

# DIXIE DIGEST

[www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

August 2025

## *A Message from our President*

*Julie Nims*



Hey AALS members! I hope you are all doing well, staying healthy, and have had a great Summer. I cannot believe summer will be over soon! But man has it been a hot one!

If you have not signed up to attend the NALS Conference in Mobile, it is not too late. The Early Bird Registration has passed, but there is still time to get registered. The committee has been working hard; we have some great speakers lined up. If you need CLE, you definitely want to join us. If you want to have a great time, meet new people from all different states, and have a great time networking, you need to join us. Don't wait, get signed up today!

AALS Fall Board Meeting will be held via Zoom on a Saturday in October after the NALS National Conference. More information about the date and login information will be sent out at a later time.

Hope you all have a blessed and safe rest of your Summer! If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. And remember, Everything Begins with an Idea! Have an idea, reach out to me and let me know, want to keep it confidential, no problem we can do that too. The only bad idea is keeping it to yourself and not sharing or voicing it.



**Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel**

**64 South Water Street, Mobile, AL, USA, 36602**

Link for more info: <https://www.nals.org/page/2025conference>

## VICE PRESIDENT

*Judy Whigham, PP, PLS*



# Everything Begins with An Idea

This Dixie Digest report is basically the Same Song, Second Verse – a repeat of my June report. I want everyone to review the membership plan and put feet to faith and come up with an idea for a membership/recruiting event or program that you can use in your chapters or even individually to attract new members and get former members to come back to the fold.

With the NALS Conference being held in Mobile this Fall we have a unique opportunity to market AALS, NALS and your local chapters like we have never had before and may not have again for a while. For anyone who wants to get to the top of their game with CLE without having to sign up for college credits and other drastic measures, they need to register for the NALS Conference! We have approximately 16 hours of CLE over a 3-day event and vendors from all over with the latest technology and tools to help offices and staff of every size and description. It's really a one-stop shop! It's like **Legal** Comic-Con and they don't have to go to San Diego to attend or wear a crazy costume!

I know it's a busy time right now but start thinking of what you can do for membership promotion and feel free to contact me and we will come up with some ideas and a plan that will work for your chapter or for each of you individually. We are all called to market and recruit. It's not just for the Membership Chairman. After the NALS conference I will be sending out information on the AALS Education Grant, so, you can tap into that resource and up your marketing/recruiting game.

One other thing I wanted to mention is that I recently saw that MLPA has purchased a lovely table banner with their chapter logo on it and it would be a great tool for marketing to use at chapter meetings and anytime the chapter has an event or is around nonmembers. It's just one more option to consider when you're thinking about how you can market your chapter and AALS and NALS. It would be really great for each chapter to have something similar to bring the focus on membership!

The Membership Plan follows below. Please contact me if you have any questions concerning the Membership Plan. You can reach me anytime as follows and I really want to hear from you:

Judy Whigham, PP, PLS  
c/o Jones Walker LLP  
11 N Water St., Suite 1200  
Mobile, AL 36602  
Ph: 251.439.7507 (office)  
Work email: [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com)

Home:  
14 S. Lafayette St., Apt. 2  
Mobile, AL 36604  
Ph: 251.689.9303 (cell)  
Personal email: [judyjudyjudyw@hotmail.com](mailto:judyjudyjudyw@hotmail.com)

Please review the plan with your chapters and I challenge each chapter to set a goal to hold at least one membership event and/or recruit even one new or returning member whose membership has lapsed. Remember, too, that I have a very handy Marketing Brochure that prints out as a trifold and is great to hand out at chapter meetings to guests or anywhere you might have a seminar or other event. Contact me and I will be happy to send copies to you or send it digitally to print or forward yourselves. Baby Steps works great, so, start small and get some ideas flowing to Recruit, Retain, and Recognize! **Remember, Everything Begins with an Idea!**

## Membership Goals:

**Recruit; Retain; Recognize!!!**

***Focus: Reach out and interact.***

***We are only limited by our ability not to try and not to reach out.***

## Chapter Incentives:

Fall Board Meeting	Drawing for \$15.00 among Chapters with 5% increase.
Winter Board Meeting	Drawing for \$20.00 among Chapters with 10% increase
Annual Meeting	Drawing for \$25.00 among Chapters with 15% increase

## Member Incentives:

First Timers: Drawing for \$20.00 AALS Bucks to be used at the next board meeting on the AALS Funding Auction, drawing to be held at each board meeting.

