

DIXIE DIGEST

www.alabama-als.org

Fall 2026

A Message from our President

Judy Whigham, PP, PLS

Without sounding like a stuck record from my June report, I'm going to say it again, Wow! It has been a scorcher this summer! Down in our neck of the woods the weather can't make up its mind – storms one day and blazing heat wave the next, and then it goes on repeat! One thing's for sure; we don't need a fire under us to get us moving, the weather is already doing enough of that!

On a serious note (not that 110 heat index is not serious), I hope everyone has had a great summer and as we wind it down and make plans to go back to school and take our last days of vacation, your EC and committees are revving up for the AALS Fall Board Meeting and Education Conference at Wind Creek Casino and Hotel in September. Our AALS Legal Ed Chair Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS, has included the registration and agenda in this issue of the Dixie Digest. Please take note of the deadlines mentioned for registration for the meeting and reservations at the hotel. Our BCALP gals have done a great job getting the venue and we are still working on speakers but will have a great lineup when we all meet next month.

I have been moved and touched by those who have reached out in support of my chosen charities and am looking forward to seeing what an impact AALS can make for such worthwhile causes which, when it comes down to it, simply means that every little thing any of us can do will translate into big things for those who are affected by these serious medical conditions. We may never know while we are here on Earth whose lives we touched or made a difference in, but God keeps the record and it will be counted to your credit in the courts above. God bless everyone who is able to help in any way, big or small.

In case you missed it in the June Dixie Digest, I want to share again the contact information for the charities that I selected for this year. Each one is special to me, and you may connect on a personal level with one of them as well. As you think of how you can help others this year, please consider donating to one or more of the following charities:

The Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation:

The Salgi Foundation
Attn: Linda Molfesi
PO Box 1912
East Greenwich, RI 02818

***You may also donate online by visiting:

<https://salgi.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate>. They also have virtual fundraising events that chapters and/or individuals can participate in to raise money and awareness.

Being A Good Vessel for AALS



ECAN.ORG

Esophageal Cancer Action Network – www.ECAN.ORG

NEW ADDRESS:

PO Box 59

Newnan, GA 30264

[410-358-3226](tel:410-358-3226) | info@ecan.org

Laura Crandall Brown Foundation (supporting patients, survivors, research, etc., for gynecological cancers – Susan Turner’s daughter Betsy Fetner works with this charity and will be a speaker at an upcoming meeting)

Mailing Address:

Laura Crandall Brown Foundation

P.O. Box 36445

Birmingham, AL 35236

205. 783. 1285

Physical Address:

410 Lorna Square

Hoover, AL 35216

I welcome each and every member to think of ways that AALS can do better and make a difference in the lives of others – especially the younger generation of future legal assistants, paralegals, lawyers and more. You never know how your life and your work ethic will influence others to seek careers in the legal field. Our new members are out there – we just need to reach them and teach them and welcome them into our unique association. If you reach even one person who may take an interest in AALS, you are good vessels for AALS and others. We are all cracked pots in some way, but that doesn’t make us crackpots! Take care and I look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall.



NALS Mission

engage | inspire | enhance | promote

Engage legal professionals on their terms.

Inspire legal professionals to want more.

Enhance the careers of legal professionals.

Promote legal professionals and the legal support industry.

VICE PRESIDENT

Janice Riviere, CLP

I hope everyone had a fun summer. I don't have any major updates to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Board Meeting.

If anyone has any suggestions to increase membership, please reach out to me (Janice.riviere52@gmail.com; 205-565-9687).

Although I won't be able to attend the NALS Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida October 5-7 I hope those of you who attend will bring back ideas about new school partnerships to expand opportunities for students to pursue legal support education. Legal education is one of the main reasons I joined the Association and it is close to my heart.



Webpage: www.alabama-als.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aalsalabama

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

SECRETARY

Julie Nims

I have not received any correspondence since the First Board of Governors Meeting in April. I have AALS Logo stationery available to send electronically to anyone who makes a request. My email is jnims@raineslawfirm.com.

Minutes from the first board of governors meeting in April are being worked on and will go out to the officers and governors before the Fall board meeting.

Lastly, and very important, if you have not already done so, please remember to send any updates to the AALS chapter officer rosters to NALS, with a copy to me, as well as President Judy Whigham, PP, PLS, and Vice-President Janice Riviere, CLP, as soon as possible so that updated rosters can be distributed to the governors.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in September for the Fall Board Meeting. Until then, Happy Back to School!

