This is the committee’s final report including action completed during the July 2007 annual meeting.

I. Member’s Briefing for the July 2007 Spectrum—was completed and sent to the editor by May 3. This included a report of the committee’s work, which is highlighted below

A. 50 States Surveys—As of June 2007, committee had responses from over 40 states regarding new ways to partner with bar and legal aid pro bono providers. The committee surveyed those who manage pro bono programs in all 50 states to gather information about ways law librarians could work with them to provide services for their clients.

Using the American Bar Association’s web directory of pro bono programs at http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/directory.html and information from state and local bar association web sites, the committee began this outreach effort. All states had at least one program in the listing while many states had multiple programs. Some provided statewide service, others served a specific community within a smaller geographic areas helping with subjects such as bankruptcy, evictions, family law, refugees, or domestic abuse. Over a four-month period, committee members talked with staff members in a wide variety of organizations including Legal Service Corporation offices, bar pro bono programs, access to justice organizations, county clerks, and university legal clinics.

In telephone and email interviews with over 40 providers, committee members asked a series of questions related to opportunities these pro bono organization leaders envisioned for collaboration and potential partnerships. They were asked for their ideas on how to recruit law librarians to work with them, how to get service providers to refer their clients to law libraries, and how law librarians could effectively refer library patrons to their programs. They were also asked if they were aware of any existing collaborative efforts between pro bono service providers and law librarians in their area and state.

Chris Siwa at AALL did a marvelous job of creating a database for our results, which he loaded onto the committee profile page so members would be able to search the database by individual state.

B. Law Library Surveys—these included the academic, private firm, and state, court and county law libraries. The members involved with these library specific surveys assessed, outlined and analyzed results. Direct contacts were also made to law libraries supporting pro bono. The group identified pro bono activities in the various types of law libraries; these were featured in the Briefing. This work related to the charge to “spotlight
II. THE SELF REPRESENTED LITIGATION NETWORK (SRLN)

Recommendation to the AALL Executive Board on Participation in the Self Represented Litigation Network.

As reported in Spectrum, April 2007, page 28, and many other places, the Self Represented Litigation Network (SRLN) was created through the National Center for State Courts with funding from several national legal organizations and state court systems. The network is an “open and growing grouping of organizations and working groups dedicated to fulfilling the promise of a justice system that works for all, including those who can not afford lawyers and are therefore forced to go to court on their own. The Network brings together courts and access to justice organizations in support of innovations in services for the self represented.” [http://www.srln.org/](http://www.srln.org/)

Several law librarians participate in the working groups, and a sub-group of the outreach group is charged with outreach to law librarians. The SRLN has developed several useful documents now or soon to be placed on [www.selfhelpsupport.org](http://www.selfhelpsupport.org). It has held several regional conferences of judges, court personnel, law librarians, legal services providers and others interested in serving self represented litigants.

Having begun from a seed grant from the State Justice Institute, the SRLN is actively seeking state court systems and national organizations to provide ongoing support. (Those already on board are listed on the website.) It is vital for law librarians to be active in the work of the SRLN in order that public law libraries may remain a valid part of the justice system for self represented litigants.

**ACTION:** The Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships recommended that the AALL Executive Board become an organizational supporter of the SRLN, including both ongoing financial support and service on the SRLN’s management group. At the July 2007 Executive Board Meeting, the Board approved $5000 for one-year participation in the SRLN. The Board also agreed to appoint an AALL Representative to the SRLN.

III. EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

In March Sara Galligan attended the 2007 Equal Justice Conference (EJC) in Denver. One aspect of the program that looked promising for the Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships was the EJC’s emphasis on leveraging partnerships to increase access to justice. The conference is co-sponsored by the ABA and the NLADA (National Legal Aid and Defender Association) and focuses on legal services to the disadvantaged in civil litigation. Sally Holterhoff approved Sara Galligan’s request for AALL to cover the costs for her attendance at this program.
Several conference program tracks related to pro bono development, partners, delivery innovations programming, and technology. Program presenters were vitally interested in access to justice, new developments in technology (i.e. websites) and delivery systems, and pro bono partners. Many of the attendees Sara spoke with were genuinely interested in exploring partnership opportunities with law librarians.

AALL should strive to make continued connections with the programs, resources, and pro bono partnership opportunities available through this group. The conference next year takes place in Minneapolis, and AALL and law librarians should consider submitting a proposal for the 2008 program.

IV. ONGOING WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS

1. Identify another AALL entity whose mission fits with the committee's, and establish pro bono partnerships within the purview of the SIS, committee, or other AALL entity for ongoing development. In June 2007, the committee recommended creating a new joint committee within the LISP-SIS and the SCCLL-SIS as an entity to continue pro bono partnership efforts and activities for law libraries. At their July 2007 meetings, both the SCCLL-SIS and the LISP-SIS agreed to establish a Joint Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships, with co-chairs and members appointed by each SIS.

2. Maintain a presence on the AALL website, either under the auspices of some other AALL entity or as Special Committee page. In June, Chris Siwa created a link to the 50 state database survey that includes feedback from bar and legal aid associations regarding new ways to strengthen pro bono partnerships with law librarians. The link is located on the Special Committee’s profile page.

3. A funding request for $5000.00 was forwarded for AALL's support of the SRLN for 2007-08. This request was approved at the July 2007 AALL Executive Board meeting. While the Special Committee recommended consideration of ongoing monetary support, the AALL Executive Board chose to approve a one-year contribution and would be open to future consideration and review for subsequent funding. In addition, the AALL Executive Board approved appointing an AALL Representative to the SRLN.

4. The Equal Justice Conference is all about pro bono and partnerships. AALL should try to stay involved by sending members to the meetings. For the next meeting in Minneapolis, AALL members should consider developing a program proposal about law librarians and pro bono partnerships.

Committee members included: Sara Galligan, Chair, Camille Broussard, Charles Dyer, Pamela Gregory, Marcus Hochstetler, Jean Holcomb, Scott Larson, Monica Sharum, and Jill Sidford--with one member (Bobbie Denny) leaving the committee due to retirement.

Exec Bd. Liaison –Steve Anderson
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