Looking Forward to Philadelphia 2011

By Joyce Manna Janto, president-elect

After months of planning and anticipation, it’s hard to believe that the 2011 Annual Meeting is almost over. While we may not have scaled any mountains during our time in Denver, we have had the opportunity, via the excellent programming selected by the Annual Meeting Program Committee, to map out new directions for our organizations, our careers, or our lives. Thanks also go out to Holly Pinto and Patty Wellinger, the co-chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee. They and their committee have done a fabulous job of hosting our meeting.

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be in Philadelphia, July 23–26. And no, they didn’t make a mistake on the sign you see as you leave the exhibit area, and yes, the rumor is true, there is no theme for the Philadelphia meeting. To quote the great PeeWee Herman, “I meant to do that!” Annual Meeting Programming Chair Anne Myers and I thought long and hard before coming to this decision. The Annual Meeting has always been referred to, within AALL, as our premiere educational event. There was nothing we could think of that better described what we wanted the Philadelphia meeting to be! In Philadelphia we will be using program tracks to assist our members in finding the programs that best suit their needs. These tracks are based on the updated Competencies of Law Librarianship developed by the Continuing Professional Education Committee with the help and input of our members. There will be six tracks, each with 11 programs, presented during the Annual Meeting in the areas of: Library Administration and Management; Reference Research and Client Services; Teaching; Acquisitions; Law School Collections; and Subscriptions.

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CONELL Paves the Way for An Amazing Annual Meeting Experience

By Jocelyn Kennedy

Attending your first Annual Meeting can be scary. There are a LOT of librarians in town. Everyone seems to know everyone else. And the programs and meetings? Navigating the convention center, choosing a program to attend or trying to figure out what the heck an SIS is can be crazy-making. That’s where the Conference of Newer Law Librarians (CONELL) comes in. In addition to providing excellent information about AALL and the Annual Meeting, CONELL can help to, in the words of one past attendee, reduce anxiety about the Annual Meeting.

This year 102 newer law librarians from academic, public, and private libraries attended CONELL. A number of recent grads were also in attendance. The Annual Meeting’s theme, “Mapping Our Future” is particularly apropos for CONELL, which helps newer librarians orient themselves within AALL and navigate the Annual Meeting. Equally important, attendees meet like minded people and begin to build their professional network.

The morning program included welcoming remarks from Catherine Lemann and several other speakers. CONELL attendees met in small groups with members of the Executive Board. This is a particularly exciting opportunity for attendees to network with each other, as well as to talk with a seasoned member of the Association. The Executive Board members fielded a number of questions related to mapping the future – specifically discussing the ways the Association can help to facilitate a newer librarian’s entrance into the field of law librarianship.

This small break out session was followed by an excellent presentation by Joyce Janto. Janto encouraged CONELL attendees to get involved in AALL by attending sessions and committee meetings. She stressed the importance of participating in the association by volunteering – either for AALL committees or with special interest section and chapter groups.

The group was in for a special treat with a presentation by Cornell Winston. Cornell raises the level of energy in any room. He offered excellent advice on “How to Conferrence.” I am including his main points here, because I think we can all learn something from them. To get the most out of your Annual Meeting experience:

1. Meet five new people every day.
2. Get out of your box by attending a session outside your area of interest/expertise.
3. Visit the Exhibit Hall and “get your stuff.”
4. Volunteer and get involved with the Association.
5. Have fun, learn and love being a law librarian.

After spending the morning getting to know the Association, CONELL attendees attended two major networking events: Speed Networking, and the CONELL Marketplace. During Speed Networking, attendees exceed Cornell’s goal of meeting five people. During a series of rapid fire three minute conversations, attendees meet about 10 new people – potential lifelong friends and colleagues.

Running concurrently, AALL committee, SISs and regional chapters made themselves available in the Marketplace. Established AALL-affiliated groups set up tables and spoke one-on-one with newer librarians. One attendee I spoke with found Marketplace to be an excellent resource in discovering all that the Association offers. She left with a roadmap for her future in AALL.

After lunch, attendees were treated to a tour of Red Rocks, Lookout Mountain, and Downtown Denver. I spoke with a number of attendees about their CONELL experiences. The resounding response was that CONELL provides an excellent way for newer librarians to get their feet wet. Emily Smith, a recent graduate of the University of Washington School of Information, said it best: “CONELL really primed me for all the meet and greet events at AALL. And it’s really great to be with other people who are just starting out.”