TREASURER

Danielle Baker, ACP



Please submit your expense reimbursement for to me at danielle@longandlong.com or USPS mail to my attention at:

Danielle Baker
P.O. Box 161196
Mobile, AL 36616

CHAPLAIN

Sonia Smith, CLP



Hello! I trust and pray each of you and yours are doing well. I have no new prayer requests. I apologize but I will not be able to attend the Fall Board meeting, but please pass your prayer requests along to my pro-tem and we will begin lifting those needs up.

Speaking of lifting up!!! As spoken time and time again in God's word, LIFTING is what we as Believers and friends are to do. We need to be there lifting each other constantly. And on days when we don't feel like we are able to do the lifting we have friends that we can call on that will do our lifting for us!!

Take for instance Moses. During the Amalekite and Israelites battle, Israel would win the fight as long as Moses held the Staff of God up high, but as soon as Moses grew tired and lowered his arms the Amalekites won the battle. BUT.... Wait for it!! Moses' friends Aaron and Hur came along and drug a stone up for him to sit on and they held his arms up until the enemy was defeated! What a reminder that we are to sometimes be the LIFTORS and sometimes we need to be the LIFTED! Let's remember to LOVE and LIFT often. Be the greatest VESSEL you can be.

Could you be someone's Aaron or Hur today!!

Proverbs 17:17 *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*
Love in Christ,

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Magan Bedwell, CLS

As most of you know, when we held the 2026 Winter Board meeting, a proper 30-day notice was inadvertently omitted – only a 10-day notice was given. Our bylaws, however, provide for a waiver of such notice under **Article VI – Board of Governors and Section 8. Waiver**. After reviewing Section 8, it appears to have language that seems unnecessary for our purposes and our association. Specifically, the words **“to the extent allowed by law,”** do not seem to apply to our association and for this language to remain serves only to be confusing and prohibitive to the true purpose of the section, which is to provide a method of waiving the notice of the time, place and purpose of any meeting and consent to all business coming before such meeting. Below is the current language of the bylaw in question, followed by the proposed amendment to the bylaw, which will be presented at the Fall Board of Governors Meeting on September 19, 2026.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 8. Waiver. A member of the Board of Governors may waive notice of the time and place to the extent allowed by law, the purpose of any meeting, and consent to all business coming before such meeting. The attendance of a member of the Board of Governors at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting prior to or at the commencement of the meeting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

Section 8. Waiver. A member of the Board of Governors may waive notice of the time and place ~~to the extent allowed by law, and~~ the purpose of any meeting, and consent to all business coming before such meeting. The attendance of a member of the Board of Governors at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting prior to or at the commencement of the meeting.

In case it has been a while since you've read the bylaws or have wondered about the procedures for amending our Bylaws, Standing Rules or Procedures, below is a copy of Article X of our Bylaws which provides such information. Please note the deadlines.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Atmore in September.

ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Subject to NALS and this Association's bylaws, standing rules, and any other procedures or articles of incorporation, proceedings at any meeting of this Association shall be governed by the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

Section 1. Proposed Bylaws or proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the State Parliamentarian not less than forty-five (45) days prior to a State Board Meeting or the Annual Meeting. The Parliamentarian shall submit the proposed Bylaws or proposed amendments to the Board of Governors not less than thirty (30) days prior to a State Board Meeting or the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Procedures. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any scheduled Board of Governors' meeting after a thirty (30) day written notice of any proposed amendment has been given or e-mailed to the voting members.

Section 3. Effective Date. Amendments to these bylaws shall take effect immediately upon adoption unless otherwise specified.

Section 4. Grammatical and Correlation Changes. Automatic and correlation changes in these bylaws or amendments thereto, which in no way alter the intent of the respective bylaw or amendment thereto, shall be affected subject to the approval of the President.



2026 NATIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

October 5 - 7
Jacksonville, FL

Exhibitor & Sponsor Registration Open Now
Attendee Registration Opens in May

2026 National Legal Education Conference

Register View Registrations Map this Event Tell a Friend



Get ready—The NALS National Legal Education Conference is coming to Jacksonville, FL in 2026!



