AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES URGES FCC TO APPROVE STRONG NETWORK NEUTRALITY RULES
Commission Will Consider Chairman’s Proposal during Open Meeting Thursday

CHICAGO, February 25, 2015—Tomorrow, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is expected to vote on a network neutrality proposal put forth by Chairman Tom Wheeler to secure an open Internet. The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is pleased that the draft Order would regulate broadband Internet service under Title II of the Communications Act and Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, protecting net neutrality by reclassifying the Internet as a public utility.

The proposal reflects AALL’s recommendation, made in July 2014 comments to the FCC, that the Commission pursues reclassification under Title II. The Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries, the Medical Library Association, and the Special Libraries Association echo AALL’s comments.

“AALL commends Chairman Wheeler for pursuing our recommendation to reclassify the Internet as a public utility,” said AALL President Holly M. Riccio. “Law libraries rely on net neutrality to fulfill their duty to provide nondiscriminatory access to online legal content. Reclassifying the Internet under Title II of the Communications Act and Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 will ensure that law libraries are able to provide equal access to the Internet and that everyone – whether a researcher, attorney, self-represented litigant, small business owner, or student – has a consistent and reliable way of accessing information online.”

In addition to reclassification under Title II, Chairman Wheeler also agreed with AALL’s recommendation that the FCC should exercise forbearance for (i.e., refrain from enforcing) regulations in the Communications Act that are not pertinent to contemporary Internet service, are costly, or are burdensome; thus, the rules will not impose any new taxes or fees. The rules will also apply to both fixed and mobile broadband, which AALL advocated for as a necessary component of any successful proposal.

Riccio concluded: “The FCC has an important opportunity to approve net neutrality rules that will keep the Internet open and nondiscriminatory and promote innovation, competition, and intellectual freedom. We strongly urge the Commission to approve the Chairman’s proposal.”
For more information about net neutrality, including AALL’s comments to the FCC, visit AALL’s website at [www.aallnet.org/mm/Advocacy/aallwash/opengov/netneutrality.html](http://www.aallnet.org/mm/Advocacy/aallwash/opengov/netneutrality.html).

For more information about AALL, its advocacy work, and other initiatives, visit [www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org).

**About AALL**

The American Association of Law Libraries was founded in 1906 to promote law libraries’ value to the legal and public communities, foster the law librarianship profession, and provide leadership in the legal information field. With nearly 5,000 members, AALL represents law librarians and related professionals who are affiliated with law firms; law schools; corporate legal departments; courts; and local, state, and federal government agencies. For more information, visit [www.aallnet.org](http://www.aallnet.org).

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