This group is energized and excited to be at AALL. Our newest group of Annual Meeting attendees comes from diverse backgrounds and experiences. They have a lot to offer and I predict that they will play a huge role in our profession. So, if you see Emily, or any of the other 101 CONELL attendees, stop and say hello. They would be thrilled to meet you!

Meet the AALL Executive Board Candidates

Get to know your fellow AALL members who are running for AALL Executive Board this fall. The “Meet the Candidates” forum will be held today, Tuesday, July 13, from 12 to 1 p.m., at AALL Member Services Booth in the Exhibit Hall. This is your chance to ask questions and find out each candidate’s vision for AALL before you vote November 1-Dec-ember 1. Successful candidates will begin their terms of office in July 2011.
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Services; Information Technology; Collection Development and Cataloging; Teaching; and General or Core programming. This year, the program proposal deadline has been pushed back a month. Proposals are now due on September 15.

Philadelphia is an amazing city for law librarians to be holding their premiere educational event. An old city, Philadelphia has weathered change. It was at one time the capital; the primary financial and cultural center, the leading manufacturing center; of the nation. But as times and circumstances changed, so did Philadelphia. It evolved to meet the new demands placed on it; much as librarians have evolved over the years to meet the new demands made on us. Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Merle Slyhoff and Mark Bernstein and their committee are already hard at work to ensure that we all have a great time in Philly. Please stop by the local arrangements booth to get a taste of what they have planned for us.

AALL has many changes ahead of it in the coming year. First, this year, we begin a new cycle in our strategic directions. Over the past year and a half, the Executive Board’s Strategic Direction Sub-committee, ably chaired by Jean Wenger, has worked tirelessly to develop a roadmap to guide the Association through the next three years. These directions represent the best efforts of the committee, using information provided by you, our members, to help keep the Association moving in the direction that provides the most assistance to us all. Second, we have the new, re-vamped AALLnet to look forward to. This initiative, which began under Immediate Past President James Duggan, will culminate in the launch of the new site late in the fall. I’ve seen a preview of the new site, and while it has taken longer than expected, the results will be worth the wait!

Along with change, we all face challenges in the coming year. The biggest challenge I will tackle as president of AALL is the vendor issue. Following the recommendation of the AALL Vendor Relations Task Force, I have appointed a special planning committee for the sixth Colloquium for Law Librarians and Legal Publishers. This committee, chaired by Steve Anderson, is composed of a cross section of librarians from each type of library and representatives from the major publishers. Their charge is to develop an agenda for the colloquium which will be held in February 2011. This colloquium will create an opportunity for law librarians and the CEOs of the major publishers to discuss topics of mutual concern and potentially identify projects of joint interest.

It is both a privilege and an honor to serve as President of AALL. When people ask me what is the biggest perk of the job, I always say that it is the opportunity to meet members. Back in the day, when I was in college, one of my teachers told me that when planning a dinner party, he always made sure to include a librarian or two on the guest list. That way, he insured interesting dinner time conversation! I have to agree, the opportunity to speak to our members is always entertaining and enlightening. So I would like to thank all of you for giving me this wonderful opportunity and I hope to speak to you soon.

Black Caucus Raises Scholarship Funds

The Black Caucus held its annual George A. Strait Scholarship Dinner on Saturday evening at M&D’s Café, 2000 E. 28th Ave. Thanks to Allen Moye, Black Caucus chair; Grace Mills, the event coordinator; our sponsor Thomson Reuters; and all of the participants, the event was a resounding success, which will result in another generous contribution to the George A. Strait Scholarship Fund.

Each year, the Black Caucus works with a local community organization. This year, the group Art from Ashes, a service project that helps urban youth express themselves through poetry, brought several youth poets who gave pulse-pounding, spoken-word performances. Donations for the group may be made via their website http://www.artfromtheashes.org.

Thank you!

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tour; in San Antonio every party had a frozen margarita machine; or oh, you meant which one had my favorite pro-
grams? I guess that would have to be Anaheim, where I was a member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee. Definitely, that meeting had the best programs ever selected!

What’s going to be the biggest chal-
lenge of being AALL President?
The vendor issue. This year, AALL intends to hold a vendor colloquy. This colloquy will bring together librarians, publishers, and information vendors to discuss topics that are important to all of us and to hopefully help resolve some of the issues that are currently challenging all of us. As a first step in this process, I have named Steve Anderson of the Maryland State Law Li-
brary as chair of the planning commit-
tee for this colloquy. This committee is charged with developing an agenda for a meeting between all interested par-
ties sometime in February 2011.