10/5/2026 to 10/7/2026

When:

10/05 - 10/07/2026
All Day (Central Time)

Where:

[Map this event »](#)
Hilton Jacksonville at Mayo Clinic
4745 Transformation Way
Jacksonville, Florida 32224
United States

Contact:

NALS Staff
info@nals.org
918.582.5188

REGISTER

Online registration is available until: 9/22/2026



DIXIE DIGEST PATRONS 2026-2027

Marva Dean Little, PP, PLS	BCALP
Gina Harbison, PP, PLS	BCALP
Joan Latour	BCALP
Deborah Rutherford	BCALP
Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	BCALP
Teresa Kelly	DCLSA
Harriet Piper	DCLSA
Barb Hanley, PLS	MALS
Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS	MLPA
Alison Schemmer	MLPA
Susan Turner, PLS	MLPA

In Memory of Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS
By Alison Schemmer

In Memory of Talley Brathovd, PP, PLS
By Harriet Piper

In Memory of Vicky Brown
By Harriet Piper

In Memory of Barbara P. Malone, PP, PLS
By Judy Whigham, PP, PLS



Being Good Vessels for AALS

2026-2027 AALS DIXIE DIGEST PATRON AD

\$10 per ad

Name: _____

Name on Ad: _____
(if different)

Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Work: _____

Home/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Alt. Email _____

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

Joan Latour
250 Lakefront Circle
Summerdale, AL 36580

CHAPTER REPORTS

BCALP - Baldwin County

Deborah Rutherford



In my last report, I told you it was going to be another hot summer and boy has it been HOT!!!!

BCALP members were unable to meet for our June meeting, as we had severe weather come through our area that afternoon.

On July 16, we met for a business meeting only at Acadiana Restaurant in Silverhill, Alabama, to discuss among other business, the upcoming AALS Fall Board Meeting that will be held September 18 and 19. BCALP will be hosting. Please make plans to attend. You really do not want to miss all of the fun we are going to have.

Looking forward to fall weather and seeing all of you at the AALS Fall Board Meeting.

BLSA – Birmingham

Kayla Bassett, PLS



It is hard to believe it is August already meaning summer is almost over, and it is time for the Fall Dixie Digest again. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. BLSA members have had a busy summer, working in our monthly meetings around summer vacations. We have had the pleasure of meeting at a different restaurant around town each month.

Our members are looking forward to attending the Fall Board Meeting in September and the NALS National Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida in October. The Holidays will be here before we know it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in September.

DCLSA - DALLAS COUNTY

Harriett Piper, Governor Pro Tem

News is slow this summer. Not much to report but I do want to tell ya'll about my trip to Nevada. My daughter took me to David Walley's Resort at Genoa, Nevada – Genoa is the oldest settlement in the state and I felt very comfortable visiting the Genoa Bar & Saloon, the oldest bar in Nevada. So, there I was, little old me in this little old town at this little old bar – Gads! I felt a little old!

Then I got in the pools of mineral hot springs – WOW! Now I understand why the town and the bar are still there and still standing. It's leaving the hot springs that will bring about one's destruction. While I was 'taking the waters', I was doing back flips and climbing mountains but when I got home it was kind of like The Portrait of Dorian Gray in reverse.

But I started coming out of my funk when I got the registration form for Fall Board Meeting – I am so looking forward to - and always enjoy – any event Baldwin County puts together. And, I'm looking forward to seeing all of ya'll!

MLPA – Mobile

Magan Bedwell, CLS



MLPA is celebrating its 66th Birthday this month! To celebrate we are excited to report that we have chosen to raise funds for the Lora Crandall Brown Foundation by holding an auction during our monthly meeting. We will be joined by guest speaker Jordan Gerheim, Esq. It would be wonderful to have you join us for this special day!

MLPA is looking forward to seeing everyone in Atmore next month!

MALS – Montgomery

Barb Hanley, PLS



So, as I was leaving work and wanting to get home, I kept thinking about my small Chapter and how I as a member could fill the vessel of my Chapter. I started thinking about all the times we had so many active members. I decided maybe I needed to fill my inner vessel and become a better member, focus on continuous personal growth, active listening, and consistent service. I turned myself around and headed back to the office to do research and reading. I found the following ideas to help Pour into yourself through daily reflection and learning, I am to share positive energy, time, and empathy with others to strengthen my relationships and group impact.

Steps to Fill Your Vessel

- Practice daily self-care and quiet reflection.
- Read new books and learn new skills.
- Rest your mind and body to stay strong.
- Check your emotions before you speak.
-

Ways to Be a Better Member

- Listen to others without judgment.
- Offer your time to help neighbors or groups.
- Share kind words and support friends.
- Own your mistakes and fix them quickly.
-

Growth Habits

- Set clear goals for how you treat people.
- Keep your promises and **show up on time**.
- Say thank you to those who help you.
- Stay humble and keep an open mind.

