes in a law firm and had a similar dashboard style interface. Because of the uniformity in the user interface, law school instruction of a single CRM platform would develop skills that would be translatable to any CRM platform.

The educational tracks were also enlightening for a first time Tech Show participant. “Tech Toolbox 2020: What’s Right for Your Practice?” offered a fast paced, 60-minute presentation of the most popular legal technology tools for a law firm. The presentation detailed numerous

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## Membership News

By Judy K. Davis and Karen Skinner

### Tomas Joel Velazquez



Birth Date:  
November 17, 2019  
1 lb. 5.6 oz  
11.6"

Due Date:  
March 12, 2020  
8 lb. 1.5 oz.  
19.7"

*Tommy Velasquez celebrates his due date at a healthy 8 lb. 1.5 oz.*

**Cara Henley Johnson** of **O'Melveny**, and her partner **Tomas Velazquez** celebrated the due date of their son **Tommy**. Tommy was born at 23 weeks, so his due date marks an incredible milestone. Congratulations, **Cara**, **Tomas**, and **Tommy**!

**Leonette Williams**, Emerita Law Librarian at **USC**, was presented with the 2019 **Albert O. Brecht Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **SCALL Holiday Party**. Thank you, **Leonette**, for your many years of service to Southern California law librarians!



*Leonette Williams, pictured with the 2019 Albert O. Brecht Lifetime Achievement Award.*

### Welcome new members!

**Araceli Argueta** is Collection Management Services Assistant - Serials & Acquisitions at **Loyola Law School**

**Diane Ellis** is a student at **San Jose State University**

**Jane Lah** is Library Supervisor at the **USC Law Library**

**Jane Lippmann** is Information Management Advisor at **Thomson Reuters**

**Kelly Maldnado** is Librarian I at the **University of Southern California**

**Jenna Pontious** is Reference and Instruction Librarian at **Riverside County Law Library**

**Victoria Tokar** is Reference Librarian at **UNLV**

Any corrections, changes, or additions to your membership information, as well as any announcements for Membership News, should be sent to:

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## Career Opportunities

Date Posted	Job Description	Location
March 11	Senior Research Analyst; Mintz	San Diego or NYC
March 6	Research Analyst; LAC	Los Angeles or Irvine
March 6	Research Analyst; Buchalter APC	Los Angeles or Irvine
February 18	Research Specialist; Best Best & Krieger	Any California Office
February 5	Research Analyst; Corporate; Morrison Foerster	Any U.S. Office
February 4	Research & Knowledge Analyst; Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom	Palo Alto
February 3	Research Librarian; David Wright Tremaine	Any West Coast Office
January 31	Serials & Acquisitions Librarian; LAC Group	Los Angeles
January 31	International Law Reference Librarian; LAC Group	Los Angeles
January 31	Research Specialist; Kirkland & Ellis	Los Angeles
January 28	Supervising Librarian I; DOJ	San Diego County
January 17	Competitive Intelligence Research & Reference Specialist; Wilson Sonsini	Any Wilson Sonsini Office
January 17	Research & Reference Specialist; Wilson Sonsini	Any Wilson Sonsini Office
November 5	Senior Researcher; Abernathy MacGregor	Los Angeles or New York or San Francisco or Houston or Washington DC
October 28	Part-Time Reference and Technical Services Librarian; Hill Farrer & Burrill	Los Angeles
June 18	Associate Dean and Director of the Law Library; University of Southern California	Los Angeles

By Don Buffalo  
 Chair, SCALL Placement Committee  
 donald.buffaloe@pepperdine.edu

View complete job descriptions at [scallnet.org/career-opportunities/](http://scallnet.org/career-opportunities/)



## Treasurer's Report

By Caitlin Hunter, Reference Librarian, UCLA School of Law

### SCALL Balances

Bank Balance as of March 5, 2020	\$43,764.30
PayPal Balance as of March 5, 2020	\$4,236.79
Petty Cash Balance as of March 5, 2020	\$101.06
Total Balance as of March 5, 2020	\$48,102.15

Committee Income and Expenses since July 1, 2019

Committee	Budget*	Income	Expenses	Budget Balance
Archives	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Awards*	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,058.86	-\$558.86
Board	\$3,900.00	\$0.00	\$461.60	\$3,438.40
Government Relations	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Grants**	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,240.00	\$5,760.00
IT	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$257.99	\$742.01
Institute	\$12,000.00	\$13,579.13	\$1,916.99	\$23,662.14
Inner City Youth	\$6,000.00	\$25.00	\$0.85	\$6,024.15
Library School Liaison	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Membership	\$1,400.00	\$4,402.00	\$201.22	\$5,600.78
Newsletter	\$300.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$375.00
Professional Development	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Programs	\$3,000.00	\$3,331.62	\$4,984.53	\$1,347.09
PALI	\$150.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$350.00
Public Relations	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$289.08	\$160.92
Secretary	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$420.00	\$580.00
Treasurer	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$248.35	\$251.65
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$44,700.00</b>	<b>\$21,612.75</b>	<b>\$12,079.47</b>	<b>\$54,233.28</b>

\*The Board approved a one-time additional expenditure of Awards funds, in order to give the Rohan Chapter Service Award to the entire PALI committee.

\*\*The Board approved an additional \$1,000 in grants for 2019-2020, due to the anticipated popularity of the AALL Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

## Submission Deadlines

The SCALL Newsletter team welcomes submission of any articles of interest to the law library community. Contact Christina Tsou, SCALL Newsletter Editor: [ctsou@law.uci.edu](mailto:ctsou@law.uci.edu)

All submissions should be received by:

May/June 2020	May 4, 2020
Sept/Oct 2020	September 8, 2020
Nov/Dec 2020	November 16, 2020
Jan/Feb 2021	January 11, 2021
Mar/Apr 2021	March 15, 2021

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