The member that sponsored the first timer will also receive \$20.00 AALS Bucks to be used at the next board meeting on the AALS Funding Auction. Member must be present to receive the incentive.

Membership Sponsor For every member that you sponsor, your name will go into a drawing for a \$100.00 check. You must email me the new member's membership application to [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com), in order to have your name put into the drawing. The cutoff for entries into the drawing will be 10 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The winner will be drawn at the 2026 annual meeting.

Fall Board For every member that you sponsor from May 1, 2025, to 10 days before the Fall Board Meeting, your name will go into a drawing for a \$25.00 check to be drawn at the 2025 Fall Board Meeting. You must email me the new member's membership application to [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com) in order to have your name put into the drawing.

Winter Board For every member that you sponsor from the Fall Board Meeting to 10 days before the Winter Board Meeting, your name will go into a drawing for a \$25.00 check to be drawn at the 2026 Winter Board Meeting. You must email me the new member's membership application to [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com) in order to have your name put into the drawing.

Annual Meeting For every member that you sponsor from the Winter Board Meeting to 10 days before Annual Meeting, your name will go into a drawing for a \$25.00 check to be drawn at the 2026 Annual Meeting. You must email me the new member's membership application to [jwhigham@joneswalker.com](mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com) in order to have your name put into the drawing.

## Member Recognition:

Attendance Award Drawing to be held among members attending 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meetings (seminars inclusive) for a \$50.00 check, to be given away at 2026 Annual Meeting.

## Attendance Award:

Chapter Attendance: Drawing to be held among all chapters attending. Whichever chapter's name is drawn at each board meeting will receive \$50.00.

## **TREASURER**

*Ed Clark, PP-SC*



If you have any expense reimbursement, please email it to me using the Expense Reimbursement form to me at [ebc@phm-law.com](mailto:ebc@phm-law.com) or USPS mail to my attention at:

PHMMI  
22 Inverness Center Parkway, Ste. 600  
Birmingham, AL 35242

If you do not have a form, please email me and I will send you a form. If you have a question about your committee budget, please email me.

## **CHAPLAIN**

*Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS*



I sure hope everyone has had a wonderful summer! Here at Oak Hollow Farm we had a week of summer camp in June with over 70 kids, and it was quite the experience!

The Fall season and cooler temperatures are on the way, thank goodness.

It is definitely my honor to serve as your chaplain this year and pray for you.

Please send your prayer request to me at this email address, [marvadean@oakhollowfarm.net](mailto:marvadean@oakhollowfarm.net)



## **PARLIAMENTARIAN**

*Gina Harbison, PP, PLS*

If you need a copy of the current Bylaws, Standing Rules or Procedures Manual, please let me know. I hope to see everyone at the NALS Conference in Mobile.

# IT'S ALMOST HERE!

## A rundown on the NALS 2025 Conference with Judy Whigham!

### NALS 2025 Legal Education Conference – Mobile, Alabama

The Countdown is on! We are less than 45 days away from Conference, starting on September 29th! There's a lot going on behind the scenes getting ready for an awesome event in the Port City. The planning committee has secured an array of speakers on topics that are sure to inform and impress everyone, and we guarantee there's something for everyone. We even have an offsite session at the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico on the last day of the conference and attendees to this session will be given access to explore the museum after the presentation! This year's conference is different from past conferences in many ways and there's a lot of moving parts and events to keep everyone involved with education, networking and fun! Anyone who has not yet registered is encouraged to go to the NALS website ([www.NALS.org](http://www.NALS.org)) and see for yourselves all the details of the conference. A brief overview of what's on the agenda so far, with more to be added in the coming days and weeks, is listed below:

#### Registration by the Numbers (Latest stats):

- ✓ 94 registrations to the conference
- ✓ 68 registered for the NALS Foundation event on the riverboat dinner cruise, including a live auction and Mardi Parti (complete with a D.J.)!
- ✓ 52 signed up for the off-site session at the Maritime Museum! (Limited seating, so, be sure to register and select this event at registration - sign up early!)
- ✓ 22 first timers to a NALS conference! (This must be a record!)