Wow, I really do need to fill this vessel. The MALS Gals will be having our pool party this month and bring items we have collected for the Laura Crandall Brown Foundation. Also, we will be celebrating birthdays-Quinn, Brenda and Kristi. I can't wait for cake and ice cream (from Quinn's ice cream machine-thanks to AALS)! We are working on places for Winter Board meeting and hope to have information at our Fall Board Meeting. I can't wait to see everyone at Fall Board and keep filling your vessel. Today I am starting, I went to the NALS website, which I haven't done in over a year and found that Thursday, September 10, 2026 – Chapter Leadership Development – Keep 'Em Coming Back for More at 12:30-1:15 – I just registered, have you?

NALS OF CENTRAL ALABAMA

Susan Turner, PLS

Greetings from Shelby County - land of the black bear.
He is now a celebrity in these parts and I call him Shelby.

June and July went by in a flash. Lots of heat and lots of rain in the past couple of months.

Looking forward to Fall temperatures and college football

We are looking forward to seeing all of our AALS PALS in September!

And, if you have a special election in your county on August 11, please go and Vote! Every vote matters and counts!



NALS UPCOMING EVENTS

Check in at : [Events Listing - National Association for Legal Support Professionals](#)

Chapter Leadership Development - Keep 'Em Coming Back for More

9/10/2026

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 PM Eastern

Chapter Leadership Development - Where Leaders Spill the Tea (Productively)

10/15/2026

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 PM Eastern

Chapter Leadership Development - Make Your Chapter Impossible to Ignore

11/12/2026

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 PM Eastern

Chapter Leadership Development - Make Your Chapter Impossible to Ignore

11/12/2026

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 PM Eastern

IMPORTANT NOTICE: AALS MEMBERS

If your email and contact info changes, please make certain you go into your NALS account online and update your information.

Your receipt of emails and information from NALS and AALS
requires your current contact info and email address

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL EDUCATION

Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS

Fall Board Meeting is coming to Atmore in September. We will be meeting at Wind Creek on September 18-19. You will find the registration form for our Fall Board Meeting later in this issue. I don't have schedule yet – no speakers have been confirmed or at least their timing hasn't been. We will have an ethics session and a tentative session (or two) on postal fraud and banking fraud. We're trying to work out that both speak together for an hour and half. If not, we will have them each speak an hour. As soon as I have confirmed times, I will get the schedule out to you. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Atmore in September!

WAYS and MEANS

Barb Hanley, PLS

Ways and Means:

The theme for our next AALS meeting for our auction items is: Enjoying the Fall!

Popular Fall Auction Items

- **Cozy Baskets:** Packed with gourmet coffees, teas, artisan mugs, and warm plush blankets.
- **Harvest Decor:** Ceramic pumpkins, rustic metal buckets, and leaf-themed shelf sitters.
- **Scarecrow Greeters:** Plush standing figures and tabletop wooden displays.
- **Baking Kits:** Artisan mixes, caramel corn, and maple-flavored treats

These are just a few ideas:

We will also be having a "How many items fill the Vessel" – each Chapter will be sent a vessel to fill. I will get the vessel in the mail this week to an officer of each Chapter. Fill the vessel with whatever you want BUT keep track of how many items are in said vessel. Members will have the opportunity to look at the vessel and guess how many items are in it. The member closest to the correct number wins the vessel and items in it. Ideas:– marbles, sea shells, gum balls, buttons, paperclips, how about casino chips, be creative and fill it with whatever you want. I think this will be so much fun!

