

# NOCALL News

Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
A chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laura Moorer

Attending AALL in Portland this summer was a reminder of the strength and creativity within our profession. From thought-provoking keynotes to hands-on sessions, the conference encouraged us to step outside of our comfort zones and imagine new ways of serving our users, incorporating and using AI responsibly, and shaping the future of law librarianship. The theme of "BE BOLD" resonated throughout, challenging us to think beyond the familiar and embrace opportunities for growth and leadership. For me, embracing the "BE BOLD" theme allowed me the opportunity to be a first-time presenter (and trying to overcome my public speaking fears!) in a session called "Beyond the Stacks." Being bold and working with such wonderful panelists allowed me to share enthusiasm for my library and our patrons, even though our library is closed to the public. Again, encouraging us all to be bold and boldly think outside the box of how we can help the communities we work and live in.

Being bold doesn't necessarily mean making sweeping, dramatic changes. Often, it means taking small but deliberate steps, asking a new question, suggesting a different approach, speaking up in spaces where our voices need to be heard, or speaking up for others whose voices maybe cannot be as loud as they would normally be right now. Each of us has the ability to model boldness in our daily work, in ways that not only benefit our institutions but also strengthen our profession. And sometimes boldness is just showing up and caring.

As we return from Portland, the challenge is to carry that spirit forward. What bold action can you take in your library this fall? Maybe try out a new AI skill you learned about, email the new friend you made and become a pen pal, mentor a new member, or try out a program that you have avoided in the past. Every time you choose boldness you display courage and that helps us build more resilient and responsive libraries.

When we share ideas, celebrate each other's successes, and learn from our trials, we embody the very spirit of boldness that AALL asks of us. May this year be one where we not only embrace change but lead it—with confidence, creativity, and collaboration to make each of our communities a better place. As keynote speaker Roosevelt Weeks shared, "Change is constant—boldness drives progress." Let's boldly lead that progress in our libraries and our profession.



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## PROFESSIONAL READING IN REVIEW

Refugio Acker-Ramirez and Kristin Brandt  
U.C. Davis Law Library

**“The Current State of Female Representation in Library Leadership: A Comprehensive Analysis of Over 13,000 Open U.S. Libraries by Library Type, Collection Size, and State,”** by J. Daniel McGeeney, *Journal of Library Administration* (June 26, 2025)

In a study of over 13,000 libraries, the author found that women are substantially underrepresented in library director positions when compared to their prevalence as librarians. In academic libraries, 67.7% of library directors are women, even though women make up 75.9% of the librarian workforce. Only 67.5% of directors in government agency libraries were women, compared to 82.2% of librarians. Women are better represented in public library director positions (83.8% compared to 81.1% of public librarians), but the percentage of women directors declined with collection size. Some of the reasons cited for the discrepancies are lack of mentorship, pay imbalances, unequal gender standards, and perceptions that men are better leaders.

**“Finding Equilibrium: An Integrative Approach to Balancing Human and Artificial Intelligence in Legal Research,”** by Stephanie L. Grace, *Legal Reference Services Quarterly* (August 7, 2025)

At the last NOCALL Business Meeting on July 30, member Stephanie Grace presented an overview of her forthcoming article, which was published last month. The article explores how learning and information processing occur in the brain, and how AI tools can influence these processes. Using frameworks such as cognitive load theory, distributed cognition, and metacognition, it illustrates how cognitive challenges may arise when

using generative AI for legal research. To address these challenges, the author offers strategies such as scaffolding research instruction to build foundational skills over time and embedding AI literacy into both formal and informal research instruction, along with other practical examples. The article provides guidance for teaching legal research in ways that help students strengthen their research and reasoning skills while learning when and how to use AI tools effectively, without losing their sense of agency in the research process.

**“Autistic Librarians in the Academic Library Hiring Process,”** by Rachael Anne Cohen, Payton Cooke, Michael Holt, Megan Lounsberry, Erin Roga, Karen Stoll Farrell, & Jade Squires, *College & Research Libraries*, vol. 86, no. 5, pp 705-727 (September 2025)

Although library literature has studied autistic students in college environments, little has been written about autistic librarians. In this study, the authors explored the experiences of autistic librarians in the recruitment process for academic library jobs in the U.S. and Australia. Respondents identified flexible scheduling, the availability of remote work, and clear descriptions of job duties as important aspects of the recruitment process. Specifically, remote schedules can help autistic people work productively by reducing the stress and sensory overload of being in an office environment. Many respondents noted difficulties in all day or lengthy in-person interviews. The authors make recommendations for improving the hiring process for all candidates, not just autistic people. These include educating hiring committees to rely less on that nebulous “good fit” and comfort with socializing, giving breaks during lengthy interviews, sending questions ahead of time, and using the same interview questions for all candidates.

