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Contact: Cara Schillinger
Director of Membership, Marketing, and Communications
312.205.8020
cschillinger@aall.org

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES NAMES 2015 ROBERT L. OAKLEY ADVOCACY AWARD WINNER

CHICAGO, June 29, 2015 — The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) announced today that the 2012 California Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) Advocacy Team has been honored with the 2015 Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award.

Established in 2008, the award recognizes the outstanding efforts of an AALL member, or group, who has contributed significantly to AALL’s policy agenda at the federal, state, local, or international level. The award honors the memory of Robert L. Oakley, AALL’s Washington affairs representative from 1989 to 2007.

UELMA is a uniform law designed to ensure permanent public access to trustworthy online state legal material. UELMA was enacted in California in September 2012 in large part because of a local advocacy team, comprised of Michele M. Finerty (retired), formerly of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento; Judy C. Janes, director and law lecturer at the UC Davis Mabie Law Library in Davis, California; David L. McFadden, senior reference librarian for the Leigh H. Taylor Law Library at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles; and Lawrence (Larry) R. Meyer, executive director of the Law Library for San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, California.

The advocacy team gained support for UELMA by working with California Legislative Counsel Diane Boyer-Vine, who also represents the state on the Uniform Law Commission, and by meeting with key state officials.

“Our team truly appreciates receiving the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award,” Finerty said. “We hope our work encourages others to advocate for UELMA and look forward to continuing our support of the AALL policy agenda.”

“It has been an honor and pleasure to work with Larry, David, Michele, and Judy to establish the principles of authentication and preservation for electronic legal materials that have now become law in California and many other states,” Boyer-Vine said. “The tireless efforts of these truly committed professionals showcase the great service of law librarians to the legal community and to the public, not only in providing access to the laws today, but in ensuring the law in its electronic version is preserved for future generations.”

AALL 2015 award recipients will be recognized at AALL’s upcoming 108th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, to be held in Philadelphia from July 18-21, 2015. For more information about the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award, visit bit.ly/AALLOakley. For more information about AALL and the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, please visit 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.

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