AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Awards Committee
Committee Charge: The Awards Committee shall publicize award opportunities and coordinate the presentation of awards to recipients for the awards established by the Association. AALL committees will select one or more recipients every year for each award, or no recipient if none of the nominees are deemed sufficiently qualified.

Major Activities for 2013-2014:
The AALL Awards Committee selects recipients of the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award; the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award; the Hall of Fame Award; the Chapter Professional Development Award; the Innovations in Technology Award; the Law Library Publications Award; and the Volunteer Service Award. These awards recognize, support and honor those individuals who exemplify the Association's core values as outlined in the 2013-2016 Strategic Directions and the goals of leadership, education and advocacy.

In 2013-2014 there were seven members of the Awards Committee: Chair Heidi Froestad Kuehl, Vice Chair Frank Houdek, Pauline Aranas, Donna Bausch, Patrick Kehoe, Sarah Mauldin, and Katrina Miller. Before nomination season started, the chair worked with AALL staff to revise the nomination forms for the seven awards listed above to specifically list the capability of submitting nominations in electronic form. While not given as a preferred method, it was listed before the name and address of the subcommittee chair for those who wished to submit by mail.

In December, the chair sent a letter to the chairs of the SISs and the Council of Chapter Presidents for them to forward to their members. This letter was sent not only to remind people of the upcoming awards nomination season and deadlines, but also to stress the importance of the Volunteer Service Award, one of the Association's newer awards.

Each Awards Committee member served as subcommittee chair for an award, as well as serving on multiple award subcommittees. The deadline for nominations for the awards listed above was February 1, 2014. Subcommittee chairs will notify selected recipients in mid-March. Subcommittee chairs and chairs of other committees and SISs that issue awards then complete the AALL Award Recipient Information form, which is due by April 1, 2014. The form may be completed and submitted electronically.

Following the selection of the winners, the committee chair works with AALL Headquarters staff to produce the Awards Brochure, plaques and other recognition and promotional material. In this capacity the Chair also works with the other award granting entities to ensure that Headquarters receives accurate information on all the major awards, including the Emerging Leader Award, the AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award, the Excellence in Marketing Award, the New Product Award, the LLJ/AALL Spectrum Articles of the Years Awards, the Public Access to Government Information Award, the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award, the Minority Leadership Development Award, the Distinguished Lectureship Award, and various Special Interest Section awards.

Chairs of the Andrews, Gallagher and Hall of Fame subcommittees will write articles for publication in the June 2014 issue of AALL Spectrum. In addition, committee members will prepare biographies for the new Hall of Fame members, which include the latest recipients of the Gallagher Award, using a template previously created for this purpose. These biographies will be added to the Hall of Fame inductees section of AALLNET.

In April and May of 2014, the Awards Committee will use their recent experience reviewing nominations to consider suggesting some changes:

•Review the possibility of budget requests for mailing certain items via AALL (formalize with Kim Rundle).

•For the Hall of Fame committee members and future decision-making, make internal criteria for evaluating AALL activities, publications, and other AALL contributions (e.g., factors to weigh).

•Discuss establishing some internal procedures for the Andrews, Gallagher and Hall of Fame subcommittees to implement overlap with the next year’s subcommittees. A brief written report from the chairs could include information on considering people who have not been formally nominated and on
soliciting nominations. This would create a method, for example, for the Hall of Fame subcommittee chair to pass on nominations of qualified people to the next chair for consideration.

**Proposed Activities for 2014-2015:**

- Develop a plan to increase the marketing and visibility of awards (particularly those that are newer or for which there have been few nominations).

- Discuss the possibility of creating a new award for the SISs, along the lines of the Chapter Professional Development Award.