## NOCALL News

The NOCALL News is published five times a year by the Northern California Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, and is a benefit of membership.

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## **“Top Law Schools Boost AI Training as Legal Citation Errors Grow,”** by Elleiana Green, *Bloomberg Law News* (August 19, 2025)

This article highlights how law schools such as the University of Chicago, the University of Pennsylvania, and Yale are aiming to address the elephant in the room by updating their curricula to teach students about the limitations of AI tools and the importance of verifying their outputs. This push comes as the legal profession continues to face issues with attorneys being sanctioned for submitting briefs that include false case citations generated by AI. The article references Bloomberg Law’s 2024 Path to Practice survey, which found that AI was mostly included in elective course offerings. However, schools like the University of Chicago Law School are now working to integrate AI into doctrinal classes and clinical training. While the long-term impact and role that AI will have in legal practice remains to be seen, it is imperative that more law schools follow suit to help prepare students to use AI tools responsibly.

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## **LEGAL TECH RECAP**

Kristie Chamorro, UC Berkeley Law Library

Fall is here, and the legal tech updates haven’t slowed down! This time around we’re seeing platforms converge through acquisitions and integrations, the big players rolling out updates, and courts setting statewide guardrails.

As always, send along topics, trends, or tools you’d like to see in future updates.

### **Bloomberg Law**

At the AALL conference, Bloomberg Law [highlighted](#) its GenAI-enhanced features, including [Bloomberg Law Answers](#) and its AI Assistant. In August, Bloomberg [announced](#) Dockets updates that significantly expand state court coverage and search capabilities and introduced a new [Expert Witness Search](#) tool that allows users to research experts across dockets, opinions, and news.

### **Clio**

Soon after our last newsletter went out, [Clio](#) announced a \$1 billion deal to acquire [vLex](#). The stated goal of this major acquisition is to build a unified platform that handles case management, legal research, and GenAI document drafting. Clio’s CEO [described](#) this deal as the start of a new era of agentic AI in legal practice, where a platform can handle both the “business of law” and the “substance of law” in one system.

### **Harvey**

[Harvey](#), a legal AI platform used by many firms, [announced](#) that their chat interface can now tap directly into Lexis content. Harvey also announced an integration with [iManage](#), a knowledge work platform that will allow Harvey users to access documents within iManage.

These recent announcements were covered in a September [Geek in Review podcast](#), where Harvey co-founder Gabe Pereyra discussed the new integrations and Harvey’s broader move toward a matter-centric approach, organizing documents, emails, and research by client matter so firms can keep related information in one place while maintaining ethical walls and data protections.

### **LawDroid**

In early September, [LawDroid](#) announced the nationwide launch of [LawAnswers AI](#), a legal information platform designed to address the access to justice gap. The tool provides jurisdiction-aware responses, source-backed answers, and speech recognition. As Tom Martin, LawDroid’s CEO, explained in a recent [LawSites post](#), this tool aims to provide an accessible first step toward explaining rights while clearly distinguishing legal information from legal advice with guidance on when to seek an attorney.

### **Lexis**

Lexis expanded its [Protégé AI](#) platform with the [announcement](#) of Protégé General AI, a new feature that allows users to access multiple AI models (like Claude and GPT) within a secure workspace. It



enables users to perform a variety of tasks from complex legal analysis to everyday brainstorming without switching between different AI tools. [Ambrogi](#) and [Jean O'Grady](#) covered this update, along with Lexis's broader vision for "courtroom-grade AI," new agentic workflows that allow lawyers to review and edit sub-prompts before receiving results, and updates on their partnership with [Harvey AI](#) for co-developing legal workflows.

### **Legora**

[Legora](#), a Swedish GenAI legal platform, has been in the news after a number of firmwide rollouts including [McGuireWoods](#), [Goodwin](#) and [Linklaters](#).

### **Thomson Reuters**

In August, Thomson Reuters [announced](#) the launch of [CoCounsel Legal](#). O'Grady [explained](#) that for law librarians, one of the most notable aspects is how *Deep Research* and guided workflows effectively provide "on the spot" training, showing users research plans, reasoning, and source connections as they work, while still allowing librarians and attorneys to reinforce the critical step of verifying sources. [LawSites](#), [Legal Insider](#), and [The Tech Savvy Lawyer](#) reported on the launch.

