In June 2009, the Member Recognition Special Committee, chaired by Gail Warren, recommended that the Executive Board create several new awards to recognize AALL members. Among other awards, the committee suggested the creation of an AALL Hall of Fame. In July 2009, the Board approved these awards, including the Hall of Fame, and directed incoming President Catherine Lemann to appoint a special committee to develop procedures for the creation and implementation of the approved awards.

In fall 2009, the Executive Board approved several recommendations of the New AALL Awards Implementation Committee, chaired by Carol Bredemeyer, pertaining to the AALL Hall of Fame. These included policies about its purpose, structure, and selection criteria and process. The Board directed President Lemann to create a special committee to select the initial inductees.

President Lemann appointed the Hall of Fame Selection Special Committee, consisting of Frank Houdek (chair), Patrick Kehoe, Margaret Maes, Judith Meadows, Susan Siebers, Mary Lu Linnane (ex officio, representing the Awards Committee), and Janet McKinney (Board liaison), in November 2009. In addition to selecting the initial group of inductees, she charged the committee with recommending a structure for the Hall of Fame on AALLNET and ways to publicize its creation, developing a description of the award and a nomination form, and suggesting procedures to be used in the future by the Awards Committee in selecting members of the Hall of Fame.

Before selecting the inaugural class, the special committee recommended changes in the purpose statement and the selection criteria for the Hall of Fame to indicate that, unlike the Gallagher Distinguished Service Award which is a lifetime achievement recognition, Hall of Fame membership may also be accorded to individuals who have made significant and long-standing contributions but who are not yet at the end of their careers. They must have been a member in good standing of AALL for 25 years or more, however, and have provided distinguished service to the Association over a substantial portion of their period of membership. The Executive Board approved this recommendation at its April 2010 meeting.

The special committee selected an inaugural class of Hall of Fame inductees that featured 16 individuals designated as “Pioneers” because of the critical role they played in the formation and early development of AALL, and 10 others deemed worthy of inclusion, though not as pioneers. Adding this group to the 52 recipients of the Gallagher Award from 1984 to 2009 who were automatic inductees brought the inaugural class of the AALL Hall of Fame to 78. These individuals were announced in a June 2010 presidential release, with additional information provided in an article published in the July 2010 issue of AALL Spectrum.

The special committee submitted a final report to the Executive Board on June 1, 2010, which included recommendations related to the other tasks assigned to it by President Lemann. In particular, the special committee recommended that a separate page on AALLNET be devoted to the Hall of Fame. In addition to a statement of purpose and a description of the selection criteria and process, the page would include a list of the inductees, with a “brief vitae” provided for each
member of the Hall. The special committee also offered suggestions on how best to launch and publicize the Hall of Fame and on the procedures to be used in selecting future inductees. As a result of the occasional difficulties encountered in the research undertaken in the course of selecting the inaugural class, the special committee also urged the Board to consider the feasibility of sponsoring a project that would develop and make available oral histories of prominent AALL members, particularly those who are inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank G. Houdek
Chair 2009–2010