Law Library Journal and Spectrum Committee 2009-2010 Annual Report

During 2009-2010 the committee addressed several items that arose over the course of the year, beginning its discussions at the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in July 2009. That meeting included a lengthy discussion on the creation of a 25-year index (v. 76-100) for the Journal. Some committee members thought that the need for an index could be met with an online version only, while other members thought that it would be more appropriate for there to be an actual print version of the index. In the end, it was agreed that a print hardcopy would better meet the needs of the Journal, including the Journal’s historical archival needs. Ideally, the index would be issued separately rather than by substituting it for an issue.

The AALL Board considered the Law Library Journal/Spectrum Committee’s request for $10,000 to create and publish an index for volumes 76-100 of the Law Library Journal. Due to the current economic climate, the Board decided to turn down the request for the $10,000. It had been suggested that it might be possible to find an AALL member with indexing skills who would be willing to do the index as a part of their scholarly agenda. If the committee decides to pursue that route, the committee would have to put together a selection process. At the Annual Meeting in Denver, the committee discussed the possibility of seeking a vendor to underwrite the cost of publishing the index. The committee needs to seek Board input and approval before seeking underwriting by a vendor.

During the course of the year the committee conducted business via email. It approved dividing the award money for the Article of Year if two Law Library Journal articles are so good that a single winner cannot be determined. It also participated in a pre-test of an AALL membership survey about Spectrum.

Due to budget limitations, the AALL Board turned down the Law Library Journal/Spectrum Committee’s request to hold an extended meeting either the day before or the day after the AALL Annual Conference in Denver this year. The Board recommended that the LLJ/Spectrum Committee speak with the editors and consider conference call(s) and/or a Webinar for any matters that need to be discussed but cannot be addressed within the time frame allotted at the committee meeting in Denver. If the committee decides to go the Webinar route, the committee should contact AALL Headquarters for further assistance/guidance. The committee will have to again submit a budget request if it wishes to try for an extended meeting again next year in Philadelphia.

The division of committee work into subcommittees included: LLJ Award—Kumar R. Jayasuriya, chair; Jason Sowards; and Mark Bernstein; Spectrum Award—Therese Clare Arado, chair; Joseph Custer; and Darla Jackson; LLJ and AALL Spectrum Committee Web Page—Jason Sowards, chair; Crata Castleberry; and Meryle Slyhoff.

A reception to honor the winners and all of the authors was held at the AALL Annual Meeting in July 2010 thanks to the sponsorship of Wolters Kluwer Law & Business.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah L. Rusin
Chair 2009-2010