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## **AALL Meets in Philadelphia, July 15-20, 2000**

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This year's AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia was a winner! The program was professionally presented and right on point to meet the needs of attendees. Philadelphia's Convention Center was well organized, making both the meetings and the exhibits easily accessible. The City of Philadelphia was more attractive and interesting than I had anticipated. Here's an overview to show you what I mean:

### The Program

On Saturday, a day long workshop, *Electronic Licensing Agreements*, provided hands on experience to assist in recognizing appropriate and inappropriate terms in agreements to license electronic products. Exercises and small group work helped attendees to develop an understanding of what terms should not be included, how to negotiate for useful terms, and how to get help from experts on Web sites such as [www.licensingmodels.com/](http://www.licensingmodels.com/) , [www.library.yale.edu/~license/](http://www.library.yale.edu/~license/), and [www.cic.uiuc.edu/cli/contracts/standardized\\_agreement\\_language](http://www.cic.uiuc.edu/cli/contracts/standardized_agreement_language).

On Sunday, the exhibit hall opened, the full program schedule got underway, and many of the SIS business and committee meetings were held. It seemed to me that the exhibit hall featured a similar number of vendors as at last year's meeting. My picks for highlights of the exhibit hall were BNA's demo area (useful products in new formats and unlimited Starbucks coffee, a must for the long hours), West's demos of the new Bob Berring videotapes on research, and Hein's unveiling of *Hein Online*.

At the Association Luncheon, it was announced that Lexis will partner with AALL to fund an endowment to form the AALL Research Fund. Emeritus librarians were honored and so were the winners of outstanding library publications. Each place at the lunch included a CD collection of music called "Yo! Philadelphia," celebrating the Philly music scene. For more information see [www.phillymusic.com](http://www.phillymusic.com).

The President's Program on Monday was a high point. Motivational speaker Carol Leland began her presentation on change and leadership by asking the audience to ask themselves two questions: 1. What is the ideal toward which I am striving, and 2. What does my situation call for from me? She followed up by bringing into her discussion the work of John Cotter, an article called "The End of Jobs," and an essay on leadership by Diana Chapman Walsh titled "The Future of Organizations." (I was so inspired that I bought two copies of the program tape.)

There were many other program offerings such as ones on librarians taking the lead in copyright reform in the new Millennium, the new legal citation manual, specific research tools and instruction techniques, financial forecasting, core competencies, foreign research resources, assistance to the nonlegal patron, and the use of new technologies, including distance learning. As usual, each day had more interesting programs than I could attend. That's what the tapes are for, right?

## The City & Its Convention Center

The Philadelphia Convention Center connected to the main convention hotel so attendance at meetings and visiting the exhibits was convenient. Evidence of the (then forthcoming) Republican Convention was everywhere in decorations, banners, and souvenirs for sale. Unlike last year's meeting in Washington, D.C., it was unseasonably cool in Philadelphia. This made the Hein Fun Run much more fun! (Note for next year: you can walk it if you don't want to run.) Unfortunately, the airlines did not cooperate and some attendees had difficulty getting to and from the meeting. (Note: no more connections through Denver.) Once there, however, there was a great deal to see. Philadelphia's Reading Market, a wonderful multi-ethnic food extravaganza, is conveniently located across from the Marriott. There is a superb art museum and other great cultural offerings, including major academic law libraries like the University of Pennsylvania Law Library. For someone who just moved away from San Francisco, I was surprised to find that Philadelphia has dim sum to rival the best in The Bay Area. Of course, Philadelphia is also a city with great historical significance, including sites such as the hall where the Constitutional Convention met, Betsy Ross' house, and the Liberty Bell. (I hear they will let you touch it but I never got close enough!) It is also a city of many public statues, including a larger than life size one of the late Mayor Frank Rizzo striding down the steps of City Hall looking for all the world like he is either hailing a cab or yelling to a friend "YO! Whassup?"

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