#### Book Your Hotel Room Before the Deadline (September 7<sup>th</sup>)

- We will be at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel in Downtown Mobile!
- Our hotel block rate is \$159/per night plus tax. The lodging tax rate in the city of Mobile is 17%.
- Our block runs from Saturday, September 27 through Sunday, October 5 (allowing you to take extra days to enjoy more of L.A. (*Lower Alabama*)! The last day to book with the NALS discounted rate is Sunday, September 7, 2025.
- Our hotel block is almost full, so if you run into any issues or need help booking a room, please reach out to [kelsey@nals.org](mailto:kelsey@nals.org)!

### NALS Foundation Auction – *Call for Donations!*

Every chapter and state association and even individual members are encouraged to submit donations for the live and online/silent auction. All funds raised will help fund grants and resources that sustain legal support professionals across the country. Details can be found below and on the NALS website.

Check out the list of education sessions, speakers, special events, and more in the schedule below as well as a run-down of all the special events that will be going on throughout the three days of the conference, plus there will be more great, fun things that are not even listed:

# NALS Foundation - 2025 National Legal Education Conference



## *NALS Foundation!*

The NALS Foundation was established in 1989 and is dedicated to ensuring a rewarding future for you and all legal support professionals. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational foundation working hand in hand with the National Association for Legal Support Professionals to enhance educational opportunities. Since its inception, the NALS Foundation has awarded grants and contributions of over \$200,000 for the benefit of chapters and state associations.

The NALS Foundation is bringing the **fun, flair, and festivities** to Mobile in a way you've never seen before. From thrilling auctions and creative competitions to a Riverboat Mardi Parti—this year's conference is more than just professional development—it's a celebration!

**Ready to attend the Foundation's amazing events? [Register now](#) - and don't forget to add-on your ticket to the Mardi Gras Riverboat Cruise!**

## *Live & Online Silent Auction!*

Start your conference with a bang! We're teaming up with ExpoAuctions to bring you the first ever online silent auction and in-person live auction. These fun events will take the place of the traditional sweepstakes. And guess what?

Tony Rissley, the dynamic owner of ExpoAuctions, will not only lead the live auction—he's also our conference keynote speaker! With his vibrant energy and engaging storytelling, this will be an electric way to kick off the event while supporting NALS Foundation!

## **Online Auction:**

Open to *everyone*—attendees and non-attendees alike! Bid from your phone, your hotel room, or your home couch. The auction runs throughout the conference and closes right after the Awards Luncheon on Wednesday. Don't miss your chance to snag incredible items while supporting a great cause!

## **Live Auction on the Riverboat Cruise:**

The most coveted, high-value items will be up for grabs in a live auction aboard the **Mardi Gras Riverboat Cruise**. Want in on the action? Make sure you've added your cruise ticket to your registration!

## **Call for Donations!**

The NALS Foundation is gearing up for both their silent online auction and live auction and they need your help!



Have something special to contribute? From themed gift baskets and handmade goods to unique experiences and one-of-a-kind finds, your donation helps fund grants and resources that support legal support professionals across the country.

**There are two easy ways to give:**

1. Donate whatever you'd like—whether it's something you already have, a homemade item, or a thoughtful purchase—and ship it to the Foundation.
2. Not sure what to donate? For a quick and easy option, order directly from the [Foundation's Amazon Wishlist](#) and have your donation shipped straight to them.

Whichever route you choose, don't forget to complete the [donation form](#) so we know what's coming!