What has been your greatest ac-
complishment in AALL?
That is hard for me to say. Most of what I’ve done in AALL had been done in cooperation with others. I think one of the most satisfying activities I’ve been involved with in AALL has been the Academic Law Librarians Special Interest Section Middle Managers’ Breakfast. It was through attending and organizing some of them that I’ve met colleagues who have become friends.

In other law librarian organiza-
tions?
I’m proud of the fact that I’m a “founding mother” of Virginia Asso-
ciation of Law Libraries (VALL). We were originally a group of locals who met for lunch once in a while. I was on the committee that wrote the con-
stitution and bylaws for what became the Richmond Area Law Libraries and then VALL.

What does it mean to be involved in a professional organization such as AALL?
A friend of mine has a sig file that quotes Teddy Roosevelt: “Every man has an obligation to contribute to the upbuilding of his profession.” I take that seriously. By being involved with professional organizations you can help shape the future of the profession. You can have an impact on the decisions that are made that can affect your li-
brary, your career. I think we all owe it to ourselves and our colleagues to do what we can to make the future a good one for librarians and libraries.

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Three Webcast Educational Programs Free on AALL2go

AALL was proud to offer this year free live webcasts of three great educational programs from this year’s conference. These programs will also be available for free to all AALL members in the Association’s online learning center, AALL2go.

Opening General Session with Keynote Speaker R. David Lankes

D6: Research Guides 2.0: Creating Guides that Patrons Love

I1: Ten Things Every Law Librarian Needs to Know About Copyright

You may view these videos following the 2010 Annual Meeting at www.softconference.com/AALL/default.asp.
ONCE AGAIN, BNA is pleased to serve as a Gold Sponsor of the AALL Annual Meeting and Conference.

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- ALL-SIS Breakfast & Business Meeting
- Annual Meeting Internet Room and Wireless Access
- Annual Meeting Registration Bags
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We enjoyed seeing you at this year’s successful AALL Meeting.

We’ll see you next year in Philadelphia!  
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BNA Expands Law School Training Options

BNA is happy to expand its offering of onsite and web-based training classes. As we continue to enhance our publications, we urge law schools to take every opportunity to learn more about their online resources.

BNA's new training session, BNA for Law Review Staff, helps law review students locate timely topics that will allow them to showcase their skills in legal analysis, reasoning, and writing. Federal Tax Research with BNA Tax Management is an excellent resource to train participants on BNA's Tax and Accounting Center. The BNA for Law School Librarians and Faculty training session helps librarians and faculty use BNA to monitor emerging legal trends, identify topics for class discussion, and identify circuit splits on specific issues. Legal Research Using BNA teaches law students to recognize trends in dynamic practice areas, including tax, labor and employment law, intellectual property law, and health care law. Legal Ethics Research on BNA offers training on ethics issues such as attorney advertising, office sharing, and campaign contributions.

BNA would like to thank the AALL community for another successful Annual Meeting and Conference, and express our appreciation for the support that law school librarians have shown us over the years. We firmly believe that BNA resources can give students a competitive edge in today's quickly changing legal environment. BNA publications can help students understand dynamic practice areas and quickly get up to speed as new associates.

For more information on BNA law school program training opportunities, contact your BNA Law School Account Managers John Baldwin at 800-542-1113, ext. 8008, or Eric Knustrom at 800-542-1113, ext. 8456, or BNA's Regional Manager for Law Schools, Leslie Monsees, at 800-542-1113, ext. 3438. Please also visit us on the web at www.bna.com/lawschool.

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These enhancements are coming later this year. But you can get an advance look now! Please visit LexisNexis® representatives at booth #526 for a preview.

Innovative Approach to Legal Research Services

The Legal Research Services division of Integrated Management Services (IMS) is excited to be making its first appearance at AALL this year. As the Legal Research Division has made many strides since its inception, the opportunity to experience this esteemed conference and meet law librarians from all over the country will prove to be a notable milestone.

IMS as a consulting firm has been providing an array of services to Am Law 200 firms for more than 20 years, and the Legal Research Services Division has become a key component of the IMS process improvement practice. The division has garnered significant interest in the industry as several trends have arisen in recent years:

• Increasing costs
• Emerging alternative tools
• Ineffective training
• Redundancy of services
• Low utilization
• Decreasing client recovery

Our innovative and holistic approach as depicted in the diagram reflects our full understanding of each client’s research environment, core needs; and areas of improvement. Encompassed in our solutions, the IMS process and analysis supports clients in reducing spend, increasing efficiency, eliminating redundancies and increasing cost recovery.

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Contact info: Donna Terjesen @ 917.539.7835; dterjesen@integratedmgt.com; Marsha Pront @ 917.576.8902; mpront@integratedmgt.com.

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