ANNUAL MEETING

Harriett Piper, PLS

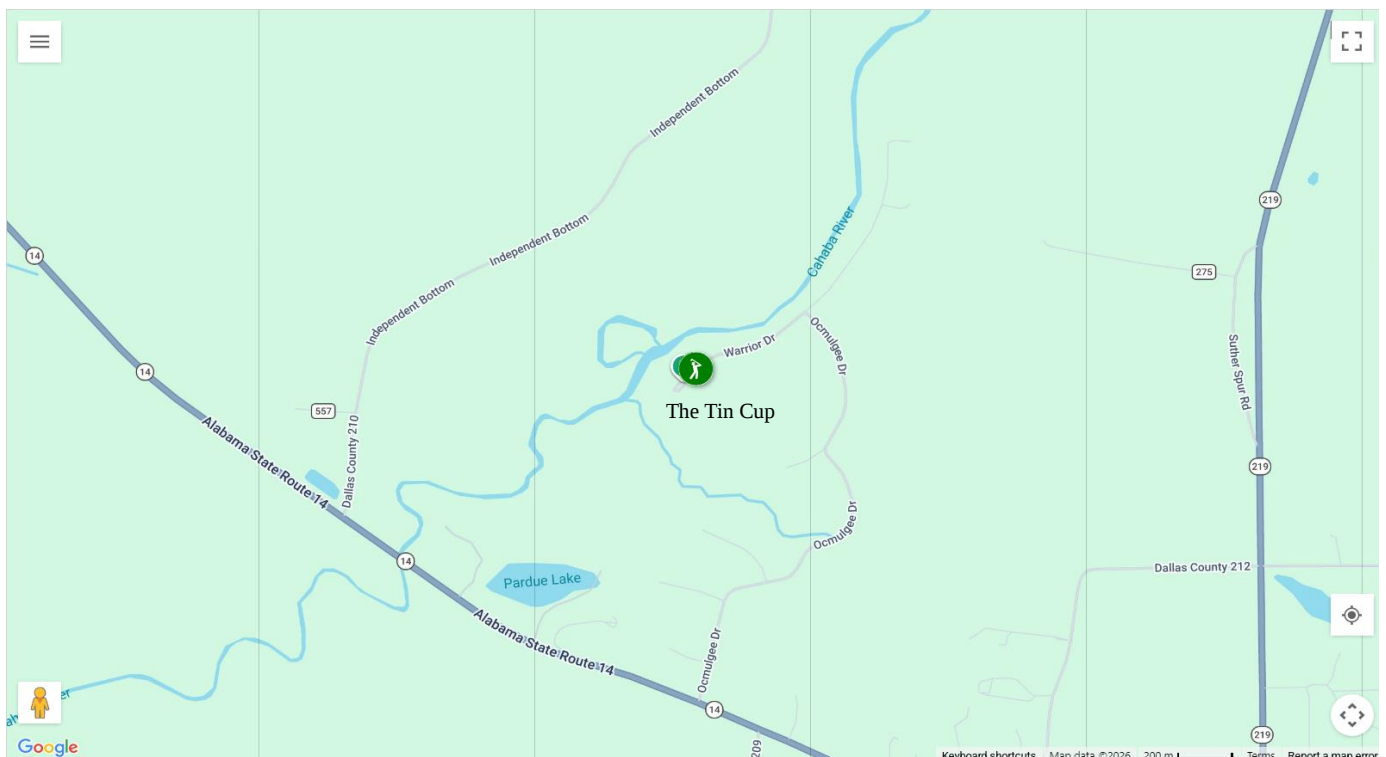
Have ya'll heard? It's coming! Can you hear it now? Well, lemme tell you! You're not gonna believe it – BUT Annual Meeting 2027 is coming to Dallas County and it's gonna be in my backyard! Well, almost –

When? Are you ready? Get out your 2027 calendar and using your magic marker – cause it's gonna be Magic - put big ole checkmarks on Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24, 2027! Where? Where, you ask? Step out my back door and you're right across the VALLEY at the Valley Grande Golf Course! Fore! Or is it Four? Or 4? (I better watch that movie again.) At 1009 Warrior Drive, Valley Grande, Alabama 36701.

How do you get there? You know, Dallas County never has a room block and especially not this time for Annual since we have a separate venue. Most of ya'll know where the Hampton and Holiday Inn are located in Selma. or have stayed there and know that Highway 80 goes right in front of both. Well, don't get on it – go across 80 at the light right there at the Hampton and you'll be on Highway 14 West. Drive about 5 miles up 14 West and looking to your right you'll see stone gate posts marked "Ocmulgee Estates".

The course originally opened as Ocmulgee Golf Course because it's surrounded on three sides by Ocmulgee Creek -or so I've been told. Now, once you've entered the Estates (?) you'll meander about two miles and dead end at our venue – The Tin Cup. Get out and come on in.

Well, you've heard it now and that's all I'm gonna tell you 'cause that's all I know. But I do know that Sonia and Allison and Judy and Babs have their creative juices flowing and when that happens and, if the moon is in the right position, and, if you hold your head just so, crazy things will happen!