***All donations being shipped must be physically received by September 25, 2025.***

Donations can be mailed/shipped to:  
Jones Walker LLP  
Attn: Judy Whigham - NALS Auction  
11 N Water St., FL 12  
Mobile, AL 36602

*The Foundation may combine donations with others to create fabulous, themed baskets for the auction.*

***Shoe Box Float Parade & Mardi Gras Mask Competition!***

Get your creativity flowing with our Shoe Box Float Parade and Mardi Gras Mask Competition—two can't-miss contests that bring the spirit of Mardi Gras to life!

**Shoe Box Float Parade**

Get ready to participate—just \$10 to enter! [Sign up now!](#)

Here's how it works:

- Find a shoebox at home and decorate it like a Mardi Gras float.
- Take a photo of your masterpiece and submit it via [email](#) (please **do not** bring it to the conference).
- We will showcase all entries for live voting prior to and during the event!

The winner will be announced on-site and receive a prize.

***Mardi Gras Mask Competition!***

Break out the feathers, glitter, and beads!

Decorate your own Mardi Gras mask and bring it with you to wear on the Riverboat Cruise & Foundation Dinner. Go wild with your design—anything goes!

***Mardi Parti Riverboat Cruise – A Night to Remember!***

Set sail with us on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, for a dazzling evening on the water! This unforgettable two-hour riverboat cruise includes:

- A delicious three-course dinner (chargrilled chicken, grilled shrimp skewer, wild rice, and more!)
- Live music and full cash bar
- Access to open-air balconies and climate-controlled comfort
- Mardi Gras-themed attire encouraged – bring your beads, masks, and festive flair!

***Add-on registration required: \$95 per person (includes dinner, gratuity, entertainment)***

Limited seats available – full boat reserved exclusively for NALS! We need 60 attendees to set sail, so grab your spot early and join the Mardi Parti!

### *Quilt Raffle!*

Each year, we have a one-of-a-kind queen-sized quilt, made by Rita Ann Gilson, PP, PLS. This is an annual tradition you will treasure! **You will be able to pre-purchase quilt raffle tickets soon!**

### **Don't Miss Out!**

This year's NALS Conference is packed with exciting events, meaningful networking, and unforgettable memories. Whether you're there for the energy of the live auction, the joy of showing off your creative flair, or the magic of cruising under the stars, Mobile is the place to be. [Register now!](#)

## **2025 National Legal Education Conference**

### **Schedule\***

<b>Monday, September 29</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>CLE</b>
All Day	Registration Open			
10:00 AM – 12 PM	Exhibitor Set Up			
12:00 – 12:30 PM	First Timers Orientation			
12:30 – 1 PM	Welcome & Networking			
12:30 – 7:30 PM	Exhibits Open			
1:00 – 2:30 PM	Welcome & Opening Keynote (Session 1)	Tony Rissley	The Art of the Bid: Reinventing Yourself, Owning the Moment, and Mastering Your Mind	1 General
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Educational Session 2	Alexa Stabler-Adams	NFL, UFL, NIL and CBA: Football for Legal Support Professionals	1 Intellectual Property (IP)
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Educational Session 3	Joe Stephens	AI for Legal Support: Beyond the Buzzwords to Practical Applications	1 Civil Lit



5:15 – 6:15 PM	Education Session 4	Lori Warren and Matt Holdren	Paperless: From Complaint to Verdict.	1 E-Discovery
6:30 – 7:30 PM	Welcome Reception			
<b>Tuesday, September 30</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>CLE</b>
All Day	Registration Open			
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Exhibits Open			
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Educational Session 5 (Second Keynote)	Chris McDonough	Fiji's Focus: Canine Court Support for Victims and Witnesses	1 Criminal
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Educational Session 6	Tom Towey and Cam Cotney	Social Media: Discovery, Ethics, Evidence and Sanctions	1 Ethics
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Educational Session 7	Linda McGrath-Cruz	Time Travel for Legal Professionals: Stop Wasting It, Start Owning It	1 General
11:45 – 1:00 PM	Networking Luncheon			
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Educational Session 8	Catherine (Cat) Kirkland, Esq.	Navigating the Promise and Pitfalls of Healthcare Arbitration	1 Civil Lit
2:15 – 2:45 PM	Networking Dessert Break			
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Educational Session 9	Bradley Hentschel	Cybersecurity for Legal Professionals: Protecting Yourself at Work and Home	1 General
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Educational Session 10	Koby Kirkland, Esq.	Basics of Vaccine Injury and Federal Tort Claims	1 Civil Lit

