In the December 13, 2006 edition of From the Desk of, President Sally Holterhoff announced that plans were underway for AALL to host the 2008 Joint Study Institute (JSI) at Georgetown University Law Center. President Holterhoff named Timothy Coggins and Darcy Kirk as co-chairs of the planning committee and James Duggan, Mark Engsberg, Judith Gaskell, Kumar Percy Jayasuriya, Hazel Johnson, Stephen Margeton, Robert Oakley and Herb Somers as planning committee members. Celeste Smith serves as AALL headquarters liaison and ex officio member of the planning committee.

Initiated in 1998 and sponsored by AALL, the Australian Law Librarians’ Association, the British and Irish Association of Law Librarians, the Canadian Association of Law Libraries/Association Canadienne des Bibliothèques de Droit (CALL/ACBD) and the New Zealand Law Librarians’ Association, the Joint Study Institutes occur biennially with the location rotating among the host countries. The New Zealand group is a recent addition to the original group that sponsored the JSIs. The goal of the institute meetings is to provide an environment that enables law librarians from other jurisdictions to discuss common, current, and relevant issues.

The planning committee, after careful consideration of dates for the various associations’ meetings, scheduled the sixth Joint Study Institute for Wednesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 28, 2008. Sessions will be held in the new John Wolff International and Comparative Law Library at Georgetown University Law Center. The registration fee will be US$400. Registration will be capped at sixty attendees with preference given to those attending from other countries. Previously, AALL sponsored the 2000 JSI at Yale Law School.

The planning committee selected “Harmonization and Confrontation: Integrating Foreign and International Law into the American Legal System” as the theme for the 2008 institute. The conference will feature sessions on the historical use of international law in United States Supreme Court decisions, a debate about the use of international norms and rules in U.S. law, federalism and the relationship between U.S. federal and state law, researching foreign and international law, authentication of online legal resources and what the various countries are doing related to this issue, digitizing the world’s law, and others. The Committee has invited Justice Anthony Kennedy to speak at the 2008 JSI about this issue, the subject of his 2005 opinion in Roper v. Simmons, but will not know his decision until August 2007. The Planning Committee continues to work on other issues associated with the 2008 JSI, such as the social events and excursions and publicity, including the development of a Web site for the 2008 JSI, and will disseminate additional information about the 2008 JSI later this summer.

Timothy L. Coggins and Darcy Kirk, Co-Chairs
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