**AALS Fall Board Meeting and Education Conference
September 18-19, 2026
Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, Atmore, Alabama
866-946-3360**

Registration (circle option):

A B C D E F G H I

MEMBERS:

A.	Full (both days)	\$20	(breaks and lunch Saturday included)
B.	Friday only	\$15	(break)
C.	Saturday only	\$30	(break and lunch included)
D.	Saturday Lunch/Board Meeting	\$20	
E.	ZOOM attendance (full)	\$ 0	

NON-MEMBERS:

F.	Full (both days)	\$40	(breaks and lunch Saturday included)
G.	Friday only	\$25	(break)
H.	Saturday only	\$35	(break and lunch included)
I.	Saturday Lunch/Board Meeting	\$25	

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 10TH! Call 866-946-3360 to book and mention block code: AALS Conference.

Room rates for Thursday, September 17

\$89.00 + 8% tax for single king

\$109.00 + 8% tax for double queen

Room rates for Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19

\$139.00 + 8% tax for single king

\$159.00 + 8% tax for double queen

Meeting Registration Deadline September 10, 2026

Name for badge _____

Certification(s) _____ Chapter _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Email address: _____

Make checks payable to AALS and mail registration with check to:

Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS

Legal Education Chairman

150 Du Rhu Drive Apt. 2001

Mobile, AL 36608

251-402-1466

babs.dekeyser@att.net



**AALS Educational Conference
and Fall Board Meeting
September 18-19, 2026
Atmore, Alabama**

CLE AWARDED 5.5 hours

FRIDAY, September 18, 2026

1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Registration

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. ____ **TBA**
Speakers:

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. BREAK/DOOR PRIZES

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. ____ **TBA**
Speaker:

4:15 – 5:15 p.m. ____ **TBA**
Speaker:

SATURDAY, September 19, 2026

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. ____ **TBA**
Speaker:

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. ____ **TBA**
Speaker:

11:30 a.m. Lunch and Auction

Immediately after lunch AALS Fall Board Meeting

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2026-2027

COMMITTEE	CHAIR/CO-CHAIR	EMAIL
Audit Committee (2026 Books) meets Fall 2026	To be added at a later date	
Audit Committee (2026-2027 Books) Meets 2027 at Annual Meeting	To be added at a later date	
Bylaws, Standing Rules & Procedures Manual	Magan Bedwell – Chairman Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS Myra Beckham, PP, PLS	magan@bucherlawfirm.com mwbshout@gmail.com babs.dekeyser@att.net myrabeckham@bellsouth.net
Certification	Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	aks6451@aol.com
Corporate Sponsors	Ed Clark, PP-SC Joan Latour	ebc@phm-law.com jilatour@att.net joanibaloni@yahoo.com
Dixie Digest Patron Ads	Joan Latour	jilatour@att.net joanibaloni@yahoo.com
Dixie Digest	Margaret Dawson, PLS	aalsdixiedigest@gmail.com
Finance (Treasurer)	Danielle Baker	danielle@longandlong.com
Funding	Barb Hanley, PLS Myra Beckham, PP, PLS	hthgma@gmail.com myrabeckham@bellsouth.net
History Book	No History Book this Year	
Installation – Written By	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	jwhigham@joneswalker.com
Installation – Presented By	Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS Alison Schemmer, PP, PLS	babs.dekeyser@att.net aks6451@aol.com
Legal Education	Babs DeKeyser, PP, PLS With host chapters covering speakers	babs.dekeyser@att.net
Marketing/Membership	Janice Riviere, CLP	janice.riviere52@gmail.com
Member of the Year	Margaret Dawson, PLS	thistldome@gmail.com
New Member of the Year	Tracy Creel	tracycreel@gmail.com
NALS Connection Committee	Sonia Smith, CLP	ssmith@mcdowellknight.com
Nominations & Elections, Credentials	Tracy Creel	traceycreel@gmail.com
Resolutions	Judy Whigham, PP, PLS	jwhigham@joneswalker.com
Scholarship	Kayla Bassett, PLS	kjbassett55@outlook.com
Technology – Projector, Speakers	Danielle Baker	danielle@longandlong.com
Teller	Barb Hanley, PLS	hthgma@gmail.com
Time Keepers	Debbie Whitman Quinn Tucker	whitmansupersecretary@yahoo.com diandra_ruff@fd.org
Web Page/Social Media	Margaret Dawson, PLS	thistldome@gmail.com