5:00 – 6:00 PM	Exhibitor Tear Down			
6:30 – 10:00 PM	NALS Foundation Event - Mardi Party & Cruise (add-on)			
<b>Wednesday, October 1</b>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>CLE</b>
All Day	Registration Open			
8:00 – 11:00 AM	Optional Offsite Education Session	John Sledge	The Gulf of Mexico and Its Blended Cultural Legacies	1.5 General
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Educational Session 11	Eric Winberg	Forensic Cellular Data Extractions	1 E-Discovery
9:15 – 10:15 AM	Educational Session 12	S. Joshua (Josh) Briskman, Esq.	Criminal Justice Act - Federally Appointed Criminal Defendants	1 Criminal
10:30 – 11:30 AM	Educational Session 13	Christina May Bolin	Spot the Imposter: It's Me. Recognizing Imposter Syndrome and its Possible Effects on Professionals	1 General
11:45 AM – 1:15 PM	Awards Luncheon			
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Educational Session 14	Casey Ray	Tales from TSA: Dos and Don'ts at the Airport	1 General
2:45 – 3:45 PM	Educational Session 15	Matthew C. McDonald	Ethics and the Legal Profession	1 Ethics
4:00 – 5:30 PM	Educational Session 16	Kelly Knowles	Standing Out While Standing In: 5 Strategies to Differentiate Yourself with Authenticity and Integrity	1.5 General

*\*This is the schedule as of 7/8/25. This page will be updated as we gain more information about each speaker and each session. Schedule subject to change.*



## **DIXIE DIGEST PATRONS 2025-2026**

Sandra L. Doerr, ALP	BCALP
Gina Harbison, PP, PLS	BCALP
Joan Latour	BCALP
Deborah Rutherford	BCALP
Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	BCALP
Ed Clark, PP-SC	BLSA
Teresa Kelly	DCLSA
Harriet Piper	DCLSA
Barb Hanley, PLS	MALS
Quinn Ruff	MALS
Kristi Skipper, PP	MALS
Debbie Whitman, PP, PLS	MALS
Magan W. Bedwell, CLS	MLPA
Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	MLPA
Alison Schemmer	MLPA
Sonia Smith, CLP	MLPA
Susan Turner, PLS	NOCA

In Memory of Barbara Malone, PP, PLS  
by Judy Whigham, PP, PLS

In Memory of Cheri Loyd  
by Alison Schemmer



## Everything Begins With An Idea

### 2025-2026 AALS DIXIE DIGEST PATRON AD

**\$10 per ad**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON AD  
(if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE:      WORK: \_\_\_\_\_ EXT: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ALT. E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use a separate form for each ad; however, one check may be used for multiple ads if mailed together in same envelope. Make checks payable (\$10 per ad) to AALS and send them with this form to:

Debbie Rutherford  
Caldwell Wenzel Asthana  
Post Office Box 2158  
Foley, AL 36536  
[drutherford@cwalawfirm.com](mailto:drutherford@cwalawfirm.com)

# CHAPTER REPORTS

## BCALP - Baldwin County

Judy Whigham, PP, PLS



BCALP held its first summer meeting on Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at Beef O'Brady's in Spanish Fort. We were delighted to have Liam Scully, Esquire as our special guest and speaker. Mr. Scully gave an informative presentation on what it's like being a Municipal Court prosecutor, and he was entertaining as always with an array of true-life stories from those prosecutions. We were especially happy to have in attendance Mr. Scully's legal assistant and our former member and past AALS President Kay Kidd. It was great seeing Kay and who knows...maybe we can lure her back to BCALP, along with former member Karen Cheatham who was also at the meeting! Also attending was MLPA member and another former AALS President Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS. When BCALP members gather, there's no shortage of former AALS presidents and officers as our members include past presidents Gina Harbison, PP, PLS, Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS, Deborah Rutherford, and Julie Nims, the current and past AALS President! (There's so many, I hope I didn't leave anyone off!)

