The Developing Law Librarians for the Future (DLLF) Special Committee was charged with (1) developing a coherent long-range plan to recruit new members to the profession of law librarianship and to AALL and (2) developing strategies to retain younger members within the profession and in AALL.

The committee proposed a national Recruitment Ambassadors Program, composed of member volunteers to represent 10 U.S. regions. The ambassadors will work to attract potential recruits by establishing active relationships and programs with area library schools, law schools, and other institutions. They will be selected as part of the annual committee selection process and managed by AALL HQ staff, with advice and support from the Recruitment Committee. They will receive training at the Annual Meeting, developed by the Recruitment Committee and HQ staff. In addition, each ambassador will coordinate with local chapters.

The Executive Board approved a trial version of the Recruitment Ambassadors Program at its spring 2009 meeting, which will initially consist of one or two regional ambassadors. The DLLF Special Committee’s Recruitment Subcommittee was chaired by Lauren M. Collins.

Another committee accomplishment was the development of an AALL recruitment website, lawlibrarycareers.org. This new site aims to recruit new members to the profession and to AALL with an attractive appeal to visitors that will “sell” law librarianship as a career. It consolidates information about the profession of law librarianship, law libraries and librarians, graduate library education, and scholarships and grants in an easy-to-digest design.

The new lawlibrarycareers.org has its own domain address, to attract hits from search engines, but will also live on the redesigned AALLNET. The Executive Board decided at its spring 2009 meeting that the site will be overseen by the Recruitment Committee and HQ staff. The DLLF Special Committee’s AALLNET Subcommittee was chaired by Gregory L. Ivy.

Finally, the DLLF Special Committee recommended that AALL consider lowering dues for newer members, to retain these mostly younger members within AALL and in the profession. It presented comparative research on the dues structures of other library associations in making its recommendation. At its spring 2009 meeting, the Executive Board appointed a special committee, composed of Past President Ann Fessenden and Board Member Cornell H. Winston, to explore this issue further and report to the Board at its July 2009 meeting.

The DLLF Special Committee was composed of Donna K. Bausch, Kim Clarke, Lauren M. Collins, Amy J. Eaton, Liz Glanker, Gregory L. Ivy, Terry Long, and Susan Lewis-Somers, Chair. It received especially active assistance and advice from its 2007-2008 ex officio members, Michael J. Bushbaum, Barbara G. Traub, and Roberta (Bobbie) Studwell. In addition, 2008-2009 ex officio members Ellen J. Platt and Sarah Mauldin provided very helpful comments and advice.

The committee is also grateful for the helpful counsel and support it has received from its Executive Board liaison, Cornell H. Winston, and from Past President Ann Fessenden and Executive Director Kate Hagan.
Susan Lewis-Somers