

A Day in the Life of the Law

AALL Public Relations Committee to sponsor photo contest that showcases the profession

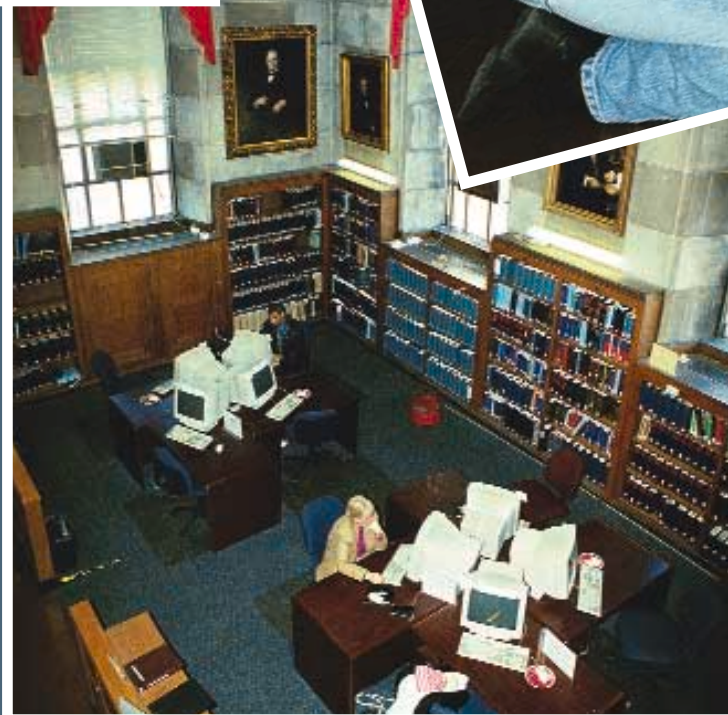
by Holly M. Riccio

public relations



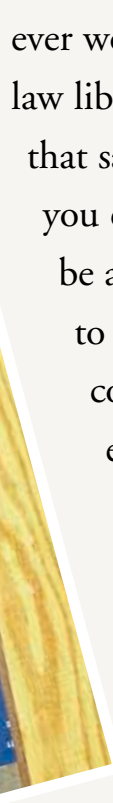
These photos represent a few of the types of shots you can submit for the “Day in the Life of the Law Library Community” contest. Stay tuned for more details from the Public Relations Committee.

photos by Elizabeth Farina



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Library Community



As you go through your daily routine, have you ever wondered what other law librarians are doing at that same moment? Have you ever wanted to be able to explain to someone the complexity and excitement that is part of a career in law librarianship? Have you ever wanted to document your library for historical purposes, so that years from now—when we all have virtual libraries and books are no more—people can see what law libraries and law librarians looked like and did in the 21st century? If you answered yes to any (or all) of these questions, then keep reading ... this project is for you.

The AALL Public Relations Committee is charged to "... promote members, member institutions and the profession to AALL members, employees, the general library profession, the legal community and the community at large. This includes increasing awareness and understanding of the profession of law librarianship and changing the image of law librarians." As part of fulfilling its charge, the committee has developed a plan to document "A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community" through photographs. This project will be similar in nature to a number of other "Day in the Life" projects that have been undertaken by various organizations in the past few years (See "A Sampling of Day in the Life Projects" on this page).

During National Library Week (April 10-16, 2005), AALL members in law libraries around the country will take photos of activities in their workplaces and select the best photos for submission to AALL. The end result of this project will be hundreds of photos documenting a single work day in the law library community, capturing the range of skills and tasks involved in law librarianship and providing a behind-the-scenes look at our profession today.

To ensure that a variety of law library scenes and activities are photographed, participants will register in advance and give some indication of what pictures they plan to take. Some examples of proposed photos might include the following.

- At the circulation desk
- Working in technical services
- Drinking coffee at a staff meeting
- Assisting a patron in the stacks
- Shelving books
- Teaching a legal research class

Potential participants may want to look at and use AALL's *Statement on the Value Added to Organizations by Law Librarians* as a guideline for the various roles law librarians play—information evaluator, information manager, expert researcher, teacher, and trainer. Once all of the photos

have been taken and submitted, the AALL Public Relations Committee, with the assistance of the AALL director of publications, will award prizes for the best photos submitted in various categories. More information will be forthcoming about the specific details of this project in the coming months, including a regular sidebar in *AALL Spectrum* titled, "Photography 101: The Dos and Don'ts of Good Photo-Taking."

One of the inspirations for this project was the fact that AALL Headquarters doesn't have a large archive of photos of law librarians or law libraries. The photos gathered from this project will provide a snapshot of the profession at this historic

milestone, illustrating how a day in the life of law librarians and law libraries has changed during the 100 years of AALL's history.

Please don't think that you need to be a professional photographer to participate in this project; the goal is to get as many representative photos as possible of what happens daily in law libraries across the country.

The pictures that we all take and submit will be what future law librarians look back on to catch a glimpse of the past.

This is your chance to chronicle and preserve the goings-on of your law library and provide law librarians everywhere a peek into your daily work life. In another 100 years, when AALL celebrates its 200 year centennial, what do you want people to look back and see? What image do you want to put in a time capsule for future law librarians? The AALL Public Relations Committee invites you to give us your feedback and ideas on this project, as we work up to the event. Please send any comments to the AALL Public Relations Chair Erika Wayne at erwayne@stanford.edu. ■

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A Sampling of Day in the Life Projects

A Day in the Life of the National Archives and Records Administration
www.archives.gov/about_us/day_in_the_life/introduction.html

A Day in the Life of the U.S. Armed Forces
www.daymilitary.com

A Day in the Life of Africa
www.ditlafrica.com