



Biographical Sketch of Laureen Alford Kelly

A native of Georgia, Laureen Alford Kelly earned her B.S. in Political Science *summa cum laude* at Mercer University Atlanta in 1987. In 1990, Laureen earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia's Lumpkin School of Law. During her legal studies at UGA, she became fascinated with the work of law librarians. She practiced law for six years at a plaintiff's employment law boutique in Athens, Georgia. After taking some time off to have three children, Laureen decided to pursue law librarianship as a career.

In 2005, Laureen was awarded both the Hubbard Scholarship by the Georgia Library Association and the Lucille Elliott Scholarship by the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL). In 2006, she was awarded an AALL Type I Scholarship for law school graduates pursuing the M.L.I.S. degree. She received her M.L.I.S. from Florida State University in August, 2007.

In May 2004, Laureen was hired as Library Manager (and solo librarian) at the Dougherty County Law Library. At the request of the Superior Court Judges in the Dougherty Judicial Circuit, she has developed packets of forms and instructions for self-represented litigants. These packets can be picked up in person or downloaded from the law library's website, available at <http://www.albany.ga.us/lawlibrary>. The library's usage has quadrupled since Laureen created and marketed new services for both attorneys and the lay public. The Dougherty County Law Library has served walk-in lay patrons from 34 Georgia counties, and it has handled email and telephone reference questions from lay patrons in 36 states. In 2007, the Access to Justice Committee and The Pro Bono Project of the State Bar of Georgia awarded the *William B. Spann, Jr. Award* to the Dougherty County Law Library for developing a rural/small-city model assisted pro se center to deliver critical access to legal information, forms and lawyer supervised advice clinics. Laureen has taught staff at Georgia public libraries how to handle legal reference questions. Laureen is an online instructor in the paralegal programs of Darton College (Albany, Georgia) and Allegany College of Maryland (Cumberland, Maryland).

Since attending her first Annual Conference in July 2004, Laureen has actively participated in the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). She is especially interested in the work of the following AALL special interest groups: Legal Information Services to the Public (LISP) and State Court and County Law Libraries (SCCLL). She co-authored an article about the history of county law libraries, which was published in the March 2006 issue of *AALL Spectrum*, and she wrote the Georgia entry in LISP's *Public Library Toolkit*. In addition, she wrote an article for SCCLL's third Resource Guide, *Management Essentials in a Public Library*. She has served on both the Centennial Celebration Committee (2006) and the Librarians and Trustees Committee (2007) for SCCLL, as well as serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of LISP. An active member of the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association, Laureen has served as Secretary Treasurer, Executive Board Member, Chair of the annual Law Day Celebration, and Chair of the Albany Mock Trial Competition Committee.

Laureen has three children and three stepchildren: Tara, age 20; Samuel, age 14; Brittany, age 14; twins Vivian and David, age 11; and Lakyn, age 9. She has worked with the Dancing Cloud Farm Horse Rescue to save abused and neglected horses. Along with her husband John, Laureen is restoring their c. 1972 home and its nine acres. Laureen enjoys taking horseback riding lessons and playing with her two backyard horses.