We were in Spanish Fort again for the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, but this time on Battleship Parkway where we gathered at the Original Oyster House. We were excited to have one of the busiest lawyers in Baldwin County, Lindsay Demers, Esquire, give an exhaustive overview of how her office prepares for trial and the unique position of the paralegal in that process, or as she puts it: ***From File to Trial: The Paralegal's Guide to Evidence in Action***. And after hearing how extensive and thorough they prepare, it's no wonder she stays so busy and relies heavily on her paralegals and other support staff, so, it's nice to know we are not becoming obsolete, at least not quite yet, with lawyers like Lindsay around! I was taking notes, and I don't even work for trial lawyers! LOL!

Those were the meetings since my last report and the BCALP members are looking forward to our meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> at Ivey's Restaurant in Robertsedale, where we will hear from Michelle Kane, Esquire, the General Counsel for Hargrove Engineers. Ms. Kane will be speaking to us on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and I don't know why but I have had my head in the sand on AI but I think I'm going to have to pull it out and hear this one and face the fact that AI is a reality, even in the law office. Hopefully we will come away with a better understanding and less fear about the benefits of utilizing AI. (I still have my sandy hole nearby just in case!)

This officer is happy to report, too, that BCALP has submitted its IRS 990-N return for Fiscal Year 2024 and the return was accepted and confirmation has been communicated to Ed Clark, PP-SC, the AALS and NALS Treasurer. (One thing off the to-do list!)

This officer had the pleasure of joining the MLPA chapter for its July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at T.P. Crockmier's in Mobile, where we received a detailed presentation on ***Vaccine Litigation*** from Koby Kirkland, Esquire. This is a very specialized niche area of law, and everyone should learn more about it, which they can do very soon as we are fortunate to have Mr. Kirkland as a speaker at the NALS Education Conference in Mobile in September!

Speaking of the NALS Conference, several BCALP members serving on the NALS Conference planning committee have been busy working on the final stages of planning and it is really coming together nicely and is shaping up to be an excellent event. In fact, after the July meeting at the Oyster House, BCALP members gathered outside to shoot a short promo video as did BCALP member and AALS President Julie Nims, making a point to welcome everyone from all over the U.S. to our little piece of heaven we like to call L.A. (Lower Alabama)! This officer also met with MLPA members Sonia Smith, CLP, Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS and Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS, on two other occasions to shoot additional promo videos from Mardi Gras Park, Fort Conde, and the Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico. There should be a number of videos blitzing the



NALS Facebook page in the coming weeks, so, be on the lookout and be sure to add your comments because that helps us to get interest and hopefully, registrations for the conference!

Speaking of numbers, at last count at the end of July, we had approximately 93 registrations to the conference and 68 for the NALS Foundation event on the riverboat dinner cruise and Mardi Parti! We also have 52 signed up for the off-site session at the Maritime Museum! What's even more exciting is that out of 93 registrations we have an amazing 22 first timers to a NALS conference! How amazing is that! And with that, I have nothing left to say! See y'all in the Fall!

## **BLSA – Birmingham**

*Kayla Bassett, PLS*



As school begins and summer draws to a close, it is amazing how fast the time passes. I hope everyone found time to enjoy some fun with friends and family. BLSA has enjoyed meeting at different locations around Birmingham.

Several BLSA members are looking forward to attending the National Meeting in Mobile in September.

## **DCLSA - DALLAS COUNTY**

*Harriett Piper, Governor Pro Tem*

DCLSA is looking forward to hosting Winter Board in Selma and we are planning and discussing plans for your visit. 'Your' refers, of course, to all AALS members and their guests and, please, invite interested parties. We'll have a good 'learning' time January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room when it's too cold to be learning outside. As of this August report, right now, the only thing we can learn outside is 'how hot can Mother Nature get?