Ambrogi also [reported on](#) the August release of [Westlaw Advantage](#), which Thomson Reuters says will be the final versioned release of Westlaw. Going forward, all upgrades will be delivered as continuous updates under a subscription model, reducing major version rollouts but requiring librarians to keep an eye on ongoing feature changes.

### **Things You Should Check Out**

In July, the [Judicial Council of California](#) adopted a statewide GenAI framework for courts, making it the largest US court system to adopt AI usage policies for judges and court staff. This framework, which includes [Rule 10.430](#) and companion [Standard 10.80](#), requires each court that permits GenAI use to adopt a written policy by December 15, 2025 covering scope, safeguards, and oversight. The key provisions include prohibiting confidential information input into public GenAI tools, ensuring non-discriminatory use, requiring human review of AI outputs, disclosing AI-generated public materials, maintaining ethical compliance, and allowing local courts flexibility in implementation.



## NOCALL BRIDGE TO BRUNCH NETWORKING EVENT

On August 17th, several NOCALL members embarked on 3.5-mile urban hike. Starting at the south end, they walked across the Golden Gate Bridge and down the hill into Sausalito, where they stopped for brunch. They finished the day with a ferry ride back to San Francisco.





## **Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL)**

### **May Business Meeting Minutes**

**Date/Time:** May 9, 2025, 11:00 am

**NOCALL Bylaws:** <https://nocall.org/bylaws/>

**Participants:** [on file with Secretary]

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- I. Welcome from Bianca Randall & Laura Moorer.**
- II. Adopt meeting minutes from last NOCALL meeting held April 10, 2025.**
  - a. Outcome: David Holt raised motion to adopted. Members unanimously adopted the April 10, 2025 NOCALL Meeting Minutes, which, in relevant part, consolidated the NOCALL Constitution and Bylaws by repealing the former and amending the latter; provided updates on NOCALL's Government Relations Committee; and announced Ramona Collins' retirement in June 2025 with a request for a new listserv administrator.
- III. Swearing in new NOCALL officers.**
  - a. Outcome: New officers were sworn in. Laura Moorer, President. Refugio Aker-Rameriz, Vice President. Amreet Sandhu, Secretary. Holly Herndon, Member At-large. Stephanie Grace, Member At-large.
- IV. Review of Projects.**
  - a. Volunteers needed to support the Academic Relations Committee. Contact Kristi Chamorro.
  - b. Volunteers needed to manage NOCALL Webpage. Contact David Holt,
  - c. Sponsorship leads requested for AALL Pacific Chapters Joint Reception, which includes friends from the following chapters: WestPac, LLOPs, NOCALL, and SCALL. Contact Laura Moorer.
- V. Other Items.**
  - a. Laura Moorer would like to incorporate speakers and short presentations at NOCALL business meetings. Those who are interested or have suggestions may contact Laura Moorer.
  - b. Laura Moorer is having some trouble with the NOCALL email, instructed members to reach her at her work email.
- VI. Adjourn.**



# Stephanie Grace

Mabie Law Library  
UC Davis School of Law

***If money was not an issue, what new library service would you offer your patrons (lawyers, students, the public etc.)?***

A community curriculum that treats legal knowledge as a civic right (think workshops on reading contracts, asserting workplace rights, navigating the immigration system, etc.) open to all and co-taught by practitioners, legal educators (librarians included, of course!), law students, and affected community members.

***If you were not working as a law librarian, what would you most likely be doing?***

I'd love to think I'd be a professional adventure photographer, but more realistically I'd probably be teaching sports management.

***What's the best advice you've ever received working as a librarian?***

You belong here.

***Is there anything obscure that you know more than the average bear about?***

I know far too much about the Pacific Crest Trail, the 2,650-mile footpath that runs from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington.

***Is there anything that most people don't know about you that you would like to share?***

I'm from a tiny Appalachian town. My mom was the second of 14 children, the largest family in town, so when mail arrived addressed to the "mayor" of Cavetown, Maryland (a post that still doesn't exist), it went straight to my grandfather.

***What is your favorite meal?***

With apologies to vegetarians, my favorite meal will forever be my grandmother's hog maw – a pig's stomach stuffed with potatoes, sausage, and onion, then baked and basted until perfectly crispy and chewy.



# 2025-2026 NOCALL Officers and Committees

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