AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum Committee

Committee Charge:

Advises on long-range editorial content and direction for the publications
Suggests feature articles or other types of articles
Assists the editors in identifying authors and other contributors
Assists the editors in meeting the short-term and long-term needs and interests of law librarians
Identifies potential readers and studies and recommends ways to effectively reach the targeted audiences
Recommends to the Executive Board editorial policies relating to the contents and formats of the Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum

The Committee will select one or more recipients every year for the best article for the Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award, or no recipient if it deems none of the nominees sufficiently qualified, and will submit the winning recipient's name(s) to the Awards Committee. The Committee will also select one or more recipients every year for the Spectrum Article of the Year Award, or no recipient if it deems none of the nominees sufficiently qualified, and will submit the winning recipient's name(s) to the Awards Committee.

Major Activities for 2011-2012:

The LLJ and AALL Spectrum Committee got a late start this year due to misinformation provided to the Committee regarding its charge and activities for the year. In late January, after many months of discussion, the issue was resolved and the Committee was told it could resume working on its Action Plan and charge as set forth for 2011-12. At that time, however, the Committee was deep in the evaluation of articles for the awards, resulting in a further delay of committee activity. Since the Committee would not be able to begin any of the tasks as outlined in the 2011-12 Action Plan until the beginning of March, some planned activities had to be curtailed and the final steps held over to the 2012-13 Committee.

All activities support all three goals of the Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for education, leadership and advocacy through contributions to the publications.

1. ACTION: Reviewed LLJ/AALL Spectrum Committee charge. GOAL: Make recommendations on how the Committee can actively fulfill its duties under the current editorships.

2. ACTION: Held an online discussion for the AALL membership on the topic of LLJ and AALL Spectrum and whether it meets their needs, what they would like to see, etc. GOAL: Set short and long-term publication guidelines for content to meet needs of membership; determine if the current publications are reaching the targeted audiences.
   - This online discussion was the first step in completing Action item #3, as well as fulfilling specific charges to the committee:
     Advises on long-range editorial content and direction for the publications
     Suggests feature articles or other types of articles
     Assists the editors in identifying authors and other contributors
     Assists the editors in meeting the short-term and long-term needs and interests of law librarians
     Recommends to the Executive Board editorial policies relating to the contents and formats of the Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum

     The information gleaned from this online discussion will serve as the basis for meeting Action item #3

3. ACTION: Examined format of LLJ and AALL Spectrum to determine if they are best utilization of Association funds and best meet needs of membership. GOAL: Make any necessary recommendations to the Executive Board on LLJ and AALL Spectrum formats
   - This format examination was incorporated into the online discussion

4. ACTION: Initiated conference calls for the Committee. GOAL: Keep the committee members an integral part of the Committee and have ongoing discussions on relevant issues

5. ACTION: Selected winning articles from LLJ and AALL Spectrum. GOAL: Fulfill yearly obligation of
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Proposed Activities for 2012-2013:

1. Action: Prepare a report for the Law Library Journal and Spectrum Editors and the A.A.L.L. Board summarizing and evaluating the results of the Committee's 2012 online discussion exploring the perception and effectiveness of the publications. Goal: Further Committee charges regarding long-range content, direction and format.

2. Action: Review prior Committee efforts at indexing the Law Library Journal, and explore new indexing ideas. Goal: Enhance the ability of A.A.L.L. members and Law Library Journal readers to use this publication.

3. Action: Select Law Library Journal and Spectrum Articles of the Year for 2012 using the criteria set out for the award. Goal: Carry out the Committee's charge to select recipients of these awards.

4. Action: Establish regular methods of communication among Committee members, whether conference calls, use of My Communities or other techniques. Goal: Enable the Committee to complete its work in an efficient and open manner.