And, we've been planning and talking about the National Conference. We signed up for everything, including a tour of Mobile, and we've got our Mardi Gras shirts ready to wear and our Masks! Just so you'll know me – I'll be wearing white hair and wearing a walker! Take care – and I'll see you all in Mobile!

P.S. (I mean PLS)As I was writing that first paragraph I noticed similarities between the words all and AALS. Do you see it? ALL and AALS.....ALL for AALS...AALS for ALL! Something good could be made of that! In the meantime I'm going to AA.

## **MLPA – Mobile**

*Danielle Baker*



Will this heat ever go away and make room for some nice Fall weather?!

As always, I want to start off by saying that the MLPA EC has still been on it and continuing to make sure that we have excellent speakers for our monthly meetings.

We did not have a June meeting, but we picked right back up with our July meeting at T.P. Crockmiers. We had Koby Kirkland come and speak to us on vaccine litigation A topic that I did not know that much about and



needless to say you learn something new every day! We are now going to prepare for our birthday month and get ready to celebrate!

We are also continuing to get ready for the ever approaching NALS conference! We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our awesome city, showing NALS members from all over what we have to offer, and why we are the birthplace of Mardi Gras.

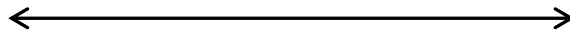
Stay safe and have a great end of Summer and get ready to welcome FALL!

## **MALS – Montgomery**

*Barb Hanley, PLS*



First, let me report, it is with a heavy heart I share notification of Beverly Lynn's passing. Beverly was a Past President of MALS and AALS Past President, 1998-1999. She is remembered sweetly by her friends and family. Beverly's red hair set her apart from the crowd. She was fun loving, never met a stranger, her smile was so infectious, and her laugh glittered like dew on the grass. She was very good at her job, loved by her employers and co-workers. Her sparkle lead MALS (at the time she was President – we were still known as Montgomery Association of Legal Secretaries) to many great legal education seminars, bosses' night banquets, and membership drives. She had been in Florida living with her aging mother at the time of her passing. Please remember her mother and brother and sister-in-law in your prayers.



Now... I have been thinking about the word "Idea" and if I am like Pooh Bear who thinks and thinks or like someone Wylie Coyote who has many ideas.

Did you know there are hundreds and hundreds of books written about Ideas..."Making Ideas Happen" by Scott Beksjy; "Where Good Ideas come from" by Steven Johnson; "Rebel Ideas" by Matthew Syed; "The Idea Factory Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation" by Jon Gertner to just name a few. Several books dive into the nature of Ideas, exploring how they are generated, developed, and ultimately brought to fruition. Some focus on creativity, others on history of ideas and some on the practical aspects of idea implementation. There are even kids' books "What's the BIG Idea Molly?" by Valeri Gorbachev and "What do you do with an Idea" by Kobi Yamada.

Then I started thinking about music. So many great performers and song writers have ideas...but did you know that Otis Redding sang a song called "That's a Good Idea?" Tears for Fears had a song called "Ideas as Opiates" ...I didn't really like that song, but Harry Connick, Jr. (who I think is HOT) has a song "I've Got a Great Idea". Harry, I might have an idea or two also. On YouTube (yes, I am turning in now and again – no more flip phone for me) there are videos "How to turn any idea into a full song" and "How to come up with endless lyric ideas." I listened to Blackbear "The Idea" and Au/Ra (Idea) and some others.

The written word has (comes from) ideas, music has (comes from) ideas, what about Art? AI told me this "Yes, it's accurate to say that art can be an idea. Many contemporary and conceptual artists use ideas as the core of their work, with the physical manifestation being a secondary or even optional element. The idea itself can be considered the art, and the physical execution merely a way to communicate or realize that idea." Many artists had ideas of hiding hidden meanings in their works of art, like Leonardo da Vinci – "The Last Supper" features intricate detail and mathematical patterns, sparking theories about hidden musical notes and Michelangelo – "The Creation of Adam" reflecting his knowledge of human anatomy or as a subtle critique of the church's view on science.

