

Editorial Staff

Marketing and Communications Manager
Ashley St. John

astjohn@aall.org

Editorial Director
Catherine A. Lemmer

calemmer@iupui.edu

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Advertising Representative

Innovative Media Solutions
320 W. Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 399
Oneida, IL 61467
Telephone: 309/483-6467
Fax: 309/483-2371
Email: bill@innovativemediasolutions.com

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from the editor

By Catherine A. Lemmer



You Got What?

Last week I raised an inquiring eyebrow when a colleague walked in wearing sandals. The sandals were charming, but it was sleeting and there were still small mounds of snow scattered about on campus.

In response to my raised eyebrow, she quipped, "I have a *soul* problem." At least that's what I heard. I went on to say, "Everyone has spring fever and is hoping to see some sunshine soon." She looked puzzled and said "No, I have a *sole* problem." Noticing that I still was not catching on, she pointed to a Band-Aid on the side of her foot and added, "Blister from running this weekend."

The whole conversation left me with a sinking feeling. If the simplest of greetings can get miscommunicated, what chance is there that everyone will be on the same page during the many difficult conversations currently going on in libraries? Is it even possible that we can convey meaning to each other as we struggle to define "law library" and "law librarianship" in the rapidly changing legal education and work environments?

Our personal bookshelves (real and virtual) are filled with books on management and leadership, and every one of those books includes advice on effective communication. I suspect that each of us has at least one favorite among these many titles, one book that we believe speaks to us and for which we reach when in need of advice or affirmation of a strategy.

Rework, by Jason Fried and David Heinemeier Hansson, is among my current favorites. Why? Because it speaks to me with its short, no-nonsense, memorable phrases, such as: "Don't scar on the first cut"; "Drug dealers get it right"; "Skip the rock stars"; and "They're not thirteen." My other favorites include *Multipliers: How the Best Leaders Make Everyone Smarter* by Liz Wiseman and Greg McKeown and *Reframing Academic Leadership* by Lee G. Bolman and Joan V. Gallos. It took the blending of these very different works to develop a style that works for me.

I was very fortunate to attend the AALL Leadership Academy in April. It was a two-day opportunity to explore and discuss our role in defining and leading our profession. The Leadership Academy reaffirmed for me that our greatest professional strength lies in both our desire to take our profession forward and to hear all the voices at the table as we work to bring about the change. At the end of the day, no matter how much we read, the greatest learning comes from communicating and sharing our ideas with our colleagues to create a cohesive and inclusive vision.

For this reason and many others, I look forward to the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference each year and encourage you to attend. It is as likely that the experiences you share while talking to an individual who you meet standing in line at registration, or while seated next to him or her at lunch, or while waiting for the program to begin, will be as valuable as the program you are attending. I hope to be one of those individuals with whom you strike up a conversation!

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio and continuing our conversations! ■

Catherine A. Lemmer
calemmer@iupui.edu
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