The word Idea in French is translated as “idee” and it is a feminine noun. In German idea is “die Idee” and it also in a feminine noun. Spanish translate “la idea” and as we all remember from Spanish 1 – “la” functions as a feminine noun. Do Women have more Ideas than men? Sorry for that to the Mem out there reading this. Well, all of this is to say the MALS Gals have IDEAS. We are meeting once a month at some really “out of the ordinary” places. We have had a meeting at Tower Tap Room (100% membership showed); Montgomery Whitewater (120-acre world-class outdoor adventure center offers rafting, kayaking, and a unique mix of adventurous outdoor activities) and at the Biscuit Stadium (Montgomery’s Double-A minor league baseball team. They are the Double-A affiliate of the [Tampa Bay Rays](#), playing in the [Southern League](#)). At the game we all got matching t-shirts – wait to you see us in January 2026! We had the IDEA of meeting in different venues and enjoying our business and social time together. Our next meeting is the ...End of Summer POOL PARTY – August 23. Can’t wait for that one. We have also been collecting various items for the Family Sunshine Center who run residential facilities designed for battered women and children. Everyone deserves to have a safe place to sleep, eat, and live. Their residential facilities are specifically designed for those seeking refuge and comprehensive services are offered to help them overcome the impacts of violence. Attached are some photos of what we have collected so far this year. At our August meeting we will be gathering school supplies for the children.

I hope the summer heat has not taken a toll on your great ideas and remember Stan Lee said this about Spiderman - **Stan Lee:** "If you have an idea that you genuinely think is good, don't let some idiot talk you out of it!"



**MALS GALS**  
*Don't mess around!*

# NALS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

*Susan Turner, PLS*

Greetings from NOCA. I hope many of you are planning to attend the NALS conference this fall. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend, but I look forward to pictures and stories from those who do. Please share your stories, experiences and **pictures** (lots of pictures) on the AALS Facebook page so those of us who are unable to attend can be a part of your experience.

As a former President of NALS and attended many National Conferences at different locations over the U.S., I am certain the plans for the Alabama conference and the committee members from AALS that have been working and planning with NALS will not let you down!

Hopefully we all can get together at the Zoom conference in early October and then again in person at Selma in January!



Webpage: [www.alabama-als.org](http://www.alabama-als.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aalsalabama](https://www.facebook.com/aalsalabama)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aalsinfo>

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PATRON ADS

*Deborah Rutherford*

I have not received any patron ads since my June 1 report. If you would like to purchase a Patron Ad, please send me a check for \$10.00 payable to AALS and mail it to the address on the bottom of the Patron Ad form.

I hope my mailbox is flooded with checks soon.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2024-2025

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR	EMAIL
Audit Committee (2025-2026 Books)	Kristi Skipper, PP (Chair) Joan Latour Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:kristiskipperpp@gmail.com">kristiskipperpp@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:jllatour@att.net">jllatour@att.net</a> <a href="mailto:babs.dekeyser@att.net">babs.dekeyser@att.net</a>
Bylaws, Standing Rules & Procedures Manual	Gina Harbison, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:gharbison@pci-nsn.gov">gharbison@pci-nsn.gov</a>
Certification	Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:aks6451@aol.com">aks6451@aol.com</a>
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Dixie Digest	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:aalsdixiedigest@gmail.com">aalsdixiedigest@gmail.com</a>
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Marketing/Membership	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	<a href="mailto:jwhigham@joneswalker.com">jwhigham@joneswalker.com</a>
Member of the Year	Margaret Dawson, PLS	<a href="mailto:thistldome@gmail.com">thistldome@gmail.com</a>
New Member of the Year	Megan Bedwell	<a href="mailto:mwb@cunninghambounds.com">mwb@cunninghambounds.com</a>
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